

天 方 夜 譚

## 译者的话

，又名《一千零一夜》是一部阿拉伯民映古代阿拉伯和亚洲一些国家的社会故事来源现已无从考查，一般认为是千个故事》的基础上逐渐吸收埃及、伊的故事形成的。这些故事从8世纪起不炼，于16世纪定型，流传于世界各国。、电影和文学作品都取材于这些故事。有益，已成为各国人民喜爱的优秀古典喻户晓，成为日常话题。

的故事，于两千年前，由一个法国人 **lland**) 首先译成法文继而德国、英国相我国早在1900年周桂笙在《新庵谐译》03年出版的《侠女奴》(‘萍云女士’周作个最著名的故事，1906年商务印书馆出文言译本，包括50个故事。30、40年代出文译本。1958年人民文学出版社出版了文译的三卷本。

这8篇故事都是比较著名的，它们歌颂勇气，描写了善良与邪恶的斗争，塑造于进取的形象，从而引起了各国广大读

仅对照读物一方面供读者欣赏故事内

容,另一方面协助读者扩大视野,提高英语水平。本书译文难免有错,敦请献计献策指教,不尽感谢。

译者

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**The Arabian Nights**

**天 方 夜 譚**

## INTRODUCTION

THERE lived in the old days a king who reigned over India and China, and who was lord of armies and guards and servants of all kinds. He had two sons, the elder of whom was called Shahriyar and the younger Shahzeman. On the death of the king, Shahriyar succeeded to his throne, while the younger brother ruled over Samarkand of Tartary.

After many years had gone by, the elder king longed to see his brother and directed his vizier to fetch Shahzeman to him for a friendly visit. Orders were given for expensive stuffs and for horses adorned with gold and jewels, which were to be presented to the king of Samarkand. Shahriyar then wrote a letter to his brother, and having given it to the vizier, he commanded that officer to tuck up his skirts and strain every nerve to make a swift journey. The vizier answered, "I hear and I obey," and set out at once.

When the caravan arrived at the city of Samarkand the vizier was courteously welcomed and entertained with all the ceremony befitting his high rank. In three days preparations were made for the return journey, and Shahzeman with an ample escort and costly presents set forth for his brother's court, where he was received with much rejoicing.

Now it happened that both King Shahzeman and King Shahriyar had been sadly deceived by the women they had married, and no sooner did they talk together in confidence than each discovered the other's sorrow. They became convinced that all

## 序 言

古时候，有一个国王，他统治着印度和中国，他手下有大批军队、卫士和各种各样的仆从。他有两个儿子，大的叫沙立亚尔，小的叫沙泽曼。国王过世后，沙立亚尔继承王位，他的弟弟则统治鞑靼的撒马尔罕。

许多年以后，年长的国王想看看弟弟，他指示大臣请沙泽曼进行一次友好访问。他下令准备贵重物品和佩带金银珠宝的马匹送给撒马尔罕国王。沙立亚尔于是给弟弟写了一封信，交给大臣，命令该官员收拾行装，加紧准备，迅速出发。大臣回答说：“听到了，遵命，”便立即出发了。

当大队人马到达撒马尔罕城市时，大臣受到了礼仪的欢迎，并受到适合他们职位的一切礼遇。为了他的回访，准备了三天，沙泽曼带领充足的护卫队和贵重礼品出发前往他哥哥的皇宫，在那里他受到了极为热烈的欢迎。

说来很巧，沙泽曼国王和沙立亚尔国王都被他们娶的女人所欺骗，为此深为不快。他俩一开始密谈就发



women were untrustworthy, and soon after his brother's visit was ended, King Shahriyar devised a plan by which to rid the world of their treachery.

Every day he chose a daughter of one of his nobles to be his bride, and on the following morning gave her over to his vizier to be beheaded. This he continued to do until the people raised an outcry against his cruelty and fled with their daughters from the city. One morning, to his dismay, the vizier could find no maiden who was ready to become the royal bride.

The vizier himself had two charming daughters, the elder of whom was called Scheherazade and the younger Dinarzade. The former had read many books of history and stories of past times, and when she saw her father sad and downcast she said to him; "Why do I see thee so changed and oppressed with grief? One of our poets has said,

"Tell him who is anxious that this will not last;  
As happiness passes, so passes anxiety."

Then the vizier told her all that had happened, and she said to him; "O my father, give me in marriage to the king! If I die, I shall at least save one other woman, and if I live, I shall be the deliverer of all the rest."

In vain did the unhappy vizire protest against his daughter's plan. Finding all his arguments of no avail, he finally betook himself to the king. Meanwhile Scheherazade unfolded her plan to her sister and obtained the promise of her assistance.

When evening came and the king lifted the veil from his wife's face he was rejoiced to find her so beautiful. "But why do you weep?" he asked.

现了对方的忧愁。他们认识到，一切女人都是不可信的，在弟弟访问结束不久，沙立亚尔国王便想出一个办法，以消除女人们在人世的不忠不义。

他每天从他的一个贵族的女儿中选一个当他的新娘，第二天交给大臣斩首。他这样继续了好久，直到最后人民强烈反对他的残暴，纷纷带着女儿逃出城市。一天早晨，大臣没找到准备充当王室新娘的处女，这件事使他大为沮丧。

大臣自己有两个可爱的女儿，大的叫舍赫拉扎德，小的叫迪纳尔扎德。大女儿读过许多历史书籍和旧小说，当她看到父亲愁眉苦脸，闷闷不乐时，便对父亲说：“今天看到您与往常不大一样，总是满面愁容，这是为什么？我国一个诗人说过：

‘告诉忧心忡忡的人，这是不会长久的；正如幸福会消失，不幸也会消散’。

于是大臣把发生的一切告诉了女儿，她对他说：“父亲，把我嫁给国王吧！如果我死了，至少我可以拯救另一个姐妹；如果我不死，我将是所有其他姐妹们的拯救者。”

忧愁的大臣虽反对女儿的计划，但无济于事。他发现一切理由都没用，最后他去见国王。与此同时，舍赫拉扎德把计划告诉了妹妹，并得到了妹妹协助的允诺。

到了晚上，国王揭开了妻子的面纱，发现她非常美丽，高兴极了。“但是你为什么哭呀？”他问道。

She answered: "O king, I have a young sister whom I love and who loves me very dearly. I know that tomorrow I shall be sent forth to die, and before that time comes I long to take leave of her."

"It is well," said the king. "your desire shall be granted. Let a messenger be sent to your sister without delay."

When Dinarzade was admitted to the royal apartments she embraced the lovely bride, and having waited for a proper opportunity said to her, "O my sister, in the little time that remains to us before we are parted forever, tell us, I pray you, one of your entertaining stories. Alas! this will be the last night that I shall enjoy such a pleasure."

"Gladly will I do so, my sister," answered Scheherazade, "if the king is kind enough to permit me."

"Tell on," said the king, who chanced to be restless, and who was pleased with the prospect of hearing the tale. Accordingly Scheherazade began:

她答道：“国王，我有一个妹妹，我非常爱她，她也非常爱我。我知道，明天我要被送去死掉，临死前，我希望向她告别。”

“好说，”国王说，“满足你的欲望。派信使马上去你妹妹处。”

当迪纳尔扎德被允许进皇宫时，她拥抱那可爱的新娘，等待适当的时机到来，她对姐姐说：“姐姐，在永别前剩下的一点点时间里我请你给我们讲一个动人的故事吧。唉，这将是享受那快乐的最后一夜了。”

“妹妹，我会高兴讲的，”舍赫拉扎德回答说，“如果国王开恩允许的话。”

“讲下去，”国王说，碰巧这时他心神不定，很高兴找机会听故事。于是，舍赫拉扎德开始讲了。

## 1. THE MERCHANT AND THE GENIE

IT is related, O king, that there was a merchant who had great riches. On a certain day he mounted his horse and journeyed to a neighboring country to collect what was due him. The heat was oppressive, and having stopped to rest himself under a tree, he ate a morsel of bread and a date which were among his provisions. When he had eaten the date he threw away the stone. Immediately an enormous genie appeared before him with a sword in his hand, and cried, "Rise, that I may kill you, as you have killed my son!"

"How have I killed your son?" asked the merchant.

The genie answered, "The stone from the date that you hast eaten was flung aside by your careless hand and struck my son so that he died."

The merchant, on hearing these words, exclaimed: "Verily I meant no harm. If I killed him, I did it without knowing it. I trust then that you will pardon me."

"You must die," returned the genie, and raised his sword to smite him, but the unhappy merchant cried out, begging for mercy.

"Spare your words," said the genie, "for your time is come."

Then said the merchant: "Know, O genie, that I have much property, and children, and a wife, and I have also debts to pay. Let me, therefore, go back to my house and give to every man his due, and then I will return to you, and you shall do as you will. I bind myself by a vow that I will surely return."

## 1. 商人与妖怪

噢，国王，相传有一个商人，他家财万贯。有一天，他骑着马到邻近一个国家讨债。这天天气很热，闷得难忍，于是他停下来，在一棵树下歇凉。他拿出干粮，吃了一口面包，又吃了一颗枣。他吃完枣，把硬核扔掉。他眼前立即出现了一个巨形妖怪，妖怪手握利剑，大声说：“站起来，我要杀了你，因为你杀了我的儿子！”

“我怎么杀了你的儿子？”商人问。

妖怪答道：“你把吃掉的枣核扔到一边，打了我儿子，于是他死了。”

商人听了大声说道：“我实在没有恶意。如果我杀了他，我也不是故意的。因此我希望你能原谅我。”

“你必须死，”妖怪回答道，说着他举剑要杀，但是倒楣的商人大叫，乞求宽恕。

“别费话，”妖怪说，“你的日子到了。”

于是商人说：“噢，妖怪，要知道我有很多财富，好多孩子和一个妻子，我还有债务要还。因此让我回家一趟，把欠人的债都还清，然后回到你这儿，你可以随意处置我。我发誓，我一定回来。”

Upon this the genie accepted his promise and set him free until the end of the year. The merchant, therefore, returned to his house and put his affairs in order. He paid every one what he owed him and remained with his family until the time came for him to seek the genie. Then, bidding his weeping wife farewell, he set forth to fulfill his promise.

As he sat under the tree waiting for the appearance of the genie, an aged sheik approached, leading a gazelle. The sheik saluted the merchant and said to him: "What is the reason that you sit alone in this place? Do you not know that it is a resort of the jinn?"

Then the merchant informed him of all that had happened and of the cause of his being there, at which the sheik was astonished beyond measure and said to him: "O my brother, your story is wonderful. Verily I will not quit this place before I see what the genie will do to you."

In a short time a huge cloud of dust and vapor was seen advancing toward them, and from the midst of it stepped forth the genie. A drawn sword was in his hand, and his eyes sent out darts of fire.

"Rise," said he to the merchant, "that I may kill you as you hast killed my son!"

Then the sheik came forward and said, "O you genie and prince of genie, if I relate to you the story of this gazelle, and if you shall find it to be more wonderful than the adventure of the merchant here, will you give up your claim to his life?"

And the genie answered: "Yes, O sheik. If you relate to me the story, and I find it to be as you hast said, I will give up to you my claim upon his life."

妖怪听了以后，接受了他的诺言，放他回去，直到年底。于是商人回了家，安顿好一切事。他还了欠人的每笔债，与家人一直呆到去找妖怪的时间。随后，告别了哭泣的妻子，出发赴约履行诺言。

当他坐在树下等候妖怪出现时，来了一个年迈的酋长，手里牵着一只瞪羚。酋长向商人打了招呼，对他说：“你独自一人坐在这里干什么？你不知道这是神灵的一个胜地吗？”

于是商人把发生的一切和他呆在这里的原因告诉了他，酋长听了无比吃惊，对他说：“噢，兄弟，这件事真蹊跷。我定要呆在这儿，一直到看见那妖怪对你作何处置。”

说时迟，那时快，一团巨大的烟尘向他们逼近，接着妖怪从烟尘中走了出来。他手里拿着出鞘的剑，两眼喷射出火花。

“起来，”他对商人说，“我要杀你，因为你杀了我儿子！”

这时，酋长走上前来说道：“噢，你是妖怪，神灵的王子，如果我对你讲讲这头瞪羚的故事，如果你觉得这个故事比这个商人的遭遇更惊奇，你会放弃你要他命的要求吗？”

妖怪回答说：“会的，酋长。如果你给我讲故事，而且我觉得故事正如你所说的，我一定放弃要他命的要求。”



Then said the sheik: "Know, O genie, that I had once a wife and a slave and a beloved son. It happened that I had occasion to journey to a distant city, and during my absence my wife, who had studied enchantment, transformed my slave into a cow and my young son into a calf and gave them both into the care of a herdsman. When I returned after a long time and inquired for my household, my wife said, 'Your slave is dead, and as for your son I know not whither he has fled.' Then was my sorrow great, and for the space of a year I mourned for them.

"One day when I had ordered my herdsman to fetch a cow for the sacrifice, he brought me my slave whom my wife had enchanted. And the cow mourned so violently that I would not slay her, but ordered the herdsman to bring me a calf instead, whereupon he led out my son who had been transformed into a calf. I went up to him, knife in hand—"

Here Scheherazade saw that it was dawn and ceased her story. Then said Dinarzade, "How interesting is your tale, my sister!"

"It is nothing," said Scheherazade, "to the tales I could tell you were the king willing to listen." Then said the king to himself, "I will not slay her until the story is ended."

So he went forth to the audience hall and issued his orders and gave judgment even until the close of the day, and he told the vizier not one word of what had happened. The vizier wondered with exceeding wonder, but when the court broke up the king entered his palace without satisfying his chief officer's curiosity.