

ur Conan Doyle



# The SIGN of FOUR 四签名

The emotional qualities are antagonistic to clear reasoning. I never guess. It is a shocking habit - destructive to the logical faculty.

感情作用会影响清醒的理智。

我向来不猜想。猜想是很不好的习惯，它有害于逻辑推理。

An English-Chinese Novel

英汉对照

[英] 阿瑟·柯南·道尔·著 \* 听泉·译注 \* 王琴文·插图

清华大学出版社

Arthur Conan Doyle



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## 图书在版编目 ( CIP ) 数据

四签名: 英汉对照 / [英]阿瑟·柯南·道尔 (Conan Doyle,A.)  
著; 听泉译注. — 上海: 东华大学出版社, 2012.5

(福尔摩斯探案集)

ISBN 978-7-5669-0041-8

I. ①四… II. ①阿…②听… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物  
②侦探小说—英国—现代 IV. ①H319.4 : I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2012) 第 072630 号

## 四签名

[英]阿瑟·柯南·道尔 著

听泉 译注

东华大学出版社出版

上海市延安西路 1882 号

邮政编码: 200051 电话: 021-62193056

联系邮箱: dandes.shen@gmail.com

微博: <http://weibo.com/editeur>

本社网址: <http://www.dhupress.net>

淘宝店: <http://dhupress.taobao.com>

营销中心: 021-62193056 62373056 62379558

新华书店上海发行所发行 苏州望电印刷有限公司印刷

2012 年 5 月第 1 版 2012 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 0001-5000 册

开本: 890×1240 1/32 印张: 9 字数: 343 千字

ISBN 978-7-5669-0041-8/H·381

定价: 25.00 元

# 前言

《四签名》是阿瑟·柯南·道尔继《血字的研究》之后创作的第二部长篇推理小说，仍以夏洛克·福尔摩斯为主角，是开辟侦探小说黄金时代的不朽经典。故事发生在 1887 至 1888 年之间，四个参与过印度战争的军官偶然获得了一批宝藏。多年后，这批宝藏成为使他们的后人遭遇不幸的根源。小说一经问世，就获得巨大成功。作者也因而一举成名。

本书在翻译和注解过程中，得到了廉凤仙、崔芙蓉、王莹阁、张连亮、刘建东、王超、闫丽萍、王琦薇、王红、乔滢、魏艳萍、宋春艳等同志的热忱帮助，在此深表谢意。

听泉

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# **Chapter 1**

**THE SCIENCE OF DEDUCTION**



# ❧ 第一章 ❧

## 演绎学

Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantelpiece, and his **hypodermic syringe**<sup>1</sup> from its neat morocco case. With his long, white, nervous fingers he adjusted the delicate needle and rolled back his left shirtcuff. For some little time his eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy forearm and wrist, all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture-marks. Finally, he thrust the sharp point home, pressed down the tiny piston, and sank back into the velvet-lined armchair with a long sigh of satisfaction.

Three times a day for many months I had witnessed this performance, but custom had not **reconciled**<sup>2</sup> my mind to it. On the contrary, from day to day I had become more irritable at the sight, and my conscience swelled nightly within me at the thought that I had lacked the courage to protest. Again and again I had registered a vow that I should deliver my soul upon the subject; but there was that in the cool, **nonchalant**<sup>3</sup> air of my companion which made him the last man with whom one would care to take anything approaching to a liberty. His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of his many extraordinary qualities, all made me **diffident**<sup>4</sup> and backward in crossing him.

Yet upon that afternoon, whether it was the Beaune which I had taken with my lunch or the additional **exasperation**<sup>5</sup> produced by the extreme deliberation of his manner, I suddenly felt that I could hold out no longer.

"Which is it to-day," I asked, "morphine or cocaine?"

He raised his eyes **languidly**<sup>6</sup> from the old black-letter volume which he had opened.

"It is cocaine," he said, "a seven-per-cent solution. Would you care to try it?"

"No, indeed," I answered brusquely. "My **constitution**<sup>7</sup> has not got over the Afghan campaign yet. I cannot afford to throw any extra strain upon it."

He smiled at my **vehemence**<sup>8</sup>. "Perhaps you are right, Watson," he said. "I suppose that its influence is physically a bad one. I find it, however, so **transcendently**<sup>9</sup> stimulating and clarifying to the mind that its secondary action is a matter of small moment."

"But consider!" I said earnestly. "Count the cost! Your brain may, as you say, be roused and excited, but it is a **pathological**<sup>10</sup> and **morbid**<sup>11</sup> process which involves increased tissue-change and may at least leave a

夏洛克·福尔摩斯从壁炉架的角上取下瓶子，从整洁的摩洛哥山羊皮盒里取出皮下注射器，用修长白皙、神经质的手指调整好精细的注射针，然后卷起衬衣左袖口，目光若有所思地在肌肉发达、布满无数刺痕的前臂和手腕上停了一小会儿。最后，他把针尖刺进肉里，按下小小的针心，满意地长叹一声，躺回了天鹅绒面的扶手椅。

我目睹他这样一天注射三次已经好几个月了，但我还是习惯从内心去接受。正好相反，日复一日，我对此情景越来越恼火。我没有勇气抗议，每到夜里想起这件事，良心就越来越不安。我一次又一次发誓自己应该对这件事说说心里话，但我的同伴不动感情、若无其事的样子，使他成为谁都不爱贸然靠近的人。他的卓越才能、巧妙态度和我体验到的他的许多非凡品质，都使我胆怯退缩，不敢反对他。

然而，那天下午，无论是我在午饭时喝的波恩红葡萄酒，还是他极端从容的态度，都让我更加恼怒，我突然觉得再也不能忍耐了。

“今天是哪一种？”我问，“吗啡还是可卡因？”

他从刚打开的一本黑花体字旧书上无精打采地抬起眼睛。

“是可卡因，”他说，“7% 溶液。你想试试吗？”

“不想，真的不想，”我粗暴地回答说，“我的身体还没有从阿富汗战役中恢复过来。我不能给它任何额外损伤了。”

他对我的激烈情绪微微一笑。“华生，也许你是对的，”他说，“我想它对身体有不良影响。然而，我发现它有如此非凡的提神和醒脑作用，所以它的副作用也就无足轻重了。”

“可是要考虑一下！”我认真地说，“考虑一切后果！你的大脑也许像你说的那样能被激起和兴奋，但这是一种病理和病态的过程。这种过程意味着组织变化

permanent weakness. You know, too, what a black reaction comes upon you. Surely the game is hardly worth the candle. Why should you, for a mere passing pleasure, risk the loss of those great powers with which you have been **endowed**<sup>12</sup>? Remember that I speak not only as one comrade to another but as a medical man to one for whose constitution he is to some extent answerable."

He did not seem offended. On the contrary, he put his finger-tips together, and leaned his elbows on the arms of his chair, like one who has a relish for conversation.

"My mind," he said, "rebels at **stagnation**<sup>13</sup>. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse **cryptogram**<sup>14</sup>, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental **exaltation**<sup>15</sup>. That is why I have chosen my own particular profession, or rather created it, for I am the only one in the world."

"The only unofficial detective?" I said, raising my eyebrows.

"The only unofficial consulting detective," he answered. "I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection. When Gregson, or Lestrade, or Athelney Jones are out of their depths—which, by the way, is their normal state—the matter is laid before me. I examine the data, as an expert, and pronounce a specialist's opinion. I claim no credit in such cases. My name figures in no newspaper. The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward. But you have yourself had some experience of my methods of work in the Jefferson Hope case."

"Yes, indeed," said I cordially. "I was never so struck by anything in my life. I even embodied it in a small brochure, with the somewhat fantastic title of 'A Study in Scarlet.'"

He shook his head sadly.

"I glanced over it," said he. "Honestly, I cannot congratulate you upon it. Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the same effect as if you worked a love-story or an

增加，至少会留下永久性的虚弱。你也知道它对你产生多么糟糕的反应。这种游戏的确是得不偿失。你为什么要只图一时之快，冒着损失上天赋予你的卓越才能呢？记住，我这样说不仅是作为朋友，而且是作为对你的体质负责的医生。”

他好像并没有生气。正好相反，他把手指并在一起，然后两肘倚靠在椅子的扶手上，就像对谈话感兴趣的人那样。

“我的思想，”他说，“厌恶停滞。给我难题，给我工作，给我最难解的密码，或者给我最复杂的分析，这样我才如鱼得水。那样，我才能不用人工刺激物。但是，我痛恨死气沉沉的生活常规。我渴望精神提升。这就是我选择自己特殊职业——或者更准确地说，创造这个职业——的原因，因为我是世界上唯一从事这种职业的人。”

“唯一的私人侦探？”我扬了扬眉问道。

“唯一私人咨询侦探，”他回答说，“我是侦探最后和最高的上诉法庭。当格雷格森、雷斯特雷德或阿塞尔尼·琼斯超出自己的能力时——顺便说一下，这是他们的正常状态——就会把问题摆到我面前。我以专家身份审查材料，发表专家意见。我在这种案例上从不要求荣誉。我的名字也不出现在任何报纸上。工作本身，为我的特殊才能找到用武之地的快乐，就是我最高的报酬。但是，在杰斐逊·霍普一案中，你已经亲自体验过我的工作方法。”

“是的，的确是，”我诚恳地说，“我一生从来没有如此感动过。我甚至写成了一本小册子，用的是稍微奇异的标题：《血字的研究》。”

他伤心地摇了摇头。

“我扫过一眼，”他说，“说实话，我不能向你祝贺。侦查是——或者应该是——一种精密科学，应该用同样冷静客观，而不是感情用事的方法对待。你企图让它染上浪漫色彩，这产生的效果完全像是你把爱情故事或情人私奔

**elopement**<sup>16</sup> into the fifth proposition of **Euclid**<sup>17</sup>.”

“But the romance was there,” I **remonstrated**<sup>18</sup>. “I could not **tamper with**<sup>19</sup> the facts.”

“Some facts should be suppressed, or, at least, a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them. The only point in the case which deserved mention was the curious analytical reasoning from effects to causes, by which I succeeded in **unravelling**<sup>20</sup> it.”

I was annoyed at this criticism of a work which had been specially designed to please him. I confess, too, that I was irritated by the egotism which seemed to demand that every line of my **pamphlet**<sup>21</sup> should be devoted to his own special doings. More than once during the years that I had lived with him in Baker Street I had observed that a small vanity underlay my companion’s quiet and **didactic**<sup>22</sup> manner. I made no remark, however, but sat nursing my wounded leg. I had had a **Jezail**<sup>23</sup> bullet through it some time before, and though it did not prevent me from walking it ached wearily at every change of the weather.

“My practice has extended recently to the Continent,” said Holmes after a while, filling up his old **brier**<sup>24</sup>-root pipe. “I was consulted last week by Francois le Villard, who, as you probably know, has come rather to the front lately in the French detective service. He has all the Celtic power of quick intuition, but he is deficient in the wide range of exact knowledge which is essential to the higher developments of his art. The case was concerned with a will and possessed some features of interest. I was able to refer him to two parallel cases, the one at Riga in 1857, and the other at St. Louis in 1871, which have suggested to him the true solution. Here is the letter which I had this morning acknowledging my assistance.”

He tossed over, as he spoke, a crumpled sheet of foreign notepaper. I glanced my eyes down it, catching a **profusion**<sup>25</sup> of notes of admiration, with stray *magnifiques*, *coup-de-maîtres* and *tours-de-force*, all testifying to the ardent admiration of the Frenchman.

“He speaks as a pupil to his master,” said I.

“Oh, he rates my assistance too highly,” said Sherlock Holmes lightly.

插进欧几里得第五定理。”

“但是，那里有浪漫情节，”我抗辩道，“我不能篡改那些事实。”

“有些事实不应该让人知道，或者至少在处理它们时，应该有一种合理的均衡感。这个案子唯一值得一提的是，我从结果进行奇特分析推出原因，由此成功破案。”

我对自己特意构思想取悦他的一篇作品受到批评感到不快。我也承认，我被他的自负激怒了。他的自负似乎是要要求，我的册子的每一行都应该专门描写他自己的特殊活动。在和同伴住在贝克街的那些年，我不止一次地观察到他在沉着镇静和好为人师的态度中隐藏着一种小小的虚荣。虽然如此，但我什么也没有说，只是坐在那里护理我的伤腿。我的腿以前曾经让阿富汗长滑膛枪子弹打穿过，尽管不妨碍我走路，但每逢天气变化，它就会酸痛。

“我的业务最近已经延伸到了欧洲大陆，”过了一会儿，福尔摩斯在石南科植物根老烟斗里装满烟丝，“上周福朗索瓦·勒·维拉尔就向我请教，你也许知道他最近在法国侦探界相当引人注目。他具备凯尔特人所有的敏锐直觉力，但他缺乏广博的确切学识，这对他技艺的进一步发展不可或缺。这是一桩有关遗嘱的案子，具有一些有趣的特征。我能够指点他的是两个类似的案子：一件是1857年里加市的案子，另一件是1871年圣路易市的案子。这两个案子已经向他暗示了正确的解决方案。这就是我今天早上收到的他感谢我帮助的信件。”

他一边说，一边把一张皱巴巴的外国信纸扔给我。我向下扫了一眼，发现有大量溢美之辞，随处可见“卓越出色”、“手段高超”和“行动有力”，这都证实了这个法国人热情洋溢的赞美。

“他像小学生对老师说话一样，”我说。

“噢，他把我的帮助评价得过高了，”夏洛克·福尔摩斯轻声说道，“他



“He has considerable gifts himself. He possesses two out of the three qualities necessary for the ideal detective. He has the power of observation and that of deduction. He is only wanting in knowledge, and that may come in time. He is now translating my small works into French.”

“Your works?”

“Oh, didn’t you know?” he cried, laughing. “Yes, I have been guilty of several monographs. They are all upon technical subjects. Here, for example, is one ‘Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos.’ In it I enumerate a hundred and forty forms of cigar, cigarette, and pipe tobacco, with coloured plates **illustrating**<sup>26</sup> the difference in the ash. It is a point which is continually turning up in criminal trials, and which is sometimes of supreme importance as a clue. If you can say definitely, for example, that some murder had been done by a man who was smoking an Indian lunkah, it obviously narrows your field of search. To the trained eye there is as much difference between the black ash of a **Trichinopoly**<sup>27</sup> and the white fluff of bird’s-eye as there is between a cabbage and a potato.”

“You have an extraordinary genius for minutiae,” I remarked.

“I appreciate their importance. Here is my **monograph**<sup>28</sup> upon the tracing of footsteps, with some remarks upon the uses of plaster of Paris as a preserver of impresses. Here, too, is a curious little work upon the influence of a trade upon the form of the hand, with **lithotypes**<sup>29</sup> of the hands of slaters, sailors, cork-cutters, compositors, weavers, and diamond-polishers. That is a matter of great practical interest to the scientific detective—especially in cases of unclaimed bodies, or in discovering the **antecedents**<sup>30</sup> of criminals. But I weary you with my hobby.”

“Not at all,” I answered earnestly. “It is of the greatest interest to me, especially since I have had the opportunity of observing your practical application of it. But you spoke just now of observation and deduction. Surely the one to some extent implies the other.”

“Why, hardly,” he answered, leaning back **luxuriously**<sup>31</sup> in his armchair and sending up thick blue wreaths from his pipe. “For example, observation shows me that you have been to the Wigmore Street Post-Office this morning, but deduction lets me know that when there you **dispatched**<sup>32</sup> a telegram.”

自己也相当有才华。理想侦探必备的三种素质，他有两种。他有观察能力和演绎能力，只是缺乏知识，这他可以及时获得。他眼下正在把我的几篇小文译成法语。”

“你的作品？”

“噢，你不知道？”他大声笑道，“是的，我曾经不好意思写过几篇专论，都是技术方面的。比如，这篇《论各种烟草灰之间的区别》。在这篇专论里，我列举出 140 种雪茄、纸烟、烟斗丝的烟灰，配上彩色插图阐明烟灰的区别。这是在刑事审判中不断出现的一个要点，有时作为线索，具有最重要的特点。比如，如果你能明确地说某件谋杀案是由一个抽印度雪茄的人所为，显然就会缩小你的搜索范围。在训练有素的人看来，印度特里奇雪茄烟的黑灰和鸟眼烟的白灰之间的区别，完全像白菜和马铃薯之间的区别一样。”

“你对侦查的微小细节具有非凡的天赋，”我说。

“我意识到了它们的重要性。这是我对跟踪足迹的专论，一些地方还谈到了使用熟石膏保存印记的方法。这里还有一篇奇特小文，论述职业对手形的影响，附有石板瓦工、海员、软木切削工、排字工、织工和钻石雕刻工的手形石版图。这对科学侦探具有极大的实际意义——尤其是在无人认领的尸体和发现罪犯前科的案件中。可是，我的嗜好让你厌烦了吧。”

“一点也不，”我认真地回答说，“我对此怀有浓厚的兴趣，尤其是因为我曾经有机会观察过你的实际应用。不过，你刚才说到了观察和演绎。当然，在某种程度上，是两种方法的相互包含。”

“啊，几乎不会，”他非常舒适地靠在扶手椅里，从烟斗里吐出一圈圈浓浓的蓝烟回答说，“比如，观察向我表明，你今天早上曾经到过威格莫尔街邮局，但演绎却告诉我，你在那里什么时候发过一封电报。”