

凡尔纳科幻探险系列

英汉
对照
全译本

Robur the Conqueror



儒勒·凡尔纳 / 著

征服者罗比尔

远方出版社

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全译本

Robur the Conqueror

H319.4
R8084

[法] Jules Verne 儒勒·凡尔纳/著

征服者罗比尔

主宰世界的人

远方出版社

593086

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《英汉对照凡尔纳科幻探险小说系列》

《征服者罗比尔》

远方出版社出版发行

(呼和浩特市乌兰察布东路 666 号)

内蒙古新华书店经销 北京市社科印刷厂印刷

开本:880×1230 1/32 印张:218 字数:3800 千

2002 年 8 月第 1 版 2002 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1 - 2000 册

ISBN7 - 80595 - 797 - 5/I·310

(全套 16 册)定价:334.60 元

导 读

《征服者罗比尔》是儒勒·凡尔纳所作的一部中篇科幻小说。

凡尔纳写过海洋历险、太空历险,当然他不会忘记另一个重要领域——我们的大气层以内的空间。《征服者罗比尔》正是讲述了发生在这一空间的故事。

我们知道,在19世纪末期,人类的航天事业远未发展到现在的程度,那时飞机还没有制造出来,科学家、航空家们研制各种飞行工具试图征服天空。他们模仿天空中飞翔的鸟类,模仿大海中航行的船只,一心要自由遨游于空中。正如凡尔纳在作品中所写,当时主要的观点分为两派:即到底是用比空气重的原理还是用比空气轻的原理制造飞行工具,这个矛盾一直无法调和。两派观点的科学家们各自研究、试验,然而问题始终没有得到完全解决,人类也始终无法实现飞上天空的梦想。

这部小说正是在这种背景下诞生的,其中所描写的状况正反映了当时的现实情况。作品中塑造了一个重要人物——罗比尔,聪明、勇敢、善良,有时尖刻,有时宽容。他是作品的灵魂,正是通过他,凡尔纳试图向人们揭示一些科学进步的规律,社会发展的规律。在作品的最后,他已成为先进科技的化身。

作品还塑造了另外几个典型人物,代表保守、落后、顽固的主席与秘书,代表无知与懦弱的仆人,还有那些观点极易改变,爱看热闹的旁观人群。

凡尔纳的这部作品的教育意义十分明显,这在其它作品中并不常见。

在情节设计上,本部作品也有特别之处。征服者罗比尔

始终罩着一层神秘的面纱,引起读者的好奇心,随着情节的发展急于知道神秘面纱后面的罗比尔究竟系何许人。这一秘密最后才得以揭开,然而也并非完全清楚的解释,留给读者自己一定的想象空间。

另外,这部作品的语言风格更为犀利、幽默,在让人大笑的同时,又能意识到一些问题,一些绝妙的讽刺十分深刻地揭示了人性的特点。总之,语言风格也是这部作品的一大亮点。

写给读者的话

读小说可以划分为三个阶段。第一个阶段是以了解故事情节为主,读者关注的是书中形形色色的人物以及他们不同的遭遇和命运。第二个阶段的读者注重透过故事本身去体味它反映的社会现实和作者的情感,进而去品味人生的涵义。第三个阶段的读者则从纯文学的角度把握小说的构思、布局和创作技巧。

由于目的不同,阅读的方式也不同。所以,这三个阶段并没有层次高低的分别。英文小说的读者大多是以学习英语为目的,限于对语言的理解程度,不便也不可能按照后两个阶段的要求阅读。因此,读者们大可不必过高地要求自己,看懂大概内容即可。这样,阅读的责任便减轻了,学习的过程也回复了读书原本的目的——娱乐。

为此,我们特别提醒读者,在阅读时,切莫拘泥于生词。本丛书中任何一部英文小说的单词量均在 12,000 字左右,几乎包括了全部英语常用词汇。遇到生词是很正常的,一见生词就查字典的作法并不可取。过分地关注单词带来的只有扫兴和挫败感。为了保持阅读的兴趣和连续性,建议读者尝试着去抓句子的中心意思,对与中心意思联系不大的单词不必理会。只有与中心意思密切相关的生词才有查字典的必要。无论一页书上有多少生词,翻字典的次数也别超过三次,这是保持阅读连贯性的关键。假设每天看五页书,一页书上记三个单词,一天便掌握十五个单词,正是人脑每日能够熟记的单词量。照此速度,读者在两个半月内即能将本书轻松看完。如果需要将上述数字与英文水平挂钩的话,大学英语四级水平的读者在读完本书后,应能通过大学英语六级考试。而不足四级水平者,则可达到四级水平。

此外,读者应充分利用中文译文。本书的译文对照原文段落在一页上配附,帮助读者方便和灵活地阅读,碰见生词和海涩的句子时,读者即可与译文对照。对于个别难懂的段落,也不需费神推敲,可直接阅读译文。由于有了对照译文,读者免去了动辄查字典之苦,也能初探英语翻译之端倪。这正是我们精心设计的初衷。

当然,读者在这部小说中收获的不仅仅是英语,故事本身也给了

我们许多启迪。

我们相信,按照以上的建议阅读本书,读者会受益匪浅。

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Chapter 1

In Which Phileas Fogg and Passepartout Accept Each Other, The One As Master, the Other As Man

Mr. Phileas Fogg lived, in 1872, at No. 7, Saville Row, Burlington Gardens, the house in which Sheridan died in 1814. He was one of the most noticeable members of the Reform Club, though he seemed always to avoid attracting attention; an enigmatical personage, about whom little was known, except that he was a polished man of the world. People said that he resembled Byron - at least that his head was Byronic; but he was a bearded, tranquil Byron, who might live on a thousand years without growing old.

Certainly an Englishman, it was more doubtful whether Phileas Fogg was a Londoner. He was never seen on "Change, nor at the Bank, nor in the counting-rooms of the "City"; no ships ever came into London docks of which he was the owner; he had no public employment; he had never been entered at any of the Inns of Court, either at the Temple, or Lincoln's Inn, or Gray's Inn; nor had his voice ever resounded in the Court of Chancery, or in the Exchequer, or the Queen's Bench, or the Ecclesiastical Courts. He certainly was not a manufacturer; nor was he a merchant or a gentleman farmer. His name was strange to the scientific and learned societies, and he never was known to take part in the sage deliberations of the Royal Institution or the London Institution, the

第一章

费雷亚·福格和路路通成为主仆

1872年时,费雷亚·福格先生居住在萨维尔街7号的伯灵顿花园,1816年时谢立丹就是在此辞世的。这位费雷亚·福格先生虽然竭力避免引起公众注意,但他仍然是改良俱乐部里最显赫的人物。除了知道他是一个风流倜傥的君子外,人们对他一无所知。有人说他长得像拜伦,不过他的头倒的确是拜伦似的;不过他是一个有小胡子的、冷静淡漠的拜伦,而且即便活上千年也不会变老。

费雷亚·福格是个地地道道的英国人,但是不是伦敦人倒说不定。交易所和银行从来看不到他的身影,在城里任何一家商行也找不到他;伦敦的码头也从未停泊过船主是费雷亚·福格的货船。他从未有公共职位;律师公会、内殿和中殿法学协会,林肯院和格雷院都没有听到过他的名字。他从来也没有在大法官法庭、女皇审判庭、财政法庭和教会法庭打过官司。他既不是实业家,也非批发商;既不是商人,也非农业经营者。他的名字对科学研究学会是陌生的,他从未在那些沉稳的哲人们组成的皇家协

Artisan's Association, or the Institution of Arts and Sciences. He belonged, in fact, to none of the numerous societies which swarm in the English capital, from the Harmonic to that of the Entomologists, founded mainly for the purpose of abolishing pernicious insects.

Phileas Fogg was a member of the Reform, and that was all.

The way in which he got admission to this exclusive club was simple enough. He was recommended by the Barings, with whom he had an open credit. His cheques were regularly paid at sight from his account current, which was always flush.

Was Phileas Fogg rich? Undoubtedly. But those who knew him best could not imagine how he had made his fortune, and Mr. Fogg was the last person to whom to apply for the information. He was not lavish, nor, on the contrary, avaricious; for, whenever he knew that money was needed for a noble, useful, or benevolent purpose, he supplied it quietly and sometimes anonymously. He was, in short, the least communicative of men. He talked very little, and seemed all the more mysterious for his taciturn manner. His daily habits were quite open to observation; but whatever he did was so exactly the same thing that he had always done before, that the wits of the curious were fairly puzzled.

Had he travelled? It was likely, for no one seemed to know the world more familiarly; there was no spot so secluded that he did not appear to have an intimate acquaintance with

会或伦敦协会中占过一席之地,在手工业者协会或科学与艺术联合会中也不见踪影。总之,他不属于群聚在英国首都的众多协会,从亚莫尼卡协会直到昆虫协会都不是,后者以消灭害虫为目的。

费雷亚·福格先生是改良俱乐部的成员,仅此而已。

他成为这样一个荣耀的协会的成员原因极为简单,他是通过巴林兄弟引荐的,在巴林银行他有帐户。他的帐面始终存款充足,所以他开的支票总是见单即付,信誉良好。

这个费雷亚·福格很有钱吗?这一点毫无疑问。但没人能知道他是怎样富起来的,要想知道这个秘密,最后只能向费雷亚·福格先生请教。不过,他从不挥霍无度,也不吝啬小气;只要他知道他的钱是用作高尚、有益和慈善事业时,他都默默地捐款,有时还不留姓名。总而言之,这位绅士是不爱交际的人。他少言寡语,而因为他这沉默寡言的性格使他看起来更加神秘莫测。他每日的生活习惯大家都有目共睹,他总是按部就班,千篇一律地过日子,这反倒让那些好奇的聪明人迷惑不解。

他旅行过吗?很有可能,因为看起来没人能像他那样对世界了如指掌。无论多么偏僻的地方,他都不会没兴趣去弄

aeronauts. Some strange phenomenon had occurred in the higher zones of the atmosphere, a phenomenon of which neither the nature nor the cause could be explained. Today it appeared over America; forty-eight hours afterwards it was over Europe; a week later it was in Asia over the Celestial Empire.

Hence in every country of the world — empire, kingdom, or republic — there was anxiety which it was important to allay. If you hear in your house strange and inexplicable noises, do you not at once endeavor to discover the cause? And if your search is in vain, do you not leave your house and take up your quarters in another? But in this case the house was the terrestrial globe! There are no means of leaving that house for the moon or Mars, or Venus, or Jupiter, or any other planet of the solar system. And so of necessity we have to find out what it is that takes place, not in the infinite void, but within the atmospherical zones. In fact, if there is no air there is no noise, and as there was a noise — that famous trumpet, to wit — the phenomenon must occur in the air, the density of which invariably diminishes, and which does not extend for more than six miles round our spheroid.

Naturally the newspapers took up the question in their thousands, and treated it in every form, throwing on it both light and darkness, recording many things about it true or false, alarming and tranquillizing their readers — as the sale required — and almost driving ordinary people mad. At one blow party politics dropped unheeded — and the affairs of the world went on

当然也没有气球旅行家。天穹深处某点确实传来某种奇异声音。这种现象的性质或是原因人们无法解释。今天它在美洲上空出现,48 小时后又在欧洲上空显露,一星期之后,又出现在亚洲,在天朝帝国上空响起。

地球上的所有国家——帝国、王国、共和国——都异常焦虑不安。现在最重要的是安抚这种焦虑心理。你若在家中听到古怪的、无法解释的响动,难道你会不马上想办法查清楚原因吗?倘若探寻毫无结果,你难道不会抛弃这座住宅,搬进另一座房子吗?不过,现在这座房子就是我们生长繁衍的地球,我们显然无法抛弃地球,搬到月球、火星、金星、木星或是太阳系的其他星星上去居住。所以,我们必须弄明白在大气层里面而不是在无垠的宇宙里到底发生了什么事?事实上没有空气,就不会有声音的传播。我们既然听到那声音,那它肯定发生在大气层里。大气层里的空气密度越高越稀薄,但它不会超过离地面 6 公里处的。

自然,上千家报刊马上抓住了这件事,从各个角度加以报道,使事情更加清楚或更混乱,传播着或真或假的信息,或恐吓或安慰它们的读者——都是发行量的需要——然而它们已经使普通百姓们疯狂起来了。面对这种效果,政治也黯

none the worse for it.

But what could this thing be? There was not an observatory that was not applied to. If an observatory could not give a satisfactory answer what was the use of observatories? If astronomers, who doubled and tripled the stars a hundred thousand million miles away, could not explain a phenomenon occurring only a few miles off, what was the use of astronomers?

The observatory at Paris was very guarded in what it said. In the mathematical section they had not thought the statement worth noticing; in the meridional section they knew nothing about it; in the physical observatory they had not come across it; in the geodetic section they had had no observation; in the meteorological section there had been no record; in the calculating room they had had nothing to deal with. At any rate this confession was a frank one, and the same frankness characterized the replies from the observatory of Montsouris and the magnetic station in the park of St. Maur. The same respect for the truth distinguished the Bureau des Longitudes.

The provinces were slightly more affirmative. Perhaps in the night of the fifth and the morning of the sixth of May there had appeared a flash of light of electrical origin which lasted about twenty seconds. At the Pic du Midi this light appeared between nine and ten in the evening. At the Meteorological Observatory on the Puy de Dome the light had been observed between one and two o'clock in the morning; at

然失色,不过世界范围的商业却因此有所改观。

但这究竟是怎么回事?人们就此问题向全球所有天文台求援。如果天文台不能给人以满意的答复,它们还有什么用呢?如果那些天文家能够把几百万亿公里外的星球分割成两部分或三部分,却无能为力地辨识几公里范围以内的天空现象,那么这些天文家还有什么用?

巴黎天文台持保留态度,子午观测室对此一无所知;物理观测室也弄不明白;大地测量室没有什么发现;气象研究室也没作什么评论;计算室也无所作为;天文数学室则根本对观测这个现象不屑一顾。他们都没有故弄玄虚,十分坦白。蒙苏里天文台和圣度尔地磁站也同样地坦率。经度局又让大家一样尊重事实,尊重真理。

政府的态度也更明确了。也许5月5日至6日的夜间天空,出现过以电力为光源的亮光,持续大约20秒。这种光亮曾在南部山峰,晚上9点与10点之间闪过;在比依·德·多姆气象台,于半夜1点至2点之间;在普罗旺斯省的旺都峰,在夜半2点至3点之间;在尼

Mont Ventoux in Provence it had been seen between two and three o'clock; at Nice it had been noticed between three and four o'clock; while at the Semnoz Alps between Annecy, Le Bourget, and Le Leman, it had been detected just as the zenith was paling with the dawn.

Now it evidently would not do to disregard these observations altogether. There could be no doubt that a light had been observed at different places, in succession, at intervals, during some hours. Hence, whether it had been produced from many centers in the terrestrial atmosphere, or from one center, it was plain that the light must have traveled at a speed of over one hundred and twenty miles an hour.

There was a laugh at the asserted discovery in all the observatories of south America, in Brazil, Peru, and La Plata, and in those of Australia at Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne; and Australian laughter is very catching

To sum up, only one chief of a meteorological station ventured on a decided answer to this question, notwithstanding the sarcasms that his solution provoked. This was a Chinaman, the director of the observatory at Zi-Ka-Wey which rises in the center of a vast plateau less than thirty miles from the sea, having an immense horizon and wonderfully pure atmosphere. "It is possible," said he, "that the object was an aviform apparatus — a flying machine!"

What nonsense!

But if the controversy was keen in the old world, we can imagine what it was like in that portion of the new of which the United States occupy so vast an area.

A Yankee, we know, does not waste time on

斯,则在3点至4点之间;最后,在阿纳西和列曼之间的桑诺瓦—阿尔卑斯,则在破晓时分,所有这些地方都出现了这种亮光也都有人亲眼见过。

显然,人们无法彻底否定如此多观测的结果。毫无疑问,这种光亮先后在不同地区在几个小时内都被不同的气象台站观察到了。这种光亮是由穿过地球大气层的一个光源或几个光源发出,可以肯定以每小时超过120公里的速度在天空滑动着。

从巴西、秘鲁到阿根廷拉布拉塔市,从西德尼·阿德莱到悉尼、亚特兰大、墨尔本,对这个确定的发现,南美洲和澳洲的所有天文台都报以嘲笑。

总之,只有中国徐家汇天文台台长对这个现象作出了正面解释,尽管他的观点引起无数的攻击和挖苦。徐家汇天文台设在离海洋不到30公里的一块平地上,空气纯净,视野清晰。这位站长说:"大家所说的东西很可能是一种飞行装置——一种飞行器。"

这简直滑天下大稽!

如果说旧大陆上的争论十分激烈,完全可以想象到,美国占极大部分的新大陆的情况。

众所周知,美国人做事从

the road. He takes the street that leads him straight to his end. And the observatories of the American Federation did not hesitate to do their best. If they did not hurl their objectives at each other's heads, it was because they would have had to put them back just when they most wanted to use them. In this much-disputed question the observatories of Washington in the District of Columbia, and Cambridge in Massachusetts, found themselves opposed by those of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, and Ann Arbor in Michigan. The subject of their dispute was not the nature of the body observed, but the precise moment of its observation. All of them claimed to have seen it the same night, the same hour, the same minute, the same second, although the trajectory of the mysterious voyager took it but a moderate height above the horizon. Now from Massachusetts to Michigan, from New Hampshire to Columbia, the distance is too great for this double observation, made at the same moment, to be considered possible.

Dudley at Albany, in the state of New York, and West Point, the military academy, showed that their colleagues were wrong by an elaborate calculation of the right ascension and declination of the aforesaid body.

But later on it was discovered that the observers had been deceived in the body, and that what they had seen was an aerolite. This aerolite could not be the object in question, for how could an aerolite blow a trumpet?

It was in vain that they tried to get rid of this trumpet as an optical illusion. The ears were no

来讲究效率节省时间,一条路走到底,直往目的地。就此,美国的所有天文台都直率地阐明了自己的观点。争论的剧烈程度之所以没有让他们朝脑袋扔望远镜,是因为等到他们施用时还得去设法搞新望远镜。哥伦比亚特区的华盛顿天文台和马萨诸塞州的坎布里奇天文台同康涅狄格州的达德麦斯大学天文台和密执安州的昂·阿勃天文台之间的争论,相持不下,不分胜负。然而,他们争论并非是在观察到的物体的性质,而是观察的准确时间。虽说这个神秘的飞行物体运动轨迹离地平线并不高,但他们都说在同一夜晚同一时刻发现了它。然而,康涅狄格州与密执安州,马萨诸塞州与哥伦比亚之间的距离是相当遥远的,他们不可能在那么大距离范围内同时见到了那么低空上的物体。

纽约州的一所大学和西点军校通过精密计算得出了物体的经纬坐标,从而证明了他们的同行都弄错了。

但是后来,又发现观察者们都弄错了,他们看到的是一颗穿过大气层的小行星。理所当然,小行星绝不是那个物体,何况小行星怎么会吹奏铜号呢?

提起那个铜号,众人都竭力想把那个嘹亮的号声作为是

more deceived than the eyes. Something had assuredly been seen, and something had assuredly been heard. In the night of the 12th and 13th of May – a very dark night – the observers at Yale College, in the Sheffield Science School, had been able to take down a few bars of a musical phrase in D major, common time, which gave note for note, rhythm for rhythm, the chorus of the Chant du Depart.

“Good,” said the Yankee wags. “There is a French band well up in the air.”

But to joke is not to answer. Thus said the observatory at Boston, founded by the Atlantic Iron Works Society, whose opinions in matters of astronomy and meteorology began to have much weight in the world of science.

Then there intervened the observatory at Cincinnati, founded in 1870, on Mount Look-out, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Kilgour, and known for its micrometrical measurements of double stars. Its director declared with the utmost good faith that there had certainly been something, that a traveling body had shown itself at very short periods at different points in the atmosphere, but what were the nature of this body, its dimensions, its speed, and its trajectory, it was impossible to say.

It was then a journal whose publicity is immense – the “New York Herald” – received the anonymous contribution hereunder.

“There will be in the recollection of most people the rivalry which existed a few years ago between the two heirs of the Begum of Raggi-

视觉幻像,当然这都是白费力气。但既使眼睛被骗,不会连耳朵也受骗的,确实听到了某种声音。就在5月12日至13日黑茫茫的夜间,谢菲尔德科技大学耶尔分校的观察家们记录了他们所谛听到的乐曲的一个短句,这个短句的每个音符、每个节奏几乎与法国爱国歌曲《农征歌》完全吻合。

“太好了,”爱开玩笑的美国人说,“有一支法国乐队在空中演奏呢!”

然而玩笑并不能作为答案。然后波士顿天文台发表了意见,波士顿天文台的有关天文天体的观点在科学界颇有影响。

这时,由基古尔先生捐资于1870年建立的,以双星测微技术闻名的,设立在路考特峰上的辛辛那提天文台也参与了此事。它的台长声称,确有运动物体在很短时间内呈现在空中的不同地点,但我们还无从断定,这个运动物体的性质、体积、速度和轨迹等。

就在这时,一家发行量很大,对公众很有影响的杂志——《纽约先驱报》,收到了一封匿名信:

“人们一定对此事记忆犹新,数年前,美国俄勒冈州的南部地区,拉贝甘·德·拉格日奈