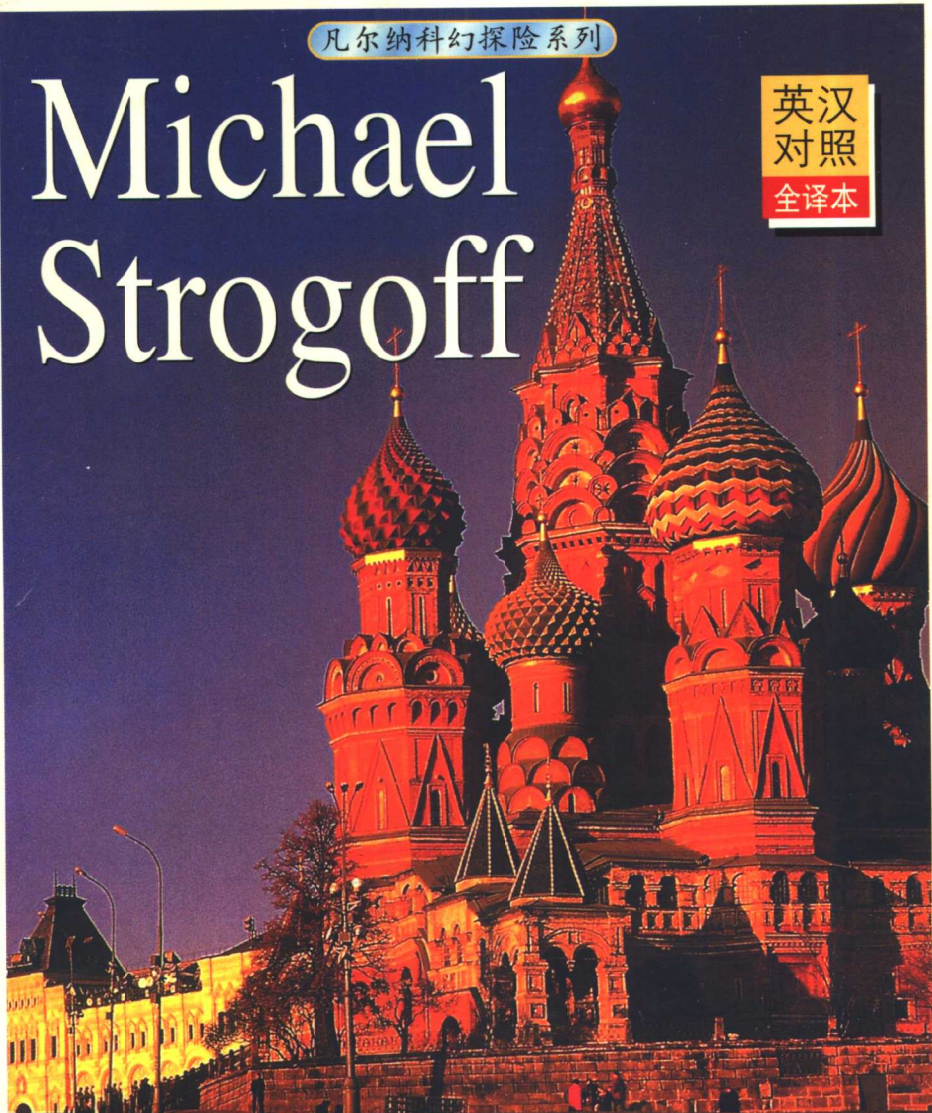


凡尔纳科幻探险系列

英汉
对照
全译本

Michael Strogoff



[法] Jules Verne 儒勒·凡尔纳/著

沙皇的信使

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《英汉对照凡尔纳科幻探险小说系列》

《沙皇的信使》

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导 读

这篇儒勒·凡尔纳的作品因为具有极强的趣味性而流传很广。中文译名有《沙皇的邮件》、《米歇尔·斯托戈夫》等。

作品中所讲述故事的历史背景是18世纪中期爆发的鞑靼人与俄罗斯人之间的战争。很明显,作者的观点倾向于俄方,而把鞑靼士兵描写得十分野蛮凶残。当然,这种观点具有一定的片面性。其实,在民族战争中,凶残的不一定总是一方。只要是战争,总是残酷的,而其中苦难最深重的也一定是那些无辜的平民。历史上这样的例子不胜枚举。当然,在这部作品中,我们无需去过问作者的历史观点是否完全正确。至少,可以肯定的是,主动挑起争端,发动侵略的一方一定是不得人心的,这也注定他们的侵略战争一定要以失败告终。

作品的开篇就先介绍了侵略战争的爆发。叛徒的参与使形势十分危急。这时需要一位勇敢的信使去完成一项重要使命——将沙皇给他的弟弟大公的亲笔信送到伊尔库茨克。当然,其间路途遥远,沿途还要经过敌占区,情势十分凶险,这名信使一定要具有超常的勇气、力量与智慧才能完成这项使命,而作品的主人公米歇尔·斯托戈夫正是这样一个人。作品正是描写了他送信途中所经历的种种惊心动魄的遭遇。其中激动人心、感人肺腑之处均需读者在阅读过程中细细体会。

值得一提的是,文章描写了米歇尔·斯托戈夫在受刑时,由于眼中含泪而免遭失明的情形。在现实生活中,这种离奇的事当然是不大可能发生的。不过,出于作者的感情,他在此处作此描写,出于对英雄的喜爱,我们也都宁愿相信这是

真的。毕竟，英雄还是没有大的瑕疵更好些。不论是作者儒勒·凡尔纳还是读者都喜欢尽量完美的结局。经历了那么多苦难和折磨之后，可能上帝也会回报他的吧！儒勒·凡尔纳作品的结局大都是皆大欢喜的，这一点从他的其它作品中可以看出来。

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,阅读负担便减轻了,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同一页上配附,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

A Fete at the New Palace

"Sire, a fresh dispatch."

"Whence?"

"From Tomsk."

"Is the wire cut beyond that city?"

"Yes, sire, since yesterday."

"Telegraph hourly to Tomsk, General, and keep me informed of all that occurs."

"Sire, it shall be done," answered General Kissoff.

These words were exchanged about two hours after midnight, at the moment when the fete given at the New Palace was at the height of its splendor.

During the whole evening the bands of the Preobra-jensky and Paulowsky regiments had played without cessation polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, and waltzes from among the choicest of their repertoires. Innumerable couples of dancers whirled through the magnificent saloons of the palace, which stood at a few paces only from the "old house of stones" - in former days the scene of so many terrible dramas, the echoes of whose walls were this night awakened by the gay strains of the musicians.

The grand-chamberlain of the court, was, besides, well seconded in his arduous and delicate duties. The grand-dukes and their aides-de-

第一章

新宫的晚会

"陛下,又收到一份新电报。"

"从哪儿来的?"

"从托木斯克。"

"这座城市以远的电线都被切断了么?"

"是的,从昨天起都被切断了。"

"将军,每隔一小时向托木斯克发一份电报,并时刻向我汇报。"

"是,陛下,"基索夫将军答道。

这番对话发生在凌晨两点钟,正是在新宫举行的晚会的高潮时刻。

整晚,普雷沃布拉扬斯基和保罗斯基的乐队一直在不间断地演奏着波尔卡舞曲、玛祖卡舞曲、苏格兰舞曲和华尔兹舞曲等,从候选节目中精选出来的最优秀曲目。无数对男女在新宫各个金碧辉煌的大厅里旋转起舞,离新宫只有几步远的地方是"老石头房子",那里从前曾上演过无数惨剧,今晚对舞舞曲的乐声在这里不断地回旋着。

宫中的大元帅在他的副手们的协助下负责整个晚会各事项。大公们和他们的副官,还

camp, the chamberlains-in-waiting and other officers of the palace, presided personally in the arrangement of the dances. The grand duchesses, covered with diamonds, the ladies-in-waiting in their most exquisite costumes, set the example to the wives of the military and civil dignitaries of the ancient "city of white stone." When, therefore, the signal for the "polonaise" resounded through the saloons, and the guests of all ranks took part in that measured promenade, which on occasions of this kind has all the importance of a national dance, the mingled costumes, the sweeping robes adorned with lace, and uniforms covered with orders, presented a scene of dazzling splendor, lighted by hundreds of lustres multiplied tenfold by the numerous mirrors adorning the walls.

The grand saloon, the finest of all those contained in the New Palace, formed to this procession of exalted personages and splendidly dressed women a frame worthy of the magnificence they displayed. The rich ceiling, with its gilding already softened by the touch of time, appeared as if glittering with stars. The embroidered drapery of the curtains and doors, falling in gorgeous folds, assumed rich and varied hues, broken by the shadows of the heavy masses of damask.

Through the panes of the vast semicircular bay-windows the light, with which the saloons were filled, shone forth with the brilliancy of a conflagration, vividly illuminating the gloom in which for some hours the palace had been shrouded. The attention of those of the guests not taking part in the dancing was attracted by the contrast. Resting in the recesses of the win-

有宫内的侍从和军官,都亲自走入舞池。珠光宝气的大公夫人,以及身着盛装的女侍们,也为这座古老的“白石头城”里文武高官的妻子做出了榜样。所以,当波罗涅兹舞曲奏响时,这种舞曲在这种场合中几乎有着民族标志一样的重要性,所有的客人,不分等级高低,全都加入了这种节奏感很强的舞步,玻璃的反射使一百来盏枝形吊灯发出的亮光更加耀眼,在这灯光下,绣有层层花边的长裙与佩有枚枚勋章的制服彼此交错,令人眼花缭乱。

这些达官显要以及打扮得光彩照人的贵妇与这间大沙龙——新宫所有大厅中最美的一个真是相得益彰。富丽堂皇的圆屋顶上,镀金饰物的光泽因年深日久而愈显柔和,仿佛满天繁星。窗帘和门帘都是锦缎做成的,皱褶起伏,光影交错,十分美丽。

从外面透过巨大的半圆拱形玻璃窗看去,整个大厅灯火通明,人声鼎沸,长达几个小时,与外面的寂寂黑夜形成鲜明的对照,这引起了没有跳舞的客人的注意。当他们停在窗前时,可以隐约看见几个钟楼,虽然很模糊,但黑夜中它们巨

dows, they could discern, standing out dimly in the darkness, the vague outlines of the countless towers, domes, and spires which adorn the ancient city. Below the sculptured balconies were visible numerous sentries, pacing silently up and down, their rifles carried horizontally on the shoulder, and the spikes of their helmets glittering like flames in the glare of light issuing from the palace. The steps also of the patrols could be heard beating time on the stones beneath with even more regularity than the feet of the dancers on the floor of the saloon. From time to time the watchword was repeated from post to post, and occasionally the notes of a trumpet, mingling with the strains of the orchestra, penetrated into their midst. Still farther down, in front of the facade, dark masses obscured the rays of light which proceeded from the windows of the New Palace. These were boats descending the course of a river, whose waters, faintly illumined by a few lamps, washed the lower portion of the terraces.

The principal personage who has been mentioned, the giver of the fete, and to whom General Kissoff had been speaking in that tone of respect with which sovereigns alone are usually addressed, wore the simple uniform of an officer of chasseurs of the guard. This was not affectation on his part, but the custom of a man who cared little for dress, his contrasting strongly with the gorgeous costumes amid which he moved, encircled by his escort of Georgians, Cossacks, and Circassians - a brilliant band, splendidly clad in the glittering uniforms of the Caucasus.

大的轮廓还是清晰可辨的。在雕花的阳台下,他们看见很多哨兵把枪扛在肩上,静悄悄地走来走去,尖尖的头盔上插着羽饰,在大厅投射出去的灯光照耀下像火焰一样跳动着。巡逻兵的脚步在石板地上踏着节拍听起来比跳舞的人们在大厅的地板上踏出的节奏还准。从各个哨位上不时传来一两句哨兵的应答,偶尔还会有一声号角混进乐队的和弦里,使一片和谐的旋律中冒出几个响亮的音符来。新宫正门前更低的地方,在窗户投射出去的光束中,一团团黑色的影子显露出来,那是几艘顺流而下的船只,江水在路灯的照耀下淡淡的反着光,冲刷着新宫浸在水里的最低的几级台阶。

舞会的主角,晚会的主人,即基索夫将军以陛下相称的那个人,衣着平常,穿的是一套近卫军军官的制服。这绝不是由于他矫揉造作,而是出于不爱修饰自己的习惯,他的衣着与他周围衣着光鲜的人们形成强烈的对比。他就这样由随从们簇拥着出现在大厅里,随从中有格鲁吉亚人、哥萨克人和勒斯吉安人,也都穿着鲜亮的高加索制服,显得很有气派。

This personage, of lofty stature, affable demeanor, and physiognomy calm, though bearing traces of anxiety, moved from group to group, seldom speaking, and appearing to pay but little attention either to the merriment of the younger guests or the graver remarks of the exalted dignitaries or members of the diplomatic corps who represented at the Russian court the principal governments of Europe. Two or three of these astute politicians - physiognomists by virtue of their profession - failed not to detect on the countenance of their host symptoms of disquietude, the source of which eluded their penetration; but none ventured to interrogate him on the subject.

It was evidently the intention of the officer of chasseurs that his own anxieties should in no way cast a shade over the festivities; and, as he was a personage whom almost the population of a world in itself was wont to obey, the gayety of the ball was not for a moment checked.

Nevertheless, General Kisofov waited until the officer to whom he had just communicated the dispatch forwarded from Tomsk should give him permission to withdraw; but the latter still remained silent. He had taken the telegram, he had read it carefully, and his visage became even more clouded than before. Involuntarily he sought the hilt of his sword, and then passed his hand for an instant before his eyes, as though, dazzled by the brilliancy of the light, he wished to shade them, the better to see into the recesses of his own mind.

"We are, then," he continued, after having drawn General Kisofov aside towards a window, "since yesterday without intelligence from the

此人高高的个子,态度和蔼可亲,脸色沉静,但却紧锁着眉头。他从这一堆人走到那一堆人,很少说话。无论是年轻客人们的轻松愉快地谈笑,还是达官显要或欧洲主要国家驻此的外交使团成员们的比较严肃的言谈都不能吸引他的注意。这些目光敏锐善于察言观色的政治家中,有两三个人从主人的脸上看出了忧虑,其原因他们不得而知,但没有一个人敢就此事去询问他。

很明显这人不想让他内心的忧虑给晚会带来一点阴影。由于他是几乎整个世界都对他惟命是从的君主之一,所以,舞会的兴致一刻也没有减弱过。

不过,基索夫将军刚刚把托姆斯克发来的电报交给这位军官后,还等着他下令让自己告退呢,但后者始终沉默不语。他已接过电报,也已经看过了,眉头却锁得更紧了。他不由自主地把手放在了佩剑的护手上,随后又把手放在眼前,他似乎是觉得灯光太刺眼了,想用手遮挡一下,以使自己能更好地考虑问题。

"这么说,"他把基索夫将军带到一扇窗前,然后接着刚才的话说道,"我们从昨天开

Grand Duke?"

"Without any, sire; and it is to be feared that in a short time dispatches will no longer cross the Siberian frontier."

"But have not the troops of the provinces of Amoor and Irkutsk, as those also of the Trans-Balkan territory, received orders to march immediately upon Irkutsk?"

"The orders were transmitted by the last telegram we were able to send beyond Lake Baikal."

"And the governments of Yeniseisk, Omsk, Semipolatsinsk, and Tobolsk — are we still in direct communication with them as before the insurrection?"

"Yes, sire; our dispatches have reached them, and we are assured at the present moment that the Tartars have not advanced beyond the Irtish and the Obi."

"And the traitor Ivan Ogareff, are there no tidings of him?"

"None," replied General Kissoff. "The head of the police cannot state whether or not he has crossed the frontier."

"Let a description of him be immediately dispatched to Nijni-Novgorod, Perm, Ekaterenburg, Kasirnov, Tioumen, Ishim, Omsk, Tomsk, and to all the telegraphic stations with which communication is yet open."

"Your majesty's orders shall be instantly carried out."

"You will observe the strictest silence as to this."

始,就与大公失去联系了?"

"是的,陛下,而且令人担心的是,电报也许很快将连西伯利亚边境也无法通过了。"

"但是阿慕尔和雅库茨克各省的军队,以及越贝加尔省的军队,不是已经接到了立即向伊尔库茨克进军的命令了吗?"

"这个命令是由最近一封电报下达的,我们已将这份电报传到贝加尔湖以远地区。"

"那么叶尼塞斯克、鄂木斯克、塞米巴拉金斯克和托布尔斯克省的政府,自从敌军入侵以来,我们与它们一直保持着直接联系吗?"

"是的,陛下,它们可以收到我们的电报,而且目前,我们确信,鞑靼人还没有进军到额尔齐斯河和鄂毕河以远地区。"

"关于叛徒伊万·奥加莱夫,有他的消息吗?"

"没有,"基索夫将军回答道,"警察局长无法确定他是否越过了边境。"

"马上把他的外貌特征发往下诺夫哥罗德、彼尔姆、叶卡捷琳堡、卡西莫、秋明、伊希姆、鄂木斯克、埃拉姆斯克、科利凡、托木斯克,发往所有线路仍能通到的电报局!"

"我马上派人执行陛下的命令。"

"请对此保守秘密。"

The General, having made a sign of respectful assent, bowing low, mingled with the crowd, and finally left the apartments without his departure being remarked.

The officer remained absorbed in thought for a few moments, when, recovering himself, he went among the various groups in the saloon, his countenance reassuming that calm aspect which had for an instant been disturbed.

Nevertheless, the important occurrence which had occasioned these rapidly exchanged words was not so unknown as the officer of the chasseurs of the guard and General Kissoff had possibly supposed. It was not spoken of officially, it is true, nor even officiously, since tongues were not free; but a few exalted personages had been informed, more or less exactly, of the events which had taken place beyond the frontier. At any rate, that which was only slightly known, that which was not matter of conversation even between members of the corps diplomatique, two guests, distinguished by no uniform, no decoration, at this reception in the New Palace, discussed in a low voice, and with apparently very correct information.

By what means, by the exercise of what acuteness had these two ordinary mortals ascertained that which so many persons of the highest rank and importance scarcely even suspected? It is impossible to say. Had they the gifts of foreknowledge and foresight? Did they possess a supplementary sense, which enabled them to see beyond that limited horizon which bounds all human gaze? Had they obtained a peculiar

将军恭恭敬敬地行了一个礼表示马上照办,然后鞠了一躬,消失在人群中,很快就离开了大厅,没有任何人注意到他走了。

军官又发了一会儿呆,但很快就恢复了镇定,走到那些军人和政治家们中间去,他的表情安抚了大家的情绪。

尽管近卫军军官和基索夫将军的谈话非常短促,但他们所谈论的事却不是像他们所想像的那样无人知晓。的确,大家没有公开地谈论这件事,甚至连私下的议论也没有,因为没有言论自由。但对于边境那边发生的事,有几个大人物已经多多少少有了一些耳闻。不管怎么说这件事鲜为人知,连外交使团的成员也没有彼此谈及,然而此刻有两个客人却在小声地聊着这件事,而且似乎已获得了一些较为准确的信息,这两个人既没有穿制服,也没有戴勋章,看起来没什么引人注意之处。

那么多高官要人都没怎么疑心的事,这两个小人物是怎么知道的呢?没有人知道。难道他们有未卜先知的本领吗?难道他们拥有另外一种器官,能超出凡人的界限,比凡人站得更高、看得更远吗?难道他们有特异功能,所以能获取秘密消息吗?难道是由于他们长

power of divining the most secret events? Was it owing to the habit, now become a second nature, of living on information, that their mental constitution had thus become really transformed? It was difficult to escape from this conclusion.

Of these two men, the one was English, the other French; both were tall and thin, but the latter was sallow as are the southern Provençals, while the former was ruddy like a Lancashire gentleman. The Anglo-Norman, formal, cold, grave, parsimonious of gestures and words, appeared only to speak or gesticulate under the influence of a spring operating at regular intervals. The Gaul, on the contrary, lively and petulant, expressed himself with lips, eyes, hands, all at once, having twenty different ways of explaining his thoughts, whereas his interlocutor seemed to have only one, immutably stereotyped on his brain.

The strong contrast they presented would at once have struck the most superficial observer; but a physiognomist, regarding them closely, would have defined their particular characteristics by saying, that if the Frenchman was "all eyes," the Englishman was "all ears."

In fact, the visual apparatus of the one had been singularly perfected by practice. The sensibility of its retina must have been as instantaneous as that of those conjurors who recognize a card merely by a rapid movement in cutting the pack or by the arrangement only of marks invisible to others. The Frenchman indeed pos-

期靠新闻吃饭,最后习惯成自然,竟然获得了一种超人的能力吗?也许是这样吧!

这两个人一个来自英吉利,一个来自法兰西,都是瘦高个,后者像普罗旺斯所有的南方人一样,生有一头棕发;而前者的头发是红色的,很像兰开夏的一位绅士。盎格鲁—诺曼底人刻板、冷漠、严肃,就好像一个规律的弹簧,他只在弹簧放松的时候才说说话,做做手势。相反,高卢—罗曼人则性急,活跃,说起话来嘴巴、眼睛和手都在动。他有几十种方式表达自己的思想,而在他的谈话对方的头脑中,却似乎只有一种一成不变的模式。

对于他们表现出来的差别,就连最不善观察的人也会产生强烈的印象。而一位善于观相的人,在仔细地观察了这两个人后,却能清楚地总结出他们生理特点上的差异,如果说法国人是“全靠眼睛”,英国人则是“全靠耳朵”。

确实,他们中一个人的视觉器官由于经常使用而变得异常发达。有一些魔术师仅从一个迅捷的切牌动作,或仅在塔罗纸牌被排列的一瞬间,就能辨认出一张别人都来不及认出的牌,而这个法国人可以说拥