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一千零一夜 (全译本)

One Thousand and One Night

阿拉伯民间故事

英语学习大书虫研究室 译

英语大书虫世界文学名著文库


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导 读

《一千零一夜》是中古时代阿拉伯地区广为流传的民间故事集,又名《一千零一个故事》或《天方夜谭》,它汇集了古代近东、中亚和包括中国在内的其他国家和地区的神话传说、寓言和民间故事。例如《阿拉丁与神灯》讲述的便是发生在中国京城的故事。其中的一些故事早在公元六世纪左右便已开始在伊拉克和埃及地区产生,经过阿拉伯帝国极盛时期阿拔斯王朝数百年间人们不断的收集、整理、加工,在公元约十六世纪才最终定型成书。《一千零一夜》的成书过程就是一个在对不同国家地区、不同民族的神话传说和故事不断吸收、融汇的基础上不断再创造、再加工的过程。

《一千零一夜》的故事最早来源是一部名为《赫左尔·艾弗萨那》的波斯故事集。故事最早是以口头说书的形式流传下来,经过阿拉伯国家无数民间艺人、文人学士近千年的收集、整理、提炼、加工而成,决非某个作家的作品,它是阿拉伯各族人民群众集体智慧的结晶。

正是由于《一千零一夜》由各个散乱的,主题毫无关联的故事组合而成,后人在加工时,为使整个故事完整而又主题鲜明,才杜撰了一个《沙赫亚尔及其兄弟的故事》作为“楔子”:以沙赫亚尔国王遭妻子背叛而变得暴戾乖张,滥杀无辜妇女为线索,才引来聪明美丽,机智勇敢的萨赫拉札德不顾个人安危,毅然嫁给沙赫亚尔为妻,每晚为国王讲一个故事,巧妙地使国王意识到自己的残暴而改邪归正,拯救全国妇女于水深火热之中。这个“楔子”既起到了衔接全文的作用,又说明了整个故事的来由,使全文结构紧凑而有序。

本书虽名为《一千零一夜》,并非就有一千零一个故事,由于故事长短不一,一个故事历经数夜才讲完的情况时有发生,因而全书故事共约二百多个。因古代中国曾将阿拉伯国家称为“天方之国”,故此书也被译作《天方夜谭》。

《一千零一夜》这本民间故事集生动描绘了中古阿拉伯色彩斑斓的文化生活,全书题材广泛,或鞭笞国王的骄奢暴戾,或歌颂劳动人民勤劳朴实的品德,或描绘商贾冒险探奇,敢于求索未知世界,或讴歌男女间纯真坚贞的爱情。全书体现了人民群众对美好生活与爱情的向往、扬善惩恶、去伪存真的主旨,涉及的对象也错综复杂,上至帝王将相、王子公主,下至商贾渔夫、裁缝艺人、奴隶婢女……无所不包。但书中也包含一些“宿命论”的观点,宣扬“命中注定”,渲染宗教色彩,读者应具体情况具体对待,去粗取精,培养乐观的人生态度,积极健康地应对生活中的各种挑战。

总之,《一千零一夜》那绚丽多彩的故事,突兀离奇的情节,超凡奇特的幻想令全世界无数读者为之惊叹,正如高尔基所说:“在民间口头创作的宏伟著作中,《一千零一夜》是最壮丽的一座纪念碑。”

译 者

STORY OF KING SHAHRYAR AND HIS BROTHER

PRAISE BE TO ALLAH - THE BENEFICENT KING - THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE - LORD OF THE THREE WORLDS - WHO SET UP THE FIRMAMENT WITHOUT PILLARS IN ITS STEAD - AND WHO STRETCHED OUT THE EARTH EVEN AS A BED - AND GRACE, AND PRAYER-BLESSING BE UPON OUR LORD MOHAMMED - LORD OF APOSTOLIC MEN - AND UPON HIS FAMILY AND COMPANION TRAIN - PRAYER AND BLESSINGS ENDURING AND GRACE WHICH UNTO THE DAY OF DOOM SHALL REMAIN - AMEN! - O THOU OF THE THREE WORLDS SOVEREIGN!

AND AFTERWARD. Verily the works and words of those gone before us have become instances and examples to men of our modern day, that folk may view what admonishing chances befell other folk and may therefrom take warning; and that they may peruse the annals of antique peoples and all that hath betided them, and be thereby ruled and restrained. Praise, therefore, be to Him who hath made the histories of the past an admonition unto the present! Now of such instances are the tales called "A Thousand Nights and a Night," together with their far-famed legends and wonders.

Therein it is related (but Allah it is All-knowing of His hidden things and All-ruling and All-honored and All-giving and All-gra-

沙赫亚尔和他的 兄弟的故事

感谢安拉,这位慈善的国王,造物主,三个世界的统治者。他不用柱子便撑起一片天空,他让大地变得与床铺一样平,他保佑着我们的真主默默罕德和他的家人。他的保佑将永世流传——阿门!

前车之鉴,后世之师。前人的所言所行为后人提供借鉴,后人就会知道他们的前辈受到了什么惩罚或褒奖。荣誉属于那些创造了历史并为后人提供警醒的人!好啦,现在我们就有这样一些很好的例子,这就是“一千零一夜”,这本书中充满著名的传奇故事。

传说(安拉掌握着世间发生的一切,不论尊卑,都受他的统治,不断地从仁慈的安拉那里接受他慷

cious and All-merciful!) that in tide of yore and in time long gone before, there was a King of the Kings of the Banu Sasan in the islands of India and China, a Lord of armies and guards and servants and dependents. He left only two sons, one in the prime of manhood and the other yet a youth, while both were knights and braves, albeit the elder was a doughtier horseman than the younger. So he succeeded to the empire, when he ruled the land and lorded it is over his lieges with justice so exemplary that he was beloved by all the peoples of his capital and of his kingdom. His name was King Shahryar, and he made his younger brother, Shah Zaman hight, King of Samarkand in Barbarian land. These two ceased not to abide in their several realms and the law was ever carried out in their dominions. And each ruled his own kingdom with equity and fair dealing to his subjects, in extreme solace and enjoyment, and this condition continually endured for a score of years.

But at the end of the twentieth twelvemonth the elder King yearned for a sight of his younger brother and felt that he must look upon him once more. So he took counsel with his Wazir about visiting him, but the Minister, finding the project unadvisable, recommended that a letter be written and a present be sent under his charge to the younger brother, with an invitation to visit the elder. Having accepted this advice, the King forthwith bade prepare handsome gifts, such as horses with saddles of gem-encrusted gold; Mamelukes, or white slaves; beautiful handmaids, high-breasted virgins, and splendid stuffs and costly. He then wrote a letter to Shah Zaman expressing his warm love and

慨的施舍!)在很久很久以前,在中国与印度交界的一座岛屿上有一个萨珊王国,萨珊国王拥有很多的军队、士兵、仆人。国王死后只留下了两个儿子,一个已经长大成人,另一个还很年幼,但是两个儿子都很勇敢,并都已成为骑士,哥哥比弟弟还胜出一筹,因此哥哥继承了王位,新国王治国有方,处事公正,赢得了所有国民的爱戴,新国王的名字就叫沙赫亚尔,沙赫亚尔国王将弟弟沙赫札曼封为巴比伦的萨马尔坎国的国王。由于两兄弟承袭前辈的法律,并认真执行,都治国有方,因此二十年来,两个国家都呈现出一片繁荣祥和的景象。

转眼二十年过去了,在第二十年的第十二个月哥哥非常希望能再见弟弟一面,因此他与宰相商量拜访弟弟一事,但宰相认为这个想法不可行,因此建议派人送信邀请弟弟过来。于是国王采纳了宰相的建议,并备了厚礼,如马匹、黄金、白奴、美女和丰满的少女等等,并派人送信给沙赫札曼,他在信中表达了自己的爱意与见面的愿望:我希望亲爱的弟弟能够来面见我,我已命令宰相带人前往贵国,并做好了一切准备,希望亲爱的弟弟能够有心过来看我,我们唯一的愿望就是希望死前能再遇见你一面。如果你耽误行期或让我们失

great wish to see him, ending with these words: "We therefore hope of the favor and affection of the beloved brother that he will condescend to bestir himself and turn his face usward. Furthermore, we have sent our Wazir to make all ordinance for the march, and our one and only desire it is to see thee ere we die. But if thou delay or disappoint us, we shall not survive the blow. Wherewith peace be upon thee!"

Then King Shahryar, having sealed the missive and given it to the Wazir with the offerings aforementioned, commanded him to shorten his skirts and strain his strength and make all expedition in going and returning. "Harkening and obedience!" quoth the Minister, who fell to making ready without stay and packed up his loads and prepared all his requisites without delay. This occupied him three days, and on the dawn of the fourth he took leave of his King and marched right away, over desert and hallway, stony waste and pleasant lea, without halting by night or by day. But whenever he entered a realm whose ruler was subject to his suzerain, where he was greeted with magnificent gifts of gold and silver and all manner of presents fair and rare, he would tarry there three days, the term of the guest rite. And when he left on the fourth, he would be honorably escorted for a whole day's march.

As soon as the Wazir drew near Shah Zaman's court in Samarkand he dispatched to report his arrival one of his high officials, who presented himself before the King and, kissing ground between his hands, delivered his message. Hereupon the King commanded sundry of his grantees and lords of his realm to fare

望,我们会受不了这个打击的。祝你一切如意!"

然后沙赫亚尔封好信把信交给宰相,让宰相带着上述大量珍贵礼物出发。嘱咐宰相一定要养精蓄锐,全力前进,尽快见到弟弟并快快回国。宰相说:"敬遵陛下旨意。"然后便立刻打点行装,紧锣密鼓地准备了三天,在第四天的早晨告别国王上路了。宰相日夜兼程,穿越沙漠,攀过悬崖,穿过草原,一路马不停蹄地赶路。沿途每遇到他们的附属国,都会受到热烈欢迎,收到许多礼物,宰相也会在那里停留三日做客,第四天上路之后便一整天赶路,也不歇息。

最后宰相他终于来到了沙赫札曼的王宫前,宰相向萨马尔坎国的一位高官通报了自己的到来,这位高官将他带到国王面前。宰相见过国王,亲吻了双手间的地面,之后,说明自己的来意。国王叫来国中的达官显贵,让他们见过哥哥

forth and meet his brother's Wazir at the distance of a full day's journey. Which they did, greeting him respectfully and wishing him all prosperity and forming an escort and a procession. When he entered the city, he proceeded straightway to the palace, where he presented himself in the royal presence; and after kissing ground and praying for the King's health and happiness and for victory over all his enemies, he informed him that his brother was yearning to see him, and prayed for the pleasure of a visit.

He then delivered the letter, which Shah Zaman took from his hand and read. It contained sundry hints and allusions which required thought, but when the King had fully comprehended its import, he said, "I hear and I obey the commands of the beloved brother!" adding to the Wazir, "But we will not march till after the third day's hospitality." He appointed for the Minister fitting quarters of the palace and pitching tents for the troops, rationed them with whatever they might require of meat and drink and other necessaries. On the fourth day he made ready for wayfare and got together sumptuous presents befitting his elder brother's majesty, and established his chief Wazir Viceroy of the land during his absence. Then he caused his tents and camels and mules to be brought forth and encamped, with their bales and loads, attendants and guards, within sight of the city, in readiness to set out next morning for his brother's capital.

But when the night was half-spent he bethought him that he had forgotten in his palace somewhat which he should have brought with him, so he returned privily and

千里迢迢派过来的宰相。众官员都恭敬地见过宰相并祝他飞黄腾达。然后众人直奔王宫,宰相再次亲吻地面并祝国王万寿无疆,战无不胜,然后才说他的主子非常想念国王,希望国王能够前去拜访,然后呈上信件。

沙赫札曼从宰相手中接过信并读了起来。信中意思表达得非常含蓄,他完全读明白之后说:"我一定服从亲爱的哥哥的命令!"又对宰相说,"不过现在还不能马上动身,起码要好好招待你三天才行。"然后吩咐官员装扮王宫,命令军队搭起帐篷,鲜肉美酒犒劳三军,第四天沙赫札曼已作好了上路的准备,带上无数的礼物准备敬献给哥哥,命令宰相在自己离开的时间里全权统治国家,并带上帐篷,骆驼、骡子、谷物、奴仆和兵士准备第二天一早就上路。

但是当晚他忽然意识到自己将一件非常重要的东西忘在了王宫,因此急忙赶回王宫,但是他却发现王后——他的妻子,却在她的

entered his apartments, where he found the Queen, his wife, asleep on his own carpet bed embracing with both arms a black cook of loathsome aspect and foul with kitchen grease and grime. When he saw this the world waxed black before his sight and he said: "If such case happen while I am yet within sight of the city, what will be the doings of this damned whore during my long absence at my brother's court?" So he drew his scimitar, and cutting the two in four pieces with a single blow, left them on the carpet and returned presently to his camp without letting anyone know of what had happened. Then he gave orders for immediate departure and set out at once and began his travel; but he could not help thinking over his wife's treason, and he kept ever saying to himself: "How could she do this deed by me? How could she work her own death?" till excessive grief seized him, his color changed to yellow, his body waxed weak, and he was threatened with a dangerous malady, such a one as bringeth men to die. So the Wazir shortened his stages and tarried long at the watering stations, and did his best to solace the King.

Now when Shah Zaman drew near the capital of his brother, he dispatched vaunt-couriers and messengers of glad tidings to announce his arrival, and Shahryar came forth to meet him with his wazirs and emirs and lords and grandees of his realm, and saluted him and joyed with exceeding joy and caused the city to be decorated in his honor. When, however, the brothers met, the elder could not but see the change of complexion in the younger and questioned him of his case, whereto he replied: "'Tis caused by the travails of way-

床上搂着一个黑厨睡着了。看见这一情景,沙赫札曼眼前一片漆黑,他痛苦地说:"我还没离开这座城市这个贱人尚且如此,若我长时间不在这里而与哥哥在一起,她不定还会做什么?"于是他抽出短刀,一下将两人砍成四块,然后将尸体扔在地板上,没有惊动任何人就离开了王宫悄悄回到营地。并命令随从队伍立即出发。可是途中他不断想起妻子的背叛,并不断地问自己:"她怎能这样对我?她怎能自取灭亡?"沙赫札曼越想越伤心,巨大的悲痛席卷了他的心灵,脸色逐渐变黄,身子也越来越虚弱,害了一场大病,徘徊在死亡边缘。宰相不得不停下来尽量安慰病人。

到达了哥哥的首都之后,沙赫札曼派人通知他的到来,沙赫札尔带着宰相和国中显贵前来热烈欢迎他的到来,并非常兴奋地将整个城市装扮一新。但是两兄弟见面后,哥哥却发现弟弟脸色不对,他问发生了什么事,弟弟回答说:"旅途劳顿,水土不服罢了!我千里迢迢赶来,一路风尘仆仆!但是感谢安拉让我们敬爱的两兄弟又见面了!"弟弟一直保守着秘密,又说道:"风沙使我的脸色发黄,旅途劳

fare and my case needs care, for I have suffered from the change of water and air! But Allah be praised for reuniting me with a brother so dear and so rare!" On this wise he dissembled and kept his secret, adding: "O King of the Time and Caliph of the Tide, only toil and moil have tinged my face yellow with bile and hath made my eyes sink deep in my head."

Then the two entered the capital in all honor, and the elder brother lodged the younger in a palace overhanging the pleasure garden. And after a time, seeing his condition still unchanged, he attributed it is to his separation from his country and kingdom. So he let him wend his own ways and asked no questions of him till one day when he again said, "O my brother, I see thou art grown weaker of body and yellower of color." "O my brother," replied Shah Zaman, "I have an internal wound." Still he would not tell him what he had witnessed in his wife. Thereupon Shahryar summoned doctors and surgeons and bade them treat his brother according to the rules of art, which they did for a whole month. But their sherbets and potions naught availed, for he would dwell upon the deed of his wife, and despondency, instead of diminishing, prevailed, and leechcraft treatment utterly failed.

One day his elder brother said to him: "I am going forth to hunt and course and to take my pleasure and pastime. Maybe this would lighten thy heart." Shah Zaman, however, refused, saying: "O my brother, my soul yearneth for naught of this sort, and I entreat thy favor to stiffer me tarry quietly in this place, being wholly taken up with my mala-

顿使我的双目深陷。”

两兄弟于是双双走进王宫,哥哥将弟弟安置在一间靠近花园的房间中。过了一段时间,见弟弟的情形仍不见好转,沙赫亚尔还以为这是因为弟弟远离自己国土的缘故,便没有太在意。但有一天他还是忍不住说:“弟弟,我见你身体虚弱,面色发黄。”沙赫札曼回答说:“哥哥,我身体有内伤。”至此,他仍不愿说出妻子背叛他的真相。因此,沙赫亚尔请来医生给弟弟治病。整整一个月过去了,医生的药方没起任何作用,因为他心中始终想着妻子的背叛,因此虽有医生治病,他还是日渐消瘦。

一天哥哥说:“我出去打猎,你和我一起去吧,或许你会开心一点。”但沙赫札曼拒绝了:“哥哥,我内心非常想去,但我恳求您让我呆在这里安静一下,静养我的病。”于是沙赫札曼当晚便在王宫度过,第二天早上等沙赫亚尔出去打猎之后,沙赫札曼坐在一扇窗前欣赏风

dy." So King Shah Zaman passed his night in the palace, and next morning when his brother had fared forth, he removed from his room and sat him down at one of the lattice windows overlooking the pleasure grounds. And there he abode thinking with saddest thought over his wife's betrayal, and burning sighs issued from his tortured breast.

And as he continued in this case lo! a postern of the palace, which was carefully kept private, swung open, and out of it came twenty slave girls surrounding his brother's wife, who was wondrous fair, a model of beauty and comeliness and symmetry and perfect loveliness, and who paced with the grace of a gazelle which panteth for the cooling stream. Thereupon Shah Zaman drew back from the window, but he kept the bevy in sight, espying them from a place whence he could not be espied. They walked under the very lattice and advanced a little way into the garden till they came to a jetting fountain amidmost a great basin of water. Then they stripped off their clothes, and behold, ten of them were women, concubines of the King, and the other ten were white slaves. Then they all paired off, each with each. But the Queen, who was left alone, presently cried out in a loud voice, "Here to me, O my lord Saeed!"

And then sprang with a drop leap from one of the trees a big slobbering blackamoor with rolling eyes which showed the whites, a truly hideous sight. He walked boldly up to her and threw his arms round her neck while she embraced him as warmly. Then he bussed her and winding his legs round hers, as a button loop clasps a button, he threw her and enjoyed

景,但是又想起妻子的背叛,心中十分沉痛,不住地叹气。

这时他看见一群女仆拥着王后从一个秘密看守的房间里走过来,王后是多么美丽,多么温柔,简直是完美极了。弟弟赶紧离开窗口躲了起来,藏在不容易被发现的地方,但仍看得见外面发生的事。只见王后一群人路过窗口,一直走到一座喷泉旁,在那里,她们解下衣服。其中十名女子是国王的侍女,另外十名男子则是宫中奴仆。这十男十女各自配对,最后只剩下王后独自一人。这时王后大声喊道:"亲爱的萨伊德,来到我身边吧!"

然后从一棵大树上跳下一个流着口水的黑奴,眼球滴溜溜地转,眼白多得吓人可怕极了。他大胆地走向王后,拥住王后的脖颈,王后也热烈地抱着他。然后揽过她,将腿绕住王后的腿,紧紧地缠在一起,就象一颗纽扣扣进扣眼中两人相互亲吻,两情相悦,而另外

her. On like wise did the other slaves with the girls till all had satisfied their passions, and they ceased not from kissing and clipping, coupling and carousing, till day began to wane, when the Mamelukes rose from the damsels' bosoms and the blackamoor slave dismounted from the Queen's breast. The men resumed their disguises and all except the Negro, who swarmed up the tree, entered the palace and closed the postern door as before.

Now when Shah Zaman saw this conduct of his sister-in-law, he said to himself: "By Allah, my calamity is lighter than this! My brother is a greater King among the Kings than I am, yet this infamy goeth on in his very palace, and his wife is in love with that filthiest of filthy slaves. But this only showeth that they all do it and that there is no woman but who cuckoldeth her husband. Then the curse of Allah upon one and all, and upon the fools who lean against them for support or who place the reins of conduct in their hands!" So he put away his melancholy and despondency, regret and repine, and allayed his sorrow by constantly repeating those words, adding, "'Tis my conviction that no man in this world is safe from their malice!"

When suppertime came, they brought him the trays and he ate with voracious appetite, for he had long refrained from meat, feeling unable to touch any dish, however dainty. Then he returned grateful thanks to Almighty Allah, praising Him and blessing Him, and he spent a most restful night, it having been long since he had savored the sweet food of sleep. Next day he broke his fast heartily and began to recover health and strength, and presently regained excellent condition. His brother came

十对人也在水中不停地亲吻,抚摸,调情,互相满足了自己的激情。转眼黄昏已至,白奴才恋恋不舍地离开妻妾们的胸脯,整理衣衫,黑奴也不情愿地离开王后美丽的乳房,白奴们都恢复以前的正经模样,黑奴也爬上树,进入王宫,栓上门。

看见嫂子的行为之后,沙赫札曼自语道:“安拉呀,看来我的灾难比起哥哥算不了什么!哥哥是一个伟大的国王却遭遇如此奇耻大辱!他的妻子爱上了最肮脏的奴隶。这只证明女人没有不让丈夫戴绿帽子的,愿安拉诅咒世上所有女人,也诅咒那些与她们通奸的蠢驴们!看来女人都是如此。”于是从此他的阴郁悲伤和颓废一扫而光。他反复重复这些话:“我肯定世上没有一个男人能免于此难!”

晚餐时刻到来时,弟弟味口异常地好,毕竟他已经好久没有尝到肉味了,不管饭菜做得再好,他都食之无味。而此时,他只有感谢安拉让他胃口大开,心情好转。当天他度过了一个甜蜜的夜晚,这是几个月以来他第一次睡得这么香甜。第二天他逐渐恢复了健康和体力,恢复了以前的状况。哥哥打猎十天回来后,弟弟骑着马去迎接他,两人相互问好。沙赫亚尔国王发

back from the chase ten days after, when he rode out to meet him and they saluted each other. And when King Shahryar looked at King Shah Zaman, he saw how the hue of health had returned to him, how his face had waxed ruddy, and how he ate with an appetite after his late scanty diet. He wondered much and said: "O my brother, I was no anxious that thou wouldst join me in hunting and chasing, and wouldst take thy pleasure and pastime in my dominion!"

Then the two took horse and rode into the city, and when they were seated at their ease in the palace, the food trays were set before them and they ate their sufficiency. After the meats were removed and they had washed their hands, King Shahryar turned to his brother and said: "My mind is overcome with wonderment at thy condition. I was desirous to carry thee with me to the chase, but I saw thee changed in hue, pale and wan to view, and in sore trouble of mind too. But now, I see thy natural color hath returned to thy face and that thou art again in the best of case. It was my belief that thy sickness came of severance from thy family and friends, and absence from capital and country, so I refrained from troubling thee with further questions. But now I beseech thee to expound to me the cause of thy complaint and thy change of color, and to explain the reason of thy recovery and the return to the ruddy hue of health which I am wont to view. So speak out and hide naught!"

When Shah Zaman heard this, he bowed groundward awhile his head, then raised it and said: "I will tell thee what caused my complaint and my loss of color. But excuse my

现沙赫札曼身体好了许多,脸色红润,并且胃口大开,感到非常奇怪,就问道:“弟弟,当初我想带你去打猎,但我看见你很虚弱,可现在,看见你终于正常了,我很高兴,但是这是什么原因呀?”

然后兄弟俩并肩骑进城,在王宫坐定,丰盛的食物早已摆上桌。用完餐、净过手之后,沙赫亚尔对弟弟说:“我对你目前的状态非常好奇。我本想带你去打猎,可是见你十分消瘦,心情也不好。可是现在,我见你脸上已有了血色,情况非常好。以前我以为你思乡心切,所以才没有多问,可是现在我非常想知道你身体转好的原因。请照直说,不要隐瞒!”

沙赫札曼听了哥哥的话后埋下头,又抬起头说:“我告诉你我为何生病,但不会告诉你为什么我脸上有了血色,身体也完全复原了,

acquainting thee with the cause of its return to me and the reason of my complete recovery. Indeed I pray thee not to press me for a reply." Said Shahryar, who was much surprised by these words, "Let me hear first what produced thy pallor and thy poor condition." "Know, then, O my brother," rejoined Shah Zaman, "that when thou sentest thy Wazir with the invitation to place myself between thy hands, I made ready and marched out of my city. But presently I minded me having left behind me in the palace a string of jewels intended as a gift to thee. I returned for it alone, and found my wife on my carpet bed and in the arms of a hideous black cook. So I slew the twain and came to thee, yet my thoughts brooded over this business and I lost my bloom and became weak. But excuse me if I still refuse to tell thee what was the reason of my complexion returning."

Shahryar shook his head, marveling with extreme marvel, and with the fire of wrath flaming up from his heart, he cried, "Indeed, the malice of woman is mighty!" Then he took refuge from them with Allah and said: "In very sooth, O my brother, thou hast escaped many an evil by putting thy wife to death, and right excusable were thy wrath and grief for such mishap, which never yet befell crowned king like thee. By Allah, had the case been mine, I would not have been satisfied without slaying a thousand women, and that way madness lies! But now praise be to Allah Who hath tempered to thee thy tribulation, and needs must thou acquaint me with that which so suddenly restored to thee complexion and health, and explain to me what causeth this concealment." "O King of the

请你原谅。不要逼我说出来。”沙赫亚尔听了这番话自然十分奇怪，但他说：“那就先让我听听什么事情让你陷入困境吧。”“哥哥，就在我从你的宰相手中接过你的邀请函准备与你的宰相一起出发时，忽然想起一串珠宝还忘在王宫，于是折回王宫取珠宝，却发现我的妻子与可恶的黑奴睡在我的床上，于是我杀了他们来到你这里。但我忘不了这件事，于是变得消瘦，脸上毫无血色。但是，请原谅我不能告诉你我恢复的原因。”

哥哥听后摇了摇头简直不敢相信，不禁义愤填膺，说：“女人罪孽深重！”沙赫亚尔然后又接着说：“弟弟，你杀死妻子已经解除了许多邪恶，我理解你的悲伤。这样的悲伤降临在你这样一个开明的君主身上，作出这样的举动是完全值得宽恕的。要是我，杀一千个女人都都不解恨，我一定会发疯的！感谢安拉让你从不幸中走了出来。但是请你一定要告诉我你突然康复的原因，我还是想知道为什么你脸色突然变红润了。”“国王陛下！请不要问吧！”“你一定要告诉我。”“哥哥，我怕告诉你之后，你会比我更愤怒，更痛苦。”“正是因为如此，”沙赫亚尔说，“你才更应该把全部实情都告诉我。”

Age, again I pray thee excuse my so doing!" "Nay, but thou must." "I fear, O my brother, lest the recital cause thee more anger and sorrow than afflicted me." "That were but a better reason," quoth Shahryar, "for telling me the whole history, and I conjure thee by Allah not to keep back aught from me."

Thereupon Shah Zaman told him all he had seen, from commencement to conclusion, ending with these words: "When I beheld thy calamity and the treason of thy wife, O my brother, and I reflected that thou art in years my senior and in sovereignty my superior, mine own sorrow was belittled by the comparison, and my mind recovered tone and temper. So, throwing off melancholy and despondency, I was able to eat and drink and sleep, and thus I speedily regained health and strength. Such is the truth and the whole truth." When King Shahryar heard this he waxed wroth with exceeding wrath, and rage was like to strangle him. But presently he recovered himself and said, "O my brother, I would not give thee the lie in this matter, but I cannot credit it till I see it with mine own eyes." "And thou wouldst look upon thy calamity," quoth Shah Zaman, "rise at once and make ready again for hunting and coursing, and then hide thyself with me. So shalt thou witness it and thine eyes shall verify it." "True," quoth the King. Whereupon he let make proclamation of his intent to travel, and the troops and tents fared forth without the city, camping within sight, and Shahryar sallied out with them and took seat a-midmost his host, bidding the slaves admit no man to him. When night came on, he summoned his Wazir and said to him, "Sit thou in my stead,

在哥哥一再坚持下,沙赫札曼不得不说出他所见到的一切,又说:“虽然我因妻子背叛而痛苦,但我想,你比我年长许多,作为也比我大,与你比起来,我的痛苦又算得了什么呢?这样一想,我就好了起来,扔掉了所有的忧愁,又能吃又能睡,于是就恢复了健康。”沙赫亚尔听到这一切后,不禁愤怒地咬牙切齿,但马上他又镇静地说:“弟弟,除非亲眼见到,我不愿相信你说的话。”沙赫札曼说:“那好,你马上准备去打猎,再偷偷随我藏起来,你就会看见一切。”国王答应了马上宣布了自己要外出打猎的消息,并立即出发,与众军士搭起帐篷准备歇息。国王出发前,对宰相说:“你看着帐篷,不要让任何人接近,也不要让任何人知道我已离开。”