

英汉对照

英汉经典阅读系列



神话 传说卷

Myths and Legends

陈慧麟 编译



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序 言

“英汉经典阅读系列”是专门为有一定英语基础的大中学生,以及广大英语爱好者编译的一套英汉对照丛书。丛书共分六册,包括散文卷、短篇小说卷、神话传说卷、童话卷、笑话卷和传记卷。因所选作品均系经典名作,所以丛书极具阅读和收藏价值;又因丛书以体裁分门别类,所以针对性也很强,读者既可按自身喜好选读,也可纵览全貌,获得整体印象。可以说,丛书的经典性从客观上保证了丛书的权威性和高品位,而名家的生花妙笔带来的思想上的启迪和艺术上的陶冶则是不言而喻的。作为一套英汉对照读物,作品难易程度适中,且每篇作品都前有相关导读,后有针对重点词汇、词组的实力测试及答案,以帮助读者举一反三,更好地理解作品,拓展知识面。

本书为丛书中的神话传说卷。神话和传



说是世界各国文化的重要组成部分,对各国的语言和文艺发展都有深刻的影响。比如说,在英语里 Pandora's box, an Aladdin's cave, a Trojan horse, an Achilles' heel 等成语就来自神话传说。当今,随着我国入世和改革开放的进一步深入,学习外语的人将会越来越多。但是,在学习外国语言的过程中,许多人对外国文化知之甚少,这就不可避免地造成语言学习上的障碍;而了解外国神话传说无疑会对学习外语起到促进作用。

本书所选作品均为具有代表性的中外神话和传说,涉及包括中国在内的古埃及等四大文明古国,以及古希腊、北欧、不列颠、英格兰、阿拉伯等国,其中不乏对中西方文化有重大影响的作品。出于篇幅和难易程度的考虑,部分作品为节选或有所改编。每篇作品都以中英文对照形式编排,供读者参考,并配有“阅读视窗”、“词汇加油站”、“实力测试”等板块。其中,“阅读视窗”对每篇神话传说的主要内容、文学价值作了介绍,节选作品则对相应巨著作一概览,以便于读者进一步阅读。“词汇加油站”则对作品中出现



的重点词汇、词组作了注解。“实力测试”则旨在巩固读者对文中词组习语的掌握。所有练习都附有答案。

在阅读本书的过程中，希望读者以阅读英语原文为主，而把汉语译文作为参照，自觉独立地完成文后练习。学有余力者还可深入阅读“阅读视窗”中所介绍的相关作品。

由于编译者水平有限，书中疏漏或错误之处在所难免，敬请读者批评指正。

编译者

2002年8月

目 录

Preface

序言 / 1

Prometheus

普罗米修斯 / 1

Pandora and Box of Troubles

潘多拉与祸端之匣 / 16

Psyche and the Palace of Eros

普绪克与爱神厄洛斯的宫殿 / 30

The Rise of Trojan War

特洛伊战争的缘起 / 50

The Wooden Horse

木马计 / 68

King Arthur and the Sword Excalibur

亚瑟王与艾克斯卡利伯神剑 / 88

A Story of Robin Hood

罗宾汉的故事 / 112

Sigurd, the Dragon Slayer

西格德屠龙记 / 128

Havoc in Heaven

大闹天宫 / 146



Contents

2

Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp
阿拉丁和他的神灯 / 162

Sindbad's Fifth Voyage
辛巴达第五次航海游记 / 182

The Osiris Legend
奥西里斯的传说 / 204

Gilgamesh: From a Tyrant to a Great King
从暴君到明君——吉尔伽美什的人生历程 / 222

Pandavas' Marriage with Draupadi
班度五子娶妻记 / 238

A Dutiful Son—Rama
尽职的儿子——罗摩 / 256

阅读视窗

Guide for Reading

普罗米修斯是希腊神话中一位仇视暴虐、争取正义、为理想而经受残酷惩罚的泰坦神。他总是为人类谋求福祉。有一次,人们希望减少供神的祭品,富有智慧的他便教人们把一头公牛剥切成块,分成两堆,一堆全是可以吃的牛肉,上面盖着牛皮和牛肚;另一堆则是骨头,上面盖着成块的牛油,让宙斯自己选择其中的一堆用来祭神。结果,宙斯看中牛油,挑选了后一堆。当宙斯发现上当时,大发脾气,便从人间取走了火。这便是普罗米修斯为人类窃取天火的缘由。普罗米修斯的故事从古代起一直受到作家、诗人、艺术家们的重视。古希腊三大悲剧诗人之一埃斯库罗斯为纪念他写了许多部作品,但流传至今的只有悲剧《被缚的普罗米修斯》。本文主要讲述了普罗米修斯盗取天火的故事。



Prometheus

2

There once lived a race of huge giants called Titans. These giants were *fierce* ^①, violent, and lawless—always fighting among themselves and against Zeus^②, the king of the gods.

One of the Titans, whose name was Prometheus, was wiser than the rest. He often thought about what would *be likely to* ^③ happen in the future.

One day, *Prometheus* ^④ said to his brother Titans, "What is the use of wasting so much strength? In the end, wisdom and forethought will win. If we are going to fight against the gods, let us choose a leader and stop quarrelling among ourselves."

The Titans answered him by a shower of great rocks and uprooted trees.

Prometheus, after escaping unhurt, said to his younger brother, "Epimetheus, we can do nothing among these Titans. If they keep on, they will tear the earth to pieces. Let us go and help Zeus to overcome them."

Epimetheus agreed to this, and the two brothers went over to Zeus, who called the gods together and began a terrible battle. The Titans *tore up* ^⑤ enormous boulders and cast them at the gods, while



从前，有一个地方住着一族叫泰坦的巨人。这些巨人不但性情暴躁，而且无法无天——他们总是自相残杀，甚至还跟众神之王宙斯作对。

泰坦中有一个名叫普罗米修斯，他是巨人中最聪明的，时常思考将来会发生什么。

一天，普罗米修斯对他的兄弟们说：“我们浪费这么多力气到底有什么好处呢？有了智慧和深谋远虑，最终才会赢得胜利。如果我们有意和众神争斗，就让我们选一个领导者，并且结束内部的争斗。”

泰坦们拔起大树，并且掷出一阵乱石回答了他。

及时躲避而未受伤害的普罗米修斯对他的弟弟说：“厄庇墨透斯，我们在这些泰坦之中无法有所作为。假如他们再这样执意下去的话，尘世会被摧毁的。让我们去帮助宙斯征服他们。”

厄庇墨透斯同意了哥哥的决定，两兄弟就去见宙斯。宙斯召来众神，于是一场可怕的战争爆发了。泰坦们将巨石砸裂，然后扔向诸神，





Prometheus

4

Zeus *hurled*® his thunderbolts and his lightnings in all directions. Soon the sky was a sheet of flame, the sea boiled, the earth trembled, and the forests took fire and began to burn.

At last the gods—partly by the help of the wise *counsel*® of Prometheus—*conquered*® the Titans, took them to the ends of the earth, and imprisoned them in a deep underground cavern. Neptune, the sea-god, made strong bronze gates with heavy bolts and bars, to keep the giants down, while Zeus sent *Briareus*® and his brothers, three giants with fifty heads and a hundred hands each, to stand guard over them.

All but one of the Titans who had fought against the gods were imprisoned in this cavern. This one who was not shut in with the others was *Atlas*®, whose enormous strength was greater than that of his brothers, while his character was less quarrelsome. He was made to stand and hold up the sky on his head and hands.

As the Titans could now make no more trouble, there was comparative peace and quiet on the earth. Nevertheless, Zeus said that, although the men who remained on the earth were not so strong as the Titans, they were foolish and wicked race. He declared that he would destroy them—sweep them away, and have done with them, forever.



宙斯则将霹雳和雷电投掷到各处。整个天空立刻火光闪耀，海水沸腾，大地震动，森林起火，并开始燃烧。

普罗米修斯的智谋在某种程度上帮助众神最终征服了泰坦，并将他们带到尘世的边缘，关在一个很深的地下洞穴里。海神尼普顿造了一座有着沉重的门闩的坚固的铜门，把他们锁在下面，宙斯又派了三个各有五十个头和一百只手的巨人——布里阿柔斯和他的兄弟在门外看守。

跟众神作对的所有泰坦巨人中，只有一个没被关进洞穴。这个没跟其他人关在一起的人叫阿特拉斯，他的力气比他的兄弟们都大，但他并不太好争斗。于是，他被命令站着用头和双手撑住天空。

泰坦们无法制造任何麻烦以后，尘世变得较为和平宁静。可是，宙斯说虽然尘世间其余的人类没有泰坦们强壮，但他们却是愚昧阴险的种族。于是，他宣布要把他们毁灭——永远扫除，毁灭他们。





Prometheus

6

When their king said this, none of the gods dared to say a word in defence of mankind. But Prometheus, the Titan, who was earth-born himself, and loved these men of the earth, begged Zeus so earnestly to share them, that Zeus *consented*[®] to do so.

At this time, men lived in dark *gloomy*[®] caves. Their friend, Prometheus taught them to build simple houses, which were much more comfortable than the caves had been. This was a great step forward, but men needed more help yet from the Titan. The beasts in the forests, and the great birds that build their nests on the rocks were strong; but men were weak. The lion had sharp claws and teeth; the eagle had wings; the turtle had a hard shell; but man, although he stood upright with his face toward the stars, had no weapon with which he could defend himself.

Prometheus said that man should have Zeus's wonderful flower of fire, which shone so brightly in the sky. So he took a hollow reed, went up to *Olympus*[®], stole the red flower of fire, and brought it down to earth in his reed.

After this, all the other creatures were afraid of man, for this red flower had made him strong than they. Man dug iron out of the earth and by the help of his new fire made weapons that were sharper



当众神之王说完此话时，众神都不敢为人类说话。但是，那个生长在人间并热爱人类的泰坦普罗米修斯，却很诚恳地请求宙斯宽恕他们。宙斯答应了他的请求。

这时，人类还生活在漆黑的洞穴里。人类的朋友普罗米修斯教他们建造比洞穴舒适的简易房屋。虽然这已经是一个很大的进步，可人类还需要泰坦更多的帮助。森林中的野兽和在岩石上筑巢穴的鸟都很强壮，但人类却很虚弱。狮子有锐利的爪和牙齿；老鹰有翅膀；乌龟有坚硬的外壳；尽管人类脸朝着星星直立行走，却没有武器保护自己。

普罗米修斯认为人类应该拥有宙斯那种能照亮天空的奇妙火花。于是，他带了一根空心的芦苇到奥林匹斯山去偷红色的火花，并把火花装入芦管带到了人间。

有了火花以后，其他所有的动物都开始害怕起人类来，因为这红色的火花使人类比它们更加强大。人类从地里挖出铁矿，用火炼成比狮子尖锐的牙齿更坚韧的武器；人类凭着野牛怕火，把牛驯服





Prometheus

8

than the lion's teeth; he tamed the wild cattle by the fear of it, yoked them together, and taught them how to draw the plough; he sharpened strong stakes, hardening them in its heat, and set them around his house as a defence from his enemies; he did many other things besides with the red flower that Prometheus had made to blossom at the end of the reed.

Zeus, sitting on his throne, saw with alarm how strong man was becoming. One day he discovered the theft of his shining red flower, and knew that Prometheus was the thief. He was greatly displeased with this act.

"Prometheus loves man too well," said he, "he shall be punished." Then he called his two slaves, Strength and Force, and told them to take Prometheus and bind him fast to a great rock in the lonely Caucasian Mountains. At the same time he ordered *Hephaestus*[®] to lock the Titan's chains—in a *cunning*[®] way that only Hephaestus knew.

There Prometheus hung on the rock for hundreds of years. The sun shone on him pitilessly, by day—only the kind night gave him shade. He heard the rushing wings of the seagulls, as they came to feed their young who cried from the rocks below. The sea nymphs[®] floated up to his rock to give him their pity. An eagle, cruel as the king of the gods,



并套在一起,教它们犁地耕田;人类将削尖的围桩用火加热,使之更加坚固,插在房屋周围,用以防御敌人。此外,人类还用普罗米修斯那朵使芦苇端部绽放的红色火花制造出不少其他东西。

宙斯坐在宝座上看到人类逐渐强大起来,非常惊讶。一天,他发现他那会发光的红火花被盗,并且知道普罗米修斯就是窃贼,对此十分恼火。

“普罗米修斯对人类的感情太深了。他应该受到惩罚。”他说。于是,他命令力气和武力两个奴隶去捉拿普罗米修斯,把他牢牢地绑在荒芜的高加索山上的一块巨石上。他又命令赫菲斯托斯用一种只有赫菲斯托斯知道的巧妙方法锁牢铁链。

普罗米修斯就这样被绑在石头上好几百年。白天,太阳无情地炙烤着他——只有仁慈的夜晚给他遮阴。当海鸥衔来食物喂岩石下号叫的幼鸟时,普罗米修斯倾听着它们拍翅的声音。海仙女有时会到岩石上安慰他。只有一只跟众神之王一

