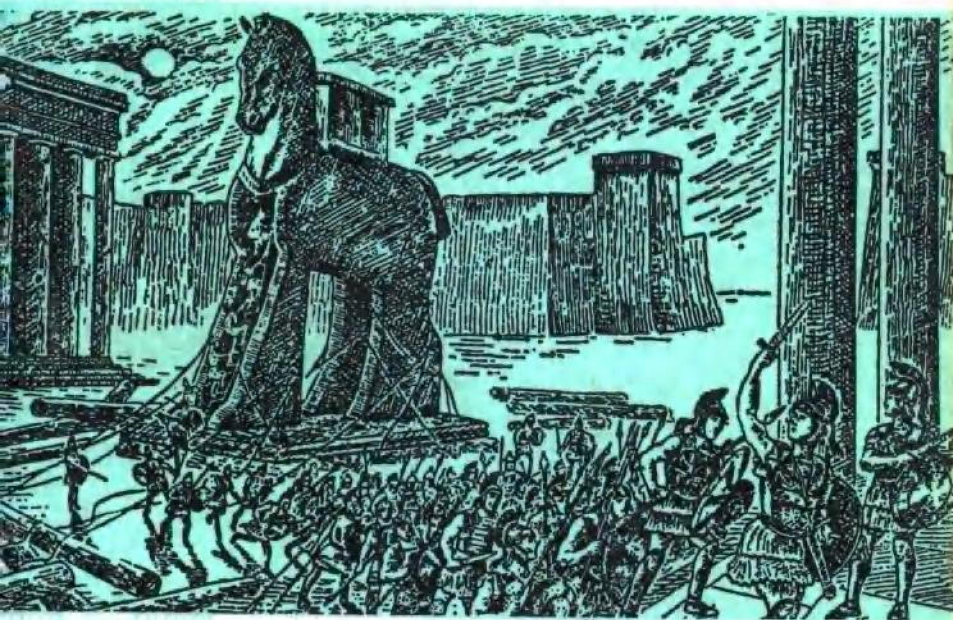


〔美〕詹姆斯·鲍德温著



西方传说故事选

*Selected Western
Legends and Stories*

中国对外翻译出版公司

• 英汉对照翻译丛书 •

Selected Western Legends and Stories

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〔美〕詹姆斯·鲍德温 著

汪兴平 张德懿 译

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译者的话

美国作家詹姆斯·鲍德温(James Baldwin)所著《泰西五十轶事》(Fifty Famous Stories Retold)和《泰西三十轶事》(Thirty More Famous Stories Retold)内容多取材于历史名人轶事,也有民间传说和神话故事,文字浅显生动,作为中小学生的课外读物,流传很广。现从这两本书中选出 50 篇,合为一册,介绍给我国读者,并附中文译文,以供初学英语的读者对照阅读,并取名为《西方传说故事选》。此外,我们还对一些篇目中叙述的人物加以简略介绍,帮助读者了解有关的时代背景。

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西方传说故事选

1. KING CANUTE ON THE SEASHORE

A HUNDRED years or more after the time of Alfred the Great there was a king of England named Canute. King Canute was a Dane; but the Danes were not so fierce and cruel then as they had been when they were at war with King Alfred.

The great men and officers who were around King Canute were always praising him.

"You are the greatest man that ever lived," one would say.

Then another would say, "O king! there can never be another man so mighty as you."

And another would say, "Great Canute, there is nothing in the world that dares to disobey you."

The king was a man of sense, and he grew very tired of hearing such foolish speeches.

One day he was by the seashore, and his officers were with him. They were praising him, as they were in the habit of doing. He thought that now he would teach them a lesson, and so he bade them set his chair on the beach close by the edge of the water.

"Am I the greatest man in the world?" he asked.

"O king!" they cried, "there is no one so mighty as you."

"Do all things obey me?" he asked.

一、克努特国王在海滨^{〔注〕}

艾尔弗雷德大帝时代之后一百多年，有一个英格兰国王名叫克努特。克努特国王是个丹麦人。可是这时的丹麦人已经不像他们和艾尔弗雷德国王打仗时那么凶猛，残暴了。

克努特国王周围的高官显贵总是颂扬他。

“您是古往今来最伟大的人，”有个人总这么说。

接着另一个就说：“噢，国王，再不能有别的人象您这样有权威了。”

另一个则又说：“伟大的克努特，世界上没有任何事物敢不服从您。”

国王是个明白人，他听了这些蠢话，非常厌恶。

有一天，他来到海滨，官员们陪着他，象他们惯常所做的那样，又颂扬他了。他想，现在该教训他们一顿了。于是，他叫他们把椅子放在海滩上，紧靠水边。

“我是世界上最伟大的人吗？”他问。

“噢，国王！”他们喊道，“再没有一个人象您这样有权威了。”

“万物都服从我吗？”他问道。

〔注〕 克努特(Knut 或 Canute, 约 995-1035), 一称克努特大王。丹麦、英国和挪威的国王。丹麦王斯万一世(Sven I)幼子。1017 年征服英国后, 为其部属拥戴称英王。1018 年起为英、丹共主。1028 年征服挪威后, 又占据该国王位。死后, 英、丹、挪分立。

"There is nothing that dares to disobey you, O king!" they said. "The world bows before you, and gives you honour."

"Will the sea obey me?" he asked; and he looked down at the little waves which were lapping the sand at his feet.

The foolish officers were puzzled, but they did not dare to say "No."

"Command it, O king! and it will obey," said one.

"Sea," cried Canute, "I command you to come no farther! Waves, stop your rolling, and do not dare to touch my feet!"

But the tide came in, just as it always did. The water rose higher and higher. It came up around the king's chair, and wet not only his feet, but also his robe. His officers stood about him, alarmed, and wondering whether he was not mad.

Then Canute took off his crown, and threw it down upon the sand.

"I shall never wear it again," he said. "And do you, my men, learn a lesson from what you have seen. There is only one King who is all-powerful; and it is he who rules the sea, and holds the ocean in the hollow of his hand. It is he whom you ought to praise and serve above all others."

“噢，国王！什么事物都不敢不服从您。”他们说。“全世界都要向您鞠躬，向您致敬。”

“大海也听我的吗？”他问，他俯视着拍打他脚下沙子的小浪花。

愚蠢的官员们被难住了，但是他们不敢说“不”。

“噢，国王，命令它！它一定会听您的。”一个人这样说。

“大海，”克努特大喊道，“我命令你，不许再向前来了！波浪，不许翻滚了，不许碰着我的脚！”

但是，潮水依然象往常那样涨起来了。海水越涨越高，涨到了国王的椅子周围，不仅打湿了国王的脚，而且连他的龙袍也弄湿了。他的官员们站在四周吓住了，他们都吃惊，国王是不是发疯了。

于是克努特摘下他的王冠，扔在沙滩上。

“我永远不再戴它了，”他说“诸位，你们看到了这一切，要从中吸取教训。只有一个国王是万能的，那就是主宰大海、把大洋握在他手心的那个。你们应当颂扬和服务的首先是他而不是别的人。”

2. THE SONS OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

THERE was once a great king of England who was called William the Conqueror, and he had three sons.

One day King William seemed to be thinking of something that made him feel very sad; and the wise men who were about him asked him what was the matter.

"I am thinking," he said, "of what my sons may do after I am dead. For, unless they are wise and strong, they cannot keep the kingdom which I have won for them. Indeed, I am at a loss to know which one of the three ought to be the king when I am gone."

"O king!" said the wise men, "if we only knew what things your sons admire the most, we might then be able to tell what kind of men they will be. Perhaps, by asking each one of them a few questions, we can find out which one of them will be best fitted to rule in your place."

"The plan is well worth trying, at least," said the king. "Have the boys come before you, and then ask them what you please."

The wise men talked with one another for a little while, and then agreed that the young princes should be brought in, one at a time, and that the same questions should be put to each.

The first who came into the room was Robert. He was a

二、征服者威廉的儿子们^{〔注〕}

从前，英格兰有一位伟大的国王，名叫征服者威廉。他有三个儿子。

有一天，国王威廉好象在思索着什么，使他忧心忡忡。他周围的谋士们问他是怎么回事。

“我在想，”他说，“我死了以后，我的儿子们将怎么办？因为，除非他们聪明能干，否则，他们就不能保住我给他们建立的王国。我真没有办法断定，我死了以后，他们三个人中哪一个应该继承王位。”

“噢，国王！”谋士们说，“只要我们事先知道您的儿子们最喜欢什么，那么，我们就能够看出他们将来会是一个什么样的人。也许向他们每个人提几个问题，我们就能看出他们中哪一个最适合接替你统治国家。”

“这个计划起码值得试一试，”国王说。“把孩子们叫到你们面前来，然后随意向他们提问。”

谋士们互相讨论了一会儿之后，都同意把年轻的王子们叫出来，一次叫一个。用同样的问题问每一个人。

第一个走进房间的是罗伯特。他是个身材高大而任性的少

〔注〕 威廉（征服者）（William the Conqueror, 1027-1087），英国国王（1066-1087）。原系法国诺曼底公爵。1066年英王爱德华（忏悔者）死而无嗣，威廉借口国王遗嘱，纠集诺曼底封建主和骑士，渡海侵入英国，自立为英王。

tall, wilful lad, and was nicknamed Short Stocking.

"Fair sir," said one of the men, "answer me this question: If, instead of being a boy, it had pleased God that you should be a bird, what kind of a bird would you rather be?"

"A hawk," answered Robert. "I would rather be a hawk, for no other bird reminds one so much of a bold and gallant knight."

The next who came was young William, his father's namesake and pet. His face was jolly and round, and because he had red hair he was nicknamed Rufus, or the Red.

"Fair sir," said the wise man, "answer me this question: If, instead of being a boy, it had pleased God that you should be a bird, what kind of a bird would you rather be?"

"An eagle," answered William. "I would rather be an eagle, because it is strong and brave. It is feared by all other birds, and is therefore the king of them all."

Lastly came the youngest brother, Henry, with quiet steps and a sober, thoughtful look. He had been taught to read and write, and for that reason he was nicknamed Beauclerc, or the Handsome Scholar.

"Fair sir," said the wise man, "answer me this question: If, instead of being a boy, it had pleased God that you should be a bird, what kind of a bird would you rather be?"

"A starling," said Henry. "I would rather be a starling, because it is goodmannered and kind and a joy to every one who sees it, and it never tries to rob or abuse its neighbour."

Then the wise men talked with one another for a little while, and when they had agreed among themselves, they spoke to the king.

"We find," said they, "that your eldest son, Robert, will