
The Sign of India

印达拉佛像



英语阅读丛书

The Sign of Indra

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敏 注释

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内 容 简 介

故事发生在泰国。一位名叫查勒姆的少年看到曾与他同过学的梅特里被一伙人绑走，他连忙到警察局报警。但当他和警察把这一情况告诉梅特里在博物馆当馆长的父亲时，父亲声言他儿子在亲戚家，于是警察怀疑查勒姆谎报案情，不予理睬。查勒姆得不到警察的信赖，只好把自己的委屈告诉他的同学普拉松。查勒姆和普拉松决定自己去追踪绑架者。经过一番周折，终于发现这批坏蛋原来都是走私犯。他们将大批鸦片藏入即将运往美国展览的“印达拉”佛像肚内，准备在那里发一笔横财。但不幸的是两人被这伙坏蛋发现，双双被关押在一个偏僻地方的小屋里，并在那儿碰到了梅特里。三个少年历尽艰险，直到最后才在警察的营救下脱险。走私犯得到了应有的惩罚。梅特里也回到了父亲身边。查勒姆和普拉松赢得了人们的赞扬，并获得奖赏。

故事中把查勒姆和他同伴的胜利归结于佛像的保佑，把走私犯头目萨农的遭雷击毙说成是佛像的显灵。雷电风雨是自然现象，把这种现象与神灵联系起来，是一种迷信思想的反映，唯物主义者是不会相信的。

本书故事情节曲折，语言通俗流畅，可供大学低年级学生及具有同等水平的社会读者阅读欣赏。

Chapter 1

*Night wrapped the city in a thick, steaming cloth.*¹ Everywhere people slept badly. *The quick lightning passed its fingers across their closed eyes*² and their heads moved uneasily.

Through the city the wide river flowed like black oil. Points of light shone on its banks and along the two bridges which crossed it, but these only made the shadows deeper. Then for a moment, the lightning with a *sickly blue flash*³ would light up everything. The painted steel posts of the New Bridge, the faces of the two men standing there together *stood out strangely*⁴.

There was no thunder. Somewhere, miles to the north there would be a storm. Here, in the city no sound could be heard. Here there was only the lightning. *Silent and secret, it flashed on the black leaves of the trees.*⁵ It lit the square shapes of the buildings and the low grey clouds. They were moving slowly across the sky like great angry elephants.

On the bridge, the faces stood out again. One was young and rather thin. *This man had a hard straight mouth*

1. 夜空象一块厚实、散发着蒸气的幕布笼罩着城市。指夜间天气闷热。 2. 一道道急速的闪电掠过了人们闭着的双眼。 3. 一道阴沉的蓝光。 4. 出奇地引人注目。to stand out 作“突出”解。 5. 闪电无声无息地、神秘地在黑色树叶上闪亮。

*and sharp eyes.*⁶ He was taller than his companion. He said coldly 'Five hundred.'

The shorter man looked at him and looked away, *biting his thick shapeless lips*⁷. His face was broad and dark in colour. Long black hairs grew from *a brown spot*⁸ near his mouth. He walked to the side of the bridge, looked over, and spat into the water. He coughed, spat again and came back rubbing his hands.

'Five hundred, lieutenant?' he said. 'That's not much. If they knew about this, they'd kill me.'

'But they don't know. You were careful, weren't you? You must always be careful. Remember that. And you haven't been followed tonight.' He looked up and down the bridge. The lightning came again. The bridge was empty.

'It's still very dangerous,' the short man complained.

'I can only pay five hundred,' the lieutenant said. 'So far your information hasn't been worth much money. I'll only pay five hundred for really useful information.'

'This information is useful,' the short man said. 'It's worth five hundred.'

'I'll decide that. Come on, *Sanoë*.⁹ Tell me.'

'It's coming into the city this week.'

'"It"? What do you mean—"it"? *What* are they bringing?'

'Gold.'

'Gold?' The lieutenant's eyes were narrow. 'I

6. 此人有一张极严肃的嘴和一双尖锐的眼睛。 7. 咬着他那厚厚的、难看的嘴唇 这是分词短语,表示伴随。 8. 一颗棕色的痣。 9. 赛诺(人名)。

don't think so.' He looked at the moving lights of a boat. 'This information's no good, Sanoe. You're wrong.'

'It must be gold!' Sanoe said quickly. 'I heard them talking. It's very heavy.'

'Heavy, eh?' The lieutenant shook his head. 'No, it can't be. I haven't heard about any stolen gold recently.'

'Two men can't carry it. They'll have to use a car.'

'Where does it come from?'

'From the north. It must be gold. It's worth a lot of money. They were talking about millions. It's gold!'

'No, Sanoe.' The lieutenant thought for a moment. Then he *laughed shortly*¹⁰. 'It's dreams. *Dreams as beautiful as gold.*¹¹ From the north.'

'What are you talking about?'

'Poppies, Sanoe. The juice of poppies. People smoke it.'

'Opium?' Sanoe looked at him with his mouth open.

'Opium, Sanoe.' *The lieutenant's voice was hard and angry.*¹²

'No,' Sanoe said slowly. 'Who could use all that amount?'

'America. In America it'll be worth money. As you say—a lot of money—millions.'

'Opium,' Sanoe said. *He sounded disappointed.*¹³

'Sanoe,' the lieutenant said, 'you don't understand

10. 干笑了一声。 11. 黄金般的美梦。 12. 中尉的声音既生硬又生气。
13. 他听上去很失望。 *sounded* 在这里作系词用, *disappointed* 为表语。

these things. I'm going to give you the five hundred. But next time—'

'Yes?'¹⁴

'I want more facts. When exactly is it coming? Where? Who is bringing it? Who is the chief? Who gives the orders? I want the names of people. I want the names of streets, the addresses of houses. Where is the opium going? Next time I want facts and names and dates. Do you understand?'

'Yes.'

'Here's the money then.' The lieutenant gave Sanoe the red bank-notes. 'If you get some good information, I'll give you a thousand next time.'

Sanoe counted the notes and put them in his shirt pocket. 'I'll telephone you soon', he said. 'When I have the information, I'll telephone.'

'Good. Let me get away. Then you can leave the bridge. Goodnight, Sanoe.' The lieutenant turned away.

'Goodnight. Lieutenant?'

The lieutenant stopped and turned back. 'Yes?'¹⁵

'It doesn't matter. Nothing. Goodnight.'

Sanoe watched the lieutenant walking away and shivered. *The sound of the lieutenant's footsteps cut into the silent night.*¹⁶ It was a lonely sound. It was very hot but Sanoe shivered again. When the lieutenant had gone, Sanoe touched the money in his pocket and walked away.

Small, dark houses stood on both sides of the road.

14. 怎样? 这里的 "yes" 不能作 "是吗" 解, 意指赛诺期待着中尉的下文。

15. 什么事? 16. 中尉的脚步声打破了夜间的寂静。

There were not many street lamps. Between the lamps were deep shadows. Sanoe walked quickly. *He held his head low*¹⁷ and looked at the ground.

Then he stopped with a cry. A man stood in front of him. 'Sanoe,' he said, 'we want you.'

Sanoe tried to run but a man behind him held his arms. *A car drew up beside them.*¹⁸

'What did you tell him?' The man behind him asked.

'Nothing,' Sanoe whispered. *His face looked empty and blank.*¹⁹

'Sanoe doesn't know anything. He can't tell anybody anything,' the man in front of him said. 'Get him into the car.'

Sanoe did not speak again. His face was still wearing the same blank expression when he got into the car.

An hour later that expression had changed. He was *floating on his back in the river*²⁰ and *little waves washed his body from side to side*²¹. The lightning flashed on his dead eyes.

'Chalerm!'²²

'Yes, aunty?' Chalerm walked quickly and quietly away from the window. He had been watching the people in the street. He sat down at the table with his books and waited.

'Are you working?'

17. 他低垂着头. 这里 low 作宾语补足语. 18. 一辆小汽车在他们身旁停了下来. draw up 作“停住”解. 19. 他脸上显出一副茫茫然的神色. 20. 仰脸朝天浮在水面上. 21. 小小的波浪来回冲刷着他的尸体. from side to side: 左右地. 22. 查勒姆(人名).

'I've nearly finished, aunty.' This was true. *Seven more sentences and he would have finished his English work.*²³

'I'm going out,' his aunty shouted. 'Be a good boy and don't waste time!'

'Yes, aunty.' Chalerm smiled broadly. Then he *put a serious expression on his face and picked up the pen*²⁴. 'Hm,' he said. '“When I was crossing the street, I have seen him”?' No, that's wrong. '“When I was crossing the street, I *saw* him.”' Yes, that's right.'

He wrote quickly and put his pen down again. He rubbed his nose, listened and sighed. Then, quietly, he went to the door and looked out.

'Chalerm! Go back into that room!' His aunt hurried angrily towards him. 'Sit at the table and finish your work!'

'Yes, aunty.' Chalerm sighed as he went back and sat down. His aunt stood in the doorway. She was wearing her long black skirt and her best green blouse. Chalerm knew that she was going to the temple. She always wore that blouse when she went to the temple. She was carrying an umbrella.

'“Yes, aunty”!' his aunt said sharply. 'You can't deceive *me*, you know.'

'I wasn't trying to deceive you, aunty,' Chalerm said.

'Oh, yes, you were. You haven't been working. You've been looking out of the window, haven't you?'

Chalerm said nothing.

23. 再做七个句子, 他的英语功课就做完了. “名词短语 + and + 完整的句子”是一种句型. 24. 他拿起笔, 脸上露出了严肃的表情.

'You're pretending to be a very good boy now. But, when I've gone out, you'll go out, too, won't you?'

Chalerm opened his eyes wide and looked very serious. 'Oh, *no*, aunty!' he said.

His aunt raised one finger and shook it in the air. 'Now, listen to me, Chalerm,' she said. 'I want you to promise me something.'

'Yes, aunty?'

'You mustn't go out until your work is finished. Promise me you won't go out until then!'

Chalerm made a noise like a cough.

'No, Chalerm! Say it! Say, "I promise, aunty"!'

'I promise, aunty.' And Chalerm sighed again.

'That's a good boy. *I won't be long.*²⁵'

Chalerm heard his aunt leave the house. *The sharp noise of her shoes died away.*²⁶ For a few moments Chalerm worked with care. Then he covered his mouth with his hand and yawned. He wrote another sentence and yawned again. Putting his hands behind his head, he sat back lazily. There was a mirror on the opposite wall and he could see himself in it.

The mirror showed him a boy in a coloured shirt and long grey trousers. He had long, thin arms and legs. His face, too, was rather thin but it looked clever. Thick, shining black hair hung over serious eyes. *The lips were drawn tightly against the teeth.*²⁷ The face looked very bored.

Chalerm showed his teeth like an angry dog. 'You're

25 我马上就回来。 26. 她鞋子发出的刺耳声音逐渐消失了。 to die away: 渐渐消失。 27. 双唇紧贴着牙齿。

bored!' he said to the face in the mirror. He jumped out of his chair and walked to the window. There, he leaned on his long arms and looked at the street. Quietly he began to sing to himself. The song had no words and the music was Chalerm's own. *He leaned far out of the window.*²⁸

'Nothing much to see,' he said to himself. 'A food-seller going home. A cat. Nobody waiting for the bus. One, two, three, four people walking along. A big car and—Hello! That's *Maitree*!²⁹'

The street was almost empty. The Chinese shop opposite Chalerm's house was closed. Down the street, the four people had gone into the small restaurant. The cat had jumped over a wall.

But Maitree had stopped nearly opposite Chalerm and was looking up the street. He seemed worried. He bit his lip and looked towards the bus-stop.

It was strange to see him there. Chalerm and his aunt were not rich. They were not poor, either, Chalerm thought. But their house was rather small and the street was rather narrow. It was really a street neither poor nor rich. But Maitree's father was rich. He was a learned man and an important person. So Chalerm and Maitree did not often meet.

But they had been to the same school and Maitree sometimes talked to Chalerm and always said, 'Hello.' Maitree, Chalerm knew, was at the university. Chalerm admired him. *In a few years time*³⁰, Chalerm wanted to

28. 他身子尽量探出窗外。
time. 不多几年。

29 梅特里(人名)。

30. = in a few years'

go to the university, too.

Maitree looked straight at the window. 'Hello, Maitree!' Chalerm called. 'What are you doing here?'

It was getting dark. Maitree looked hard at the window. 'Hello,' he called. He sounded unsure and worried.

'It's me—Chalerm!' Chalerm went on. 'Don't you remember me?'

'Oh, yes—young Chalerm—I know.' Maitree stepped off the pavement into the road. He was going to cross over to Chalerm. 'Has there been an accident here?' he called in a worried voice.

'Accident?' Chalerm called back. 'No. No accident—Look out! The car is moving!'

Maitree jumped back on the pavement. The big car had just started its engine. It was moving down the street towards him. Then it stopped opposite Chalerm's window. It hid Maitree. Chalerm could see the driver clearly, though. The man wore *dark glasses*³¹. Chalerm thought that was strange because it was nearly dark. But there was something stranger about the man. *He looked away from Chalerm towards Maitree.*³² Then he looked straight forward again. As he did this, *the side of his face jumped*³³. *That pulled his mouth to one side and Chalerm saw a gold tooth.*³⁴

But other things were happening. The back door of the car nearest to Chalerm opened. A very short, fat man got out. With his short legs he walked like a monkey.

31. 黑眼镜. 32. 他的目光从查勒姆身上移到了梅特里身上. 33. 他的半边脸牵动了一下. 34. 这就使他的嘴牵向一边, 查勒姆看见他有一颗金牙.

But he could move quickly. He went round the back of the car and Chalerm saw a white cloth in his hand.

Maitree was bending forward. He was talking to another man inside the car. Chalerm could see only the top of his head. Maitree's hand could be seen on the roof of the car. Suddenly Maitree stood up. Chalerm saw his face and heard him say loudly, 'You're all lying! What do you think—?'

But *the little square-looking man*³⁵ was behind him. He grabbed Maitree. The white cloth was over Maitree's face. Chalerm saw Maitree's arms waving in the air. Then the little man fell back. Maitree was free again. But someone in the car was holding his arm. He could not run away.

'*Let go of him!*'³⁶ Chalerm shouted. He ran half way to the door and then back to the window. 'Help!' he cried. 'Someone help!' Another man had jumped out of the car. He was on the side away from Chalerm and Chalerm could not see him clearly. The short man grabbed Maitree again and the two men pushed him into the car.

'Help! Chalerm! Cha—!' *Maitree's voice was cut off*³⁷ With a great noise from the engine the car rushed away. In a second it had reached the corner. Then it had gone.

Everything had happened very quickly. *There had been no time to run to Maitree's help.*³⁸ When the car was just turn-

35. 肩阔结实的矮个子。 36. 放他走! 37. 梅特里的呼喊声被打断了。
38. 没有时间去援助梅特里。

ing the corner, Chalerm leaned right out of the window. *He had time to read the car's number.*³⁹ Then he ran out of the room and down the stairs.

He could see nobody in the street. 'Help!' he called. 'A man has been kidnapped!' Nobody opened a window and no one came.

Chalerm stood still and *pushed his hands through his hair*⁴⁰. He looked up and down the street, pulling his hair. Then he said, 'Yes! Four men!' and ran to the restaurant.

They were sitting comfortably at a table. Behind them *a radio was playing loud music*⁴¹. There were two half-empty bottles of beer on the table in front of them. They were laughing and talking and *eating from the many plates*⁴². At the back the owner was cutting up a chicken. One man, young, thin and smartly-dressed, was drinking a glass of beer. Chalerm *rushed up*⁴³ to the table.

'Kidnapped!' he said. 'My friend! Men in a car! He's been kidnapped!' He was so excited that he could hardly breathe. 'Come!' he said. 'Come quickly!'

The smartly-dressed man put down his glass. He pulled out a chair. 'Sit down,' he said quietly. Chalerm dropped into the seat and breathed deeply.

'What happened?' the young man asked. One of his friends turned the radio off. Chalerm looked wildly at all their faces. The owner *had stopped cutting the chicken*⁴⁴.

39. 他正好来得及看到了汽车执照的号码。

40. 双手捋着头发,表示思索。

41. 收音机里正播放着喧闹的音乐。

42. 从许多碟子里拣挟着菜吃。

43. 冲向。

44. 已不再切鸡了, stop 后面与动名词连用,意为“不做某项动作”;如后面与不定式连用,意为“停下来做别的动作”。

He was watching Chalerm and his mouth was half-open.

'You *must* help!' Chalerm said. 'Maitree—he's a boy—no, a young man—he's my friend—well, I know him—'

'Slowly!' the man ordered.

'But Maitree has been kidnapped!' Chalerm cried. He jumped to his feet. 'We must get the police! The men will escape! I know the car's number. If we go now, the police can catch them!'

The man put his hand on Chalerm's arm. 'Sit down,' he said. 'We are the police. I'm *Lieutenant Pricha*⁴⁵ and this is *Sergeant Sawat*⁴⁶.' The sergeant was a big man. He smiled at Chalerm and Chalerm felt less worried at once.

'Tell us everything,' the lieutenant said. '*Take your time.*'⁴⁷

'I was doing my homework,' Chalerm began. 'I had just looked out of the window and I saw Maitree.' Excitedly he told them the story.

Pricha wrote down the car number. When Chalerm had finished, Pricha gave the piece of paper to one of his men.

'You two men,' he ordered. 'Go back to the police station. Ask them to find this car. Go now.'

'But we're not on duty, lieutenant!' one of them complained.

'A good policeman is always on duty,' Pricha told

45. 中尉普里查。
“从容进行”解。

46. 军士沙瓦特

47. 慢慢说吧。take one's time 作

him. The two men looked at the food on the table and at Chalerm. Then they stood up, put on their hats and left the restaurant.

‘Where does Maitree’s father live?’ Pricha asked. ‘Do you know?’

‘I think so,’ Chalerm said. ‘He lives near the airport. He has a big house and it is *on the main road to the airport*⁴⁸.’

‘It’s dark now,’ Pricha said. ‘Do you think you can find the house quickly?’

‘Oh yes,’ Chalerm said.

‘Good. Sawat, get us a taxi. I’ll pay the bill.’

For Chalerm everything began to happen quickly again. In a moment he was sitting in the back of a taxi with Pricha and Sawat. *The trees by the road jumped out and disappeared in the taxi’s headlights.*⁴⁹ A cool wind rushed against his face.

Chapter 2

Chalerm pointed to the house and the taxi-driver stopped outside it. He turned off his headlights and sounded the horn. At first no one came. He sounded his horn again and a complaining gardener opened the gate.

They drove slowly up to the house. The taxi stopped outside one of the windows. They got out and Pricha paid the driver. In the garden it was not as cool as in the taxi. The night was very dark. But there was a

48. 通往机场的主道上。

49. 路旁的树木在汽车的灯光中时隐时现。

bright light inside the room and Chalerm could see everything quite clearly.

Pictures hung on the white walls and comfortable chairs stood near the windows. A telephone stood on a small table. But Chalerm looked at none of these things.

Maitree's father, Mr. *Chert Boonag*⁵⁰, was sitting at the long table in the middle of the room. Papers covered most of the table. At one end was a pile of books. A book was open in front of Mr. Chert but he was not reading.

He was a rather tall man. *He was smartly-dressed in a light-coloured jacket and light-coloured trousers.*⁵¹ Chalerm could not see his face. *His elbows were resting on the table*⁵² and his hands were covering it. His short, black hair had fallen forward. *It lay across the backs of his hands.*⁵³ He sat very still. It seemed to Chalerm that he had not even heard the taxi.

Pricha and Sawat walked over to Chalerm and looked through the window. 'Mr. Chert!' Pricha called.

Mr. Chert jumped to his feet and looked at the window in great surprise. His hair hung over his face and he pushed it back with both hands. 'Who is that?' he called. His voice was high and it sounded strange to Chalerm.

"The police," Pricha told him. "We'd like to talk to you. Can we come in?"

'The police?' Mr. Chert asked. 'Is it about—?'

50. 邱特·波纳格(人名). 51. 他穿了一身入时的浅色上装和裤子. 52. 他的胳膊肘支在桌子上. 53. 头发盖在他的手背上.