

用中学英语 读世界名著

英汉对照外国文学名著精读丛书

(散文卷)

怒 瀑 余 生 记

The Boy Who Plunged Over Niagara

纳撒尼尔·霍桑等

Nathaniel Hawthorne



北京师联教育科学研究所 编译
学苑音像出版社 出版

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编者

2005年7月



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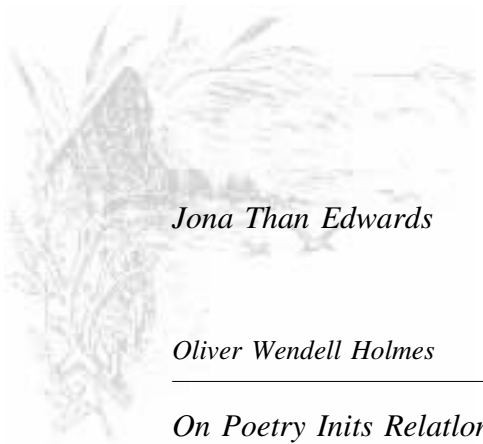
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The Boy Who Plunged Over Niagara

怒瀑余生记

Nathaniel Hawthorne

纳撒尼尔·霍桑

Just AFTER 8 a. m. on Saturday ,July 9 , 1960. James Honeycutt came off the night shift at a Niagara Falls ! hydroelectric project. Sleep , though ,was not on his mind—Aerialtrim new out-board motorboat tied to the dock at Lynch 's Trailer Court. where he resided.

Honeycutt was 40 ,an affable man who had had to leave his family in Raleigh ,North Carolina ,when he 'd gone north to work. He found the weekends long and lonely. So ,after breakfast ,he drove to the home of Frank Woodward ,a carpenter on his crew. Over coffee Honeycutt sprang his surprise :How would the Woodward youngsters , 17 - year - old Deanne and her 7 - year - old brother ,Roger ,like to go for a boat ride ?

Deanne ,awed by the tumultuous river ,which she had seen only once ,was reluctant. But with little Roger jumping with glee and her mother urging

一九六〇年七月九日 星期六 早上八时刚过 詹姆斯·亨尼卡徙尼亚加拉瀑布的一处水力发电厂建筑工程下了夜班。可是他全无睡意——这个夏天早晨天气晴朗 何况还有一艘簇新漂亮的小汽艇停泊在他住的林赤拖车车场的码头旁等着他。

亨尼卡四十岁 和蔼可亲 变身来北方工作 家人留在北加罗来纳州拉莱市。他总觉得周末日子很长很寂寞。因此早餐后 他骑车到了富兰克·伍德华家。富兰克是他工作队的木匠。喝咖啡时 想不到亨尼卡忽然问伍德华家的两个孩子 十七岁的黛安和她七岁的弟弟罗吉 要不要坐他的汽艇去玩？

黛安只见过那条河一次 对那汹涌的河流有点胆战心惊 因此不大想去。但小罗吉却高兴得手舞足蹈 她

her to go along—“ *You ’ll have a chance for a swim at Lynch ’s later* ”—Deanne changed into a bathing suit, and the three set out.

Soon Honeycutt was easing his green aluminum runabout away from the Lynch dock, his pride and inexperience both obvious in the cautious way he maneuvered clear of other boats. At midstream he turned the sleek 14 - foot craft downriver and offered the tiller to Roger. His face grinning above his brilliant orange life jacket ,the boy took hold.

Deanne ,in the bow ,relaxed. If Mr. Honeycutt was confident enough to let Roger steer ,what was she worried about ? When they passed under the Grand Island Bridge ,gateway to the American side of the falls ,she waved gaily at the cars passing far overhead.

John R. Hayes ,a trucker and special police officer on a holiday tour ,had crossed the bridge an hour earlier. He and his wife had come to Niagara Falls for the weekend ,and now ,like the thousands of other tourists ,were snapping pictures and marveling at the incredible power of the famous cataracts.

Past noon ,they crossed the footbridge to Goat Island ,which splits the Niagara into two sets of

母亲也怂恿她同去——“ 等会儿你们可以在林赤车场那里游泳。”——她这才换上泳装 ,三人一道出发。

亨尼卡把他那绿色的铝质小汽艇缓缓驶离林赤码头 ,小心地避开其他游艇 ,这可以明显看出他既自鸣得意 ,又缺乏经验。到了河中心 ,他把那十四尺多长的轻巧汽艇转向下游 ,然后把舵柄交给罗吉。罗吉抓牢舵柄 ,鲜艳橘黄色救生衣上面那张小脸 ,笑容可掬。

黛安坐在船头 ,也放心了。亨尼卡先生既然这样有把握 ,居然把船舵交给罗吉来掌 ,她还有什么可担忧呢 ? 他们穿过了大岛桥 ,那是美国这一边的瀑布入口 ,黛安愉快地遥向在她头顶上驶过的汽车挥手。

约翰·赫斯是卡车司机兼特别警察 ,和太太同来尼亚加拉瀑布度周末。一小时前 ,驾车过了桥。现在他们和其他无数游客一样 ,一面拍照 ,一面惊叹这著名瀑布雷霆万钧的力量。

中午过后 ,他们夫妇跨过一座人行桥 ,到了山羊岛。尼亚加拉可从这儿分成两股奔腾的激流 ;岛的

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leaping rapids ,its sheer northern end overlooking the awesome cleft into which both the American and the Horseshoe falls plunge. Downriver from the falls , so far below him that it looked like a toy in a bathtub Hayes could see a vessel docked under the Canadian cliffs.

It was one of the two Maids of the Mist ships that take turns cruising up into the " Shoe. "There , within 150 feet of the wet black rocks at the very foot of the Horseshoe Falls ,surrounded by wild flying spray and deafened by the roar of the torrent , tourists come face to face with one of nature 's great extravagances.

The Niagara River is in effect an ever - narrowing trough draining the North American mid - continent. Plunging north with the overflow from Lake Erie and the three Great Lakes to the west it drops a precipitous 326 feet in its 36 - mile length ,flings 823 650 gallons of water a second over the 161 - foot falls and swirls through the world 's most treacherous rapids before spending its fury in the vastness of Lake Ontario.

Its violence has always attracted daredevils. In steel drums or padded barrels ,at least seven stunners have gone over the Horseshoe Only four survived ,Suicides find in the falls the savage end they

北端 ,悬崖峭壁 ,可以俯瞰美国大瀑布与加拿大蹄铁大瀑布两股巨流冲聚的深壑 ,壑底景象 ,惊心动魄。瀑布下游远处 ,他们遥望到加拿大那边陡壁下停泊着一艘船 ,远看有如澡盆中浮着的玩具。

那是两艘“雾中少女”号游艇中的一艘。这两艘船轮流载客溯流而上 ,直入“蹄铁”内圈。蹄铁瀑布底部的一百五十尺之内 ,岩石湿润黝黑 ,水花激溅 ,响声震耳欲聋。游客在此可以见到大自然的奇景。

事实上 ,尼亚加拉河是一条越来越窄的水道 ,为北美中部大陆的出水口。它挟着伊利湖与伊利湖以西的三大湖的溢水向北奔腾。三十六哩长的河道 ,地形陡降三辟二十六尺 ,每秒钟有八十二万三千六百五十加仑的水量冲下一百六十一尺高的瀑布 ,然后在全世界最危险的激流里打旋翻腾 ,流入烟波浩瀚的安大略湖后 ,水势才转缓和。

这激流湍急汹涌 ,纵有玩命客来冒险。至少有过七个爱作为人表演的人会蜷伏在钢桶或镶了软垫的圆桶中滚下蹄铁瀑布 ,只有四人没死。到这儿自杀的 ,都能如愿以偿



crave. Scarcely a month passes ,that one isn 't whisked over the brink. Dashed to the rocks below , thrust into wild eddies and currents ,their broken bodies have almost invariably been ! cast to the surface at the Maid of the Mist landing exactly four days later.

Honeycutt ,again at the tiller ,seemed unconcerned as the little outboard ,now four miles downstream from Lynch 's and only a mile or so above the falls ,came bouncing past the long breakwater that evens the river 's flow. Deanne ,though ,was getting nervous. This was not the broad ,friendly river they 'd started out on. It was roiled ,leaping turbulently along the pronounced downhill pitch , breaking white against glistening rocks. The thunder of pounding water grew louder in her ears. About this time , a Goat Island sightseeing guide was telling a group of tourists that the control structure out on the river was the point beyond which nothing could keep from being swept over the falls. One tourist gestured at the little green boat and said ,
 “ *What about that?* ”The guide ran for a telephone. But it was already too late.

With the runabout almost abreast of Goat Island ,Honeycutt finally brought the bow around. For one tenuous moment ,the 7½ - horse - power motor

粉身碎骨而死。每月总有人在这里坠下瀑布丧生。死者被水冲撞在下面乱岩上 ,再卷入漩涡激流中 ,残缺不全的尸体几乎总是在整整四天之后 ,在“雾中少女”号停靠的码头处浮出水面。

现在掌舵的是亨尼卡自己 ,他们的小艇从林赤车场顺流下行了四哩 ,距离瀑布不过一哩左右。小艇窜掠过缓和水流的长防波堤 ,亨尼卡似乎毫不在意。但黛安却害怕起来了。这里的河面不像他们刚才出发的地方那样宽阔平静。水流澎湃汹涌 ,沿着陡陷的地形冲下 ,白浪冲击着岩石 ,雷鸣般的水声越来越响。这时山羊岛上观光向导正向一群游客说 :河面上的管制闸是最后关口 ,过了这道关口 ,任何东西都不能幸免 ,准被狂流吞卷 ,坠入巨瀑深壑。一位游客指着绿色小艇说 :“可是那艘小艇呢?”向导连忙飞奔去打电话报警 ,但已来不及了。

小艇几乎到了与山羊岛平行的位置 ,亨尼卡才把船头掉转了过来。起初小艇那七匹半马力的马达与无情的激流搏斗 ,还能勉强前移。忽

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beat against the remorseless current ,barely making headway. Then ,with a piercing whine ,it began to race futilely ;the propeller pin had sheared.

As the boat swept downstream stern - first , Honeycutt lunged for the oars. Though he pulled frantically ,he hardly slowed the boat 's backward rush. He yelled to Deanne ; *Put on the life jacket !* ”

The girl 's fingers were stiff as she laced tight the boat 's only other jacket. In the stern ,face suddenly turned white ,Roger called ; *Deedee ,I 'm scared.* ”He began stumbling toward her.

“ *No !*”she screamed ,terrified that he would tip them over. “ *Stay there ,Roger ! We 'll be swimming at Lynch 's soon.* ”

“ *No ,we 're going to drown !*”he cried. But he sat down and ,clinging to the thwart ,began to sob quietly. They were in full rapids now ,the water solid white and tearing them toward the falls. Smashing off a rock ,then caught by a vicious rip ,the stern flew straight up.

“ *Hang on !*”Honeycutt cried out ,but there was nothing to hang onto. He and Roger were thrown over Deanne 's head. Then the water snatched at her. She grabbed for the overturned hull ,but it slid from beneath her fingers.

Honeycutt grabbed Roger 's arm ,fighting to

然间一声刺耳的哀鸣 ,小艇的马达空转 动力全失 ,螺旋桨轴针已经折断了。

小艇尾部朝前 ,被激流冲往下游 ,亨尼卡一把抓起划桨 ,拼命猛划 ,可是缓不住小艇的疾速倒退。他向黛安急呼 :“快穿上救生衣 !”


黛安手指僵硬 ,勉强把艇上仅馀的一件救生衣绑好。船尾的罗吉 ,脸色突然变得惨白 ,狂叫 :“姐姐 ,我怕 !”一面踉踉跄跄地挣向船头。

“别动 !”黛安惊呼 ,生怕他把小艇弄翻。“在那儿坐好 ,罗吉 ,我们一会儿就要到林赤车场去游泳了。”

“不 ,我们一会儿就要淹死了 !”他叫道。但他还是坐下去 ,抓牢了坐板 ,开始低声哭泣。这时他们已经到了激流中心 ,滚滚白浪把他们朝着瀑布推去。小艇撞上一块岩石 ,跟着又被交叉水流激起浪头一击 ,船尾朝天竖起。

“赶快抓牢 !”亨尼卡大声喊。可是已没有东西可抓 ,他和罗吉被凌空抛起 ,从黛安头上跌出去。水向黛安冲来 ,她伸手去抓倾覆的船 ,但却抓不住 ,船身从她手中滑开了。

亨尼卡抓着罗吉的手臂 ,拼命



hold the boy's head out of the water. But the furious currents tore them apart. The rapids wrenched Roger down, spun him around. Then all at once he was free, thrust out over the edge of the falls, dropping through space.

John Hayes saw the boat turn over. He and his wife had been walking toward Terrapin Point, the railed tip of Goat Island that looks out over the lip of the Horseshoe; *Look!* he shouted, racing for the river.

As he ran, he spied Deanne Woodward's vivid life jacket. He dashed upriver, past dozens of stunned tourists, trying to get closer to her. Above the roar of the cataract he heard her crying out for help. He leaned over the guardrail so she could see him.

"Here!" he called out. "*Hey, girl! Swim over here!*"

Deanne saw him, but shook her head hopelessly. She was unable to make any real progress.

"Try!" Hayes called. He ran downriver to get ahead of her and leaned farther over the rail. "*Try!*"

The current was sweeping her inexorably closer to the 'fall' jagged rim. Hayes stretched his arm out, though the girl was still far beyond

把孩子的头托出水面。可是狂流把他们冲散了。罗吉被卷向下游,一路在水里打转。突然他脱离了湍流。水流把他冲出了瀑布的顶端,凌空下坠。

赫斯在岸上看着小艇倾覆。当时他和太太正朝泥龟角走去,那是山羊岛的顶端,围着栏杆,可以看到蹄铁瀑布口。“你看!”他叫喊起来,向河边奔去。

他跑的时候,看见了黛安颜色鲜明的救生衣。于是便朝上游飞奔去救她,从十几个吓呆了的游客眼前掠过。在瀑布的怒吼声中,他听到她呼救的声音。他把身子探到护栏外,让她看见。

“这儿!”他大喊,“喂:姑娘!快游过来!”

黛安看到了他,但却绝望地向他摇头,她游不过来。

“用力!”他大声喊,同时向下游跑,抢到她前面,上身从栏杆向外探出更远,来呀!”

湍流无情地把她冲向岩石狰狞的瀑布口。赫斯伸长手臂,但离那女孩还很远。黛安已经筋疲力竭,两条腿被岩石撞得疼痛难当。“救

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reach. Deanne was at the very edge of exhaustion. Her legs ached from being pounded against the rocks, "Help me!" she pleaded with Hayes, the thunder of death a bare 20 feet away. Quickly he climbed over the guardrail. He was only a foot above the rushing water, clinging to the rail with one hand. He cried out, "You got to try, hear? Try!"

The sharpness of his voice stirred a last hidden resource in Deanne. Doggedly she buried her face in the water and pulled once more against its clutch. When she looked up again, Hayes was almost directly above her. Desperately she cast out as she went sweeping by—and caught his thumb. Hayes's hand closed around hers.

His foot wedged behind the rail, the weight of the girl and the awful force of the rapids tearing on his fingers, Hayes thought they would both go over. He called for help. A man broke out of the cluster of spellbound sightseers. Vaulting the rail, John A. Quattrochi, another tourist, leaned down and grabbed Deanne's wrist. For a long moment the three hung on, straining. Then the two men pulled the girl from the rushing water and lifted her over the guardrail.

Deanne Woodward had been just ten feet from

救我!"她向赫斯哀号求援。二十尺外,死神在怒吼雷鸣。赫斯迅速地翻至栏外,一双手抓住栏杆,身子距离湍急的水面只有一尺,嘴里喊道:"你一定要努力,听到了没有?努力!"

他有力的呼声激发了黛安体内的最后潜能。她把头埋到水里,逆着水流奋力游过来,再抬起头时,已差不多到了赫斯的正下方。在激流的猛冲下,拼命向上一抓,抓到了赫斯的拇指,赫斯立刻抓紧了她的手。

赫斯一双脚钩住栏杆,黛安的体重和激流的巨大冲力扯着他的手指下拽,他以为他们会同归于尽了。他大声呼救。一个男子排开呆若木鸡的观光客,跑上前去。他名叫约翰·郭徒齐,也是游客。他跨过栏杆,俯身抓住黛安的腕部。三个人这样紧紧拉着,僵持了好一会,郭徒齐和赫斯终于合力把黛安从湍流中拖了上来,再把她抬过栏杆。

黛安遇救时,距离瀑布只有十



the falls ,closer than anyone had ever come before being plucked to safety. As she lay on the ground , she gasped ; *My brother ! My brother 's still in there. Please save him !* ”

But Quattrochi had seen Roger go over the falls. Softly he said ; *Say a prayer for your brother. ”*

Maid of the Mist II , its decks heaving , drenched by spray and surrounded by thunder , was almost to its turning point just below Horseshoe Falls. At the wheel ,Capt. Clifford Keech peered into the chaos of white water. When ,at 12 :52 ,he spotted a bobbing orange object dead ahead ,he craned forward in amazement. He barked into his ship - to - shore phone : *This is Keech. There 's a kid in a life jacket floating around up here and—maybe I 'm crazy ,but I think he 's alive !* ”

Though Roger Woodward was indeed alive—the first human being to survive a drop over Niagara Falls without elaborate protection—his peril was not yet past. He was drifting close to the huge port of an Ontario hydro plant and might yet be dragged into the opening.

The *Maid* came about and bore down on the boy from upstream ,using the full reverse power of

尺 ,从来没有人像她这样接近瀑布而终能脱险。她躺在地上 ,上气不接下气地说 :“我弟弟 !他也掉在水里了 ,请你们救救他吧 !”

郭徒齐早就亲眼看到罗吉滚下瀑布。他轻声说 :“替你弟弟祷告吧。”

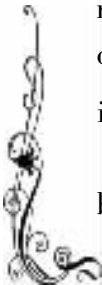
“雾中少女二号”正驶近蹄铁布下边 ,快掉头同航了。甲板上溅满浪花 ,周围响声隆隆震耳。船长克里福·基屈亲自掌舵 ,望着白浪翻滚的湍急水面。十二点五十二分 ,他发现正前方水里有个橘黄色物体载浮载沉 ,惊愕地伸长脖子仔细一看 ,马上用无线电话机对岸上疾呼 :“我是基屈船长 ,发现一个穿救生衣的孩子在水里漂来漂去——也许是我神经错乱 ,但是我想他还活着 !”

不错 ,罗吉还活着——从尼亚加拉瀑布上流坠下 ,没有特别护身配备而能活命的 ,他是世界上第一人——但是他还没有脱离险境 ,他已经漂近一家安大略水力发电厂的巨型入水口 ,很可能被吸进入水口里去。

“雾中少女二号”掉转船头 ,顺流而下 ,来救罗吉。船的两具引擎

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both engines to hold a position against the driving current. From the starboard bow ,Mate Murray Hartling and deckhand Jack Hopkins threw a life preserver toward the tiny figure in the water. It fell short. They hauled it in and threw again. On the third try the life preserver bobbed to within an arm 's length of the thrashing boy ,He crawled up onto it. A moment later ,Roger Woodward lay on the deck of the *Maid* ,shivering under the blankets piled on him. " *Please find my sister.* "he said. " *She and Mr. Honeycutt fell in the water ,too.* "

An emergency launch ,responding to Keech 's call ,searched the swirling caldron for half an hour , but found only the auxiliary gas tank ,all that was ever re - covered of the boat.

Meanwhile ,high up on Goat Island ,hundreds had seen the boy in the orange life jacket pulled aboard the *Maid of the Mist*. " *They 've got your brother ,*"Hayes told Deanne just before she was whisked off to the hospital. " *I think he 's okay.* "

" *Thank you ,God ,*"said the girl ,and closed her eyes.

Roger was taken to a Canadian hospital ,where an hour later his mother and father came to tell him that Deanne ,too ,had been rescued. In a few days both youngsters ,incredibly uninjured except for


以最大马力倒车 ,使船不致被激流冲走。然后大副麦瑞·哈特林和船员杰克·霍浦金斯从船头右舷抛出一个救生圈 ,第一次扔得不够远 ,他们拉回来再扔。第三次掷出时 ,救生圈才落在那竭力挣扎的孩子身边 ,相距一臂之遥。罗吉掀到圈子里 ,获救上船。他躺在甲板上 ,身上盖着好几条毛毯 ,却仍抖个不停。"请你们找找我姐姐,"他说;"她和亨尼卡先生也都掉在水里了。"

一艘紧急救生艇应基屈船长之召 ,在湍流漩涡中搜寻了半个钟头 ,只找到一只备用汽油桶。整个游艇就只找回这么一点东西。

当时 ,在远远高处的山羊岛上 ,几百人眼看着身穿橘黄色救生衣的孩子被拖上"雾中少女"号甲板。赫斯在黛安正要被送往医院的时候 ,告诉她说:"他们把你弟弟救起来了 ,我看他不要紧。"

"谢天谢地。"黛安说完 ,闭上了眼睛。

罗吉进了一家加拿大医院。一小时后 ,他的父母亲赶来了 ,他们告诉他黛安也已获救。两个孩子除了皮肤擦破外 ,竟都未受伤 ,真令人难



superficial bruises ,were released.

How did Roger Woodward survive ? River men reason that Roger 's lightness held him atop the water 's surge ;that ,as he was thrust over the brink ,he flew along and down the crest as though going over a slide ,thus avoiding the deadly rocks and turbulence at the fall 's base. Though he had dropped 161 feet at an estimated 75 miles an hour , his life preserver had forced him back to the surface before he lost consciousness.

But the mighty falls did not go completely un-appeared. On Wednesday ,July 13 ,the body of James Honeycutt turned up at the Maid of the Mist landing. It was four days ,almost to the hour ,from the moment he was swept to his death.

信。几天后 ,他们都出院了。

罗吉怎会幸免于难呢？河上有经验的人推想 因为他身体轻 ,所以能漂浮在波涛面上 ;当他被冲出绝壁时 随著浪头高峰飞降 ,有如坐滑梯一样。因此逃过了瀑底的参差岩石与漩流。他虽以大约七五哩的时速 ,下坠了一百六十一尺 ,他所穿的救生衣却把他在失去知觉之前 ,托浮到水面。

不过 ,巨瀑对那天的几位遇险者并未完全开恩。七月十三日 ,星期三亨尼卡的尸体在“雾中少女”号码头浮出水面。从他遇难时算起 ,几乎不多不少 ,整整四天。

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THE OLD MANSE

古屋杂忆

Nathaniel Hawthorne

纳撒尼尔·霍桑

Between two tall gate - posts of rough - hewn stone (*the gate itself having fallen from its hinges at some unknown epoch*) we beheld the gray front of the old parsonage terminating the vista of an avenue of black ash - trees. It was now a twelvemonth since the funeral procession of the venerable clergymen , its last inhabitant had turned from that gateway towards the village burying - ground. The wheel - track leading to the door , as well as the whole breadth of the avenue , was almost overgrown with grass affording dainty mouthfuls to two or three vagrant cows and an old white horse who had his own living to pick up along the roadside. The glimmering shadows that lay half asleep between the door of the house and the public highway were a kind of spiritual medium , seen through which the edifice had not quite the aspect of belonging to the material world. Certainly it had little in common with those ordinary

在昂然耸立着的两根凿工粗糙的门柱之间——园门本身已经在不知哪个年代里从它的门枢上颓然倾覆——我们瞧见两排暗黑的白蜡树形成的小路尽头，耸立着牧师的那幢旧宅。为它的上一个住户，那位可敬的牧师，举行的送葬行列出了园门朝着村里的墓地迤逦行去的那个日子，已经过去十二个月了。通到园门前的那条轮辙，以及整条小路上，几乎长满了草，供两三头随处漂泊的母牛，以及一匹沿着路边觅食充饥的老白马，美美地吃上几口。躺在老屋的大门和公路之间半睡半醒的那些闪闪烁烁、影影绰绰的阴影似乎是个幽灵——打从那玩意儿里望过去，那幢房子看上去可就没有物质世界里的事物应有的那种样儿。它当然和那些矗立在路上让人伸手可及。每个路人都不妨把头探

abodes which stand so imminent upon the road that every passer - by can thrust his head as it were into the domestic circle. From those quiet windows the figures of passing travelers looked too remote and dim to disturb the sense of privacy. In its near retirement and accessible seclusion it was the very spot for the residence of a clergyman, - a man not estranged from human life yet enveloped in the midst of it with a veil woven of intermingled gloom and brightness. It was worthy to have been one of the time - honored parsonage of England in which, through many generations a succession of holy occupants pass from youth to age and bequeath each an inheritance of sanctity to pervade the house and hover over it as with an atmosphere.

Nor, in truth, had the Old Manse ever been profaned by a lay occupant until that memorable summer afternoon when I entered it as my home. A priest had built it, a priest had succeeded to it, other priestly men from time to time had dwelt in it; and children born in its chambers had grown up to assume the priestly character. It was awful to reflect how many sermons must have been written there. The latest inhabitant alone—he by whose translation to paradise the dwelling was left vacant—had penned nearly three thousand discourses besides

进那户人家的家务里去的一般寓所并无共同之处。从这些宁静的窗户里望去,路过的旅人遥远而模糊,不会破坏屋子里的隐秘气氛和宁静之感。这幢房子处在一个几近退隐之所,却又可以让人抵达得了的僻静的地方,正好成为专供牧师居住的理想寓所——他尽管并不离群索居,然而却又在纷冗的人世里笼罩着一重明暗交织的幔幕。它不枉是英国的那些古老的牧师住宅之一。世代不断有献身于上帝的人士在这里从青春住到暮年,各自献出了一份弥漫屋内、笼罩四周的圣洁的氛围,以供代代相传。

这座古宅的确没有凡夫俗子搬来住过,直到那天下午——那个值得纪念的夏日下午——我搬进来把它当作我的家之后,屋主才不再是牧师。造这座房子的是牧师,以后搬来的也是牧师,这许多年来,在这里住过的,多少也和教会有点关系。连在这座屋子里生下和长大的孩子们,也沾染上牧师的气质。一想到在这里写的讲道文的数目多么多,就让人觉得可怕,单说我以前那位住户吧,他归天之后,房屋空出,我