

【小王子】中英双语对照



《小王子》是一部由法国作家安托万·德·圣埃克苏佩里所著的寓言小说，首次出版于1943年。这本书讲述了一个名叫小王子的外星小孩，他居住在一个只比他大一点的小行星上。小王子决定离开他的小行星，去旅行探... 其他行星。在他的旅行中，他遇到了各种各样的人，包括一位流落在沙漠的飞行员，这个角色是基于作者自己的经历。安托万·德·圣埃克苏佩里，全名安托万·玛丽·罗杰·德·圣埃克苏佩里，是一位法国贵族、作家、诗人、记者，

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we are introduced to the narrator, a pilot, and his ideas about grown-ups.

我们首次听到了叙述者，一位飞行员，以及他对成年人的看法。 ——

Once when I was six years old I saw a magnificent picture in a book, called True Stories from Nature, about the primeval forest.

六岁的时候，有一次我在一本名为《大自然的真正故事》的书中看到了一幅壮丽的画，画着一片原始森林。 ——

It was a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal.

那是一幅描绘一条蟒蛇正在吞食一只动物的画面。 ——

Here is a copy of the drawing.

这是那幅图的复制品。 ——

In the book it said: "Boa constrictors swallow their prey whole, without chewing it.

书上写道：“蟒蛇会整条吞下它们的猎物，而不会嚼碎。” ——

After that they are not able to move, and they sleep through the six months that they need for digestion." I pondered deeply, then, over the adventures of the jungle.

之后它们就无法移动了，要睡上六个月才能消化完。于是，我对丛林中的冒险深思熟虑。 ——

And after some work with a colored pencil I succeeded in making my first drawing.

经过一番用彩色铅笔的努力，我成功地完成了我的第一幅画。 ——

My Drawing Number One. It looked like this:

我的第一幅作品就是这个样子的： ——

I showed my masterpiece to the grown-ups, and asked them whether the drawing frightened them.

我把我的杰作展示给了成年人们，问他们这幅画是否吓到了他们。 ——

But they answered: "Frighten?"

但他们回答道：“吓到？ ——

Why should any one be frightened by a hat?" My drawing was not a picture of a hat.

为什么有人会被一顶帽子吓到呢？”我的画不是一张帽子的画。 ——

It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant.

这是一张巨蟒吞食大象的图片。 ——

But since the grown-ups were not able to understand it, I made another drawing:

但是因为成年人无法理解，所以我又画了一幅图： ——

I drew the inside of the boa constrictor, so that the grown-ups could see it clearly.

我画了巨蟒的内部，这样成年人就能清楚地看到了。 ——

They always need to have things explained.

他们总是需要解释。 ——

My Drawing Number Two looked like this:

我的第二幅作品如下所示：

The grown-ups' response, this time, was to advise me to lay aside my drawings of boa constrictors, whether from the inside or the outside, and devote myself instead to geography, history, arithmetic and grammar.

这一次，成年人的反应是建议我放下巨蟒的画作，无论是内部还是外部，而是把精力集中在地理、历史、算术和语法上。 ——

That is why, at the age of six, I gave up what might have been a magnificent career as a painter.

这就是为什么在六岁的时候，我放弃了作为画家的灿烂前程。 ——

I had been disheartened by the failure of my Drawing Number One and my Drawing Number Two. Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.

我对画作一号和画作二号的失败感到灰心。成年人自己从来不明白任何事情，对孩子们来说，总是不断解释是很烦人的。 ——

So then I chose another profession, and learned to pilot airplanes.

因此，我选择了另一种职业，并学习驾驶飞机。 ——

I have flown a little over all parts of the world;

我已经飞越世界各地， ——

and it is true that geography has been very useful to me.

地理知识对我非常有用。 ——

At a glance I can distinguish China from Arizona.

一眼就能分辨出中国和亚利桑那州。 ——

If one gets lost in the night, such knowledge is valuable.

如果夜晚迷失方向，这种知识就变得十分宝贵。

In the course of this life I have had a great many encounters with a great many people who have been concerned with matters of consequence.

在这一生中，我曾与许多关心重大问题的人有过许多相遇。 ——

I have lived a great deal among grown-ups.

我曾与成年人们生活在一起， ——

I have seen them intimately, close at hand.

近距离地观察过他们。 ——

And that hasn't much improved my opinion of them.

但这并没有改善我对他们的看法。 ——

Whenever I met one of them who seemed to me at all clear-sighted, I tried the experiment of showing him my Drawing Number One, which I have always kept.

每当我遇到一个我认为有点眼光的人，我就尝试向他展示我一直保存着的第一张画。 ——

I would try to find out, so, if this was a person of true understanding. But, whoever it was, he, or she, would always say: "That is a hat." Then I would never talk to that person about boa constrictors, or primeval forests, or stars.

我想找出来，这个人是否真正理解。但无论这个人是谁，他或她总是会说：“那是一个帽子。”那么我就永远不会跟这个人谈论蟒蛇、原始森林或星星。 ——

I would bring myself down to his level.

我会把自己降到他的水平。 ——

I would talk to him about bridge, and golf, and politics, and neckties.

我会和他聊桥牌、高尔夫、政治和领带。 ——

And the grown-up would be greatly pleased to have met such a sensible man.

而且成年人会非常高兴能认识这样一个明智的人。

the narrator crashes in the desert and makes the acquaintance of the little prince.

叙述者在沙漠中坠机，并结识了小王子。 —

So I lived my life alone, without anyone that I could really talk to, until I had an accident with my plane in the Desert of Sahara, six years ago.

因此，我一直过着孤独的生活，没有任何人真正可以和我交谈，直到六年前我在撒哈拉沙漠中遇到了一次飞机事故。 —

Something was broken in my engine.

引擎出了问题。既没有机械师， —

And as I had with me neither a mechanic nor any passengers, I set myself to attempt the difficult repairs all alone.

也没有乘客陪伴我，所以我只能自己努力尝试进行艰难的修理。 —

It was a question of life or death for me:

对我来说，这是一个生死攸关的问题： —

I had scarcely enough drinking water to last a week.

我手头仅有的饮水只够维持一周。 —

The first night, then, I went to sleep on the sand, a thousand miles from any human habitation.

第一天晚上，我就在离任何人类居住地一千英里远的沙滩上睡着了。 —

I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean.

我比漂泊在海洋中心的遇难船员还要孤独。 —

Thus you can imagine my amazement, at sunrise, when I was awakened by an odd little voice.

因此，在日出时分，当我被一个奇怪的小声音唤醒时，你可以想象到我的惊讶。 —

It said:

它说： —

“If you please— draw me a sheep!” “What!” “Draw me a sheep!” I jumped to my feet, completely thunderstruck.

“请你——给我画只绵羊！”“什么！”“给我画只绵羊！”我惊讶地跳了起来。 —

I blinked my eyes hard.

我用力眨了眨眼睛。 —

I looked carefully all around me.

我仔细看了看四周。 —

And I saw a most extraordinary small person, who stood there examining me with great seriousness.

我看到了一个非常不寻常的小人，他站在那里认真地观察着我。 —

Here you may see the best portrait that, later, I was able to make of him.

在这里你可以看到我之后能够画出的最好的他的肖像。 —

But my drawing is certainly very much less charming than its model.

但是我的画作肯定没有它的原模原样那么迷人， —

That, however, is not my fault.

不过这并不是我的错。 —

The grown-ups discouraged me in my painter's career when I was six years old, and I never learned to draw anything, except boas from the outside and boas from the inside.

当我六岁的时候，大人们泄了我对画家职业的兴趣，我从此只会画出被围观和被打开的蟒蛇。

—

Now I stared at this sudden apparition with my eyes fairly starting out of my head in astonishment.

现在我惊奇地瞪大眼睛盯着这突然出现的人。 —

Remember, I had crashed in the desert a thousand miles from any inhabited region.

记住，我是在距离任何人居住区一千英里的沙漠坠机的。 —

And yet my little man seemed neither to be straying uncertainly among the sands, nor to be fainting from fatigue or hunger or thirst or fear.

然而，我的小伙子似乎并没有在沙漠中迷路，也没有因为疲劳、饥饿、口渴或者恐惧而晕倒。

—

Nothing about him gave any suggestion of a child lost in the middle of the desert, a thousand miles from any human habitation.

他的一举一动都没有给人一种在千里无人区迷失的孩子的感觉。 —

When at last I was able to speak, I said to him:

当我终于能够开口说话时，我对他说： —

“But— what are you doing here?” And in answer he repeated, very slowly, as if he were speaking of a matter of great consequence:

“但是——你在这里做什么？”他很慢地重复回答，好像在谈论一件非常重要的事情： —

"If you please— draw me a sheep.

“请你——给我画只羊。 —

..” When a mystery is too overpowering, one dare not disobey.

当一个谜团强大到让人无法抗拒时，就不敢违抗。 —

Absurd as it might seem to me, a thousand miles from any human habitation and in danger of death, I took out of my pocket a sheet of paper and my fountain-pen.

尽管对我来说可能显得荒谬，离人烟稀少的地方有一千英里，并面临死亡的危险，我从口袋里拿出一张纸和钢笔。 —

But then I remembered how my studies had been concentrated on geography, history, arithmetic, and grammar, and I told the little chap (a little crossly, too) that I did not know how to draw.

但是后来我想起来，我所学的主要是地理、历史、算术和语法，然后有点生气地告诉这个小家伙，我不知道如何画画。 —

He answered me: "That doesn't matter.

他对我说：“没关系。给我画一只羊。 —

Draw me a sheep...” But I had never drawn a sheep.

.....”但是我从来没有画过羊。 —

So I drew for him one of the two pictures I had drawn so often.

于是我为他画了我经常画的两个图画中的一个。 —

It was that of the boa constrictor from the outside.

那是从外面看的蟒蛇。 —

And I was astounded to hear the little fellow greet it with, "No, no, no! I do not want an elephant inside a boa constrictor.

听到小家伙对此表示惊讶，我也感到惊讶，“不，不，不！我不想要一只大蟒蛇里面有一只大象。” —

A boa constrictor is a very dangerous creature, and an elephant is very cumbersome.

大蟒蛇是非常危险的生物，而大象非常笨重。 —

Where I live, everything is very small.

在我居住的地方，一切都很小。 —

What I need is a sheep.

我需要的是一只绵羊。 —

Draw me a sheep.” So then I made a drawing.

给我画一只绵羊。”于是我画了一幅画。 —

He looked at it carefully, then he said:

他仔细看了，然后说： —

“No. This sheep is already very sickly.

“不行。这只绵羊已经很虚弱了。 —

Make me another.” So I made another drawing.

再给我画一只。”于是我又画了一幅。 —

My friend smiled gently and indulgently.

我的朋友温和地笑了起来。 —

“You see yourself,” he said, “that this is not a sheep.

“你看，”他说，“这不是只绵羊。这是只公绵羊。 —

This is a ram. It has horns.” So then I did my drawing over once more.

它有角。于是我又重新画了一次。 —

But it was rejected too, just like the others.

但这次也被拒绝了，就像前面的几次一样。 —

“This one is too old.

“这只太老了。 —

I want a sheep that will live a long time.” By this time my patience was exhausted, because I was in a hurry to start taking my engine apart.

我要一只活很久的绵羊。这时候我已经没有耐心了，因为我急着开始拆我的引擎。 —

So I tossed off this drawing.

于是我随手画了一幅。 —

And I threw out an explanation with it. “This is only his box.

并且随即解释道：“这只是它的箱子。 —

The sheep you asked for is inside.” I was very surprised to see a light break over the face of my young judge:

你要求的绵羊就在里面。”我非常惊讶地看到我的年轻评判者的脸上露出一丝光亮： —

“That is exactly the way I wanted it!

“这正是我想要的！ —

Do you think that this sheep will have to have a great deal of grass?" "Why?" "Because where I live everything is very small.

你认为这只绵羊会需要很多的草吗？“为什么？”“因为我所在的地方一切都很小。 —

..” “There will surely be enough grass for him,” I said. “It is a very small sheep that I have given you.” He bent his head over the drawing:

..”我说道，“对他来说应该有足够的草了。我给你的是一只非常小的绵羊。他低头看着那幅画：

—

“Not so small that— Look! He has gone to sleep.

“不是那么小呢——看！它已经睡着了。 —

..” And that is how I made the acquaintance of the little prince.

..”就这样，我与小王子结识了。

the narrator learns more about from where the little prince came.

叙述者对小王子的来历了解得更多。 —

It took me a long time to learn where he came from.

我花了很长时间才知道他从哪里来。 —

The little prince, who asked me so many questions, never seemed to hear the ones I asked him.

小王子总是问了那么多问题，却似乎从来没有听到我问的问题。 —

It was from words dropped by chance that, little by little, everything was revealed to me.

从他偶然提到的话语中，一点一点地一切都向我展开了。 —

The first time he saw my airplane, for instance (I shall not draw my airplane;

例如，他第一次看到我的飞机（我不会画我的飞机； —

that would be much too complicated for me), he asked me: "What is that object?" "That is not an object. It flies.

那对我来说太复杂了)"那不是物体。它可以飞。他问我："那是什么东西？"它是一架飞机。

—

It is an airplane. It is my airplane." And I was proud to have him learn that I could fly. He cried out, then: "What! You dropped down from the sky?" "Yes," I answered, modestly.

它是我的飞机。"我为他能知道我会飞感到骄傲。然后他大叫："什么！你从天上掉下来的？"是的，"我谦虚地回答。 —

"Oh! That is funny!" And the little prince broke into a lovely peal of laughter, which irritated me very much.

"哦！太有趣了！"小王子发出了一阵美妙的笑声，这让我非常恼火。 —

I like my misfortunes to be taken seriously.

我喜欢我的不幸被认真对待。 —

Then he added: "So you, too, come from the sky!"

然后他补充道："所以，你也是从天上来的！ —

Which is your planet?" At that moment I caught a gleam of light in the impenetrable mystery of his presence;

"哪个是你的星球？"在那一刻，我感受到了他那深不可测的存在中闪烁的一丝光芒； —

and I demanded, abruptly:

我突然追问： —

“Do you come from another planet?” But he did not reply.

“你是来自另一个星球的吗？”但他没有回答。 —

He tossed his head gently, without taking his eyes from my plane:

他轻轻地摇摇头，目不转睛地盯着我的飞机。 —

“It is true that on that you can't have come from very far away.

“确实，你不可能从很远的地方来。” —

..” And he sank into a reverie, which lasted a long time.

他沉浸在冥思之中，持续了很久。 —

Then, taking my sheep out of his pocket, he buried himself in the contemplation of his treasure.

接着，他从口袋里掏出我的羊，沉浸在对这个宝藏的凝视中。 —

You can imagine how my curiosity was aroused by this half-confidence about the “other planets.” I made a great effort, therefore, to find out more on this subject.

你可以想象我对这个关于“其他星球”的不完全的交代引发了多大的好奇心。于是，我努力想要更多地了解这个问题。“我的小伙子， —

“My little man, where do you come from?

你来自哪里？ —

What is this ‘where I live,’ of which you speak?

你所说的‘我住的地方’是什么地方？ —

Where do you want to take your sheep?” After a reflective silence he answered:

你想把你的羊带到哪里去？”经过一段沉思的沉默后，他回答： —

“The thing that is so good about the box you have given me is that at night he can use it as his house.” “That is so.

“你给我的盒子好的地方是晚上他可以用它当作他的房子。”“是的，没错。” —

And if you are good I will give you a string, too, so that you can tie him during the day, and a post to tie him to.” But the little prince seemed shocked by this offer:

如果你表现得很好，我还会给你一根绳子，这样你白天就能把他捆起来，再给你一根柱子可以把拴住。”但小王子对这个提议似乎感到震惊：“捆起来！ —

“Tie him!

—

What a queer idea!" "But if you don't tie him," I said, "he will wander off somewhere, and get lost." My friend broke into another peal of laughter:

真是个奇怪的主意！”我说：“但是如果不捆住他，他会走丢的。”我的朋友又大笑起来了：—

"But where do you think he would go?" "Anywhere. Straight ahead of him." Then the little prince said, earnestly: "That doesn't matter.

“你觉得他会去哪里呢？”“随便哪里。他会一直朝前走。”小王子认真地说：“那没关系。—

Where I live, everything is so small!" And, with perhaps a hint of sadness, he added:

在我住的地方，一切都很小！”然后，他或许带着一丝悲伤地补充道：—

"Straight ahead of him, nobody can go very far..."

“往前走，没人能走得远……”

the narrator speculates as to which asteroid from which the little prince came I had thus learned a second fact of great importance:

叙述者推测，小王子来自哪颗小行星，于是我获得了第二个重要的事实： —

this was that the planet the little prince came from was scarcely any larger than a house!

这个小王子来自的星球几乎没有比一座房子大多少！ —

But that did not really surprise me much.

但这并没有让我感到太惊讶。 —

I knew very well that in addition to the great planets— such as the Earth, Jupiter, Mars, Venus— to which we have given names, there are also hundreds of others, some of which are so small that one has a hard time seeing them through the telescope.

我非常了解除了我们起名字的大行星——比如地球、木星、火星、金星——还有数以百计的其他行星，其中有一些非常小，甚至用望远镜都很难看到。 —

When an astronomer discovers one of these he does not give it a name, but only a number.

当一位天文学家发现其中之一时，他并不给它起个名字，只给它编了一个编号。 —

He might call it, for example, "Asteroid 325." I have serious reason to believe that the planet from which the little prince came is the asteroid known as B-612. This asteroid has only once been seen through the telescope.

例如，他可能称之为“325号小行星”。我有充分的理由相信小王子来的那颗星球就是被称为B-612的小行星。这颗小行星只被望远镜看到过一次。 —

That was by a Turkish astronomer, in 1909.

这是一个土耳其天文学家在1909年发现的。 —

On making his discovery, the astronomer had presented it to the International Astronomical Congress, in a great demonstration.

在发现后，天文学家在国际天文学会议上进行了一次盛大的演示。 —

But he was in Turkish costume, and so nobody would believe what he said. Grown-ups are like that.

但是他穿着土耳其服装，所以没有人相信他说的话。成年人都是这样的。 —

.. Fortunately, however, for the reputation of Asteroid B-612, a Turkish dictator made a law that his subjects, under pain of death, should change to European costume.

.. 幸运的是，为了保护小行星B-612的声誉，一位土耳其独裁者颁布了一项法律，规定他的臣民必须换上欧洲服装，否则将面临死亡。 —

So in 1920 the astronomer gave his demonstration all over again, dressed with impressive style and elegance.

所以在1920年，这位天文学家以引人注目的风格和优雅的服饰进行了他的演示。 —

And this time everybody accepted his report.

这一次，每个人都接受了他的报告。 —

If I have told you these details about the asteroid, and made a note of its number for you, it is on account of the grown-ups and their ways.

我告诉你这些小行星的细节，还有它的编号，是因为成年人及其行为方式。 —

When you tell them that you have made a new friend, they never ask you any questions about essential matters.

当你告诉他们你交了一个新朋友时，他们从不问你任何关键问题。 —

They never say to you, "What does his voice sound like?"

他们从不问你，“他的声音听起来怎么样？” —

What games does he love best?

他最喜欢什么游戏？ —

Does he collect butterflies?" Instead, they demand: "How old is he?"

他收集蝴蝶吗？ —

How many brothers has he?

—

How much does he weigh?

他体重多少？ —

How much money does his father make?" Only from these figures do they think they have learned anything about him.

他父亲赚多少钱？只有从这些数字中他们才认为他们了解了他。如果你对成年人说：“我看到了一座漂亮的房子，由粉红色的砖头建成，窗户上有天竺葵， —

If you were to say to the grown-ups:

“屋顶上有鸽子”，他们根本无法对那座房子有任何想象。 —

"I saw a beautiful house made of rosy brick, with geraniums in the windows and doves on the roof," they would not be able to get any idea of that house at all.

你必须对他们说：“我看到了一座价值20,000美元的房子。”然后他们会惊叹道：“哦，这是一座多么漂亮的房子！”就像这样，你可以对他们说： —

You would have to say to them:

“小王子存在的证据是他很迷人， —

“I saw a house that cost \$20,000.” Then they would exclaim:

他笑了，他在寻找一只羊。 —

“Oh, what a pretty house that is!” Just so, you might say to them:

如果有人想要一只羊，那就是他存在的证明。” —

“The proof that the little prince existed is that he was charming, that he laughed, and that he was looking for a sheep.

告诉他们这有什么好处呢？他们会耸耸肩，对你像对待一个孩子。但如果你对他们说： —

If anybody wants a sheep, that is a proof that he exists.” And what good would it do to tell them that?

“我看到了一座由粉红色的砖头建造的漂亮房子，窗户上有天竺葵，屋顶上有鸽子”，他们根本无法对那座房子有任何想象。你必须对他们说：“我看到了一座价值20,000美元的房子。 —

They would shrug their shoulders, and treat you like a child.

”然后他们会惊叹道：“哦，这是一座多么漂亮的房子！”就像这样， —

But if you said to them:

你可以对他们说： —

“The planet he came from is Asteroid B-612,” then they would be convinced, and leave you in peace from their questions.

他来自的星球是B-612小行星，他们会被说服，并停止对你的问题纠缠。 —

They are like that. One must not hold it against them.

他们就是这样，我们不能对他们怀恨在心。 —

Children should always show great forbearance toward grown-up people.

孩子们应该对成年人始终表现出极大的忍耐。 —

But certainly, for us who understand life, figures are a matter of indifference.

但对于了解生活的我们来说，数字并不重要。 —

I should have liked to begin this story in the fashion of the fairy-tales.

我应该想用童话的方式开始这个故事。 —

I should have like to say:

我应该像这样说： —

“Once upon a time there was a little prince who lived on a planet that was scarcely any bigger than himself, and who had need of a sheep.

“从前有一个小王子，他住在一个几乎和他本人一样小的星球上，他需要一只绵羊。 —

..” To those who understand life, that would have given a much greater air of truth to my story. 。。对于那些了解生活的人来说，这会给我的故事增添更多真实感。 —

For I do not want any one to read my book carelessly.

因为我不希望任何人漫不经心地阅读我的书。 —

I have suffered too much grief in setting down these memories.

在记录这些回忆时，我受到了太多的痛苦。 —

Six years have already passed since my friend went away from me, with his sheep.

自从我的朋友带着他的绵羊离开我已经过去了六年。 —

If I try to describe him here, it is to make sure that I shall not forget him.

如果我试图在这里描述他，那是为了确保我不会忘记他。 —

To forget a friend is sad.

忘记一个朋友是悲伤的。 —

Not every one has had a friend.

不是每个人都拥有朋友。 —

And if I forget him, I may become like the grown-ups who are no longer interested in anything but figures.

而且，如果我忘记他，我可能会变得像那些只对数字感兴趣的成年人一样。 —

.. It is for that purpose, again, that I have bought a box of paints and some pencils.

..这也是为了这个目的，我买了一盒颜料和一些铅笔。 —

It is hard to take up drawing again at my age, when I have never made any pictures except those of the boa constrictor from the outside and the boa constrictor from the inside, since I was six.

在我这个年纪重新开始画画很难，因为除了六岁时画的外观和内脏的蟒蛇以外，我从来没有画过其他的图片。 —

I shall certainly try to make my portraits as true to life as possible.

我一定会尽量让我的肖像尽可能真实。 —

But I am not at all sure of success.

但我并不确定是否会成功。 —

One drawing goes along all right, and another has no resemblance to its subject.

一个画画进行得不错，而另一个却与主题毫无相似之处。 —

I make some errors, too, in the little prince's height:

我还在小王子的身高上犯了一些错误：在一个地方他太高， —

in one place he is too tall and in another too short.

在另一个地方又太矮。 —

And I feel some doubts about the color of his costume.

我对他的服装颜色也有些疑虑。 —

So I fumble along as best I can, now good, now bad, and I hope generally fair-to-middling.

所以我尽力挣扎着进行，有时好，有时坏，希望通常还算中等偏上。 —

In certain more important details I shall make mistakes, also. But that is something that will not be my fault.

在某些更重要的细节上，我也会犯错。但那将不是我的错。 —

My friend never explained anything to me.

我的朋友从未向我解释过任何事情。 —

He thought, perhaps, that I was like himself.

或许，他认为我和他一样。 —

But I, alas, do not know how to see sheep through the walls of boxes.

但是，唉，我不知道如何透过盒子的墙壁看到绵羊。 —

Perhaps I am a little like the grown-ups.

或许我有点像大人了。 —

I have had to grow old.

我不得不变老。

we are warned as to the dangers of the baobabs As each day passed I would learn, in our talk, something about the little prince's planet, his departure from it, his journey.

我们被警告关于猴面包树的危险。每天的交谈中我能从小王子那里学到有关他的星球、他离开的原因和他的旅程的一些信息。 —

The information would come very slowly, as it might chance to fall from his thoughts.

这些信息会很慢地流露出来，就像它们从他的思绪中无意间滑落出来一样。 —

It was in this way that I heard, on the third day, about the catastrophe of the baobabs.

就是这样，第三天的时候我才听说了猴面包树导致的灾难。 —

This time, once more, I had the sheep to thank for it.

这一次我还是要感谢小羊。因为小王子突然问我， —

For the little prince asked me abruptly— as if seized by a grave doubt— “It is true, isn't it, that sheep eat little bushes?” “Yes, that is true.” “Ah! I am glad!” I did not understand why it was so important that sheep should eat little bushes.

仿佛陷入了严重的疑虑：“羊有吃小灌木的习惯，对吗？”“是的，那是真的。”“啊，太好了！”我不明白为什么羊吃小灌木有这么重要。 —

But the little prince added:

但小王子接着说： —

“Then it follows that they also eat baobabs?” I pointed out to the little prince that baobabs were not little bushes, but, on the contrary, trees as big as castles;

“那么它们也吃猴面包树，是不是？”我指出猴面包树并不是小灌木，相反，它们是像城堡一样大的树； —

and that even if he took a whole herd of elephants away with him, the herd would not eat up one single baobab.

即使他带着一群大象走了，也不会吃光一个猴面包树。 —

The idea of the herd of elephants made the little prince laugh.

大象的群栩栩如生的形象让小王子笑了起来。 —

“We would have to put them one on top of the other,” he said.

“我们得把它们一个一个地叠起来。”他说。 —

But he made a wise comment:

但他却做出了明智的评论： —

“Before they grow so big, the baobabs start out by being little.” “That is strictly correct,” I said.
“巴奥巴开始时是小小的，直到长大。”“你说得很对”，我回答说。 —

“But why do you want the sheep to eat the little baobabs?” He answered me at once, “Oh, come, come!”, as if he were speaking of something that was self-evident.

“但是你为什么要让绵羊吃掉小小的巴奥巴呢？”他立刻回答我，“噢，来吧，来吧！”好像他在谈论一件不言自明的事情。 —

And I was obliged to make a great mental effort to solve this problem, without any assistance.
我被迫做出巨大的心理努力来解决这个问题，没有任何帮助。 —

Indeed, as I learned, there were on the planet where the little prince lived— as on all planets— good plants and bad plants.

事实上，据我所了解，小王子生活的星球上，就像所有的星球一样，既有好的植物也有坏的植物。 —

In consequence, there were good seeds from good plants, and bad seeds from bad plants.
因此，好的植物有好的种子，坏的植物有坏的种子。 —

But seeds are invisible.

但是种子是看不见的。 —

They sleep deep in the heart of the earth's darkness, until some one among them is seized with the desire to awaken.

它们沉睡在地球黑暗的深处，直到其中某个种子被渴望唤醒。 —

Then this little seed will stretch itself and begin— timidly at first— to push a charming little sprig inoffensively upward toward the sun.

然后这颗小种子将会伸展自己，并且开始——起初是羞怯地——无害地向阳光生长出一个迷人的小嫩芽。 —

If it is only a sprout of radish or the sprig of a rose-bush, one would let it grow wherever it might wish.

如果它只是一颗萝卜的嫩芽或者一枝玫瑰的小枝，无论它想生长在哪里，我们都会让它自由地成长。 —

But when it is a bad plant, one must destroy it as soon as possible, the very first instant that one recognizes it.

但是当它是一颗坏种子时，我们必须尽快摧毁它，就在我们识别出它的那一瞬间。 —

Now there were some terrible seeds on the planet that was the home of the little prince; 而在小王子的星球上却存在一些可怕的种子； —