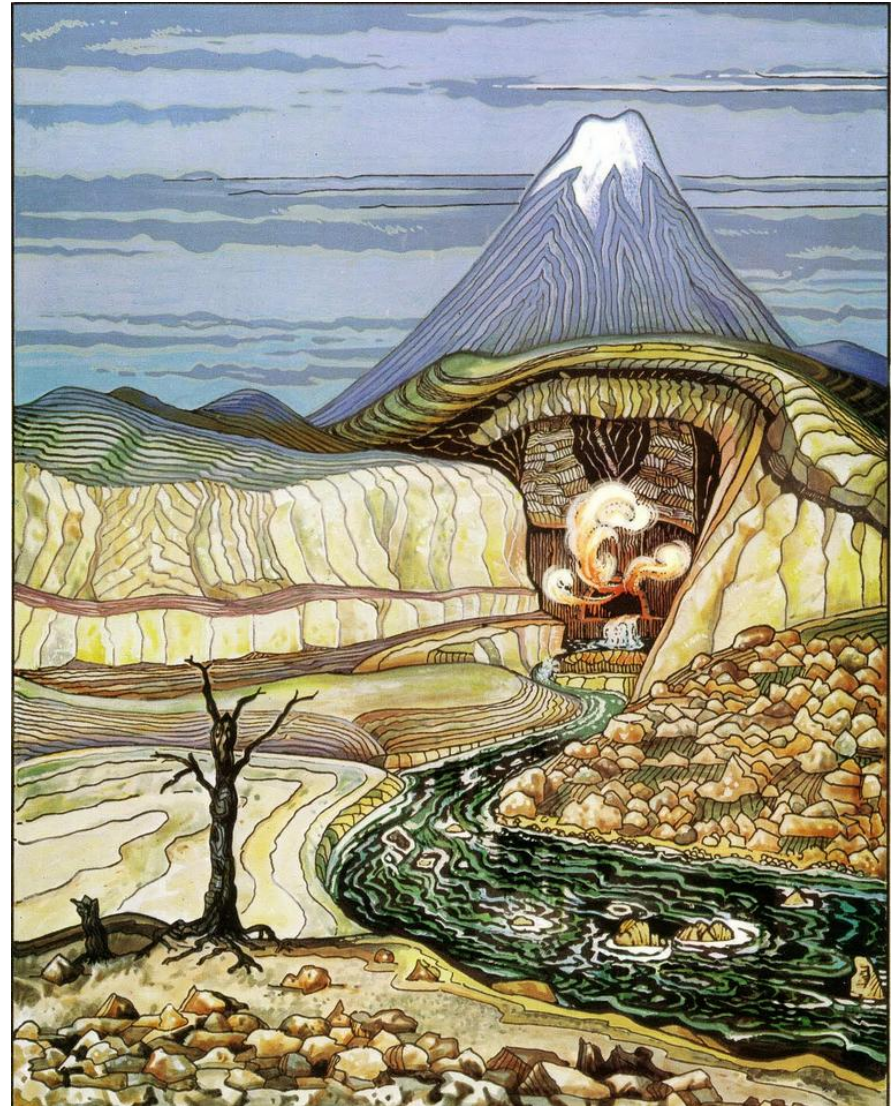


Dealing with Dragons

御龙的勇气

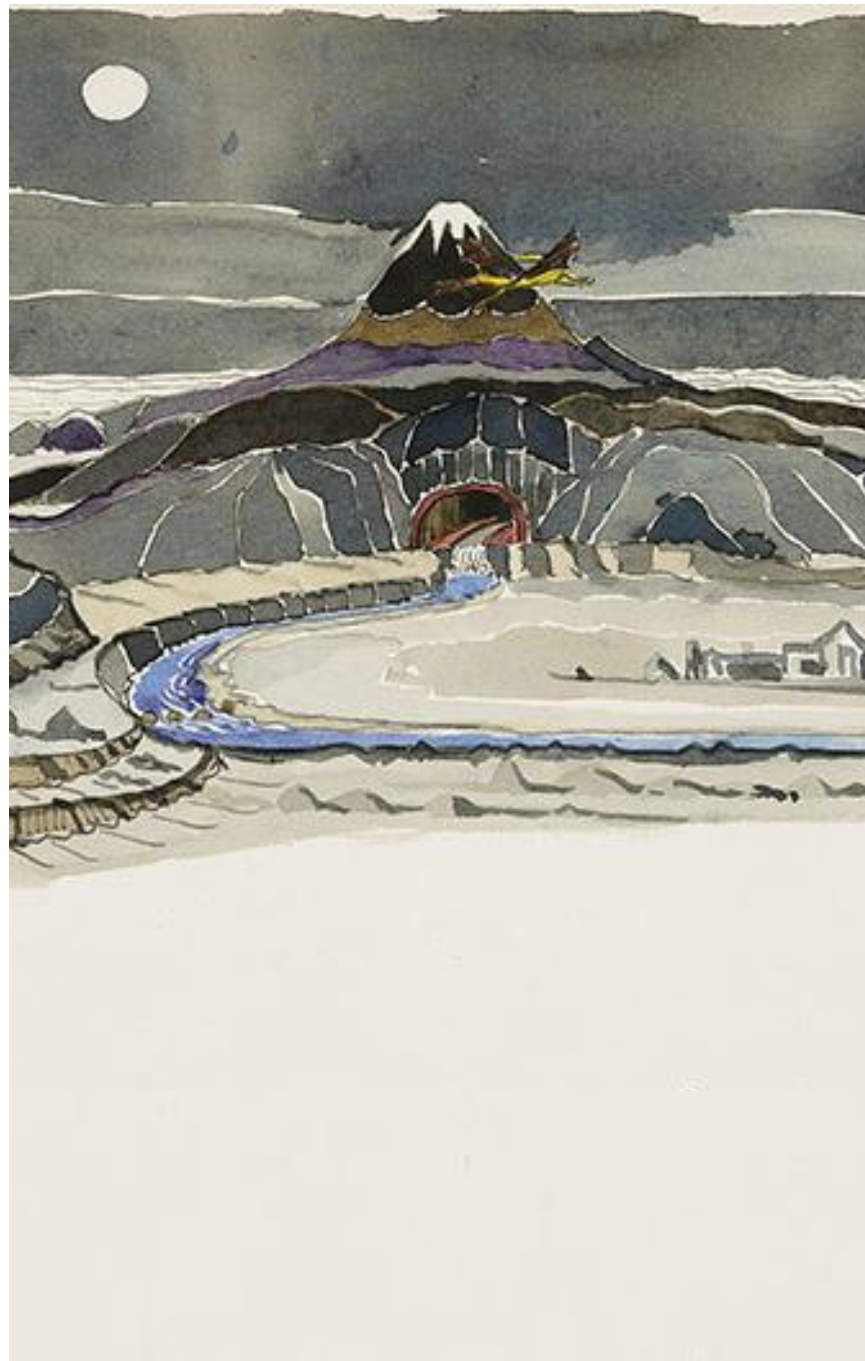
托尔金（J. R. R. Tolkien）著名的奇幻小说《霍比特人》，讲的是比尔博·巴金斯的故事。他是一个喜好安逸的霍比特人，被迫与一个巫师及一群小矮人一起寻找龙宝藏。一路上，他面临了各种艰险，包括妖精、充满敌意的侏儒、巨大的蜘蛛。

The Hobbit, by J. R. R. Tolkien, tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, a comfort-loving hobbit, who's thrust into an unwanted quest for dragon treasure with a group of dwarves. He faces all manner of hardships, from orcs to hostile elves to giant spiders.



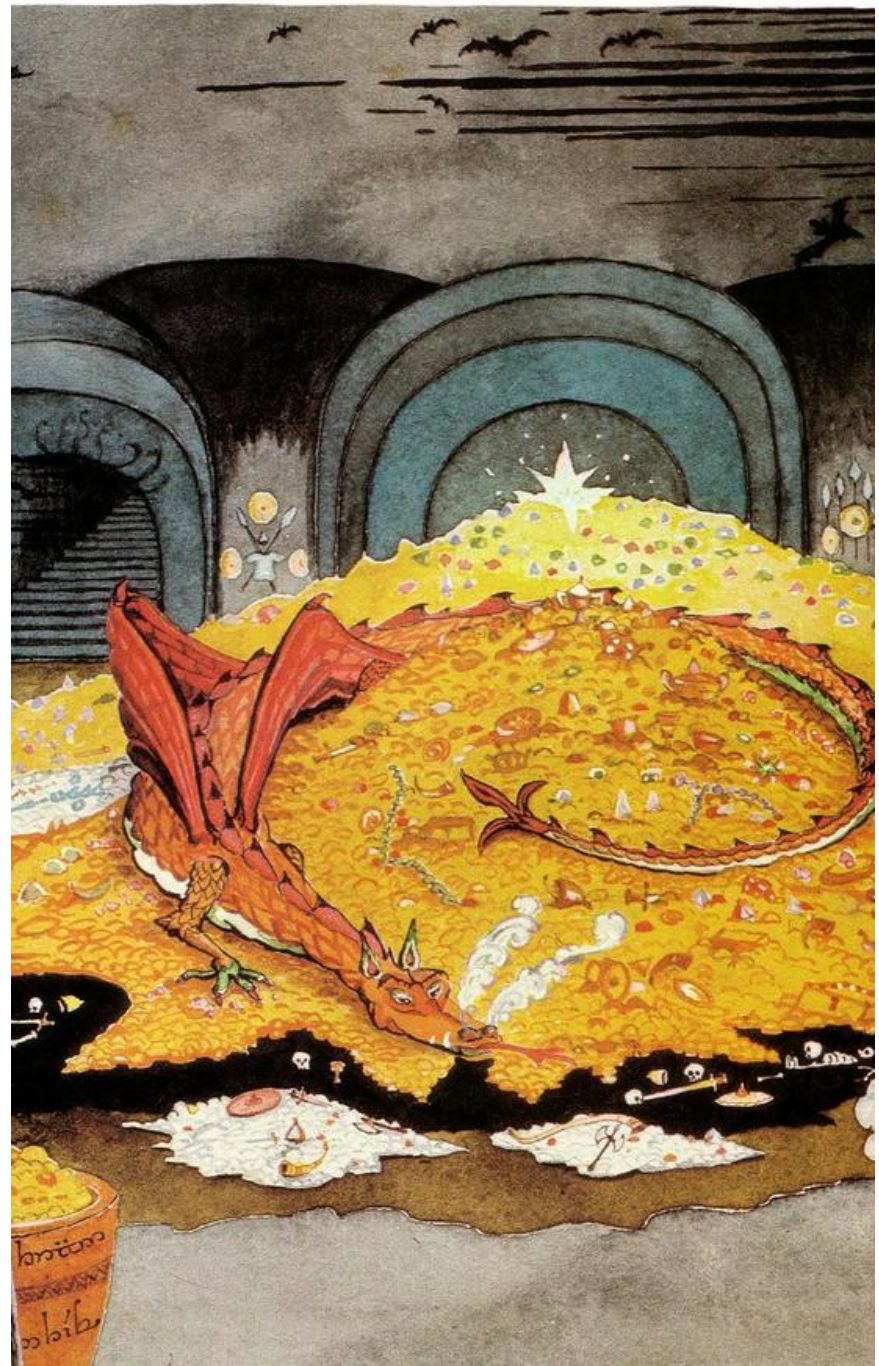
最后，这群冒险者到达了他们的目的地——巨龙史矛革在山上的洞穴。山腰有一扇隐秘的门，比尔博从那里进去，只身一人去见龙，而小矮人们在外头等待。穿过黑暗的洞穴时，他听到了仿佛水壶在炉子上冒泡的声音。声音越来越大，仿佛一只巨猫在打呼噜。突然间，比尔博意识到他听到的，正是巨龙在深穴中打鼾的声音。

Finally the group of adventurers reaches their destination: the mountain lair of Smaug the Dragon. Bilbo enters the dragon's lair through a secret door in the mountainside. All the dwarves are waiting outside, and Bilbo has to face the dragon alone. As he makes his way through the dark tunnel, he hears what sounds like a kettle bubbling on the stove. That sound grows into what sounds like a giant cat purring. Suddenly Bilbo realizes that he's hearing the sound of the dragon snoring in the cave.



比尔博吓坏了。他恨不得马上折返，他也几乎要回头了，但却决定继续。托尔金写道：“他继续往前，那是他做过的最勇敢的事。后来发生的事情，相比之下似乎微不足道了。他在洞穴中独自战斗，直至那等待他的巨大危险最终出现。”

Bilbo is petrified. He wants nothing more than to turn back, and he nearly does; but then he decides to go on. Tolkien writes, “Going on from there was the bravest thing he ever did. The tremendous things that happened afterward were as nothing compared to it. He fought the real battle in the tunnel alone, before he ever saw the vast danger that lay in wait.”



我们都面临过巨大的挑战，我们甚至都没有机会看看那是什么就想临阵逃脱。与龙（或是其它可怕的障碍）交手需要极大的勇气。无论我们多么坚强，或试图表现得坚强，我们往往缺少攻克难关所需要的勇气。那么，这种面对生活挑战的勇气何处可寻呢？

We all face challenges where we want to run away before we've even had a chance to see what's ahead. Dealing with dragons (or other scary obstacles) takes a whole lot of courage. As strong as we are, or try to be, we often lack the mettle that we'd need to overcome. So where can we find the courage to face life's challenges?



我们尽可刚强壮胆，因为神与我们同在。他不会派遣我们出去、让我们独自面对我们的“龙”。他必与我们同在，支持我们，时时准备赐予我们力量和勇气，而且还应许与我们相见、帮助我们渡过艰难困苦。

一旦你向神祈求勇气，你就得选择去使用它，即便你不感到自己英勇无畏。当你启程时，勇气必与你相伴。若你现在并非英勇无畏，也没有关系。通常，勇气只是把一只脚放在另一只脚前面，一步一步向前，有时候步子甚至很小。每次你做出一个勇敢的选择，你就坚固了自己的勇气，为迎接前头更大的挑战做准备。勇气始于一个决定，并常用常增长。

We can have courage because God is with us. He doesn't send us out to face our dragons alone. He's right there with us, backing us up, not only ready to give us strength and courage, but also promising to meet us there and carry us through.

Once you've asked God for courage, you have to choose to use it, even if you don't feel courageous. It will be there for you as you step out. If you don't have a ton of courage right now, that's okay. Often, courage is simply putting one foot in front of the other, taking small, sometimes even tiny, steps forward. Every time you make a brave choice, you're strengthening your courage and preparing for the bigger challenges ahead. Courage begins as a decision and grows as you consistently use it.

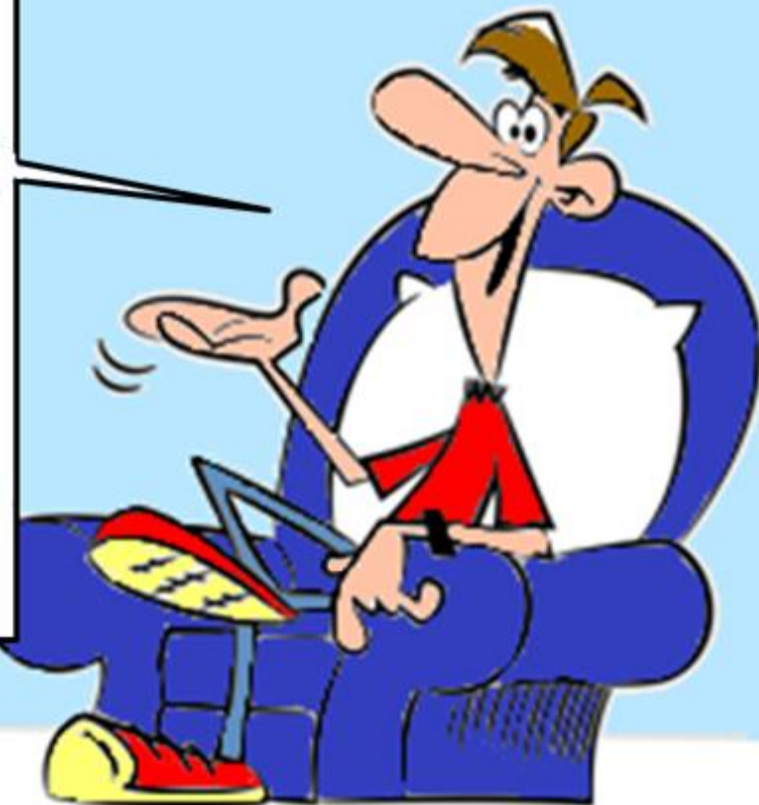


比尔博的勇气也一路渐长。他与可怕的敌人交战，并战胜它们。他对付困难的局面，并找到解决方案。每次他勇敢地面临挑战，就是为勇气充值，而这些都在他挑战龙的时候派上用场。

古希腊国王的侍卫有这样的格言：“恐惧人人都有，而勇敢的人放下恐惧。”所以，勇敢地面对你的龙吧。

Bilbo had been building up his courage little by little throughout his journey. He fought fearsome enemies and won. He tackled difficult problems and found solutions. Each time he faced a challenge bravely, it was an investment in courage; and those investments paid off when it came time to face the dragon.

The King's Guard of ancient Greece had a motto: "All men have fears, but the brave put down their fears and go forward." So face your dragons boldly.



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