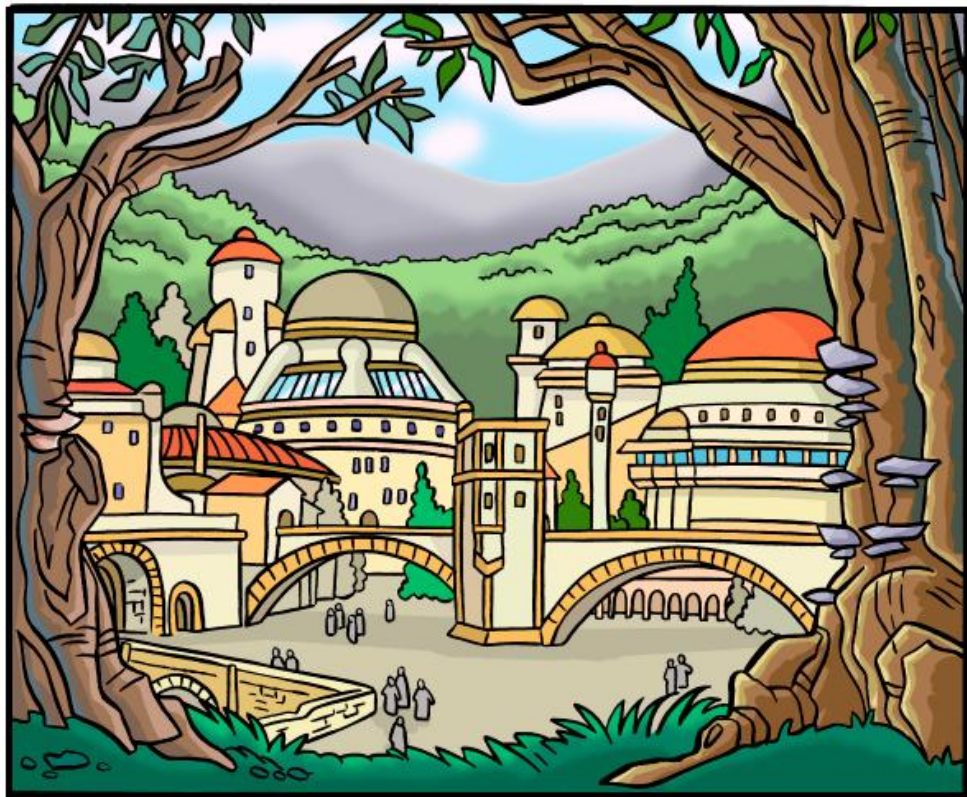


The Stranger

陌生人



There once was a land that was so isolated that its inhabitants believed the mountains surrounding their little valley formed the edge of the world. And for them it did. Once in a blue moon someone would venture beyond the mountains and come back with fantastic stories about what they'd seen and experienced, but their reports were routinely dismissed as fabrications and quickly forgotten.

从前有一片土地，被群山包围，完全与外界隔绝，其中的居民深信，在这群山之外，就再无世界。对他们来说，这些山的确就是世界的尽头。数代人中，偶尔会有人斗胆走出群山，带回他们传奇般的经历，然而无一例外，他们的故事全都被当成虚构，很快就被人们忘记了。

Life in that inward-looking little land was difficult, but the people had become so accustomed to the daily struggle that most of the time they just accepted it. Life got really hard, however, when the river would suddenly overflow without warning and bury their village in mud, or their crops would mysteriously catch fire in the night, or the water from their wells made them and their animals deathly sick.

在这种封闭狭小的村子里生活很不容易，可这里的人已经习惯了每日的挣扎，大部分时候，他们认为这就是他们的命。然而，生活变得实在很困难了，河里的水突然毫无征兆地涨起来，携带着泥沙掩埋了村庄，地里的庄稼夜里莫名其妙地着起了火，井里的水让全村的人和牲畜全都生了病，几乎要死。



Then one day a stranger came and told them more fantastic stories about a wonderful kingdom beyond the mountains, but they laughed him to scorn. They also didn't believe him when he said that the flash floods, mysterious fires and poisoned wells were the work of a dark prince who ruled another not-so-wonderful kingdom beyond the mountains, and that he—the stranger—had come to teach them how to defend themselves against the dark prince's attacks. After awhile the stranger left and they never heard from him again. And to this day the people of that land continue to struggle, as they always have.

有一天，来了一个陌生人。他带来的故事更加离奇，他说在这群山之外，有一个奇妙的国度。但他所得到的，却是他们的嘲笑。这人还说，洪水、神秘的火和井里的毒全都是一个黑暗王子干的，这个黑暗王子统治着群山之外另一个“不怎么好”的国度，而他——陌生人——来了，就是要教会他们怎样保护自己，防止黑暗王子的进攻。这些，他们也全都不相信。不久，陌生人离开了，村里的人再也没有听到他的消息。所以，直到今天，这里的人们仍像过去一样，在继续挣扎。



Jesus is a lot like the stranger in that story, except that we will never hear the last from Him. He came to make our lives better, He wants to reveal to us the secrets of the spirit world, and He's always just a prayer away.

耶稣就像故事中的那个陌生人，只是他从不会一去不返。他来到世上，是要使我们的生命更加美好，他想把属灵世界的秘密告诉我们，你所需要的只是向他祈求。

