

圣诞节的贵宾

The Christmas Guest

故事发生在白雪覆盖的年终：
两位邻居来拜访一位老朋友，
他们发现他贫穷卑微的小店，
已被常青枝装饰得节日一般。

*It happened one day at the year's white end;
Two neighbors called on an old-time friend.
They found his shop, so meager and mean,
Made bright with a thousand boughs of
green.*



康拉德满面光彩地坐在屋里，
他突然停下手中缝补的活计：
“朋友们，就在今天清新的早晨，
雄鸡啼叫破晓，黑夜渐渐逝去。
上主在梦里亲切地向我显现，
他对我说：‘今天我会来探访你。’
瞧！我起身清理装饰直到现在，
常青的松枝已经布满了这里。
桌子已经摆好、茶壶早已擦亮，
椽木上也饰满了编好的冬青；
我留心地聆听着上主的脚步，
耐心等待着他降临到这小屋；
只盼开门时能见到他的面孔，
期待着上主会早日来到店中。”

*And Conrad was sitting with face a-shine,
When he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine,
And said, "Old friends, at dawn today,
When the cock was crowing the night away,
The Lord appeared in a dream to me,
And said, 'I'm coming your guest to be.'
So I've been busy with feet astir,
Strewing my shop with branches of fir.
The table is spread and the kettle is shined
And over the rafters, the holly is twined.
And now I will wait for my Lord to appear,
And listen closely so I will hear
His step as He nears my humble place,
And I open the door and look in His face."*



朋友离去后他独自留在房间，
这是有生以来最快乐的一天。
他的家人曾离他相继地去世，
此后圣诞节便使他感到悲哀。
今天上主将是他的节日贵宾，
这个圣诞节将会是美不可言。
他喜悦满怀地聆听着房门外，
每一个动静他都会站起身来。
康拉德盼望上主会站在身边，
他虔诚的祷告就会得以成全；

*So his friends went home and left Conrad alone,
For this was the happiest day he had known.
For long since, his family had passed away,
And Conrad had spent a sad Christmas Day.
But he knew with his Lord as his Guest,
This Christmas would be the dearest and best.
He listened with only joy in his heart,
And with every sound, he would rise with
a start.
And look for the Lord to be standing there,
In answer to his earnest prayer.*



稍有声响他便赶忙奔向窗口，
但只见茫茫白雪覆盖着外边……
一个穿着破鞋子的贫穷乞丐，
他全身衣衫褴褛又破旧不堪。
康拉德心受感动地来到门外，
“你的双脚准是被冻得很厉害，
我在店里能找一双鞋子给你，
还有一件外套可以为你防寒。”
那乞丐满怀感激之心地离去，
这时候康拉德注意到了时间，
为什么亲爱的上主还没有到，
还要等待多久期望才能实现？

*So he ran to the window after hearing a sound,
But all that he saw on the snow-covered ground
Was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn,
And all of his clothes were ragged and worn.
So Conrad was touched and went to the door,
And he said, "Your feet must be frozen and sore.
I have some shoes in my shop for you,
And a coat that will keep you warmer, too."
So with grateful heart, the man went away,
But as Conrad noticed the time of day,
He wondered what made his dear Lord so late,
And how much longer he'd have to wait.*



随着敲门声他快速跑到门前，
又一副陌生的面孔再次出现，
老妇人驼背消瘦带着黑披肩，
她身背一捆干树枝站在外边。
老妇人恳求一个歇脚的地点，
但贵宾也许随时会来到小店。

“请你一定不要把我把打发走开，
让我在圣诞节也能得到温暖。”

康拉德为她泡了一杯热茶喝，
还让她在桌边坐下享用晚餐。
老妇人离去后他又感到沮丧，
是因为时间正在默默地走开。
上主并未按所说的时间到来，
康拉德感到他准是没搞明白。

*When he heard a knock, he ran to the door,
But it was only a stranger once more;
A bent old crone with a shawl of black,
A bundle of branches piled on her back.
She asked for only a place to rest,
But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest.
But her voice seemed to plead, "Don't send me away,
Let me rest for a while on Christmas Day."
So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup,
And told her to sit at the table and sup.
But after she left, he was filled with dismay,
For he saw that the hours were passing away.
The Lord had not come, as He said He would,
And Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood.*



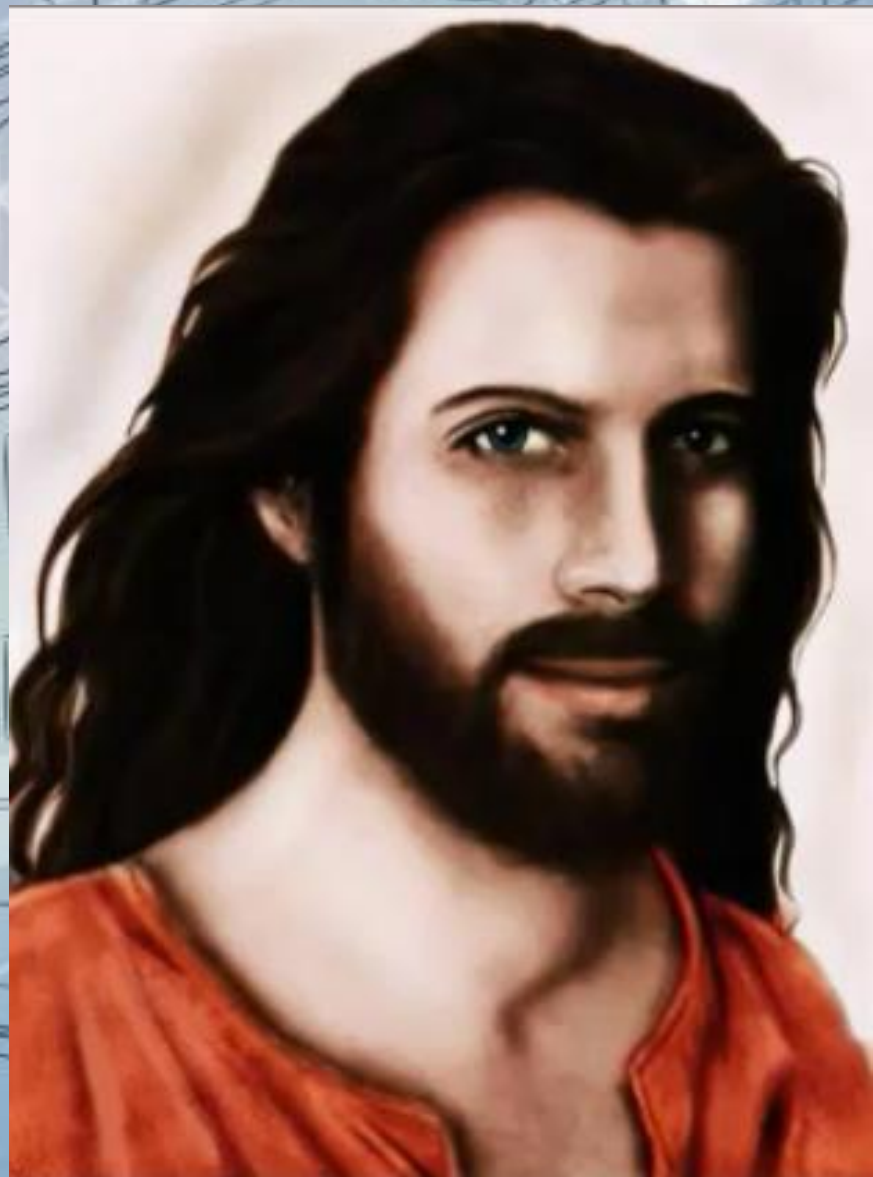
寂静之中一个哭声响在门外：
“请行行好吧，告诉我身置何在？”
失望地站起来如前两次一般，
他尽力克制着悲伤走到门前。
那是一个迷路失途的小女孩，
过圣诞节时不幸与家人分开。
康拉德的心情真是沉重难言，
但他知道应帮孩子快乐起来。
擦干她的眼泪把她带进房间，
他抚慰着小孩子恐惧的心田，

*Then out of the stillness, he heard a cry,
“Please help me and tell me where am I?”
He stood disappointed, as twice before,
But shook off his sadness and went to the door.
It was only a child who had wandered away,
And was lost from her family on Christmas Day.
Again Conrad’s heart was heavy and sad
But he knew he should make this little girl glad.
So he called her in and wiped her tears,
And quieted all her childish fears.*



然后他出门将孩子送回家里，
再转身回到自己渐暗的小店。
他知道今天上主是不会来了，
那是因为圣诞时晨早已完结。
康拉德回到小店里跪下祈祷，
“亲爱的主啊，是何事将您托延？”
“为何您没有按时来将我探望？
您知道我日日夜夜地把您盼？”
那温柔的声音在寂静中响起：
“请抬起头来，我从未将你遗忘。”

*Then he led her back to her home once more.
But as he entered his darkened door,
He knew that the Lord was not coming today
For the hours of Christmas had passed away.
So he went to his room and knelt down to pray,
And he said, "Dear Lord, why did You delay?
"What kept You from coming to call on me?
For I wanted so much Your face to see."
When soft in the silence, a voice he heard:
"Lift up your head, for I kept My Word.*



“我的身影曾三次进入你的店，
三次来到你孤独寂寞的门前：
我就是那双脚被冻僵的乞丐，
也是那老妇人带着黑色披肩，
我还是那迷路失途的小女孩，
曾在傍晚时出现在你的面前！”

‘我实在告诉你们，你们帮助我最卑微的一个弟兄，就是帮助我了。’ (马太福音 25:40)

“Three times My shadow crossed your floor,
Three times I came to your lonely door.
For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet.
I was the woman you gave to eat.
And I was the child on the homeless street.”

**‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of
the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)**

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