



钟敲了 十三下

The Clock That Struck Thirteen

It was midnight in the town of Plymouth, England, many years ago. Two men stood by the town's great clock. As it finished striking the hour, both men, strangers, remarked that it had struck thirteen times instead of twelve. One of these men was a gentleman by the name of Captain Jarvis.

It was not long after this that Captain Jarvis awoke early one morning, got up, dressed, and went down to the front door of his home. As he opened it, he saw, to his surprise, that his groom was standing there, with his horse saddled and bridled, ready for him to mount.

故事发生在很多年以前的一个午夜。在英国的普利茅斯城，有两个人站在城里的大钟楼下。当这座钟敲完了最后一下时，这两个陌路人都注意到：这座大钟敲了十三下，而不是十二下。其中的一个人是贾维斯上尉 (Captain Jarvis)，他是一个绅士。

在这件事发生不久以后，有一天早上，贾维斯上尉很早就起了床，他穿好衣服以后，下楼来到门口。当他打开门时，惊奇地看到马夫已经备好了马，并站在门口恭候他上马。

The groom explained, "I had a feeling that you would be wanting your horse, sir." He said the feeling had been so strong that he couldn't stay in bed, but had to get up and get the horse ready.

This was strange. It had never happened before. But since the horse was ready, he mounted and rode off. Not having to go anywhere in particular, he let the horse

choose where he would take him. Soon they were down by the river, close to the spot where a ferry took passengers across.

Imagine his surprise, at this early hour, to see the ferryman there with his boat, waiting to take him across. What was going on?



马夫解释说：“主人，我感到你会用马。”他说他的这种感觉是那么强烈，使他不得入睡，就起来备好了马。

这真的令人不可思议，以前从来没有出现过这样的事！但是，既然马匹已经备好了，上尉就上了马，出了家门。由于没有什么必须要去的地方，所以上尉便任由马儿驮着他往前走。不一会，马儿领他来到了

河边，靠近了渡船摆渡乘客过河的地方。

时候这么早，船夫也竟然站在船边恭候他上船，上尉的吃惊程度便可想而知了。到底发生了什么事呢？

“How are you here so early, my man?” he inquired.

“I couldn't rest in my bed, sir, for I had a feeling I was wanted to ferry someone across.”

The captain and the horse got on the boat, and soon they were on the other side. Now what? Again he let the horse direct the course he would take. After some time they came to a large country town. Seeing a passerby, the captain inquired if anything of interest was going on in the town.

“No, sir. Nothing but the trial of a man for murder.”

So, with no other destination in mind for this strange trip, he thought he would see what was going on. He rode to the place of the trial, dismounted, and entered the building.

“先生，你怎么这么早就在这里啊？”上尉问道。

“我感到自己要把一个人摆渡过河，因此我便睡不着觉。”

上尉和自己的马上了船，很快就到了河对岸。现在该到哪里去呢？上尉又任由马儿驮着他往前走。过了一阵子，他们来到一座大市镇。上尉看到了一个过路人，就问城里有什么特殊的事情。

“先生，除了要审判一个杀人犯之外，没有什么特别的事情。”

由于对这次奇怪的外出，上尉没有定下任何其它的目的，因此他便想看看镇上正在发生的事情。于是，他来到了审判犯人的地方，翻身下马，进了大堂。



As he walked in, he heard the judge saying to the prisoner, “Have you anything to say for yourself—anything at all?”

And the prisoner said, “I have nothing to say, sir, except that I am an innocent man. There is only one

man in all the world who could prove my innocence, but I do not know his name or where he lives. Some weeks ago we stood together in the town of Plymouth



when it was midnight. We both heard the great town clock strike thirteen instead of twelve, and we remarked about it to each other—how strange it was that the clock should strike thirteen at the midnight hour.”

“I am here! I am here!” the captain shouted from the rear of the room.

他一进大堂，就听到审判官对囚犯说：“你还有什么要为自己辩护的话吗？”

囚犯说：“官长，除了我的清白之外，我没有什麼要说的。在这个世界上，只有一个人

能够证明我是无辜的，但我不知道他的名字，也不知道他住在何处。几个星期之前，我们一起在普利茅斯城里，在午夜时听到

大钟敲了十三下，而不是十二下。我们都为此而感到奇怪，并对彼此说：这座钟怎么在午夜敲了十三下呢？”

“我就在这儿！我就在这儿呢！”上尉在人群后面喊道。

“I was the man who stood at midnight beside the great Plymouth clock and heard it strike thirteen instead of twelve. What the prisoner says is absolutely true. I identify him as the man. On the night of the murder, at the very time it was committed, that man was with me at Plymouth, and we remarked to each other how strange it was that the clock should strike thirteen at the midnight hour!”

The condemned man, proved innocent by the captain’s testimony, was immediately set free!

Think of it! Only one man in the world could prove that prisoner’s innocence. And divine guidance, by awakening a groom and a ferryman and impressing upon them with an urgency they could not understand—and by leading the horse—had brought that one man into the courtroom at the precise moment he was needed!

“我就是那天午夜站在普利茅斯城钟楼底下的那个人。我也听到了那座大钟敲了十三下，而不是十二下。那个囚犯说的全是真的。我认出来他了。那天夜里，就在发生杀人事件的时候，那个人和我在普利茅斯城。我们都感到很奇怪，并对彼此说：那座钟竟然在午夜时分敲了十三下！”

由于上尉的证词证实了那个被告的清白，所以那个人就立刻获得了释放！

想想看吧！因为世界上只有一个人能够证实那位囚犯是无辜的，所以上帝便唤醒了马夫和船夫，并给了他们一种无法理解的紧迫感，同时还引导马儿，让他们把上尉在囚犯需要他作证的那一瞬间，送进了法庭！

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