

What Men Live By



shoemaker



hut



fret



naked

There was once a poor shoemaker named Simon. He had no house or land. He lived in a hut with his wife and children. One morning, he went to the village to buy some sheepskins for a winter coat. He had only three rubles, but he planned to visit some of his customers on the way. They owed him five rubles for work he had already done.

Simon visited several customers' houses, but he could not collect any money. He went to the store and asked if he could buy the sheepskins on credit. But the shopkeeper refused to give them to Simon.

Simon felt downhearted and started walking homeward. "Though I have no sheepskin coat, I don't care. I can live without a coat. Yet my wife will surely fret," he thought.

While he was walking home, he passed by a church

Stop & Think

Why couldn't Simon pay for the sheepskins?

KEY WORDS

- **on the way** while going somewhere
- **refuse** to turn down; to reject
- **homeward** toward home
- **robber** a thief
- **look back** to look behind oneself
- **owe** to have to pay money to
- **feel downhearted** to be sad; to be depressed
- **naked** having no clothes on
- **interfere** to get involved
- **frightened** scared

at the bend in the road. Simon saw something white behind the church. He did not know what it was. He came closer, and, to his surprise, it was a naked man. He was sitting against the church without any clothes on.

Suddenly, Simon felt afraid. “Robbers must have killed him and stolen his clothes. If I interfere, I will have a big problem,” Simon thought.

Simon continued walking, but when he looked back, he saw the man was moving. Simon felt more frightened.

“If I go there, he might kill me for my clothes. Even if he doesn’t attack me, what can I do for him?” thought Simon.

He ran down the road. But he suddenly stopped.



Stop & Think

What did Simon see behind the church?

CHECK UP True or false?

- 1 Simon had five rubles. _____
- 2 Simon wanted to buy some sheepskins. _____
- 3 There was a robber next to the church. _____
- 4 Simon was afraid of the naked man. _____

GRAMMAR POINT

though / if / even if

- **Though** I have no sheepskin coat, I don’t care.
- **If** I interfere, I will have a big problem.
- **Even if** he doesn’t attack me, what can I do for him? (even if = even though)

What Men Live By

There was once / a poor shoemaker / named Simon. He had no house or land. He lived in a hut / with his wife and children. One morning, / he went to the village / to buy some sheepskins / for a winter coat. He had only three rubles, / but he planned / to visit some of his customers / on the way. They **owed him five rubles** / for work / he had already done.

Simon visited several customers' houses, / but he could not collect any money. He went to the store / and asked if he could buy the sheepskins / on credit. But the shopkeeper refused / to give them to Simon.

Simon felt downhearted / and started walking homeward. "Though I have no sheepskin coat, / I don't care. I can live / without a coat. Yet my wife will surely fret," he thought.

While he was walking home, / he passed by a church / at the bend in the road. Simon saw something white / behind the church. He did not know / what it was. He came closer, / and, **to his surprise**, / it was a naked man. He was sitting against the church / without any clothes on.

Suddenly, / Simon felt afraid. "Robbers **must have killed him / and stolen his clothes**. **If I interfere, / I will have a big problem**," Simon thought.

Simon continued walking, / but when he looked back, / he saw / the man was moving. Simon felt more frightened.

"If I go there, / he might kill me / for my clothes. **Even if he doesn't attack me, / what can I do for him?**" thought Simon.

He ran down the road. But he suddenly stopped.

- hut 木屋 •sheepskin 羊皮 •ruble 盧布（俄國的錢幣單位） •customer 客人
- on the way 在路上 •owe 欠 •collect 收帳 •on credit 賒帳 •refuse 拒絕
- feel downhearted 覺得沮喪 •pass by 經過 •naked 光著身子 •robber 強盜
- interfere 介入 •have a big problem 惹上大麻煩 •look back 回頭看
- frightened 受驚的 •attack 攻擊

CLOSE UP

- 1 **owed him five rubles** 欠他五盧布
〈owe + 人 + 錢〉是「向某人借多少錢」、「欠某人多少錢」的意思。
- 2 **to his surprise** 出乎他所料
to one's surprise 是「出乎某人意料之外」、「令人訝異的是」的意思。例 To my surprise, he was alive.（出乎我所料，他竟還活著。）
- 3 **must have killed him and (must have) stolen his clothes** 一定殺了他、搶了他的衣服
〈must have p.p.〉是「一定已經……了」的意思，用於對過去的事作很有把握的推測時。

人靠什麼存活

從前 **once** 有一個貧窮的鞋匠 **a poor shoemaker** 叫西門 **named Simon**，他沒有房子，也沒有土地 **have no house or land**，他和妻子、孩子 **with his wife and children** 住在一棟小木屋裡 **live in a hut**，有天早晨 **one morning**，他到村莊裡 **go to the village** 買些羊皮 **buy some sheepskins** 想作一件冬天的大衣，他只有三個盧布 **only three rubles**，他計劃 **plan** 在路上 **on the way** 拜訪 **visit** 他的幾個顧客 **some of his customers**，他幫他們做鞋 **for work he does**，他們還欠他五個盧布 **owe him five rubles**。

西門拜訪了幾個客戶的家，但收不到半毛錢 **cannot collect any money**，他到商店裡 **go to the store** 問能不能賒帳 **on credit** 買羊皮，但店主 **the shopkeeper** 拒絕把羊皮賣給西門 **refuse to give them to Simon**。

西門覺得很沮喪 **feel downhearted**，於是往回家路上走 **walk homeward**，「儘管我沒有羊皮大衣 **have no sheepskin coat**，我不在乎 **don't care**，我沒有大衣 **without a coat** 也活得下去 **can live**，但我太太 **my wife** 一定會很憂愁 **will surely fret**。」他想。

當他走回家的時候，在路上的轉彎處 **at the bend** 經過一間教堂 **pass by a church**，西門看到有個白白的東西 **something white** 在教堂後面 **behind the church**，他不知道那是什麼，他走近 **come closer** 一看，很訝異 **to his surprise**，那是一個光著身子的男子 **a naked man**，一絲不掛地 **without any clothes on** 背靠著教堂坐著 **sit against the church**。

突然間 **suddenly**，西門很害怕 **feel afraid**，「強盜 **robbers** 一定殺了他 **kill him**，搶了他的衣服 **steal his clothes**，如果我插手 **interfere**，我會惹上大麻煩 **have a big problem**。」西門想。

西門繼續走 **continue walking**，但他回頭 **look back** 一看，他看到那個人動了，西門更害怕 **feel more frightened** 了。

「如果我去那裡 **go there**，他可能會為了我的衣服 **for my clothes** 把我殺掉 **kill me**。」即使他沒有攻擊我 **attack me**，我又能為他做什麼呢？」他想。

他往前跑 **run down the road**，但他突然停下來 **suddenly stop**。



GRAMMAR POINT

though : 即使……也…… **if** : 如果……的話 **even if** : 即使……也……

- **Though** I have no sheepskin coat, I don't care. 即使我沒有羊皮大衣，我也不在乎。
- **If** I interfere, I will have a big problem. 如果我插手，我會惹上大麻煩。
- **Even if** he doesn't attack me, what can I do for him? (**even if = even though**) 即使他不攻擊我，我又能為他做什麼呢？