

■ 華盛頓·歐文



Rip Van Winkle

李伯大夢

■ Washington Irving (1783-1859)



Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson¹ must remember the Kaatskill mountains. They are a dismembered² branch of the great Appalachian family, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height, and lording it over³ the surrounding country. Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day, produces some change in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains; and they are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers⁴.

When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their bold outlines on the clear evening sky; but sometimes, when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather a hood of gray vapors about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory.

At the foot of these fairy mountains, the voyager may have descried⁵ the light smoke curling up from a village, whose shingle-roofs gleam among the trees, just where the blue tints of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape.

1 Hundson (River) 哈德遜河 (位於美國東北部的河流)

2 dismember [dɪs'membər] (v.) 使不連接

3 lord it over . . . 在……面前擺架子、逞威風

4 barometer [bə'rɑ:mɪtər] (n.) 氣壓計 (用以預測天氣)

5 descry [dɪ'skraɪ] (v.) 遠遠看到



航行過哈德遜河的人，一定都會記得卡士奇山。卡士奇山是阿帕拉契山脈一條斷落的支脈，從河上遙望，就坐落在遠遠的西邊，高聳壯麗，傲視著四周的平地。每當季節要更替，天氣要轉換，甚至隨著每個時辰的推進，卡士奇山的色調與形狀都會跟著變化，所以遠遠近近的主婦，都把卡士奇山視為最佳的天氣預報員。

天氣晴朗穩定時，山脈是藍色和紫色的，在晚霞中顯現出清晰的輪廓。但有時候周圍的天空都晴朗無雲，山頂上卻聚積著一團灰濛濛的霧氣，在落日的映照下閃閃發亮，彷彿一頂榮耀的皇冠。

在這座美麗山脈的山腳下，航行者可能還會看到村莊升起的裊裊炊煙。村舍的屋瓦在樹林間閃爍，遠遠望去，蔚藍的山脈在這裡逐漸轉為翠綠，與樹林合而為一，蔓延成眼前的綠色大地。

It is a little village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists, in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of the government of the good Peter Stuyvesant⁶, (may he rest in peace!), and there were some of the houses of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of small yellow bricks brought from Holland, having latticed windows and gable fronts, surmounted with weathercocks.

In that same village, and in one of these very houses, (which, to tell the precise truth, was sadly time-worn and weather-beaten), there lived, many years since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, a simple, good-natured fellow, of the name of Rip Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivalrous days of Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina.

He inherited, however, but little of the martial character of his ancestors. I have observed that he was a simple, good-natured man; he was, moreover, a kind neighbor, and an obedient henpecked⁷ husband. Indeed, to the latter circumstance might be owing that meekness of spirit which gained him such universal popularity; for those men are most apt to be obsequious⁸ and conciliating abroad, who are under the discipline of shrews at home.

6 Peter Stuyvesant (1592-1672) 荷蘭於北美洲的殖民地總督(1644 被迫將殖民地讓給英國)

7 henpecked [ˈhenpekt] (a.) 怕老婆的

8 obsequious [əbˈsi:kwiəs] (a.) 順從的；卑躬的



這座小村莊歷史很悠久了，是早期荷蘭移民所建立的，始於彼得·史蒂文森（願他安息！）開始擔任荷蘭總督之際。當初荷蘭移民所建的房屋，有些還在村裡屹立了好幾年，牆是荷蘭帶過來的小黃磚砌成的，窗戶是格子窗，正面有山形牆，屋頂上豎著風信雞。

好多年以前，當這個國家還受英國統治時，在這座小村莊裡，就在一棟這樣的屋子裡（老實說，屋子飽受歲月與風霜的侵蝕，變得又破又舊了），住著一個叫李伯·凡·溫可的純樸老實人。在彼得·史蒂文森總督那個充滿騎士精神的時代，他的祖先展現了英勇的氣概，跟隨總督攻打克利斯丁那堡。

然而，李伯並沒有遺傳到多少祖先的戰鬥性格。我剛說過了，他是一個純樸的老實人，此外他還是個和藹可親的鄰居，而且是個溫順懼內的丈夫。也許就是因為家有悍妻，他才養成了這麼溫和的脾氣，讓他在外面的人緣這麼好。

Their tempers, doubtless, are rendered pliant and malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation⁹, and a curtain-lecture is worth all the sermons in the world for teaching the virtues of patience and long-suffering. A termagant¹⁰ wife may, therefore, in some respects, be considered a tolerable blessing; and if so, Rip Van Winkle was thrice blessed.

Certain it is, that he was a great favorite among all the good wives of the village, who, as usual with the amiable sex, took his part in all family squabbles¹¹; and never failed, whenever they talked those matters over in their evening gossipings, to lay all the blame on Dame Van Winkle.

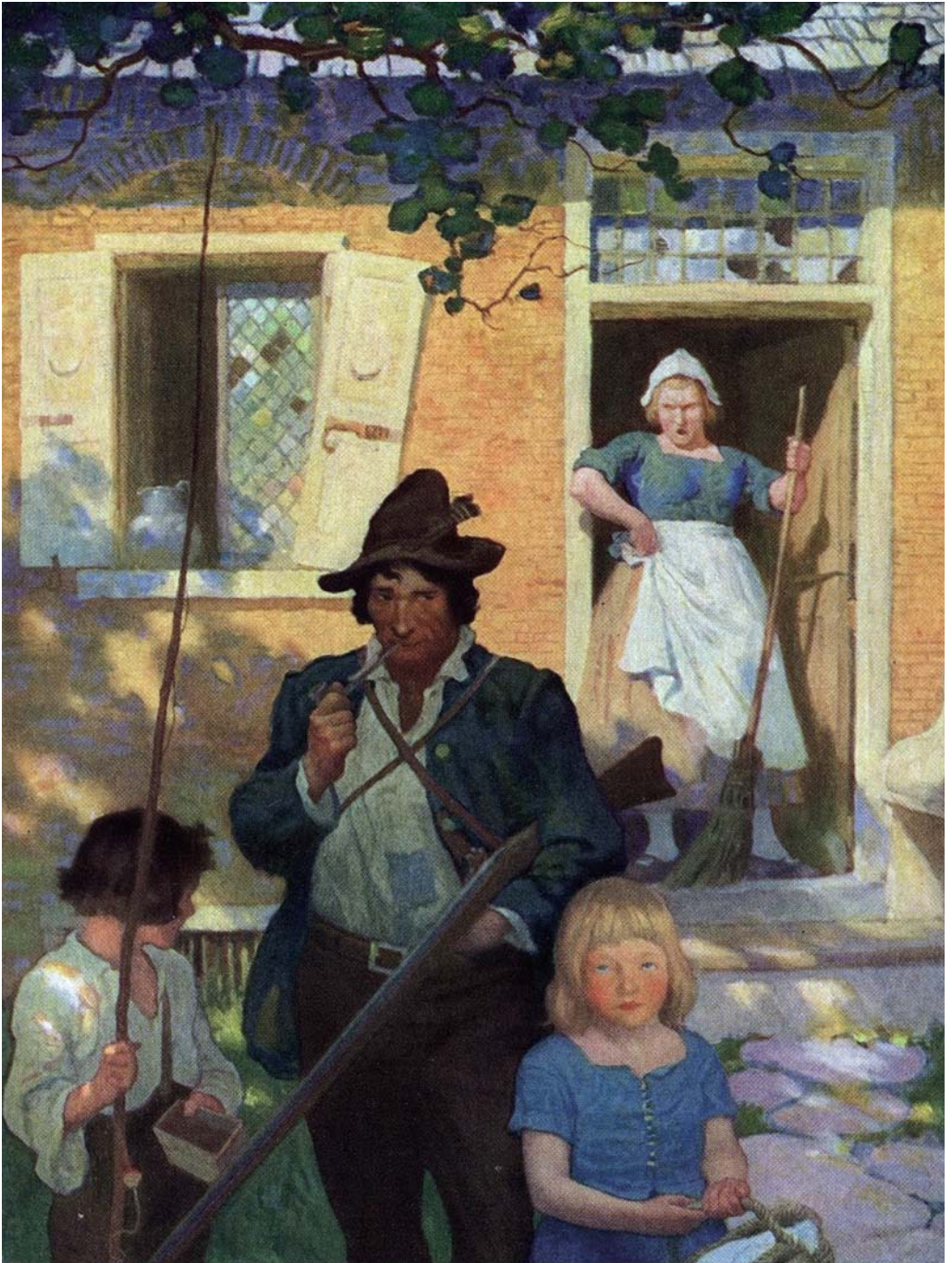
在家受到悍妻管教的男人，在外往往也是個好好先生。在悍妻的烈火下，他們無疑都練就了溫和柔順的個性。老婆的訓示，比世上所有宣揚忍耐吃苦的講道都有用。所以從某些角度看來，家有悍妻反而是一種福氣，如果真是如此，那麼李伯真是三生有幸了。

可以確定的是，村子裡的婆婆媽媽都很喜歡他。每次只要李伯跟老婆發生口角，婦女們都會站在李伯這一邊，而且傍晚時分聚在一起說三道四時，一定會數落李伯夫人的不是。

9 tribulation [ˌtrɪbjʊˈleɪʃən] (n.) 苦難

10 termagant [ˈtɜːrməɡənt] (a.) 愛鬥嘴的(女人)

11 squabble [ˈskwɑːbəl] (n.) 爭吵



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The children of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. He assisted at their sports, made their playthings, taught them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever he went dodging about the village, he was surrounded by a troop of them, hanging on his skirts, clambering on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with impunity¹²; and not a dog would bark at him throughout the neighborhood.

The great error in Rip's composition was an insuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labor. It could not be from the want of assiduity or perseverance; for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a Tartar's¹³ lance, and fish all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged by a single nibble. He would carry a fowling-piece on his shoulder, for hours together, trudging through woods and swamps, and up hill and down dale, to shoot a few squirrels or wild pigeons.

He would never refuse to assist a neighbor even in the roughest toil, and was a foremost man at all country frolics for husking Indian corn, or building stone-fences; the women of the village, too, used to employ him to run their errands, and to do such little odd jobs as their less obliging husbands would not do for them.

12 impunity [ɪm'pjʊnəti] (n.) 免於受罰

13 Tartar ['tɑ:rtər] (n.) 韃靼人(過去為一尚武的遊牧民族，現為俄羅斯的少數民族之一)

村裡的小孩子也都很喜歡他，一看到他就高興地歡呼。李伯陪他們玩耍，幫他們做玩具，教他們放風箏和打彈珠，還跟他們講鬼怪、巫婆和印地安人的故事。每次他在村裡閒晃，總會有一群小孩圍著他，抓著他的衣服，爬在他的背上，用各種方式捉弄他，但是他永遠也不會生氣。村裡的狗，也從來不會對他吠一聲。



李伯性格上最大的缺點，就是厭惡所有能夠賺錢的工作。但是他不是不勤奮，也不是沒毅力。他可以坐在潮濕的大石頭上，握著一根跟韃靼人的長矛一樣長、一樣重的釣竿，釣一整天的魚，即使魚竿動也沒動一下，他還是一句怨言也沒有。他也可以連著好幾個小時背著獵槍，跋山涉水，翻山越嶺，就為了獵幾隻松鼠或野鴿。

當鄰居需要幫忙時，不管是多麼粗重的工作，他都來者不拒。地方上有剝玉米皮或砌石牆的活動時，他一定跑第一。村裡的婦女都會找他跑腿，或是請他做些自家丈夫不願意做的雜務。