

(6) TELEMACHUS, FRIEND

[六]夠意思的，朋友

Returning from a hunting trip, I waited at the little town of Los Pinos, in New Mexico, for the south-bound train, which was one hour late. I sat on the porch of the Summit House and discussed the functions of life with Telemachus Hicks, the hotel proprietor.

有一回我打完獵回來，在新墨西哥州的松林鎮等候南下的火車。火車誤點一小時。於是坐在山嶺賓館的走廊上和主人席太理暢談人生。

Perceiving that personalities were not out of order, I asked him what species of beast had long ago twisted and mutilated his left ear. Being a hunter, I was concerned in the evils that may befall one in the pursuit of game.

我打量了他一下，覺得他還算正常，便開口問他到底是甚麼族類的動物把他的左耳給糟蹋了。因為我是個打獵者，自然而然對於在追逐獵物時所可能遭遇的惡事要格外關心些。

‘That ear,’ said Hicks, ‘is the relic of true friendship.’

[那隻耳朵，]老席說，[是一段真誠友誼遺留下來的。]

‘An accident?’ I persisted.

[是個意外事件嗎?]我進一步追問說。

‘No friendship is an accident,’ said Telemachus; and I was silent.

[從來沒聽說真誠友誼是件意外事件，]太理這麼一說，我便啞口無言。

‘The only perfect case of true friendship I ever knew,’ went on my host, ‘was a cordial intent between a Connecticut man and a monkey. The monkey climbed palms in Barranguilla and threw down coconuts to the man. The man sawed them in two and made dippers, which he sold for two reales each and bought rum. The monkey drank the milk of the nuts. Through each being satisfied with his own share of the graft, they lived like brothers.’

[我所聽說過唯一的一件完美友誼，]主人接下去說，[發生在一個康奈的克人和一隻猴子。猴子在巴藍那個地方爬椰子樹，把椰子丟給那個人。那個人把椰子鋸成兩半來做勺子。勺子每把兩塊錢的價錢賣了，他拿這些錢去買藍姆酒喝。猴子喝椰奶。他們彼此互取所需，倒也相安無事，情同手足。]

‘But in the case of human beings, friendship is a transitory act, subject to discontinuance without further notice.’

[但是呢，談到人與人之間，友誼如白駒過境，如有中斷，恕不預先通知。

‘I had a friend once, of the entitlement of Paisley Fish, that I imagined was sealed to me for an endless space of time. Side by side for seven years we had mined, ranched, sold patent churns, herded sheep, took photographs and other things, built wire fences, and picked prunes. Think I, neither homicide nor flattery nor riches nor sophistry nor drink can make trouble between me and Paisley Fish. We was friends an amount you could hardly guess at. We was friends in business, and we let our amicable qualities lap over and season our hours of recreation and folly. We certainly had days of Damon and nights of Pythias.

[我曾經有個叫費百事的朋友，我以為是忘年之交。前前後後有七年，我們手對手，肩並肩，採礦，放牛，賣魚餌，趕羊兒，做攝影和其它生意，築籬笆，採棗子。我想，我和費百事情深如篤，非殺人，諂媚，財富，詭詐，和酒所能動搖。我們夠意思的程度為外人所難臆測。生意上我們是朋友，業餘時間，我們情投意合，一起胡鬧玩笑。我們的情誼只有古希臘有名的達蒙和比昔兩好友可以相提並論。

‘One summer me and Paisley gallops down into these San Andres mountains for the purpose of a month’s surcease and levity, dressed in the natural store habiliments of man. We hit this town Los Pinos, which certainly was a roof-garden spot of the world, and flowing with condensed milk and honey. It had a street or two, and air, and hens and a eating-house; and that was enough for us.

[一年夏天，我和百事休假一個月，為的是要擺脫俗務，尋點開心，於是乎穿上看起來像個人樣的衣服，乘馬聘馳到聖安覺山區這地方。我們到達松林鎮，看起來直像個世外桃源，仙溪湧酥酪，靈泉冒精苞。點綴著一兩條街，天高氣爽，雞犬相聞，還有一家小飯館子；對我們來說，這就夠了。

‘We strikes the town after super-time, and we concludes to sample whatever efficacy there is in this eating-house down by the railroad tracks. By the time we had set down and pried up our plates with a knife from the red oil-cloth, along intrudes Widow Jessup with the hot biscuit and fried liver.

[我們在向晚時刻行抵松林鎮，便決定在這家鐵路旁邊的飯館兒有甚麼吃甚麼。我們還沒來得及坐下，拿叉子把放在紅油布桌巾上的盤子挑正過來，接寡婦早端了熱騰騰的烤餅和炸牛肝迎了過來。

‘Now, there was a woman that would have tempted an anchovy to forget his vows. She was not so small as she was large; and a kind of welcome air seemed to mitigate her vicinity. The pink of her face was the in hoc signo of a culinary temper and a warm disposition, and her smile would have brought out the dogwood blossoms in December.

[瞧，我們眼前這個女人能夠讓一隻大肚魚忘掉不再吃餌的宣誓。她有點豐滿；一團歡迎之氣，足以讓一個人在她近前而不覺得不好意思。紅潤的臉頰是習於掌廚和熱情心地的表徵，笑起來，又讓山茶英忘掉嚴冬節氣而要欣然開放。

‘Widow Jessup talks to us a lot of garrulousness about the climate and history and Tennyson and prunes and the scarcity of mutton, and finally wants to know where we came from.

[接寡婦嘮嘮叨叨地一會而跟我們談了一下天候，然後扯到歷史，田尼生，一會而又是棗子，羊肉缺貨，最後，她要知道我們是從哪來的。

“Spring Valley,” says I.

[<春谷，>]我說。

“Big Spring Valley,” chips in Paisley, out of a lot of potatoes and knuckle-bone of ham in his mouth.

[<大春谷，>]百事插嘴，滿嘴還嚼著馬鈴薯和豬蹄膀。

‘That was the first sign I notices that the old fidus Diogenes business between me and Paisley Fish was ended forever. He knew how I hated a talkative person, and yet he stampedes into the conversation with his amendments of syntax. On the map it was Big Spring Valley; but I had heard Paisley himself call it Spring Valley a thousand times.

[那是我注意到我和費百事之間的情誼已經完蛋了的第一記紅燈。他明明知道我最恨多話的人，又莽莽撞撞地在我和接寡婦交談的時候給我插進這隻文法不對的註解。在地圖上寫的是大春谷不錯；可是我明明白白地聽百事自己稱它春谷，少說也上千次了。

‘Without saying any more, we went out after supper and set on the railroad track. We had been pardners too long not to know what was going on in each other’s mind.

[之後，我們沒再說甚麼。晚飯過後，我倆坐在火車軌道上。我們倆同伙這麼久，不可能不知道彼此心裏頭打的是甚麼主意。

“I reckon you understand,” says Paisley, “that I’ve made up my mind to accrue that widow woman as part and parcel in and to my hereditaments forever, both domestic, sociable, legal, and otherwise, until death us do part.”

[<我想你知道，>百事這麼說，<我已經下定決心要娶那位寡婦人家來和我同相斯守。家裏，家外，於法，於情，我們將白頭偕老，直到上天堂為止。>

“Why, yes,” says I, “I read it between the lines, though you only spoke one. And I suppose you are aware,” says I, “that I have a movement on foot that leads up to the widow’s changing her name to Hicks, and leaves you writing to the society column to inquire whether the best man wears a japonica or seamless socks a the wedding!”

[<噢，是的，>我說，<我從你字裏行間就聽了出來，雖然你才說了一句話。讓我告訴你，

我想你知道，>我這麼說，<我即將採取行動，要讓這位寡婦改性席，好讓你寫信給報紙的社會服務專欄，詢問他們男儂相在婚禮上到底該穿日本和服還是沒縫的襪子！>

“There will be some hiatuses in your program,” says Paisley, chewing up a piece of a railroad tie. “I’d give in to you,” says he, “in ‘most any respect if it was secular affairs, but this is not so. The smiles of woman,” goes on Paisley, “is the whirlpool of Squills and Chalybeates, into which vortex the good ship Friendship is often drawn and dismembered. I’d assail a bear that was annoying you,” says Paisley, “or I’d indorse your note, or rub the place between your shoulder-blades with opodeldoc the same as ever; but there my sense of etiquette ceases. In this fracas with Mrs. Jessup we play it alone. I’ve notified you fair.”

[<你的節目單會有周折的，>百事這麼說，一面嘴裏啃著一塊枕木屑。<我多多少少會讓你，>他說，<假如關係的只是一些俗事的話，但是這件事情不同。女人的微笑，>百事接著說，<是博斯普魯斯海峽的兩股大漩渦，友誼之船往往為之吸引而瓦解。假如有隻熊在騷擾你的話，我會攻擊牠，>百事說，<或者，我會替你的支票作擔保，或者拿白花油按摩你的肩窩，但是我的禮儀到此為止。在爭奪接寡婦的這檔子事上，我倆各自為政。我這樣告訴你也算公平的了。>

‘And then I collaborates with myself, and offers the following resolutions and by-laws:

[我聽了表示贊同，而且提出了以下的決議和附款：

“Friendship between man and man,” says I, “is an ancient historical virtue enacted in the days when men had to protect each other against lizards with eighty-foot tails and flying turtles. And they’ve kept up the habit to this day, and stand by each other till the bellboy comes up and tells them the animals are not really there. I’ve often heard,” I says, “about ladies stepping in and breaking up a friendship between men. Why should that be? I’ll tell you, Paisley, the first sight and hot biscuit of Mrs. Jessup appears to have inserted a oscillation into each of our bosoms. Let the best man of us have her. I’ll play you a square game, and won’t do any underhanded work. I’ll do all of my courting of her in your presence, so you will have an equal opportunity. With that arrangement I don’t see why our steamboat of friendship should fall overboard in the medicinal whirlpools you speak of, whichever of us wins out.”

[<男人之間的友誼，>我說，<是一件歷史悠久的美德，早在那時候，男人們必須互相保護，免得被長著八十呎長尾巴的大蜥蜴和始祖飛行龜所侵害。這傳統延續到今天，他們還是互相守護，非得等到搖著鈴鐺的報信童來告訴他們這些動物已經不復存在為止。我常聽說，>我說，<因為女人的介入而破壞了男人之間情誼的事。但是為甚麼非得如此呢？讓我告訴你，百事，我們第一眼看到接太太和她拿來的烤餅的時候，好像我們各自的肚子裏都懷了鬼胎似的。我們何不這樣子？讓我們之間的優勝者來擁有她。我和你來一場公平的競爭，絕不藏頭露尾的。我追求她的時候，非得你在場不可，好讓你有個公平的機會。有了這樣的安排，我不明白為甚麼我們的友誼之船必須像你剛才所說的，必須陷入海蔥和溶鐵藥的漩渦裏，不論是誰終於贏得她的芳心。>

“Good old hoss!” says Paisley, shaking my hand. “And I’ll do the same,” says he. “We’ll court the lady synonymously, and without any of the prudery and bloodshed usual to such occasions. And we’ll be friends still, win or lose.”

[<好傢伙！>百事這麼說，一面握我的手。<我也要這麼做，>他說。<我們同時來追求這女士，用不著裝模作樣的，或者拼得頭破血流，好比通常人一樣。不論誰輸誰贏，我們還是朋友。>

‘At one side of Mrs. Jessup’s eating-house was a bench under some trees where she used to sit in the breeze after the south-bound had been fed and gone. And there me and Paisley used to congregate after supper and make partial payments on our respects to the lady of our choice. And we was so honorable and circuitous in our calls that if one of us got there first we waited for the other before beginning any gallivantry.

[在接太太小吃店旁邊的樹陰下有張長椅子，她習慣在喂飽了南下的旅客之後，坐在這兒乘涼。我和百事常常晚飯過後在此會合，為表達對我們意中女士的敬意分期付款。我們真是文質彬彬的正人君子，假如我們其中那一位先到，必得等另一位也來到才施展追求。

‘The first evening that Mrs. Jessup knew about our arrangement I got to the bench before Paisley did. Supper was just over, and Mrs. Jessup was out there with a fresh pink dress on, and almost cool enough to handle.

[接太太明白我們的安排的那天晚上，我比百事先到。晚飯剛吃過，接太太一襲粉紅衣裳，像一只在枝熟的桃子，簡直令人按耐不住。

‘I sat down by her and made a few specifications about the moral surface of nature as set forth by the landscape and the contiguous perspective. That evening was surely a case in point. The moon was attending to business in the section of sky where it belonged, and the trees was making shadows on the ground according to science and nature, and there was a kind of conspicuous hullabaloo going on in the bushes between the bull-bats and the orioles and the jack-rabbits and other feathered insects of the forest. And the wind out of the mountains was singing like a jew’s-harp in the pile of old tomato-cans by the railroad track.

[我坐在她身邊，拿眼前的景緻寒暄了一陣子。那天的傍晚時刻真的是詩情畫意。一彎明月掛空中，好比月老點燈籠，滿地枝葉弄影，恰似霓裳下凡輕舞，林間夜鷹宣旨，畫眉試新啼，玉兔捉藏。棄置鐵道旁成堆的空罐子成了猶太人的口琴，和著山嵐啓齒輕唱。

I felt a kind of sensation in my left side -- something like dough rising in a crock by the fire. Mrs. Jessup had moved up closer.

我覺得我的左手邊有點異動--好比暖爐上的麵粉團在磁鍋裏悄悄地發起來一樣。接太太移攏了過來。

“Oh, Mr. Hicks,” says she, “when one is alone in the world, don’t they feel it more aggravated on a beautiful night like this?”

[<噢，席先生，>她說，<當一個男人單獨一個的時候，在這麼如詩一般的夜晚，是不是更難過呢？>

‘I rose up off the bench at once.

[我即刻從椅子上跳了起來。

“Excuse me, ma’am,” says I, “but I’ll have to wait till Paisley comes before I can give a audible hearing to leading questions like that.”

[<很對不起，女士，>我說，<不過我必須等到百事來了之後，才能為這種頭條的問題作答。>

‘And then I explained to her how we was friends cinctured by years of embarrassment and travel and complicity, and how we had agreed to take no advantage of each other in any of the more mushy walks of life, such as might be fomented by sentiment and proximity. Mrs. Jessup appears to think serious about the matter for a minute, and then she breaks into a species of laughter that makes the wildwood resound.

[接著我跟她解釋我和百事是怎麼成了患難之交，而且同意在生命之中比較屬於感情這方面的事彼此不占便宜。接太太聽了真個當一回事地愣了一會兒，緊接著，她哈哈一陣大笑，整個林子都起了共鳴。

‘In a few mintues Paisley drops around, with oil of bergamot on his hair, and sits on the other side of Mrs. Jessup, and inaugurates a sad tale of adventure in which him and Pieface Lumley has a skinning-match of dead cows in ‘95 for a silver-mounted saddle in the Santa Rita valley during the nine months’ draught.

[几分鐘之後，百事來了，頭上擦著佛手柑髮油，他坐在接太太的另一邊。他一到就開始講述95年九個月的乾旱期間，他在聖梨忒谷為了贏得一副銀馬鞍，和大餅臉倫里結對參加剝死牛皮比賽的悲慘故事。

‘Now, from the start of that courtship I had Paisley Fish hobbled and tied to a post. Each one of us had a different system of reaching out for the easy places in the female heart. Pailsy’s scheme was to petrify ‘em with wonderful relations of events that he had either come across personally or in large print. I think he must have got his idea of subjugation from one of Shapeseare’s shows I see once called “Othello.” There is a colored man in it who acquires a duke’s daughter by disburing to her a mixture of the talk turned out by Rider Hagard, Lew Dockstader, and Dr. Parkhurst. But that style of courting don’t work well off the stage.

[說真的，我一開始這愛情長跑，就把費百事給釘得死死的。我們在贏取女性芳心這檔事上，可以說戲法人人會變，各有巧妙不同。百事的手法是拿不論是親身經歷或者從大字報上所看到的故事，不管三七二十一，反正給它個疲勞轟炸。我猜他是從莎士比亞的一齣〈奧賽羅〉得到的靈感。劇中有位摩爾人，他就是這麼把赫萊德，杜蕾五，和帕克博士的對白，像雜燴湯一般，往一位公爵的女兒猛灌，來求取她的歡心。這種手法在台下是不管用的。

‘Now, I give you my own recipe for inveigling a woman into that state of affairs when she can be referred to as “nee Jones.” Learn how to pick up her hand and hold it, and she’s yours. It ain’t so easy. Some men grab at it so much like they was going to set a dislocation of the shoulder that you can smell the arnica and hear ‘em tearing off bandages. Some take it up like a hot horseshoe, and hold it off at arm’s length like a druggist pouring tincture of asafetida in a bottle. And most of ‘em catch hold of it and drag it right out before the lady’s eyes like a boy finding a baseball in the grass, without giving her a chance to forget that the hand is growing on the end of her arm. Them ways are all wrong.

[我來告訴你我的秘方是甚麼。怎麼樣甜言蜜語地哄得一個女人成為你的愛人。學會拿起她的手，然後握好，她就是你的了。有些人是這麼使勁地拽，簡直要把女士的肩膀拽得脫臼，連碘酒都要聞到一樣。有些又是敬鬼神而遠之，好比燒紅了的馬蹄鐵一般，令人連想到的是藥博士一邊捏著鼻子，一邊把惡臭無比的瘰癧藥往小瓶子裏倒。多數人，則像小孩子在草叢裏檢到一顆棒球，冠冕堂皇地把女士的手拖出，連給她個機會忘掉手是長在她胳膊上的都沒有。這些方法都錯誤。

‘I’ll tell you the right way. Did you ever see a man sneak out in the backyard and pick up a rock to throw at a tomcat that was sitting on a fence looking at him? He pretends he hasn’t got a thing in his hand, and that the cat don’t see him, and that he don’t see the cat. That’s the idea. Never drag her hand out where she’ll have to take notice of it. Don’t let her know that you think she knows you have the least idea she is aware you are holding her hand. That was my rule of tactics; and as far as Paisley’s serenade about hostilities and misadventure went, he might as well have been reading to her a time-table of the Sunday trains that stop at Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

[正確的方法如此。你看過一個男人偷偷跑到院子裏，拿起一塊石頭，準備打坐在牆上的浪貓？他假裝手裏沒有東西，假裝貓兒沒看到他，他沒看到貓兒。就是這意思。絕不可以在她能注意到的地方拿起她的手。不要讓她知到你知她知你在握她的手。這就是我的招術。至於百事的那種危人慫聽地說故事，還不如把新澤西西洋林的星期火車時間表唸給她聽。

‘One night when I beat Paisley to the bench by one pipeful, my friendship gets subsidized for a minute, and I asks Mrs. Jessup if she didn’t think a “H” was easier to write than a “J”. In a second her head was mashing the oleander flower in my button-hole, and I learned over and -- but I didn’t.

[一個晚上，我比百事早到抽一管菸的時間。我的友誼稍微鬆綁了一回。我問接太太〈H〉是

不是比<J>好寫。傾刻間，她的後腦開始往我鈕扣縫裏插的莢竹桃猛貼，我俯身過去--然而，我沒這麼做。

“If you don’t mind,” says I, standing up “we’ll wait for Paisley to come before finishing this. I’ve never done anything dishonorable yet to our friendship, and this won’t be quite fair.”

[<假如妳不介意，>我說，一面站起來<我們得等百事來了之後才能完結這檔事。我從來沒出賣過我們的友誼，而且這有點不公平。>

“Mr. Hicks,” says Mrs. Jessup, looking at me peculiar in the dark, “if it wasn’t for but one thing, I’d ask you to hike yourself down the gulch and never disresume your visits to my house.”

[<席先生，>接太太說，在暗中拿奇異的眼光看我，<假如不是爲了某件事，我要你沿著這山谷滾你的蛋，不要再來我家拜訪。>

“And what is that, ma’an?”

[<那件事是甚麼，女士？>

“You are too good a friend not to make a good husband,” says she.

[<你是個太夠意思的朋友，不可能不當個好先生。>她說。

‘In five minutes Paisley was on his side of Mrs. Jessup.

[五分鐘之後，百事坐在接太太另一邊。

“In Silver City, in the summer of ‘98,” he begins, “I see Jim Batholomew chew off a Chinaman’s ear in the Blue Light Saloon on account of a crossbarred muslin shirt that --what is that noise?”

[<98年，在銀城，>他這麼開始，<我看到巴吉姆爲了一件格子麻布衫在藍光酒館咬掉一個中國佬的耳朵--甚麼聲音？>

‘I had resumed matters again with Mrs. Jessup right where we had left off.

[我剛剛和接太太暫停的那檔事現在又開始續演下集。

“Mrs. Jessup,” says I, “has promised to make it Hicks. And this is another of the same sort.”

[<接太太，>我說，<已經答應要姓席。你剛才注意到的和這個大同小異。>

‘Paisley winds his feet around a leg of the bench and kind of groans.

[百事一腳纏著椅腿子，哀鳴了一聲。

“Lem,” says he, “we been friends for seven years. Would you mind not kissing Mrs. Jessup quite so loud? I’ll do the same for you.”

[<理，>他說，<我們交朋友已經七年了。能不能請你不要親接太太這麼大聲？我也會為你這麼做。>

“All right,” says I. “The other kind will do as well.”

[<好吧，>我說。<要換另一種的也可以。>

“This Chinaman,” goes on Paisley, “was the one that shot a man name Mullins in the spring of ‘97, and that was--”

[<這個中國佬，>百事繼續，<就是那個在97年春天開槍打死慕林的那個。那時後...>

“Paisley interrupted himself again.

[百事又停了下來。

“Lem,” says he, “if you was a true friend you wouldn’t hug Mrs. Jessup quite hard. I felt the bench shake all over just then. You know you told me you would give me an even chance as long as there was any.”

[<理，>他說，<假如你是真朋友的話，就不該摟得接太太這麼緊。我剛剛感覺椅子整個顫抖起來。你告訴我你要給我同樣的機會。>

“Mr. Man,” says Mrs. Jessup, turning around to Paisley, “if you was to drop in to the celebration of mine and Mr. Hicks’s silver wedding, twenty-five years from now, do you think you could get it into that Hubbard squash you call your head that you are nix cum rous in this business? I’ve put up with you a long time because you was Mr. Hicks’s friend; but it seems to me it’s time for you to wear the willow and trot off down the hill.”

[<人先生，>接太太轉過身向百事說，<二十五年之後，假如你來參加我和席先生的銀婚紀念的話，你能不能讓你那顆你稱為你的頭的哈巴瓜，明白你在這檔子事裏頭，一直當電燈泡？因為你是席先生的朋友，我才忍受了你這麼久，看起來你該拿柳條鞭一鞭，跑下山去了。>

“Mrs. Jessup,” says I, without losing my grasp on the situation as fiance. “Mr. Paisley is my friend, and I offered him a square deal and a equal opportunity as long as there was a chance.”

[<接太太，>我說，以未婚夫的身份把握住這機會。<百事先生是我的朋友，只要有希望，>

我給他一場公平交易，公平的機會。>

“A chance!” says she. “Well, he may think he has a chance; but I hope he won’t think he’s got a cinch, after what he’s been next to all the evening.”

[<希望！>她說。<他可能以為他有希望。我希望他不要以為他是個選就了的，讓他給胡鬧了這麼個晚上。>

‘Well, a month afterwards me and Mrs. Jessup was married in the Los Pinos Methodist Church; and the whole town closed up to see the performance.

[就這麼樣，一個月之後，我和接太太在松林鎮的美以美教堂結婚，整個鎮都關起門來看婚禮。

‘When we lined up in front and the preacher was beginning to sing out his rituals and observances, I looks around and misses Paisley. I calls time on the preacher. “Paisley ain’t here,” says I. “We’ve got to wait for Paisley. A friend once, a friend always -- that’s Telemachus Hicks,” says I. Mrs. Jessup’s eyes snapped some; but the preacher holds up the incantations according to instructions.

[當我們站到前面，牧師開始吟詩行禮的時候，我四下裏看不見百事。於是叫牧師暫停。<百事不在這兒。>我說。<我們必須等百事來。一朝是朋友，永遠是朋友--我就是這麼個席太理，>我這麼說。接太太眼睛眨了眨；但是牧師還是依我的主意暫停吟詩行禮。

‘In a few minutes Paisley gallops up the aisle, putting on a cuff as he comes. He explains that the only dry-goods store in town was closed for the wedding, and he couldn’t get the kind of a boiled shirt that his taste called for until he had broke open the back window of the store and helped himself. Then he ranges up on the other side of the bride, and the wedding goes on. I always imagined that Paisley calculated as a last chance that the preacher might marry him to the widow by mistake.

[几分鐘之後，百事跑上教堂中間的走道，一面扣他的袖扣。他解釋說鎮裏唯一的一家乾貨店因為婚禮的關係關了門，他找不到合他品味的一種漿煮的襯衫，只得打開後窗偷跑進去，自便了一回。然後，他站到新娘的另一邊，婚禮繼續進行。我一直這麼想，百事算計他最後的希望是牧師可能錯把他湊給接寡婦。

‘After the proceedings was over we had tea and jerked antelope and canned apricots, and then the populace hiked itself away. Last of all Paisley shook me by he hand and told me I’d acted square and on the level with him and he was proud to call me a friend.

[婚禮過後，我們有茶水，鹿肉乾，和罐頭杏子款待，人眾逐漸散去。最後，百事跟我握手，告訴我說我做得很公正夠意思，他以我這個朋友為榮。

‘The preacher had a small house on the side of the street that he’d fixed up to rent; and he allowed me and Mrs. Hicks to occupy it till the ten-forty train the next morning, when we was going on a bridal tour to El Paso. His wife had decorated it all up with hollyhocks and poison ivy; and it looked real festal and bowery.

[牧師在在那條街有一棟小房子，把它整理了租給人。他讓我和現在的席太太住到隔一天早上，好搭十點三刻的火車到艾帕索渡蜜月。牧師太太拿蜀葵和野葛把房子整理得喜氣洋洋，真個花燭洞房。

‘About ten o’clock that night I sets down in the front door and pulls of my boots a while in the cool breeze, while Mrs. Hicks was fixing around in the room. Right soon the light went out inside; and I sat there a while, reverberating over old times and scenes. And then I heard Mrs. Hicks call out, “Ain’t you coming in soon, Lem?”

[大概是晚上十點左右，我坐在小房子前門，脫掉鞋，在那裏納涼，席太太在裏頭整東理西。不久，裏面燈暗了；我靜自坐在那兒，回想舊日時光。然後，我聽到席太太叫我，<理，你難道不就進來了？>

“Well, well!” says I, kind of rousing up. “Durn me if I wasn’t waiting for old Paisley to--”

[<怪，怪！>我一邊說，一邊警醒過來似的。<假如我不是在等百事..才有鬼>

‘But when I got that far,’ concluded Telemachus Hicks, ‘I thought somebody had shot this left ear of mine off with a forty-five. But it turned out to be only a lick from a broomhandle in the hands of Mrs. Hicks.’

[我才說到這兒，]席太理下了結論，[我以為是甚麼人拿45口徑手槍把我的左耳給打掉了。結果發現，原來只是給席太太手裏拿的掃帚柄舔了一口。]