

黑石誌異 **Strange Tale of the Black Stone**

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你去過人妖餐館嗎?

Have you been to a transsexual restaurant?

如果沒有，到紐約旅行不妨到一家名叫Lucky Chen的餐館見識一番。地方很好找，就在第一大道和第一街的交叉口附近。這家餐館裡面的服務生個個千嬌百媚，有的是人妖，有的可能只是男扮女粧。所以你千萬別隨便對人家動手動腳，以免挨揍。餐館的龐克情調還是不錯，兩個人的消費額不過百來美金，是觀光客的好去處。

If you haven't, you should give Lucky Chen's a try next time you're in New York. It's very easy to find; it's near the intersection of First Avenue and First Street. All of the wait staff in this restaurant are exquisite beauties. Some are transsexuals, some are maybe just transvestites. So don't let your hands stray, or you may find yourself on the receiving end of a fist. The restaurant's punk atmosphere is pretty good, and the cost for two people is less than \$100 US; it's a good place for tourists.

為什麼大力推薦人妖餐館？因為很可能你和我一樣，在人妖餐館另有奇遇。那麼就請你投桃報李，把奇遇經過告訴我，好嗎？

So why should I make such a strong recommendation for the transsexual restaurant? Because like me, it's very possible you could have an unusual encounter there. If so, would you return the favor and tell me about your encounter?

你當然會問，什麼樣的奇遇？

Of course you'll ask, what kind of unusual encounter?

你可能會看見一塊會飛的石頭。

Maybe you'll see a stone that can fly.

對的，一塊黑色的石頭，不很大，也許有三公分寬五公分長，形狀有點像吳郭魚，就在餐桌上空飛翔。

That's right, a black stone, not very big, maybe three centimeters wide by five long, shaped a bit like a small-bodied, large-headed fish, flying right on top of the dinner table.

會飛的石頭？不錯，起先我也不相信。那天我和你一樣，受了好奇心的驅使

到Lucky Chen餐館。將來你去人妖餐館是因為我告訴過你，我去人妖餐館則是小周帶路。小周是老紐約，每次我出差經過紐約，一定找小周帶我到處跑跑。上次他帶我去換妻俱樂部，但是這種地方當然不能隨便告訴你怎麼去。這次他帶我去人妖餐館，下次還答允帶我去雙胞胎餐館，裡面的女侍都是雙胞胎。有小周這位金蘭好友，真是我前世修來的福氣。

A stone that can fly? Yep, at first I couldn't believe it either. I was like you that day, urged on by my curiosity to go to Lucky Chen's. When you go to the transsexual restaurant, it will be because I told you; when I went Xiao Zhou took me. Xiao Zhou is a long-time New Yorker, and every time I travel through New York on business, I look up Xiao Zhou and get him to take me around. Last time he took me to the wife-swapping club, but I can't just tell you how to go to a place like that. This time he took me to the transsexual restaurant, and he promised that next time he would take me to the twins restaurant, where all the waitresses are twins. To have a bosom buddy like Xiao Zhou has got to be the result of good karma from a previous life.

我們到達人妖餐館時已經晚上八點，又逢週末，裡面擠得水洩不通。幸虧小周找到老闆。老闆竟恭恭敬敬喚他「周記者」，立刻為我們騰出座位。

By the time we got to the transsexual restaurant, it was already 8 pm, and on a weekend. The place was so packed it was practically airtight. Fortunately, Xiao Zhou saw the manager. Surprisingly, the manager addressed him very courteously as 'Mr. Zhou the reporter', and immediately cleared a table for us.

「小周，搞你不過，什麼時候竟改行幹記者了？」我等老闆走開，不免調侃小周。

“Xiao Zhou, you dog, when did you become a reporter?” I couldn't resist taking a shot at him after the manager had stepped away.

「不瞞你說，我是此地一家僑報的特約記者，」小周面不改色說：「這年頭，沒有幾個頭銜怎麼混？」

“To tell you the truth, I'm a special correspondent for an overseas Chinese newspaper here,” Xiao Zhou said without changing his expression, “How can you get by without a few titles these days?”

我不禁佩服小周頭臉靈活，單看餐館老闆對待小周的態度，這個特約記者的頭銜已經值回票價。果然我們才坐下不久，一位美麗的越南姑娘就拿來一瓶香檳。

I couldn't help but appreciate Xiao Zhou's inventive mind; the treatment he got from

the restaurant manager alone already made the 'special correspondent' title worth the price of the return ticket. And wouldn't you know it, before we had sat down for long, a beautiful Vietnamese girl came by with a bottle of champagne.

「老闆送的。」穿低胸禮服的姑娘對我們嫣然一笑。「她」俯身為我們斟酒時，我的心跳不免加速，幾乎忘記「她」也是男人。「兩位請用吧。」

“Compliments of the manger.” The girl in her low-cut evening dress flashed us a captivating smile. When (s)he leaned over to pour the champagne for us, my heart skipped a beat, and I almost forgot (s)he was a man. “Please enjoy it.”

小周對我擠擠眼，我們兩人舉杯互賀。不錯，記者比作家更罩得住，連我都考慮改行了。此時突然有人拍拍我的肩膀說：「她對你們真好，你們一定是VIP吧？」

Xiao Zhou gave me a wink, and we raised our glasses for a toast. That's right, reporters can take care of business even better than writers; even I was tempted to reconsider my choice of profession. Just then, someone patted my shoulder and said, “She treated you two so well, you must be VIPs.”

拍我肩膀的是隔壁桌的女子。原來人妖餐館生意太好，一桌桌客人坐得極近。剛才的一幕，隔桌的客人全都看在眼裡。我索性讓小周得意一番對隔壁桌的女子說：「我的朋友是有名的記者，他的報紙在華埠和蘇活區很有影響力哩。」

The person who patted my shoulder was a woman from the next table. Business was so good at the transsexual restaurant that the tables were all crowded in together. Everything that happened in the last vignette was all visible to the people at the next table. I figured I might as well let Xiao Zhou enjoy his celebrity a bit, so I told the lady from the next table, “My friend is a famous reporter; his newspaper is very influential in Chinatown and Soho.”

「原來是記者！」女子立刻自我介紹說：「我是潘蜜拉，這是我的朋友丹尼。」

“Oh, so he's a reporter!” She then introduced herself, “I'm Pamela, and this is my friend Danny.”

我不免暗笑，想不到連老外都吃這一套。這時我才有機會仔細觀察隔壁桌前一對男女。潘蜜拉大約四十剛出頭，體態略顯臃腫。她的男伴丹尼才三十多歲吧，一頭金髮，可說是長得很體面的男人。丹尼不大說話，潘蜜拉則喋喋不休說個不停。

I couldn't help but smile inwardly; even the locals bought it. It was only then that I had a chance to get a good look at the couple at the next table. You could tell from a glance that Pamela was in her early forties, a bit bloated. Her male partner Danny was only thirty something, with a full head of blond hair. Quite a presentable man, you could say. Danny didn't say much, but Pamela was an incessant chatterbox.

「你們來之前，丹尼和我正在討論一件事情。你們來得正好，可以請教兩位意見。」潘蜜拉雖然這麼說，眼睛可緊盯著小周。「我先介紹我自己吧。我是古董經紀人，丹尼是我的老闆。」

“Before you arrived, Danny and I were discussing something. You came at just the right time, we can ask you two for your opinions.” Although she said it like that, her eyes were focused solely on Xiao Zhou. “Let me introduce myself first. I'm an antiques broker, and Danny is my boss.”

又看走了眼，還以為丹尼是牛郎呢。潘蜜拉繼續說下去：「我專門負責採購中國古董，尤其是瓷器。人家聽說我專精中國古董，下個問題就問我是否常去遠東？其實他們不知道，世界最大的古董市場就在紐約。無論什麼古物寶貝，最後一定會在紐約出現。所以我們買古董，根本不必離開紐約一步！做這行生意已經二十多年了，我祖父是古董家，父親是古董家，將來希望我的女兒仍然是古董家。我採購古董從來很少失誤，台北的故宮博物館都常向我們訂購。」

I had misjudged the situation; here I was thinking Danny was her Romeo. Pamela went on, “I specialize in purchasing Chinese antiques, especially porcelain. When people hear that I specialize in Chinese antiques, their next question is, do I often go to the Far East? Actually, what they don't know is that the world's biggest antique market is right here in New York. No matter what fashion of curio or treasure, sooner or later it will appear here in New York. So when we buy antiques, we don't even have to set foot out of the city! I've been in this business for over twenty years. My grandfather was in antiques, my father was in antiques, and in the future I hope my daughter will be in antiques. I rarely slip up when I buy antiques; even the Taipei National Palace Museum frequently places orders with us.”

真是標準大言不慚的女人，她的老闆丹尼在旁微笑不語，任由潘蜜拉吹個天花亂墜。

She was really a typical braggadocio. Her boss Danny sat by her side with a silent smile, allowing Pamela to b.s. to the high heavens.

「最近我們卻碰到難題。」潘蜜拉說：「你們一定知道，中國領導人身體不好，許多人都擔心他死後政局不穩。有一位中國方面的重要人物和我們聯絡。他的名字說出來會嚇你們一跳，但是我們必須保密。他希望賣給我們一大批古董，價錢好極了，如果成交，利潤簡直驚人。」

“We’ve come across a difficult problem recently,” Pamela said. She went on, “You two must know, the current Chinese leader is not well, and many people fear that the political situation will be unstable after he passes. An important Chinese persona contacted us recently. You would be quite shocked to hear his name, but we have to maintain complete confidentiality. He wants to sell us a large collection of antiques, at a very reasonable price. If we complete the transaction, the profits will be truly eye-opening.”

「什麼難題呢？」小周不懷好意問過：「妳不是中國古董專家嗎？難道還擔心上當？」

“What problem could that be?” Xiao Zhou asked suspiciously. “Aren’t you a Chinese antiques expert? You’re not afraid of being tricked, are you?”

潘蜜拉看丹尼一眼，後者點點頭，女人繼續說下去。「我們並不怕買到假古董。這批貨就在紐約，我們已經確定都不是假貨。大部分是宋瓷，這些我最在行。但也有幾樣東西我們不能確定年代，甚至不能確定是否來自中國。」

Pamela glanced over at Danny, and after getting the nod, she continued. “We’re not afraid of buying fake antiques. The goods are right here in New York; we’ve already confirmed that they’re not fakes. The majority of the pieces are Song ceramics, and this is my specialty. But there are a few pieces for which we can’t confirm the date, and can’t even confirm if they come from China.”

小周笑道：「太好了，要不要我的朋友幫你們鑒定一下？他是業餘的考古人類學家呢！」

Xiao Zhou laughed, “That’s terrific, shall I have my friend authenticate it for you? He’s an amateur archaeologist / anthropologist!”

我正想抗議，小周對我使個眼色，我突然明白他的用意。他一定懷疑潘蜜拉和丹尼在玩扮豬喫老虎的把戲，索性陪他們玩這遊戲，也是最好的餘興節目吧。

I was about to protest, but Xiao Zhou winked at me, and I suddenly understood his intentions. He must suspect that Pamela and Danny were trying to dupe us by playing the fool’s game, and that we may as well just play along. It might be the best form of

dinner entertainment.

潘蜜拉和丹尼又互望一眼，金髮的丹尼露齒而笑，從口袋裡掏出一樣東西。

Pamela and Dannie exchanged glances; blond Danny cracked a wide grin, and then pulled something out of his pocket.

「周先生，張先生，謝謝你們幫忙，請看．．．．．」

Thanks for your help, Mr. Zhou and Mr. Zhang; please have a look at this.

我不記得告訴過丹尼我們的姓名，正想問他怎麼知道，桌上的物件卻突然吸引住我的注意力。

I didn't remember telling Danny our names, and was just about to ask how he knew, and then the object on the table suddenly captivated my attention.

那是一塊純黑的石頭，黑得似乎把光線全部吸進去，上面刻著白色的線條，似乎是有許多顆頭的人形，每個人頭的形狀像太陽。小周把頭湊過來，說：「還是九頭鳥，你看，一、二、三、四、五、六、七、八、九，一共九個頭。」

It was a jet black stone, so black that it seemed to absorb light, with white lines etched on the surface, like a person with many heads, and every head was like a sun. Xiao Zhou craned his neck over and said, "It's a nine-headed bird. Look, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, nine heads."

「是嗎？」丹尼把石頭翻過來，「這又是什麼？」

"Is that so?" Danny turned the stone over, "And what's this?"

我不禁倒吸一口氣。石頭另一面刻著迷宮似的圖案，彷彿歧路花園，也有九顆星狀的小點。

I couldn't help making a quick gasp. On the other face of the stone, there was a diagram like a maze etched in, resembling a labyrinth, and there were also nine small points shaped like stars.

「大約是什麼迷宮吧。」小周拍拍我的肩膀，「考古人類學家一定知道。」

"It's probably some kind of a maze." Xiao Zhou patted my shoulder. "The archaeologist/ anthropologist will know."

「還是九曲陣！」我端詳那塊黑色的石頭，興奮得簡直無法控制自己。

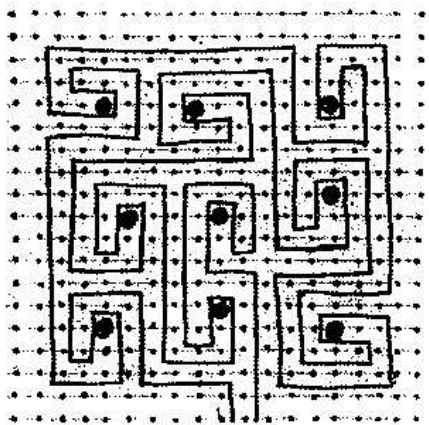
「但另一面並不是什麼九頭鳥，好像是……好像是馬雅星圖！這兩張圖絕不可能刻在同一塊石頭上面。其中一定有緣故。你們有沒有問賣主，從什麼地方得到這塊異石？」

“No, it’s a nine constellation chart!” As I inspected the black stone, I was too excited to control myself. “But the other face isn’t any nine-headed bird, it looks like... it looks like a Mayan astronomical chart! There is no way that these two diagrams could be etched on the same stone. There must be a reason. Did you ask the seller where he got this unusual stone?”

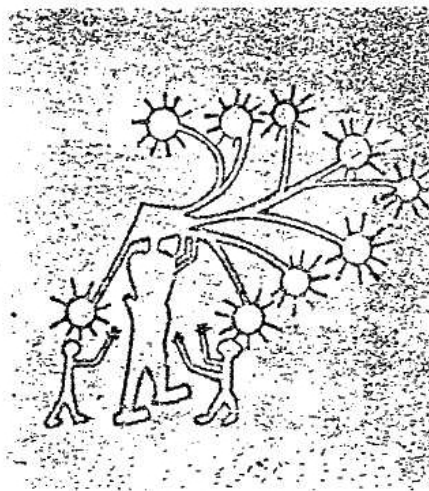
丹尼和潘蜜拉再度對望一眼。潘蜜拉得意的咯咯笑道：「謝謝你，張先生，你的猜測不錯，果然是陝西九曲陣和馬雅九星圖。它們不僅刻在同一塊石頭上，你再仔細看看！」

Danny and Pamela exchanged glances again. Pamela gave a satisfied chuckle and said, “Thank you, Mr. Zhang, your conjectures are entirely correct, they are in fact Shaanxi nine constellation¹ and Mayan astronomical charts. They’re not just etched on the same stone, have a closer look!”

¹The Shaanxi nine constellation chart is a labyrinth with representations of nine constellations. On the 15th day of the 1st lunar month, people walk through the labyrinth to bring good fortune in the year ahead.



• 陝北「九曲陣」簡圖
SIMPLE DEPICTION OF A SHANBEI,
SHAANXI NINE CONSTELLATION CHART



• 馬雅石刻星圖
MAYAN ASTRONOMICAL CHART
ENGRAVED IN STONE

潘蜜拉把異石遞給我，要我湊近九曲陣的一顆星點觀察。我對著黑石的星點仔細看，突然明白有極微細的光從星點投出。

Pamela passed me the unusual stone, and asked me to take a close-up look at one of the stars in the nine constellation chart. I inspected the star on the black stone closely, and suddenly realized that there was an extremely faint light coming out from the star.

「九曲陣的星座，和馬雅星圖的星座相通哩，」潘蜜拉說：「有人在石頭裡鑿了九條小洞，讓兩張星圖連接在一起。為什麼？我們也懷疑有人偽造，但是同位素鑑定結果，這塊石頭上的圖至少有三千年歷史。即使是偽造，也是古人偽造的。難道中國人和古馬雅人串通了做假？為了騙誰呢？周先生，張先生，你們再看。」

“The constellations in the nine constellation chart and the constellations in the Mayan astronomical chart connect,” Pamela explained, “someone chiseled nine small tunnels in the stone to connect the two star charts. Why? We also suspected that it was a forgery, but isotope dating confirmed that the charts on this stone have a history of at least 3000 years. Even if it’s a forgery, it’s a forgery done by the ancients. Do we really think that the Chinese and ancient Mayans conspired to produce a fake? To cheat whom? Mr. Zhou, Mr. Zhang, please look again.

潘蜜拉把黑石從我手中取回，放置在蠟燭燈罩上頭，她拿開手，那塊黑石就浮在半空中，隔壁數桌前客人立刻都鼓掌叫好，丹尼趕緊收起黑石。

Pamela took the black stone back out of my hand, placed it on top of the candle shade, and when she removed her hand, the stone floated in midair. Patrons at the several surrounding tables burst into applause and bravos, and Danny quickly grabbed the stone.

「他們還以為我們玩魔術呢。但這並不是魔術。兩位，你們如何解釋？」

“They think we’re doing a parlor trick, but this is no magic. How do you two explain this?”

餐館裡起了一陣小小的騷動，有人生日，六七名妖嬈的服務生圍攏過來唱慶祝生日歌。「她」們一個比一個性感，但歌聲雄渾，竟使人不知道究竟是否另有一群人在唱歌。我突然有了主意，對丹尼和潘蜜拉說：「我可以告訴你們黑石的秘密。但兩位也要告訴我，為什麼選中我和小周？」

There was a brief commotion in the restaurant for someone's birthday. Six or seven transfiguring beauties from the wait staff crowded around to sing happy birthday. I suddenly had an idea, and said to Danny and Pamela, "I can tell you the secret of the black stone, but you two have to tell me why you picked me and Xiao Zhou."

丹尼、潘蜜拉和小週三人都睜大眼睛。我心中暗笑，這下他們可要大喫一驚了。

Danny, Pamela, and Xiao Zhou all opened their eyes wide. I smiled inside; they were going to get a big surprise.

我啜了口香檳，清清喉嚨說：「你們一定聽說過，在馬雅文化遺址裡曾經發現中國龍的壁畫吧？」

I took a sip of champagne, cleared my throat, and spoke. "You will have heard that in the ancient ruins of the Maya, they found a mural of a Chinese dragon?"

「聽過，可是這跟黑石有什麼關係？而且馬雅遺跡發現的龍騰至今還沒有定論！」小周提出疑問，潘蜜拉和丹尼頷首，似乎也同意小周的觀點。

"Yes, but what does that have to do with the black stone? Besides, there is still no conclusive explanation for the flying dragon found in the Mayan ruins," Xiao Zhou gave voice to his hesitations. Pamela and Danny nodded in seeming agreement.

「中國的龍可以出現在古馬雅人的繪畫中，馬雅星圖和陝西九曲陣刻在同一塊石頭上，也就不足為奇了！」這樣比喻，小週一時找不到反駁的地方。

"A Chinese dragon can appear in an ancient Mayan painting, the Mayan astronomical chart and Shaanxi nine constellation chart are etched onto the same stone, and there's nothing remarkable about that?" Faced with this comparison, Xiao Zhou was left temporarily without a comeback.

「事實上，這塊黑石記載了兩個古老民族的祕密。」

"Actually, this black stone records the secret of two ancient civilizations."

「什麼祕密？」潘蜜拉立刻追問：「難道古中國人和古馬雅人之間有什麼祕密？」

"What secret?" Pamela immediately followed up with another question, "Could there be a secret between the ancient Chinese and Mayans?"

我看了看她，注意到她深邃的眸子充滿熱切的期待。餐館裡嘈雜依舊，唱完生日歌的那桌客人，不時傳來笑鬧聲，氣氛極為熱絡。

I looked over at her, and saw that the deep pools of her eyes were filled with fervent expectation. The restaurant was as noisy as ever. Occasional sounds of laughter and merriment would drift over from the table of people that sang Happy Birthday; the atmosphere was very intimate.

「九曲陣星座和馬雅星座是同一銀河系裡相鄰的兩個星系，但是卻存在不同的次元裡，幾千年前就已擁有高度的文明科技，雙方並且有著頻繁的貿易來往。」我從丹尼手中接過黑石，放在燈下說：「你們看，九曲陣有三個星球是在不同的軌道裡。」

“The nine constellations and Mayan star systems are adjacent within the same galaxy, but exist in different dimensions. Several thousand years ago they already had highly advanced civilizations and technology; moreover, there were frequent trade interactions between the two.” I took the stone from Danny’s hand, and placed it under the lamp, continuing, “Look, the nine constellation chart has three stars that are in different orbits.”

小周把頭湊過來，數了數，說：「嗯，是有三個點不在迷宮內。」

Xiao Zhou leaned over, counted, and said, “Mm, there are three dots that aren’t inside the labyrinth.”

「現在再看看馬雅星圖。」我把石頭翻過來，說：「這是一個封閉式的星園，九個星體連結互相牽制，誰也無法脫離成為一個個體。另一方面，由於存在於異次元裡，往返九曲陣星系必須跳躍時空，而九曲陣便是馬雅星系進入我們這個次元的門戶。」

“Now look at the Mayan astronomical chart.” I turned over the stone, and went on, “This is a closed star system. The nine solar bodies exert mutual gravitational attraction, so that none of them can escape to become an isolated unit. On the other hand, because it exists in an alternative dimension, to journey to the nine constellation system they have to time travel, and the nine constellation system is the portal through which the Mayan constellation system enters our own dimension.”

我說得三人一愣一楞的，小周更是以難以置信的眼光直瞪著我，這種說法似乎已超出他的想像，我則嚴肅的回看他。

My speech left them dumbfounded. Xiao Zhou stared at me with incredulous

eyes; this explanation seemed to be out of the range of his imagination. I sternly returned his gaze.

一直不多話的丹尼此時開口說：「如果這兩個圖有這樣的關係，這些小洞又是作什麼用的？」

The taciturn Danny opened his mouth to say, “If these two charts have this relationship, then what’s the use of these small holes?”

「這些小洞正是馬雅星和九曲陣跳躍時空的航道。更精確點說，這塊黑石是一塊「導航石」，它記載雙方對應星球的航行捷徑，尤其在九曲陣軌道外的三顆星，更是馬雅星系通往其他銀河系的重要通路。」我拿起黑石，在蠟燭燈上照了照，對潘蜜拉和丹尼說：「相信兩位一定仔細看過，連接兩張星圖的九條小洞不全是直線，也有曲線。」

“These small holes are the time-space navigation channels between the Mayan and nine constellation star systems. Or, more precisely, this black stone is a ‘navigation stone’, that records the shortcut between the correspondent stars, especially the three stars in orbits outside the nine constellation system, which are important passageways for the Mayan star system to connect to other locations in the galaxy.” I picked up the black stone, held it up over the candle lamp, and said to Pamela and Danny, “I’m sure you two have observed it carefully, and noticed that the nine small holes connecting the two star charts are not all in straight lines, but also in curved lines.”

潘蜜拉點點頭，丹尼雙手抱胸抿了一下嘴唇。

Pamela nodded her head, Danny crossed his arms and pressed his lips together.

「這就是導航石可以浮在半空中的原因。」我說。「蠟燭燃燒所形成的熱空氣，加上九條小洞組合成的獨特時空網路，讓導航石可以藉一點點的反重力就飄浮起來。」

“This is why the navigation stone can float in midair,” I told them. “The hot air created by the burning candle, plus the special space-time network created by the nine small holes, allows the navigation stone to float by capturing just a bit of anti-gravitational force.”

「可是，」潘蜜拉打破砂鍋問到底，「航線在石頭裏，根本看不出來！」

“But,” Pamela asked, getting to the root of the problem, “if the navigational lanes are inside the stone, you can’t see them!”

我早料到會有此一問，但在還不了解潘蜜拉他們的用意之前有些顧忌，反問道：「妳還沒告訴我，這塊黑石從什麼地方得到的？為什麼選中我小周？」我把黑石放到桌上，逼視著這位女子。

I had anticipated this question early on, but before I understood their intentions, I had some misgivings, and asked back, “You still haven’t told me, where did this stone come from? Why pick me and Xiao Zhou?” I put the black stone on the table, and stared directly at her.

潘蜜拉遲疑思索如何回答時，丹尼接話道：「張先生不必擔心，等我們充分了解黑石後，自然會說個清楚。」

While Pamela was mulling over a response, Danny interjected, “Don’t worry, Mr. Zhang, after we fully understand the black stone, of course we’ll give a full explanation.”

我瞧瞧丹尼，看看潘蜜拉，再望望小周，小周輕輕點頭。

I looked at Danny, and over at Pamela, and then at Xiao Zhou, who gave a slight nod.

「好，那我就說了！」舒了口氣，我繼續說：「石頭裡的航線當然不是用眼睛看的，而是嵌進太空船的自動導航系統裡，太空船便能依照指定航線飛行。」一位服務生走過來，打斷了我的話。

“Alright, then I’ll tell you!” I took a deep breath, and continued, “Of course the stone’s navigational channels are not meant to be viewed with the naked eye; the stone is placed into the spaceship’s automated navigation system, and the spaceship then can fly according to the predetermined route.” One of the wait staff came over and interrupted me.

「對不起，第七桌的來賓生日，請大家吃蛋糕。」服務生說完端來一盤蛋糕，隨即扭腰擺臀轉往另一桌。

“Excuse me, a guest at table number seven is celebrating his birthday, and has invited everyone to have a piece of cake.” After saying this, (s)he brought over a plate of cake, then swiveled her hips and catwalked over to the next table.

「這就是了！」我望著妖嬈的「女」服務生背影，說：「如果男人可以扮女人，外星人也可以扮人類呢。」

“That’s just it!” Looking at the ‘waitress’ sauntering off, I said, “If a man can pass

himself off as a woman, then aliens can disguise themselves as humans.”

小周笑道：「這話很有意思。人妖可以既是男人又是女人，有一種外星人也可能既是人類又是外星人。這話沒錯吧，兩位？」

Xiao Zhou laughed, “That’s an interesting statement. Transvestites can be both male and female, and a certain type of alien can be both human and alien. Do you two concur?”

我不禁暗暗佩服小周的機敏，我倆一搭一檔，真是走遍天下無敵手。潘蜜拉和丹尼互望一眼，後者點點頭，潘蜜拉長長舒口氣，對我們說：「張先生，周先生，實不相瞞，我們今晚在Lucky Chen會面，並不是偶然。」

I couldn’t help but admire Xiao Zhou’s quick wit. The two of us working in tandem were truly unbeatable. Pamela and Danny exchanged a glance, the latter nodded, and then Pamela let out a long breath, and told us, “Mr. Zhang, Mr. Zhou, speaking frankly, our meeting at Lucky Chen’s tonight was not a coincidence.”

「那還用說嗎？」小周笑道：「我們中國人常講，有緣千里來相會。你們從外太空不遠萬里而來，自然是十分有緣。」

“It goes without saying,” Xiao Zhou laughed, “As we Chinese say, those predestined to meet will make a journey of a thousand miles. For you to come all the way from outer space, we must be predestined to meet indeed.”

潘蜜拉不服氣的說：「周先生，你一口咬定我們是外星人，有何根據？你們才是外星人呢！」

Pamela reacted strongly, “Mr. Zhou, you keep saying we’re aliens, but on what grounds? YOU are the aliens!”

「你瞧瞧，真是強盜還要喊捉賊。」小周說：「你們帶來的黑石，已經由我的朋友鑑定，是九曲陣星座和馬雅星座間來往的導航石。誰會往來這兩個星座之間？」

“Look at you, the robber crying thief.” Xiao Zhou went on, “My friend has already authenticated the black stone you brought; it’s a navigational stone for travel between the nine constellations and Mayan constellation systems. Who would travel between these two star systems?”

「慢著，」我止住小周的喋喋不休，「潘蜜拉，你並不是說我和小周是外

星人。你的意思是，我們全族都是外星人？」

“Wait a minute,” I cut off Xiao Zhou’s rambling, “Pamela, you’re not saying that Xiao Zhou and I are aliens; what you mean is that our entire race is alien?”

沈默的金髮漢子微微一笑。

The silent blond smiled faintly.

「張先生，你終於猜對了。中國人都是外星人，這塊黑石就是具體證據。」

“Mr. Zhang, you finally guessed it. Chinese are all aliens, and this black stone is material evidence.”

「假如中國人都是外星人的話，」小周興奮極了，「不許說，讓我猜猜看，馬雅人一定也是外星人，對不對？這兩個星族，各自在地球建立了殖民地，年代深遠，便都忘了來歷。但是兩星族過去頻繁通商的事實，這塊導航石可以作證物。唯一的問題是，殖民地的星族既然再也不返回外太空，這導航石留作何用？是紀念品嗎？還是殉葬物？」

“If Chinese are all aliens,” Xiao Zhou was beside himself with excitement, “wait, don’t tell me, let me guess, then Mayans are aliens as well, right? These two alien races set up their own colonies on the earth, and with the passage of time forgot their own origins. But the actuality of their past close commercial relations is attested to by this navigational stone. The only question is, if the two alien colonies will never return to outer space, then what is the use of keeping the navigational stone? As a memento? Or as a funerary object?”

「可能他們並不是殖民者，而是放逐者。」我說。「或許兩個星族雖然通商，仍然嚴禁彼此通婚。或許九曲陣星座的羅蜜歐和馬雅星座的茱麗葉相戀，兩人都被放逐到地球，一個到了中國，一個到了美洲。兩人各自帶著黑石，期待他們或他們的子孫，將來還有在天上相會的一天……」

“Maybe they’re not colonists, but exiles,” I ventured. “Perhaps although the two alien races engaged in commerce, they were strictly forbidden from intermarrying. Perhaps the Romeo from the nine constellation star system and the Juliet from the Mayan star system were in love, and the two were banished to the earth, one to China, one to the Americas. They both brought a black stone, hoping that they or their descendants would one day have the opportunity to meet again in the sky...”

「到底是文學家。」潘蜜拉噗哧一笑。「張先生、周先生，兩位說得頗有

些道理。事情的真相，因為年代久遠，恐怕無可稽考，但中國人和馬雅印地安人都是外星人的後裔，有黑石為證，大約錯不了。」

“A writer to the last,” Pamela chuckled. “Mr. Zhang, Mr. Zhou, what you have said makes quite a bit of sense. I’m afraid the truth of the matter, due to the passing of the ages, is beyond verification, but it certainly stands to reason that the Chinese and Mayans are descendants of aliens, and the black stone is proof.”

「難怪我常常感覺世界上的人都不了解我。」小周說。「兩位找我們，目的就是為了鑑定黑石的用途？」

“No wonder I often feel like no-one on this planet understands me,” Xiao Zhou jested. “So you two sought us out simply to verify the use of the black stone?”

潘蜜拉和丹尼互望一眼，還是潘蜜拉發言：

「地球上什麼民族人口最多？」

Pamela and Danny exchanged glances, and it was Pamela who spoke, “Which race is the most populous on the earth?”

「中國人。」我和小周同時回答。

“The Chinese,” Xiao Zhou and I answered in unison.

「如果地球人口太多，什麼人應該先趕出去？」

“If the earth’s population is too great, who should be driven off first?”

「哇塞，」我說：「你們好惡毒，想把中國人和印地安人當作外星人逐出地球，讓你們白種人獨霸天下！真後悔中了你們的計，幫你們解讀黑石。我．．．我和你們拚了！」

“Hey,” I countered, “That’s vicious, planning to chase the Chinese and American Indians off the earth, to let you whites rule unopposed! I really regret falling for your trap, helping you decipher the black stone. I’m going to have it out with you!”

「不要緊張，」丹尼說：「我們也是流落在地球的星族。大家都是外星人，同病相憐嘛。這次因為潘蜜拉買大陸來的古董，碰到這塊黑石，拿不定主意怎麼辦。真謝謝張先生指點迷津。」

“Relax,” Danny said, “We are the same as you, aliens left behind on the earth. We’re all aliens; we’re in the same boat. This time Pamela bought antiques from the mainland, encountered this black stone, and didn’t know what to do with it. Thank you,

Mr. Zhang, for putting us on the right path.

「但是這塊黑石……」我追問道：「既然藏著中國人是外星人的秘密，你打算怎麼辦？」

“But this black stone...” I pursued, “given that it contains the secret that the Chinese are aliens, what do you intend to do with it?”

「當然不能公諸於世，引起地球各國排華風潮。我想……」丹尼躊躇道：「還是歸回給賣主吧。」

“Of course we can’t let it become public, and create an international anti-Chinese movement. I think...,” Danny stumbled, “we’d better return it to the seller.”

「這個不妥，」我立刻說：「萬一中國領導人死後，中國政局真的不穩，這塊黑石說不定落入野心家手裡，後果就不堪設想。這樣好了，賣主要多少錢？」

“That wouldn’t be safe,” I jumped in, “What if after the Chinese leader passes away, the Chinese political situation really destabilizes? This black stone might fall into the hands of some opportunist; the consequences are simply unthinkable. I have a better idea; how much does the seller want for it?”

丹尼說：「他主要賣宋瓷給我們，這塊黑石是附帶在一起，我想五千美金夠了。不夠，我的公司貼一點。」

Danny said, “He’s primarily selling us Song ceramics, this black stone was included with the lot. I think US\$5000 should cover it. If not, our company will top off the offer.”

我拍拍胸脯，當下就向丹尼買下黑石。潘蜜拉和丹尼對我的愛鄉情操十分推崇，連小周也敬佩不已，一向吝嗇的他竟自掏腰包，開了兩瓶香檳慶祝，又請來大堆美麗的服務生一起照相。我們四個人在Lucky Chen餐館度過愉快的週末。

I patted myself on the chest, and bought the black stone off Danny on the spot. Pamela and Danny were deeply moved by my patriotism. Even Xiao Zhou was full of admiration, and stingy as he was, still dug out his wallet to buy two bottles of champagne to celebrate, and called over a bevy of beauties to take photos with us. The four of us passed an enjoyable weekend at Lucky Chen’s restaurant.

第二天早上酒醒，我在旅館整理行囊，掏出黑石來仔細端詳。奇怪，黑石刻著的白色線條怎麼有些剝落？三千年的石頭竟會脫色？我登時有種不祥的預

感，把黑石放在燈罩上面，一鬆手它就落下來，試了幾次都是如此。

The next morning I awoke from my drunken stupor, was packing my bags in the hotel, and took out the black stone for close inspection. Strange, how was it that the white lines carved into the stone seemed to be peeling off? Could a three thousand year old stone lose its color? I immediately got a bad premonition. I put the black stone over the lamp shade, and when I let it go, it just fell, every time I tried.

黑石，黑石．．．我不願意再往下想。五千美金，回家如何向老婆交代？可能黑石的異能仍然存在，只是我不會使用而已。親愛的讀者，如果你願意購買，一千美金讓給你，好不好？五百美金？

Black stone, black stone... I don't want to think about it anymore. \$5000 US, how would I explain it to my wife back home? Maybe the black stone still had its strange properties, but I just didn't know how to use it. Dear reader, if you would like to buy it, I can let you have it for \$1000, OK? \$500?