



WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

紅 字 記  
THE SCARLET LETTER

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# THE SCARLET LETTER

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## 作者傳略

何桑是一八〇四至一八六四年間人，生於美國馬薩諸塞州。他的父親是一個船主。他少孤，深得母親的性格。他自少好學，等到他入波敦（Bowdoin）大學的時候，他必定是一個讀過最多書的學生。他畢業後就致力於文學。他在海關辦事幾年；在英國的利物浦當過四五年領事；在義大利住了兩年。自一八二五年至一八三七年他獨居，只與他的書本及他的思想爲伍，撰了好幾篇短小說。他所撰的長篇小說都很有名，以今所譯的「紅字記」爲最。他自從一八四七年起每天必撰文章，習以爲常。一八四九年另是一黨執政，他出了海關，沒得事做，他的夫人鼓勵他正好趁機會寫一部書，當天下午他就起首動筆寫紅字記。那時候他家貧母死，窮困尤甚，幸得友人及時資助，乃得成書。書一出版人爭購讀，此後他可以泰然著書了。在他的幾種小說裏頭，以這一種爲想得最透，寫小說的本事又最完全。本書有三個主角。一個老年駝背醫生，他強逼一個美貌少女嫁他，她同一個牧師私通；老醫生自己曉得，且自己承認，害了她。少婦與牧師也曉得犯了罪害了醫生。作者的本事在乎撇開原始的罪過不加判斷，以全副精神去寫這件罪過所及於這三個人的效果。少婦當衆出醜，受盡痛苦，受了好幾年。牧師是一個極有學問聲譽日隆的人，怯懦詐僞，心裏卻受更利害的痛苦。醫生是一個有學問，心存濟世的人，爲怨毒所逼偏要牧師不死，偏要他活着，以受心裏的痛苦，可謂刻毒到了極點。何桑必定要捨原罪

不論，不然就要聲明一句極其爲難的外示無理而其實深藏至理的話，世人由犯罪而得救。他這部書的意思是說世人所謂罪過也許不是罪過，還許是美德；衆人所稱讚的美德，也許可以並不是美德，而是罪惡。有些情節至少也是這樣。本書的牧師及少婦後來都變作可以入聖域的人，那個報仇的醫生反變作魔鬼。牧師和少婦都住在僑居於美洲的新英吉利地的清潔派的社會裏頭。這一派人岸然道貌，齷齪苛刻，當初誠然不如舊英吉利人那樣守舊，但是他們一旦僑居此地卻變本加厲，守舊更甚，日以窘逐異已爲事。那兩個人卻太過維新，實行數百年後的主張，個人有享受歡樂的權利，祇顧自然法律，不顧社會法律。作者雖是一個清潔派，又生長於清潔派社會中，心裏卻極不以他們爲然，所以撰出這一部絕妙的小說，題目是新奇的，是深奧的，有普遍的適用，並不限於時與地。美國人所撰的小說甚多，今日公論推這部紅字記爲第一。

民國二十三年雨水月 伍光建記

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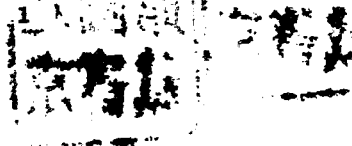
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## CHAPTER II

### THE MARKET-PLACE

It was a circumstance to be noted, on the summer morning when our story begins its course, that the women, of whom there were several in the crowd, appeared to take a peculiar interest in whatever penal infliction<sup>1</sup> might be expected to ensue. The age had not so much refinement, that any sense of impropriety restrained the wearers of petticoat and farthingale from stepping forth into the public ways, and wedging their not unsubstantial persons, if occasion were, into the throng nearest to the scaffold at an execution.<sup>2</sup> Morally, as well as materially, there was a coarser fibre in these wives and maidens of old English birth and breeding, than in their fair descendants, separated from them by a series of six or seven generations; for, throughout that chain of ancestry, every successive mother has transmitted to her child a fainter bloom, a more delicate and briefer beauty, and a slighter physical frame, if not a character of less force and solidity, than her own. The women who were now standing about the prison-door stood within less than half a century of the period when the man-like Elizabeth had been the not altogether unsuitable representative of the sex. They were her countrywomen; and the beef and ale of their native land, with a moral diet<sup>3</sup> not a whit more refined, entered

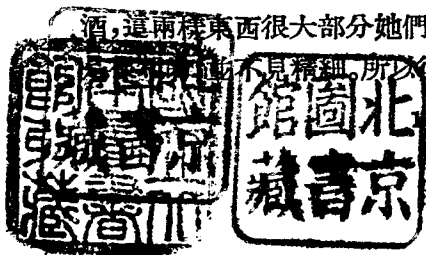
<sup>1</sup>penal infliction, 行刑. <sup>2</sup>execution, 殺人. <sup>3</sup>moral diet, 德育.



# 紅字記

## 第二回 市場

我們這段故事在一個夏天早上起首，在一堆人裏頭有幾個女人，好像特別注意於可以望執行的無論什麼刑罰，這種環境讀者是要注意的。這個時代還是粗俗的時代，穿常裙及箍裙的人們，遇着殺人的時候，毫不顧規矩，要把她們的厚實身體在人堆裏擠。擠入與殺人架最近的地方。以德性論，以體質論，生長於舊英國的奶奶們姑娘們，比她們的好子孫們粗得多，前輩與後輩相隔有六七代；因為一脈相傳下來每一個母親都把一種較為輕淡的鮮豔及一種較為細緻及為時較短的美好，與一種較輕的骨骼與她的女兒，後輩的體格容或不如前輩那樣有力，那樣結實。這些女人們現時站在監獄門口的左右，這時候與英國女主依利薩伯(Elizabeth)在位之後五十年，這個女主很像個男子，很可以代表這個時候的女人們。這幾個女人都是英國女人；她們吃的是英國牛肉，飲的是英國啤酒，這兩樣東西很大部分她們的身體，她們所受的德育也



largely into their composition. The bright morning sun, therefore, shone on broad shoulders and well-developed busts, and on round and ruddy cheeks, that had ripened in the far-off island, and had hardly yet grown paler or thinner in the atmosphere of New England. There was, moreover, a boldness and rotundity<sup>1</sup> of speech among these matrons, as most of them seemed to be, that would startle us at the present day, whether in respect to its purport<sup>2</sup> or its volume of tone.

“Goodwives,” said a hard-featured dame of fifty, “I’ll tell ye a piece of my mind. It would be greatly for the public behoof, if we women, being of mature age and church-members in good repute, should have the handling of such malefactresses as this Hester Prynne. What think ye, gossips?<sup>3</sup> If the hussy stood up for judgment before us five, that are now here in a knot together, would she come off with such a sentence as the worshipful magistrates have awarded? Marry,<sup>4</sup> I trow not!”

“People say,” said another, “that the Reverend Master Dimmesdale, her godly pastor, takes it very grievously to heart that such a scandal should have come upon his congregation.”

“The magistrates are God-fearing gentlemen, but merciful overmuch—that is a truth,” added a third autumnal matron. “At the very least, they should have put the brand of a hot iron on Hester Prynne’s forehead. Madam Hester would have winced at that, I warrant me. But she—the naughty baggage—little will she care what they put upon the bodice of her gown! Why, look you, she may cover it with a brooch, or such like heathenish

<sup>1</sup>rotundity, 說話響。 <sup>2</sup>purport, 用意。 <sup>3</sup>gossips, 好說話的女人。 <sup>4</sup>marry, 該款詞。



的寬闊的肩膀及發展得很豐滿的胸部，及團團的紅臉，從前是在那個遠島上培養成熟的，後來在新英國的空氣裏頭，臉色並未怎樣變淡，身體並未怎樣變瘦。況且這些婦女們說話，說得很有膽很靚亮，以她們那時候所說的話的意思及聲音的靚亮而論，我們現在聽見了是會嚇一跳的。

有一個五十歲的臉色很嚴厲的女人說道：「好奶奶們呀，我把我的意思告訴你們。倘若我們我們女人們，有了年紀的，又是得了常進教堂的好名譽的，把事權拿過來，對付如赫斯特爾普林 (Hester Prynne) 這樣犯法的女人，必會大有益於公衆。你們看怎麼樣？我們現在是五個人站在一堆，倘若歸我們審判這個淫婦，我們會定她很重的罪，重過那幾個地方裁判官們所定的，是不是？我相信我們是不會定得那樣輕的！」

又一個女人說道：「人們說她的敬事上帝的牧師丁木士德 (Dimmesdale) 先生，因為他的牧羣裏頭竟會出了這樣的極不名譽的醜事，心裏極其傷痛。」

第三個有秋意的女人說道：「裁判官們都是畏上帝的人，其實是太過慈心。他們頂少也該在赫斯特爾普林的額上用燒紅的鐵烙字。我相信赫斯特爾會覺得疼痛，痛到跳起來的。他們不過把字縫在她的外衣的前幅，她這個壞娼婦是不以爲意的！你們看呀，她許可以用一胸針或異教人所用的裝飾品遮住那個字，她還不是同從前一樣的得

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adornment, and so walk the streets as brave<sup>1</sup> as ever!"

"Ah, but," interposed, more softly, a young wife, holding a child by the hand, "let her cover the mark as she will, the pang of it will be always in her heart."

"What do we talk of marks and brands, whether on the bodice of her gown, or the flesh of her forehead?" cried another female, the ugliest as well as the most pitiless of these self-constituted judges. "This woman has brought shame upon us all, and ought to die. Is there not law for it? Truly there is, both in the Scripture and the statute-book. Then let the magistrates, who have made it of no effect, thank themselves if their own wives and daughters go astray!"

"Mercy on us,<sup>2</sup> goodwife," exclaimed a man in the crowd, "is there no virtue in woman, save what springs from a wholesome fear of the gallows? That is the hardest word yet! Hush, now, gossips! for the lock is turning in the prison-door, and here comes Mistress Prynne herself."

The door of the jail being flung open from within, there appeared, in the first place, like a black shadow emerging into sunshine, the grim and grisly presence of the town-beadle, with a sword by his side, and his staff of office in his hand. This personage prefigured and represented in his aspect the whole dismal severity of the Puritanic code of law, which it was his business to administer in its final and closest application to the offender. Stretching forth the official staff in his left hand, he laid his right upon the shoulder of a young woman, whom he thus drew forward; until, on the threshold of the prison-door, she repelled him, by an action marked with natural dignity and force

<sup>1</sup> brave, 得意洋洋。 <sup>2</sup> mercy on us, 受驚嚇詞或詭異詞。

意洋洋的在大街上走！』

有一個少年婦女一手拖着一個孩子，用較低的聲音說話打叉，她說道：『呀，她只管用東西遮蓋那個記號，但是她的心裏總是痛的。』

有一個最醜最苛刻，自舉為裁判官的女人喊道：『我們談什麼記號，談什麼烙字，談什麼縫在她的外衣前幅上或烙在她的額上？這個女人令我們全數女人都丟臉，她是該受死刑的。難道無法律對付這樣的罪惡麼？聖經裏及律本裏其實都有這條法律。裁判官們既不實行這條法律，倘若他們自己的太太們及小姐們走差了路，他們只好謝謝他們自己！』〔字面是謝，字意是怪譯者註。〕

人叢中有一個男人說道：『好奶奶，難道一個女人除了害怕被絞之外，就無以使她貞潔麼？現在最重的刑罰不過是絞刑！你們不要嚮啦！現在開獄門的鎖啦，普林出來啦。』

獄門從內裏開了，第一個走出的如同一個黑影走入陽光中，是一個兇惡而可怖的本鎮的小吏，身邊插一把刀，手上執一根棍子。他這樣的神色就是清潔派的慘酷法律的前驅與代表，他的職守就是對於罪人執行最後的及最嚴密的刑法。他伸直左手，抓住他的棍子，他的右手放在一個少年女人的肩上，他就是這樣拖她往前走，走到監獄的門檻，她帶着自然的莊嚴與她的人格的气概，把他推

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of character, and stepped into the open air, as if by her own free will. She bore in her arms a child, a baby of some three months old, who winked and turned aside its little face from the too vivid light of day; because its existence, heretofore, had brought it acquainted only with the grey twilight of a dungeon, or other darksome apartment of the prison.

When the young woman—the mother of this child—stood fully revealed before the crowd, it seemed to be her first impulse to clasp the infant closely to her bosom; not so much by an impulse of motherly affection, as that she might thereby conceal a certain token, which was wrought or fastened into her dress. In a moment, however, wisely judging that one token of her shame would but poorly serve to hide another, she took the baby on her arm, and, with a burning blush, and yet a haughty smile, and a glance that would not be abashed, looked around at her townspeople and neighbours. On the breast of her gown, in fine red cloth, surrounded with an elaborate embroidery and fantastic flourishes of gold thread, appeared the letter A. It was so artistically done, and with so much fertility and gorgeous luxuriance of fancy, that it had all the effect of a last and fitting decoration to the apparel which she wore; and which was of a splendour in accordance with the taste of the age, but greatly beyond what was allowed by the sumptuary regulations of the colony.

The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so glossy that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam, and a face which, besides being beautiful from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness

開，好像是她自己出於自願的走出獄來。她手抱一個大約有三個月的孩子，這個孩子因為陽光太亮，瞬眼，掉過臉去；因為這個孩子自生下來以到如今只見過一個監獄的灰色的暗淡的光，及獄裏的其他黑暗地方。

當這個少婦——即是孩子的母親——站在那裏，顯露出來給面前一大堆人看的時候，她第一件要做的事好像就是把孩子抱得更緊，緊靠着她的胸脯；並非全是發現於母親愛子的一種衝動，多半是因為她要遮掩一個記號，這個記號或是繡在她的衣服上或是縫在那裏的。但是她俄頃間卻很明白的想到她只能蓋住這一個她犯淫失節的記號，卻不能蓋住那一個記號，她一手抱住孩子，她帶着其熱如火的滿面通紅，與一種驕蹇的微笑，與不怕羞恥的舉目一看，四圍看看本處的人們及隣近的人們。在她的外衣的胸部，有一個好看的紅呢製的A字〔這個字表示她是一個淫婦 Adulteress 譯者註。〕四圍是用金線很費事繡的，還繡出奇怪形狀。這個字製得很合美術。曾用許多富於發生及豔麗的奢華的幻想製出來的，很可以做她的衣服的永久的及合宜的裝飾品；這樣的華麗與當時的好尚相合，卻遠出於殖民地的崇儉（禁止奢華）律的範圍之外。

這個少婦身高，從大端看來，身材是美滿好看的。她滿頭黑髮，極其光滑，閃射太陽照在髮上的光，她的面貌不獨是美，而且五官端正，臉色豐艷，有令人注意的額及

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belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes. She was ladylike, too, after the manner of the feminine gentility of those days; characterised by a certain state and dignity, rather than by the delicate, evanescent, and indescribable grace, which is now recognised as its indication. And never had Hester Prynne appeared more ladylike, in the antique interpretation of the term, than as she issued from the prison. Those who had before known her, and had expected to behold her dimmed and obscured by a disastrous cloud, were astonished, and even startled, to perceive how her beauty shone out, and made a halo of the misfortune and ignominy in which she was enveloped. It may be true, that, to a sensitive observer, there was something exquisitely painful in it. Her attire, which, indeed, she had wrought for the occasion, in prison, and had modelled much after her own fancy, seemed to express the attitude of her spirit,<sup>1</sup> the desperate recklessness of her mood, by its wild and picturesque peculiarity. But the point which drew all eyes, and, as it were, transfigured the wearer—so that both men and women, who had been familiarly acquainted with Hester Prynne, were now impressed as if they beheld her for the first time—was that SCARLET LETTER, so fantastically embroidered and illuminated upon her bosom. It had the effect of a spell, taking her out of the ordinary relations with humanity, and enclosing her in a sphere by herself.

“She hath good skill at her needle, that’s certain,” remarked one of her female spectators; “but did ever a woman, before this brazen<sup>2</sup> hussy, contrive such a way of showing it! Why, gossips, what is it but to laugh in

<sup>1</sup>the attitude of her spirit, 她的心境。 <sup>2</sup>brazen; 銅製的; 不要臉。

深黑的兩眼，能有印像入於人心。她有貴婦人的態度，是當時鄉紳人家婦女的態度；其特色就是一種端莊。卻不是現在所承認的細緻，過而不留，及說不出來那種好看態度。她向來是像一個貴婦人的（這是按着舊時的貴婦人解說），尤以她出獄的時候爲最像。從前見過她的人們，以爲她出獄的時候，必定被一層愁慘的雲霧所遮，變作暗淡無色。這時候看見她的光艷怎樣射出來，反把她的不幸及羞辱變作一個光環圍住她，他們看了很詫異，而且驚了一跳。從一個善於觀察的人看來，誠然是看出她的神色裏頭有很尖利的痛苦。她的衣服是她在獄裏特爲出獄時縫做的，是着她自己的異想做的，好像表現她的心境，她用紛亂而有畫意的特色發表她的絕望的及不顧後效的心境〔作者以善寫及善造心境聞譯者註。〕但是全數眼睛所注視，好像使戴那個東西的人改了形像——使凡是從前同赫斯特爾普林很相熟的男女們現在好像是同她初次見面——就是那個紅字，奇形異狀的繡在她的胸前，使其發生異彩。這個紅字有神符的效果，提她出了平常人類關係之外，把她獨自一個人圈在一個範圍之內。

有一個旁觀的女人說道：『她必定有很好的針線本事，但是在這個不要臉的娼婦之前。有過女人如她這樣想出方法賣弄這個字的！你們要曉得，她簡直是要當着我們

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the faces of our godly magistrates, and make a pride out of what they, worthy gentlemen, meant for a punishment?"

"It were well," muttered the most iron-visaged of the old dames, "if we stripped Madam Hester's rich gown off her dainty shoulders; and as for the red letter, which she hath stitched so curiously, I'll bestow a rag of mine own rheumatic flannel, to make a fitter one!"

"Oh, peace, neighbours, peace!" whispered their youngest companion; "do not let her hear you! Not a stitch in that embroidered letter, but she has felt it in her heart."

The grim beadle now made a gesture with his staff.

"Make way, good people, make way, in the King's name!" cried he. "Open a passage; and, I promise ye, Mistress Prynne shall be set where man, woman, and child, may have a fair sight of her brave<sup>1</sup> apparel, from this time till an hour past meridian. A blessing on the righteous Colony of the Massachusetts, where iniquity is dragged out into the sunshine! Come along, Madam Hester, and show your scarlet letter in the market-place!"

A lane was forthwith opened through the crowd of spectators. Preceded by the beadle, and attended by an irregular procession of stern-browed men and unkindly-visaged women, Hester Prynne set forth towards the place appointed for her punishment. A crowd of eager and curious schoolboys, understanding little of the matter in hand, except that it gave them a half-holiday, ran before her progress, turning their heads continually to stare into her face, and at the winking baby in her arms, and at the ignominious letter on her breast. It was no great distance, in those days, from the prison-door to the market-

<sup>1</sup> brave, 勇敢, 這裏解作鮮豔



的神聖裁判官面前嘲笑他們，這幾位官長們要她戴這個紅字意在懲罰她，她卻反以這個字自鳴得意，你們說是不是？』

有一個面目最嚴酷的老婆子喃喃的說道：『我們若是把赫斯特爾太太的華服從她的嬌嫩肩膀脫下來；不要那個紅字（她用奇怪手段繡上的），換上我的一塊防風濕的破法蘭絨，與她更相宜！』

她們的一個最少年的同伴低聲說道：『隣居們，不要嚮，不要嚮！你不要讓她聽見你所說的話！當她繡這個紅字的時候，她繡一針心痛一陣。』

這時候那個面目難看的小吏用他的棍作手勢。

他喊道：『我用君主的名義，請你們好人們讓路。你們讓開一條路；我可以答應你們，我把普林奶奶擺在這裏，讓你們男的，女的，及孩子們，好好的看她這件鮮艷衣裳，從這個時候起可以看到午後。上天賜與福與這個公正的馬薩諸塞(Massachusetts)殖民地，把罪惡拖出來放在陽光裏頭！赫斯特爾太太，你過來，在市場上陳列你的紅字！』

於是這一堆人讓出一條路來。小吏先行，有一隊不整齊的面目嚴厲的男女們跟着他，他領着赫斯特爾普林向指定懲罰她的地方走。有一羣熱烈的及好看熱鬧的小學生，不曉得現在鬧的是什麼事，只曉得因為這件事放他們半天學，他們在她的前頭跑，接連回過頭來瞪眼看她，看她手上那個瞬眼的嬰孩。看在她胸前的那個出醜的紅字。當日從監獄門口到市場，路並不遠。從犯人的閱歷算來，

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place. Measured by the prisoner's experience, however, it might be reckoned a journey of some length; for, haughty as her demeanour was, she perchance underwent an agony from every footstep of those that thronged to see her, as if her heart had been flung into the street for them all to spurn and trample upon. In our nature, however, there is a provision alike marvellous and merciful, that the sufferer should never know the intensity of what he endures by its present torture, but chiefly by the pang that rankles after it. With almost a serene deportment, therefore, Hester Prynne passed through this portion of her ordeal, and came to a sort of scaffold, at the western extremity of the market-place. It stood nearly beneath the eaves of Boston's earliest church, and appeared to be a fixture there.

In fact, this scaffold constituted a portion of a penal machine, which now, for two or three generations past, has been merely historical and traditionary among us, but was held, in the old time, to be as effectual an agent, in the promotion of good citizenship, as ever was the guillotine among the terrorists of France. It was, in short, the platform of the pillory; and above it rose the framework of that instrument of discipline, so fashioned as to confine the human head in its tight grasp, and thus hold it up to the public gaze. The very ideal of ignominy was embodied and made manifest in this contrivance of wood and iron. There can be no outrage, methinks, against our common nature—whatever be the delinquencies of the individual—no outrage more flagrant than to forbid the culprit to hide his face for shame; as it was the essence of this punishment to do. In Hester Prynne's instance, however, as not unfrequently in other

可以算是頗長的路；因為她的態度雖然是驕蹇的。但是擁擠着要看她的人們每走一步，使她心痛一陣，好像她的心已經摔在街上被全數的人所踢開。被他們所踐踏。好在人性有一宗奇怪而仁慈的防豫，他絕不曉得他當時所受的痛苦的劇烈程度，受過之後，由於不停的傷心的痛苦纔曉得當日的程度。所以赫斯特爾普林帶着幾乎一種寧靜的態度經過這一部分的痛苦閱歷，走到市場西盡頭的一種示衆架子。這個架子在波士頓 (Boston) 的最初的一所教堂簷下，好像是一座永久不動的東西。

其實這個架子成爲一種行刑機器的一部分，這個架子有兩三代，我們看來不過是歷史的與傳說的東西，舊時卻是勸人做良民的一種有效力的機械，如同法蘭西的恐怖黨看殺頭機器一樣。說句單簡話，這就是枷號示衆的高台；上頭擺着行刑的枷，把頭箍得緊緊的，把頭抬起來任衆人看。這件木同鐵所製的枷，就包含與顯露使人出醜的本意。無論個人犯了什麼罪過，我以爲如此次枷號示衆的刑罰其宗旨是禁止罪人因爲慚愧而不肯露面，是最顯然反對人性的事，是最無道德的事。以這次赫斯特爾普林的罪案而言，其他罪案也往往是這樣，她所受的刑法是要她

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cases, her sentence bore, that she should stand a certain time upon the platform, but without undergoing that gripe about the neck and confinement of the head, the proneness to which was the most devilish characteristic of this ugly engine. Knowing well her part, she ascended a flight of wooden steps, and was thus displayed to the surrounding multitude, at about the height of a man's shoulders above the street.

## CHAPTER III

### THE RECOGNITION

From this intense consciousness of being the object of severe and universal observation, the wearer of the scarlet letter was at length relieved,<sup>1</sup> by discerning, on the outskirts of the crowd, a figure which irresistibly took possession of her thoughts. An Indian, in his native garb, was standing there; but the red men were not so infrequent visitors of the English settlements, that one of them would have attracted any notice from Hester Prynne, at such a time; much less would he have excluded all other objects and ideas from her mind. By the Indian's side, and evidently sustaining a companionship with him, stood a white man, clad in a strange disarray of civilised and savage costume.

He was small in stature, with a furrowed visage, which, as yet, could hardly be termed aged. There was a remarkable<sup>2</sup> intelligence in his features, as of a person who had so cultivated his mental part that it could not fail

<sup>1</sup>relieved, 得解放, 這裏解作不爲痛苦所束縛. <sup>2</sup>remarkable, 能令人注意.

站在台上幾點鐘，卻不必受頸子與頭被制，這種惡毒機器的最惡的特色就是要人俯首，她曉得要她所做的是，她走上幾級木臺階，擺在那裏給四圍的人看，其高約與人肩離地相等。

### 第三回 一個外路人及一個少年牧師

胸前繡了一個紅字的女罪人正在很曉得她是被全數旁觀人所嚴厲責罵的時候，因為看見在人堆的邊上一個人，使她不由自主的心裏專想這個人，後來就忘記了這樣出醜的痛苦。有一個土人穿了土人的衣服站在那裏；但是土人並不是不常到英國人居留地的，這時候即使有一個土人站在那裏也不會那樣引她注意的；更不會使她心裏忘記全數其他事體的。原來有一個白人在土人身邊，顯然與這個土人做同伴的，這個白人打扮得很怪異，穿的是文明人及野蠻人的衣服。

這個人身材短小，滿臉縐紋，卻還不能說他是個老年人。他的面目露出能令人注意的聰明，好像他曾很培養過他的心靈部分，就不能不模範他的體魄部分，所以有不能

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to mould the physical to itself, and become manifest by unmistakable tokens. Although, by a seemingly careless arrangement of his heterogeneous<sup>1</sup> garb, he had endeavoured to conceal or abate the peculiarity, it was sufficiently evident to Hester Prynne, that one of this man's shoulders rose higher than the other. Again, at the first instant of perceiving that thin visage, and the slight deformity<sup>2</sup> of the figure, she pressed her infant to her bosom with so convulsive a force that the poor babe uttered another cry of pain. But the mother did not seem to hear it.

At his arrival in the market-place, and some time before she saw him, the stranger had bent his eyes on Hester Prynne. It was carelessly, at first, like a man chiefly accustomed to look inward, and to whom external matters are of little value and import, unless they bear relation to something within his mind. Very soon, however, his look became keen and penetrative. A writhing horror twisted itself across his features, like a snake gliding swiftly over them, and making one little pause, with all its wreathed intervolutions, in open sight. His face darkened with some powerful emotion, which, nevertheless, he so instantaneously controlled by an effort of his will, that, save at a single moment, its expression might have passed for calmness. After a brief space, the convulsion grew almost imperceptible, and finally subsided into the depths of his nature. When he found the eyes of Hester Prynne fastened on his own, and saw that she appeared to recognise him, he slowly and calmly raised his finger, made a gesture with it in the air, and laid it on his lips.

<sup>1</sup>heterogeneous, 不倫不類. <sup>2</sup>deformity, 不成樣。

誤會的符號顯露於面。他雖好像不留心打扮穿了不倫不類的衣服，他卻很用心遮掩或減輕他形體上的特別，卻還是遮掩不住，赫斯特爾普林看出這個人的肩膀是一高一低。她一看見這個瘦人，及這個稍微不成樣的形體，她就將她的嬰孩緊靠她的胸脯，用力用得很猛，使那個可憐的嬰兒覺得痛，又喊一聲。但是這個母親可像不會聽見。

當這個人一到了市場，與她未看他之前，這個外路人已經注視赫斯特爾許久。初時並不留心看，如同一個慣常想心思的人一樣，看得外物是無價值的，不要緊的，除非外物與他心裏有關係，他纔留心看。但是不久他的注視變作很尖利的，很深透的。在他的臉上有一陣痛恨盤繞過去，如同一條蛇在面上快快的溜過，停了一會子，令人看見圈裏的全數的盤曲。他的臉上被有力的情緒所擾，全變黑了，他卻立刻用他的意志的努力控制他的情緒，只有剎那間顯露過，不然，他的神氣還可以說是鎮靜的。過了很短的一會子，臉上的驚動變作幾乎看不見了，最後沉下來，沉得很深了。〔描寫這個外路人城府很深。譯者註。〕當他看見赫斯特爾普林看見他注視他，及看見她好像認得他的時候，他慢慢的，鎮靜的，伸出他的一指，在空中作手勢，放在他的唇上。

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Then, touching the shoulder of a townsman who stood next to him, he addressed him, in a formal and courteous manner.

"I pray you, good sir," said he, "who is this woman?—and wherefore is she here set up to public shame?"

"You must needs be a stranger in this region, friend," answered the townsman, looking curiously at the questioner and his savage companion, "else you would surely have heard of Mistress Hester Prynne, and her evil doings. She hath raised a great scandal, I promise you, in godly Master Dimmesdale's church."

"You say truly," replied the other. "I am a stranger, and have been a wanderer, sorely against my will. I have met with grievous mishaps by sea and land, and have been long held in bonds among the heathen folk, to the southward; and am now brought hither by this Indian, to be redeemed out of my captivity. Will it please you, therefore, to tell me of Hester Prynne's—have I her name rightly?—of this woman's offences, and what has brought her to yonder scaffold?"

"Truly, friend; and methinks it must gladden your heart, after your troubles and sojourn in the wilderness," said the townsman, "to find yourself, at length, in a land where iniquity is searched out, and punished in the sight of rulers and people; as here in our godly New England. Yonder woman, sir, you must know, was the wife of a certain learned man, English by birth, but who had long dwelt in Amsterdam, whence, some good time ago, he was minded to cross over and cast in his lot with us of the Massachusetts. To this purpose, he sent his wife before him, remaining himself to look after some necessary



他隨即拍一個站在他身邊的一個市民的肩膀，用拘禮的與客氣的狀態同他說話。

他說道：『好先生，我求你告訴我這個女人是誰！——爲什麼擺她在那裏當衆出醜？』

這個市民很奇怪的看看問話的人及他的野蠻同伴，答道：『朋友，你必定是這個地方的一個外路人，不然你必定會聽見赫斯特爾普林奶奶的姓名和她所作的醜事。我告訴你，他在敬事上帝的丁木士德先生的教堂裏令人詛罵她做了一件極大的不顧名譽的事。』

這個人答道：『你說得不錯，我是一個外路人，很不得已的做了一個流蕩人。我在水路上及陸路上都遇着令人愁苦的不幸的事，在南方被野人們拘留許久；現在這個土人帶我來這裏，取贖釋放。我請你告訴我這赫斯特爾普林的罪惡，我把她的名姓說對了麼？我請你告訴我，她犯了什麼罪，使她在那個台上出醜？』

那個市民說道：『朋友，我把實情告訴你；我看，你在野人的地方受過許多痛苦及住了許久之後，到了我們這個地方，我們這裏是敬事上帝的新英吉利；我們這裏是要搜查罪惡的，要當着我們的長官及人民面前懲罰罪惡的，你看見了心裏必定是高興的。你得曉得，那個女人原是一個有學問人的夫人，這個人生於英國，卻住在阿姆斯特丹（Amsterdam）許久，前好幾年，他立意要渡海過來，與我們馬薩諸塞人同甘共苦的住在一起。所以他打發他的夫人先來，他自己仍在阿姆斯特丹照應幾件要事。好先生，

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affairs. Marry, good sir, in some two years, or less, that the woman has been a dweller here in Boston, no tidings have come of this learned gentleman, Master Prynne; and his young wife, look you, being left to her own misguidance——”

“Ah!—aha!—I conceive you,” said the stranger, with a bitter smile. “So learned a man as you speak of should have learned this, too, in his books. And who, by your favour, sir, may be the father or yonder babe—it is some three or four months old, I should judge—which Mistress Prynne is holding in her arms?”

“Of a truth, friend, that matter remaineth a riddle; and the Daniel who shall expound it is yet a-wanting,” answered the townsman. “Madam Hester absolutely refuseth to speak, and the magistrates have laid their heads together<sup>1</sup> in vain. Peradventure the guilty one stands looking on at this sad spectacle, unknown of man, and forgetting that God sees him.”

“The learned man,” observed the stranger, with another smile, “should come himself, to look into the mystery.”

“It behooves him well, if he be still in life,” responded the townsman. “Now, good sir, our Massachusetts magistracy, bethinking themselves that this woman is youthful and fair, and doubtless was strongly tempted to her fall—and that, moreover, as is most likely, her husband may be at the bottom of the sea—they have not been bold to put in force the extremity of our righteous law against her. The penalty thereof is death. But in their great mercy and tenderness of heart, they have doomed Mistress Prynne to stand only a space of three hours on

<sup>1</sup>laid their heads together, 他們商量。

這個女人在波士敦住了兩年，也許還不到兩年，得不着這個有學問人普林先生的音信；這個少年有夫之婦，自己走差了路——』

這個外路人，帶着痛恨的微笑，說道：『呀！哈！我明白你的意思啦。如你所說的這樣有學問的人，也應該從他的書本曉得這一層，先生，我請問你，誰是這個嬰孩的父親？——我看普林奶奶所抱的嬰兒有三四個月了——』

市民答道：『朋友，其實無人曉得誰是這個孩子的父親，現在還無能解說這件事的但以理（Daniel 參觀舊約但以理書。譯者註。）維當赫斯特爾絕對不肯說出來，裁判官們只管商量，也無辦法。很許奸夫站在這裏看這件慘事，無人曉得是他，他卻忘記了上帝看見他。』

這個外路人又微笑，說道：『那個有學問人應該自己來查考這件神祕事。』

市民答道：『倘若他還活着，他該來看呀。好先生，現在我們的裁判官們想，這個女人年少貌美，誠然受大力所引誘以致失足——他們又想過她的丈夫許是沉在海底，這是很像的——他們不敢執行我們的公正法律的極端以懲罰她。她所犯的是死罪。他們慈悲很和平，他們只罰普林奶奶在枷號示衆的台上站三點鐘，罰她此後永遠在她

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the platform of the pillory, and then and thereafter, for the remainder of her natural life, to wear a mark of shame upon her bosom."

"A wise sentence!" remarked the stranger, gravely bowing his head. "Thus she will be a living sermon against sin, until the ignominious letter be engraved upon her tombstone. It irks me, nevertheless, that the partner of her iniquity should not, at least, stand on the scaffold by her side. But he will be known!—he will be known!—he will be known!"

He bowed courteously to the communicative<sup>1</sup> townsman, and, whispering a few words to his Indian attendant, they both made their way through the crowd.

The voice which had called her attention was that of the reverend<sup>2</sup> and famous John Wilson, the eldest clergyman of Boston, a great scholar, like most of his contemporaries in the profession, and withal a man of kind and genial spirit. This last attribute, however, had been less carefully developed than his intellectual gifts, and was, in truth, rather a matter of shame than self-congratulation with him. There he stood, with a border of grizzled locks beneath his skull-cap; while his grey eyes, accustomed to the shaded light of his study, were winking, like those of Hester's infant, in the unadulterated sunshine. He looked like the darkly engraved portraits which we see prefixed to old volumes of sermons; and had no more right than one of those portraits would have, to step forth, as he now did, and meddle with a question of human guilt, passion, and anguish.

"Hester Prynne," said the clergyman, "I have striven

<sup>1</sup>communicative, 好說話. <sup>2</sup>reverend, 可敬, 教士的美稱.

的胸前戴一個淫婦的記號，至她死為止。』

這個外路人很鄭重的點頭說道：『這是很明智的判詞。這樣一來，她就是反對犯淫的一篇活經論，等到她死後把這個不名譽的字刻在她的墳上。但是與她同犯罪的奸夫至少也該站在台上，站在她的身邊，現時既不這樣，我覺得難受。但是將來總會有人曉得他！將來總會有人曉得他！——總會有人曉得他！』

他很客氣的對好說話的市民鞠躬，同他印度隨從附耳說幾句話，兩人從人堆中穿過走了。

〔當赫斯特爾站在台上出醜的時候看見那個外路人她心裏很害怕，卻覺得有幾千人在那裏是她的保障，反無只是她與這個外路人面面相對的危險，她正這樣思想的時候，有人從台上的露台喊她。譯者註。〕

喊她注意的聲音原來是有名的約翰威爾生的聲音，他是波士敦的資格最老的牧師，是一個偉大學者，與同時的最多數的教士們一樣，可是一個性情仁慈與和藹的人。但是他的慈仁性情不甚變過小心發展不如他的聰明稟賦，其實他因為這樣引以為愧，並不自慶。他站在那裏，小帽下四轉都是斑白頭髮；當下他的兩隻灰色眼一向是習慣於書房裏的有遮蓋的陽光，現時在清潔無攪雜的日光裏頭瞬眼，如同赫斯特爾的嬰孩的兩眼一般。他的面貌似我們印在舊的經論本子卷首的印得很的像；他與那些像中之一相同，都不配踏步出來干預關於人類的罪惡，激情，及痛苦的一個問題。

牧師說道：『赫斯特爾普林，我曾與我這個少年兄弟

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with my young brother here, under whose preaching of the Word you have been privileged to sit"—here Mr. Wilson laid his hand on the shoulder of a pale young man beside him—"I have sought, I say, to persuade this godly youth, that he should deal with you, here in the face of Heaven, and before these wise and upright rulers, and in hearing of all the people, as touching the vileness and blackness of your sin. Knowing your natural temper better than I, he could the better judge what arguments to use, whether of tenderness or terror, such as might prevail over your hardness and obstinacy; insomuch that you should no longer hide the name of him who tempted you to this grievous fall. But he opposes to me (with a young man's over-softness, albeit wise beyond his years) that it were wronging the very nature of woman to force her to lay open her heart's secrets in such broad daylight, and in presence of so great a multitude. Truly, as I sought to convince him,<sup>1</sup> the shame lay in the commission of the sin, and not in the showing of it forth. What say you to it, once again, brother Dimmesdale! Must it be thou, or I, that shall deal with this poor sinner's soul?"

There was a murmur among the dignified and reverend occupants of the balcony; and Governor Bellingham gave expression to its purport, speaking in an authoritative voice, although tempered with respect towards the youthful clergyman whom he addressed.

"Good Master Dimmesdale," said he, "the responsibility of this woman's soul lies greatly with you. It behooves you, therefore, to exhort her to repentance, and to confession, as a proof and consequence thereof."

<sup>1</sup>to convince him, 使他相信。

會同努力，你會享受過聽他講經的特別利益』——威爾生這時候把他的手放在身邊的一個淡白臉的少年肩膀上——他接連說道：『我說，我曾想過勸這個敬事上帝的少年，在這裏對着上天的面，對着這幾位聰明正直的官長們，當着衆人能聽見你說話的時候。關於你的惡劣及黑暗的罪惡，勸導你一番。他曉得你的性情比我曉得更清楚，他更能曉得該用什麼理論，或是用溫柔說話或是用恐怖的話，庶幾可以說服你的狠心和執拗；因爲你不該再隱藏引誘你失足的人的姓名。但是他反對我（他雖然少年卻有老成的明智，有多少一個少年人的過於和平。）說當着這許多人面前，在光天化日底下強逼她把心裏的祕密說出來，未免反對女人的本性。我設法勸他使他相信，這件事的醜惡其實在乎犯罪，不在乎出醜。丁木士德兄弟，你再說一遍，你以爲怎樣？還是必得來抑或得我來對付這個可憐的罪犯的靈魂？』

在露台上的官長們及教士們喃喃說話；州長貝林甘（Bellingham）發表他的意見，用命令式的聲音說話，卻因敬重這個少年牧師，說得和平些。

他說道：『丁木士德好先生，這個女人的靈魂的負擔，大部分在你身上。所以你應該力勸她悔罪，力勸他供認，作爲悔罪的證據及效果。』

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The directness of this appeal drew the eyes of the whole crowd upon the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale; a young clergyman, who had come from one of the great English universities, bringing all the learning of the age into our wild forest-land. His eloquence and religious fervour had already given the earnest of high eminence in his profession. He was a person of very striking aspect, with a white, lofty, and impending brow, large, brown, melancholy eyes, and a mouth which, unless when he forcibly compressed it, was apt to be tremulous, expressing both nervous sensibility and a vast power of self-restraint. Notwithstanding his high native gifts and scholar-like attainments, there was an air about this young minister—an apprehensive, a startled, a half-frightened look—as of a being who felt himself quite astray and at a loss in the pathway of human existence, and could only be at ease in some seclusion of his own. Therefore, so far as his duties would permit, he trod in the shadowy bypaths, and thus kept himself simple and childlike; coming forth, when occasion was, with a freshness, and fragrance, and dewy purity of thought, which, as many people said, affected them like the speech of an angel.

Such was the young man whom the Reverend Mr. Wilson and the Governor had introduced so openly to the public notice, bidding him speak, in the hearing of all men, to that mystery of a woman's soul, so sacred even in its pollution. The trying nature of his position drove the blood from his cheek, and made his lips tremulous.

"Speak to the woman, my brother," said Mr. Wilson. "It is of moment<sup>1</sup> to her soul, and therefore, as the

<sup>1</sup> it is of moment, 有重要關係的。



州長這樣直接要他說話，全堆人的眼都注射在丁木士德身上；他是一個少年牧師，是從英國的一個大學出來的，帶了全數當時的學問到我們這個野的多樹林的地方來。他的辭令和他的奉教熱心，已經有將來在教會裏騰達的預兆。他有很動人的儀表，他的額是白色的，高而突出，兩隻棕色眼，眼大而帶愁悶，他的口是易於抖動的，除非用力鎮壓住才不抖動，這就表示他的神經敏捷，及有極大的自制力。這個少年牧師雖然有高等的天才及學者的學問，卻有一種憂慮，駭懼，及半嚇神色——好像是覺得很走錯了路的一個人，迷失了做人所走的途徑，惟有躲藏在什麼地方才能夠心安。所以只要他的職守讓他做，他就要走黑影裏的小路，就是這樣保持他自己的單簡態度及與孩子一般的態度；遇有機會，他就出來，帶着一種新鮮及芬芳，與如同露水那樣清潔的思想，有許多人說他的說話如同安琪兒的說話一樣，感動他們。

威爾生及州長現在當衆介紹這個少年，叫他當着衆人對一個女人的靈魂的神祕說話，她的靈魂雖然受了污穢，還是神聖不可侵犯的。他所處的地位是很困難的，使他變作臉無血色，使他的兩唇抖動。

威爾生說道：『我的兄弟，你對這個女人說話。這是與

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worshipful Governor says, momentous to thine own, in whose charge hers is. Exhort her to confess the truth!"

The Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale bent his head, in silent prayer, as it seemed, and then came forward.

"Hester Prynne," said he, leaning over the balcony, and looking down steadfastly into her eyes, "thou hearest what this good man says, and seest the accountability<sup>1</sup> under which I labour. If thou feelest it to be for thy soul's peace, and that thy earthly punishment will thereby be made more effectual to salvation, I charge thee to speak out the name of thy fellow-sinner and fellow-sufferer! Be not silent from any mistaken pity and tenderness for him; for believe me, Hester, though he were to step down from a high place, and stand there beside thee, on thy pedestal of shame, yet better were it so, than to hide a guilty heart through life. What can thy silence do for him, except it tempt him—yea, compel him, as it were—to add hypocrisy to sin? Heaven hath granted thee an open ignominy, that thereby thou mayest work out an open triumph over the evil within thee, and the sorrow without. Take heed how thou deniest to him—who, perchance, hath not the courage to grasp it for himself—the bitter, but wholesome, cup that is now presented to thy lips!"

The young pastor's voice was tremulously sweet, rich, deep, and broken. The feeling that it so evidently manifested, rather than the direct purport of the words, caused it to vibrate within all hearts, and brought the listeners into one accord of sympathy. Even the poor baby, at Hester's bosom, was affected by the same influence; for it directed its hitherto vacant gaze towards Mr. Dimmesdale, and

<sup>1</sup> accountability, 責任.

她的靈魂有重要關係的，所以州長說，你既照應她的靈魂，與你自己的靈魂亦有要緊關係。你勸她把實情供認吧！』

丁木士德垂頭，好像是緘默祈禱，隨即走上前。

他靠着露台，兩眼往下定睛看她的兩眼，說道：『赫斯特爾普林，你聽見這個好人所說的話，你曉得我所擔負的責任，你若覺得招認了可以使你的靈魂安帖，覺得在凡間受了懲罰，等到將來就更有效力可望得救，我就叫你說出與你同犯罪及與你同受痛的人的姓名來！你卻不要想錯了，因為可憐他及戀愛他就不開口；赫斯特爾，你要相信我的話，假使他從高處走下來，上台站在你身邊，站在出醜的台上，與其一生遮掩着一個犯罪的心，還不如這樣出醜的好。你不說出來，能夠有什麼好處及他，不過是引誘他——甚至於強逼他——在犯罪之外加上一層詐假？上天許你當衆出醜，使你可以當衆打勝你藏於心裏的罪惡及露於外面的憂愁。你要顧到你怎樣不供出他來——他也許無勇，不敢自己取那盃苦口的良藥喝下去，這盃良藥現在送到你的唇邊！』

這個少年牧師的聲音是抖抖的，很好聽，聲音豐富，深而斷續。這番說話不甚直接說出他的用意，卻顯然揭露他的感情，全數人聽了心裏都無不顫動，使聽者都一致表同情。甚至於在赫斯特爾懷裏的可憐的嬰孩也被同此潛力所感動；因為這個時候把她的無所睹的兩隻小眼睛向丁木士德臉上看，舉起兩隻小手，帶着半喜歡半哀憐的喃

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held up its little arms, with a half-pleased, half-plaintive murmur. So powerful seemed the minister's appeal, that the people could not believe but that Hester Prynne would speak out the guilty name; or else that the guilty one himself, in whatever high or lowly place he stood, would be drawn forth by an inward and inevitable necessity, and compelled to ascend the scaffold.

Hester shook her head.

"Woman, transgress not beyond the limits of Heaven's mercy!" cried the Reverend Mr. Wilson, more harshly than before. "That little babe hath been gifted with a voice, to second and confirm the counsel which thou hast heard. Speak out the name! That, and thy repentance, may avail to take the scarlet letter off thy breast."

"Never!" replied Hester Prynne, looking, not at Mr. Wilson, but into the deep and troubled eyes of the younger clergyman. "It is too deeply branded. Ye cannot take it off. And would that I might endure his agony, as well as mine!"

"Speak, woman!" said another voice, coldly and sternly, proceeding from the crowd about the scaffold. "Speak; and give your child a father!"

"I will not speak!" answered Hester, turning pale as death, but responding to this voice, which she too surely recognised. "And my child must seek a heavenly Father; she shall never know an earthly one!"

"She will not speak!" murmured Mr. Dimmesdale, who, leaning over the balcony, with his hand upon his heart, had awaited the result of his appeal. He now drew back, with a long respiration. "Wondrous strength and generosity of a woman's heart! She will not speak!"

喃聲音。牧師這番勸導的話說得是實在有力量，人們不能相信赫斯特爾普林不肯供出奸夫的姓名來；也不能相信，無論奸夫是上等人或是下等，不會被一種內裏的及在所不能免的強逼，走到台上。

赫斯特爾搖頭。

牧師威爾生用更嚴厲的腔調說道：『女人，你不可越過上天的慈悲的範圍！那個嬰兒蒙天賦以聲音，贊成及更證實你所聽的勸導是對的。供出名姓來！你的口供和你悔罪，可以除了你胸前那個紅字。』

赫斯特爾普林並不看威爾生只定睛看那個更少年的牧師的愁苦眼，答道：『我永遠不供！那個紅字已經透入得很深了。你不能除去。但願我不獨能夠忍受我自己的痛苦。而且可以忍受他的痛苦！』從站近示衆台的人堆裏頭，另外有一個用冷而嚴厲的聲音說道：『女人，說呀！你說呀；說出你的孩子的父親姓名來！』

赫斯特爾臉上變作死白色，她很認得這個人的聲音，答道：『我永遠不肯說出來。我的孩子只好認一個天父；她將永遠不認得一個在地下的父親！』

丁木士德靠在露台往下看，一手握在心部，等候他的一番勸導話的效果，喃喃的說道：『她不肯說！一個女人的心實在是有令人驚奇的毅力及慷慨！她不肯說！』

CHAPTER IV

THE INTERVIEW

Closely following the jailer into the dismal apartment, appeared that individual of singular aspect, whose presence in the crowd had been of such deep interest to the wearer of the scarlet letter. He was lodged in the prison, not as suspected of any offence, but as the most convenient and suitable mode of disposing of him, until the magistrates should have conferred with the Indian sagamores respecting his ransom. His name was announced as Roger Chillingworth. The jailer, after ushering him into the room, remained a moment, marvelling at the comparative quiet that followed his entrance; for Hester Prynne had immediately become as still as death, although the child continued to moan.

"Prithee, friend, leave me alone with my patient," said the practitioner. "Trust me, good jailer, you shall briefly have peace in your house; and, I promise you, Mistress Prynne shall hereafter be more amenable to just authority than you may have found her heretofore."

"Nay, if your worship can accomplish that," answered Master Brackett, "I shall own you for a man of skill indeed! Verily, the woman hath been like a possessed<sup>1</sup> one; and there lacks little, that I should take in hand to drive Satan out of her with stripes."

The stranger had entered the room with the characteristic quietude of the profession to which he announced himself as belonging. Nor did his demeanour change,

<sup>1</sup> possessed, 被鬼迷.

〔老牧師隨後還說一番令人聽了害怕的話，赫斯特爾還是不肯說，只好還把她送入監裏。到了這個時候書中的主角，淫婦赫斯特爾，本夫奸夫及和私生子，都出台了。譯者註。〕

#### 第四回 夫婦相會

有一個人緊緊的跟隨獄卒入黑暗的牢，他就是那奇樣的人，剛才在人堆裏頭，戴紅字的女人會很注意他。他住在監裏，並不是他有犯罪的嫌疑，裁判官們以為這樣安置他最便利又最合宜，等到他們同印度酋長們商量好他的贖款再說。據布告說這個人的名姓是羅哲爾吉令維斯（Roger Chillingworth。）獄卒送他進屋子之後站了一會，看見他進屋之後，屋裏還是很安靜的，覺得有點奇怪；因為赫斯特爾立刻如同死了一樣的不動，那個嬰兒卻是哭泣。

醫生〔吉令維斯自稱是個醫生。譯者註。〕說道：『朋友，我求你讓我獨自與我的病人在一起。好獄卒，你相信我的話，你的屋裏不久就安靜啦；我可以答應你，普林奶奶此後可以更遵守公道的法令，與從前不同啦。』

巴拉開（Brackett）說道：『倘若先生能夠辦成這件事，我要承認你真是一個有本事的人啦！這個女人真是像被鬼迷的，我幾乎要用鞭子打她，從她身上把魔鬼趕走了。』

這個外路人自稱是醫生，走進屋子的時候是帶着醫

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when the withdrawal of the prisonkeeper left him face to face with the woman, whose absorbed notice of him, in the crowd, had intimated so close a relation between himself and her. His first care was given to the child; whose cries, indeed, as she lay writhing on the trundle-bed, made it of peremptory necessity to postpone all other business to the task of soothing her. He examined the infant carefully, and then proceeded to unclasp a leathern case, which he took from beneath his dress. It appeared to contain medical preparations, one of which he mingled with a cup of water.

"My old studies in alchemy," observed he, "and my sojourn, for above a year past, among a people well versed in the kindly properties of simples,<sup>1</sup> have made a better physician of me than many that claim the medical degree. Here, woman! The child is yours—she is none of mine—neither will she recognise my voice or aspect as a father's. Administer this draught, therefore, with thine own hand."

Hester repelled the offered medicine, *at the same time* gazing with strongly marked apprehension into his face.

"Wouldst thou avenge thyself on the innocent babe?" whispered she.

"Foolish woman!" responded the physician, half coldly, half soothingly. "What should ail me, to harm this misbegotten and miserable babe? The medicine is potent for good; and were it my child—yea, mine own, as well as thine!—I could do no better for it."

As she still hesitated, being, in fact, in no reasonable state of mind, he took the infant in his arms, and himself administered the draught. It soon proved its efficacy,

<sup>1</sup> simples, 草藥.



生的安詳特色。等到獄卒走了，他同這個女人面面相對的時候，他的態度仍然不改；當他在人堆裏的時候，這個女人聚精會神的注視他，曾表示他與她有很密切的關係。他先看嬰孩；因為嬰孩在有小輪的床上亂動，在那裏哭，不能不緩做其他諸事，先撫慰好這個孩子。他很小心察看孩子，打開一個皮包，這是從他的衣服底下取出來的。裏頭好像有許多製好的藥，他用一盃水和藥。

他說道：『我從前所學的化學，和後來我與一個種族同居有一年多，他們很曉得草藥的和藹藥性，使我變作一個好醫生，比許多得過文憑的醫生好得多。女人呀！這個孩子是你的——她不是我的——她既不會認得我的聲音，亦不認得父親的面貌，你自己親手給她藥水吃吧。』

赫斯特爾推開藥水，同時帶着很有表示的憂懼，看他的臉。她低聲說道：『你想害死這個無辜的嬰孩報你的仇麼？』

醫生帶着一半冷落一半安慰的神色，答道：『傻女人！我有什麼過不去的地方要傷害這個不該生的及可慘的嬰兒？這點藥水有療治的力量；假使我的孩子——是我的又是你的！——我所能夠做的也不過這樣。』

她還是遲疑，其實她心裏糊塗了，他把嬰孩抱在手上，自己給她藥吃。不久就發生效力，應了醫生所說的話。小

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and redeemed the leech's pledge. The moans of the little patient subsided; its convulsive tossings gradually ceased; and, in a few moments, as is the custom of young children after relief from pain, it sank into a profound and dewy slumber. The physician, as he had a fair right to be termed, next bestowed his attention on the mother. With calm and intent scrutiny, he felt her pulse, looked into her eyes—a gaze that made her heart shrink and shudder, because so familiar, and yet so strange and cold—and, finally, satisfied with his investigation, proceeded to mingle another draught.

“I know not *Lethe*<sup>1</sup> nor *Nepenthe*,”<sup>2</sup> remarked he; “but I have learned many new secrets in the wilderness, and here is one of them—a recipe that an Indian taught me, in requital of some lessons of my own, that were as old as *Paracelsus*.<sup>3</sup> Drink it! It may be less soothing than a sinless conscience. That I cannot give thee. But it will calm the swell and heaving of thy passion, like oil thrown on the waves of a tempestuous sea.”

He presented the cup to Hester, who received it with a slow, earnest look into his face; not precisely a look of fear, yet full of doubt and questioning, as to what his purposes might be. She looked also at her slumbering child.

“I have thought of death,” said she—“have wished for it—would even have prayed for it, were it fit that such as I should pray for anything. Yet, if death be in this cup, I bid thee think again, ere thou beholdest me quaff it. See! It is even now at my lips.”

“Drink, then,” replied he, still with the same cold composure. “Dost thou know me so little, Hester Prynne?”

<sup>1</sup>*Lethe*, 希臘神話的河水, 飲了使人忘記前事。 <sup>2</sup>*Nepenthe*, 使人忘憂的藥。 <sup>3</sup>*Paracelsus*, 地名。

病人不哭了；孩子的發驚的跳動逐漸停止了；再過一會孩子熟睡，微微出汗，孩子止住痛苦之後，往往是這樣的。他有多少權利可以稱是一個醫生，他隨即注意到孩子的母親。他帶着鎮靜而十分注意的詳察，摩她的脈，看她的兩眼——這一注視使她的心縮小及打戰。因為他們兩個人本來是很相熟的，現在卻是很生外很冷淡的——最後他滿意於他的診視，他就進行再和服藥。

他說道：『我不曉得有什麼使人忘記前事的河水或使人忘憂的藥；但是我在野地上學了許多新祕密，這裏就是一種祕藥——是一個印度人傳授我的祕方，我教他幾條有 Paracelsus 那樣老的幾條方子，他授我這條祕方作報酬。你喝呀！這種藥也許不如一個不犯罪的良心那樣能安慰人。那個我卻不能給你。但是這種藥會使你的激情的憤張及驚動變作安靜，如同澆油在洶湧的海濤上一樣。』

他送藥盃給赫斯特爾，她接過孟子，用慢而熱烈的眼色看他的臉；並非專是害怕的神色，卻是滿臉的懷疑及詰問神色，好像要曉得他的用意。她也看看她的酣睡的孩子。

她說道：『我會想到尋死——我會想死——假使如我這樣的人還配祈禱求什麼事的話，我會禱祈求死的。雖是這樣說，倘若盃裏有致死的藥，在你見我吃下去之先，我要你再思再想，你看呀！我把藥放在唇邊啦。』

他還是帶着一樣的冷落的安詳，答道：『既是這樣，你只管吃吧。赫斯特爾普林你怎麼不甚曉得我的脾氣？我的

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Are my purposes wont to be so shallow? Even if I imagine a scheme of vengeance, what could I do better for my object than to let thee live—than to give thee medicines against all harm and peril of life—so that this burning shame may still blaze upon thy bosom!" As he spoke, he laid his long forefinger on the scarlet letter, which forthwith seemed to scorch into Hester's breast, as if it had been red-hot. He noticed her involuntary gesture, and smiled. "Live, therefore, and bear about thy doom with thee, in the eyes of men and women—in the eyes of him whom thou didst call thy husband—in the eyes of yonder child! And, that thou mayest live, take off this draught."

Without further expostulation or delay, Hester Prynne drained the cup, and, at the motion of the man of skill, seated herself on the bed where the child was sleeping; while he drew the only chair which the room afforded, and took his own seat beside her. She could not but tremble at these preparations; for she felt that—having now done all that humanity, or principle, or, if so it were, a refined cruelty, impelled him to do, for the relief of physical suffering—he was next to treat with her as the man whom she had most deeply and irreparably injured.

"Hester," said he, "I ask not wherefore, nor how, thou hast fallen into the pit, or say rather, thou hast ascended, to the pedestal of infamy, on which I found thee. The reason is not far to seek. It was my folly, and thy weakness. I—a man of thought—the book-worm of great libraries—a man already in decay, having given my best years to feed the hungry dream of knowledge—what had I to do with youth and beauty like thine own! Misshapen from my birthhour, how could I delude myself with the idea that intellectual gifts might veil physical deformity

用意向來是這樣粗淺的麼？即使我要想一個報仇的計劃，我若要達報仇的目的，還有比讓你活着更好的麼？——還有比給藥你吃，以防禦人生的全數禍害及全數危險更好的麼？——還有比使這樣勢如烈火的羞辱仍然在你的胸前！』當他說這句話的時候，他把他的長手指放在紅字上，赫斯特爾就覺得那隻手指好像一塊燒紅的鐵，燒她的胸脯。他看見她不由自主的跳動，就微笑。他說道：『你只管活在世上，當着男人女人的眼——當着你曾為你的丈夫的眼——當着那個孩子的眼——到處戴著你的刑罰吧！你吃這盃藥水吧，你就可以活啦。』

赫斯特爾既不再辨論又不再耽擱，把藥全吃下去，醫生動動手請她坐下，她就坐在孩子睡覺的床上；他把屋裏的獨一把椅子拉過來，坐在她身邊。她看見這許多預備，不能不發抖；因為她覺得——他既把人道主義，或宗旨，假使是宗旨的話，就是一種精細的殘忍，逼他做的，他都做到了，以免她的身體受痛苦——他跟着就要用一個受過她的最深的及不能挽回的傷害的人的手段來對付她。

他說道：『赫斯特爾，我並不請問你為什麼，或怎麼樣，跌了深坑裏，或怎麼樣高升，到了我所看見你所在的出醜台上。理由是不必遠求的。原是我的錯，及你的抗拒力薄弱。我——我是一個用心好思想的人——大圖書館的蛀書蟲——一個年力已經衰弱的人，我把我的盛年供養渴於求學的夢——我為什麼要娶一個如你這樣少年美貌的女子！我生下地來就是個駝子，我怎樣能夠騙我自己，妄想在一個少年女子的想像裏頭以為我的天生的聰明可以遮掩我

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in a young girl's fantasy! Men call me wise. If sages were ever wise in their own behoof, I might have foreseen all this. I might have known that, as I came out of the vast and dismal forest, and entered this settlement of Christian men, the very first object to meet my eyes would be thyself, Hester Prynne, standing up, a statue of ignominy, before the people. Nay, from the moment when we came down the old church-steps together, a married pair, I might have beheld the bale-fire of that scarlet letter blazing at the end of our path!"

"Thou knowest," said Hester—for, depressed as she was, she could not endure this last quiet stab at the token of her shame—"thou knowest that I was frank with thee. I felt no love, nor feigned any."

"True," replied he. "It was my folly! I have said it. But, up to that epoch of my life, I had lived in vain. The world had been so cheerless! My heart was a habitation large enough for many guests, but lonely and chill, and without a household fire. I longed to kindle one! It seemed not so wild a dream—old as I was, and sombre as I was, and misshapen as I was—that the simple bliss, which is scattered far and wide, for all mankind to gather up, might yet be mine. And so, Hester, I drew thee into my heart, into its innermost chamber, and sought to warm thee by the warmth which thy presence made there!"

"I have greatly wronged thee," murmured Hester.

"We have wronged each other," answered he. "Mine was the first wrong, when I betrayed thy budding youth into a false and unnatural relation with my decay. Therefore, as a man who has not thought and philosophised in vain, I seek no vengeance, plot no evil against thee. Between

的醜怪身體！〔這個老醜怪物何嘗不曉得他娶一個少年美貌女子原是他自己的大錯，反襯出下文他所作的事是絕不應該的譯者註。〕人們稱我明智。假使明智的人對於自己的行爲也是明智的，我原可以早見及此。我應該可以曉得，當我從廣大而沉寂的樹林出來，走入這個基督教人的僑民地的時候，我所看見的第一件事物就你赫斯特爾普林自己，當着衆人，站在台上做一個喪失名譽的石像。不獨是這樣，自從我們結了婚從老教堂的台階下來的時候，我該可以看見在我們所走的小路盡頭處那個紅字燒着的大火！』

赫斯特爾這時候雖然是抑鬱的，卻不能忍受他最後的不慌不忙的譏刺她，說她出醜的記號，說道：——『你是曉得的，我會對你說坦白話。我覺得我不能愛你，並且不能裝作愛你。』

他答道：『你實在曾說過。我剛才也說過，原是我的錯。但是我未娶你之前，我是枉活了那些年。世界是毫無興趣的！我的心如同一所大廈，能容許多客人，可惜是寂寞的，冷落的，並無一所人家的火。我久已渴想點着一個人家的火！那時候我看過去好像不是一場虛夢——我年紀雖老，我的性情雖然沉悶，我的形狀雖然不成樣子——我以爲我也可以得着撒在滿地，人人都可以拾取的單簡的幸福。赫斯特爾，所以我拖你到我的懷裏，拖你入我心裏的最深地方，意在把你到了那裏所發生的煖氣煖你！』

赫斯特爾喃喃道：『我大大的對不住。』

他答道：『我們彼此都對不住。我是第一個對你不住，我使你同我這個衰朽人發生一種虛假的及不自然的關係，我就害了你的鮮艷的少年。所以我如同一個並不是白費了工夫好用心思與研究哲學的人，我並不求報仇雪恨，並不設法害你。你同我各在一個天平盤上，輕重多少

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thee and me the scale hangs fairly balanced. But, Hester, the man lives who has wronged us both! Who is he?"

### CHAPTER VIII

#### THE ELF-CHILD AND THE MINISTER

"This is awful!" cried the Governor, slowly recovering from the astonishment into which Pearl's response had thrown him. "Here is a child of three years old, and she cannot tell who made her! Without question, she is equally in the dark as to her soul, its present depravity and future destiny! Methinks, gentlemen, we need inquire no further."

Hester caught hold of Pearl, and drew her forcibly into her arms, confronting the old Puritan magistrate with almost a fierce expression. Alone in the world, cast off by it, and with this sole treasure to keep her heart alive, she felt that she possessed indefeasible rights against the world, and was ready to defend them to the death.

"God gave me the child!" cried she. "He gave her in requital of all things else, which ye had taken from me. She is my happiness!—she is my torture, none the less! Pearl keeps me here in life! Pearl punishes me too! See ye not, she is the scarlet letter, only capable of being loved, and so endowed with a millionfold the power of retribution for my sin? Ye shall not take her! I will die first!"

"My poor woman," said the not unkind old minister, "the child shall be well cared for!—far better than thou canst do it."

"God gave her into my keeping," repeated Hester Prynne, raising her voice almost to a shriek. "I will not give her up!"—And here, by a sudden impulse, she turned



相等。但是赫斯特爾，你對我不住的男人還活着！他是誰？」

〔她始終不肯告訴他，他說他必定找着他譯者註〕。

### 第八回 淘氣孩子與牧師

〔地方官長們商量要赫斯特爾普林把她的女孩子(名珠子)交出來歸地方上教養赫斯特爾得了這個消息走去哀求。老牧師要考這個女孩子。他很鄭重的問她是誰造她的。她的母親曾告訴過她是天父造她的。她原可以答得出來。她卻淘氣不說，只說她不是造的，是她的母親在監獄門口的玫瑰樹上摘來的。譯者註。〕

州長聽了珠子的話很詫異了一會，慢慢才恢復原狀，喊道：「這是多麼可怕！一個三歲的孩子不能說是誰造她的！她的靈魂的現在的腐敗及將來的注定的結果，她是一樣的糊塗全不曉得，這是不必問的了！諸位，我看，我們不必再往下考問啦。」

赫斯特爾捉住珠子，用力拖她過來抱住她，用幾乎兇猛態度對着那清潔派的老官長。世界拋棄她，她孤零一個人在這個大世界裏頭，只有這個寶貝使她的心不死，她覺得她有不能被人奪去的權利，可以反對全個世界，預備奮鬥到死以保護這項權利。

她說道：「上帝給我這個孩子！你們把我的其餘所有都奪了，上帝給我這個孩子以抵其餘。她就是我的幸福！——她卻又是我所受的酷刑！珠子使我活在世上！珠子卻又懲罰我！難道你們不看見麼，她就是這個紅字，不過她能夠人愛，她有一百萬倍的力量報復我的罪惡？我不許你們奪了她去！我寧願先死！」

那個並不是不仁慈的老牧師說道：「我的可憐的婦女，我們會好好的照應她！——比你好得多。」

赫斯特爾普林放大喉嚨幾乎同叫喊一般的又說道：「上帝給她歸我教養的。我不肯交她出來！」——說到這裏，

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to the young clergyman, Mr. Dimmesdale, at whom, up to this moment, she had seemed hardly so much as once to direct her eyes.—“Speak thou for me!” cried she. “Thou wast my pastor, and hadst charge of my soul, and knowest me better than these men can. I will not lose the child! Speak for me! Thou knowest—for thou hast sympathies which these men lack!—thou knowest what is in my heart, and what are a mother’s rights, and how much the stronger they are, when that mother has but her child and the scarlet letter! Look thou to it! I will not lose the child! Look to it!”

At this wild and singular appeal, which indicated that Hester Prynne’s situation had provoked her to little less than madness, the young minister at once came forward, pale, and holding his hand over his heart, as was his custom whenever his peculiarly nervous temperament was thrown into agitation. He looked now more careworn and emaciated than as we described him at the scene of Hester’s public ignominy; and whether it were his failing health, or whatever the cause might be, his large dark eyes had a world of pain in their troubled and melancholy depth.

“There is truth in what she says,” began the minister, with a voice sweet, tremulous, but powerful, inasmuch that the hall re-echoed, and the hollow armour rang with it—“truth in what Hester says, and in the feeling which inspires her! God gave her the child, and gave her, too, an instinctive knowledge of its nature and requirements—both seemingly so peculiar—which no other mortal being can possess. And, moreover, is there not a quality of awful sacredness in the relation between this mother and this child?”

忽然一陣衝動使她掉過頭來對着少年牧師丁木士德，以前她好像未曾看他一次。——她喊道：『你替我說句話！你原是我的牧師，曾照管我的靈魂，你曉得我，比他們所能曉得的清楚得多。我不肯交出這個孩子！你替我說話！你有憐憫心，他們並無憐憫心。——你曉得我心裏頭的事，曉得一個爲母的權利，況且這個母親無論什麼都失去了，現在只有她的孩子和這個紅字，你曉得這樣一個母親的權利更爲有力！你得注意！我不肯交出孩子！你得注意！』

赫斯特爾所處的淒慘地方激怒她幾乎發狂，這個少年牧師一聽見這一番激烈而奇特的哀訴，立刻走上前，他臉無血色，一手握住心部，無論什麼時候只要他的特別怯懦性情受了驚擾，他習慣露出這樣態度。他現在比當日赫斯特爾出醜示衆的那一天臉上更憂愁更瘦削；或因他有病，或因別的原故，他的大而黑的眼被愁苦所深入，滿眼都是痛苦。

他的聲音悅耳而顫動，卻是很響亮的，被大廳迴射，連空虛的甲都發響；他說道：『她所說的話有真實道理，赫斯特爾所說的話，與激動她所發的感情，都有真實道理！上帝給她這個孩子，還給她一種本能的知識，使她曉得孩子的性情與需要——這兩樣都是很特別的——是別人所不能有的。況且在這個母親與這個孩子之間，不是有一種可怕的神聖不可侵犯的性質麼？』

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“Ay!—how is that, good Master Dimmesdale?” interrupted the Governor. “Make that plain, I pray you!”

“It must be even so,” resumed the minister. “For, if we deem it otherwise, do we not thereby say that the Heavenly Father, the Creator of all flesh, hath lightly recognised a deed of sin, and made of no account the distinction between unhallowed lust and holy love? This child of its father’s guilt and its mother’s shame hath come from the hand of God, to work in many ways upon her heart, who pleads so earnestly, and with such bitterness of spirit, the right to keep her. It was meant for a blessing; for the one blessing of her life! It was meant, doubtless, as the mother herself hath told us, for a retribution too; a torture to be felt at many an unthought-of moment; a pang, a sting, an ever-recurring agony, in the midst of a troubled joy! Hath she not expressed this thought in the garb of the poor child, so forcibly reminding us of that red symbol which sears<sup>1</sup> her bosom?”

“Well said again!” cried good Mr. Wilson. “I feared the woman had no better thought than to make a mountebank of her child!”

“Oh, not so!—not so!” continued Mr. Dimmesdale. “She recognises, believe me, the solemn miracle which God hath wrought, in the existence of that child. And may she feel, too—what, methinks, is the very truth—that this boon was meant, above all things else, to keep the mother’s soul alive, and to preserve her from blacker depths of sin into which Satan might else have sought to plunge her! Therefore it is good for this poor, sinful woman that she hath an infant immortality,<sup>2</sup> a being

<sup>1</sup>sears, 用燒紅的鐵炮烙。 <sup>2</sup>immortality, 不能死; 不能腐敗; 不能爲惡。

州長打叉，說道：『噲！丁木士德好先生，這是怎麼講呀？我求你解說清楚！』

牧師接着說道：『必定是這樣。因為我們若以為不是這樣，我們豈不是說天父，即全數血肉軀體的製造人，會稍微承認一件犯罪過的事，對於不神聖的縱慾與神聖的戀愛一視同仁並無分別麼？這個嬰孩是她的父親的罪惡與她的母親無恥所生的。亦是來自上帝之手的，要用許多方法激動她的心，她這樣熱烈的，又帶着這樣痛苦，哀求教養這個女孩的權利。天生這個孩子意在給她一種幸福；她一生只有這點幸福！又誠如這個孩子的母親說，也誠然意在報應她的罪惡；使她在許多想不到的時候受酷刑；使她在一種有憂有慮的快樂中覺得一陣忽然的痛苦，覺得如毒蟲的一螫，覺得一種永遠去了又來的苦痛！她不是在她的孩子所穿的衣裳的顏色發表這種思想麼？這個顏色很有力量的使我們記得烙她胸口的那個紅字。』

好的威爾生喊道：『說得又好。我恐怕這個女人的最好思想不過是把這個孩子變作在街上耍把戲的！』

丁木士德接着說道：『呀，不是這樣的！不是這樣的！請你相信我的話，她生了這個孩子，她認得是上帝所造的莊重的奇蹟。但願她亦可以曉得我以為是的真正道理——這件天之所賜尤其是意在使母親的靈魂活着，保存她不使墮入更深的罪坑，若無這個孩子魔鬼就可以設法推她入坑！這個可憐的犯罪女人有了一個孩子的不能為惡，所以是有益於她的，把一個能夠受永久的快樂或愁

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capable of eternal joy or sorrow, confided to her care—to be trained up by her to righteousness—to remind her, at every moment, of her fall—but yet to teach her, as it were by the Creator's sacred pledge, that, if she bring the child to heaven, the child also will bring its parent thither! Herein is the sinful mother happier than the sinful father. For Hester Prynne's sake, then, and no less for the poor child's sake, let us leave them as Providence hath seen fit to place them!"

"You speak, my friend, with a strange earnestness," said old Roger Chillingworth, smiling at him.

"And there is a weighty import in what my young brother hath spoken," added the Reverend Mr. Wilson. "What say you, worshipful Master Bellingham? Hath he not pleaded well for the poor woman?"

"Indeed hath he," answered the magistrate, "and hath adduced such arguments, that we will even leave the matter as it now stands; so long, at least, as there shall be no further scandal in the woman. Care must be had, nevertheless, to put the child to due and stated examination in the catechism, at thy hands or Master Dimmesdale's. Moreover, at a proper season, the tithing-men must take heed that she go both to school and to meeting."

The young minister, on ceasing to speak, had withdrawn a few steps from the group, and stood with his face partially concealed in the heavy folds of the window-curtain; while the shadow of his figure, which the sunlight cast upon the floor, was tremulous with the vehemence of his appeal. Pearl, that wild and flighty little elf, stole softly towards him, and taking his hand in the grasp of both her own, laid her cheek against it; a caress so tender,

苦的孩子歸她教養，是有益的——由她教養成一個好人——無時無刻不使她記得——又好像以造物主宰的憑證教她——倘若她教養這個孩子使她可以升天，這個孩子也會帶她的母親升天！有罪的母親比有罪的父親快樂就在於此。所以爲赫斯特爾起見，爲那個可憐的孩子起見，我們莫如使他們母女在一起，一如天意使他們在一起！』

年老的羅哲爾吉令維斯對着丁木士德微笑，說道：『我的朋友，你說這番話帶着一宗奇異的熱心。』

威爾生牧師說道：『我的少年所說的話裏頭有重要的意思。貝林甘先生，你有什麼說的？他替那個女人說話說得好，是不是？』

裁判官說道：『他真說得好，他引了許多理據，我們就不必有什麼舉動，任由她母女在一起吧；只要這個女人不再鬧出不名譽的事來，我們隨她去。雖是這樣辦，我們必得小心在意隨時拿宗教旨趣的問答考這個孩子，或是由你或是由丁木士德考她。還有一層，屆時那個收教費的人們必要留心打發她入學校入教堂。』

這個少年牧師說完了就從人羣中退後幾步，躲在窗幔的很重的疊幅裏頭，日光把他的身影照在地板上，因爲他替女人哀求的話說得很熱烈，他的影子還在那裏抖動。珠子是一個野性的，一時三變的小鬼，輕輕的脚步，偷偷的向他那裏走，兩手抓住他的手，用臉靠住這隻手；表示一種溫柔的親近，又是很不放肆的，她的母親正在看着，

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and withal so unobtrusive, that her mother, who was looking on, asked herself, "Is that my Pearl?" Yet she knew that there was love in the child's heart, although it mostly revealed itself in passion, and hardly twice in her lifetime had been softened by such gentleness as now. The minister—for, save the long-sought regards of woman, nothing is sweeter than these marks of childish preference, accorded spontaneously by a spiritual instinct, and therefore seeming to imply in us something truly worthy to be loved—the minister looked round, laid his hand on the child's head, hesitated an instant, and then kissed her brow. Little Pearl's unwonted<sup>1</sup> mood of sentiment lasted no longer; she laughed, and went capering down the hall, so airily,<sup>2</sup> that old Mr. Wilson raised a question whether even her tiptoes touched the floor.

"The little baggage<sup>3</sup> hath witchcraft in her, I profess," said he to Mr. Dimmesdale. "She needs no old woman's broomstick to fly withal!"

"A strange child!" remarked old Roger Chillingworth. "It is easy to see the mother's part in her. Would it be beyond a philosopher's research, think ye, gentlemen, to analyse that child's nature, and, from its make and mould, to give a shrewd guess at the father?"

"Nay; it would be sinful, in such a question, to follow the clew of profane philosophy," said Mr. Wilson. "Better to fast and pray upon it; and still better, it may be, to leave the mystery as we find it, unless Providence reveal it of its own accord. Thereby, every good Christian man hath a title to show a father's kindness towards the poor, deserted babe."

<sup>1</sup> unwonted, 無意求得的; 不慣有的; 異常的。 <sup>2</sup> airily, 如同凌空。 <sup>3</sup> baggage, 淘氣女孩子。



就自己問自己道：『這是我的珠子麼？』她卻曉得她的孩子心裏有的是愛情，不過居多是發現得很激烈的；她生平幾乎只見過現在這一次珠子的愛情是發現得這樣柔和的。牧師回頭看，把手放在孩子頭上，遲疑了一會子，隨後吻她的額；據他看來，除了他所求了日久的婦女的敬重是可愛的，除此之外，以孩子們被一種精神上的本能所自然激發的親愛是尤為可愛，所以這樣的親愛隱示我們實在有值得可愛的地方。小珠子的人家所無意求得的親愛只有一會子工夫就完了；她大笑，脚步很輕如同凌空的跳下廳去，於是年老的威爾生提出一個問題，問她的腳趾尖曾否踏着地板。

他對丁木士德說道：『我敢說這個小淘氣會邪術，她用不着女婆子的箒柄就能飛天！』〔鄉下愚人相傳老妖婦騎在箒把柄上就能飛天。譯者註。〕

羅哲爾吉令維斯說道：『我們一見就曉得她有她母親的性格。諸位試想看，一個哲學家的研究，很許可以從這個女孩子的骨格及模型，可以很巧妙的猜着她的父親是誰，是不是？』〔這句說話很刻毒譯者註。〕

威爾生說道：『不必；以這個問題而言，用凡間的哲學作線索，找出她的父親，未免作孽。不如為她齋戒及祈禱；也許更好莫如不去理這件神祕的事，除非天意自願揭露出來。因此凡是一個好的基督教徒都應該對於這個可憐的無人理的嬰孩表示一種為父的仁慈。』

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CHAPTER X

THE LEECH AND HIS PATIENT

One day, leaning his forehead on his hand, and his elbow on the sill of the open window, that looked towards the graveyard, he talked with Roger Chillingworth, while the old man was examining a bundle of unsightly plants.

"Where," asked he, with a look askance at them—for it was the clergyman's peculiarity that he seldom, nowadays, looked straightforth at any object, whether human or inanimate—"where, my kind doctor, did you gather those herbs, with such a dark, flabby leaf?"

"Even in the graveyard here at hand," answered the physician, continuing his employment. "They are new to me. I found them growing on a grave, which bore no tombstone, nor other memorial of the dead man, save these ugly weeds, that have taken upon themselves to keep him in remembrance. They grew out of his heart, and typify, it may be, some hideous secret that was buried with him, and which he had done better to confess during his lifetime."

"Perchance," said Mr. Dimmesdale, "he earnestly desired it, but could not."

"And wherefore?" rejoined the physician. "Wherefore not; since all the powers of nature call so earnestly for the confession of sin, that these black weeds have sprung up out of a buried heart, to make manifest an unspoken crime?"

"That, good sir, is but<sup>1</sup> a fantasy of yours," replied

<sup>1</sup> but, 不過。

### 第十回 醫生與病人

有一天丁木士德一手扶住他的額，曲肱靠住打開的窗子的窗台上，望見墳地，同羅哲爾吉令維斯說話，當下這個老頭子考查看一束難看的草木。

牧師近來有一種奇特脾氣，無論是看人抑或看物，很少得正視，現在他斜看着那堆草木，問道：『我的好醫生，你在那裏採這許多葉黑而軟的草木？』

醫生一面還是查看一面答道：『在不遠的墳地上採的。是我從未曾見過的。我看見這些草木長在無碑的墳上，除了這些難看的草外，別無關於死者的其他紀念，只有這些草紀念他。這許多草是從他的心長出來的，還許是表示同他深埋於墓裏的醜惡祕密的形狀，他倒不如當活在世上的供認出來。』

丁木士德說道：『很許他極願意招認，但是辦不到。』

醫生答道：『爲什麼？爲什麼不能辦到；因爲全數自然的力量都很熱烈的叫人認罪，所以這許多黑草曾從一個深藏的心長出來，表明一件未曾招認的罪惡，是不是？』

牧師答道：『好先生，這不過是你的幻想。倘若我料得

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the minister. "There can be, if I forebode aright, no power, short of the Divine mercy, to disclose, whether by uttered words, or by type or emblem, the secrets that may be buried with a human heart. The heart, making itself guilty of such secrets, must perforce hold them until the day when all hidden things shall be revealed. Nor have I so read or interpreted Holy Writ, as to understand that the disclosure of human thoughts and deeds, then to be made, is intended as a part of the retribution. That, surely, were a shallow view of it. No; these revelations, unless I greatly err, are meant merely to promote the intellectual satisfaction of all intelligent beings, who will stand waiting, on that day, to see the dark problem of this life made plain. A knowledge of men's hearts will be needful to the completest solution of that problem. And I conceive, moreover, that the hearts holding such miserable secrets as you speak of will yield them up, at that last day, not with reluctance, but with a joy unutterable."

"Then why not reveal them here?" asked Roger Chillingworth, glancing quietly aside at the minister. "Why should not the guilty ones sooner avail themselves of this unutterable solace?"

"They mostly do," said the clergyman, griping hard at his breast, as if afflicted with an importunate throb of pain. "Many, many a poor soul hath given its confidence to me, not only on the deathbed, but while strong in life, and fair in reputation. And ever, after such an outpouring, oh, what a relief have I witnessed in those sinful brethren! even as in one who at last draws free air, after long stifling with his own polluted breath. How can it be otherwise? Why should a wretched man, guilty, we

不錯，除了神聖的慈悲之外，無論什麼勢力都不能夠或說出來的話，或用模型或用符號，揭破其可以深藏於人心的秘密。人心既犯了這樣的秘密罪惡，必定不能不隱藏着秘密，要等到那一天凡是隱藏的事物必得揭露。我曾研究聖經或解說聖經，並不見得到了那個時候揭露人的思想及行爲，就算作一部分的懲罰罪惡。這樣的見解誠然是膚淺的。不是這樣解說；除非我是大錯了，不然的話，這許多揭露不過是促進全數有睿智的人的知性上的滿意，這些人將站着等候那一天，以便這一世的黑暗問題變作明白。我們要曉得許多人的心才能夠完全解說這個問題。況且我概念，如你所說藏了這樣痛苦秘密的人們，到了末日，就會揭開出來，這樣的揭露，並不是出於不自願的，卻是帶着一種說不出的歡樂的。』

羅哲爾吉令維斯很安詳的斜看牧師，問道：『既是這樣，爲什麼就在這裏揭露呢？犯罪的人們爲什麼不趁早利用這樣說不出來的安慰呢？』

牧師好像被一種陣陣緊逼不已的心痛所苦，用力抓住胸口，說道：『他們有大多數肯揭露的。有許多許多可憐的人對我揭露秘密，不獨是臨死的時候，而且當身體強健的時候揭露，這些還是名譽很好的。我看見這許多有罪的兄弟們一把秘密說出來之後他們就很是得了解放！如同一個人久已被他自己的污濁氣所閉塞氣悶欲死，後來吸着自由空氣一般。怎麼能夠不是這樣呀？譬如我們說一個人

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will say, of murder, prefer to keep the dead corpse buried in his own heart, rather than fling it forth at once, and let the universe take care of it?"

"Yet some men bury their secrets thus," observed the calm physician.

"True; there are such men," answered Mr. Dimmesdale. "But, not to suggest more obvious reasons, it may be that they are kept silent by the very constitution of their nature. Or—can we not suppose it?—guilty as they may be, retaining, nevertheless, a zeal for God's glory and man's welfare, they shrink from displaying themselves black and filthy in the view of men; because, thenceforward, no good can be achieved by them; no evil of the past be redeemed by better service. So, to their own unutterable torment, they go about among their fellow-creatures, looking pure as new-fallen snow; while their hearts are all speckled and spotted with iniquity of which they cannot rid themselves."

"These men deceive themselves," said Roger Chillingworth, with somewhat more emphasis than usual, and making a slight gesture with his forefinger. "They fear to take up the shame that rightfully belongs to them. Their love for man, their zeal for God's service—these holy impulses may or may not coexist in their hearts with the evil inmates to which their guilt has unbarred the door, and which must needs propagate a hellish breed within them. But, if they seek to glorify God, let them not lift heavenward their unclean hands! If they would serve their fellow-men, let them do it by making manifest the power and reality of conscience, in constraining them to penitential self-abasement! Wouldst thou have me to believe, O wise and pious friend, that a false show can be

犯了殺人的罪，這個可憐蟲爲什麼寧願把死屍藏在他自己心裏，爲什麼不立刻捧出來，讓世界照應這個死屍？」

這個鎮靜的醫生說道：『雖是這樣說，但是還有許多人這樣的深藏他們的祕密。』

丁木士德答道：『世上誠然有這樣的人。我今姑不提議更爲顯明的理由，也許是他們的本性使他們不肯說出。不然，他們雖然是犯罪，我們難道不能猜度，他們卻爲上帝的光榮與人類的利益起見，保留着一點熱心，所以他們不肯當着衆人的面揭露他們自己是黑濁的；因爲一經揭露，從此以後他們就不能爲善；不能以較好的功德取贖他們已住的罪惡。所以他們受盡說不出來的嚴酷的痛苦，還在人羣裏頭往來，表面上如同新下的雪那樣潔白；同時他們的心裏如同星羅棋布的鋪滿了罪惡，他們卻不能洗刷淨盡。』

羅哲爾吉令維斯用手指微作手勢，用較著重的聲音說道：『他們不敢擔負他們所應該受的羞辱。他們愛人，他們熱心爲上帝出力——這兩樣神聖的動衝，也許可以，也許不可以，與醜惡的份子同住在他們的心裏，他們的罪惡會打開大門讓他們進去，這樣的份子必定在他們的心裏產心配入地獄的種類。他們若要光耀上帝，不必讓他們舉他們的不潔的手向天！他們若肯爲人類出力，讓他們揭露良心的力量及真實，以約束他們自己，使作克己的悔罪，這才是爲人類出力！我的明智而篤守宗教的朋友呀，難道

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better—can be more for God's glory, or man's welfare—than God's own truth? Trust me, such men deceive themselves!"

The child probably overheard their voices; for, looking up to the window, with a bright, but naughty smile of mirth and intelligence, she threw one of the prickly burrs at the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale. The sensitive clergyman shrunk, with nervous dread, from the light missile. Detecting his emotion, Pearl clapped her little hands, in the most extravagant ecstasy.<sup>1</sup> Hester Prynne, likewise, had involuntarily looked up; and all these four persons, old and young, regarded one another in silence, till the child laughed aloud, and shouted, "Come away, mother! Come away, or yonder old Black Man will catch you! He hath got hold of the minister already. Come away, mother, or he will catch you! But he cannot catch little Pearl!"

"There goes a woman," resumed Roger Chillingworth, after a pause, "who, be her demerits what they may, hath none of that mystery of hidden sinfulness which you deem so grievous to be borne. Is Hester Prynne the less miserable, think you, for that scarlet letter on her breast?"

"I do verily believe it," answered the clergyman. "Nevertheless, I cannot answer for her. There was a look of pain in her face, which I would gladly have been spared the sight of. But still, methinks, it must needs be better for the sufferer to be free to show his pain, as this poor woman Hester is, than to cover it all up in his heart."

There was another pause; and the physician began anew to examine and arrange the plants which he had gathered.

<sup>1</sup> ecstasy, 狂喜.



你要我相信一種假的外表能夠好過——能夠多過上帝的光榮麼？人類的利益能夠好過或多過上帝自己的真理麼？你要信我的說話，這樣的人們不過是自欺！』

〔少年牧師說一句冷淡的話答他，隨即改換話柄問他用藥的效果。醫生還未答就聽見小珠子的聲音，他們就討論這個孩子。譯者註。〕

這個孩子很許聽見他們的聲音；因為她帶着淘氣的微笑與知性，抬頭向窗子看，向作丁木士德牧師捧一個有刺的核殼，這個感覺靈敏的牧師，帶着害怕的神色，躲閃這件輕的拋擲物。珠子窺見他的情緒，拍她的兩隻小手，非常的狂樂。赫斯特爾普林也不由自主的往上看；這時候這四個人，老的及少的，彼此一言不發的面面相看，等到後來這個孩子大笑，喊道：『母親，走開！走開，你若不走開，那個年老的黑人會來捉你！他已經捉住牧師了。母親，走開呀，你若不走開，他會來捉你！他卻不能捉住小珠子！』

〔小珠子把她的母親拖走之後。譯者註。〕羅哲爾吉令維斯停了一會，又說道：『那個走開的女人，毋論她可以有什麼不好，卻毫無你以為很難擔負的深藏不露的罪惡的神祕。你試想看，赫斯特爾普林因為胸前那個紅字會較為不愁苦麼？』

牧師答道：『我實在相信她覺得較少的愁苦，但是我不能替她答你這一問。她臉上有痛苦神色，我樂於不看見，但是我想一個受苦的人如同這個可憐的女人赫斯特爾，與其把痛苦深藏在心裏，倒不如自由擺出來的好。』

他們又停止一會子不說話；醫生又重新起首察看及布置他所採的藥草。

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"You inquired of me, a little time ago," said he, at length, "my judgment as touching your health."

"I did," answered the clergyman, "and would gladly learn it. Speak frankly, I pray you, be it for life or death."

"Freely, then, and plainly," said the physician, still busy with his plants, but keeping a wary eye on Mr. Dimmesdale, "the disorder is a strange one; not so much in itself, nor as outwardly manifested—in so far, at least, as the symptoms have been laid open to my observation. Looking daily at you, my good sir, and watching the tokens of your aspect, now for months gone by, I should deem you a man sore sick, it may be, yet not so sick but that an instructed and watchful physician might well hope to cure you. But—I know not what to say—the disease is what I seem to know, yet know it not."

"You speak in riddles, learned sir," said the pale minister, glancing aside out of the window.

"Then, to speak more plainly," continued the physician, "and I crave pardon, sir—should it seem to require pardon—for this needful plainness of my speech. Let me ask, as your friend—as one having charge, under Providence, of your life and physical well-being—hath all the operation of this disorder been fairly laid open and recounted to me?"

"How can you question it?" asked the minister. "Surely, it were child's play, to call in a physician, and then hide the sore!"

"You would tell me, then, that I know all?" said Roger Chillingworth deliberately, and fixing an eye, bright with intense and concentrated intelligence, on the minister's face. "Be it so! But, again! He to whom only the outward and physical evil is laid open, knoweth, oftentimes, but half the evil which he is called upon to cure. A bodily

後來他說道：『你剛才問我，要我說你的健康怎麼樣。』  
牧師答道：『我曾問的，我很高興的要曉得你說什麼。無論或死或活，我求你坦白對我說。』

醫生還在那裏忙於布置他的藥草，卻很留神看了木士德，說道：『你既問我，我明白的，自由的，對你說，這個病是怪病；病症本身並不怪，外現的徵象也不怪——我所觀察你所發露的徵象是並不怪的。我的好先生，我每日看你，留心察看你的神色所表示的徵象，已經有幾個月了，我該說你是一個病重的人，卻還不至於病到一個有學識與小心的醫生不能希望治好的程度。但是——我不曉得怎樣說——你的病好像是我曉得的，又好像是不曉得的。』

臉無血色的牧師，眼不看醫生，反向窗外看，說道：『有學問的先生，你說的是謎語。』

醫生接着說道：『既是這樣，我就說更淺白的話，先生，我請你勿怪——倘若我必得說淺白話，就好像要你莫怪。我以你的朋友資格，問你——以我在上天照應之下有保存你的生命及你的身體健康的責任，我要問你，你會這個病症的全數作用公公道道的全盤托出，詳細告訴我麼？』

牧師問道：『你怎樣能夠問我這句話！請了一位醫生來，把病痛藏起來，不告訴他，豈不是兒戲麼？』

羅哲爾吉令維斯很用心的，用一隻帶着有濃厚的及凝聚的聰明的眼釘住牧師的臉，說道：『你既是這樣說，你就是告訴我，我已經全數都曉得了，是不是？就算是全曉得吧！但是還有啦！但是是一個病人不過把外表的和體魄的疾病對醫生說出來，這個醫生往往不過只曉得請他來

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disease, which we look upon as whole and entire within itself, may, after all, be but a symptom of some ailment in the spiritual part. Your pardon, once again, good sir, if my speech give the shadow of offence. You, sir, of all men whom I have known, are he whose body is the closest conjoined, and imbued, and identified, so to speak, with the spirit whereof it is the instrument."

"Then I need ask no further," said the clergyman, somewhat hastily rising from his chair. "You deal not, I take it, in medicine for the soul!"

"Thus, a sickness," continued Roger Chillingworth, going on, in an unaltered tone, without heeding the interruption, but standing up and confronting the emaciated and white-cheeked minister, with his low, dark, and misshapen figure—"a sickness, a sore place, if we may so call it, in your spirit, hath immediately its appropriate manifestation in your bodily frame. Would you, therefore, that your physician heal the bodily evil? How may this be, unless you first lay open to him the wound or trouble in your soul?"

"No!—not to thee!—not to an earthly physician!" cried Mr. Dimmesdale passionately, and turning his eyes, full and bright, and with a kind of fierceness, on old Roger Chillingworth. "Not to thee! But, if it be the soul's disease, then do I commit myself to the one Physician of the soul! He, if it stand with His good pleasure, can cure; or He can kill! Let Him do with me as, in His justice and wisdom, He shall see good. But who art thou, that meddlest in this matter?—that dares thrust himself between the sufferer and his God?"

With a frantic gesture, he rushed out of the room.

診治的病的一半。我們以為完整的一種身體上的疾病，到底也許不過是精神部分的一種病徵象。倘若我的說話稍有得罪你的地方，我又要求你饒恕我。先生，我看過許多人，惟有你的體魄同指揮體魄的精神（或靈魂）聯合為一，混合為一，又好像是打成一片的。」

牧師有點匆匆的站起來，說道：『既是這樣，我用不着再問啦。我看你不是賣藥治靈魂的！』

羅哲爾吉令維斯不管他打叉，也站起來，用他的矮小，黑色，及醜怪的身體對着那個瘦削及死白色的牧師，毫不改變腔調，接連說道：『你的精神的病，你的精神裏頭有一塊痛苦的地方（倘若我們能夠這樣稱呼這種病），這是這樣立刻在你的身體上有其正當的表示。你願意你的醫生治你的身病麼？他怎樣治得好，除非你首先對他揭露在你的靈魂裏頭的傷處或病症？』

丁木士德掉過他的有光而睜大的眼，帶着一種兇猛的神色，看着年老的吉令維斯，忿怒的說道：『不對你說！不對一個凡間的醫生說！不對你說！但是，倘若是靈魂的病，我把我自己交與治靈魂的惟一醫師！“他”若是喜歡，他就能夠治；不然“他”能殺我！我請“他”以公道及明智對付我，他喜歡怎樣辦就怎樣辦。你是什麼人，膽敢干預這樣的事？——你怎敢廟身於一個病人與他的上帝之間？』

牧師帶着發狂的態度就跑出屋子了。

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"It is as well to have made this step," said Roger Chillingworth to himself, looking after the minister, with a grave smile. "There is nothing lost. We shall be friends again anon. But see, now, how passion takes hold upon this man, and hurrieth him out of himself! As with one passion, so with another! He hath done a wild thing ere now, this pious Master Dimmesdale, in the hot passion of his heart!"

It came to pass, not long after the scene above recorded, that the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale, at noonday, and entirely unawares, fell into a deep, deep slumber, sitting in his chair, with a large black-letter volume open before him on the table. It must have been a work of vast ability in the somniferous school of literature. The profound depth of the minister's repose was the more remarkable, inasmuch as he was one of those persons whose sleep, ordinarily, is as light, as fitful, and as easily scared away, as a small bird hopping on a twig. To such an unwonted remoteness, however, had his spirit now withdrawn into itself, that he stirred not in his chair, when old Roger Chillingworth, without any extraordinary precaution, came into the room. The physician advanced directly in front of his patient, laid his hand upon his bosom, and thrust aside the vestment, that, hitherto, had always covered it even from the professional eye.

Then, indeed, Mr. Dimmesdale shuddered, and slightly stirred.

After a brief pause, the physician turned away.

But, with what a wild look of wonder, joy, and horror! With what a ghastly rapture, as it were, too mighty to be expressed only by the eye and features, and therefore bursting forth through the whole ugliness of his figure,

羅哲爾吉令維斯帶着莊嚴的微笑，看着牧師走，對自己說道：「並不損失交情。我們不久又再做朋友。試看現在感情怎樣操縱這個人，使他匆匆忙忙的忘記了自己！這樣的感情既是這樣，那樣的感情也是這樣！這個虔奉宗教的丁木士德先生，從前當他心裏的熱烈情感！發作的時候，做過一件野事！」

在上文所記的情景不久之後，有一天中午丁木士德牧師完全不知不覺的睡着了，坐在他的椅子上，面前的桌子打開一本很大的黑字的書，在那裏深入睡鄉。在催眠術裏頭，這樣使人熟睡，必定是極有本事的工作。牧師平常睡覺是容易醒的，是睡得不安的，是很容易被驚醒的，如同隻小鳥在樹枝上跳一般，這時候睡得這樣熟是更可注意。他的精神現在退入他自己，入到異常的深遠，他睡在椅子上動也不動，這時候年老的羅哲爾吉令維斯，用不着什麼異常的小心就走進屋子。醫生一直在他的病人的面前走上來，把手放在他的胸口，推開他的內衣，這層內衣一向都是遮住胸口，醫生的眼到了這個時候才看見。

丁木士德到了這個時候驚了一跳，稍微動動。

過了一會，醫生掉過身子走了。

但是他的臉上發現多麼詫異，快樂，驚怕的一種擾亂的神色呀！他還帶着好像一種鬼的狂喜，形勢是很兇猛的，不是只由眼神與面色所能發表的，所以由他的全個形狀的醜怪發現出來，他兩手伸向天花板，兩脚用力踏地，

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and making itself even riotously manifest by the extravagant gestures with which he threw up his arms towards the ceiling, and stamped his foot upon the floor! Had a man seen old Roger Chillingworth, at that moment of his ecstasy, he would have had no need to ask how Satan comports<sup>1</sup> himself, when a precious human soul is lost to heaven, and won into his kingdom.

But what distinguished the physician's ecstasy from Satan's was the trait of wonder in it!

## CHAPTER XI

### THE INTERIOR OF A HEART

After the incident last described, the intercourse between the clergyman and the physician, though externally the same, was really of another character than it had previously been. The intellect of Roger Chillingworth had now a sufficiently plain path before it. It was not, indeed, precisely that which he had laid out for himself to tread. Calm, gentle, passionless, as he appeared, there was yet, we fear, a quiet depth of malice, hitherto latent, but active now, in this unfortunate old man, which led him to imagine a more intimate revenge than any mortal had ever wreaked upon an enemy. To make himself the one trusted friend, to whom should be confided all the fear, the remorse, the agony, the ineffectual repentance, the backward rush of sinful thoughts, expelled in vain! All that guilty sorrow, hidden from the world, whose great heart would have pitied and forgiven, to be revealed to him, the Pitiless,

<sup>1</sup> comports, 指揮自己的行動.



作出種種非常的狀態，表現他的狂亂！〔這種的描寫，並不過度，並不費力，是小說中所罕見的，在作者的小說中，尤為罕見。譯者註。〕假使有人在他發狂的時候看見年老的羅哲爾吉令維斯，他用不着問，當一個寶貴的人類靈魂不得升地，被魔鬼引入地獄的時候，魔鬼是怎樣的跳躍。

但是這個醫生的狂喜與魔鬼的狂喜有別，醫生的狂喜有驚奇的蹤跡！

### 第十一回 一個心的內部

在上文所說的事體發生之後，牧師與醫生的交際外表雖然還是一樣，其實另是一樣性質，與從前不同。羅哲爾吉令維斯的知性現在有一條很平坦的路給他走。卻誠然不剛好是他所劃出給他自己走的路。他外表雖然是鎮靜，和平，及不為感情所動，我們恐怕還有不動聲色的很深的怨毒在這個不幸的老人心裏，從前是隱藏不動的，現在卻很活動了，這就引他籌劃一種更親切的報仇，向來無人報仇報得如他這樣親切的。他要把他自己成為他的仇人的惟一的可靠的朋友，要這個仇人把全數的害怕，悔恨，痛苦，無效力的悔罪，及驅逐不了的罪惡思想的衝回，都告訴他。要他的仇人把全個因犯罪而發生的愁苦，深藏於內不使世人看見的（其實世人寬大為懷會可憐他，會饒

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to him, the Unforgiving! All that dark treasure to be lavished<sup>1</sup> on the very man, to whom nothing else could so adequately pay the debt of vengeance!

The clergyman's shy and sensitive reserve had balked this scheme. Roger Chillingworth, however, was inclined to be hardly, if at all, less satisfied with the aspect of affairs, which Providence—using the avenger and his victim for its own purposes, and, perchance, pardoning, where it seemed most to punish—had substituted for his black devices. A revelation, he could almost say, had been granted to him. It mattered little, for his object, whether celestial, or from what other region. By its aid, in all the subsequent relations betwixt him and Mr. Dimmesdale, not merely the external presence, but the very inmost soul, of the latter seemed to be brought out before his eyes, so that he could see and comprehend its every movement. He became, thenceforth, not a spectator only, but a chief actor, in the poor minister's interior world. He could play upon him as he chose. Would he arouse him with a throb of agony? The victim was for ever on the rack; it needed only to know the spring that controlled the engine—and the physician knew it well! Would he startle him with sudden fear? As at the waving of a magician's wand, uprose a grisly phantom—uprose a thousand phantoms—in many shapes, of death, or more awful shame, all flocking round about the clergyman, and pointing with their fingers at his breast!

While thus suffering under bodily disease, and gnawed and tortured by some black trouble of the soul, and given over to the machinations of his deadliest enemy, the

<sup>1</sup>lavish, 浪費; 不甚愛惜的持以與人。

恕他的)，揭露給他，他卻是個不憐人的，他又是個不饒人的！要他的仇人把那個黑暗的寶物，殊不愛惜的給了他，他必定要得到這個寶物，才能算是還夠了報仇的債！

不料牧師畏羞，又感覺靈敏不肯說話，使醫生的計劃不行。但是羅哲爾吉令維斯，殊不滿意於事體的情景，天意以這樣的情景替代他的刻毒計劃——天意為達其目的起見，利用報仇人與他的犧牲，外觀似乎很像是懲罰，很許其實是赦宥。他幾乎能夠說他得了默示或揭露。醫生為達他的目的起見，不甚管是上天所默示的，抑或他處所默示的。他同丁木士德的後來全數關係，有了這樣的默示幫助，不獨是牧師的外表，連他的最深密的靈魂好像都拖了出來擺在他的眼前，他就能夠看見與曉得靈魂的動作。所以他不獨是個旁觀人，看見這個可憐的牧師的心裏的世界，而且變作在這個世界裏頭的一個動作人。他要怎樣耍他就能夠怎樣耍他。醫生要激動牧師發一陣心痛麼？這個犧牲就永遠在引伸四肢架上受酷刑；只曉得要操縱機器彈簧就能辦到——醫生卻曉得很清楚！他想驚嚇他使他忽然害怕麼？他只要動一動一個魔術家的棍子，立刻就有面目兇惡的鬼出現——有千百個惡鬼出現——形狀各有不同，有死鬼，有更為可怕的羞鬼，都來包圍牧師，用手指他的胸口！〔寫陰毒的報仇家寫得實在可怕這是作者獨創的人物。譯者註。〕

牧師丁木士德一面受身體的病痛，一面被靈魂的黑暗痛苦所囓，在那裏受酷刑，被他的最陰毒的仇人所算，

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Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale had achieved a brilliant popularity in his sacred office. He won it, indeed, in great part, by his sorrows. His intellectual gifts, his moral perceptions, his power of experiencing and communicating emotion, were kept in a state of preternatural activity by the prick and anguish of his daily life. His fame, though still on its upward slope, already overshadowed the soberer reputations of his fellow-clergymen, eminent as several of them were. There were scholars among them, who had spent more years in acquiring abstruse lore, connected with the divine profession, than Mr. Dimmesdale had lived; and who might well, therefore, be more profoundly versed in such and valuable attainments than their youthful brother.

To the high mountain-peaks of faith and sanctity he would have climbed, had not the tendency been thwarted by the burden, whatever it might be, of crime or anguish, beneath which it was his doom to totter. It kept him down, on a level with the lowest; him, the man of ethereal attributes,<sup>1</sup> whose voice the angels might else have listened to and answered! But this very burden it was, that gave him sympathies so intimate with the sinful brotherhood of mankind; so that his heart vibrated in unison with theirs, and received their pain into itself, and sent its own throb of pain through a thousand other hearts, in gushes of sad, persuasive eloquence. Oftenest persuasive, but sometimes terrible! The people knew not the power that moved them thus. They deemed the young clergyman a miracle of holiness. They fancied him the mouthpiece of Heaven's messages of wisdom, and rebuke,

<sup>1</sup> ethereal attributes, 天才。

他在教會裏辦事卻得了有榮耀的名譽。有大部分卻是從他的愁苦得來的。他的天賦聰明，他的道德的知覺，他有閱歷情緒及傳達情緒的能力，被他的日行生活的刺戳及痛苦所激動，都變作超越自然的活動。他的聲譽雖然仍是蒸蒸日上，已經掩過有幾個顯達的牧師們的較少光彩的名譽。其中有幾個是學者，費了許多年工夫，多過了木士德的年歲，得了與神學相關的抽象的傳統：所以他們比他們的少年兄弟有較深的結實學問及有價值的學問。

假使他不是被他所負的罪惡或痛心的重責所壓倒，不能快走，不然的話，他會爬得很高，爬到崇信與虔篤的高頂。這樣的重負把他壓下來，壓到最低的線；以他這樣有天才的人，天使們都可以留心聽他的說話，答復他的說話，竟被壓倒！但是這樣的重負卻給他種種與人類的同犯罪過的同胞們最親切的同情：所以他的心與他們的心同調，收他們的痛苦入他自己的心裏，所以他能夠一陣一陣的說出悽慘的，及使人相信的話來。他的說話最多是勸導話，有時卻是很可怕的話！人們聽了他的話，不曉得這樣感動他們的是什麼勢力。他們看這個少年牧師是一個神聖的奇蹟。他們以為他是代天傳道的，傳智慧，責備，及親

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and love. In their eyes, the very ground on which he trod was sanctified. The virgins of his church grew pale around him, victims of a passion so imbued with religious sentiment that they imagined it to be all religion, and brought it openly, in their white bosoms, as their most acceptable sacrifice before the altar. The aged members of his flock, beholding Mr. Dimmesdale's frame so feeble, while they were themselves so rugged in their infirmity, believed that he would go heavenward before them, and enjoined it upon their children, that their old bones should be buried close to their young pastor's holy grave. And, all this time, perchance, when poor Mr. Dimmesdale was thinking of his grave, he questioned with himself whether the grass would ever grow on it, because an accursed thing must there be buried!

## CHAPTER XIII

### ANOTHER VIEW OF HESTER

Hester Prynne did not now occupy precisely the same position in which we beheld her during the earlier periods of her ignominy. Years had come and gone. Pearl was now seven years old. Her mother, with the scarlet letter on her breast, glittering in its fantastic embroidery, had long been a familiar object to the townspeople. As is apt to be the case when a person stands out in any prominence before the community, and, at the same time, interferes neither with public nor individual interests and convenience, a species of general regard had ultimately grown up in reference to Hester Prynne. It is to the credit of human nature, that, except where its selfishness is brought into

愛的話。從他們眼睛看來，連他所踐踏的地都是神聖的。他的教堂裏的閨女們坐在他的左右前後的聽了他說都變作臉無血色，這些閨女們是被宗教感覺所浸滿的一種激情的犧牲，她們以為這樣激情全是宗教，光明磊落的把這種激情放在她們的潔白懷裏，當作是供獻於神座前的最可以接受的犧牲品。他的牧羣中有年老的，看見丁木士德的身體這樣衰弱，他們自己這樣粗，老相信他會先升天，吩咐他們的兒女們把他們的骸骨葬在與少年牧師的聖墓相近的地方。這個時候很許丁木士德想到他自己的墳墓，很許他心裏自問，因為一個受天譴的東西葬在墓裏，墓上會不會長青草！

〔這是說一個犯了宗教律及政治律而不會犯自然律的丁木士德變作可以入聖域的人。譯者註。〕

### 第十三回 赫斯特爾的另一方面

赫斯特爾普林現在所處地位已不是從前我們看見她出醜時代的地位。寒來暑往過了幾年，珠子現在是七歲啦。她的母親，胸口戴着那個紅字，在奇形怪狀的繡活在那裏發光，本市鎮的人久已見慣了。大凡一個人，在大衆面前，帶着無論什麼顯著的表示，同時卻不干預公私的利便，最後就會發生一種普遍的愛護，現在衆人對於赫斯特爾普林也是這樣。人性有一種好處，若不是自私自利的見解

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play, it loves more readily than it hates. Hatred, by a gradual and quiet process, will even be transformed to love, unless the change be impeded by a continually new irritation of the original feeling of hostility. In this matter of Hester Prynne, there was neither irritation nor irksomeness. She never battled with the public, but submitted, uncomplainingly, to its worst usage; she made no claim upon it, in requital for<sup>1</sup> what she suffered; she did not weigh upon<sup>2</sup> its sympathies. Then, also, the blameless purity of her life during all these years in which she had been set apart to infamy, was reckoned largely in her favour. With nothing now to lose, in the sight of mankind, and with no hope, and seemingly no wish, of gaining anything, it could only be a genuine regard for virtue that had brought back the poor wanderer to its paths.

It was perceived, too, that while Hester never put forward even the humblest title to share in the world's privileges—further than to breathe the common air, and earn daily bread for little Pearl and herself by the faithful labour of her hands—she was quick to acknowledge her sisterhood with the race of man, whenever benefits were to be conferred. None so ready as she to give of her little substance to every demand of poverty; even though the bitter-hearted pauper threw back a gibe in requital of the food brought regularly to his door, or the garments wrought for him by the fingers that could have embroidered a monarch's robe. None so self-devoted as Hester, when pestilence stalked through the town. In all seasons of calamity, indeed, whether general or of individuals, the outcast of society at once found her place.

<sup>1</sup>in requital for, 賠補。 <sup>2</sup>weigh upon, 拖累; 使人覺得担負太重。



用事，較易於愛人，有過於恨人。怨恨被一種逐漸的及安詳的工作，甚至於會變作親愛，除非接連被原始的怨恨惡感的新激刺所阻止。以赫斯特爾普林的事體而言，既無激刺又無令人討厭之處。她始終絕不同公衆爭鬥，毫無怨言的服從公衆的最虐的待遇；她對於她所受的痛苦，絕不要求什麼賠補；她不會拖累公衆的憐憫。自從把她逐出社會之外，讓她一個人在那裏出醜以來，她這些年所過的毫無罪過的清潔生活，大有利於她。在衆人眼中看來，她現在既無所失，亦無所希望，又好像並不想得什麼，惟有誠心敬重道德才能夠把這個可憐的迷路者帶回來走正路。

還有人看出，赫斯特爾一面始終絕不肯說她有最卑下的權利要分享世界的利益——她所要求的權利不過吸與衆同享的空氣，不過是每天動她的手勞力，爲小珠子和她自己求每天的麵包——但是無論什麼時候要施利益與他人，她一面卻急於承認她是人類的姊妹行，要勉盡她的力。每遇窮人求她，無人更比她樂於施捨她的小物力；她按期送食物送到窮人的門口；她善於女紅，她的兩手能夠繡一個帝王的袍服，她縫衣服給窮人穿，那這些無良心的窮人還說一句譏刺話報答她，她還是一樣的賑濟他們。當瘟疫經過這個市鎮的時候，再未有比赫斯特爾那樣肯犧牲自己的。當有災禍的時候，無論是普遍受禍或個人受禍，這個不爲社會所容留的女人立刻有了事做。她到人家

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She came, not as a guest, but as a rightful inmate into the twilight were a medium in which she was entitled to hold intercourse with her fellow-creatures. There glimmered the embroidered letter, with comfort in its unearthly ray. Elsewhere the token of sin, it was the taper of the sick-chamber. It had even thrown its gleam, in the sufferer's hard extremity, across the verge of time. It had shown him where to set his foot, while the light of earth was fast becoming dim, and ere the light of futurity could reach him. In such emergencies, Hester's nature showed itself warm and rich; a well-spring of human tenderness, unfailling to every real demand, and inexhaustible by the largest. Her breast, with its badge of shame, was but the softer pillow for the head that needed one. She was self-ordained a Sister of Mercy; or, we may rather say, the world's heavy hand had so ordained her, when neither the world nor she looked forward to this result. The letter was the symbol of her calling. Such helpfulness was found in her—so much power to do, and power to sympathise—that many people refused to interpret the scarlet A by its original signification. They said that it meant Able; so strong was Hester Prynne, with a woman's strength.

It was only the darkened house that could contain her. When sunshine came again, she was not there. Her shadow had faded across the threshold. The helpful inmate had departed, without one backward glance to gather up the meed of gratitude, if any were in the hearts of those whom she had served so zealously. Meeting them in the street, she never raised her head to receive their greeting. If they were resolute to accost her, she laid her finger on the scarlet letter and passed on. This

來，不算是一個客人，算是一個應該來住的人，應該住在被困苦所致暗的家裏；她好像把這樣家庭的黑暗的、不明不昧的光當作一個居間之地，她該在這裏與她的同胞們往來。她身上所戴的繡字在那裏閃光，這樣地獄發出的光卻帶着安慰。毋論在什麼地方，這個紅字是犯罪的記號，到了病室卻是燭光。當病人到了愁苦的極端，這個紅字射其光線穿過時間的界線。指個紅字指示他在什麼地方踏腳，在地上的光快變暗的時候，當將來的光未能到之先，指示他。在這樣危難的時候，赫斯特爾的性情發現出來是和緩的，是豐富的；是人類的慈愛的泉，無不供實在之求，供最大的要求是取之不竭的。她的胸口帶着出醜的記號，其實是一個要安息的頭的軟枕。她自已派她自已做一個慈善會女會友；其實我們可以說世界的刻酷派她做的，那時候世界與她都不曾盼望這樣的結果。那個紅字就是她的行業的符號。她這個人事事都能幫忙——很有做事的能力，很有憐憫的能力——所以許多人不肯用原始的表示解說這個紅字。他們說這個紅字解作能力，赫斯特爾普林帶着一個女人的力量是很強健的。

只有黑暗蓋住的人家能夠容她。當陽光又來的時候，她不在那裏。她的影子走過門檻就不見了。住在屋裏有能力幫忙的人走了，並不回顧拾取該得的感謝；這是說，假使她這樣熱心幫忙過的人們心裏有感謝之意的話。她在街上遇着他們，她絕不抬頭受他們的歡迎。假使他們決計要走上來同她說話，她把手指放在紅字上，走往前走了。

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household that was darkened by trouble; as if its gloomy might be pride, but was so like humility, that it produced all the softening influence of the latter quality on the public mind. The public is despotic in its temper; it is capable of denying common justice, when too strenuously demanded as a right; but quite as frequently it awards more than justice when the appeal is made, as despots love to have it made, entirely to its generosity. Interpreting Hester Prynne's deportment as an appeal of this nature, society was inclined to show its former victim a more benign countenance than she cared to be favoured with, or, perchance, than she deserved.

The rulers, and the wise and learned men of the community, were longer in acknowledging the influence of Hester's good qualities than the people. The prejudices which they shared in common with the latter were fortified in themselves by an iron framework of reasoning, that made it a far tougher labour to expel them. Day by day, nevertheless, their sour<sup>1</sup> and rigid wrinkles were relaxing into something which, in the due course of years, might grow to be an expression of almost benevolence. Thus it was with the men of rank, on whom their eminent position imposed the guardianship of the public morals. Individuals in private life, meanwhile, had quite forgiven Hester Prynne for her frailty; nay, more, they had begun to look upon the scarlet letter as the token, not of that one sin, for which she had borne so long and dreary a penance, but of her many good deeds since. "Do you see that woman with the embroidered badge?" they would say to strangers. "It is our Hester—the town's own

<sup>1</sup> sour, 苛刻.

這樣的舉動可以說是驕傲，但是卻很像謙抑，所以在衆人心裏發生謙抑的全數能柔人的潛力。公衆的脾氣原是專制的；公衆是能夠不以平常的公道還人的，當有人太過費力要求公道，作爲是一種應享的特別權利時候，公衆是不肯給的；但是專制的人喜歡有人求他們，若是有人整個的求他們大發慷慨，他們又往往給以越限的公道。當地的社會把赫斯特爾普林的行爲解作這樣的要求，就傾向於對着這個社會的從前的犧牲表示更和藹的面目，過於她所要的，也許過於她所配享受的。

官長們，及社會的明智的及有學問的人們很遲纔承認赫斯特爾的好性質的潛力，衆人卻承認得較早。他們與衆都存着成見，明智的人們的成見，及有學問的人們的成見，都被理性的一層鐵架所保護，所以驅除這樣的成見更覺費力。雖是這樣說，他們的苛刻的及古板的縐眉卻一天一天的放鬆些，幾年之後放鬆到好像幾乎是一種慈善的表示。高等人是這樣，他們的顯貴地位使他們做公德的保護人。凡是過私人生活的個人們久已忘記了赫斯特爾普林的道德弱點；他們不獨忘記了，還起首當那個紅字不是那一種罪惡的記號（她因爲犯了這個罪惡戴了這個愁慘的悔罪許久），卻當作是她犯罪以來所做許多好事的記號。這些人會對外來的人們說道：『你看見那個戴着一個繡字記號的女人麼？她就是我們的赫斯特爾——就是本

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Hester—who is so kind to the poor, so helpful to the sick, so comfortable to the afflicted!” Then, it is true, the propensity of human nature to tell the very worst of itself, when embodied in the person of another, would constrain them to whisper the black scandal of bygone years. It was none the less a fact, however, that, in the eyes of the very men who spoke thus, the scarlet letter had the effect of the cross on a nun’s bosom. It imparted to the wearer a kind of sacredness, which enabled her to walk securely amid all peril. Had she fallen among thieves, it would have kept her safe. It was reported, and believed by many, that an Indian had drawn his arrow against the badge, and that the missile struck it, but fell harmless to the ground.

## CHAPTER XIV

### HESTER AND THE PHYSICIAN

“When we last spake together,” said Hester, “now seven years ago, it was your pleasure to extort a promise of secrecy, as touching the former relation betwixt yourself and me. As the life and good fame of yonder man were in your hands, there seemed no choice to me, save to be silent, in accordance with your behest. Yet it was not without heavy misgivings that I thus bound myself; for, having cast off all duty towards other human beings, there remained a duty towards him; and something whispered me that I was betraying it, in pledging myself to keep your counsel. Since that day, no man is so near to him as you. You tread behind his every footstep. You are beside him, sleeping and waking. You search his

市鎮自己的赫斯特爾——她對待窮人是很仁慈的，對待病人是很能幫助的，對待受苦的人是很能使其安慰的！]人性誠然有一種牢不可破的傾向，好說他人的最不好的性情，逼他們附耳對人說他人從前的黑暗的不爲譽的事。雖是這樣說，從說這樣壞話的人的眼中看來，這個紅字卻有尼姑胸前的十字的效果〔可謂恭維到家。譯者註〕。使戴紅字的人得了一種神聖不可侵犯的資格，使她能夠在全數危險裏頭平安走動。假使她落在賊人手裏，這個紅字會保她平安無事的。有許多人傳說，還有許多人相信，有一次有一個土人要射這個紅字，居然箭中，箭落在地，她卻無恙。

#### 第十四回 赫斯特爾與醫生

〔赫斯特爾普林看見她的本夫窘迫丁木士德，使他愁苦到無地可容，決計同醫生見面，救丁木士德。有一天她領着小珠子散步，看見醫生採藥，她就過去同他說話。譯者註。〕赫斯特爾說道：『七年前我們說過話，你逼我答應你，關於你我從前的關係要嚴守祕密。因爲站在那裏的那個人〔這是指丁木士德。譯者註。〕的性命及全名都在你的手上，我不能不依照你的要求，緘默不言。我雖然這樣束縛我自己，我卻很不能放心；因爲，我把我所對於全數他人的本務全拋棄了，我對於他卻還有應盡的一種本務；我的良心告訴我，因我答應你照着你的意思行事，我卻拋棄了那一種本務。自從那一天以來，惟有你同他最親近。他走一步，你跟他一步。毋論睡的時候或醒的時候，你總

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thoughts. You burrow and rankle in his heart! Your clutch is on his life, and you cause him to die daily a living death; and still he knows you not. In permitting this, I have surely acted a false part by the only man to whom the power was left me to be true!"

"What choice had you?" asked Roger Chillingworth. "My finger, pointed at this man, would have hurled him from his pulpit into a dungeon—thence, peradventure, to the gallows!"

"It had been better so!" said Hester Prynne.

"What evil have I done the man?" asked Roger Chillingworth again. "I tell thee, Hester Prynne, the richest fee that ever physician earned from monarch could not have bought such care as I have wasted on this miserable priest! But for my aid, his life would have burned away in torments, within the first two years after the perpetration of his crime and thine. For, Hester, his spirit lacked the strength that could have borne up, as thine has, beneath a burden like thy scarlet letter. Oh, I could reveal a goodly secret! But enough! What art can do, I have exhausted on him. That he now breathes, and creeps upon earth, is owing all to me!"

"Better he had died at once!" said Hester Prynne.

"Yea, woman, thou sayest truly!" cried old Roger Chillingworth, letting the lurid fire of his heart blaze out before her eyes. "Better had he died at once! Never did mortal suffer what this man has suffered. And all, all, in the sight of his worst enemy! He has been conscious of me. He has felt an influence dwelling always upon him like a curse. He knew, by some spiritual sense—for the Creator never made another being so sensitive as this—he knew that no friendly hand was pulling



在他身邊。你挖他的心，你嚙他的心！你所要抓住的就是他的性命，你使他每天活活的死一次；他還不曉得你是誰。我讓你這樣做，我其實是做錯了，對不住他，惟有這個人我還有力量以忠誠相待！』

羅哲爾吉令維斯問道：『你能夠做什麼？我只要用手指指這個人，就能夠從他的講經臺上拖他下來拖入監牢——還許從監裏拖他上絞人臺！』

赫斯特爾普林說道：『還不如這樣的好。』

羅哲爾吉令維斯又問道：『我曾有過什麼加害於這個人的地方？赫斯特爾普林，我告訴你，一個醫生得了一個帝王的無論怎樣最豐厚的醫費，也不能如我那樣白費心替這個可憐的牧師診治！他幸虧有我幫助，不然的話，你們兩個人犯罪之後不過頭兩年，他的性命因為心中受痛苦就會燒死了。赫斯特爾，因為他的精力不如你，你在紅字逼壓之下能夠忍受，他無精力，他卻受不了。呀，我能夠揭露一件好祕密！但是夠了！凡是醫術所能辦到，我都在他身用到了。他現在還能呼吸，還能在地上爬，全虧得我！』

赫斯特爾普林說道：『與其這樣受痛苦，不如立刻死了更好！』

老羅哲爾吉令維斯在她的眼前放出他的心火的青燄，喊道：『女人，是呀，你說對了！他不如立刻死了更好！凡是人所受的痛苦，都不如他所受的這樣利害。況且是他的最惡毒的仇人親眼見他受罪！他曉得我。他覺得有一種潛力拖住他，所受天譴一樣。他由於宗教的感覺（因為造物主宰造人，再沒有造出如他那樣神經靈敏的人，）曉得扯他的心綫的那隻手不是個朋友的手，他曉得有一隻眼睛

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at his heart-strings, and that an eye was looking curiously into him, which sought only evil, and found it. But he knew not that the eye and hand were mine! With the superstition common to his brotherhood, he fancied himself given over to a fiend, to be tortured with frightful dreams, and desperate thoughts, the sting of remorse, and despair of pardon; as a foretaste of what awaits him beyond the grave. But it was the constant shadow of my presence!—the closest propinquity of the man whom he had most vilely wronged!—and who had grown to exist only by this perpetual poison, of the direst revenge! Yea, indeed!—he did not err!—there was a fiend at his elbow! A mortal man, with once a human heart, has become a fiend for his especial torment!”

“Hast thou not tortured him enough?” said Hester, noticing the old man’s look. “Has he not paid thee all?”

“No!—no!—he has but increased the debt!” answered the physician; and as he proceeded, his manner lost its fiercer characteristics, and subsided into gloom. “Dost thou remember me, Hester, as I was nine years ago? Even then, I was in the autumn of my days, nor was it the early autumn. But all my life had been made up of earnest, studious, thoughtful, quiet years, bestowed faithfully for the increase of mine own knowledge, and faithfully, too, though this latter object was but casual to the other—faithfully for the advancement of human welfare. No life had been more peaceful and innocent than mine; few lives so rich with benefits conferred. Dost thou remember me? Was I not, though you might deem me cold, nevertheless a man thoughtful for others, craving little for himself—kind, true, just, and of constant, if not warm affections? Was I not all this?”

帶着窺探祕密的神色看着他，這隻眼只要找他的罪惡，卻找着了！他卻不曉得這隻手同這隻眼都是我的！他們牧師們都是迷信的，他就以為委身於一個魔鬼，受惡魔的酷刑，受絕望的思想，追悔的刺螫，及無赦罪的希望的種種酷刑；使他先嚐死後的痛苦。這都是由於常在他面前！——同他最親近的就是他所最對不住的人！——他之所以能活到如今，全靠最毒的報仇計劃所用的這種永久的毒藥！是呀！他未猜錯！——確是有一個魔鬼在他左右！這個人有過一度是有人心的，因為特別要驚擾他，所以變作一個魔鬼！】

赫斯特爾看見這個老人的神氣，說道：『你還未把他磨折夠麼？他還未把他所欠的債全數還清麼？』

醫生說道：『未清！未清！——他已經加上許多債啦！』他一面說，他的神色失了更兇猛的特色，變作沉悶了。他又說道：『赫斯特爾，你記得我麼，你記得九年前的我麼？那時候我已到了我的秋季了，況且還不是初秋。但是我一生都是過好學深思的安靜日子，專誠為增加我自己的知識，而且專誠為使人類有進步，這卻不過是偶然的目的是。再沒有比我的生活更安靜，更無害的了；不過有不多的幾樣生活能餉世人以這許多利益。你記得我麼？你雖或者以我為太冷，我卻是一個替很他人想的人，少得為己——我許不是一個有熱烈愛情的人，我卻是仁慈的，忠實的，公道的，有恆性的，是不是？我是不是全有這些好處的人？』

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"All this, and more," said Hester.

"And what am I now?" demanded he, looking into her face, and permitting the whole evil within him to be written on his features. "I have already told thee what I am! A fiend! Who made me so?"

"It was myself!" cried Hester, shuddering. "It was I, not less than he. Why hast thou not avenged thyself on me?"

"I have left thee to the scarlet letter," replied Roger Chillingworth. "If that have not avenged me, I can do no more!"

He laid his finger on it, with a smile.

"It has avenged thee!" answered Hester Prynne.

"I judged no less," said the physician. "And now, what wouldst thou with me touching this man?"

"I must reveal the secret," answered Hester firmly. "He must discern thee in thy true character. What may be the result, I know not. But this long debt of confidence, due from me to him, whose bane and ruin I have been, shall at length be paid. So far as concerns the overthrow or preservation of his fair fame and his earthly state, and perchance his life, he is in thy hands. Nor do I—whom the scarlet letter has disciplined to truth, though it be the truth of red-hot iron, entering into the soul—nor do I perceive such advantage in his living any longer a life of ghastly emptiness, that I shall stoop to implore thy mercy. Do with him as thou wilt! There is no good for him—no good for me—no good for thee! There is no good for little Pearl! There is no path to guide us out of this dismal maze!"

"Woman, I could well-nigh pity thee!" said Roger Chillingworth, unable to restrain a thrill of admiration

赫斯特爾說道：『你全有這幾種好處，此外還有啦。』

他看她的臉，讓全數的心裏的兇惡寫在他的臉上，他問道：『我說在是個什麼？我已經告訴我我是個什麼！是一個魔鬼！是誰使我變作一個魔鬼？』

赫斯特爾發抖，喊道：『是我自己。也是他，也是我。你爲什麼不在我身上報仇？』

羅哲爾吉令維斯答道：『我讓你戴那個紅字。倘若這個紅字還不曾替我報仇，我不能再作什麼了！』

他微笑，把手指放在紅字上。

赫斯特爾答道：『這個紅字替你報仇了！』

醫生說道：『我看是報了。關於那個人你要怎樣對付呀？』

赫斯特爾決絕的說道：『我必得揭露祕密。他必得看透你的真性格。結果是什麼，我不曉得。我所欠他的嚴守祕密的債（害了他是我，毀了他又是我）到底必要清償。說到毀壞或保全他的全名，他在世上的地位，還許他的性命，他是在你手上。這個紅字曾磨鍊我使我曉得真實，雖是深入腦海的燒紅鐵條的真實，我不覺得他過一種如鬼那樣可怕的虛無所有的生活還有什麼利益，我並不爲這樣的利益求你大發慈悲。你願意怎樣對付他，就怎樣對付他！世上無好處及他——無好處及我——無好處及你！無好處及小珠子！並無路徑可以領我們走出這樣的愁慘迷途！』

羅哲爾吉令維斯也禁不住一陣神經顫動稱讚她；因爲在她所發現的絕望裏頭，有一種幾乎威嚴的性質；他說道：『女人，我幾可以憐憫你！你有偉大的本性。你若較早

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too; for there was a quality almost majestic in the despair which she expressed. "Thou hadst great elements. Peradventure, hadst thou met earlier with a better love than mine, this evil had not been. I pity thee, for the good that has been wasted in thy nature!"

"And I thee," answered Hester Prynne, "for the hatred that has transformed a wise and just man to a fiend! Wilt thou yet purge it out of thee, and be once more human? If not for his sake, then doubly for thine own! Forgive, and leave his further retribution to the Power that claims it! I said, but now, that there could be no good event for him, or thee, or me, who are here wandering together in this gloomy maze of evil, and stumbling, at every step, over the guilt wherewith we have strewn our path. It is not so! There might be good for thee, and thee alone, since thou hast been deeply wronged, and hast it at thy will to pardon. Wilt thou give up that only privilege? Wilt thou reject that priceless benefit?"

"Peace, Hester, peace!" replied the old man, with gloomy sternness. "It is not granted me to pardon. I have no such power as thou tellest me of. My old faith, long forgotten, comes back to me, and explains all that we do, and all we suffer. By thy first step awry, thou didst plant the gerin of evil; but since that moment, it has all been a dark necessity. Ye that have wronged me are not sinful, save in a kind of typical illusion; neither am I fiend-like, who have snatched a fiend's office from his hands. It is our fate. Let the black flower blossom as it may! Now go thy ways, and deal as thou wilt with yonder man."

He waved his hand, and betook himself again to his employment of gathering herbs.

遇見比我更愛的人，很許不會鬧出這件事。我可憐你，因為你糟塌你性情中的好處！』

赫斯特爾普林答道：『我也憐憫你，因為怨恨使一個明智公道的人變作一個魔鬼！你肯把這樣魔鬼性情從你的心中趕走，再做人麼？若不為他起見，為你自己起見，就該加倍用力逐出！你饒了他，把以後的懲罰交與上帝，上帝要懲罰他！我纔說過，他不能得好處，你我也不能得好處，我們三個人同在這個罪惡的黑暗迷樓亂走，每走一步都會跌倒在我們散布在我們路上的罪惡。不是這樣！也許你可以得好處，只有你可以得好處，因為你受害最深的人，饒不饒在你。你肯放棄這樣惟一的特別權利麼？你肯拋棄那樣無價寶的利益麼？』

老人帶着黑暗的嚴厲，答道：『赫斯特爾，不要說吧，不要說吧！無人給我赦罪的權力，我無你所告訴我那樣的權力。我的舊信仰，久已忘記了，現在回來啦，解說全數我們的所作及所受。你先失足走錯路，你就播了罪惡的種子；從此以後，無不是一種黑暗的必然。你們對不住我的，並不是犯罪，不過在一種可以作模範的欺圖中是犯罪；我也不是像一個魔鬼，從他的手上奪了一個魔鬼的職責。這是我們的命運。這朵黑花可以怎樣放開，就隨他開放！你走你的路，你喜歡怎樣對付那個人，你就怎樣對付。』

他搖搖手，又採藥。

〔等到公舉那一天輪到了木士德演說，他說了一番極有光彩極能動聽的話之後，他忽然喊赫斯特爾及小珠子來，要當衆承認他是奸夫，羅哲爾還要他再受心裏的痛苦，勸他不要承認，他當衆說了一番很沉痛的話，就承認了，他說完我同你們辭別了，就死在臺上。譯者註。〕





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英漢對照名家小說選

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