

Shah Abbas

国王阿巴斯



The story is told by the Persians of the great Shah Abbas, who reigned magnificently in Persia, but loved to mingle with the people in disguise. Once, dressed as a poor man, he descended the long flight of stairs, dark and damp, to the tiny cellar where the fire man, seated on ashes, was tending the furnace.

The king sat down beside him and began to talk. At mealtime the fire man produced some coarse, black bread and a jug of water and they ate and drank together.

波斯人讲述一个故事，有关一位伟大的国王阿巴斯。他威武地统治着波斯，却喜欢微服深入民间。

有一次，他装扮成一个穷人，走下长长一段楼梯，进入到一间阴暗潮湿的地窖。那里有一位火夫正坐在灰烬里，照看着火炉。

国王在他身旁坐下来，并开始与他攀谈。吃饭时，火夫拿出粗糙的黑面包和一壶水来招待他。





The Shah went away, but returned again and again, for his heart was filled with sympathy for the lonely man. He gave him sweet counsel, and the poor man opened his whole heart and loved this friend, so kind, so wise, and yet poor like himself.

At last the emperor

thought, 'I will tell him who I am, and see what gift he will ask.' So he said, 'You think me poor, but I am Shah Abbas your emperor.' He expected a petition for some great thing, but the man sat silent.

Then the king said. 'Haven't you understood? I can make you rich and noble, can give you a city, can appoint you as a great ruler. Have you nothing to ask?'

吃喝完毕，国王就离开了。但他一次又一次地回去看望这位火夫，因为他心里对这个孤独的人充满了同情。他为他提供美好的建议，而那位贫穷的火夫也向他完全敞开心胸。火夫爱自己的这位朋友，他是那样仁慈，充满智慧，然而也和自己一样贫穷。

最后，国王想：“我要告诉他我是谁，看看他会向我求些什么。”于是他说：“你认为我很贫穷，但其实我是国王。”他期待那人会向他求些高官厚禄之类的东西。但火夫却静静地坐在那里注视着他。

国王就问：“你听明白了吗？我可以使你变得富贵，我可以赐给你一座城，可以委派你做高官。你难道什么都不想要吗？”

The man replied gently, 'Yes, my lord, I understood. But what is this you have done, to leave your palace and glory, to sit with me in this dark place, to partake of my coarse fare, to care whether my heart is glad or sorry? Even you can give nothing more precious. On others you may bestow rich presents, but to me you have given yourself; it only remains to ask that you never withdraw this gift of your friendship.'

Friendship is the most priceless gift that can be given.

那人轻轻地回答说：“是的，我的国王，我听明白了。但是你知道你为我做了什么吗？你离开皇宫，放下尊荣，来到这个阴暗的地方，与我坐在一起，同吃粗糙的食物，关注我的快乐和忧愁。你所给的，没有什么能比现在这一切更宝贵的了。对其他人，你也许可以赐给他们珍贵的礼物，但对于我，你已把自己给了我；我唯一要求的，就是你永远都不要收回你给我的这份友谊，这份恩赐。”

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