

Lesson 82 Monster or fish?

是妖还是鱼?

First listen and then answer the question.

What was the monster called?

Fishermen and sailors sometimes claim to have seen monsters in the sea. Though people have often laughed at stories told by seamen, it is now known that many of these 'monsters' which have at times been sighted are simply strange fish. Occasionally, unusual creatures are washed to the shore, but they are rarely caught out at sea. Some time ago, however, a peculiar fish was caught near Madagascar. A small fishing boat was carried miles out to sea by the powerful fish as it pulled on the line. Realizing that this was no ordinary fish, the fisherman made every effort not to damage it in any way. When it was eventually brought to shore, it was found to be over thirteen feet long. It had a head like a horse, big blue eyes, shining silver skin, and a bright red tail. The fish, which has since been sent to a museum where it is being examined by a scientist, is called an oarfish. Such creatures have rarely been seen alive by man as they live at a depth of six hundred feet.

New words and expressions 生词和短语

monster n. 怪物

sailor n. 海员

sight v. 见到

creature n. 动物, 生物

peculiar adj. 奇怪的, 不寻常的

shining adj. 闪闪发光的

oarfish n. 桨鱼

参考译文

渔夫和水手们有时声称自己看到过海里的妖怪。虽然人们常常对水手们讲的故事付诸一笑,但现在看来,人们有时看到的这些“妖怪”很多不过是些奇怪的鱼。一些异常的生物偶尔会被冲到岸上来,但它们在海上却极少能被捕到。然而不久前,在马达加斯加附近的海里却捕到了一条奇怪的鱼。一条小渔船被一条咬住钩的强壮的大鱼拖到了几英里以外的海面上。那位渔民意识到这根本不是一条普通的鱼,于是千方百计不让它受到丝毫伤害。当终于把它弄上岸后,人们发现它身长超过了 13 英尺。它长着一个像马一样的头,有着大的蓝眼睛和闪闪发光的银色皮肤,还有一条鲜红色的尾巴。此鱼叫桨鱼,被送进了博物馆,现正接受一位科学家的检查。人们很少能看到活着的这类动物,因为它们生活在 600 英尺深的水下。

Lesson 2 Thirteen equals one

十三等于一

Was the vicar pleased that the clock was striking? Why?

Our vicar is always raising money for one cause or another, but he has never

managed to get enough money to have the church clock repaired. The big clock which used to strike the hours day and night was damaged many years ago and has been silent ever since.

One night, however, our vicar woke up with a start: the clock was striking the hours! Looking at his watch, he saw that it was one o'clock, but the bell struck thirteen times before it stopped. Armed with a torch, the vicar went up into the clock tower to see what was going on. In the torchlight, he caught sight of a figure whom he immediately recognized as Bill Wilkins, our local grocer.

'Whatever are you doing up here Bill?' asked the vicar in surprise.

'I'm trying to repair the bell,' answered Bill. 'I've been coming up here night after night for weeks now. You see, I was hoping to give you a surprise.'

'You certainly did give me a surprise!' said the vicar. 'You've probably woken up everyone in the village as well. Still, I'm glad the bell is working again.'

That's the trouble, vicar,' answered Bill. 'It's working all right, but I'm afraid that at one o'clock it will strike thirteen times and there's nothing I can do about it.'

We'll get used to that, Bill,' said the vicar. 'Thirteen is not as good as one, but it's better than nothing. Now let's go downstairs and have a cup of tea.'

New words and expressions 生词和短语

equal

v. 等于

vicar

n. 牧师

raise

v. 募集, 筹(款)

torchlight

n. 手电筒光

参考译文

我们教区的牧师总是为各种各样的事筹集资金。但始终未能筹足资金把教堂的钟修好。教堂的钟很大, 以前不分昼夜打点报时, 但很多年前遭到毁坏, 从此便无声无息了。

一天夜里, 我们的牧师突然被惊醒了, 大钟又在“打点”报时了!他一看表, 才 1 点钟, 可是那钟一边敲了 13 下才停。牧师拿着一支电筒走上钟楼想去看看究竟发生了什么事情。借着电筒光。他看见一个人, 马上认出那是本地杂货店主经比尔·威尔金斯。

“你究竟在这上面干什么, 比尔?”牧师惊讶地问。

“我想把这口钟修好,”比尔回答说。“好几个星期了, 我天天夜里到钟楼上。嗯, 我是想让你大吃一惊。”

“你确实使我大吃一惊!”牧师说, “也许同时你把村里所有的人都吵醒了。不过, 钟又能报时了, 我还是很高兴的。”

“问题就在这里, 牧师,”比尔回答说。“不错, 钟能报时了, 但是, 恐怕每到 1 点钟, 它总要敲 13 下, 对此我已无能为力了。”

“大家慢慢就习惯了, 比尔,”牧师说。“13 下是不如 1 下好, 但总比 1 下也不敲强。来, 咱们下楼去喝杯茶吧。”