4-17 A man-made disease

In the early days of the settlement（n.）移民；殖民 of Australia, enterprising有事业心的；有进取心的 settlers移居者 unwisely introduced the European rabbit.

This rabbit had no **natural enemies**天敌 in the Antipodes新西兰和澳大利亚, **so that** it multiplied 方式状with that（adv.）那么,那样 promiscuous滥交的；淫乱的 abandon（n.）放任，纵情 characteristic特征 of rabbits.

It overran蔓延，泛滥 a whole continent. It caused devastation（n.）（大面积的严重）毁坏，破坏 by burrowing挖洞 / and by devouring the herbage草 which **might have** maintain**ed**赡养，供养 millions of sheep and cattle. （might + have + 过去分词：表示“未曾实现的可能性”。即过去本来可能发生，而实际上没有发生的情况，通常译为“本来可以”“本来可能”等。）

Scientists discovered that this particular variety品种；种类 of rabbit (课括and apparently no other animal显然不包括别的动物) was susceptible易受感染的to a fatal致命的 virus disease, myxomatosis多发性粘液瘤.

By infecting传染animals / and letting them loose让乱跑 in the burrows地洞, local epidemics流行病 of this disease could be created.

Later it was found that there was a type of mosquito蚊虫 which acted as the carrier of this disease / and passed it on to the rabbits.

So [while the rest of the world was trying to get rid of摆脱 mosquitoes], Australia was encouraging鼓励 this one.

It effectively spread扩散 the disease all over the continent / and drastically大幅度地 reduced the rabbit population.

It later became apparent（adj.）显然的 实主that rabbits were developing **a degree of**某种程度的 resistance免疫力to this disease, so that the rabbit population was unlikely（adj.） to be completely exterminated消灭；根除.

There were hopes, however, 同位从that the problem of the rabbit would become manageable（adj.）易处理的；易控制的；可做到的.

Ironically具有讽刺意味地, Europe, which had bequeathed遗赠给the rabbit as a pest害虫；有害动物 to Australia, acquired this man-made disease as a pestilence瘟疫.

A French physician内科医生 decided to get rid of the wild rabbits [on his own estate] / and introduced myxomatosis.

It did not, however, remain within the confines界限 of his estate庄园；地产.

It spread through France, Where wild rabbits are **not** generally regarded as a pest / **but** as sport / and a useful food supply, and it spread to Britain where wild rabbits are regarded as a pest / but where domesticated被驯养了的 rabbits, equally susceptible（adj.）易受影响的；易受感染的 to the disease, are 表the basis基础；主要成分 of a profitable有利润的 fur毛皮 industry.

The question became one of whether Man could control the disease he had invented.

1. with后的that在此处作副词，表示程度，意即“那么”、“那样”，如:

Don’t take that much . 别拿那么多。

1. be susceptible to… 易受…感染的，易受…影响的
2. bequeath … to …：把…遗赠给…

be-quea-th [ bi-'kwi:-ð] v.把…传给；将（财物等）遗赠给；将（知识等）传给（后人）

4-18 Porpoises （n.）海豚

There has long been a superstition迷信 among mariners海员 同位从that porpoises海豚 will save drowning溺水 men 方式状by pushing them to the surface, / or protect them from sharks鲨鱼 by surrounding围绕;环绕 them **in defensive formation**队形，编队.

Marine海洋的 Studio工作室 biologists have pointed out that, however intelligent they may be, it is probably a mistake 实主to credit认为是…的功劳;把…归于 dolphins with any motive of lifesaving.

On the occasions （when they have pushed to shore 宾an unconscious失去知觉的 human being） / they have **much more likely**更大的可能 done it [**out of curiosity**出于好奇心；求知欲/ or for sport], 方式状as in riding the bow船首 waves of a ship.

[In 1928] some porpoises鼠海豚 were photographed working like beavers海狸 to push ashore（adv.） a waterlogged浸满水的 mattress床垫. （photograph…doing sth. 拍摄到……做某事）

If, as has been reported, they have protected humans from sharks, it **may have been** 表从because curiosity attracted吸引；诱惑 them / and 表从because the scent气味 of a possible meal attracted the sharks. （may have been表示对过去发生的事情的推测，表示可能。）

Porpoises and sharks arenatural enemies. It is possible 实主that [upon当…时候，一…即… such an occasion] a battle ensued随即产生,接着发生, 独立主格/伴随状况with the sharks being driven away / or killed.

Whether it be bird, fish or beast, the porpoise is intrigued（adj.）好奇的，被迷住了的 with anything that is alive.

They are constantly after the turtles, who peacefully submit to屈从于 all sorts of indignities（n.）侮辱；轻蔑.

One young calf幼崽 especially enjoyed raising a turtle to the surface 方式状with his snout口鼻部 / and then shoving猛推 him across the tank罐，槽，箱 方式状like an aquaplane驾浪滑水板，水上飞机.

[Almost any day] a young porpoise may be seen 主补trying to turn a 300-pound sea turtle over 方式状by sticking插入；刺入 his snout under the edge of his shell外壳/ and pushing up [**for dear life**拼命地].

This is not easy, and may require two porpoises 宾补working together.

In another game, 当as the turtle swims across the oceanarium海洋馆, the first porpoise swoops俯冲down from above（n.） / and butts用头撞 his shell with his belly腹部.

This knocks the turtle down several feet. He no sooner recovers his equilibrium平衡 than刚…就… the next porpoise comes along / and hits him another crack（可听到响声的）重击；猛击.

[Eventually] the turtle has been butted（用头）顶，撞 all the way一直 down to the floor of the tank.

He is now satisfied merely to try to stand up, but [as soon as he does so] a porpoise knocks him flat将…击倒.

The turtle at last gives up 方式状by pulling拉；拖；牵；扯 his feet under his shell / and the game is over.

1. has long been为「现在完成时」，表示该迷信一直流传到现在并还在流传。