1、His Task

Should anyone here not know the art of love, read this, and learn by reading how to love.By art the boat’s set gliding, with oar and sail, by art the chariot’s swift: love’s ruled by art. Automedon was skilled with Achiles’s chariot reins, Tiphys in Thessaly was steersman of the Argo, Venus appointed me as guide to gentle Love: I’ll be known as Love’s Tiphys, and Automedon. It’s true Love’s wild, and one who often flouts me: bu he’s child of tender years, fit to be ruled. Chiron made the young Achiles perfect at the lyre, and tempered his wild spirits through peaceful art.He, who so terrified his enemies and friends, they say he greatly feared the aged Centaur. That hand that Hector was destined to know, was held out, at his master’s orders, to be flogged; I am Love’s teacher as Chiron was Achilles, both wild boys, both children of a goddess. Yet the bullock’s neck is bowed beneath the yoke, and the spirited horse’s teeth worn by the bit. And Love will yield to me, though with his bow he wounds my heart, shakes at me his burning torch. The more he pierces me, the more violently he burns me, so much the fitter am I to avenge the wounds. Nor will I falsely say you gave me the art, no voice from a heavenly bird gives me advice, I never caught sight of Clio or Clio’s sisters while herding the flocks, Ascra in your valleys:Experience prompts this work: listen to the expert poet. I sing true; Venus, help my venture! Far away from here, you badges of modesty, the thin head band, the ankle-covering dress! I sing of safe love, permissible intrigue, and there’ll be nothing sinful in my song.

Now the first task for you who come as a raw recruitis to find out who you might wish to love.The next task is to make sure that she likes you; the third, to see to it that the love will last. That’s my aim, that’s the ground my chariot will cover: that’s the post my thundering wheels will scrape.

一、他的任务

如果一个人不懂得爱的艺术，那么请阅读这本书，并通过阅读来学习如何去爱。船儿靠操纵帆和船桨的艺术在海上劈风斩浪，马车靠操纵缰绳的艺术在马路上飞驰前进，同样地，依靠爱的艺术才能在爱情的海洋里自由驰骋。奥托墨冬是熟练操纵缰绳驾车的高手，色萨里的提菲斯是阿尔戈号的舵手，而维纳斯任命我做她的儿子——爱神阿莫尔的导师, 而我也将以善于驾驭爱情的提菲斯和奥托墨冬闻名于世。阿莫尔虽然调皮捣蛋，经常戏弄我：但是阿莫尔毕竟是个孩子——只要善于教导，孩子是非常听话的。凯龙通过音乐来驯服了阿喀琉斯那躁动的心灵，使他成为弹琴的高手。阿喀琉斯的名字让所有的敌人闻风丧胆，让所有的朋友如雷贯耳，但他却甘愿匍匐在年迈的卡斯托尔脚下。阿喀琉斯那送赫克托尔去见了死神的有力的双手，也曾温顺地屈服于他老师凯龙的戒尺。正如凯龙曾经驯服了调皮捣蛋的阿喀琉斯一样，我也成功地驯服了调皮捣蛋的爱神阿莫尔。最骄纵的公牛也得在牛轭下低下了它高傲的头颅，最彪悍的烈马也忍受不了被马嚼子伤害的剧痛。虽然爱情之箭刺痛了我的心灵，爱情之火烧得我遍体鳞伤，但是爱情终将向我投降。爱情之箭刺我越深，爱情之火燃烧越烈，我征服爱情的心情就越迫切。太阳神福玻斯呀，并不是你教会了我恋爱的艺术，众神之神宙斯也不曾派他的信使给我有益的建议，就连文艺女神们也不曾私下向我传授秘籍，不，这些都是谎言。我，情场上的专家，告诉你真相：在情场中驰骋多年的经验，才是我在爱情艺术上炉火纯青的真正原因。维纳斯呀，请在爱情的冒险中助我一臂之力吧，宅男是不会收获爱情的，走出家门， 奔向那头戴细丝带的羞涩少女，奔向那身穿曳地长裙的热情少妇。我向您传授的是真正的爱情， 和有助于于爱情的善意计谋，我的诗歌里没有任何有害的内容。

现在，您，情场上的新手，首先您得有一个自己爱上的姑娘，然后，想方设法让她喜欢你，最后，让你们的爱情永葆青春。这就是我狩猎的目标，就是我的战车和武器所要征服的范围。

注释：

1. 奥托墨冬，阿喀琉斯的驭手，善于驾驭战车。
2. 提菲斯，阿尔戈号的舵手。相关内容请参看伊阿宋等英雄驾驭阿尔戈号去偷取金羊毛的故事。
3. 阿莫尔，是罗马神话中的爱神，即希腊神话中的丘比特。古代经常将某些东西拟人化，文中的阿莫尔有时指爱神阿莫尔，有时指爱情。
4. 阿喀琉斯，古希腊战力最高的英雄，以速度快著称，被称为捷脚的阿喀琉斯。其作战方法类似于关羽骑赤兔马斩颜良文丑。
5. 卡斯托尔，是远征特洛伊战争中最年迈的英雄，曾经参加过特洛伊之战以前的多次古希腊的战斗，以经验丰富著称。
6. 赫克托尔，特洛伊战争中特洛伊一方的主将，被阿喀琉斯杀死。
7. 福玻斯，也就是太阳神阿波罗，以智慧和善于预言著称。