The Sign of Four - Chapter 4 知识点总结

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**• 1月5日知识点总结 •**

The Sign of Four - Chapter 4

三个人即将访问一位神秘人士……（文中彩蛋）

**• 讲义总结 •**

1. At the Lyceum Theater **the crowds were already thick** at the side-entrances. In front a continuous stream of cabs were hurrying up, discharging their cargoes of men in suits and women in their best shawls and necklaces.
   * 「**the crowds were thick**」是指人已经很多了，thick在这里不是“厚”的意思。a continuous stream of cabs，指的是一辆接一辆、一连串的出租车。
   * **「discharge」**在这里的意思是Unload (goods or passengers) ，下客或者卸货。
   * in suits和in their best shawls and necklaces的**「in」**都是穿着的意思，shawl指的是女士用的大披肩。
2. We had **hardly** reached the third pillar, which was our meeting point, **before**a small, dark man dressed like a cab-driver came up to us.
   * **「hardly…before…」**这个结构是“刚……就……”的意思，这里是说Sherlock他们刚到第三根柱子那儿，就有个小个子深色皮肤的男人朝他们走来。
3. “But I was to ask you to **give me your word** that neither of your companions is a policeman.”

“I give you my word on that,” she answered.

* + **「give sb one’s word」**的意思是“向某人保证”；neither of 的意思是“两者都不是”，这类短语有很多同学不太分得清，我们来总结一下：
  + all of … （三者以上）都……；both of… （两者）都；
  + none of…（三者以上）都不……；neither of…（两者）都不；
  + one of……（三者以上的）任意一个……；either of…（两者中的）任意一个。

1. We had**hardly done so before** the driver whipped up his horse, and we set off at a furious pace through the foggy streets.
   * 这里又出现了**「hardly...before」**这个结构，相信大家都能理解了~ 但是要注意这里的done so指代的是前面一句提到的took our places inside（在车里坐下来）。
   * 这里的描写主要是为了突出小个子男人迅速启动了马车，at a furious pace这个短语也能看出是以非常快的速度前进的。**「furious」**这个词我们应该不陌生吧，你们爱看的电影《速度与激情》英文名就叫Furious。
2. I was myself so excited and so curious that my stories were somewhat strange. To this day she claims that I told her how a **rifle** looked into my tent at the dead of night, and how I fired a **tiger**at it.
   * I was myself so excited and so curious that...中的myself表示强调，后面是so...that的结构，即“如此……以至于……”。
   * 这段话非常搞笑啊，当然也同时给理解带来了难度。。。这里华生因为紧张，把枪和老虎说反了，应该是 how a tiger looked into my tent at the dead of night, and how I fired a rifle at it.
   * 从“to this day she claims that…”（直到今天她还在说……）这句话我们读者便可以推测出Dr. Watson和Mary Morstan在这段故事之后是还有故事的，至少是还保持联系的.
3. but soon, **what with** our pace, the fog, and my own limited knowledge of London, I lost my sense of direction.
   * **「what with」**相当于because of，常常用来引出多个原因，比如这里的our pace（马车的速度），the fog（大雾）以及my own limited knowledge of London（对伦敦的了解有限）。
4. We, indeed, reached a questionable and **forbidding** neighborhood.
   * questionable and forbidding都是在形容他们到达的地方，questionable指令人怀疑的，**「forbidding」**指令人生畏的。
5. There was something **out of place** about this **Oriental figure** framed in the doorway of an ordinary suburban house.

“The **Sahib** awaits you,” said he.

* + **「out of place」**的意思是 “ not comfortable in or not suitable for a situation”，指格格不入、不协调、不太符合（某种）情形。
  + **「The Sahib」**意思是“阁下、大人”，这是仆人对他主人的称呼。
  + **「Oriental figure」**指的就是来应门的印度仆人。这句话是说一个普通的郊外房屋的门口有一个这样的东方仆人有点不协调。说到这里，放一张我最爱的Raj...

1. A blaze of yellow light streamed out upon us, and in the center of it stood a small man with a very high bald head and a little red hair round the edge of it. Nature had given him a too visible line of yellow and irregular teeth, which he tried feebly to hide by constantly passing his hand over the lower part of his face. In spite of his baldness, he seemed young. In fact, he had just passed thirty.
   * 这段介绍了房间里那个神秘年轻男人的外貌，简而言之：红发地中海，黄色大龅牙。这就是后文会多次出现的人物Thaddeus Sholto，我们简称他为TS。
   * 他还有个孪生兄弟叫Bartholomew Sholto，我们简称他为BS好了~这两个人都是Major Sholto的儿子。
2. In that dismal house, it looked as **out of place** as a perfect diamond in a setting of brass.
   * 这里再次出现**「out of place」**这个短语，as out of place as…，指就像……一样格格不入。
   * 作者在这里是为了向我们说明这个房间的奢华和这栋房子沉闷的外表形成了鲜明的对比，就像一颗完美钻石却镶嵌在一个黄铜的底座上一样不协调。
3. An **oasis**of art in the howling desert of South London. That painting over there, for instance, is a genuine **Corot**...
   * 这个男人说自己的房间就像南伦敦空旷沙漠里的艺术绿洲。oasis是绿洲的意思，有一支来自英国的摇滚乐队（rock band）就叫Oasis，他们的歌还不错哟~推荐给大家。**彩蛋在此⬇️**

Stand By MeOasis - Be Here Nowhttps://res.wx.qq.com/mmbizwap/zh_CN/htmledition/images/icon/appmsg/qqmusic/icon_qqmusic_source263724.png

* + Corot，这里的Corot应该说的是法国画家Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot（1796—1875），他也被誉为19实际最出色的抒情风景画家。他最著名的风景画Ville d’Avray（《维拉达弗瑞小镇》）现被美国国家艺术馆收藏。所以燃烧的蜡烛我，去National Gallery of Art 官网把这幅画找了出来，并下载了高达6.9MB的high resolution原画。
  + 然而微信会压缩。。。

1. He is very angry with me for **taking the course** which has seemed right to me.
   * 在这里的**「taking the course」**不是“选课”，可以理解为“选的道路”或者是“采取的做法”，TS说自己的哥哥对于他采取的做法非常的生气，而他自己觉得自己做得很对。
2. No, I must **prepare** you by showing you how we all stand in relation to each other.
   * Dr.Watson本想催促早点出发去Norwood，但是TS坚持要先把事情的来龙去脉讲给他们听。
   * **「prepare sb.」**让某人准备好应对某事，这个用法超级超级地道且好用，一定一定要记下来。

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四签名难不难？难了就要多看几遍哦，尤其要结合讲义重新看。

