

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to apply for your part-time/freelance translator post and enclose my CV for your consideration.

I first became interested in translation in 2004 through my second job in TBWA Beijing Branch, an advertising agency. Though I was a Front Desk Associate there, I got an opportunity to assist an account manager to translate some marketing materials into English, which I felt very interesting, able to combine my interest in literature and reading, good writing skill and excellent imagination.

With years of intensive practicing and training, I have acquired the excellent translation skills; and by virtue of rich experience, outstanding translation and earnest working attitude and strong sense of responsibility, I have been highly spoken of by a series of transnational clients, such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Lufthansa, etc. Now, I am a freelance translator, which means, I have enough time to cope with every document that needs translating; I will take each client very seriously because his/her trust deserves my greatest efforts; and I am in eager pursuit of long-term partnership with every client.

Your company attracts me very much because of your good reputation and emphasis on quality. I want to be one of you because my dream is to become the best translator, and I believe you can help me achieve this goal. And I also believe that my previous experience as a translator for more than 8 years working with international giant companies and my strong sense of responsibility would be an asset to you.

I hope that, on consideration of my CV, you will be persuaded of my potential and capability to make a real contribution as a member of your firm. Please do give me an opportunity to work for you, thank you very much.

Sincerely

Qin Li

**Qin Li (Lillian Li)**

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**Personal Profile**

A senior English-Chinese/Chinese-English translator with more than 8-year experience of working with transnational giant companies; an earnest and responsible person always able to meet client demands and willing to develop good long-term cooperative relationship.

**Professional Qualifications**

- Over 8-year experience of translation from English to Chinese and from Chinese to English
- Good understanding of English and excellent language skill, with an eye for detail
- Able to translate the marketing, education and TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) materials
- Very strong in handling the MS office tools, translation tools (Trados, Xbench), web search tools
- Productive in a high volume, high stress, environment

**Work Experience:****January, 2022-Present/ Freelance Translator, Welocalize****Major Clients:****Google**

- Localization of Google games, products and services  
This is an extremely strict project, because Google doesn't tolerate any single mistake and requires excellent translation. I am very happy to work with such a stringent client since it helps me further improve my translation skill.

**April, 2021-Present/Freelance Translator, RWS Group****Major Clients:****IKEA, DFS**

- Translating English marketing materials into Chinese

**November, 2016 - Present/Freelance Translator, Rosetta Translation Limited UK****Major Clients:**

Anantara Vacation Club, LES AMBASSADEURS, Preciosa

- Translating the materials related to marketing and tourist attractions from Chinese into English

**February, 2016 - Present/ Freelance Translator, Delhui Beijing Co. Limited**

**Major Clients:**

Anli Partners, China Automotive Technology and Research Center Co., Ltd.

Translating resume, messages, policy, contract, report etc. from Chinese into English

**2010 - Present/Freelance Translator, Beijing Unicom Information Technology Co., Ltd.****Major Clients:**

Lenzing Group, HEC, SKEMA

- Translating marketing and publicity materials for the following clients:

Lenzing Group, HEC Paris, SKEMA Business School

**2009 - Present /Freelance Translator, BESTEASY (A Translation Agency)**

- Translating marketing and publicity materials for the following clients:  
Mercedes-Benz China, Volkswagen China, Embassy of India in Beijing, Lufthansa Group (Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines System, Austrian Airlines , Brussels Airlines), Air China, Piaget, Beijing Design Week, Honeywell, Safilo, HUGO BOSS, Armani
- Subtitle translation project for the documentary program of CCTV (China Central Television), which involves wild animals, culture and social science

**2007 - 2012/Full Time Translator/Vehicle Team Leader, Miaojian Information Co., Ltd.****Major Clients:**

BMW China, BMW Brilliance (A joint venture of BMW in China)

- Responsible for the translation of marketing and publicity materials and daily news of BMW, listening and translation, new employee training, communicating with the client to solve the problems related to translation;

Volkswagen Group (Import) Co. Ltd. (VGIC) and Infiniti China

- Translation of marketing and publicity materials and daily news

**2006 - 2007/ Freelance Translator, Allintelli Technologies Inc. (A translation Agency)**

- Translating marketing and publicity materials for Lexus

**2004 - 2006 TBWA Beijing Branch - Front Desk Associate****2004 - Royal Dutch Shell - Assistant (A Three-month Part Time Job)**

<b>Academic Education:</b>
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**1999 - 2004**

- Graduated in Traditional Chinese Medicine from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine
- Improving English level via Self-taught Higher Education Examinations in China (Self-taught Higher Education Examinations is a very important component of the current Chinese higher education system, a diploma examination to help self-learners improve their capability).

## IT Skills

Competent with most Microsoft Office applications  
SDL Trados Studio 2019

## Interests and Hobbies

Traveling, Drawing

**Able to translate about 2000 words per day (8 hours)**

## Articles once Translated for Your Reference

### English to Chinese

#### 1.

What has changed is not the politicians, but the aerospace business. In ten years Boeing has gone from an introspective protégé of America's Department of Defence to a global civil aviation giant. It has outsourced production to contractors in America and found international firms, notably in Japan and Italy, to join in as risk-sharing partners, making much of its successful new 787. Boeing has taken the lead in developing new technology to make big aircraft more efficient, more economical and more eco-friendly.

实际上，发生变化的并非是政客，而是整个航天航空业。10年间，波音公司已从美国国防部旗下一位谦恭自省的门徒，成长为国际民用航空业的巨擘。它将生产任务转包给美国的承包商，寻找国际化大公司并与其形成共担风险的合作伙伴关系。此外，波音公司又在新技术开发领域内异军突起，名列前茅，在打造更为高效，经济和环保的大型机方面立下了汗马功劳。

Airbus, meanwhile, has fallen on hard times with delays to its flagship A380 and to the launch of its rival to the new best-selling Boeing long-haul jet. Work shared between France and Germany led to a lack of co-ordination and delays on the A380 that have cost billions. And the rise of the euro against the dollar has made much of its production uncompetitive. Most of Airbus's costs are in euros, but aircraft are priced in dollars.

而空中客车却举步维艰。一方面，它推迟了旗舰 A380 的交付日期，另一方面，它的竞争对手波音公司又一马当先，推出了新畅销机型长途喷汽式飞机。德法两国平分蛋糕，导致工作缺乏协调性和 A380 的延迟交付，而后者直接造成的经济损失就高达数亿。此外，美元-欧元兑换率的水涨船高更为其产品缺乏竞争力，因为空中客车绝大部份的费用都以欧元计算，而飞机却是以美元定价出售的。

Airbus needs to trim production in Europe by selling factories to suppliers or bringing them in as risk-sharing partners. It should also outsource more work to Asia and other low-cost centres. The company's old management structure prevented it from doing so because it embodied a nationalistic rivalry that encouraged German and

French managers to demand that parts should be sourced from their homelands. This week's announcement showed that Mr Sarkozy and Mrs Merkel have bowed to the inevitable and given Airbus a chance to move in the same direction as Boeing has.

空中客车的当务之急是要在欧洲削减生产任务。它可以将工厂转卖给供应商，也可以与他们结成风险共担的合作伙伴。它还应该将更多的业务转包到亚洲或其它低成本地区运作。但是，公司固有的管理层结构一直都是这些方案得以实施的拦路虎，因为它代表了一种民族与民族间的较量，而这种较量也在唆使德法两国的经理人们要求制造飞机所需的零部件就理应从他们的国家内部采购。本周所做出的通告表明，萨尔科齐先生和莫克尔女士已经能够坦然面对这一现实，这为空中客车沿着波音公司昔日的成长路线发展壮大创造了机会。

Aerospace is one of the last redoubts of economic nationalism. In many other industries European governments have already given way to pressure from globalisation. Resistance to cross-border mergers within Europe is crumbling. The Spanish government saw off a German takeover of Endesa, a utility, but eventually gave in to a joint takeover bid led by Italians. Emerging-market firms are making inroads into European corporate life. The French government was forced to accept the takeover of Arcelor, a European-owned steel company, by Mittal, a firm founded by an Indian. The resolution of the long and bitter battle for Airbus proves the same point: that governments that try to resist the pressure of globalisation may win time, but they will ultimately lose the fight

航天航空业是捍卫经济国有主义最后的金城汤池。在其它许多行业中，欧洲政府已然在全球化的强大攻势下败下阵来。欧洲各国对于跨境并购的抵制正在土崩瓦解。西班牙政府刚刚拒绝德国对于公共事业单位恩德萨（Endesa）公司的接管，他们不得不屈服于意大利提出的联合接管建议。新兴市场公司则步步为营，意欲打入欧洲企业内部。法国政府就被迫接受全球钢铁老大印度米塔尔（Mittal）公司对其国有钢铁公司阿赛洛（Arcelor）的接管。这场争夺空中客车的大战不可谓是旷日持久，坚苦卓绝，但最终的解决方案则证明了同样一个观点：试图规避全球化趋势所带来的压力可能会拖延企业倾圮的时间，但是其最终结果却难逃在商战中败北的噩运。

## 2.

What a bundle of contradictions is a man! Surly, humor is the saving grace of us, for without it, we should die of vexation. With me, nothing illustrates the contrariness of things better than the matter of sleep. If, for example, my intention is to write an essay, and I have before me ink and pens and several sheets of virgin paper, you may depend upon it that before I have gone very far I feel an overpowering desire for sleep, no matter what time of the day it is. I stare at the reproachfully bland paper until sights and sounds become dim and confused, and it is only by an effort of will that I can continue at all. Even then, I proceed half-heartedly, in a kind of dream. But let me be between the sheets at a late hour, and I can do anything but sleep. Between chime and chime of the clock I can write essays by the score. Fascinating subjects and noble ideas come pell-mell, each with its appropriate imagery and expression. Nothing stands between me and half-a-dozen imperishable masterpieces but pens, inks and paper.

人是怎样一个矛盾统一体啊！而幽默则当仁不让地成了弥补我们种种缺陷的美德。没有了它

为我们宽心解尉，我们可能会囿于各种各样的烦心事而难以自拔。在我看来，这世间万事万物中恐怕再也找不出比睡眠这个每天必备的功课更能解释说明事物的对立性了。举例来说，如果我的本意是坐下来写一篇文章，此时，在我面前码好了墨水，钢笔和几张白纸。信不信由你，在我洋洋洒洒地写上一大堆之前，我早就被一股难以抗拒的睡意牢牢抓住，不管这是在一天的什么时候。我呆呆地盯着面前这似有些愠怒的白纸，直到我的视觉和听觉逐渐变得麻木不仁起来，这个时候只有靠意志力支持我继续顽强抗争下去了，于是我在似睡非睡，三心二意中继续神游在文字中。但是让我在夜晚睡觉的时间躺在床上，我却突然变得精神抖擞，无所不能起来。而这时先前那难以抗拒的睡意却难觅芳踪。在钟表滴答滴答地催促声中，我下笔如有神，长篇大作也随之应运而生。引人入胜的主题，超凡脱俗的观点伴随着一个恰如其份的比喻和修辞在我的脑海中此起彼伏。此时再也没有什么无形的为量可以阻止我写出不朽的传世之作了。

If it be true that our thoughts and mental images are perfectly tangible things, like our books and pictures, to the inhabitants of the next world, then I am making for myself a better reputation there than I am in this place. Give me a restless hour or two in bed and I can solve, to my own satisfaction, all the doubts of humanity. When I am in the humor, I can compose grand symphonies, and paint magnificent pictures. I am, at once, Shakespeare, Beethoven, and Michael Angelo; yet it gives me no satisfaction, for the one thing I cannot do is to go to sleep.

如果人类的思维及头脑中产生的各种各样的概念是一个个有形的实体，可以为后世子孙所触摸，就像书籍和绘图作品一样，那我在那个未知的世界里所取得的声望一定要比在现世时还要响亮。在睡塌上辗转反侧一两个小时，我就能够令自己满意地解决人类一切疑难杂证。如果我来了兴致，我还能写出辉煌壮丽的交响乐，画出壮观伟岸的不朽画卷。刹时，我就成了莎士比亚，贝多芬和米开朗基罗；然而，这却无法为我带来满足，因为这世间还有一个棘手的难题令我束手无策，那就是睡觉。

Once in bed, when it is time to close the five ports of knowledge, most folks I know seem to find no difficulty in plunging their earthly parts into oblivion. It is not so with me, to whom sleep is a coy mistress, much given to a teasing inconsistency and forever demanding to be wooed. I used to read, with wonder, those sycophantic stories of the warlike superman, the great troublers of the world's peace, Cromwell, Napoleon and the like, who, thanks to their "iron wills", could lie down and plunge themselves immediately into deep sleep, to wake up, refreshed, at a given time. Taking these fables to heart, I would resolve to do likewise, and, going to bed, would clench my teeth, look as determined as possible in the darkness, and command the immediate presence of sleep. But Alas! The very act of concentration seemed to make me more wakeful than ever, and I would pass hours in tormenting sleeplessness. I had overlooked the necessity of having an "iron will", my own powers of will having little or none of this peculiar metallic quality. But how uncomfortable it must have been living with these ironwilled folks! Who would want to remonstrate and argue with them? It would be worse than beating an anvil with a sledge hammer. I must confess that I always suspect the men who boast that they unvaryingly fall asleep as soon as they get into bed----those "as soon as my head touches the pillow" fellows. To me, there is something inhuman, something callous and almost bovine, in the practice, I suspect their taste in higher matters. Iron

wills apart, there must be a lack of human sympathy or depth in a man who can thus throw off, with his clothes, his waking feelings and thoughts, and ignore completely those memories and fancies which will sometimes leap, from hiding-places ten years deep.

一旦躺在床上，五官就应该停止工作了。我所认识的绝大多数人似乎都能不费吹灰之力地将它们在尘世所扮演的角色抛到九霄云外，呼呼地蒙关睡去。但是我办不到。对我来说，睡眠就像是一位惺惺作态的女主人，她就喜欢反复无常地挑逗男人，一刻不停地要别人向她求爱。我过去常常带着怀疑的态度阅读诸如向那些好战的超人，也就是世界和平的头号杀手，如奥利弗克伦威尔，拿破伦或类似的一些人物谄媚讨好的作品。这些大人物真应该感谢他们那与生俱来的钢铁意志，因为只要他们一躺下来，就能立即沉沉地睡去，再在某个特定的时间内准时醒来，之后又变得精神抖擞，活灵活现起来。我将这样的神话铭记在心，并下定决心步其后尘。于是，我躺到床上，咬紧牙关，在黑暗中表现得无比坚定，强烈要求睡眠立刻在我面前出现。但是，哎！集中注意力的作法似乎让我比以往更清醒了，我只好在这愁煞人的失眠中一点一点地苦挨着。我也曾思忖过养成这种钢铁意志的必要性，但我的意志力实在是缺乏那种稀有的金属元素。况且，和这样一些家伙们同床共枕该有多不自在啊！谁想要和他们这样的人探讨或争论问题呢？那一定比用大铁锤敲击一块铁钻的感觉还糟。在这里，我必须坦白，一直以来，我都不相信那些总是把“只要我的头一粘到枕头上，我就如何如何”挂在嘴边的人，他们就喜欢大言不惭地自吹自擂。而在我看来，在这些人的身上一定是隐藏着某种非人性的，冷酷的，愚蠢的特性。我怀疑他们在高雅事物上的品味。还是让钢铁意志见鬼去吧，因为如果一个人能够在刚刚脱去衣服躺在床上时就变得迷迷糊糊，恹恹欲睡起来，并且将这十年来只是偶尔才会在脑海中闪现的想像和记忆搁在脑后，他一定是个缺乏同情心，肤浅的人。

To share a bedroom with one of these fellows is to lose one's faith in human nature, for, even after the most eventful day, there is no comparing notes with them, no midnight confidence, no casting up the balance of the day's pleasure and pain. They sink, at once, into stupid, heavy slumber, leaving you to your own mental devices. And they all snore abominably.

同这样的人同居一室意味着你不得不牺牲人类天性中某些固有的信养，因为即使在最为动荡不安的一天过去后，你也休想指望着他能与你促膝谈心，交换心得，没有午夜温情的悄悄话，没有权衡这一天得与失、痛与乐的交流。他们以迅雷不及掩耳的速度掉进了呆板迟钝的睡眠中，再把呼噜打得震天响，任你一人在苦恼的漩涡中苦苦地挣扎。

The artificial ways of inducing sleep are legion, and are only alike in their ineffectuality. In Lavengro, there is an impossible character, a victim of insomnia, who finds that a volume of Wordsworth's poems is the only sure soporific; but that was Borrow's malice. The famous old plan of counting sheep jumping over a stile has never served my turn. I have herded imaginary sheep until they insisted on turning themselves into white bears or blue pigs, and I defy any reasonable man to fall asleep while mustering a herd of cerulean swine.

现成的人工催眠术可谓是五花八门，各有千秋，但它们在对付失眠这一顽疾上的束手无策却有着惊人的相似。作者 Borrow 在小说 Lavengro 中虚构了一个在现实生活中不可能存在的人物形象，这位饱受失眠折磨的受害者居然从 Wordsworth 的诗集中找到了治愈失眠的灵丹妙药。但那只是 Borrow 搞出来的恶作剧罢了。还有那个久负盛名的方法，也就是数到底

有多少只羊跳过篱笆的方法在我身上从来就没奏效过。我固执地赶着一大堆羊直到它们一再坚持要把自己变成白熊或是蓝猪什么的，况且，我决瞧不起那些一边赶着大群天蓝色的猪一边又呼呼大睡的人。

Discussing the question, some time ago, with an old friend, she gave me her never-failing remedy for sleeplessness, which was to imagine herself performing some trivial action over and over again, until, her mind becoming disgusted with the monotony of life, sleep drew the curtain. Her favorite device was to imagine a picture not hanging quite plumb upon the wall, and then to proceed to straighten it. This I tried---though putting pictures straight is no habit of mine---but it was of no avail. I imagined the picture on the wall without difficulty, and gave it a few deft touches, but this set me thinking of pictures in general, and then I remembered an art exhibition I had attended with my friend T. And what he said, and what I said, and I wondered how T was faring these days, and whether his son was still at school. And so it went on, until I found myself meditating on cheese, or spiritualism, or the Rocky Mountain----but no sleep! Somewhere in that limbo which Earth describes in Prometheus Unbound, that vague region filled with Dreams and the light imaginings of men, is the dreary phantom of an unstraightened picture upon a ghostly wall. And there I shall stay, for I have no further use for it.

前段时间曾和一位旧相识探讨过这个问题，她给了我一剂屡试不爽的治疗失眠证的灵丹妙药，也就是想像自己一而再而三地重复某个琐碎的动作，当大脑对这一无聊枯燥的举动厌倦时，睡眠也就随之落下了帷幕。在她的大脑中出场率最高的是一幅挂歪的画，在想象中，她会不厌其烦地一遍遍把它挂正。这个法子我试了——尽管把画挂得笔端笔正不是我的习惯——毫无效用。我能够轻而易举地想象墙上挂着一幅画，想像着我灵巧地碰碰这儿又碰碰那儿。但随后我的思维就变得异常活跃起来，由墙上一幅挂歪的画一下子就跳到了绘画艺术上，再然后又跳到了和好友 T 先生参加过的一次艺术展览，我仔细回想着他当时都说了些什么，我又说了些什么，再之后，我又开始操心起他最近的日子过得怎样，是否他的儿子还在上学起来。我的思维跳啊跳啊直到最后一头扎进奶酪里，或是唯灵论上，又或是巍峨的落基山脉上——但就是跳不进睡眠里。P.B Shelley 在 Prometheus Unbound 中借普罗米修斯的母亲大地之神之口所描绘的地狱边缘，那个到处充斥着梦和幻想的亦真亦幻的地方矗立着一堵阴森恐怖，魅影重重的墙，墙上正是那幅挂得歪七扭八的画。它只佩呆在那儿，因为我是不会再用它了。

But I have not yet given up all hope of finding some way of hastening the approach of sleep. "But there is a man in my office, a Mr. H, who proses it away from morning to night, and never gets beyond corporal and material verities.....when I can't sleep o' nights, I imagine a dialogue with Mr. H, upon a given subject and go prosing on in fancy with him, till I either laugh or fall asleep. I have literally found it answer....."there is promise in this, and we all have our Mr. H whose talk, bare of anything like fancy and wit, acts upon us like a dose of laudanum. This very night I will dismiss such trivial phantasies as jumping sheep and crooked pictures.

但是我还是没有放弃找到一种能让我快速进入睡眠的方法。“我办公室里有一人，H 君，他总是从早到晚不停地写啊写啊，但是写出来的东西无非都是些枯燥无味的关于身体和物质的大实话！当我睡不着的时候，我就会想像着与 H 君就某一问题来一场对话，在想像中和他一起写啊，写啊，直到我要么哈哈大笑，要么沉沉地睡过去。我觉得这种方法很是灵验。”

至少，我从中看到了希望。我们每个人都会找到属于自己的 H 君，他们言谈举止中所流露出的愚蠢和乏味会像一剂鸦片酊一样作用于我们的身体。这个晚上，我再也不会与类似于蹦着的山羊或挂歪了的画这类垃圾搅在一起了。

### Chinese to English

撒哈拉”在阿拉伯语中意为“大荒漠”。它北起地中海南岸，南到热带草原，西临大西洋，东濒红海，总面积相当我国塔克拉玛干沙漠的 17 倍，被誉为地球“沙漠之王”。翻开历史，在 20 世纪以前，还从没有人涉足这片浩瀚无垠的恐怖之地。到了本世纪 60 代中期，法国曾派出一支远征队试图徒步横穿这茫茫沙海，尽管在六轮驱动车和直升机的护送下前进，但终因忍受不了沙漠中强烈的风暴，令人窒息的高温，恶劣多变的天气而中途折返。此后，英国、意大利、西班牙等国的探险家也曾多次尝试穿越撒哈拉，但均未成功。撒哈拉在世人心目中是地球上最难征服的蛮荒之地。

The Sahara means “the greatest desert” in Arabic. It stretches from the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the north, travels southwards until it reaches the tropical grassland, and adjoins the Atlantic Ocean in the west and Red Sea in the east, covering an overall area equivalent to 17 times the size of the Taklamakan Desert in China. This is also why people call it “the King of Deserts” on earth. Before the 20th century, this immense horror of land had remained uninhabited and untouched by humanity, until mid 1960s when a French expedition attempted to cross this vast ocean of sand by foot. Though escorted by a 6-wheeled vehicle and helicopter, they had to give up midway due to the unbearably thrashing storms, suffocating high temperature, and changeably severe weather. From then on, brave adventurers from the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, etc. also made several attempts to conquer the desert but all ended up with failure. In the eyes of the world, the Sahara is the most invincible desert on our planet.

我们选择出发的日子是在旱季和雨季更迭时期。这个季节风清日丽，气候环境较常年其他季节来得更为温和而平静。但气候条件的反常，有时是始料不及的。当我们驱车驶离恩贾梅纳不足一小时，便遇上一场罕见的“沙暴”。刚刚还是碧空如洗、煦风拂面，倏忽间黄沙便从北部天际滚滚而来，遮天蔽日，搅得天空浑彻。好在我们出发时已备足了多种防护用品，大家急忙用胶带纸沿车厢的缝隙进行粘贴封闭，随即取出自制的耳罩、遮尘帽和湿毛巾把耳鼻口堵得严严实实。当这一切工作只是在一两分钟完成后，沙暴已迎面而来。耳闻呼啸的风声过后，大地陡然变得一片昏暗。车身开始剧烈抖动，沙石打在车壁上发出清脆的声响。我们紧闭双目，蜷缩身子，相互挤靠着，诚惶诚恐地等待沙暴尽快离去。约莫一小时过后，风停沙退，此时我们才感觉到衣衫已被汗水湿透，车厢内像蒸笼一般地窒闷令人透不过气来。我们急忙走出车厢，蔚蓝色的天空依然是那样明朗，大地又重新回复了原来的恬静，适才发生的那场动人心魄的一幕，似是一场梦。

When the dry season gave way to the rainy season, we picked a day and set off. Normally, it was always sunny, beautiful and clean, with gentle breeze and more debonair and tranquil weather than any other seasons in a year. However sometimes, climate changed all of a sudden. Just in less than 1 hour when we drove off Ndjamena, a rare “sand storm” hit us: yellow sand billowing over here in no time from the northern horizon, and immediately dumping the sky - cloudless and blue with gentle warm breeze a moment ago - in pretty much of a mess. Luckily, we had loaded us with enough protective articles before started off, so everyone was in a hurry to seal the windows and

doors of the car with adhesive tapes. Then we swiftly took out the home-made earflaps, dust caps and wet towels to tightly cover the ears, nose and mouth. Just at the very moment we finished all of the preparation work in 1 or 2 minutes, the storm dashed against us. And after the gale thundering away, the whole earth was lost in darkness. Our car began trembling severely, and sand was bashing ferociously against the body of the car with a clear plunk. With eyes shut and bodies shrunk, we all jostled each other, confounded, wishing anxiously that the sandstorm could come to a full halt as soon as possible. Finally around one hour or so, wind ceased and sand retreated. Just at this moment, we found our clothes had been thoroughly wetted by perspiration, and the inside of the car was as stuffy as a steamer. We all got off the car in haste, now the sky looking as blue, bright and transparent as usual, and the earth resuming tranquility once again. That breathtaking scene that took place a moment ago was just like a nightmare.

汽车外壁迎风的一侧，被沙石吹打得斑驳陆离、伤痕累累，已失去了原有的光泽。汽车轮胎被沙石埋进尺把深，我们不得不花费好大工夫从沙石中抬出继续赶路。

One side of our car facing the gale-force wind was seriously dented and scarred by severe blows of sands and stones, losing its original luster. Now since the wheels had been interred by sands several feet deep, we had to drag them out with the greatest efforts before we could keep going.

杰斯先生告诉我们，按照往年这个季节，沙暴是不多见的。由于几年来撒哈拉持续不断地干旱，气候异常，沙暴便频频发生。这种沙暴的形成，多是从西亚吹来的干热风与撒哈拉干热气流交汇，再不断地受地表高温的辐射作用，风起沙扬，顺势南下，便逐步形成势不可当的沙暴现象。这种沙暴对自然生态的危害是导致了更大面积的沙化。近 10 年来，撒哈拉正以每年 3 公里—5 公里的速度向南侵蚀，每年要有几十万公顷的良田和草原被吞噬。毛里塔尼亚在 20 年前，农作物种植面积为 18 万多公顷，如今，几乎全部国土被漫漫黄沙所覆盖。其首都努瓦克肖特原是绿树成荫，花草茸茸、清新秀美的滨海之城，如今亦已是只见黄沙不见泥的沙漠之洲了。

Mr. Jess told us, usually sandstorms were scarce in such a season of a year. However, due to years of continuous drought and absurd climate that had tormented the Sahara over recent several years, sandstorm became a frequent visitor. Such a kind of sandstorm would take shape mostly when the dry hot wind from the West Asia ran into the dry hot air current in Sahara; then with the constant radiance of hot temperature on the surface of the earth, wind blew fiercely, sending sand high in the air, and gradually gave rise to this invincible sandstorm on their way towards south—a grave havoc to ecosystem that directly led to much more land desertified than ever. In the recent 10 years, the Sahara had been encroaching all the way down to the south at a pace of 3 to 5 kilometers, engulfing thousands of acres of fine arable lands and grasslands along the way each year. Mauritania, 20 years ago, had more than 180,000 hectares of cultivated lands loaded with varieties of crops. But now, all of its territory was covered by yellow sand. Even Nouakchott, its capital city, a tree-lined coastal city delighting the eyes by the brilliancy and variety of its followers and sceneries, had retreated into a solitary island of sand devoid of fine soil.

汽车在逶迤不绝的沙路上艰难地爬行，绵延起伏的沙丘层次清晰、疏密有致，犹如投石入水激起的层层细浪，蔚为壮观。大自然的神功伟国把沙漠梳理成如此端庄秀丽，着实让我们惊叹不已。偶尔在漫漫黄沙中也能窥见几处稀疏低矮的荆棘林，在阳光的曝晒下已趋枯黄，在微风中抖动着尚存的几片残叶。

Our car crept in great difficulty over the swells and hollows of a seemingly endless sandy path. Long rolling chains of sand dunes meandered in front of us in distinctive layers as if a piece of stone had interrupted the calmness of a water pond and stirred up rings of ripples. What a spectacular view! At the miraculous power of the nature turning the desert so dignified and dainty we were all appalled. Occasionally amidst the immense tract of sand, some gaunt and stunted thorns caught our eyes; they seemed about to die under intense radiance of a scorching sun, with a few of their wizened leaves trembling in languorous air.