

The Walrus and The Carpenter

Lewis Carroll

(from *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872)

The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might:
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright--
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done--
"It's very rude of him," she said,
"To come and spoil the fun!"

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:
No birds were flying overhead--
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;
They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand:
"If this were only cleared away,"
They said, "it would be grand!"

"If seven maids with seven mops
Swept it for half a year.
Do you suppose," the Walrus said,
"That they could get it clear?"
"I doubt it," said the Carpenter,
And shed a bitter tear.

"O Oysters, come and walk with us!"
The Walrus did beseech.



"A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,
Along the briny beach:
We cannot do with more than four,
To give a hand to each."

The eldest Oyster looked at him,
But never a word he said:
The eldest Oyster winked his eye,
And shook his heavy head--
Meaning to say he did not choose
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat:
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat--
And this was odd, because, you know,
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,
And yet another four;
And thick and fast they came at last,
And more, and more, and more--
All hopping through the frothy waves,
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Walked on a mile or so,
And then they rested on a rock
Conveniently low:
And all the little Oysters stood
And waited in a row.

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
Of cabbages--and kings--
And why the sea is boiling hot--
And whether pigs have wings."

"But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,
"Before we have our chat;
For some of us are out of breath,
And all of us are fat!"
"No hurry!" said the Carpenter.



They thanked him much for that.

"A loaf of bread," the Walrus said,
"Is what we chiefly need:
Pepper and vinegar besides
Are very good indeed--
Now if you're ready, Oysters dear,
We can begin to feed."

"But not on us!" the Oysters cried,
Turning a little blue.
"After such kindness, that would be
A dismal thing to do!"
"The night is fine," the Walrus said.
"Do you admire the view?"

"It was so kind of you to come!
And you are very nice!"
The Carpenter said nothing but
"Cut us another slice:
I wish you were not quite so deaf--
I've had to ask you twice!"

"It seems a shame," the Walrus said,
"To play them such a trick,
After we've brought them out so far,
And made them trot so quick!"
The Carpenter said nothing but
"The butter's spread too thick!"

"I weep for you," the Walrus said:
"I deeply sympathize."
With sobs and tears he sorted out
Those of the largest size,
Holding his pocket-handkerchief
Before his streaming eyes.

"O Oysters," said the Carpenter,
"You've had a pleasant run!
Shall we be trotting home again?"
But answer came there none--
And this was scarcely odd, because
They'd eaten every one.



太：要。
 先：那麽這房子還是要了。
 太：先：我不怕鬼，我也不怕鬼，我是怕你怕鬼！
 先：我才不怕鬼，我也不怕鬼，我是怕你怕鬼！

太陽照在大海上，
 他拼命使勁的幹；
 他想把浪頭歸置好，
 要又光又不亂——
 可是這很怪，因為那正是
 在半夜三更半。
 月亮看了噁着嘴，
 他心裏想，剛才
 還當着一天過完了，
 怎麼太陽還要來？
 「他簡直沒規矩」他說，
 「這麼跑來拆我的櫃。」

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那海是濕的像甚麼那麼濕。
 那沙子就乾的像乾。
 你看¹¹不見天上¹²一片雲，
 因為¹³並沒雲在天；
 也¹⁴沒有鳥兒¹⁵在穿空過——
 是並沒鳥兒¹⁶在穿。

海象跟一個木匠，
 他們倆人兒慢慢兒的跑；
 他們看見了那麼些沙子
 就哭的個不得了；
 「要是這都掃清了」他們說
 「那豈不是非常好？」

要是七個老媽子拿七個敦布¹⁸
 來掃他大半年，
 你猜¹⁹猜看，那海象說，
 「可能²⁰夠掃得完？」
 那木匠掉着眼淚兒說，
 「唉，我看這很難。」
 世，
 螞蟻們，那海象說，
 「來跟我們散散步。」
 來說說話，來打打岔，
 在海灘兒上²³走走路；
 我們倆人兒四個手攬²⁴四位，
 再多了怕攬不住²⁵。

那老螞蟥也不言語²⁶
 也不拿手去撓²⁷；
 那老螞蟥只搖搖頭，
 把眼睛翻一翻²⁷——
 他意思是說「像他這樣兒，
 還再去上海灘²⁸」。

有四個小螞蟥²⁹很想來，
 他們想的不得了；
 他們刷了衣裳洗了臉，
 把鞋帶兒也繫好³⁰——
 可是這很怪，因為你知道
 他們軋根兒就沒腳³¹。

又四個螞蟥跟着來，
 又四個跟着走；
 越來越多——你聽我說——
 還有，還有，還有——
 他們都解水裏跳上岸³¹，
 那麼崎哩誇啦³²的走。

那海象跟那個木匠
 又走了兩三里，
 他們找了一塊大石頭
 來當作圈身椅³³；
 那一個一個的小螞蟥³⁴
 就大伙兒望前擠³⁵。

那海象說，「來談話罷，
 咱們說短還說長；
 說鞋——說船——還說火漆——
 說白菜——跟國王——
 問海怎麼煮的滾滾燙³⁷——
 問豬可能上房³⁸」。

「請等一等兒，他們連忙說，
 我們簡直趕不上；
 我們有的喘不過氣⁴²
 來，我們個個兒都很胖⁴³！
 你們甭這麼忙，那木匠說，
 他們說，「您真體諒⁴³！」

那海象說，「咱們最要緊的
 是來個大麵包⁴⁴；
 還有很好的好作料⁴⁵
 是酸醋⁴⁶跟胡椒⁴⁷——
 世，螞蟥們，你們好了罷？
 好，咱們就動手挑⁴⁸」。
 「可是挑誰啊？他們嚷着說，
 他們嚇的⁵⁰都變了色⁵¹。
 你們剛才待我們那麼樣兒好，
 怎麼一會兒又這麼——嘖！——噯！」
 今天兒真好，那海象說，
 「世，木匠，你瞧那海！」

你今兒能來，我真高興！

我很想見你的面！

那木匠只管喫着說，

「世，再給我們切一片！

我願意你別那麼樣兒聾——

我叫了你好幾遍！

「這該不該，那海象說，

「這麼給他們上這個當？

咱們叫他們跟我們跑這麼遠，

是跟我們出來逛！

那木匠拿着麵包說，

「這黃油抹不上！

那海象說，「我為你們哭啊，

唉，你們真可憐！

他眼淚汪汪兒的在那兒挑，

把大的都找全，

還掏出兜兒裏的小手絹兒，

來擋在眼面前。

「回家了，嘿！那木匠說，

「你們玩兒的可還好？

怎麼不言語啊？」看看像

是蠅蟻非常少——

可是這難怪，因為他們哥兒倆

把個個兒都喫了。