

God is Good-神真美好

Yiddish Folktale Adapted by Mike Lockett, The Normal Storyteller

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Two men became good friends. They were alike in many ways and agreed on most things. But, there was one big difference.

有兩個男人變成了莫逆之交，因為他們在許多方面都很相像，行事風格、看法也都一致。但是他們兩人之間有一個很大的不同。

One of the men was very religious. He always could be heard saying, "God is good all of the time." Then he would repeat the phrase in a different way, "All of the time, God is good."

這兩個人中，有一個非常敬畏神，人們常常會聽到他說：『神不管什麼時候都是美好良善的。』然後他會再用不同的詞彙複誦一次：『不論什麼時候，神真美好。』

"How can you say that God is good all of the time?" his friend asked.

『你為什麼能夠說神不管什麼時候都是美好良善的？』他的好朋友問道。

The religious man answered, "All of the time, God is good." I would like for you to take a trip with me. Then you will see how good God can be. The two men set out on their journey. They took a donkey to carry their packs, a torch to light their way at night and a rooster, who was a friend of the donkey. The rooster sat on the back of the donkey as they traveled.

敬虔的男人回答說：『不論什麼時候，神都很好。我想邀請你跟我來趟旅行，你就會明白神有多麼好。』這兩個人就此展開了他們的旅程。他們找了一頭驢子來幫他們載運行李，一根火把來照亮夜路，還有一隻公雞，因為公雞是那頭驢子的朋友。他們旅行時，公雞就坐在驢子的背上。

The first day of the trip the two walked until late in the day. They tried to stop in a village. But, they were turned away at every door at which they stopped. No one offered them food to eat or a bed on which to sleep. "Well," said the non-believer. "I thought you said God is good. I am tired and hungry. Is this good?" 剛開始旅行的頭兩天，兩個人都不斷地走路一直到太陽下山。他們想要找到一個村莊好落腳，卻在每一戶停靠的門口吃到閉門羹。沒有人給他們食物吃或者給他們床睡。『嗯，』不信神的男人開口說話了。『我以為你說神有多好？我現在又累又餓，這就叫好？』

"God is good all of the time. All of the time, God is good. There is a reason why the people turned us away. Now let us go into the woods and find a place to sleep." The two walked into the woods. They tied the donkey to a bush a short distance from where they planned to sleep. Then they piled up pine needles and moss that grew beside the trees to make beds to sleep on. The air was clean. The pine needles smelled sweet. "God must have decided that this was the best place for us to sleep."

『神不管什麼時候都是美好良善的。不論什麼時候，神真美好。這些人拒絕我們一定是有理由的。現在讓我們到樹林裡去找個地方睡覺吧。』兩人走進樹林裡，並且將驢子拴在距離他們預定要睡覺的地方不遠的一棵矮樹上。然後他們用松葉及樹旁長的苔蘚堆疊成睡覺的床。空氣非常的乾淨，松葉的味道聞起來也十分的甜美。『神一定早就決定這裡才是我們睡覺最好的地方！』

Just as he said those words, "Growl!" The loud sound of a lion could be heard. This was followed by "Hee Hah!" Then there was silence. A lion had killed the donkey.

"Do you still say Good is good?" asked the non-believer? He was angry!

就在他說完這些話的同時，『吼！』一聲巨大的獅吼聲馬上傳來。緊接著傳來的是驢子的慘叫聲，之後則是一陣死寂。一隻獅子已經殺了他們的驢子。『你還認為神很好嗎？』不信神的男人問道。他非常生氣！

"God is good all of the time. All of the time, God is good. If the donkey was not there, the lion might have eaten us. Thank you, God, for being so good."

『神不管什麼時候都是美好良善的。不論什麼時候，神真美好。如果驢子不在那裡，那頭獅子可能已經吃掉我們了。感謝神因為祢真美好。』

A few minutes later the two heard a scream and a cock-a-doodle-do. The men looked up and saw a wildcat carrying the rooster away to eat it. "Do you still say Good is good?" asked the non-believer? He was more angry than before!

幾分鐘過後，兩個人聽到了公雞的慘叫聲，他們趕過去查看，看到一隻山貓正叨著公雞逃到別處享用。『你還認為神很好嗎？』不信神的男人問道。他比之前還要生氣！

"God is good all of the time. All of the time, God is good. If the rooster was not there, the wildcat might have eaten us. Thank you, God, for being so good."

『神不管什麼時候都是美好良善的。不論什麼時候，神真美好。如果公雞不在那裡，那頭山貓可能已經吃掉我們了。感謝神因為祢真美好。』

The non-believer tried to light the torch. But the wind kept blowing it out. "How can you say God is good?" he asked. He will not even let me light my torch to see in the dark!"

不信神的男人想要點燃火把，但風一直把火吹熄。『你怎麼會說神很好？』他問道。『祂甚至不讓我點燃我的火把，好在黑暗中看得見！』

"There is a reason for everything God does. "God is good all of the time. All of the time, God is good." We might not ever learn the reason. Then again we might." His friend did not answer. He just went to sleep.

『神做的每一件事都有理由，神不管什麼時候都是美好良善的。不論什麼時候，神真美好。我們可能永遠不知道為什麼，也可能到後來都得到解答。』他的朋友沒有說什麼，直接跑去睡覺了。

The next morning the two men walked back to the village. Everyone was upset and quite angry. A group of outlaws had entered the town the night before. Every house had been robbed.

隔天早上這兩個人走回村莊。看見每個人都很失望與忿怒。原來有一幫匪徒前一晚闖入了小鎮，每一戶人家都被搶了。』

The religious man turned to his friend. "Do you hear? Now we know why we were turned away. If we had stayed here, we also would have been robbed. If your torch had been lit, the robbers would have seen us and robbed us also. God is good all of the time!"

敬虔的男人轉頭對他的朋友說：『你聽見了嗎？現在你知道我們為什麼會被拒絕了吧。如果我們那時候留下來，我們可能已經被搶了。如果你的火把有點燃，那些盜匪可能已經看到我們，我們一樣也已經被搶了。神真美好，不論什麼時候！』

His friend answered, "All of the time, God is good!"

他的朋友附和說：『不論什麼時候，神真美好！』

A wonderful version of this story can be read in Stories for Telling: A Treasury for Christian Storytellers by William R. White, Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.