ການປະຈິນໄພຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ **#1** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ

ແລະເລື່ອງອື່ນໆ

The Red-Headed Club, and other stories

ຂຽນໂດຍ: ອາເທີ ຄໍແນນ ດອຍ ແຕ້ມໂດຍ: ອຸ່ນຫຼ້າ ສັນຕິ

ເຊີລ໌ອກໂຮມສ ມີໜ້າຕາເປັນແນວໃດບໍ່ມີໃຜຮູ້ຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ. ແຕ່ນີ້ຄືຮູບທີ່ ອຸ່ນຫຼ້າ ສັນຕິ ໄດ້ແຕ້ມຂຶ້ນມາ. ຈະງາມຊ່ຳໃດນັ້ນ ລອງເປີດເຂົ້າໄປຊົມໄດ້! ຖ້າຜູ້ໃດເຄີຍຕິດຕາມປຶ້ມຂອງ ອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍມາກ່ອນ ກໍ່ຄົງຈະຮູ້ດີວ່າ ອຸ່ນຫຼ້າແມ່ນໃຜ... ລາວມີຈິນຕະນາການແບບໃດ... ມີພອນສະຫວັນດ້ານໃດແດ່... ເພາະລາວໄດ້ແຕ້ມຮູບປະກອບປຶ້ມຂອງ ອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍ ມາແລ້ວຫຼາຍໆຫົວ. ສ່ວນຫຼາຍລາວຈະແຕ້ມໃນຮູບແບບກາຕູນ... ຕະຫຼົກ... ເຮຮາ... ໜ້າຢາກຫົວ... ປຶ້ມຫົວນີ້ ແມ່ນເລື່ອງທຳອິດທີ່ລາວແຕ້ມໃນຮູບແບບນີ້.

ປຶ້ມຫົວນີ້ສາມາດພິມອອກໄດ້ ກໍ່ຍ້ອນການສະໜັບສະໜູນຂອງ
ຈູລີ ແມກອິນໄທເອີ, ດອນ ເຟວາໂຣ, ເອັມມີ ມໍຣິທາ, ແພດີ້ ວຸດເວີດ, ທຣິສ ລອງ, ເຈນ ເມັລວິນ, ແລະ ລິນ ສິນຟີລດ.
ຂໍຂອບໃຈຫຼາຍໆ!

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ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ
ແລະເລື່ອງອື່ນໆ

ຂຽນໂດຍ: ອາເທີ ຄໍແນນ ດອຍ • ແຕ້ມໂດຍ: ອຸ່ນຫຼ້າ ສັນຕິ
ແປໂດຍ: ທອງຄຳ ຈັນທະວົງ

The Red-Headed Club
and other stories

by Arthur Conan Doyle, illustrated by Ounla Santi
translated by Thong Kham Chanthavong

ອ້າຍຫນູນ້ອຍ

ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ ແລະເລື່ອງອື່ນໆ

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The Red-Headed Club, and other stories

by Arthur Conan Doyle
Adapted by Sasha Alyson
Illustrations by Ounla Santi
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ຄຳນຳ
Introduction

ໃນປີ 1887 ບັນດາທ່ານຜູ້ອ່ານໃນລອນດອນ ປະເທດອັງກິດ ໄດ້ພົບກັບຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ມີສະເໜ່ທ່ານໜຶ່ງ ນັ້ນກໍ່ຄື: ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ. ພວກເຂົາມັກອ່ານກ່ຽວກັບການປະຈົນໄພທີ່ຂຽນລົງໃນວາລະສານລອນດອນເປັນປະຈຳ. ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ເປັນໜຶ່ງໃນບັນດາຫ້າ ຫຼື ຫົກຄົນທີ່ມີຊື່ສຽງທີ່ສຸດໃນອັງກິດ. ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ລາວບໍ່ເຄີຍມີຕົວຕົນທີ່ແທ້ຈິງ.

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ເປັນນັກສືບໃນຈິນຕະນາການ ເຊິ່ງຖືກສ້າງຂຶ້ນມາໂດຍນັກຂຽນຊາວສະກັອດແລນ ຊື່ວ່າ: ອາເທີ ຄໍແນນດອຍ. ລາວແກ້ບັນຫາປິດສະໜາໂດຍອາໄສສິ່ງທີ່ລາວເອີ້ນວ່າ: “ພະລັງແຫ່ງການແກ້ບັນຫາດ້ວຍເຫດຜົນ.” ລາວສັງເກດການທຸກສິ່ງທຸກຢ່າງດ້ວຍຄວາມລະອຽດອ່ອນ ແລະ ເຫັນປະເດັນທີ່ຄົນອື່ນເບິ່ງບໍ່ເຫັນ. ຈາກປະເດັນທີ່ວ່ານັ້ນ ລາວສາມາດໃຫ້ຂໍ້

In 1887, readers in London, England, met a fascinating man: Sherlock Holmes. They read about his adventures regularly in a London magazine. Within five or six years, Sherlock Holmes was one of the most famous people in England. And yet, he never existed.

Sherlock Holmes was an imaginary detective, created by a Scottish writer named Arthur Conan Doyle. He solved mysteries by using what he called his “powers of deduction.” He looked carefully at everything, and saw details that other people didn’t see. Then, from those details, he

ສະຫຼຸບກ່ຽວກັບສິ່ງຕ່າງໆທີ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນໃນອະດີດ. ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ສາມາດແກ້ຄະດີອາດຊະຍາກຳ ດ້ວຍການສັງລວມຂໍ້ສະຫຼຸບເຂົ້າກັນ ແລະ ພົບເຫັນຄຳຕອບປິດສະໜາທີ່ເຮັດໃຫ້ຕຳຫຼວດມືດແປດດ້ານ.

ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າ ຄໍແນນ ດອຍ ຈະເປັນຜູ້ຂຽນເລື່ອງທີ່ແທ້ຈິງ ແຕ່ລາວພັດທຳທ່າວ່າເລື່ອງເຫຼົ່ານີ້ ຖືກຂຽນໂດຍບຸກຄົນຜູ້ໜຶ່ງໃນຈິນຕະນາການ ນັ້ນກໍ່ຄື: ດັອກເຕີ ຈອນ ວັດສັນ. ດັອກເຕີ ວັດສັນ ອາໄສຢູ່ຮ່ວມອາຄານຫຼັງດຽວກັນກັບ ໂຮມສ ແລະ ມັກຈະຊ່ວຍ ໂຮມສ ສືບສວນເລື່ອງຄະດີອາດຊະຍາກຳຕ່າງໆ. ຫຼັງຈາກທີ່ ໂຮມສ ໄດ້ອະທິບາຍເຖິງຕ່ອງໂສ້ຂອງການໃຫ້ເຫດຜົນໃນຄະດີ, ວັດສັນມັກຈະເວົ້າວ່າ: ເບິ່ງມັນຄືຊິບໍ່ຍາກເກີນໄປ, ແຕ່ແລ້ວ ບໍ່ມີໃຜຈະມີຄວາມສາມາດເທົ່າທຽມກັບ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສໄດ້ ແມ່ນກະທັ້ງ ດັອກເຕີ ວັດສັນກໍ່ເຊັ່ນກັນ.

ຄໍແນນ ດອຍ ໄດ້ຂຽນ 56 ເລື່ອງ ແລະ ອີກ 4 ເລື່ອງແມ່ນນະວະນິຍາຍກ່ຽວກັບການປະຈົນໄພຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ. ເລື່ອງລາວເຫຼົ່ານີ້ເກີດຂຶ້ນໃນລອນດອນ ປະເທດອັງກິດ ໃນຕອນທ້າຍຂອງສະຕະວັດທີ 19. ລອນດອນ ນັບວ່າເປັນເມືອງໜຶ່ງທີ່ໃຫຍ່ໂຕໃນໂລກ ແຕ່ມັນແຕກຕ່າງຈາກເມືອງແຫ່ງຕ່າງໆໃນປະຈຸບັນ, ເພາະລົດຍັງບໍ່ທັນຖືກຜະລິດຂຶ້ນເທື່ອ; ຜູ້ຄົນເດີນທາງດ້ວຍລົດໄຟ, ລົດໄຟໃຕ້ດິນ ຫຼືບໍ່ກໍ່ລົດກວຽນທຽມມ້າ. ຜູ້ຄົນຢູ່ລອນດອນໃນສະໄໝຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ບໍ່ໄດ້ມີໂທລະພາບ, ວິທະຍຸ ຫຼື ໂທລະສັບ. ພວກເຂົາມີແຕ່ຂຽນຈົດໝາຍສົ່ງທາງໄປສະນີ ຫຼືບໍ່ກໍ່

could form conclusions about things that had happened in the past. By putting those conclusions together, Sherlock Holmes solved crimes and found the answers to mysteries that had puzzled the police.

Although Conan Doyle wrote the stories, he pretended they were written by another imaginary person: Dr. John Watson. Dr. Watson shared an apartment with Holmes, and often accompanied Holmes to investigate a crime. After Holmes explained his chain of reasoning in a case, Watson often said it seemed easy. But neither Dr. Watson nor anyone else could match the abilities of Sherlock Holmes.

Conan Doyle wrote 56 stories and 4 novels about the adventures of Sherlock Holmes. They take place in London, England, late in the 19th century. London was one of the world's great cities, but it was different from the cities of today. Cars had not been invented yet; people traveled on trains, or underground trains, or in horse-pulled carts. The people in Holmes's London had no televisions, or radios, or telephones; they sent messages by mail, or by telegraph

ໃຊ້ໂທລະເລກ ເພື່ອສື່ສານຫາກັນ.

ເລື່ອງກ່ຽວກັບ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ໄດ້ຮັບການແປເປັນຫຼາຍໆພາສາ. ທຸກມື້ນີ້ ເຖິງວ່າຈະບໍ່ມີ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສຕົວຈິງ ແຕ່ລາວກໍ່ເປັນນັກສືບທີ່ມີຊື່ສຽງທີ່ສຸດໃນໂລກ.

ກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງຊຸດນີ້: *ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ* ແມ່ນເລື່ອງຊຸດທຳອິດຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ທີ່ອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍໄດ້ຈັດພິມ. ປຶ້ມແຕ່ລະເຫຼັ້ມ ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ມີການປ່ຽນແປງຕົ້ນສະບັບໃນພາສາອັງກິດ ເພື່ອເຮັດໃຫ້ເຂົ້າໃຈງ່າຍຂຶ້ນ. ສ່ວນບາງຄຳສັບທີ່ຂ້ອນຂ້າງຍາກ ແມ່ນໄດ້ອະທິບາຍຢູ່ບັ້ນທ້າຍຂອງປຶ້ມ.

ປຶ້ມເຫຼັ້ມຕໍ່ໄປ ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຈະປ່ຽນແປງຕົ້ນສະບັບໃນພາສາອັງກິດຄືກັນ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາຈະໃຊ້ຄຳສັບໃໝ່ຈຳນວນໜຶ່ງເຂົ້າມາເພີ່ມເຕີມ; ປຶ້ມໃໝ່ແຕ່ລະເຫຼັ້ມຈະຍາກກວ່າເກົ່າໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງ. ຖ້າທ່ານຫາກອ່ານປຶ້ມຊຸດນີ້ຕາມລຳດັບ, ທ່ານກໍ່ຈະສາມາດພັດທະນາທັກສະໃນການອ່ານພາສາອັງກິດໃຫ້ດີຂຶ້ນເລື້ອຍໆ ແລະ ຍັງຈະໄດ້ສະໜຸກສະໜານກັບເລື່ອງລາວ ກ່ຽວກັບນັກສືບຜູ້ມີຊື່ສຽງທີ່ສຸດໃນໂລກນຳອີກ.

over a wire.

The Sherlock Holmes stories have been translated into many languages. Today, although there never was a real Sherlock Holmes, he is the most popular detective in the world.

About this series: *The Red-Headed Club* is the first in a series of Sherlock Holmes stories that Big Brother Mouse will publish. In each book, we will revise the original English, to make it easier to understand. Some of the harder words are defined at the end.

In the next book, when we revise the original English, we'll use some new words. Each new book will be a little more difficult than the one before it. By reading the books in order, you can improve your English reading skills, and also enjoy the world's most famous detective stories.

1

ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ
THE RED-HEADED CLUB

ມື້ໜຶ່ງປີກາຍນີ້ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ໄປຢ້ຽມຢາມເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ. ຂ້ອຍເຫັນລາວຢູ່ບ້ານທີ່ຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ເຊິ່ງພວມລົມກັບຜູ້ຊາຍຮ່າງໃຫຍ່, ໃບໜ້າສີຊົມພູ ແລະ ຜົມແດງຄົນໜຶ່ງ. ຂ້ອຍວ່າຈະກັບຄືນ ແຕ່ ໂຮມສ ດຶງແຂນຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງ ແລ້ວກໍ່ປິດປະຕູ.

"ໂຕມາຖືກເວລາດີແລ້ວ ວັດສັນ ເພື່ອນຮັກ," ລາວເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຍິ້ມ.

"ເຮົາຢ້ານວ່າໂຕກຳລັງຫຍຸ້ງວຽກຢູ່," ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ເຮົາພວມຫຍຸ້ງວຽກຢູ່ ແລະ ກໍ່ຫຍຸ້ງຫຼາຍອີກດ້ວຍ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນ ເຮົາຊິຖ້າຢູ່ຫ້ອງຖັດໄປນີ້," ຂ້ອຍບອກລາວ.

"ບໍ່ຕ້ອງດອກ," ໂຮມສ ຫັນໜ້າໄປຫາແຂກຂອງລາວ. "ທ່ານວິລສັນ, ຂ້ອຍຢາກໃຫ້ເຈົ້າຮູ້ຈັກກັບເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ດັອກເຕີ

I went to visit my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, one day last year. I found him at his home on Baker Street, talking to a big man with a pink face and red hair. I started to leave, but Holmes pulled me into the room, and closed the door behind me.

"You came at a very good time, my dear Watson," he said, and he smiled.

"I was afraid that you were busy," I said.

"Yes, I was. I was very busy."

"Then I can wait in the next room," I told him.

"Not at all." Holmes turned to his visitor. "Mr. Wilson, I would like you to meet my friend, Dr. Watson. He

ວັດສັນ, ລາວໄດ້ຊ່ວຍຂ້ອຍ ມາຫຼາຍຄະ
ດີແລ້ວ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າ ລາວຈະຊ່ວຍ
ເລື່ອງຄະດີຂອງເຈົ້າໄດ້ເຊັ່ນກັນ."

ແຂກຮ່າງໃຫຍ່ຄົນນັ້ນຢືນຂຶ້ນ ແລະ
ຍິ້ມໃສ່ຂ້ອຍ ແຕ່ໃນດວງຕານ້ອຍໆຂອງ
ລາວ ຂ້ອຍເຫັນໄດ້ເຖິງການເບິ່ງທີ່ແຝງໄວ້
ດ້ວຍຄຳຖາມ.

"ເຊີນນັ່ງລົງ," ໂຮມສ ເວົ້າ. ລາວນັ່ງລົງ
ແລ້ວເອົາມືສານກັນຄືກັບທີ່ເຄີຍເຮັດຜ່ານ
ມາເວລາລາວໃຊ້ຄວາມຄິດ.

"ວັດສັນ ເພື່ອນຮັກ, ເຮົາຮູ້ວ່າໂຕໄດ້
ຮ່ວມສຸກ-ທຸກກັບເຮົາ ໃນທຸກເລື່ອງທີ່
ແປກໆ ເຮົາເຊື່ອວ່າ ນັ້ນຄືເຫດຜົນທີ່ເຮັດ
ໃຫ້ໂຕຂຽນຫຼາຍໆເລື່ອງກ່ຽວກັບການປະ
ຈົນໄພເລັກນ້ອຍຂອງເຮົາ."

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ເລື່ອງຄະດີຂອງໂຕເປັນທີ່
ໜ້າສົນໃຈທີ່ສຸດສຳລັບເຮົາ," ຂ້ອຍຕອບ.

ໂຮມສເວົ້າຕໍ່ໄປວ່າ: "ຄືກັບທີ່ເຮົາເຄີຍ
ເວົ້າໃນມື້ຜ່ານມາຫັ້ນແຫຼະ ຊີວິດທີ່ແທ້ຈິງ
ລ້ວນແຕ່ມີສິ່ງທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈ ແລະ ແປກປະ
ຫຼາດຫຼາຍກວ່າທີ່ເຮົາຈິນຕະນາການໄດ້."

"ແຕ່ເຮົາວ່າ ເຮົາບໍ່ເຊື່ອດອກວ່ານັ້ນຈະ
ເປັນຄວາມຈິງ."

"ດັອກເຕີ, ໂຕບໍ່ເຊື່ອ ແຕ່ມື້ໜຶ່ງໂຕຈະ
ຕ້ອງເຫັນດີກັບເຮົາ, ຖ້າໂຕບໍ່ເຊື່ອ ເຮົາຈະ
ຍົກຕົວຢ່າງໃຫ້ໂຕຟັງຕໍ່ໄປ ຈົນກວ່າໂຕຈະ
ເຫັນດີວ່າເຮົາເວົ້າຖືກ. ຕອນນີ້ມັນເປັນ
ການດີຫຼາຍທີ່ທ່ານແຈັກ ວິລສັນ ໄດ້ມາ
ຢ້ຽມຢາມເຮົາຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້. ລາວເລີ່ມເລົ່າ
ເລື່ອງຂອງລາວ ເຊິ່ງເຮົາຄິດວ່າເປັນເລື່ອງ
ທີ່ແປກທີ່ສຸດທີ່ເຮົາເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນມາຊ້າ
ນານ, ໂຕເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນເຮົາເວົ້າແລ້ວແມ່ນບໍ່

has helped me in many of my cases, and I think he will be very helpful in your case, too."

The tall man stood and smiled at me. But in his small eyes, I could see a questioning look.

"Please, be seated," said Holmes. He sat in his chair, and put his fingers together, as he often did when he was thinking.

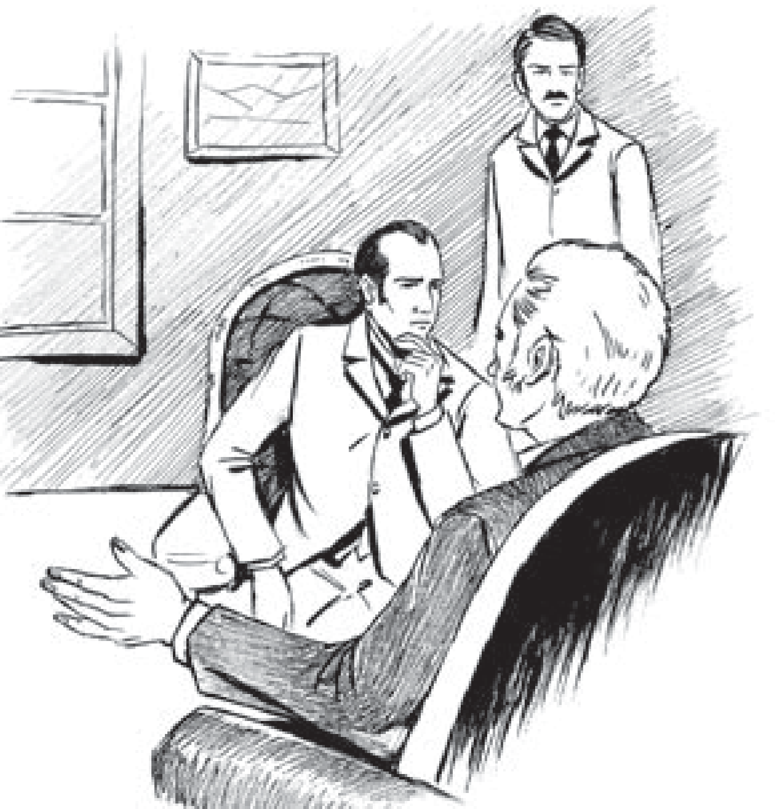
"My dear Watson, I know that you share my love of all that is unusual. That, I believe, is why you have written about so many of my little adventures."

"Yes, your cases have been of great interest to me," I said.

Holmes went on: "As I said just the other day, real life itself is always far more interesting and unusual than anything we can imagine."

"And I said I did not believe that was true."

"You did, Doctor, but one day you will agree with me. If you don't, then I will show you more and more examples, until you will agree that I'm right. Now, Mr. Jack Wilson has been good enough to come and visit me this morning. He began to tell a story that I think will be one of the most unusual that I have heard for



ວ່າ ເລື່ອງທີ່ຜິດປົກກະຕິ ແລະ ແປກທີ່ສຸດ ມັກຈະເຊື່ອມໂຍງກັບເລື່ອງອາດຊະຍາກຳທີ່ນ້ອຍກວ່າ, ບໍ່ແມ່ນເລື່ອງໃຫຍ່. ຈາກເລື່ອງທີ່ເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນມາ ເຮົາບໍ່ສາມາດເວົ້າໄດ້ວ່າ ຄະດີຂອງທ່ານ ວິລສັນ ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງກັບອາດຊະຍາກຳຫຼືບໍ່ ແຕ່ມັນກໍ່ເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈຫຼາຍ ແລະ ກໍ່ແປກອີກດ້ວຍ.

“ທ່ານວິລສັນ, ທ່ານຊ່ວຍເລົ່າເລື່ອງ

a very long time. You have heard me remark that the strangest and most unusual things are very often connected with the smaller crimes, not the larger crimes. From what I have heard already, I cannot say if Mr. Wilson’s case is connected to a crime or not. But it is a very interesting and unusual story.

“Mr. Wilson, would you be so kind as

ທັງໝົດອີກເທື່ອໜຶ່ງຈະໄດ້ບໍ່? ທີ່ຂ້ອຍຖາມທ່ານບໍ່ໄດ້ແມ່ນເພາະວ່າເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ດັອກເຕີ ວັດສັນ ບໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນຕັ້ງແຕ່ຕົ້ນເທົ່ານັ້ນ ແຕ່ເປັນເພາະວ່າທຳມະຊາດອັນແປກໆຂອງເລື່ອງ ເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຢາກໄດ້ລາຍລະອຽດທຸກຢ່າງທີ່ອອກຈາກປາກຂອງເຈົ້າ, ຂ້ອຍມັກຈະແກ້ໄຂເລື່ອງປິດສະໜາໄດ້ຢູ່ເລື້ອຍ ດ້ວຍການອ້າງອີງເຖິງຄະດີອື່ນໆ ທີ່ຄ້າຍຄືກັນເປັນພັນໆຄະດີທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍຮູ້ມາ ຖ້າຂ້ອຍຫາກໄດ້ຮູ້ລາຍລະອຽດບາງຢ່າງ. ໃນເລື່ອງຄະດີຂອງທ່ານວິລສັນ ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍພົບເລື່ອງໃດທີ່ຄ້າຍຄືນີ້ເລີຍ."

ແຂກຮ່າງໃຫຍ່ຂອງເຮົາເຮັດໜ້າເອິກຢືດໃຫຍ່ຂຶ້ນຄ້າຍກັບວ່າ ໂຮມສໄດ້ເວົ້າບາງຢ່າງທີ່ດີກ່ຽວກັບລາວ, ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ດຶງເອົາໜັງສືພິມສະບັບໜຶ່ງ ທັງເກົ່າ ແລະເປື້ອນ ອອກມາຈາກຖົງເສື້ອທາງໃນເສື້ອໃຫຍ່ຂອງລາວ.

ຂະນະທີ່ລາວກົ້ມຫົວລົງເບິ່ງໄປທີ່ຊ່ອງໂຄສະນາ ແລະ ວາງໜັງສືພິມໄວ້ຫົວເຂົ່າ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ສັງເກດເບິ່ງຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນຢ່າງດີ. ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ມີຊື່ສຽງໂດ່ງດັງ ເພາະຄວາມສາມາດຂອງລາວ ໃນການຮຽນຮູ້ຫຼາຍຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບຄົນ ດ້ວຍການສັງເກດເບິ່ງຢ່າງລະອຽດ, ຂ້ອຍພະຍາຍາມເຮັດຄືກັບລາວ ໂດຍການວິເຄາະເບິ່ງແຂກຂອງພວກເຮົາ, ຂ້ອຍສັງເກດເບິ່ງເຄື່ອງນຸ່ງ ແລະ ໃບໜ້າຂອງລາວຢ່າງລະອຽດ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຮູ້ຫຍັງຫຼາຍ. ແຂກຂອງເຮົາເບິ່ງເປັນຄົນເຮັດວຽກທຳມະດາ, ລາວນຸ່ງເສື້ອໃຫຍ່ທີ່ເປື້ອນເລັກນ້ອຍ, ແຂນເສື້ອ

to begin telling your story again? I ask you not only because my friend Dr. Watson has not heard the beginning, but also because the strange nature of the story makes me want to have every detail from your lips. Often I am able to solve a mystery, after I have heard a few details, by remembering the thousands of other similar cases that I already know about. In Mr. Wilson's case, I have never heard of any similar case."

The chest of our big visitor grew a big larger, as if Holmes had said something very good about him. Then he pulled an old, dirty newspaper from the pocket inside his coat.

As he looked at the advertisements, with his head down and the paper sitting on his knee, I took a good look at the man. My friend, Sherlock Holmes, had a reputation for his ability to learn many things about people just by looking at them carefully. I tried to do the same. I studied our visitor. I looked carefully at his clothes, and his face. But I could not learn much. Our visitor seemed to be an ordinary worker. He was wearing a coat that was a little dirty. One shirt sleeve was shiny. A

ເບື້ອງໜຶ່ງເຫຼື້ອມ, ມີໂລຫະເປັນຮູບສີ່ລ່ຽມຫ້ອຍຢູ່ຖົງເສື້ອ, ມີໝວກເກົ່າໆວາງຢູ່ຕັ່ງຂ້າງໆລາວ ແລະ ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງເປັນໜ້າສັງເກດກ່ຽວກັບຕົນຕົວຂອງລາວ ນອກຈາກຜົມສີແດງ.

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ເຂົ້າໃຈສິ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍກຳລັງພະຍາຍາມເຮັດຢູ່, ລາວແກວ່ງຫົວພ້ອມທັງຍິ້ມຂະນະສັງເກດເຫັນສາຍຕາທີ່ແຝງດ້ວຍຄຳຖາມຂອງຂ້ອຍ. "ມັນເກີນຄວາມເປັນຈິງທີ່ຮູ້ກັນດີວ່າ ບາງຄັ້ງລາວກໍ່ເຮັດວຽກດ້ວຍມື, ເຄີຍໄປປະເທດຈີນ ແລະ ທຸກມື້ນີ້ລາວຫັນມາຂີດຂຽນຫຼາຍຂຶ້ນ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ເຫັນຫຍັງຕື່ມອີກ."

ທ່ານແຈັກ ວິລສັນ ຢືດຄີງຊື່ຂື້ນຈາກຕັ່ງທັນທີ ມືຂອງລາວຍັງຊີ້ຢູ່ກັບໜັງສືພິມ ແຕ່ຕາເບິ່ງໄປທີ່ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ. "ເຈົ້າຮູ້ເລື່ອງທັງໝົດນັ້ນໄດ້ແນວໃດ, ທ່ານ ໂຮມສ?" ລາວຖາມ. "ເຈົ້າຮູ້ໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດວ່າຂ້ອຍເຄີຍເຮັດວຽກດ້ວຍມື? ມັນເປັນແບບນັ້ນແທ້ ຂ້ອຍເຮັດວຽກຄັ້ງທຳອິດຢູ່ກັບເຮືອ."

"ທ່ານເອີຍ, ມືເບື້ອງຂວາຂອງເຈົ້າໃຫຍ່ກວ່າເບື້ອງຊ້າຍ ເພາະເຈົ້າໃຊ້ມັນເຮັດວຽກ ແລະ ມັນກໍ່ແຂງແຮງກວ່າອີກດ້ວຍ."

"ແລ້ວເລື່ອງຂີດຂຽນນັ້ນເດ?"

"ສິ່ງອື່ນທີ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ຈາກການສັງເກດເບິ່ງກໍ່ຄື ແຂນເສື້ອເບື້ອງຂວາຂອງເຈົ້າມີຮອຍເຫຼື້ອມປະມານຫ້ານີ້ວ ຂະນະທີ່ແຂນເສື້ອເບື້ອງຊ້າຍມີຈຸດໜຶ່ງກ້ຽງໆເຊິ່ງເປັນບ່ອນທີ່ເຈົ້າວາງໄວ້ເທິງໜ້າໂຕະ

square piece of metal was hanging from a pocket. An old hat lay on a chair next to him. There was nothing remarkable about the man except his red hair.

Sherlock Holmes saw what I was trying to do. He shook his head with a smile as he noticed my questioning looks. "Beyond the obvious facts that he has at some time worked with his hands, that he has been in China, and that he does a lot of writing these days, I can see nothing else."

Mr. Jack Wilson quickly straightened up in his chair. His finger was still on the newspaper, but his eyes were on my friend. "How did you know all that, Mr. Holmes?" he asked. "How did you know, for example, that I worked with my hands? It's true, for my first job I built things on a ship."

"Your hands, my dear sir. Your right hand is much larger than your left. You have worked with it, and I can see that it is stronger."

"Well, then, what about the writing?"

"What else could I learn from seeing that the right sleeve of your shirt is very shiny for five inches, while the left sleeve has a smooth spot, where you rest it on the desk.

ຕອນພັກຜ່ອນ. ສຳຫຼັບປະເທດຈີນ, ລາຍເມີກຮູບປາຂອງເຈົ້າ ອາດຈະເຮັດແຕ່ໃນປະເທດຈີນເທົ່ານັ້ນ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮຽນກ່ຽວກັບຮອຍສັກລາຍ ແລະຍັງໄດ້ຂຽນກ່ຽວກັບການສັກລາຍນຳອີກ. ຮອຍສັກຮູບປາຂອງເຈົ້າເປັນສີຊົມພູ ເຊິ່ງມີແຕ່ປະເທດຈີນເທົ່ານັ້ນທີ່ເຂົາໃຊ້ກັນ, ຂ້ອຍຍັງເຫັນຫຼຽນຮູບສີ່ລ່ຽມຫ້ອຍຢູ່ຖົງເສື້ອຂອງເຈົ້າອີກ."

"ທ່ານແຈກ ວິລສັນ ຫົວຂຶ້ນ. "ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍ!" ລາວເວົ້າ. "ທຳອິດນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າເຈົ້າເປັນຄົນສະຫຼາດແທ້ໆ ແຕ່ມາຕອນນີ້ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຫັນວ່າ ມັນເປັນແບບນັ້ນຈັກໜ້ອຍເລີຍ."

ໂຮມສເວົ້າວ່າ: "ວັດສັນ, ເຮົາເລີ່ມຄິດໄດ້ແລ້ວວ່າ ຄັ້ງໜ້າເຮົາຈະບໍ່ອະທິບາຍທຸກຢ່າງ ເພາະມັນຈະບໍ່ເປັນຜົນດີຕໍ່ກັບຊື່ສຽງຂອງເຮົາ. ເຈົ້າເຫັນໂຄສະນາແດ່ບໍ່ທ່ານ ວິລສັນ?"

"ເຈົ້າ, ຂ້ອຍເຫັນແລ້ວ," ລາວຕອບ. ນິ້ວມືອັນໃຫຍ່ໜາຂອງລາວຊີ້ໄປໃສ່ຈຸດເຄິ່ງກາງຂອງໜັງສືພິມ. "ນີ້ເດ, ນີ້ແຫຼະຄືຈຸດເລີ່ມຕົ້ນຂອງເລື່ອງທັງໝົດ, ທ່ານຄວນອ່ານດ້ວຍຕົວເອງຈະດີກວ່າ."

ຂ້ອຍຈັບເອົາໜັງສືພິມຈາກລາວມາອ່ານເບິ່ງ. "ເຖິງສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ: ດຽວນີ້ທາງສະມາຄົມໄດ້ເປີດຮັບເອົາສະມາຊິກຄົນໃໝ່ ເຊິ່ງມີເງິນເດືອນໃຫ້ສີ່ປອນຕໍ່ໜຶ່ງອາທິດ ແລະ ວຽກກໍ່ເລັກນ້ອຍ, ຜູ້ຊາຍຜົມແດງທັງຫຼາຍທີ່ມີສຸຂະພາບດີ ແລະ ມີອາຍຸບໍ່ຕໍ່າກວ່າ 21 ປີ ເຊີນມາສະໝັກໄດ້; ໃຫ້ມາດ້ວຍຕົນເອງໃນວັນຈັນ

As for China, your fish tattoo could only have been done in China. I have studied tattoo marks. I have even written about them. The fish in your tattoo is colored with a pink that is only used in China. I also saw a square Chinese coin hanging from your pocket."

Mr. Jack Wilson laughed. "Well, I never!" said he. "I thought at first that you were very smart, but now I see that there was nothing in it, after all."

"I begin to think, Watson," said Holmes, "that next time, I will not explain everything. It is not good for my reputation. Can you find the advertisement, Mr. Wilson?"

"Yes, I have got it now," he answered. His thick finger pointed to the middle of the newspaper. "Here it is. This is what began it all. You may read it for yourself, sir."

I took the paper from him and read: "TO THE RED-HEADED CLUB: There is now an opening for a new person in the Club to be paid 4 pounds a week for very little work. All red-headed men who are in good health, and who are above the age of twenty-one years, may apply. Apply in person on Monday, at 11:00, to

ເວລາ 11 ໂມງເຊົ້າ, ພົວພັນກັບ ທ່ານ ດັນ ແຄນ ໂຣສ ທີ່ສຳນັກງານຂອງສະມາຄົມ, ເລກ ທີ່ 7 ໂພບສ ຄອດ, ຖະໜົນ ຟລີດ.”

“ນີ້ໝາຍຄວາມວ່າແນວໃດ?” ຂ້ອຍຖາມ ຫຼັງຈາກໄດ້ອ່ານໂຄສະນາອັນແປກໆ ນັ້ນແລ້ວ ສອງຄັ້ງ.

ໂຮມສ ຫົວຂຶ້ນຄືກັບທີ່ລາວເຄີຍເຮັດຜ່ານ ມາເວລາລາວມີອາລົມດີ. “ມັນແປກໆໜ້ອຍ ດຽວບໍ່ແມ່ນຫວ່ະ?” ລາວເວົ້າ, “ທ່ານວິລສັນ, ບັດນີ້ເຈົ້າຊ່ວຍເລົ່າເລື່ອງທັງໝົດກ່ຽວກັບຕົວ ເຈົ້າ ແລະ ໂຄສະນານີ້ມາເບິ່ງ ວ່າມັນໄດ້ເຮັດ ໃຫ້ຊີວິດຂອງເຈົ້າປ່ຽນແປງໄປແນວໃດ. ດັອກ

Duncan Ross, at the offices of the Club, 7 Pope’s Court, Fleet Street.”

“What does this mean?” I asked after I had read the unusual advertisement two times.

Holmes laughed, as he often did when he was in a good mood. “It is a little strange, isn’t it?” he said. “And now, Mr. Wilson, please tell us all about yourself, and how this advertisement

ເຕີ, ສ່ວນໂຕຈະຕ້ອງຕຽມບັນທຶກເລື່ອງກ່ຽວກັບໜັງສືພິມນັ້ນ."

"ມັນເປັນໜັງສືພິມ *ມໍນິງໄທມສ* ສະບັບວັນທີ 27 ເດືອນ 4 ປີ 1890 ເຊິ່ງຫາກໍ່ສອງເດືອນຜ່ານມານີ້ເອງ."

"ດີຫຼາຍ ທ່ານວິລສັນ."

"ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເວົ້າສູ່ເຈົ້າຟັງນັ້ນແຫຼະ ທ່ານເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ," ທ່ານວິລສັນເວົ້າ. "ຂ້ອຍມີຮ້ານນ້ອຍໆແຫ່ງໜຶ່ງໃນລອນດອນ, ມັນບໍ່ແມ່ນຮ້ານໃຫຍ່ໂຕຫຍັງດອກ ແລະ ໄລຍະນີ້ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຫາເງິນໄດ້ຫຼາຍ, ເມື່ອກ່ອນຂ້ອຍສາມາດຈ້າງຄົນງານໄດ້ສອງຄົນ ແຕ່ດຽວນີ້ ຂ້ອຍເອົາໄວ້ພຽງຄົນດຽວ ແລະ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍຈ່າຍໃຫ້ລາວໄດ້ກໍ່ເພາະວ່າ ລາວພໍໃຈເຮັດວຽກທີ່ມີເງິນເດືອນພຽງເຄິ່ງໜຶ່ງຂອງເງິນເດືອນທົ່ວໆໄປ ແລະ ກໍ່ເພາະວ່າລາວຢາກຮຽນຮູ້ປະສົບການ

has changed your life. You will first make a note, Doctor, of the newspaper."

"It is *The Morning Times* of April 27, 1890. Just two months ago."

"Very good. Now, Mr. Wilson?"

"Well, it is just as I have been telling you, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said Jack Wilson. "I am a shop-keeper. I have a small store in London. It's not a very large shop, and these days I do not make much money. In the past, I could keep two assistants, but now I only keep one. And I have enough to pay him only because he is willing to work for half of the ordinary pay, because

ກ່ຽວກັບການເຮັດທຸລະກິດ."

"ຊາຍໜຸ່ມຄົນນີ້ຊື່ຫຍັງ?" ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສຖາມ.

"ລາວຊື່ວ່າ ວິນ ຊິງເກີ ແລະ ລາວກໍ່ບໍ່ເປັນຄົນໜຸ່ມດອກ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຮູ້ແນ່ແທ້ວ່າອາຍຸລາວເທົ່າໃດແລ້ວ, ລາວເປັນຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂອງຂ້ອຍທີ່ສະຫຼາດຫຼາຍ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ວ່າລາວສາມາດຫາເງິນໄດ້ເທົ່າສອງທົບທີ່ຂ້ອຍຈ່າຍໃຫ້ລາວ ແຕ່ໃນເມື່ອລາວພໍໃຈກັບສິ່ງນີ້ ຂ້ອຍຊິໄປບອກລາວເຮັດຫຍັງແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ເປັນຫຍັງ? ເຈົ້າຄວນຈະພູມໃຈທີ່ມີຜູ້ຊ່ວຍເຮັດວຽກ ດ້ວຍຄ່າຕົວພຽງເລັກນ້ອຍ, ນີ້ມັນບໍ່ຄ່ອຍມີໄດ໋ໃນທຸກວັນນີ້. ຂ້ອຍວ່າຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂອງເຈົ້າກໍ່ແປກເທົ່າໆກັບໂຄສະນາຂອງເຈົ້າຫັ້ນແຫຼະ."

"ເອີ! ລາວບໍ່ສົມບູນແບບດອກ," ທ່ານວິລສັນເວົ້າ. "ລາວຕື່ນເຕັ້ນກັບການຖ່າຍຮູບຫຼາຍ, ລາວມັກຖ່າຍຮູບຢູ່ເລື້ອຍໆໃນເວລາທີ່ລາວຄວນເຮັດວຽກ. ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ຈະແລ່ນລົງຂັ້ນໄດ໋ໄປທີ່ຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນ ເພື່ອລ້າງຮູບຂອງລາວ. ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ເວລາທີ່ລາວໝົກໝຸ້ນກັບການຖ່າຍຮູບກໍ່ມັກຈະມີບັນຫາ ແຕ່ສ່ວນໃຫຍ່ແລ້ວລາວເອົາໃຈໃສ່ຕໍ່ການເຮັດວຽກ."

"ລາວຍັງຢູ່ກັບເຈົ້າແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ເຈົ້າ ທ່ານ, ລາວກັບຍິງສາວອີກຄົນໜຶ່ງທີ່ເປັນແມ່ຄົວ ແລະ ທຳຄວາມສະອາດບ້ານ, ໃນບ້ານກໍ່ມີຄົນເທົ່ານີ້ແຫຼະ; ສ່ວນພັນລະຍາຂອງຂ້ອຍເສຍຊີວິດແລ້ວ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ເຄີຍມີລູກຈັກຄົນ; ສາມຄົນເຮົາພາກັນຢູ່ແບບງຽບໆ ຕໍ່ມາກໍ່ປະ

he wants to learn the business."

"What is the name of this young man?" asked Sherlock Holmes.

"His name is Vin Singer, and he's not so young, either. I don't know his exact age. He is a very smart assistant, Mr. Holmes. I know that he could earn twice as much as I am able to pay him. But, after all, if he is happy, why should I suggest that to him?"

"Why, indeed? You must be glad to have an assistant who will work for so little. That is unusual these days. I would say that your assistant is as unusual as your advertisement."

"Oh, he's not perfect," said Mr. Wilson. "He is very excited by photography. He is often taking pictures, when he should be working. Then he runs down the steps into the cellar, to work on his pictures. Yes, the time he spends on his photography is sometimes a problem. But most of the time he's a good worker."

"He is still with you, is that right?"

"Yes, sir. He and a young girl, who does some cooking and cleans the house. That's all I have in the house. My wife is dead, and I never had any children. We live very quietly, sir, the three of us. Then that advertisement

ກົດເຫັນໂຄສະນານັ້ນ, ຊິງເກີ ມາເຮັດວຽກເມື່ອແປດອາທິດຜ່ານມານີ້ເອງ ແລະ ລາວເອົາໜັງສືພິມນີ້ມານຳ ແລ້ວກໍ່ເວົ້າວ່າ: 'ທ່ານວິລສັນ, ຂ້ອຍຢາກເປັນຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມແດງແທ້ເດ.'

"'ເປັນຫຍັງຈຶ່ງວ່າຊັ້ນ?' ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: "ເພາະວ່າທາງສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງພວມເປີດຮັບສະໝັກຄົນງານ, ທາງສະມາຄົມຈະຈ່າຍເງິນກ້ອນໃຫຍ່ໃຫ້ກັບຜູ້ທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຕຳແໜ່ງນີ້ ແລະ ຍັງມີຕຳແໜ່ງຫວ່າງຫຼາຍກວ່າຜູ້ມີສິດສະໝັກຊ້ຳອີກ, ສະນັ້ນພວກເຂົາບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າຈະເຮັດແນວໃດກັບເງິນທີ່ມີຢູ່. ຖ້າຂ້ອຍປ່ຽນສີຜົມໄດ້ ຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງໄປສະໝັກແນ່ນອນ."

ທ່ານວິລສັນ ຈ້ອງເບິ່ງໂຮມສ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍເພື່ອໃຫ້ແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ພວກເຮົາຟັງລາວຢູ່ ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ເວົ້າຕໍ່ໄປວ່າ: "ເຫັນບໍ່ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ຂ້ອຍໃຊ້ເວລາສ່ວນໃຫຍ່ຢູ່ໃນບ້ານ ແລະ ຢູ່ຮ້ານຂອງຂ້ອຍ, ລູກຄ້າເຂົ້າມາຫາຂ້ອຍເອງ ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຢູ່ກັບບ້ານເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍໆອາທິດຢ່າງບໍ່ລະເວັ້ນ; ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຮູ້ເລີຍວ່າມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນຢູ່ພາຍນອກ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຈະພູມໃຈຫຼາຍເມື່ອໄດ້ຮັບຂ່າວຄາວ.

"'ເຈົ້າເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນກ່ຽວກັບສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງບໍ່?' ຊິງເກີ ຖາມດ້ວຍຕາທັງສອງ ມືນກວ້າງອອກ.

"'ບໍ່ເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນ,' ຂ້ອຍຕອບ.

"'ຊັ້ນເບາະ? ຂ້ອຍແປກໃຈທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນແບບນັ້ນ, ເຈົ້າສາມາດໄປສະໝັກເອົາຈັກໜຶ່ງຕຳແໜ່ງກໍ່ໄດ້.'

"'ເຂົາຈະຈ່າຍໃຫ້ຫຼາຍປານໃດ?'

appeared. Singer came down into the office, just eight weeks ago, with this very paper in his hand, and he said: 'I wish, Mr. Wilson, that I was a red-headed man.'

"'Why?' I asked.

"'Because,' he said, 'here's another opening in the Red-Headed Club. It will pay a lot of money to any man who gets it, and there are more jobs than there are men. So they don't know what to do with the money. If my hair would only change color, I would apply.'"

Mr. Wilson looked at Holmes and me, to be sure we were listening. Then he went on. "You see, Mr. Holmes, I spend most of my time in my home and shop. My business comes to me, so I often go for many weeks without leaving the house. I didn't know much of what was going on outside, and I was always glad to get some news.

"'Have you heard of the Red-Headed Club?' Singer asked, with his eyes wide open.

"'Never,' I answered.

"'Why, I'm surprised to hear that, for you could apply for one of the jobs.'

"'And what do these jobs pay?' I

ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"'ໂອ, ພຽງແຕ່ 200 ປອນຕໍ່ປີເທົ່ານັ້ນ ແຕ່ບໍ່ມີວຽກຫຍັງຫຼາຍ ແລະ ຈະບໍ່ຕຳກັບວຽກອື່ນທີ່ບຸກຄົນໆນັ້ນເຮັດຢູ່.'

"ພວກເຈົ້າສາມາດເຂົ້າໃຈໄດ້ງ່າຍໆເລີຍວ່າ ຂ້ອຍສົນໃຈຕໍ່ວຽກນີ້ຫຼາຍ," ທ່ານວິລສັນ ເວົ້າຕໍ່, "ທຸລະກິດຂອງຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຄ່ອຍດຳເນີນໄປໄດ້ດີໃນຊ່ວງນີ້, ຖ້າໄດ້ອີກ 200 ປອນຕໍ່ປີກໍ່ຄົງຈະມີປະໂຫຍດກັບຂ້ອຍຫຼາຍ."

"'ບອກຂ້ອຍມາເບິ່ງດູ,' ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

"ລາວຍື່ນໂຄສະນານັ້ນໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເບິ່ງ ແລະ ເວົ້າວ່າ: 'ເຈົ້າເບິ່ງເອົາເອງໂລດ ວ່າທາງສະມາຄົມໄດ້ເປີດຮັບສະໝັກ. ເທົ່າທີ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ມາ ສະມາຄົມນີ້ຖືກກໍ່ຕັ້ງຂຶ້ນໂດຍຄົນອາເມລິກາຜູ້ລ້ຳລວຍ ແຕ່ກໍ່ເປັນຄົນແປກໆຢູ່ເຊັ່ນກັນ, ລາວເປັນຄົນມີຜົມແດງ ແລະ ລາວຢາກຊ່ວຍຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ມີຜົມແດງທັງຫຼາຍ. ເມື່ອລາວເສຍຊີວິດໄປແລ້ວ ລາວໄດ້ປະເງິນທັງໝົດໄວ້ ເພື່ອສ້າງວຽກງ່າຍໆໃຫ້ກັບຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ມີຜົມສີດຽວກັນກັບລາວ. ຕາມທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນມາ ມັນມີລາຍໄດ້ດີ ແລະ ວຽກກໍ່ເລັກນ້ອຍ.'

"'ແຕ່ວ່າມີຜູ້ຊາຍຜົມແດງນັບເປັນລ້ານໆຄົນ ທີ່ຈະມາສະໝັກວຽກນີ້,' ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

"'ມັນບໍ່ຫຼາຍຄືດັ່ງທີ່ທ່ານຄິດດອກ,' ລາວຕອບ. 'ເຫັນບໍ່ທ່ານ ເຂົາຮັບແຕ່ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ອາໄສຢູ່ໃນລອນດອນ ແລະ ຕ້ອງເປັນຜູ້ໃຫຍ່ເທົ່ານັ້ນ. ຄົນອາເມລິກາຜູ້ນີ້ໄດ້ຕັ້ງຕົວຢູ່ລອນດອນຕອນ

asked.

"'Oh, only a couple of hundred pounds a year, but not much work is needed, and it would not keep a person from working at another job.'

"Well, you can easily understand that I was very interested in all this," Mr. Wilson went on, "for my business has not been good these days. Another two hundred pounds a year would have been very helpful."

"'Tell me all about it,' I said.

"'Well,' he said, showing me the advertisement, 'you can see for yourself that the Club has an opening. It tells where you should apply. As I understand it, the Club was started by an American who was very rich, but also quite strange. He was himself red-headed, and he wanted to help all red-headed men; so when he died, he left all of his money to make easy jobs for men whose hair is of that color. From what I hear, it is very good pay and very little to do.'

"'But,' I said, 'there are millions of red-headed men who would apply.'

"'Not as many as you might think,' he answered. 'You see, it is only for men who live in London, and who are grown men. This American had started in London when he was

ລາວຍັງໜຸ່ມ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຍັງໄດ້ຍິນວ່າ ທາງສະມາຄົມຈະບໍ່ຮັບຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມສີແດງອ່ອນ, ແດງແກ່ ຫຼື ແດງດ່າງ ແຕ່ຈະຮັບຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມສີແດງສົດໆເທົ່ານັ້ນ. ເອົາລະ ທ່ານວິລສັນ ຖ້າທ່ານຢາກສະໝັກກໍ່ຮີບໄປສະໝັກໄດ້ເລີຍ, ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີວ່າ ທ່ານຫຍຸ້ງຫຼາຍ ເພາະສະນັ້ນ ບາງທີມັນຄົງຈະບໍ່ມີຄ່າພໍກັບເວລາຂອງທ່ານ ທີ່ຈະໄດ້ເງິນມາພຽງສອງ-ສາມຮ້ອຍປອນ.'

"ເອົາລະ, ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ທ່ານເຫັນຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ຜົມຂອງຂ້ອຍເປັນສີແດງສົດ, ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າ ຂ້ອຍມີໂອກາດຫຼາຍກວ່າຄົນອື່ນໆ ທີ່ຈະໄດ້ຮັບຕຳແໜ່ງນີ້. ວິນ ຊິງເກີ ຮູ້ດີກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງນີ້ ເຊິ່ງຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າລາວໜ້າຈະເປັນປະໂຫຍດຕໍ່ຂ້ອຍ, ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງສັ່ງລາວປິດຮ້ານໄວ້ມື້ໜຶ່ງ ເພື່ອໃຫ້ລາວໄປກັບຂ້ອຍ, ລາວຍິນດີເປັນຢ່າງຍິ່ງ ທີ່ຈະເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ. ພວກເຮົາປິດຮ້ານ ແລ້ວໄປຕາມທີ່ຢູ່ທີ່ລະບຸໄວ້ໃນໂຄສະນາ.

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ນຶກເລີຍວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຈະໄດ້ເຫັນເຫດການແບບນັ້ນອີກເລີຍ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ມີຜູ້ຊາຍຜົມແດງທຸກຮູບແບບຈາກທຸກສາລະທິດ; ບໍ່ວ່າຈະເປັນພາກເໜືອ, ພາກໃຕ້, ພາກຕາເວັນອອກ ແລະ ພາກຕາເວັນຕົກ ມາໂຮມຕົວກັນຢູ່ໃນເມືອງ ເພື່ອສະໝັກງານຕາມໂຄສະນາ. ຖະໜົນຟລີດ ເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍຄົນຜົມແດງ, ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍນຶກມາກ່ອນເລີຍວ່າ ຈະມີຄົນຜົມແດງໃນປະເທດນີ້ຫຼາຍຂະໜາດນັ້ນ! ຊ້ຳຍັງເປັນຍ້ອນໂຄສະນາພຽງອັນດຽວເທົ່ານັ້ນທີ່ຊັກຈູງໃຫ້ພວກເຂົາມາທີ່ນີ້. ມີຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມແດງທຸກສາລະພັດແບບ, ລວມທັງແດງເຂັ້ມ, ແດງ

young. Also, I have heard that the club is not for men whose hair is light red, or dark red, or brick red, or anything but real bright red. Now, if you want to apply, Mr. Wilson, you can just walk in. But I know that you are a busy man, so maybe it is not a good use of your time, just for a few hundred pounds.'

"Now, as you can see, my hair is a bright red. I thought that I had as good a chance as any man to fill this opening. Vin Singer knew so much about it that I thought he might be useful, so I told him to close the shop for the day and to come with me. He was very willing to do so. We locked the door and went to the address that was given in the advertisement.

"I don't think I will ever see such a sight as that again, Mr. Holmes. From north, south, east, and west every man who had any red in his hair had come into the city to answer the advertisement. Fleet Street was filled with red-headed men. I never knew there were so many red-headed men in the whole country! Yet a single advertisement brought them all here. Every kind of color could be seen, some dark

ອ່ອນ ແຕ່ມັນກໍ່ເປັນດັ່ງທີ່ ຊິງເກີ ເວົ້າ ແທ້ໆ, ຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມສີແດງຄືແປວໄຟແບບ ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຈະມີຫຼາຍ.

"ພໍຂ້ອຍເຫັນວ່າມີຄົນຈຳນວນຫຼວງ ຫຼາຍລໍຖ້າຢູ່ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຄິດຈະລົ້ມເລີກ ຄວາມຫວັງ ແຕ່ຊິງເກີຄົງຈະບໍ່ຟັງ ຖ້າ ຂ້ອຍຈະຊວນລາວກັບບ້ານ. ລາວທັງຍູ້ ທັງດຶງຂ້ອຍຜ່າຝູງຄົນເຂົ້າໄປ ຈົນໃນທີ່

red, some light red. But, as Singer had said, there were not many men who had my true, flame-red.

"When I saw how many were waiting, I would have given up hope; but Singer would not listen when I said we should just go home. He pushed and pulled until he got me through

ສຸດກໍ່ໄປເຖິງຂັ້ນໄດທີ່ນຳໄປສູ່ຫ້ອງສຳພາດ. ມີຄົນຢືນລຽນກັນເປັນສອງແຖວຍາວຕັນຂັ້ນໄດຢູ່, ບາງຄົນກໍ່ຂຶ້ນໄປດ້ວຍຄວາມຫວັງ ແຕ່ບາງຄົນກໍ່ກັບລົງມາດ້ວຍສີໜ້າທີ່ຜິດຫວັງ, ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຍັງດັນເຂົ້າໄປຈົນເຖິງຫ້ອງສຳພາດໄດ້.”

“ປະສົບການຂອງເຈົ້າຄັ້ງນີ້ ຊ່າງເປັນທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈແທ້ໆ,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ ເມື່ອແຂກຂອງພວກເຮົາຢຸດເວົ້າຊົ່ວຂະນະ. “ຈົ່ງເລົ່າເລື່ອງຂອງເຈົ້າຕໍ່ໄປເບິ່ງດູ.”

“ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງຫຼາຍໃນຫ້ອງການນັ້ນ, ມີພຽງຕັ່ງອີ້ໄມ້ສອງໜ່ວຍ ແລະ ໂຕະນ້ອຍໆອີກໜຶ່ງໜ່ວຍ, ຢູ່ໂຕະນັ້ນມີຜູ້ຊາຍຮ່າງນ້ອຍຄົນໜຶ່ງ ເຊິ່ງມີຜົມທີ່ແດງກວ່າຜົມຂ້ອຍດ້ວຍຊ້ຳ. ລາວເວົ້າພຽງສອງ-ສາມຄຳກັບແຕ່ລະຄົນທີ່ເຂົ້າມາສະໝັກ, ແລະແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ມີເຫດຜົນບາງຢ່າງທີ່ປະຕິເສດຄົນເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ. ການທີ່ຈະໄດ້ຮັບຕຳແໜ່ງດັ່ງກ່າວ ມັນບໍ່ແມ່ນເລື່ອງງ່າຍເລີຍ. ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ເມື່ອຮອດຄິວຂ້ອຍ ຊາຍຮ່າງນ້ອຍຄົນນັ້ນເບິ່ງມີຄວາມສົນໃຈເປັນພິເສດ, ລາວປິດປະຕູ ຫຼັງຈາກພວກເຮົາເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງເພື່ອວ່າລາວຈະໄດ້ລົມກັບພວກຂ້ອຍໂດຍທີ່ບໍ່ມີຄົນອື່ນໄດ້ຍິນ.

“‘ນີ້ແມ່ນ ທ່ານແຈັກ ວິລສັນ,’ ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂ້ອຍເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ, ‘ແລະທ່ານເຕັມໃຈທີ່ຈະສະໝັກຕຳແໜ່ງນີ້ໃນສະມາຄົມ.’

“‘ແລະທ່ານກໍ່ຂ້ອນຂ້າງເໝາະສົມງານນີ້ດີ,’ ອີກຄົນໜຶ່ງເອີ່ຍຂຶ້ນ. ‘ຂ້ອຍຍັງບໍ່ເຄີຍພົບເຫັນຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມແດງສົມບູນແບບນີ້ມາກ່ອນ.’ ລາວຖອຍຫຼັງໜຶ່ງກ້າວ

the crowd, and right up to the steps, which led to the office. There were two lines of people on the steps, some going up in hope, and some sad faces coming back down; but we pushed in and soon found ourselves in the office.”

“Your experience has been a most interesting one,” remarked Holmes as our visitor stopped talking for a minute. “Please keep on telling your story.”

“There was not much in the office – just a couple of wooden chairs and a small table. Behind the table sat a small man with a head of hair that was even redder than mine. He said a few words to each man who came up to apply, and then he always found some reason to send them away. Filling this opening did not seem to be such a very easy thing, after all. However, when our turn came the little man was much more interested. He closed the door as we entered, so that he could talk to us without the others listening.

“‘This is Mr. Jack Wilson,’ said my assistant, ‘and he is willing to fill an opening in the Club.’

“‘And he is quite well suited for it,’ the other answered. ‘I cannot think of a time when I have seen hair so fine.’

ແລ້ວສັງເກດເບິ່ງຜົມຂອງຂ້ອຍ, ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ເຂົ້າມາໃກ້ ແລະ ຈັບມືກັບຂ້ອຍ ພ້ອມທັງເວົ້າວ່າ ລາວຕ້ອງການໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຮັບຕຳແໜ່ງນີ້. "'ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຫວັງວ່າເຈົ້າຄົງຈະເຂົ້າໃຈ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງຮອບຄອບໄວ້ກ່ອນ,' ລາວເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງກຳຜົມຂອງຂ້ອຍດຶງຢ່າງແຮງດ້ວຍສອງມື ຈົນຂ້ອຍຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມເຈັບປວດ.

"'ນ້ຳຕາຂອງທ່ານໄຫຼອອກມາ,' ລາວວາງມືອອກ ແລະເວົ້າ. 'ຂ້ອຍເຫັນວ່າທຸກຢ່າງເປັນໄປຕາມທີ່ມັນຄວນຈະເປັນ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງໄດ້ລະວັງ ເພື່ອຊື່ສຽງຂອງ ພວກເຮົາ. ມີສອງເທື່ອແລ້ວທີ່ພວກເຮົາຖືກຫຼອກ, ເທື່ອໜຶ່ງເປັນຜົມປອມ ແລະ ອີກເທື່ອໜຶ່ງເປັນຜົມຍ້ອມສີ. ຂ້ອຍບອກເລື່ອງນີ້ກັບເຈົ້າໄດ້ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຢ້ານວ່າເຈົ້າຄົງຈະບໍ່ເຊື່ອ.' ລາວຍ່າງໄປທີ່ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ແລ້ວຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງວ່າຕຳແໜ່ງນີ້ໄດ້ຄົນແລ້ວ. ສຽງຈົ່ມດ້ວຍຄວາມຜິດຫວັງດັງຂຶ້ນມາທາງລຸ່ມ ແລ້ວທຸກຄົນກໍ່ທະຍອຍໜີໄປ ຈົນບໍ່ມີຄົນຜົມແດງເຫຼືອຢູ່ຈັກຄົນ, ຍັງເຫຼືອແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກັບຜູ້ຈັດການຄົນນັ້ນ.

ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນວ່າ: "'ຂ້ອຍຊື່ວ່າ ດັນແຄນ ໂຣສ, ຂ້ອຍແມ່ນໜຶ່ງໃນບັນດາຜູ້ຊາຍ ທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບເຂົ້າເຮັດວຽກງ່າຍໆໃນສະມາຄົມນີ້. ທ່ານມີຄອບຄົວແລ້ວບໍ່ ທ່ານວິລສັນ?'

"ຂ້ອຍຕອບວ່າຍັງບໍ່ມີ, ແລ້ວສີໜ້າຂອງລາວກໍ່ປ່ຽນໄປດ້ວຍຄວາມຜິດຫວັງ.

He took a step back, and looked at my hair. Then suddenly he stepped forward, took my hand, and said he would like me to fill the opening. "'But, I am sure you will understand that I must be careful,' he said, and then he grabbed my hair in both of his hands, and pulled until I cried out in pain.

"'There is water in your eyes,' he said as he let me go. 'I see that all is as it should be. But we have to be careful of our reputation. Two times we have been tricked by hair that was not real, and once by paint. I could tell you stories of tricks that would make you sick.' He stepped over to the window and shouted at the top of his voice that the opening was filled. Sounds of disappointment came up from below, and the men all walked away in different directions until there was not a red head to be seen except my own and that of the director.

"'My name,' said he, 'is Mr. Duncan Ross, and I am myself one of the men who has gotten an easy job from this Club. Are you a married man, Mr. Wilson? Do you have a family?'

"I answered that I had not. His face fell in disappointment.

"'ຕາຍລະ' ລາວເວົ້າ, 'ນີ້ເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ຈິງຈັງໄດ໋, ມັນເປັນຂ່າວທີ່ບໍ່ດີເລີຍ. ແນ່ນອນຢູ່ແລ້ວທາງສະມາຄົມກໍ່ຕັ້ງຂຶ້ນ ກໍ່ເພື່ອຫວັງຈະໄດ້ພົບເຫັນຄົນຜົມແດງເກີດຂຶ້ນມາອີກ ແລະ ຫວັງຈະຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຜູ້ທີ່ເກີດມາກ່ອນຢູ່ແລ້ວ, ມັນໂຊກຮ້າຍແທ້ໆທີ່ທ່ານຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານ.'

"ນີ້ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າເປັນຂ່າວຮ້າຍກັບຂ້ອຍແທ້ໆ ທ່ານໂຮມສ. ຂ້ອຍຢ້ານວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບຕຳແໜ່ງນີ້ ແຕ່ພໍຄິດຢູ່ບຶດໜຶ່ງ ລາວກໍ່ເວົ້າວ່າບໍ່ເປັນຫຍັງ.

ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: "'ໃນກໍລະນີຫາກເປັນຄົນອື່ນ ພວກເຮົາອາດຈະປະຕິເສດເພາະວ່າເຈົ້າຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາພະຍາຍາມສຸດຂີດ ເພື່ອຊ່ວຍຄົນທີ່ມີຜົມແດງຄືກັບເຈົ້າ. ເມື່ອໃດທ່ານພ້ອມທີ່ຈະເລີ່ມວຽກໃໝ່ນີ້?'

"'ມັນຂ້ອນຂ້າງຫຍຸ້ງຍາກຢູ່ໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງ ເພາະວ່າຂ້ອຍມີທຸລະກິດແລ້ວ,' ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ

"'ໂອ, ບໍ່ເປັນຫຍັງດອກ ທ່ານວິລສັນ!' ວິນ ຊິງເກີ ເວົ້າ. 'ຂ້ອຍເບິ່ງແຍງທຸລະກິດແທນເຈົ້າໄດ້.'

"'ແລ້ວເລື່ອງເວລາເຮັດວຽກເດ?' ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"'ສິບໂມງເຊົ້າ ເຖິງສອງໂມງຕອນບ່າຍ.'

"ຕອນເຊົ້າບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຈະຫຍຸ້ງສຳລັບຂ້ອຍດອກ ທ່ານໂຮມສ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້ດີວ່າ ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂອງຂ້ອຍເປັນຄົນດີ ລາວໜ້າຈະເບິ່ງແຍງທຸລະກິດແທນຂ້ອຍໄດ້.

"'ມັນເປັນເວລາທີ່ເໝາະສົມກັບຂ້ອຍ

"'Dear me!' he said, 'that is very serious indeed! That is not good news. The Club was formed, of course, to see that more red-heads were born, as well as to help those already living. It is very unlucky that you are not married.'

"This sounded like bad news for me, Mr. Holmes. I was afraid that I was not to have the opening, after all. But after thinking it over for a few minutes he said that it would be all right.

"'In the case of another man,' said he, 'we might have to tell him no, because he was not married, but we must try very hard to help a man with such a head of hair as yours. When will you be able to begin your new job?'

"'Well, it is a little difficult, for I have a business already,' I said.

"'Oh, never mind about that, Mr. Wilson!' said Vin Singer. 'I can look after that for you.'

"'What are the hours?' I asked.

"'Ten to two.'

"The mornings are not usually busy for me, Mr. Holmes. Also, I knew that my assistant was a good man, and that he would take care of my business.

"'That would suit me very well,'

ແທ້ໆ, ແລ້ວເລື່ອງເງິນເດືອນເດ?' ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"'ທ່ານຈະໄດ້ຮັບອາທິດລະ 4 ປອນ.'

"'ແລ້ວເຮັດວຽກຫຍັງ?'

"'ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງຫຍຸ້ງຍາກດອກ, ທ່ານພຽງແຕ່ປະຈຳຢູ່ໃນຫ້ອງການ ຫຼື ຢ່າງນ້ອຍ ກໍ່ຢູ່ພາຍໃນອາຄານຕະຫຼອດເວລາເຮັດວຽກ, ຖ້າທ່ານອອກໄປຂ້າງນອກເມື່ອໃດກໍ່ໝາຍຄວາມວ່າ ທ່ານຕ້ອງອອກຈາກວຽກນີ້ທັນທີ, ກົດລະບຽບລະບຸໄວ້ຊັດເຈນຢູ່ແລ້ວ.'

"'ພຽງແຕ່ສີ່ຊົ່ວໂມງຕໍ່ມື້ເທົ່ານັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຈຳເປັນຕ້ອງອອກໄປນອກກໍ່ໄດ້,' ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

"'ຈະບໍ່ມີຂໍ້ຍົກເວັ້ນໃດໆ,' ດັນແຄນ ໂຣສເວົ້າ. 'ບໍ່ວ່າທ່ານຈະເປັນໄຂ້ ຫຼືວ່າມີທຸລະກິດອັນຈຳເປັນ ທ່ານຈະຕ້ອງຢູ່ພາຍໃນອາຄານບໍ່ດັ່ງນັ້ນທ່ານຕ້ອງສູນເສຍງານນີ້ໄປ.'

"'ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງເຮັດວຽກຫຍັງ?' ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"'ວຽກຂອງທ່ານກໍ່ຄືການຈົດກ່າຍ 'ສາລານຸກົມ ບຣິທານນິກາ.' ທ່ານຈະຕ້ອງເອົາປາກກາ ແລະ ເຈ້ຍຂອງທ່ານມາເອງ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາຈະຈັດຕຽມໂຕະ ແລະ ຕັ່ງໃຫ້; ທ່ານພ້ອມຈະເລີ່ມວຽກມື້ອື່ນນີ້ເລີຍບໍ່?'

"'ແນ່ນອນ,' ຂ້ອຍຕອບ.

"'ຄັນຊັ້ນ ແລ້ວພົບກັນ ທ່ານແຈັກ ວິລສັນ. ຂ້ອຍຂໍສະແດງຄວາມຍິນດີຫຼາຍໆກັບເຈົ້າອີກຄັ້ງ ທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຕຳແໜ່ງອັນສຳຄັນນີ້.' ລາວພາຂ້ອຍອອກມານອກຫ້ອງ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂອງຂ້ອຍກໍ່ພາກັນກັບບ້ານ. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າຈະເວົ້າ ແລະ ເຮັດແນວໃດດີ, ຂ້ອຍດີໃຈທີ່ສຸດທີ່ໂຊກດີແບບນັ້ນ.

"ຂ້ອຍນຳເອົາເລື່ອງນັ້ນມາຄິດຢູ່ໝົດມື້

said I. 'And the pay?'

"'You will be paid 4 pounds a week.'

"'And the work?'

"'It is not difficult. You have to be in the office, or at least in the building, the whole time. If you leave, you give up the whole job. The rules are very clear about that.'

"'It's only four hours a day. I should not need to leave,' I said.

"'No reason will be accepted,' said Mr. Duncan Ross. 'Even if you are sick, or you have important business, you must stay in the building or you will lose your job.'

"'And what is the work?' I asked.

"'Your job is to copy the Encyclopedia Britannica. You must bring your own pen and paper, but you can use this table and chair. Will you be ready tomorrow?'

"'Certainly,' I answered.

"'Then good-bye, Mr. Jack Wilson. Let me say, again, how happy I am that you have accepted this important job.' He led me out of the room and I went home with my assistant. I did not know what to say or do, I was so pleased at my own good luck.

"Well, I thought about the

ແລະ ພໍມາເຖິງຕອນແລງ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້ສຶກບໍ່ສະບາຍໃຈອີກ ເພາະຂ້ອຍເລີ່ມສົງໄສວ່ານີ້ຈະຕ້ອງເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ມີເງື່ອນງຳ ເຖິງວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະບໍ່ສາມາດແກ້ໄຂເລື່ອງລຶກລັບວ່າເປັນຫຍັງຈະຕ້ອງມີຄົນຜູ້ໃດຜູ້ໜຶ່ງ ມາຍອມສະລະເວລາ ແລະ ວຽກງານ ເພື່ອກະທຳເລື່ອງຕະຫຼົກແບບນີ້. ນອກນີ້ຂ້ອຍຍັງບໍ່ຢາກຈະເຊື່ອເລີຍວ່າ ເປັນຫຍັງຕ້ອງມີຄົນຍອມຈ່າຍເງິນເປັນຈຳນວນຫຼວງຫຼາຍໃຫ້ກັບຂ້ອຍ ເພື່ອເຮັດວຽກງ່າຍໆ ໂດຍການຈົດກ່າຍ 'ສາລານຸກົມ ບຣິທານນິກາ.' ວິນ ຊິງເກີ ເຮັດທຸກຢ່າງ ທີ່ລາວເຮັດໄດ້ເພື່ອໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍສະບາຍໃຈຂຶ້ນ ແຕ່ເວລາຂ້ອຍເຂົ້ານອນ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຍັງຮູ້ສຶກບໍ່ສະບາຍໃຈ.

"ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ຕື່ນເຊົ້າມາຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຕັດສິນໃຈໄປເຮັດວຽກລອງເບິ່ງ ວ່າຈະມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນ, ຂ້ອຍຊື້ປາກກາ ແລະເຈ້ຍ ແລ້ວໄປບ່ອນເຮັດວຽກຢູ່ທີ່ ພົບສຄອດ.

"ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກແປກໃຈ ເພາະທຸກຢ່າງເປັນໄປດ້ວຍດີ, ໂຕະຖືກຈັດຕຽມໄວ້ຢູ່ທີ່ນັ້ນ ແລະ ທ່ານດັນແຄນ ໂຣສ ກໍ່ຢູ່ທີ່ນັ້ນນຳ ເພື່ອຈະເບິ່ງວ່າຂ້ອຍໄປວຽກຫຼືບໍ່. ລາວບອກຂ້ອຍເລີ່ມຕົ້ນກ່າຍແຕ່ຕົວອັກສອນ A ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ປ່ອຍໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເຮັດຕາມລຳພັງ ແຕ່ລາວຈະເຂົ້າມາຢ້ຽມເບິ່ງເປັນໄລຍະ ເພື່ອເບິ່ງວ່າທຸກຢ່າງຖືກຕ້ອງດີ. ພໍມາຮອດສອງໂມງຕອນບ່າຍ ລາວກໍ່ເອີ່ຍຊົມວ່າ ລາວດີໃຈທີ່ເຫັນຂ້ອຍກ່າຍໄດ້ຢ່າງຫຼວງຫຼາຍ ແລະ ວ່ອງໄວ. ລາວເວົ້າວ່າແລ້ວພົບກັນໃໝ່, ລາວຍ່າງມາສົ່ງຂ້ອຍຢູ່ນອກ ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ປິດປະຕູຫ້ອງການ.

matter all day, and by evening I felt sad again; for I had decided that this must be some trick, although I could not solve the mystery of why anyone would spend so much time and work to play such a trick. Yet I could not believe that anyone would pay so much money for me to do something so simple as copying out the Encyclopedia Britannica. Vin Singer did what he could to make me feel better, but by the time I went to bed I was still unhappy.

"However, in the morning I decided to go and see what happened. So I bought a pen, and some paper, and I started off for Pope's Court.

"Well, to my surprise, everything was right. The table was sitting there, ready for me, and Mr. Duncan Ross was there to see that I got to work. He started me off with the letter A, and then he left me; but he would drop in from time to time to see that all was right with me. At two o'clock he said he was happy to see how much I had written. He said good-bye, walked me out, and locked the door of the office after me.

"This went on day after day,

"ເຫດການເປັນໄປດ້ວຍດີແບບນີ້ທຸກໆວັນເລີຍ ທ່ານໂຮມສ ແລະ ພໍມາເຖິງວັນເສົາ ທ່ານຜູ້ອຳນວຍການກໍ່ເຂົ້າມາ ແລະ ຈ່າຍເງິນໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍສີ່ປອນສຳລັບການເຮັດວຽກໃນໜຶ່ງອາທິດ. ອາທິດຖັດມາກໍ່ເປັນແບບນັ້ນ ແລະ ອາທິດຕໍ່ຈາກນັ້ນມາກໍ່ຍັງເປັນຢູ່ແບບເດີມ. ທຸກໆຕອນເຊົ້າ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄປເຖິງສຳນັກງານເວລາສິບໂມງ ແລະ ເລີກເວລາບ່າຍສອງໂມງ. ຫຼັງຈາກອາທິດທຳອິດ ທ່ານ ດັນແຄນ ໂຣສ ກໍ່ເຂົ້າມາເບິ່ງຂ້ອຍພຽງແຕ່ໜຶ່ງຄັ້ງຕໍ່ວັນ, ຈາກນັ້ນບາງມື້ລາວກໍ່ບໍ່ເຂົ້າມາເລີຍ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ອອກຈາກຫ້ອງນັ້ນໄປໃສໃນຊ່ວງນັ້ນ ເພາະຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າລາວຈະເຂົ້າມາຕອນໃດ, ວຽກກໍ່ເປັນວຽກທີ່ດີ ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງບໍ່ຢາກຈະສ່ຽງອອກໄປນອກ ເພາະຢ້ານຈະເສຍງານໄປ.

"ເປັນແບບນີ້ຜ່ານໄປຈົນເຖິງແປດອາທິດ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຈົດກ່າຍຕັ້ງແຕ່ຄຳວ່າ: Aardvarks ໄປຈົນຮອດ America, Apples ແລະ Armor. ຂ້ອຍຫວັງວ່າຄືງຈະພໍແລ້ວ ແລະ ຈະໄດ້ເລີ່ມຕົ້ນຈົດກ່າຍອັກສອນ B. ແຫຼະແລ້ວ ທຸກຢ່າງກໍ່ຕ້ອງຈົບລົງຢ່າງກະທັນຫັນ."

"ຈົບລົງຫວ່ະ?"

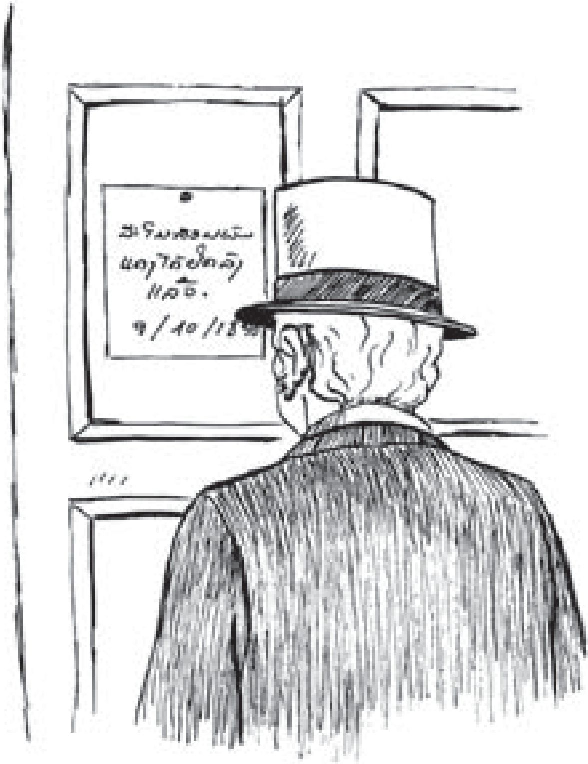
"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ ທ່ານ, ມັນຫາກໍ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້ເອງ. ຂ້ອຍໄປເຮັດວຽກຕາມປົກກະຕິໃນເວລາສິບໂມງ ແຕ່ເຫັນປະຕູປິດຢູ່ ແລະ ໃສ່ກະແຈໄວ້, ມີເຈ້ຍເປັນຮູບສີ່ລ່ຽມຈະຕຸລັດແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງຕິດຢູ່ເທິງປະຕູ. ນີ້ເດ, ທ່ານອ່ານເບິ່ງເອົາເອງໂລດ." ລາວຈັບເອົາເຈ້ຍສີຂາວໜາໆແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງອອກມາ,

Mr. Holmes, and on Saturday the director came in and gave me four gold coins for my week's work. It was the same the next week, and the same the week after that. Every morning I was there at ten, and every afternoon I left at two. After the first week, Mr. Duncan Ross started coming in only once each morning, and then, some days, he did not come in at all. Still, of course, I never left the room for a moment, for I was not sure when he might come, and the job was such a good one, that I would not risk losing it.

"Eight weeks passed like this. I had written about Aardvarks and America and Apples and Armor, and hoped with enough work that I might get to start the B's before long. And then suddenly the whole business came to an end."

"To an end?"

"Yes, sir. Just this morning. I went to my work as usual at ten o'clock, but the door was shut and locked, with a little square of paper in the middle of the door. Here it is, and you can read it for yourself." He held up a piece of heavy white paper. It read: 'THE RED-



ໃນເຈ້ຍນັ້ນຂຽນວ່າ: 'ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງໄດ້ປິດລົງແລ້ວ 9/10/1890.'

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຈ້ອງເບິ່ງເຈ້ຍນັ້ນ ແລະ ເບິ່ງສີໜ້າອັນເສົ້າຢູ່ຂ້າງໆ ແຕ່ຊ່ວຍຫຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ ແຕ່ກໍ່ຮູ້ເຖິງດ້ານໜຶ່ງອັນໜ້າຕະລົກຂອງເຫດການນັ້ນ. ພວກເຮົາທັງສອງອົດຢາກຫົວບໍ່ໄດ້ ຈຶ່ງຫົວອອກມາຢ່າງແຮງ.

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຫັນວ່າມັນຈະເປັນເລື່ອງໜ້າຢາກຫົວແຕ່ຢ່າງໃດເລີຍ," ແຂກຂອງເຮົາເວົ້າຂຶ້ນແບບໂມໂຫ, ໃບໜ້າສີຊົມພູຂອງລາວແດງກ່ຳຂຶ້ນໄປເຖິງຮາກຜົມສີແດງຄືແປວໄຟ. "ຖ້າພວກເຈົ້າບໍ່ສາມາດເຮັດຫຍັງທີ່ດີກວ່າ

HEADED CLUB HAS STOPPED. October 9, 1890.'

Sherlock Holmes and I looked at the paper and the unhappy face behind it, until we could not help but see the funny side of the whole business. We both started laughing, very hard.

"I cannot see that there is anything very funny," cried our visitor. His pink face got even pinker, right up to the base of his flaming hair. "If you can do nothing better than

ການຫົວຂວັນຂ້ອຍ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະໄປບ່ອນອື່ນ.”

“ບໍ່ດອກ, ບໍ່ດອກ,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າຂຶ້ນພ້ອມທັງຈັບບ່າລາວໃຫ້ນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງບ່ອນທີ່ລາວຢືນຂຶ້ນ. “ຂ້ອຍຈະບໍ່ປ່ອຍວາງເລື່ອງລາວຂອງເຈົ້າໃຫ້ລຸດໂລກໄປໄດ້, ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ແປກທີ່ສຸດ ແຕ່ມັນມີບາງຢ່າງທີ່ເປັນຕາຢາກຫົວເທົ່ານັ້ນ. ກະລຸນາບອກຂ້ອຍມາເບິ່ງວ່າ ເຈົ້າເຮັດແນວໃດ ຫຼັງຈາກເຈົ້າໄດ້ເຫັນເຈ້ຍແຜ່ນນີ້ຕິດຢູ່ເທິງປະຕູ?”

“ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກປະຫຼາດໃຈເລີຍ ທ່ານ, ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າຈະເຮັດແນວໃດດີ ຂ້ອຍເລີຍຍ່າງໄປຖາມຄົນຢູ່ຕາມສຳນັກງານໃກ້ໆ ແຕ່ກໍ່ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າບໍ່ມີຜູ້ໃດຮູ້ຫຍັງກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງນີ້. ໃນທີ່ສຸດຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄປຖາມເຈົ້າຂອງອາຄານ ເຊິ່ງອາໄສຢູ່ຊັ້ນທີ່ໜຶ່ງ ເພື່ອວ່າລາວອາດຈະບອກໄດ້ ວ່າສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງເປັນມາຄືແນວໃດກັນແທ້. ລາວກໍ່ຕອບຂ້ອຍວ່າ ບໍ່ເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນກ່ຽວກັບສະມາຄົມດັ່ງກ່າວເລີຍ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຍັງຖາມຕໍ່ໄປວ່າ ແມ່ນໃຜທີ່ຊື່ ທ່ານດັນແຄນ ໂຣສ, ລາວກໍ່ຕອບວ່າ ນີ້ເປັນຊື່ໃໝ່ສຳລັບລາວ.

“‘ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ຢູ່ຫ້ອງເບີ 4 ຫັ້ນນາ,’ ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

“‘ແມ່ນຫຍັງ, ຜູ້ຊາຍຜົມແດງຫັ້ນຫວ໋ະ?’

“‘ແມ່ນແລ້ວ.’

“‘ໂອ,’ ເຈົ້າຂອງອາຄານເວົ້າ, ‘ຊື່ຂອງລາວແມ່ນ ວິນລຽມ ມໍຣິສ, ລາວໃຊ້ຫ້ອງຂອງຂ້ອຍພຽງແຕ່ສອງ-ສາມເດືອນ ຈົນກວ່າສຳນັກງານຂອງລາວຈະສຳເລັດເທົ່ານັ້ນ, ລາວຍ້າຍອອກໄປແຕ່ວານນີ້ແລ້ວ.’

laugh at me, I can go somewhere else.”

“No, no,” cried Holmes, pushing Wilson back into the chair from which he had started to stand. “I really wouldn’t miss your case for the world. It is most unusual. But there is still something just a little funny about it. Please tell me, what did you do after you found the card on the door?”

I was quite surprised, sir. I did not know what to do. I went to the other offices near mine, but no one in the other offices seemed to know anything about it. Finally, I went to the owner of the building, who lives on the first floor, and I asked if he could tell me what had become of the Red-Headed Club. He said that he had never heard of any such club. Then I asked him who Mr. Duncan Ross was. He answered that the name was new to him.

“‘Well,’ said I, ‘the man in room number 4.’

“‘What, the red-headed man?’

“‘Yes.’

“‘Oh,’ said the owner, ‘his name was William Morris. He was using my room just for a few months, until his new office was ready. He moved out

“‘ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຈະພົບລາວໄດ້ຢູ່ໃສ?’ ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

“‘ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງໄປສຳນັກງານໃໝ່ຂອງລາວ, ລາວບອກທີ່ຢູ່ກັບຂ້ອຍ, ມັນແມ່ນຖະໜົນ ຄິງ ເອັດເວີດ ທີ່ 17.’

“ຂ້ອຍໄປຕາມທີ່ຢູ່ນັ້ນ ທ່ານໂຮມສ ແຕ່ພໍໄປເຫັນແລ້ວມັນເປັນພຽງຮ້ານຂາຍເຄື່ອງນ້ອຍໆ, ບໍ່ມີໃຜທີ່ນັ້ນເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນຊື່ວິນລຽມ ມໍຣິສ ຫຼື ດັນແຄນ ໂຣສ.”

“ແລ້ວຕໍ່ມາເຈົ້າໄດ້ເຮັດຫຍັງແດ່?” ໂຮມສຖາມ.

“ຂ້ອຍກັບບ້ານ ແລະ ເຮັດຕາມທີ່ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂ້ອຍເຄີຍແນະນຳ ແຕ່ລາວກໍ່ບໍ່ສາມາດຊ່ວຍຂ້ອຍໄດ້ແນວໃດ, ລາວມີແຕ່ເວົ້າວ່າ ຖ້າຂ້ອຍລໍຈັກໜ່ອຍ ຂ້ອຍອາດຈະໄດ້ຮັບຈົດໝາຍກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງນີ້ ແຕ່ມັນກໍ່ຍັງບໍ່ເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍສະບາຍໃຈໄດ້ ທ່ານໂຮມສ; ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຢາກຈະສູນເສຍວຽກດີໆ ແລະ ງ່າຍແບບນັ້ນໄປເລີຍ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນຊື່ສຽງຂອງເຈົ້າກ່ຽວກັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຜູ້ຄົນ ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຮີບມາຫາເຈົ້າທີ່ນີ້.”

“ເຈົ້າເຮັດຖືກຕ້ອງທີ່ສຸດແລ້ວ,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. “ຄະດີຂອງເຈົ້າໜ້າສົນໃຈຫຼາຍ ແລະ ກໍ່ແປກອີກດ້ວຍ, ຂ້ອຍຍິນດີທີ່ຈະສືບສວນເລື່ອງນີ້. ເທົ່າທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນເຈົ້າເຫຼົ່າມາ ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າອາດຈະເປັນໄປໄດ້ ທີ່ມັນຈະມີການເຊື່ອມໂຍງໄປເຖິງເລື່ອງອື່ນ ທີ່ໜັກໜ່ວງກວ່ານີ້.”

“ເທົ່ານີ້ກໍ່ໜັກໜ່ວງຢູ່ແລ້ວ,” ທ່ານແຈັກວິລສັນ ເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ. “ລອງຄິດເບິ່ງດູ ຂ້ອຍເສຍໄປຕັ້ງສີ່ປອນຕໍ່ອາທິດ.”

yesterday.’

“‘Where could I find him?’ I asked.

“‘Oh, at his new office. He did tell me the address. Yes, 17 King Edward Street.’

“I went to that address, Mr. Holmes, but when I got there it was a small shop. No one in it had ever heard of either Mr. William Morris or Mr. Duncan Ross.”

“And what did you do then?” asked Holmes.

“I went home, and I did as my assistant had suggested. But he could not help me in any way. He could only say that if I waited, I would probably get a letter about it. But that was not quite good enough, Mr. Holmes. I did not wish to lose such an easy job. I knew your reputation for helping people, so I came right away to you.”

“And you did the right thing,” said Holmes. “Your case is a very interesting and unusual one, and I will be happy to look into it. From what you have told me, I think it is possible that very serious problems might be connected to this case.”

“It is already serious enough!” cried Mr. Jack Wilson. “Why, I have lost four pounds a week.”

ໂຮມສເວົ້າຕໍ່ໄປວ່າ: "ຄວາມຈິງແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຫັນວ່າເຈົ້າມີເຫດຜົນພໍທີ່ໄປເວົ້າ ວ່າ ສະມາຄົມແປກໆນີ້ ປະຕິບັດບໍ່ດີຕໍ່ ເຈົ້າແຕ່ຢ່າງໃດເລີຍ, ມັນກົງກັນຂ້າມກັນ ດ້ວຍຊ້ຳ. ເທົ່າທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໃຈ ເຈົ້າມີເງິນ ອີກຕັ້ງ 30 ປອນ, ນອກນີ້ເຈົ້າຍັງໄດ້ ຮຽນຮູ້ຫຼາຍຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບ Aardvarks, Apples ແລະ ເລື່ອງອື່ນໆອີກທີ່ຂຶ້ນຕົ້ນ ດ້ວຍອັກສອນ A, ເຈົ້າບໍ່ໄດ້ສູນເສຍ ຫຍັງໄປຍ້ອນສະມາຄົມນີ້ເລີຍ."

"ມັນກໍ່ຈິງຢູ່ ທ່ານ, ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຢາກຮູ້ວ່າ ມັນແມ່ນຫຍັງກັນແທ້ ແລະ ພວກມັນ ແມ່ນໃຜ? ຂ້ອຍຢາກຮູ້ວ່າ ເປັນຫຍັງ ພວກເຂົາຈຶ່ງມາຫຼິ້ນເກມແບບນີ້ ແລະ ເປັນຫຍັງຈຶ່ງມາຫຼິ້ນກັບຂ້ອຍຈົນເຖິງຂັ້ນ ລົງທຶນເປັນເງິນເຖິງ 32 ປອນ."

"ພວກເຮົາຈະພະຍາຍາມຄົ້ນຫາຄຳ ຕອບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນໃຫ້ເຈົ້າ ແຕ່ກ່ອນອື່ນໝົດ ທ່ານວິລສັນ, ຂ້ອຍຢາກຖາມເຈົ້າຈັກ ໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ສອງຄຳຖາມກ່ອນ; ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂອງ ເຈົ້າ ຜູ້ເຊິ່ງເອົາໂຄສະນາໃຫ້ເຈົ້າເບິ່ງນັ້ນ ເຮັດວຽກກັບເຈົ້າໄດ້ດົນປານໃດແລ້ວ?"

"ປະມານໜຶ່ງເດືອນແລ້ວ."

"ລາວມາໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ລາວມາສະໝັກຕາມທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ປະ ກາດເອົາໄວ້."

"ລາວເປັນພຽງຄົນດຽວບໍ່ທີ່ມາສະ ໝັກ?"

"ບໍ່, ມີສິບສອງຄົນມາສະໝັກ."

"ແລ້ວເປັນຫຍັງເຈົ້າຈຶ່ງເລືອກລາວ?"

"ເພາະວ່າເບິ່ງລາວເປັນຄົນສະຫຼາດ ແລະ ຮັບຄ່າຕອບແທນໜ້ອຍ."

"Actually," remarked Holmes, "I do not see that you have any good reason to say that you were treated badly by this unusual club. Quite the opposite. You are, as I understand, richer by about 30 pounds. In addition, you have learned a lot about aardvarks and apples and every other subject that begins with the letter A. You have lost nothing because of the club."

"No, sir. But I want to find out about them, and who they are. I want to understand why they played this trick – if it was a trick – on me. It was a pretty expensive trick for them, for it cost 32 gold coins."

"We will try to answer those questions for you. But first, Mr. Wilson, I have one or two questions for you. This assistant, who first showed you the advertisement – how long had he been working for you?"

"About a month then."

"How did he come?"

"He applied in answer to an advertisement."

"Was he the only person who applied?"

"No, twelve people applied."

"Why did you pick him?"

"Because he seemed smart, and would come cheap."

“ຄວາມຈິງແລ້ວ ນີ້ເປັນພຽງເຄິ່ງໜຶ່ງຂອງເງິນເດືອນທົ່ວໆໄປເທົ່ານັ້ນ.”

“ແມ່ນແລ້ວ.”

“ວິນ ຊິງເກີ ເປັນຄົນແນວໃດ?”

“ເປັນຄົນຮ່າງນ້ອຍ, ແຂງແຮງ, ວ່ອງໄວໃນທາງຂອງລາວ, ໃບໜ້າກ້ຽງ ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າອາຍຸຂອງລາວ ຢ່າງນ້ອຍ ອາດຈະເຖິງ 30 ປີແລ້ວ; ມີຈຸດດ່າງສີຂາວເທິງຕາຂອງລາວ.”

ໂຮມສນັ່ງຢຶດຄີງຂຶ້ນຢູ່ກັບຕັ່ງ, ທ່າທາງຂອງລາວຕື່ນເຕັ້ນ, “ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຄິດຢູ່ເຊັ່ນນັ້ນ,” ລາວເວົ້າ. “ເຈົ້າເຄີຍສັງເກດເບິ່ງຫູຂອງລາວມີຮູບ່ອງບໍ່?”

“ມີ ທ່ານ, ລາວເວົ້າວ່າລາວບ່ອງຫູຕອນລາວຍັງເປັນໄວໜຸ່ມ.”

“ຮືມ!” ໂຮມສພຶມພຳຄ່ອຍໆ, ຂ້ອຍສັງເກດເຫັນດີວ່າລາວພວມຄິດຢູ່ຢ່າງໜັກ. “ລາວຍັງຢູ່ນຳເຈົ້າແມ່ນບໍ່?”

“ໂອ, ແມ່ນແລ້ວ ທ່ານ, ຂ້ອຍຫາກໍ່ອອກຈາກຮ້ານມານີ້ເດ.”

“ແລ້ວທຸລະກິດຂອງເຈົ້າດຳເນີນໄປໄດ້ດີບໍ່ ໃນຊ່ວງເວລາເຈົ້າບໍ່ຢູ່?”

“ຂ້ອນຂ້າງດີ ທ່ານ, ບໍ່ເຄີຍມີຫຍັງເຮັດຫຼາຍໃນຕອນເຊົ້າ.”

“ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ດີແລ້ວ ທ່ານວິລສັນ, ຂ້ອຍຍິນດີທີ່ຈະໃຫ້ຄວາມຄິດເຫັນກັບເຈົ້າ ກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງນີ້ພາຍໃນໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ສອງມື້ນີ້. ມື້ນີ້ແມ່ນວັນເສົາ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຫວັງວ່າອີກສອງມື້ຂ້ອຍຄົງຫາຄຳຕອບໃຫ້ເຈົ້າໄດ້ບາງສ່ວນ.”

* * *

“ເອີ ວັດສັນ,” ໂຮມສເອີ່ຍຂຶ້ນຫຼັງຈາກແຂກຂອງເຮົາກັບໄປແລ້ວ, “ໂຕຄິດແນວ ໃດກ່ຽວ

“At half-pay, in fact.”

“Yes.”

“What is he like, this Vin Singer?”

“Small, strong, very quick in his ways, no hair on his face, though he’s at least thirty years old. He has a white spot above his eyes.”

Holmes sat up in his chair and looked very excited. “I thought so,” he said. “Have you ever seen that his ears have holes, for earrings?”

“Yes, sir. He told me that it was done for him when he was a boy.”

“Hmm!” said Holmes. I could see that he was again back in deep thought. “He is still with you?”

“Oh, yes, sir; I have only just left the shop.”

“And has your business been going well while you have been away each day?”

“Quite well, sir. There’s never very much to do in the mornings.”

“That will do, Mr. Wilson. I will be happy to give you an opinion on the subject in a day or two. Today is Saturday, and I hope that in two days I can give you some answers.”

* * *

“Well, Watson,” said Holmes when our visitor had left us, “what do

ກັບເລື່ອງນີ້?"

"ເຮົາຄິດຫຍັງບໍ່ອອກເລີຍ," ຂ້ອຍ ຕອບ, "ສຳລັບເຮົາແລ້ວ ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ ລຶກລັບ ແທ້ໆ."

"ຕາມກົດທົ່ວໆໄປແລ້ວ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ເລື່ອງໃດເປັນເລື່ອງແປກໆໃນຕອນຕົ້ນ ເລື່ອງນັ້ນມັກຈະເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ແກ້ໄຂງ່າຍ, ມັນຄືເລື່ອງທຳມະດາສາມັນຕ່າງຫາກທີ່ ແກ້ໄຂໄດ້ຍາກທີ່ສຸດ ເຊິ່ງຄືກັນກັບຄົນ ໜ້າຕາທຳມະດາມັກຈະຈຳໄດ້ຍາກທີ່ສຸດ ແຕ່ເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງແກ້ໄຂເລື່ອງນີ້ໃຫ້ໄວທີ່ສຸດ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕຄິດຈະເຮັດແນວໃດຕໍ່ໄປ?" ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"ສູບຢາ," ລາວຕອບ, "ການແກ້ບັນຫານີ້ຕ້ອງໃຊ້ຢາເຖິງສາມກອກ, ສະນັ້ນ ຢ່າຟ້າວເວົ້າຫຍັງກັບເຮົາພາຍໃນໜຶ່ງຊົ່ວໂມງ." ລາວນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງອີ້, ເຂົ່າທີ່ຜອມຍາວ ຂອງລາວຕັ້ງຂຶ້ນເກືອບຮອດດັງແຫຼມໆ ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ຫຼັບຕາຢູ່ ແລະ ກອກຢາສີດຳ ກໍ່ຊີ້ອອກຈາກປາກຂອງລາວ ເບິ່ງແລ້ວ ຄ້າຍຄືກັບສົບນົກທີ່ແປກປະຫຼາດ.

ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າລາວພວມຫຼັບຢູ່ ຂ້ອຍ ເລີຍຮູ້ສຶກເຫງົານອນໄປນຳ, ທັນໃດນັ້ນ ລາວກໍ່ລຸກຂຶ້ນປຸບປັບຈາກຕັ່ງ ເໝືອນ ກັບຄົນທີ່ພວມນຶກໄດ້ບາງຢ່າງ. ລາວ ວາງກອກຢາລົງ. "ມີຄອນເສີດທີ່ໂຮງລະຄອນ ເຊັນ ເຈມສ ຕອນທ່ຽງນີ້," ລາວ ເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ, "ເອົາຈັ່ງໃດດີ ວັດສັນ? ໂຕມີ ຄົນເຈັບທີ່ຕ້ອງໄດ້ຮັກສາບໍ່ ພາຍໃນ ສອງ-ສາມຊົ່ວໂມງຂ້າງໜ້ານີ້?"

"ມື້ນີ້ບໍ່ມີຄົນເຈັບຈັກຄົນເລີຍ."

you make of it all?"

"I make nothing of it," I answered. "To me, it is all a mystery."

"As a rule," said Holmes, "the more unusual a problem is at first, the less difficult it is to solve it. It is your ordinary, common crimes that are really the hardest, just as an ordinary face is the most difficult to remember. But I must be quick over this matter."

"What are you going to do, then?" I asked.

"To smoke," he answered. "It will take three pipes to solve this problem, so I ask that you please not speak to me for an hour." He sat back in his chair, with his thin knees up close to his sharp nose. Then he sat there with his eyes closed, and his black pipe sticking out like the bill of some strange bird.

I thought he was sleeping, and I was feeling sleepy myself, when he suddenly jumped out of his chair like a man who has made up his mind. He put his pipe down. "There is a music concert at St. James's Hall this afternoon," he remarked. "What do you think, Watson? Are there any patients you must see during the next few hours?"

"I have no patients today."

“ຄັນຊັ້ນໂຕໃສ່ໝວກ ແລ້ວໄປນຳເຮົາ, ເຮົາຈະໄປໃນເມືອງກ່ອນ ແລ້ວແວະກິນເຂົ້າຕາມທາງ. ໄດ້ຍິນວ່າຈະມີດົນຕີເຢຍລະມັນຢູ່ທີ່ຄອນເສີດ ເຊິ່ງເຮົາສົນໃຈຫຼາຍກວ່າດົນຕີຂອງຝຣັ່ງ. ດົນຕີຂອງເຢຍລະມັນຈະພາໃຫ້ຄິດ ແລະ ຕອນນີ້ເຮົາຕ້ອງການຄິດ. ໄປກັບເຮົາເນາະ!”

ພວກເຮົາເດີນທາງດ້ວຍລົດເມໄປໄກເທົ່າທີ່ຈະໄກໄດ້ ແລ້ວພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຍ່າງ ບໍ່ດົນກໍ່ໄປເຖິງຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ ບ່ອນທີ່ຮ້ານແຂກຂອງພວກເຮົາຕັ້ງຢູ່. ມັນເປັນສະຖານທີ່ນ້ອຍໆ ແລະ ມີຕຶກສອງຊັ້ນເກົ່າໆ ທີ່ກໍ່ດ້ວຍດິນຈີ່ລຽນກັນຢູ່ເປັນສີ່ແຖວ ແລະ ຫັນໜ້າໃສ່ເດີ່ນຫຍ້າແຄບໆ. ຢູ່ມູມໜຶ່ງມີປ້າຍຂຽນວ່າ: “ແຈັກ ວິລສັນ” ເປັນໜັງສືສີຂາວ; ມັນເປັນບ່ອນທີ່ແຂກຜົມແດງຂອງເຮົາເຮັດກິດຈະການຂອງລາວ.

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ຢຸດຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າອາຄານ ລາວຫຼຽວເບິ່ງດ້ານໜຶ່ງຂອງອາຄານຢ່າງ

“Then put on your hat and come with me. I am going through town first, and we can eat on the way. I see that there will be a lot of German music at the concert, which I like better than French music. German music helps you think and I need to think. Come along!”

We traveled on a bus as far as we could, then a short walk took us to Coburg Square, where our morning visitor had his shop. It was a small place, where four lines of old two-floor brick houses looked out over a small field of grass. On the corner, a sign said “JACK WILSON” in white letters. That was where our red-headed visitor ran his business.

Sherlock Holmes stopped in front of the building. He turned his head to one side and looked at it carefully, with his eyes shining brightly. Then he walked slowly up the street, and then down again to the corner, still looking carefully at the houses. He returned to the shopkeeper’s house and hit the sidewalk with his stick two or three times. Finally, he went up to the door and rang the bell. It was opened by a bright-looking, smooth-faced young man, who asked him to step in. “Thank you,” said

ພິຖີພິຖັນດ້ວຍສາຍຕາທີ່ເປີດກວ້າງ, ລາວຄ່ອຍໆຍ່າງຂຶ້ນໄປຕາມທາງ ແລ້ວກໍ່ຍ່າງກັບມາທີ່ມູມເດີມອີກຄັ້ງ ແຕ່ສາຍຕາຍັງຈ້ອງມອງເບິ່ງອາຄານເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນຢູ່. ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ຫັນໜ້າໄປຫາເຮືອນຂອງເຈົ້າຂອງຮ້ານ ແລະ ໃຊ້ໄມ້ຄ້ອນເທົ້າຕ່ອຍລົງພື້ນທາງຍ່າງສອງ-ສາມເທື່ອ. ໃນທີ່ສຸດລາວກໍ່ຍ່າງເຂົ້າໄປຫາປະຕູ ແລ້ວກົດກະດິ່ງ. ປະຕູຖືກເປີດອອກດ້ວຍຊາຍໜຸ່ມແວວຕາສົດໃສ, ໃບໜ້າກ້ຽງງາມ ແລະ ບອກລາວໃຫ້ເຂົ້າໄປໃນ. "ຂອບໃຈ," ໂຮມສກ່າວ, "ຂ້ອຍຢາກຮູ້ທາງແຕ່ບ່ອນນີ້ໄປຫາສວນ."

"ລ້ຽວຂວາຮ່ອມທີ່ສາມ ແລະ ຮອດຮ່ອມທີ່ສີ່ໃຫ້ລ້ຽວຊ້າຍ," ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຄົນນັ້ນຕອບ ພ້ອມທັງປິດປະຕູ.

"ລາວເປັນຄົນສະຫຼາດແທ້ໆ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າຂະນະພວມຍ່າງອອກຈາກລາວ, "ເຮົາເຊື່ອວ່າລາວເປັນຄົນສະຫຼາດທີ່ສຸດເປັນອັນດັບສີ່ໃນລອນດອນ ແລະ ເລື່ອງຄວາມກ້າຫານ ເຮົາເຊື່ອວ່າລາວອາດຈະຕິດອັນດັບສາມ, ເຮົາຮູ້ບາງຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບລາວແລ້ວ."

"ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າ," ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ, "ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຂອງທ່ານວິລສັນ ຄົນນີ້ເປັນບຸກຄົນສຳຄັນໃນເລື່ອງລຶກລັບ ຂອງສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງໄປເສຍແລ້ວ. ເຮົາແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ທີ່ໂຕຖາມທາງ ແມ່ນໂຕພຽງຢາກເບິ່ງໜ້າຂອງລາວເທົ່ານັ້ນ."

"ບໍ່ແມ່ນດອກ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນ ແມ່ນຫຍັງ?"

Holmes, "I only wished to ask you how to go from here to the Park."

"Take the third right, then the fourth left," answered the assistant, closing the door.

"He's a smart man," said Holmes as we walked away. "He is, I believe, the fourth smartest man in London. And as for being bold, I believe he may be number three. I already know something about him."

"It seems," I said, "that Mr. Wilson's assistant is an important figure in this mystery of the Red-Headed Club. I am sure that you asked your way just so that you could see him."

"Not him."

"What then?"

"ເບິ່ງຂາໂສ້ງ ບ່ອນຫົວເຂົ່າຕ່າງຫາກ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕເຫັນຫຍັງແດ່?"

"ເຫັນສິ່ງທີ່ເຮົາຢາກຈະເຫັນ."

"ແລ້ວເປັນຫຍັງໂຕຈິ່ງເອົາຄ້ອນເທົ້າຕ່ອຍລົງທາງຍ່າງ?"

"ອ້າຍເພື່ອນໝໍເອີຍ, ນີ້ມັນເປັນເວລາທີ່ເຮົາຕ້ອງສັງເກດເບິ່ງສິ່ງຕ່າງໆ ບໍ່ແມ່ນເວລາເວົ້າ, ພວກເຮົາພວມຢູ່ໃນເຂດຂອງສັດຕູ, ພວກເຮົາຮູ້ບາງຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ, ຕອນນີ້ເຮົາຕ້ອງເບິ່ງເບື້ອງຫຼັງຂອງມັນ."

"ເມື່ອພວກເຮົາຍ່າງອ້ອມໄປ-ມາຢູ່ອີກມູມໜຶ່ງ ເຊິ່ງຫ່າງອອກຈາກຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ ທີ່ງຽບສະຫງົບ, ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ມາພົບທີນທາງທີ່ເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍລົດລາງ; ມັນເປັນໜຶ່ງໃນບັນດາທີນທາງຫຼວງ ຈາກຕົວເມືອງໄປເຖິງທາງທິດເໜືອ ແລະ ທິດຕາເວັນຕົກ. ທີນທາງມີລົດແລ່ນຢູ່ຢ່າງຫຼວງຫຼາຍ ແລະ ທາງຍ່າງກໍ່ມີຄົນຍ່າງເຕັມໄປໝົດ ຈົນບໍ່ຢາກຈະເຊື່ອເລີຍວ່າ ທາງດ້ານຫຼັງຂອງຮ້ານຄ້າ ແລະຍ່ານເສດຖະກິດອັນກວ້າງໃຫຍ່ ແລະ ສຳຄັນເຫຼົ່ານີ້ ຈະເປັນຕຶກອາຄານ ແລະ ຫ້າງຮ້ານທີ່ເກົ່າແກ່ໃນຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ.

"ເຮົາລອງສັງເກດເບິ່ງກ່ອນດູ," ໂຮມສຢືນຢູ່ແຈໜຶ່ງແລ້ວເບິ່ງໄປທາງໜ້າ, "ເຮົາຢາກຈະຈົດຈຳລຳດັບຂອງອາຄານແຖວໆນີ້, ເຮົາສະໜຸກກັບການຮຽນຮູ້ກ່ຽວກັບລອນດອນ ໃຫ້ຫຼາຍເທົ່າທີ່ຈະຫຼາຍໄດ້. ມີຮ້ານຂາຍປາ, ຮ້ານຂາຍໜັງສືພິມນ້ອຍໆ, ມີສາຂາທະນາຄານ ຊິຕີແບ້ງຄ໌, ຕະຫຼາດຂາຍອາຫານນ້ອຍໆ ແລະ ຮ້ານຂາຍໝວກ; ນັ້ນຄືທັງໝົດທີ່ມີຢູ່ຈຸດນີ້. ດັອກເຕີເອີຍ, ພວກເຮົາ

"The knees of his pants."

"And what did you see?"

"What I expected to see."

"Why did you hit the sidewalk with your stick?"

"My dear doctor, this is a time for looking at things, not for talk. We are in an enemy's country. We know something about Coburg Square. Now, let us look behind it."

As we walked around the corner from quiet Coburg Square, we found ourselves on a much busier road. It was one of the main streets from the city to the north and west. The road was busy, while the sidewalks were full of people on foot. It was hard to accept that just behind these fine shops and large, important businesses were the old homes and shops of Coburg Square.

"Let me see," said Holmes, standing at the corner and looking forward, "I would like to remember the order of the houses here. I enjoy learning as much as I can about London. There is the fish shop, the little newspaper shop, then the City Bank, a small food market, and the hat shop. That's

ໄດ້ເຮັດໜ້າທີ່ສຳເລັດແລ້ວ, ຕອນນີ້ມັນເປັນເວລາຫຼິ້ນ. ເຮົາຈະຊອກຫາຫຍັງກິນກ່ອນ ແລ້ວຈຶ່ງໄປຄອນເສີດ, ບ່ອນເຊິ່ງພາຍໃນເວລາສອງ-ສາມຊົ່ວໂມງ ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຈະຮູ້ສຶກຜ່ອນຄາຍກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງລຶກລັບ ຂອງສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງໄດ້."

ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍມັກດົນຕີຫຼາຍ, ພວກເຮົາພາກັນນັ່ງເບິ່ງຄອນເສີດຈົນໝົດສວາຍ; ຂ້ອຍເຫັນລາວເພີດເພີນຢູ່ກັບສຽງດົນຕີອັນມ່ວນຊື່ນອອນຊອນຢ່າງມີຄວາມສຸກ, ລາວຍົກມືອັນຜອມຍາວຂອງລາວແກວ່ງໄປ-ມາຕາມສຽງເພງ ດ້ວຍໃບໜ້າທີ່ຍິ້ມແຍ້ມແຈ່ມໃສ ແລະ ດວງຕາທີ່ເພີ້ຝັນ ເບິ່ງແລ້ວບໍ່ຄືກັບເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຫັນເມື່ອເວລາລາວຄົ້ນຫາຄຳຕອບຂອງເລື່ອງປິດສະໜາ.

ຂ້ອຍຄິດຢູ່ສະເໝີວ່າ ຄວາມສະຫຼາດຫຼັກແຫຼມ ແລະ ຄວາມເອົາໃຈໃສ່ຕໍ່ກັບລາຍລະອຽດທຸກຢ່າງຂອງເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ແມ່ນເປັນການປ່ຽນແປງອັນຈຳເປັນ ຈາກອາລົມທີ່ງຽບສະຫງົບ ເຊິ່ງບາງຄັ້ງລາວປະສົບຄວາມຫຼົ້ມເຫຼວ. ລາວສາມາດປ່ຽນຈາກການຢູ່ເສີຍໆ ມາເປັນຄົນທີ່ມີພາລະກຳລັງໄດ້ຢ່າງວ່ອງໄວ. ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີວ່າລາວບໍ່ເຄີຍຫ້າວຫັນເໝືອນກັບຕອນທີ່ລາວອ່ານໜັງສື ແລະ ນອນຫຼັບຢູ່ກັບຕັ່ງອີ້ຈົນໝົດມື້. ຊ່ວງເວລານັ້ນລາວອາດຈະຖືກຂອບງຳໄວ້ດ້ວຍແຮງບັນດານຂອງການໄລ່ລ່າ ແລະ ຄວາມສະຫຼາດຫຼັກແຫຼມອັນເໜືອຊັ້ນຂອງລາວອາດຈະສ່ອງປະກາຍໄປທົ່ວຈົນຄົນອື່ນຜູ້

all there is on this part of the street. And now, Doctor, we've done our work, so it's time to play. We'll have something to eat, and then we're off to the concert, where for a few hours we can forget the mystery of the Red-Headed Club."

My friend always loved music. All afternoon, we sat together at the concert. I could see he was lost in the most perfect happiness, gently waving his long, thin fingers in time to the music. His smiling face and his dreamy eyes were completely unlike those of the Sherlock Holmes I saw when he was looking for the answer to a mystery.

I often thought that my friend's sharp, intelligent mind, and his attention to detail, were a necessary change from the quiet mood into which he sometimes fell. He could suddenly change from doing nothing, to showing great energy. I knew he was never as strong as when, for days on end, he had been reading and sleeping in his chair. At those times, he could be filled with a love of the chase, and his great intelligence would shine through, until people who did not understand the way he thought would decide he must not

ທີ່ບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈໃນຄວາມຄິດຂອງລາວຄິດວ່າ ລາວບໍ່ແມ່ນມະນຸດ. ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍເຫັນລາວ ພວມເພີດເພີນກັບສຽງເພງຢູ່ທີ່ໂຮງລະຄອນ ເຊັນເຈມສ ໃນຕອນທ່ຽງວັນນັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກວ່າຈະມີບາງສິ່ງບໍ່ດີເກີດຂຶ້ນກັບຄົນທີ່ລາວຕຽມພ້ອມຈະໄລ່ລ່າໃນບໍ່ຊ້ານີ້. "ດ໊ອກເຕີ, ເຮົາສົງໄສວ່າໂຕຕ້ອງຢາກກັບບ້ານ," ລາວຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສັງເກດ ຂະນະພວກເຮົາຍ່າງອອກມາຈາກຄອນເສີດ.

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ເຮົາຄວນຈະກັບບ້ານໄດ໋."

"ແຕ່ວ່າເຮົາຍັງມີວຽກທີ່ຕ້ອງເຮັດ ແລະກໍ່ໃຊ້ເວລາຫຼາຍຊົ່ວໂມງອີກດ້ວຍ, ວຽກທີ່ຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ ນີ້ເປັນວຽກໃຫຍ່ໄດ໋."

"ເປັນຫຍັງຕ້ອງເປັນວຽກໃຫຍ່ຫວ່ະ?"

"ຄາດຕະກຳເລື່ອງໃຫຍ່ກຳລັງຈະເກີດຂຶ້ນ, ເຮົາເຊື່ອວ່າພວກເຮົາຍັງມີເວລາພໍທີ່ຈະຢຸດມັນໄວ້ ແຕ່ວ່າມື້ນີ້ແມ່ນວັນເສົາເລື່ອງເລີຍຫຍຸ້ງຍາກຂຶ້ນ, ຄືນນີ້ເຮົາຕ້ອງການຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຈາກໂຕ."

"ຕອນຈັກໂມງ?"

"ສິບໂມງໜ້າຈະທັນການ."

"ເຮົາຈະໄປບ້ານຂອງໂຕທີ່ຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ຕອນສິບໂມງ."

"ດີຫຼາຍ, ເຮີຍ ດ໊ອກເຕີ, ອາດຈະມີອັນຕະລາຍເລັກນ້ອຍ ສະນັ້ນໃຫ້ໂຕເອົາປືນໃສ່ຖົງເສື້ອໄປນຳເດີ." ລາວໂບກມືລາ ແລ້ວຫັນໜ້າໄປ, ບໍ່ດົນກໍ່ຫາຍແວບໄປໃນກຸ່ມຄົນ.

* * *

ຂ້ອຍກ້າເວົ້າໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ສະຫຼາດບໍ່ໜ້ອຍໄປກວ່າເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກກະວົນກະວາຍຢູ່ເລື້ອຍເວລາຢູ່ກັບ

be human. When I saw him that afternoon, listening to the music at St. James's Hall, I felt there would be bad times coming for those he had prepared to catch. "You want to go home, no doubt, Doctor," he remarked as we left the concert.

"Yes, I believe we should."

"And I have some business to do which will take several hours. This business at Coburg Square is serious."

"Why is it serious?"

"A big crime is about to take place. I believe that we will be in time to stop it. But today being Saturday makes it harder. I will want your help tonight."

"At what time?"

"Ten o'clock will be early enough."

"I will be at your home on Baker Street at ten."

"Very well. And, Doctor, there may be some little danger, so please put your army handgun in your pocket." He waved his hand, turned around, and soon disappeared into the crowd.

* * *

I do not think that I am any less intelligent than my friends, but I often felt stupid when I was working

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນສິ່ງທີ່ລາວໄດ້ຍິນ ແລະ ເຫັນສິ່ງທີ່ລາວເຫັນ ແຕ່ວ່າຈາກຄຳເວົ້າຂອງລາວ ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີວ່າລາວເຂົ້າໃຈບໍ່ພຽງແຕ່ໃນສິ່ງທີ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນແລ້ວແຕ່ລາວຍັງເຂົ້າໃຈໃນສິ່ງທີ່ກຳລັງຈະເກີດຂຶ້ນອີກດ້ວຍ. ສ່ວນຂ້ອຍເອງ ທັງໝົດຍັງເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ແປກປະຫຼາດ ແລະ ປິດສະໜາຢູ່.

ຂະນະທີ່ຂ້ອຍຂີ່ລົດກັບບ້ານ ຂ້ອຍຍັງຄິດກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງທັງໝົດນັ້ນຢູ່, ຕັ້ງແຕ່ເລື່ອງຂອງນັກຂຽນຜົມແດງທີ່ຈົດກ່າຍ 'ສາລານຸກົມ ບຣິທານນິກາ' ໄປຮອດເລື່ອງການໄປຢ້ຽມຢາມຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ ແລະ ຄຳເວົ້າທີ່ໂຮມສ ໄດ້ເວົ້າກັບຂ້ອຍກ່ອນທີ່ລາວຈະແຍກທາງກັບຂ້ອຍ. ຄືນນີ້ຈະມີເລື່ອງປະຈົນໄພຫຍັງກັນແທ້ ແລະເປັນຫຍັງຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງໄດ້ເອົາປືນໄປນຳ? ພວກເຮົາຈະໄປໃສ ແລະ ຈະເຮັດຫຍັງ?

ໂຮມສໄດ້ບອກກັບຂ້ອຍວ່າ ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍໃບໜ້າກ້ຽງງາມໃນຮ້ານຄົນນັ້ນ ສຳຄັນເກີນກວ່າທີ່ລາວເປັນຢູ່, ເປັນຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ອາດຈະມີແຜນຊັບຊ້ອນແຝງຢູ່ໃນຕົວ. ຂ້ອຍພະຍາຍາມທຳຄວາມເຂົ້າໃຈກັບເລື່ອງທັງໝົດ ແຕ່ກໍ່ຍັງບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈ, ຂ້ອຍເລີຍຢຸດທີ່ຈະຄິດພະຍາຍາມແກ້ໄຂເລື່ອງລຶກລັບ ນີ້ດ້ວຍຕົວເອງ ເພາະຮູ້ວ່າຄືນນີ້ອາດຈະຊ່ວຍອະທິບາຍທຸກຢ່າງໄດ້.

ຂ້ອຍອອກຈາກບ້ານໄປເວລາເກົ້າໂມງກັບສິບຫ້ານາທີ, ຂ້ອຍຜ່ານໄປທາງສວນສາທາລະນະ ແລ້ວກໍ່ໄປເຖິງຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ. ມີລົດມ້າສອງຄັນຈອດຢູ່ຂ້າງປະຕູ ແລະ ພໍຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໄປໃນບ້ານ ກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນ

with Sherlock Holmes. I had heard what he had heard; I had seen what he had seen. And yet from his words, I knew that he understood not only what had happened, but also what was about to happen, while to me the whole thing was still a strange mystery.

As I drove home I thought over all of it, from the unusual story of the red-headed writer, copying the Encyclopedia Britannica, down to our visit to Coburg Square, and the words Holmes had said before he left me. What was this night-time adventure, and why should I bring a handgun? Where were we going, and what would we do?

Holmes had suggested that this smooth-faced shop assistant was more important than he looked – a man who might lay complicated plans. I tried to understand it all, but I could not. I stopped trying to solve the mystery by myself, knowing that the night would bring an explanation.

It was a quarter-past nine when I started from my home. I went across the park, then on over to Baker Street. Two cabs were standing at the door, and as I entered the hall

ສຽງມາແຕ່ທາງເທິງ, ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງ ກໍ່ເຫັນ ໂຮມສພວມລົມຢູ່ກັບຜູ້ຊາຍສອງຄົນ. ຜູ້ໜຶ່ງເປັນຄົນທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍເຫັນມາກ່ອນແລ້ວ, ລາວເປັນຕຳຫຼວດຊື່ວ່າ ປີເຕີ ໂຈນສ; ອີກຜູ້ໜຶ່ງເປັນຄົນຈ່ອຍ, ສູງ ແລະ ໜ້າຕາບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຍິ້ມແຍ້ມ, ລາວໃສ່ໝວກເຫຼື້ອມ ແລະ ເສື້ອໃຫຍ່ລາຄາແພງ.

"ອ໊າ ວັດສັນ! ພວກເຮົາຢູ່ຄົບໜ້າຄົບຕາກັນແລ້ວ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຈັບເອົາໄມ້ຄ້ອນເທົ້າ, "ວັດສັນ, ເຮົາຄິດວ່າໂຕຮູ້ທ່ານໂຈນສ ແລ້ວແມ່ນບໍ່? ນີ້ແມ່ນ ທ່ານມາຕິນ ຜູ້ທີ່ຈະໄປປະຈົນໄພຮ່ວມກັບ

I heard voices above me. When I entered his room, I found Holmes talking with two men. One of the men I had seen before; he was Peter Jones, a policeman. The other was a long, thin, sad-faced man, with a shiny hat and an expensive coat.

"Ah, Watson! Our group is complete," said Holmes, picking up a heavy walking stick. "Watson, I think you know Mr. Jones already. This other man is Mr. Martin, who will

ພວກເຮົາຄືນນີ້.”

“ຂ້ອຍຢ້ານວ່າການປະຈົນໄພຂອງ ພວກເຮົາ ອາດຈະຈົບລົງບໍ່ນອກເໜືອ ຈາກຄວາມຫວ້າງເປົ່າ,” ທ່ານມາຕິນ ເວົ້າດ້ວຍສີໜ້າບໍ່ສະບາຍໃຈ.

ທ່ານຕຳຫຼວດເວົ້າຕອບດ້ວຍຮອຍ ຍິ້ມວ່າ: “ທ່ານໂຮມສ ເປັນຄົນມີຊື່ສຽງ ໄດ໋ ທ່ານ, ລາວມີວິທີການໃນທາງຂອງ ລາວທີ່ຂ້ອຍຍອມຮັບວ່າ ມັນມັກເປັນວິທີການທີ່ແປກໆ ແຕ່ລາວເປັນຄົນສະຫຼາດດີ. ຄວາມຈິງແລ້ວມີຢູ່ໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ສອງ ຄັ້ງທີ່ລາວມີປະໂຫຍດຕໍ່ກັບຕຳຫຼວດ.”

“ເອີ ທ່ານໂຈນສ, ຖ້າເປັນຄືເຈົ້າເວົ້າ ແທ້ມັນກໍ່ດີແລ້ວ,” ທ່ານມາຕິນເວົ້າ, “ແຕ່ ຈັ່ງໃດຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຍັງຕ້ອງອິດຫຼິ້ນໄພ້, ມັນ ເປັນຄືນວັນເສົາຄືນທຳອິດພາຍໃນ 27 ປີ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ໄດ້ຫຼິ້ນໄພ້.”

“ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າ,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, “ຄືນນີ້ ເຈົ້າຈະໄດ້ຫຼິ້ນເກມ ທີ່ມີເງິນພະນັນສູງ ກວ່າເກມທີ່ເຈົ້າເຄີຍຫຼິ້ນມາຊ້ຳອີກ ແລະ ແຕ່ລະຄົນກໍ່ຈະຕື່ນເຕັ້ນກັບເກມນີ້ອີກ ດ້ວຍ. ສຳລັບເຈົ້າແລ້ວ ທ່ານມາຕິນ ເງິນ ເດີມພັນມີສູງເຖິງ 30 000 ປອນ. ສ່ວນ ທ່ານໂຈນສເອງ ເຮົາຈະໄດ້ຮູ້ວ່າເຈົ້າຈະ ໄດ້ຈັບຄົນທີ່ເຈົ້າຕາມໄລ່ລ່າມາເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍປີຫຼືບໍ່.”

“ຈອນ ເຄລ ເປັນອາດສະຍາກອນ ແລະ ເປັນໂຈນ,” ທ່ານຕຳຫຼວດເວົ້າ, “ລາວເປັນຄົນໜຸ່ມ ທ່ານມາຕິນ, ແຕ່ວ່າ ລາວມີຊື່ສຽງເປັນໜຶ່ງໃນບັນດາອາດສະຍາກອນ ທີ່ໂຫດຮ້າຍທີ່ສຸດໃນເມືອງນີ້, ຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງໃຊ້ກັບມືເພື່ອຈັບລາວຫຼາຍ

also join us in tonight's adventure."

"I am afraid that our adventure may end with nothing more than a lost evening," said Mr. Martin, with an unhappy look on his face.

"Mr. Holmes has a good reputation, sir," said the policeman with a smile. "He has his own little ways of doing things, which I agree are often strange. But he is a smart man. In fact, once or twice, he has been quite helpful to the police."

"Oh, if you say so, Mr. Jones, it is all right," said Mr. Martin. "Still, I miss my card game. It is the first Saturday night in 27 years that I have not played cards."

"I think you will find," said Sherlock Holmes, "that tonight you will play a game for more money than you have ever done yet, and that for each of you the play will be more exciting. For you, Mr. Martin, the money at risk will be some 30,000 pounds. For you, Jones, we will see if you can catch a man you have been chasing for several years."

"John Clay, the killer and robber," said the policeman. "He's a young man, Mr. Martin, but he has a reputation as one of the city's most dangerous criminals. I would rather have my

ກວ່າອາດສະຍາກອນຄົນອື່ນໆໃນລອນດອນ. ຊາຍໜຸ່ມ ຈອນ ເຄລ ຄົນນີ້ເປັນທີ່ໜ້າສັງເກດແທ້ໆ, ພໍ່ເຖົ້າຂອງລາວເປັນຄົນເຊື້ອເຈົ້າ, ສ່ວນຕົວລາວເອງເຄີຍຮຽນຢູ່ມະຫາວິທະຍາໄລທີ່ດັງທີ່ສຸດໃນອັງກິດ; ສະໝອງລາວໄວເທົ່າໆກັບມືຂອງລາວ; ເຖິງແມ່ນເຮົາຈະຮູ້ວ່າລາວເປັນຄົນກະທຳ ເຮົາກໍ່ບໍ່ເຄີຍຮູ້ເລີຍວ່າຈະພົບຮ່ອງຮອຍຂອງລາວຢູ່ໃສ. ລາວຈະປຸ້ນທະນາຄານໃນ ສກັອດແລນ ແລະ ຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນໜຶ່ງ ອາທິດ ລາວກໍ່ຈະໃຊ້ເງິນຈຳນວນນັ້ນມາສ້າງໂຮງຮຽນໃນລອນດອນ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ສືບຫາຮ່ອງຮອຍຂອງລາວມາເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍປີແລ້ວ ແຕ່ກໍ່ຍັງບໍ່ມີວີ່ແວວວ່າຈະພົບລາວເລີຍ.”

“ຂ້ອຍຫວັງວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະຊ່ວຍໃຫ້ເຈົ້າໄດ້ພົບກັບລາວໃນຄືນນີ້,” ໂຮມສກ່າວ, “ຂ້ອຍເອງກໍ່ເຄີຍປະເຊີນໜ້າກັບ ຈອນ ເຄລ ມາແລ້ວເຖິງສອງ-ສາມຄັ້ງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເຊື່ອວ່າລາວໂຫດຮ້າຍຄືກັບທີ່ເຈົ້າເວົ້າມານັ້ນແຫຼະ. ເອົາລະ, ຕອນນີ້ສິບໂມງປາຍ, ໄດ້ເວລາເຮົາເລີ່ມຕົ້ນແລ້ວ. ຖ້າພວກເຈົ້າໄປກັບລົດຄັນທີໜຶ່ງ ຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ວັດສັນ ຈະໄປນຳຄັນຫຼັງ.”

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ບໍ່ຄ່ອຍເວົ້າຫຍັງຫຼາຍຂະນະເດີນທາງຍາວໄກ ແຕ່ລາວກັບນັ່ງອີງເທົ້າຢູ່ເບາະນັ່ງ ແລະ ເບິ່ງລາວເໝືອນກັບວ່າພວມຄິດເຖິງສຽງເພງ ທີ່ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ຟັງມາໃນຕອນທ່ຽງນັ້ນ. ພວກເຮົາຂີ່ລົດຜ່ານຖະໜົນຄັບແຄບໄປຫຼາຍສາຍ.

ໃນທີ່ສຸດເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເວົ້າຂຶ້ນວ່າ: “ພວກເຮົາໃກ້ຈະເຖິງທີ່ນັ້ນແລ້ວ. ທ່ານມາ

handcuffs on him than on any other criminal in London. He’s a remarkable man, he is, this young John Clay. His grandfather was a royal prince, and he himself has been to the best schools in England. His brain is as quick as his fingers, and though we often see signs of him, we never know where to find the man himself. He’ll rob a bank in Scotland one week, and be raising money to build a school in London the next. I’ve been on his track for years and have never set eyes on him yet.”

“I hope that I may have the pleasure of helping you meet each other tonight,” Holmes remarked. “I have also crossed paths once or twice with Mr. John Clay, and I believe he is as dangerous as you say he is. It is past ten o’clock, however, and time that we started. If you two will take the first cab, Watson and I will follow in the second.”

Sherlock Holmes did not say much during the long drive. Instead, he lay back in the cab, and he seemed to be remembering the songs we had heard in the afternoon. We drove through several narrow streets.

“We are almost there now,” my

ຕິນ ເປັນຜູ້ອຳນວຍການທະນາຄານ ສະນັ້ນລາວຈຶ່ງສົນໃຈເລື່ອງນີ້ເປັນພິເສດ. ເຮົາຄິດວ່າພວກເຮົາຄວນຈະໃຫ້ ທ່ານ ໂຈນສ ຢູ່ກັບເຮົາ, ລາວເປັນຄົນພໍໃຊ້ການໄດ້. ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າລາວຈະບໍ່ຄ່ອຍສຸພາບເວລາເຮັດວຽກ ແຕ່ລາວກໍ່ບໍ່ເກງກົວທີ່ຈະທຳໜ້າທີ່ນີ້. ພວກເຮົາມາເຖິງແລ້ວ ແລະ ພວກເຂົາກຳລັງລໍຖ້າຢູ່ພໍດີ."

ພວກເຮົາມາເຖິງຖະໜົນທີ່ເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍລົດລາງ ບ່ອນທີ່ພວກເຮົາຍ່າງຜ່ານໃນຕອນເຊົ້າ ແລ້ວລົດຂອງພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຜ່ານໄປ. ຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຍ່າງຕາມ ທ່ານມາຕິນ ໄປຈົນເຖິງຖະໜົນແຄບໆ ທີ່ມີຕຶກຢູ່ສອງຟາກ ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ເປີດປະຕູໃຫ້ພວກເຮົາເຂົ້າໄປ. ທາງດ້ານໃນຍັງມີອາຄານນ້ອຍອີກໜຶ່ງຫຼັງ ເຊິ່ງສຸດຢູ່ທີ່ປະຕູເຫຼັກໃຫຍ່ບານໜຶ່ງ ແລະ ປະຕູດັ່ງກ່າວກໍ່ຖືກເປີດອອກ; ດ້ານໃນມີຂັ້ນໄດຫີນລົງໄປ ແລະ ສິ້ນສຸດຢູ່ປະຕູໜາທຶບອີກບານໜຶ່ງ. ທ່ານມາຕິນ ຢຸດເພື່ອໄຕ້ຕະກຽງ ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ພາພວກເຮົາລົງໄປໃນຫ້ອງທີ່ກໍ່ດ້ວຍດິນຈີ່ ແລະ ມືດທຶບ ເຊິ່ງມີກິ່ນອາຍດິນປຽກກະຈາຍໄປທົ່ວ. ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ມາເຖິງປະຕູບານທີ່ສາມ, ພໍເປີດອອກ ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຍ່າງເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງອັນກວ້າງໃຫຍ່ ທີ່ມີຝາກໍ່ດ້ວຍຫີນ ແລະ ໃນຫ້ອງແມ່ນເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍຫີບໃຫຍ່ຫຼາຍໜ່ວຍ.

"ມັນຄົງຈະເປັນການຍາກທີ່ຈະມີຄົນຈາກທາງເທິງລົງມາເຖິງບ່ອນນີ້ໄດ້," ໂຮມສ ເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຍົກຕະກຽງຂຶ້ນເບິ່ງໄປຮອບໆ.

friend finally said. "This man Martin is a bank director, and so of course has a strong interest in the matter. I thought we should have Jones with us also. He is not a bad man, though remarkably stupid when it comes to his job. But he is never afraid to do his job. Here we are, and they are waiting for us."

We had reached the same busy street that we had walked on in the morning. Our cabs drove away. Then we followed Mr. Martin down a narrow road between two buildings and through a side door, which he opened for us. Inside there was another small hall, which ended in a large iron door. This also was opened, and led down a set of winding stone steps, which ended at another thick door. Mr. Martin stopped to light a lantern, and then led us down a dark brick hall, with a strong smell of wet earth all around us. Finally, after opening a third door, we walked into a large room, with stone walls, filled with large boxes.

"It would be hard for anyone to come here from above," Holmes remarked as he held up the lantern and looked around.

“ແລະກໍ່ຍາກເໝືອນກັນທີ່ຈະເຂົ້າມາຈາກທາງລຸ່ມໄດ້,” ທ່ານມາຕິນ ເວົ້າ ແລະ ໃຊ້ໄມ້ຕ່ອຍລົງຫີນແຜ່ນບາງໆທີ່ວາງຢູ່ພື້ນ, “ອ້າວ! ມັນຄືວ່າໂຄ່ງໃນຫວ່ະ!” ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍທ່າທາງປະຫຼາດໃຈ.

“ກະລຸນາງຽບໆແດ່!” ໂຮມສເວົ້າຢ່າງເຂັ່ງຂຶມ, “ຮູ້ບໍ່ວ່າຄືນນີ້ເຈົ້າເຮັດໃຫ້ພວກເຮົາຍິ່ງມີຄວາມສ່ຽງຫຼາຍຂຶ້ນ, ກະລຸນານັ່ງລົງຫີບເຄື່ອງພັ້ນ ແລ້ວບໍ່ຕ້ອງໃຊ້ສຽງດັງອີກ.”

ທ່ານມາຕິນ ນັ່ງລົງຫີບເຄື່ອງດ້ວຍສີໜ້າບໍ່ພໍໃຈ ຂະນະທີ່ ໂຮມສ ກໍ່ນັ່ງລົງພື້ນເຊັ່ນກັນ, ລາວໃຊ້ຕະກຽງ ແລະ ແກ້ວຂະຫຍາຍສ່ອງເບິ່ງຮອຍແຍກຂອງຫີນເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ ຢ່າງລະອຽດລະອໍ. ຈັກໜ່ອຍລາວກໍ່ຢືນຂຶ້ນປຸບປັບ ແລ້ວເກັບແກ້ວຂະຫຍາຍໄວ້ໃນຖົງເສື້ອ.

ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: “ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງໄດ້ລໍຖ້າຢ່າງໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງຊົ່ວໂມງ; ພວກເຂົາຈະບໍ່ເລີ່ມງານຈົນກວ່າທ່ານ ວິລສັນ ຈະເຂົ້ານອນ. ຈາກນັ້ນພວກເຂົາກໍ່ຈະບໍ່ປ່ອຍໄປແມ່ນແຕ່ນາທີດຽວ ເພາະວ່າຍິ່ງພວກເຂົາເລີ່ມລົງມືໄວ ພວກເຂົາກໍ່ຍິ່ງມີເວລາໜີພໍ. ເອົາລະ, ດັອກເຕີ, ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ໂຕອາດຈະຄາດຄິດເອົາໄວ້, ພວກເຮົາພວມຢູ່ຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນຂອງໜຶ່ງໃນບັນດາທະນາຄານທີ່ໃຫຍ່ທີ່ສຸດໃນລອນດອນ; ທ່ານມາຕິນ ແມ່ນໜຶ່ງໃນນາມເຈົ້າຂອງທະນາຄານ ແລ້ວລາວຈະອະທິບາຍສູ່ໂຕຟັງ ວ່າເປັນຫຍັງອາດສະຍາກອນຜູ້ກ້າຫານໃນລອນດອນ ຈຶ່ງສົນໃຈຫ້ອງ

“Nor from below,” said Mr. Martin, hitting his stick on the flat stones that lined the floor. “Why, dear me, it sounds like there’s an empty space down below,” he remarked, looking up in surprise.

“I must really ask you to be a little more quiet!” said Holmes sharply. “You have already added to our risks tonight. Now, please, just sit down on one of those boxes, and do not make any more noise.”

Mr. Martin sat on a box, with a very hurt look on his face, while Holmes got down on the floor. With the lantern and a magnifying glass, he began to carefully look at the lines between the stones. After a few seconds, he jumped to his feet again and put his magnifying glass in his pocket.

“We have at least an hour to wait,” he said, “for they cannot begin until Mr. Wilson is in bed. Then they will not lose a minute, for the sooner they do their work, the more time they will have to escape. Right now, Doctor – as you probably have guessed – we are in the cellar of one of London’s largest banks. Mr. Martin is one of the owners of the bank, and he will explain to you why the bolder criminals of London have a special interest

ໃຕ້ດິນຫ້ອງນີ້ເປັນພິເສດໃນຕອນນີ້."

"ມັນແມ່ນຫີບຄຳຝຣັ່ງຂອງພວກເຮົາ," ທ່ານຜູ້ອຳນວຍການເວົ້າຄ່ອຍໆ, "ພວກເຮົາມີເຫດຜົນພໍທີ່ຈະເຊື່ອວ່າ ພວກເຂົາພະຍາຍາມຈະລັກມັນໄປ."

"ຄຳຝຣັ່ງຫວ່ະ?"

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ຫຼາຍເດືອນຜ່ານມານີ້ ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ຮັບເງິນຈຳນວນ 30.000 ປອນ ຈາກທະນາຄານແຫ່ງປະເທດຝຣັ່ງ ແລະ ມັນກໍ່ເປັນທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກໄປທົ່ວວ່າເງິນຈຳນວນນັ້ນຍັງຄ້າງຢູ່ກັບທະນາຄານຂອງພວກເຮົາ; ຫີບທີ່ຂ້ອຍນັ່ງຢູ່ນີ້ບັນຈຸຫຼຽນຄຳຈຳນວນ 2,000

in this cellar at present."

"It is our French gold," the director said softly. "We have reason to believe that someone might try to steal it."

"Your French gold?"

"Yes. Several months ago we received 30,000 pounds from the Bank of France. Somehow, it has become known that the money is still in our cellar. The box on which I sit contains 2,000 gold

ຫຼຽນ ເຊິ່ງມີມູນຄ່າຫຼາຍກວ່າປົກກະຕິ ທີ່ພວກເຮົາເຄີຍເກັບໄວ້ພາຍໃນສຳນັກງານນີ້ ແລະ ບັນດາຜູ້ອຳນວຍການຢ້ານວ່າຈະມີເລື່ອງເກີດຂຶ້ນກັບສິ່ງເຫຼົ່ານີ້."

"ພວກເຂົາຄິດຖືກແລ້ວ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ຕອນນີ້ເປັນເວລາທີ່ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງວາງແຜນ; ຂ້ອຍຄາດຄະເນວ່າ ພາຍໃນໜຶ່ງຊົ່ວໂມງ ທຸກຢ່າງຈະເລີ່ມຫຍຸ້ງຍາກຂຶ້ນ. ທ່ານມາຕິນ, ຕອນພວກເຮົາລໍຖ້າ ພວກເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງປົກປິດຕະກຽງນັ້ນໄວ້."

"ແລ້ວຢູ່ມືດໆເລີຍຫວ່ະ?"

"ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ, ຂ້ອຍເອົາໄພ້ໃສ່ຖົງເສື້ອມານຳ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າເຈົ້າຈະໄດ້ຫຼິ້ນ ຫຼັງຈາກທຸກຢ່າງສຳເລັດ. ສັດຕູຂອງພວກເຮົາຕຽມພ້ອມດີ ສະນັ້ນພວກເຮົາບໍ່ຄວນສ່ຽງທີ່ຈະໃຫ້ພວກມັນເຫັນແສງໄຟ."

"ກ່ອນອື່ນໝົດ ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງເລືອກບ່ອນຢູ່ທີ່ເໝາະສົມກ່ອນ. ພວກມັນເປັນຄົນກ້າຫານ, ເຖິງວ່າພວກເຮົາຈະຈັບພວກມັນແບບບໍ່ທັນຕັ້ງຕົວ ແຕ່ພວກມັນອາດຈະທຳຮ້າຍພວກເຮົາໄດ້ງ່າຍ ຖ້າພວກເຮົາບໍ່ລະມັດລະວັງ. ຂ້ອຍຈະຢືນລີ້ຢູ່ຫຼັງຫີບນີ້, ສ່ວນພວກເຈົ້າແຕ່ລະຄົນຕ້ອງລີ້ຢູ່ທາງຫຼັງຫີບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ. ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍເຍືອງໄຟໃສ່ພວກມັນທຸກຄົນຕ້ອງຫຸ້ມເຂົ້າໃສ່ທັນທີ. ວັດສັນ, ຖ້າພວກມັນຍິງເຮົາ ຍິງໂຕ້ຕອບພວກມັນຢ່າງບໍ່ໄວ້ໜ້າໂລດ."

ຂ້ອຍຈັບປືນຕຽມພ້ອມກ່າຍໄວ້ຫີບໄມ້ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ລີ້ຢູ່ທາງຫຼັງຂອງຫີບ. ໂຮມສປົກປິດຕະກຽງໄວ້ ແລ້ວປ່ອຍໃຫ້ທຸກຄົນງຽບຢູ່ໃນຄວາມມືດ, ມັນມືດສະໜິດແບບ

coins. This is much more than we usually keep at a single office, and the directors have been afraid something might happen to it."

"They had good cause to be afraid," remarked Holmes. "And now it is time to make our plans. I expect that within an hour, things will get quite busy. While we wait, Mr. Martin, we must cover that lantern."

"And sit in the dark?"

"I am afraid so. I brought some cards in my pocket, and I thought that maybe you could play cards tonight, after all. But I see that the enemy is well prepared. We cannot risk letting them see a light.

"First of all, we must choose our positions. These are daring men, and though we will take them by surprise, they easily might hurt us if we are not careful. I'll stand behind this box. You must each hide behind those boxes. Then, when I shine a light on them, close in quickly. If they fire, Watson, shoot them down."

I placed my handgun on top of a wooden box, then I hid behind the box. Holmes closed the front of his lantern, and left us in darkness

ທີ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍພົບພໍ້ມາກ່ອນເລີຍ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ກິ່ນໄໝ້ຂອງຕະກຽງ ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຮູ້ວ່າມັນຍັງບໍ່ມອດ ແລະ ພ້ອມທີ່ຈະເຍືອງແສງໄປທົ່ວບໍລິເວນ ເມື່ອໃດທີ່ໂຮມສ ເປີດສິ່ງປິດບັງອອກ.

ສຳລັບຂ້ອຍແລ້ວ ດ້ວຍຄວາມຕື່ນເຕັ້ນ ແລະ ຄວາມຢ້ານກົວເລັກນ້ອຍແລ່ນໄປທົ່ວເສັ້ນເລືອດ ເບິ່ງຄືກັບວ່າມີຄວາມໂສກເສົ້າບາງຢ່າງຢູ່ພາຍໃນຄວາມມືດມິດ ແລະ ຄວາມຊຸ່ມເຢັນຂອງອາກາດພາຍໃນຫ້ອງ. ໂຮມສເວົ້າຄ່ອຍໆວ່າ: "ພວກມັນມີທາງດຽວ ທີ່ຈະໜີໄປໄດ້ ນັ້ນກໍ່ຄືທາງຜ່ານອອກໄປດ້ານຫຼັງຂອງອາຄານຈົນເຖິງຈະຕຸລັດ ໂຄເບີກ. ໂຈນສ, ເຈົ້າເຮັດຕາມທີ່ຂ້ອຍບອກໄວ້ແລ້ວບໍ່?"

"ຂ້ອຍສັ່ງໃຫ້ຕຳຫຼວດສາມຄົນ ດັກຢູ່ປະຕູທາງດ້ານໜ້າ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ແປວ່າ ເຮົາໄດ້ອັດໄວ້ໝົດທຸກຊ່ອງທາງແລ້ວ, ຕອນນີ້ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງມິດງຽບ ແລະ ລໍຖ້າ."

ມັນຊ່າງດົນນານແທ້ໆ! ພວກເຮົາເບິ່ງໂມງ ແລະ ເຫັນວ່າຫາກໍ່ຜ່ານໄປໜຶ່ງຊົ່ວໂມງກັບສິບຫ້ານາທີ ແຕ່ມັນເບິ່ງຄືວ່າຄືນນັ້ນເກືອບຈະແຈ້ງ ແລະ ທາງດ້ານນອກ ຕາເວັນຄືຊິໂຜ່ຂຶ້ນແລ້ວ. ຂ້ອຍທັງປວດແຂນ ແລະ ປວດຂາ ເພາະວ່າຖ້າຈະປ່ຽນທ່າ ກໍ່ຢ້ານຕົວເອງຈະໄປຕຳເອົາສິ່ງໃດໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ເຮັດໃຫ້ເກີດມີສຽງດັງ.

ແຕ່ຮ່າງກາຍຂອງຂ້ອຍຍັງຂຶງຂັງ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນທຸກຢ່າງຊັດເຈນດີ. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ພຽງແຕ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງຫາຍໃຈເບົາໆຂອງ

– a complete darkness such as I have never before experienced. I could smell the hot metal of the lantern, so I knew that it was still lit, ready to light the room again whenever Holmes opened the door.

To me, with excitement and some fear running through my blood, there was something sad in the sudden darkness, and in the cold, wet air of the room. "They have only one way to escape," said Holmes in a quiet voice. "That is back through the house into Coburg Square. Jones, have you done what I asked?"

"I have three policemen waiting at the front door."

"Then we have stopped all the holes. And now we must be silent and wait."

How long it seemed! Later, when we looked at a clock, we saw it was only an hour and a quarter, but it felt as if the night must have almost ended, and that the sun would be rising outside. My arms and legs hurt, because I was afraid to change my position, for fear I might hit something or make a noise.

But my body was tight. I heard everything clearly; I could not only hear the gentle breathing of the

ຄົນອື່ນ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຍັງສາມາດໄຈ້ແຍກ ສຽງຫາຍໃຈເລິກໆ ແລະ ໜັກໆຂອງ ຄົນຮ່າງໃຫຍ່ຢ່າງ ທ່ານໂຈນສ ແລະ ສຽງຫາຍໃຈເບົາໆຂອງທ່ານຜູ້ອຳນວຍ ການທະນາຄານ. ຈາກບ່ອນທີ່ຂ້ອຍລີ້ຢູ່ ຂ້ອຍສາມາດເບິ່ງຂ້າມຫີບໄປທາງພື້ນ ຫ້ອງ.

ທັນໃດນັ້ນ ສາຍຕາຂອງຂ້ອຍກໍ່ແນມ ເຫັນແສງໄຟທີ່ເປັນສາຍນ້ອຍໆ, ທຳອິດ ນັ້ນມັນເປັນຈຸດນ້ອຍໆ ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ຍືດ ຍາວອອກຈົນກາຍເປັນແສງສີເຫຼືອງ, ຕໍ່ ມາກໍ່ປະກົດເຫັນມືໂຜ່ອອກມາໂດຍປາ ສະຈາກສຽງໃດໆ; ມັນເປັນມືຂາວໆ ຄ້າຍມືແມ່ຍິງ; ມັນເຄື່ອນໄຫວໄປ-ມາຢູ່ ໃນທ່າມກາງວົງແສງນ້ອຍໆ; ບຶດໜຶ່ງມື ນັ້ນກໍ່ເຄື່ອນໄປທີ່ພື້ນຫ້ອງ; ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ ຫາຍແວບໄປໄວໆຄືກັບຕອນໂຜ່ອອກ ມາ ແລະ ຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນກໍ່ມືດລົງອີກຄັ້ງ, ຍັງເຫັນແຕ່ແສງໄຟນ້ອຍໆແສງດຽວ.

ບໍ່ດົນມືນັ້ນກໍ່ປະກົດຂຶ້ນມາອີກ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນສຽງຫີນຮຸກຖູກັນ, ຈາກນັ້ນ ຫີນແຜ່ນບາງສີຂາວແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງກໍ່ເປີດ ອອກ ແລະ ເຫັນເປັນຮູສີ່ລ່ຽມ; ແສງໄຟ ຈາກຕະກຽງສະຫວ່າງໄປທົ່ວຮູນັ້ນ. ມີ ໃບໜ້າກ້ຽງໆຄືໜ້າເດັກໜຸ່ມໂຜ່ຂຶ້ນຮູ ດັ່ງກ່າວ, ມັນຫຼຽວອ້ອມໄປ-ມາ; ຈາກ ນັ້ນກໍ່ໃຊ້ມືທັງສອງເບື້ອງໂຫມຕົວຂຶ້ນມາ ຈົນຫົວເຂົ່າເບື້ອງໜຶ່ງຂຶ້ນມາວາງຢູ່ຂອບ ຂອງຮູ.

ອີກຈັກໜ່ອຍມັນກໍ່ຂຶ້ນມາຢືນຢູ່ເທິງ ຮູ ແລະ ພວມດຶງເອົາອີກຄົນໜຶ່ງຂຶ້ນມາ ນຳ ເຊິ່ງເປັນຄົນນ້ອຍ ແລະ ຈ່ອຍຄືກັນ,

others, but I could hear the difference between the deeper, heavier breathing of the large-bodied Jones and the thinner sounds of the bank director. From my position I could look over the box in the direction of the floor.

Suddenly my eyes caught a thin line of light. At first it was just a small spot. Then it got longer until it became a yellow line, and then, without any sound, a hand appeared, a white, almost womanly hand. It moved around in the center of the small spot of light. For a minute the hand felt around on the floor. Then it disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared, and the cellar was dark again except for the single spot of light.

Soon the hand reappeared. I heard a sound of stones rubbing against each other, then one of the flat, white stones turned over and left a square hole. Light from a lantern came through the hole. A clean-cut, boyish face came up through the hole, looked around, and then, with a hand on either side of the hold, raised itself until one knee rested on the edge.

In another moment he stood at the side of the hole and was pulling up another man, small and thin like

ມັນມີໃບໜ້າຂາວໆ ແລະ ຜົມແດງໆ. “ທຸກຢ່າງຮຽບຮ້ອຍດີ,” ມັນເວົ້າ, “ເຈົ້າເອົາຖົງມານຳບໍ່? ແມ່ນຫຍັງ! ຕາຍລະກູ! ຮີບໜີໄວໆ, ຂ້ອຍຈະກັ້ນພວກເຂົາໄວ້ເອງ!”

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ໂດດເຂົ້າໃສ່ ແລະ ຈັບໄດ້ແຂນເສື້ອຊາຍໜຸ່ມຄົນນັ້ນ; ອີກຄົນໜຶ່ງກະໂດດລົງຮູ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນສຽງເສື້ອຂາດ ເພາະວ່າ ທ່ານໂຈນສ ດຶງເສື້ອຂອງມັນໄວ້ໄດ້. ໄຟໄດ້ເຍືອງໄປເຫັນປືນ ແຕ່ໂຮມສ ໃຊ້ໄມ້

himself, with a white face and a head of very red hair. “It’s all clear,” he said. “Do you have the bags? What! Jump, Archie, jump, and I’ll slow them down!”

Sherlock Holmes had jumped out and grabbed the young man by the sleeve of his shirt. The other man jumped down the hole, and I heard the sound of cloth tearing as Jones grabbed at his shirt. The light shined on a

ຄ້ອນເທົ້າຂອງລາວຟາດໃສ່ແຂນມັນ ຈົນເຮັດໃຫ້ປືນຕົກລົງພື້ນຫີນ.

"ມັນໃຊ້ການບໍ່ໄດ້ດອກ ຈອນ ເຄລ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າດ້ວຍສຽງເຢັນຊາ, "ມຶງບໍ່ມີໂອກາດອີກແລ້ວ."

"ມັນກໍ່ແມ່ນຢູ່," ບັກນັ້ນຕອບດ້ວຍສຽງເຢັນຊາເຊັ່ນກັນ, "ປານນີ້ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍຄົງຈະໜີລອດໄປແລ້ວ ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າເຈົ້າຈະດຶງແຂນເສື້ອຂອງລາວໄດ້ກໍ່ຕາມ."

"ມີຕຳຫຼວດສາມຄົນລໍຖ້າມັນຢູ່ທາງນອກ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ.

ຈອນ ເຄລ ເງີກຫົວກັບ, "ໂອ, ແມ່ນແທ້ຊັ້ນເບາະ! ພວກເຈົ້າຄືມາເຮັດໄດ້ດີປານນີ້ແທ້, ພວກເຈົ້າຈະໄດ້ມີຊື່ສຽງເພາະເລື່ອງນີ້."

"ເຈົ້າກໍ່ມີຊື່ສຽງເຊັ່ນດຽວກັນ," ໂຮມສຕອບ, "ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງຂອງພວກເຈົ້າເປັນແນວຄິດທີ່ກ້າຫານແທ້ໆ, ມັນເກືອບຈະດຳເນີນໄປລອດ."

"ແລ້ວເຈົ້າຈະໄດ້ພົບກັບເພື່ອນຂອງເຈົ້າອີກຄັ້ງໃນໄວໆນີ້," ທ່ານໂຈນສເວົ້າ, "ລາວລົງໄປໃນຮູໄວກວ່າຂ້ອຍດ້ວຍຊ້ຳ; ຍື່ນມືຂອງເຈົ້າມາໂດຍດີສາ ຂ້ອຍຈະໄດ້ໃສ່ກັບມື."

"ຂ້ອຍຂໍບອກໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ເຈົ້າຈະບໍ່ມີວັນໄດ້ໃຊ້ມືເປື້ອນໆຂອງເຈົ້າ ມາແຕະຕ້ອງຂ້ອຍໄດ້ດອກ," ນັກໂທດຂອງເຮົາເວົ້າ ຂະນະກັບມືຖືກຍື່ນເຂົ້າໄປໃກ້ຕົວມັນ, ພວກເຈົ້າບໍ່ຮູ້ດອກວ່າຂ້ອຍເປັນເຊື້ອເຈົ້າ, ພວກເຈົ້າຄວນຈະເຮັດກັບຂ້ອຍດີໆ ແລະ ເວລາເວົ້າກັບຂ້ອຍ ພວກເຈົ້າຕ້ອງເວົ້າວ່າ: 'ທ່ານ ຫຼື ກະລຸນາ.'"

handgun, but Holmes hit the man's arm with his walking stick, and the gun fell onto the stone floor.

"It's no use, John Clay," said Holmes coolly. "You have no chance at all."

"So I see," the man answered, also in a cool voice. "I expect that my friend is all right, though I see you tore off a piece of his shirt sleeve."

"There are three men waiting for him at the door," said Holmes.

John Clay pulled his head back. "Oh, indeed! You seem to have done your work very well. You have earned your reputation."

"As you have earned your own reputation," Holmes answered. "Your Red-Headed Club was a very bold idea. It almost worked."

"You'll see your friend again soon," said Jones. "He's faster at climbing down holes than I am. Just hold out your arms so I can put on the handcuffs."

"I ask that you will not touch me with your dirty hands," said our prisoner as the handcuffs closed on his arms. "You may not know that I have royal blood in me. Have the goodness, also, when you speak to me, to always say 'sir' and 'please.'"

"ຈັ່ງຊັ້ນກໍ່ໄດ້," ທ່ານໂຈນສ ເວົ້າທັງຍິ້ມແບບຂຶມໆ, "ດີແລ້ວ, ທ່ານຈົ່ງກະລຸນາຍ່າງຂຶ້ນຂັ້ນໄດມາຈະໄດ້ບໍ່ ແລ້ວພວກຂ້ານ້ອຍຈະພາທ່ານຂຶ້ນລົດໄປສະຖານີຕຳຫຼວດ?"

"ຊັ້ນກໍ່ຍັງໄຄແດ່," ຈອນ ເຄລ ເວົ້າແບບງຽບໆ, ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ຍ່າງງຽບໆໄປພ້ອມຕຳຫຼວດ.

"ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າແທ້ໆໄດ່ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າທາງທະນາຄານຈະກ່າວຂອບໃຈເຈົ້າແນວໃດດີ," ທ່ານມາຕິນ ເວົ້າຂະນະພວກເຮົາຍ່າງອອກມາຈາກຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນ, "ເຈົ້າໄດ້ຢຸດຕິໜຶ່ງໃນແຜນການປຸ້ນທະນາຄານອັນກ້າຫານທີ່ສຸດຂອງພວກໂຈນທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍຮູ້ມາ ລົງໄດ້ຢ່າງບໍ່ຕ້ອງສົງໄສ."

"ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍປະເຊີນໜ້າດ້ວຍວິທີການຂອງຂ້ອຍກັບ ຈອນ ເຄລ ຄົນນີ້ມາໜຶ່ງ ຫຼືສອງຄັ້ງແລ້ວ ແລະ ໃນທີ່ສຸດຂ້ອຍກໍ່ດີໃຈທີ່ຈັບມັນໄດ້," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ໃຊ້ເງິນໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງກັບເລື່ອງນີ້ ເຊິ່ງຂ້ອຍຢາກຈະໃຫ້ທາງທະນາຄານຈ່າຍໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍ ແຕ່ນອກເໜືອໄປກວ່ານີ້ ມັນກໍ່ພຽງພໍສຳລັບຂ້ອຍແລ້ວ ທີ່ໄດ້ປະສົບການອັນໜ້າສົນໃຈ ແລະ ແປກໆ ນອກນີ້ຂ້ອຍຍັງໄດ້ຮູ້ເລື່ອງລາວທີ່ໜ້າສັງເກດກ່ຽວກັບສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງນຳອີກ."

* * *

"ເຫັນບໍ່ ວັດສັນ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າຂະນະພວກເຮົາພວມນັ່ງຢູ່ເຮືອນຂອງລາວທີ່ຖະໜົນເບເກີ, "ບໍ່ມີເຫດຜົນເລີຍທີ່ສະມາຄົມໃດໜຶ່ງຈະຈ່າຍເງິນໃຫ້ຄ່າຈົດກ່າຍ 'ສາລານຸກົມ ບຣິທານນິກາ' ມັນຊັດເຈນມາຕັ້ງແຕ່

"All right," said Jones with a bit of a smile. "Would you please, sir, march up the steps, where we can get a cab to take you to the police station?"

"That is better," said John Clay quietly. He walked quietly with the policeman.

"Really, Mr. Holmes," said Mr. Martin as we followed them from the cellar, "I do not know how the bank can thank you. There is no doubt that you have stopped one of the boldest plans for a bank robbery that I have ever known."

"I have had one or two past fights of my own with Mr. John Clay, and I am happy to have caught him at last," said Holmes. "I have spent a little money on this matter, which I ask the bank to pay me, but beyond that it is enough that I have had such an interesting and unusual experience, and to have heard the remarkable story of the Red-Headed Club."

* * *

"You see, Watson," said Holmes later, as we sat at his home on Baker Street, "there is no reason any club would pay someone to copy the Encyclopedia Britannica.

ຕື້ນຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ອາດຈະເປັນໄປໄດ້ພຽງເຫດ ຜົນດຽວຄື: ມີຄົນລົງໂຄສະນານັ້ນໃຫ້ກັບ ສະມາຄົມດັ່ງກ່າວ ແລະ ສ້າງງານນັ້ນຂຶ້ນ ມາ. ມັນເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນເລີຍວ່າ ພວກເຂົາ ຕ້ອງການໃຫ້ເຈົ້າຂອງກິດຈະການຜູ້ມືດ ແປດດ້ານຄົນນີ້ ໄດ້ອອກຈາກບ້ານຂອງ ລາວເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍໆຊົ່ວໂມງໃນແຕ່ລະມື້; ພວກມັນຊອກໄດ້ຊ່ອງທາງອັນສະຫຼາດທີ່ ຈະກະທຳສິ່ງນີ້ ເຊິ່ງຍາກທີ່ພວກມັນຈະຫາ ວິທີອື່ນທີ່ດີກວ່ານີ້ໄດ້.

"ຈອນ ເຄລ ອາດຈະເປັນຄົນຄົ້ນຄິດວິທີ ການສ້າງສະມາຄົມນີ້ ເພາະວ່າຜົມ ເພື່ອນ ຂອງລາວເປັນສີແດງສົດຄືກັບຜົມຂອງເຈົ້າ ຂອງກິດຈະການຄົນນັ້ນ; ການຈ່າຍໃຫ້ 4 ປອນຕໍ່ໜຶ່ງອາທິດເປັນຫົນທາງງ່າຍດາຍທີ່ ຈະດຶງດູດຄວາມສົນໃຈຂອງລາວ ແລະ ມັນ ກໍ່ເປັນເງິນຈຳນວນກ້ອນນ້ອຍໆ ສຳລັບ ພວກເຂົາ ຜູ້ເຊິ່ງວາງແຜນຈະປຸ້ນເອົາເງິນ ເປັນພັນໆປອນ. ພວກເຂົາລົງໂຄສະນາ ແລ້ວໃຫ້ຜູ່ໜຶ່ງປະຈຳຢູ່ຫ້ອງການເປັນເວລາ ສອງ-ສາມເດືອນ ຂະນະອີກໜຶ່ງຄົນເຮັດ ໃຫ້ແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ເຈົ້າຂອງກິດຈະການໄດ້ເຫັນ ໂຄສະນາ ແລະ ມາສະໝັກວຽກນັ້ນ. ຍ້ອນ ມີການສົມທົບກັນ ພວກເຂົາຈິ່ງສາມາດ ເຫັນໄດ້ວ່າ ເຈົ້າຂອງກິດຈະການອອກຈາກ ຮ້ານທຸກໆຕອນເຊົ້າໃນແຕ່ລະອາທິດ. ຕອນ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນວ່າ ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຄົນນັ້ນເຮັດວຽກ ແລະ ຮັບຄ່າຕອບແທນພຽງເຄິ່ງໜຶ່ງຂອງ ເງິນເດືອນ ມັນກໍ່ເລີຍຊັດເຈນຕໍ່ຂ້ອຍວ່າ ລາວຈະຕ້ອງມີເຫດຜົນອັນສຳຄັນ ທີ່ມາ ເຮັດວຽກຢູ່ຮ້ານນີ້."

"ແຕ່ເຈົ້າຈະຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ ວ່າມັນເປັນ

It was perfectly obvious from the beginning that there was only one possible reason anyone might have placed the advertisement for the Club, and made such a job. Clearly, they wanted to get this shopkeeper, a rather stupid man, out of his shop for a number of hours every day. They found a curious way to do it, but, really, it would be difficult to think of any better way.

"John Clay probably got the idea for the Club because his friend's hair was the same bright red color as the shopkeeper's hair. The 4 pounds a week was an easy way to interest him, and it was a small amount to them; they were planning to steal thousands of pounds. They put in the advertisement, one of them took the office for a few months, while the other man made certain that our shopkeeper saw the advertisement, and came to ask for the job. Together, they made sure he was away from the shop every morning. As soon as I heard the assistant was working for half pay, it was obvious that he had some strong reason to want to work at the shop."

"But how could you guess what

ເຫດຜົນຫຍັງ?"

"ຖ້າມີແມ່ຍິງຢູ່ໃນບ້ານນັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະຄິດງ່າຍໆວ່າ ລາວຫຼົງຮັກແມ່ຍິງຄົນນັ້ນ ແຕ່ນັ້ນເປັນເລື່ອງນອກປະເດັນ; ຮ້ານດັ່ງກ່າວເປັນຮ້ານນ້ອຍໆ ແລະ ກໍ່ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງພາຍໃນບ້ານທີ່ສາມາດອະທິບາຍແຜນຊັບຊ້ອນ ແລະ ມີມູນຄ່າແພງໆດັ່ງກ່າວ, ເພາະສະນັ້ນມັນຈະຕ້ອງມີບາງຢ່າງຢູ່ພາຍນອກບ້ານ, ແລ້ວມັນຈະແມ່ນຫຍັງກັນແທ້?

"ຂ້ອຍຄິດເລື່ອງຄວາມສົນໃຈການຖ່າຍຮູບຂອງຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຄົນນັ້ນ; ລາວລົງໄປຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນເປັນປະຈຳ. ຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນ! ລາວກຳລັງເຮັດບາງຢ່າງໃນຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນ, ບາງຢ່າງທີ່ໃຊ້ເວລາຫຼາຍຊົ່ວໂມງໃນແຕ່ລະມື້ ເຊິ່ງເປັນເວລາເຖິງສອງເດືອນ, ແລ້ວມັນຈະ

the reason was?"

"Had there been women in the house, I would have thought he was simply in love. That, however, was out of the question. The man's shop was a small one, and there was nothing in his house that could explain such a complicated plan, or such an expensive one. Therefore, it had to be something out of the house. What could it be?

"I thought of the assistant's interest in photography. He went into the cellar often. The cellar! He was doing something in the cellar – something that took many hours a day, for

ແມ່ນຫຍັງ? ຂ້ອຍຄິດຫຍັງບໍ່ອອກ ນອກຈາກຈະຄິດວ່າລາວກຳລັງຂຸດອຸບມຸງໄປຫາອາຄານຫຼັງອື່ນ.

"ນັ້ນແມ່ນເວລາທີ່ພວກເຮົາໄປຢ້ຽມຢາມຮ້ານ, ເຮົາເຮັດໃຫ້ໂຕປະຫຼາດໃຈດ້ວຍການໃຊ້ໄມ້ຄ້ອນເທົ້າຕ່ອຍລົງທາງຍ່າງ, ເຮົາຢາກຈະຮູ້ວ່າຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນນັ້ນຍາວອອກມາທາງໜ້າ ຫຼືທາງຫຼັງບໍ່ ແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ຍື່ນອອກມາທາງໜ້າ. ຈາກນັ້ນເຮົາກໍ່ກົດກະດິ່ງ ແລ້ວຜູ້ຊ່ວຍຄົນນັ້ນກໍ່ມາເປີດປະຕູຕາມທີ່ເຮົາຄາດໄວ້. ພວກເຮົາມີການຂຶ້ນສຽງໃສ່ກັນເລັກນ້ອຍ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ບໍ່ເຄີຍເຫັນກັນມາກ່ອນ, ເຮົາບໍ່ຄ່ອຍໄດ້ສັງເກດເບິ່ງໜ້າລາວ, ຫົວເຂົ່າໂສ້ງຂອງລາວເປັນພຽງບ່ອນດຽວທີ່ເຮົາຢາກເຫັນ. ເຮົາວ່າໂຕໜ້າຈະໄດ້ສັງເກດເບິ່ງ ວ່າມັນຂາດ ແລະ ເປື້ອນສ່ຳໃດ, ຈາກຫົວເຂົ່າໂສ້ງ ເຮົາກໍ່ຮູ້ໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າລາວໄດ້ໃຊ້ເວລາຫຼາຍຊົ່ວໂມງເພື່ອຂຸດອຸບມຸງ.

"ຄຳຖາມທີ່ຍັງຄ້າງຢູ່ກໍ່ຄື ສິ່ງທີ່ພວກເຂົາຂຸດອຸບມຸງໄປຫາ. ອຸບມຸງນັ້ນໄປຮອດໃສ? ເຮົາເລີຍຍ່າງອ້ອມໄປທາງແຈ ແລ້ວພົບວ່າມີທະນາຄານ ຊິຕີ ຢູ່ທາງຂ້າງໜຶ່ງຂອງຮ້ານ ທ່ານວິລສັນ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ເລີຍຮູ້ສຶກວ່າ ເຮົາໄດ້ແກ້ໄຂບັນຫານີ້ແລ້ວ. ຕອນທີ່ໂຕຂີ່ລົດກັບບ້ານຫຼັງຈາກຊົມຄອນເສີດ ເຮົາໄດ້ໄປແວະຕຳຫຼວດຢູ່ກົມຕຳຫຼວດ ສກັອດແລນ ຢາດ ແລະ ໄປແວະຜູ້ອຳນວຍການທະນາຄານ ສະນັ້ນໂຕຈຶ່ງໄດ້ເຫັນພວກທ່ານມານຳ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕຈະຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ ວ່າພວກມັນ

at least two months. What could it be? I could think of nothing except that he was digging a tunnel to some other building.

"That is when we went to visit the shop. I surprised you by beating on the sidewalk with my stick. I wanted to know whether the cellar stretched out in front, or behind. It was not in front. Then I rang the bell, and, as I hoped, the assistant answered it. We have had some small fights, but we had never actually seen each other before. I didn't look at his face much. The knees of his pants were what I wanted to see. You yourself must have noticed how worn and dirty they were. From those knees, I knew he had spent many hours digging a tunnel.

"The only remaining question was what they were digging for. Where did the tunnel go? I walked around the corner, saw the City Bank on the other side of Mr. Wilson's shop, and felt that I had solved my problem. When you drove home after the concert, I called on the police at Scotland Yard, and on the bank director, with the result that you have seen."

"And how did you know they

ຈະລົງມືໃນມື້ຄືນນີ້?" ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"ເມື່ອພວກເຂົາປິດຫ້ອງການສະມາຄົມ ມັນກໍ່ເປັນສັນຍານໃຫ້ຮູ້ວ່າ ພວກເຂົາບໍ່ໄດ້ສົນໃຈວ່າ ທ່ານແຈັກ ວິລສັນ ຈະມາຫຼືບໍ່, ອີກມູມມອງໜຶ່ງກໍ່ຄື ພວກເຂົາໄດ້ຂຸດອຸບມຸງສຳເລັດແລ້ວ ແຕ່ວ່າພວກເຂົາຕ້ອງການໃຊ້ອຸບມຸງໂດຍດ່ວນ ເພາະຢ້ານຈະຖືກພົບເຫັນ ຫຼືຢ້ານວ່າ ຄຳເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນອາດຈະຖືກຍົກຍ້າຍໄປບ່ອນອື່ນ. ວັນເສົາອາດຈະເປັນມື້ທີ່ເໝາະສົມກວ່າມື້ອື່ນໆສຳລັບພວກເຂົາ ເພາະວ່າພວກເຂົາມີເວລາສອງມື້ເພື່ອໜີໄປ. ຍ້ອນເຫດຜົນທັງໝົດນີ້ ເຮົາຈຶ່ງຄາດຄະເນວ່າ ພວກເຂົາຕ້ອງລົງມືຄືນນີ້."

"ໂຕຄິດໄດ້ສຸດຍອດແທ້ໆ," ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າດ້ວຍຄວາມປະທັບໃຈ, "ມັນເປັນຕ່ອງໂສ້ທີ່ຍາວແທ້ໆ ແລະ ແຕ່ລະຕ່ອງກໍ່ເຊື່ອມໂຍງໄປຫາກັນຈົນຮອດຕ່ອງສຸດທ້າຍຢ່າງບໍ່ຕ້ອງສົງໄສ."

"ມັນເຮັດໃຫ້ເຮົາບໍ່ໜ້າເບື່ອ," ລາວຕອບພ້ອມທັງເອົາມືສີຕາ, "ອ້າ! ຄວາມຮູ້ສຶກນັ້ນໄດ້ປິດລົງຈາກເຮົາໄປແລ້ວ; ຊີວິດຂອງເຮົາຖືກໃຊ້ໄປກັບຄວາມພະຍາຍາມ ເພື່ອຫຼີກລ້ຽງຈາກຊີວິດທຳມະດາໃນແຕ່ລະມື້. ຄວາມລຶກລັບ ຕ່າງໆນາໆເຫຼົ່ານີ້ ໄດ້ຊ່ວຍໃຫ້ເຮົາມີຄຸນຄ່າແບບນັ້ນ."

"ແລະໂຕຍັງໄດ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ທຸກຄົນມີຊີວິດທີ່ດີຂຶ້ນ," ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

"ບາງເທື່ອເລື່ອງທັງໝົດອາດຈະເປັນປະໂຫຍດເລັກນ້ອຍເທົ່ານັ້ນ," ລາວເວົ້າ, "ຄົນເຮົາບໍ່ມີຫຍັງສຳຄັນ ແຕ່ວຽກງານຕ່າງຫາກທີ່ເປັນທຸກສິ່ງທຸກຢ່າງ," ດັ່ງທີ່ ກູສເຕຟ ຟລໍເບີດ ຂຽນຈົດໝາຍເຖິງ ຈອດຈ ແຊນ."

would do it tonight?" I asked.

"When they closed their Club offices, that was a sign that they no longer cared about Mr. Jack Wilson's being in his shop – in other words, they had finished their tunnel. But they needed to use the tunnel soon, as it might be discovered, or the gold might be taken to another place. Saturday would suit them better than any other day, because it would give them two days for their escape. For all these reasons I expected them to come tonight."

"You thought it out beautifully," I said, with true delight. "It is so long a chain, and yet every piece of the chain leads, without doubt, to the next piece."

"It saved me from being bored," he answered, rubbing his eyes. "Ah! That feeling is already closing in on me. My life is spent trying to escape from ordinary day-to-day life. These little mysteries help me to do that."

"And you make life better for all of us," I said.

"Well, perhaps, after all, it is of some little use," he remarked. "'The man is nothing, the work is everything,' as Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand."

2

ເລື່ອງອັບອາຍຂາຍໜ້າແຫ່ງໂບຮີເມຍ

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

ສຳລັບ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສແລ້ວ ນາງຄືແມ່ຍິງພຽງຄົນດຽວ. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຄ່ອຍໄດ້ຍິນລາວເວົ້າເຖິງແມ່ຍິງຄົນນີ້ ໃນຖານະອື່ນເລີຍ; ບໍ່ແມ່ນເພາະລາວຮູ້ສຶກຢ່າງໃດຢ່າງໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ຫຼົງຮັກກັບ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ແຕ່ຢ່າງໃດ, ຄວາມຮູ້ສຶກ ແລະ ຄວາມຮັກແບບຄົນທົ່ວໆໄປ ບໍ່ເຄີຍປະກົດມີຢູ່ໃນໃຈຂອງລາວເລີຍ. ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າລາວປຽບເໝືອນເຄື່ອງກົນຈັກແຫ່ງຄວາມຄິດອັນສົມບູນແບບທີ່ມີຢູ່ໃນໂລກນີ້ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍຄິດເລີຍ ວ່າລາວຈະໄປຫຼົງຮັກກັບແມ່ຍິງຄົນໃດຄົນໜຶ່ງ.

ລາວບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຈະປາກເວົ້າດ້ວຍຄວາມຮູ້ສຶກທີ່ອ່ອນໄຫວ, ລາວໄດ້ສະແດງອອກຢ່າງຊັດເຈນແລ້ວວ່າ ລາວບໍ່ຄ່ອຍມີປະໂຫຍດຕໍ່ກັບຄວາມຮູ້ສຶກເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ, ເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນຄືສິ່ງສຳຄັນທີ່ລາວຕ້ອງສັງເກດ ແລະ ຄືສິ່ງທີ່ລາວຕ້ອງທຳຄວາມເຂົ້າໃຈ ວ່າເປັນຫຍັງຄົນເຮົາຈິ່ງເຮັດໃນສິ່ງທີ່ພວກເຂົາເຮັດຢູ່ ແຕ່ສຳລັບອາຊີບນັກ

To Sherlock Holmes she is always THE woman. I have rarely heard him speak of her under any other name. It was not that he felt anything like love for Irene Adler. All human feelings, and most of all love, had no place in his mind. He was, I believe, the most perfect thinking machine that the world has seen, but I don't think he ever fell in love with anyone.

On the rare times that he spoke of the softer feelings, he showed clearly that he had no use for them. They were important things for him to watch, very good for understanding why men acted as they did. But for the detective to

ສືບແລ້ວ ການທີ່ປ່ອຍໃຫ້ຄວາມຮູ້ສຶກແບບນັ້ນ ເຂົ້າມາເຖິງຈິດໃຈອັນລະອຽດລະອໍໄດ້ ມັນຄົງເປັນການຍາກສຳລັບລາວທີ່ຈະຄົ້ນຄິດໃຫ້ລະອຽດໄດ້; ມັນອາດຈະເປັນເໝືອນດັ່ງເອົາຊາຍມາໃສ່ໂມງ, ແຕ່ກໍ່ຍັງມີແມ່ຍິງຄົນໜຶ່ງ ແລະ ນັ້ນກໍ່ຄື ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ.

ໄລຍະຫຼັງນີ້ຂ້ອຍພົບເຫັນ ໂຮມສໜ້ອຍລົງ. ຫຼັງຈາກທີ່ຂ້ອຍແຕ່ງງານ ຊີວິດຂອງພວກເຮົາກໍ່ປ່ຽນໄປຄົນລະທິດທາງ, ຄວາມສຸກອັນສົມບູນແບບ ແລະ ຄວາມສົນໃຈຕໍ່ການເປັນຫົວໜ້າຄອບຄົວ ໄດ້ອ້ອມຮອບຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ມີພັນລະຍາໃໝ່ ເຊິ່ງພຽງພໍທີ່ຈະດຶງດູດຄວາມສົນໃຈຂອງຂ້ອຍ, ຂະນະທີ່ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ຜູ້ທີ່ບໍ່ສົນໃຈຕໍ່ການໂອ້ລົມໃນແວດວົງງານລ້ຽງສ້າງສັນ ໄດ້ອາໄສຢູ່ໃນບ້ານຂອງເຮົາທີ່ຖະໜົນເບເກີ. ລາວໃຊ້ເວລາທີ່ມີຢູ່ ເພື່ອອ່ານປຶ້ມເກົ່າໆ ເບິ່ງຄືກັບວ່າ ລາວຫຼັບນອນໜຶ່ງອາທິດ ແລະ ອາທິດຕໍ່ມາລາວກໍ່ຈະເຕັມປ່ຽມໄປດ້ວຍພາລະກຳລັງຢ່າງກະທັນຫັນ ເພື່ອແກ້ໄຂຄະດີໃໝ່. ລາວຍັງເປັນເໝືອນເຊັ່ນເຄີຍ ຄືທຸ່ມເທຄວາມສົນໃຈໃຫ້ກັບການວິເຄາະສຶກສາເລື່ອງອາດຊະຍາກຳ, ຄັ້ງແລ້ວຄັ້ງເລົ່າທີ່ລາວໃຊ້ຄວາມສະຫຼາດຫຼັກແຫຼມອັນໜ້າອັດສະຈັນຂອງລາວ ເພື່ອສືບສວນຫາຫຼັກຖານທີ່ຄົນອື່ນບໍ່ອາດເຫັນໄດ້, ແລະ ເພື່ອເປັນການແກ້ໄຂຄວາມລຶກລັບ ທີ່ຕຳຫຼວດຄິດວ່າມັນເປັນໄປບໍ່ໄດ້ທີ່ຈະແກ້ໄຂໄດ້. ບາງເທື່ອຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນຂ່າວຄາວເລື່ອງໜ້າທີ່ວຽກງານຂອງລາວເຊັ່ນວ່າ: ການເດີນທາງໄປປະເທດ ອີຕາລີ

let such feelings into his own delicate mind would have made it more difficult for him to think perfectly clearly. It would have been like putting sand into a clock. And yet there was but one woman for him, and that woman was Irene Adler.

I had seen little of Holmes recently. After my marriage, our lives had gone in different directions. My own complete happiness, and the home-centered interests that rise up around the man with a new wife, were enough to take all my attention, while Holmes, who did not like the small talk of dinner parties, remained in our home on Baker Street. He spent his time reading his old books. One week he seemed only to sleep. The next week, he would suddenly become full of life as he tried to solve a new case. He was still, as ever, deeply interested in the study of crime. Again and again, he used his great intelligence to investigate evidence that others would never have seen, and to solve mysteries that the police had decided were impossible to solve. From time to time I heard stories of his work: of his trip to Italy to solve a crime, or the sad case of two brothers in

ເພື່ອແກ້ຄະດີອາດຊະຍາກຳ ຫຼື ຄະດີໜ້າສະ
ຫຼົດໃຈຂອງສອງອ້າຍນ້ອງໃນປະເທດ ອີຢິບ
ແລະ ຍັງມີເລື່ອງປິດສະໜາອີກເລື່ອງໜຶ່ງ ທີ່
ລາວແກ້ໄຂໄດ້ດ້ວຍຜົນສຳເລັດອັນງົດງາມ,
ນັ້ນກໍ່ຄື: ເລື່ອງຂອງກະສັດໃນເມືອງນ້ອຍໆ
ແຫ່ງໜຶ່ງ. ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ຍົກເວັ້ນແຕ່ປະເດັນ
ນີ້ໃນວຽກງານຂອງລາວ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຂຽນລົງ
ໃນໜັງສືພິມ ໃຫ້ກັບທ່ານຜູ້ອ່ານທັງຫຼາຍ
ເພາະຂ້ອຍຮູ້ພຽງບາງຕອນເລັກນ້ອຍກ່ຽວ
ກັບເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍເທົ່ານັ້ນ.

ຄືນໜຶ່ງໃນວັນທີ 20 ເດືອນ 3 ປີ 1888,
ຂ້ອຍພວມກັບມາແຕ່ການຢ້ຽມຢາມຄົນເຈັບ
(ຂ້ອຍກັບມາໃຊ້ຊີວິດເປັນທ່ານໝໍຄືແຕ່
ກ່ອນ) ມາຕາມຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ. ຂະນະທີ່
ຂ້ອຍຜ່ານໜ້າປະຕູເຮືອນ ບ່ອນທີ່ພວກເຮົາ
ເຄີຍເຮັດວຽກຮ່ວມກັນ ແລະ ເປັນບ່ອນທີ່
ໂຮມສອາໄສຢູ່ຄົນດຽວໃນຂະນະນີ້ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້
ສຶກຢາກຈະພົບ ໂຮມສເປັນພິເສດອີກຄັ້ງ
ແລະ ຢາກຈະຮູ້ວ່າ ລາວໃຊ້ພະລັງອັນແປກໆ
ຂອງລາວແບບໃດ. ຫ້ອງຂອງລາວແຈ້ງສະ
ຫວ່າງດ້ວຍແສງໄຟ ແລະ ຂະນະທີ່ຂ້ອຍ
ຫຼຽວໄປ ກໍ່ເຫັນຮ່າງອັນຈ່ອຍສູງຜ່ານໄປ-ມາ
ສອງຄັ້ງ ທີ່ມີແສງໄຟຊ່ອງສະຫວ່າງຢູ່ທາງ
ດ້ານຫຼັງ. ລາວກຳລັງຍ່າງກົ້ມໜ້າ, ສອງມື
ຂັດຫຼັງເດີນແວບກັບໄປ-ມາຢູ່ໃນຫ້ອງຢ່າງ
ຮ້ອນຮົນ. ສຳລັບຂ້ອຍແລ້ວ ຜູ້ເຊິ່ງຮູ້ທຸກໆອາ
ລົມຂອງລາວດີ ເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນເລີຍວ່າ ກິລິ
ຍາທ່າທາງຂອງລາວ ໄດ້ບົ່ງບອກເຖິງເລື່ອງ
ລາວເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ. ລາວກັບມາເຮັດວຽກອີກຄັ້ງ,
ລາວໄດ້ທະຍານອອກຈາກຄວາມຝັນ ແລະ
ກຳລັງໄລ່ລ່າຢູ່ກັບບັນຫາໃໝ່. ຂ້ອຍບີບກະ
ດິງ ແລ້ວກໍ່ຖືກເຊີນເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງ ເຊິ່ງຄັ້ງ

Egypt, and finally of the mystery that he had solved so delicately and successfully for the king of a small country. Except for these signs of his work, however, which I wrote about for all the readers of the newspaper, I knew little of my old friend.

One night – it was on the 20th of March, 1888 – I was returning from a visit to a patient (for I had now returned to my old job as a doctor) when my way led me along Baker Street. As I passed the door to the home we had shared, and where Holmes now lived alone, I felt a sharp desire to see Holmes again, and to know how he was using his unusual powers. His rooms were brightly lit, and, even as I looked up, I saw his tall, thin figure pass twice, lit from behind. He was walking up and down the room quickly, eagerly, with his head down on his chest and his hands behind him. To me, who knew his every mood, his manner told its own story. He was at work again. He had risen out of his dreams and was chasing a new problem. I rang the bell and was shown up to the room, which

ໜຶ່ງຂ້ອຍເຄີຍມີສ່ວນຮ່ວມຢູ່ນຳ.

ລາວບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຈະຍິ້ມ ແລະ ກໍ່ບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຈະສະແດງຄວາມດີໃຈຢ່າງເລີກເຊິ່ງ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າລາວດີໃຈທີ່ໄດ້ເຫັນຂ້ອຍ. ລາວຊີ້ມືໃສ່ຕັ່ງເຊີນຂ້ອຍນັ່ງ ໂດຍປາສະຈາກຄຳເວົ້າໃດໆ, ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ໄປຢືນຢູ່ຂ້າງເຕົາໄຟ ແລະ ສັງເກດເບິ່ງຂ້ອຍຕາມແບບຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ.

"ການແຕ່ງງານເປັນສິ່ງທີ່ດີສຳລັບໂຕແທ້ໆ," ລາວເອີ່ຍຂຶ້ນ, "ວັດສັນ, ເຮົາຄິດວ່າໂຕມີນ້ຳໜັກເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນເຖິງເຈັດປອນເຄິ່ງ ຕັ້ງແຕ່ເຮົາພົບກັນຄັ້ງສຸດທ້າຍ,"

"ພຽງແຕ່ເຈັດປອນທັ້ນຫວ໋ະ!" ຂ້ອຍຕອບ.

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ຄວາມຈິງເຮົາຄິດວ່າໜ້າຈະຫຼາຍກວ່ານັ້ນ, ເຮົາເຊື່ອວ່າມັນໜ້າຈະຫຼາຍກວ່ານັ້ນໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງ ວັດສັນ. ເຮົາກໍ່ເຝົ້າສັງເກດໄປຕາມທຳນອງນັ້ນແຫຼະ, ໂຕບໍ່ໄດ້ບອກເຮົາເລີຍ ວ່າໂຕກັບໄປເຮັດອາຊີບເປັນທ່ານໝໍອີກຄັ້ງ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ພໍເຮົາໄດ້ເຫັນບາງຢ່າງ ເຮົາກໍ່ສະຫຼຸບໄດ້ໂລດ. ຫວ່າງບໍ່ດົນມານີ້ ເຮົາເຫັນຕີນຕົວຂອງໂຕເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍນ້ຳເຫື່ອ ແລະ ໂຕຍັງມີສາວໃຊ້ຄົນໜຶ່ງ ເຊິ່ງບໍ່ຄ່ອຍລະມັດລະວັງຕໍ່ສິ່ງຂອງ ຂອງໂຕພໍປານໃດແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ໂຮມສ ເພື່ອນຮັກ," ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ, "ມັນໂພດເກີນໄປແລ້ວເດີ, ໂຕຈະຕ້ອງຖືກເຜົາໄຟແນ່ນອນ ຖ້າໂຕເກີດຢູ່ໃນສອງ-ສາມສະຕະວັດຜ່ານມາ. ເປັນຄວາມຈິງ ທີ່ເຮົາໄດ້ຍ່າງເຂົ້າໄປໃນຕົວເມືອງສອງ-ສາມມື້ຜ່ານມານີ້ ແລະ ກັບບ້ານດ້ວຍຕີນຕົວເປິເປື້ອນ ແຕ່ເຮົາກໍ່ໄດ້

had once been in part my own.

His did not smile. He did not often show great pleasure; but he was glad, I think, to see me. Without a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to a chair. Then he stood by the fire and looked me over in the way that only Sherlock Holmes could do.

"Marriage is good for you," he remarked. "I think, Watson, that you have put on seven and a half pounds since I saw you."

"Only seven!" I answered.

"Indeed, I should have thought a little more. Just a little more, I believe, Watson. And in practice again, I observe. You did not tell me that you planned to start working as a doctor again."

"Then, how do you know?"

"I see things, I make conclusions. How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet recently, and that you have a servant girl who is not careful with your things?"

"My dear Holmes," said I, "this is too much. You would certainly have been burned, had you lived a few centuries ago. It is true that I had a country walk a few days ago

ປ່ຽນຊຸດໃໝ່, ສະນັ້ນເຮົານຶກບໍ່ອອກເລີຍວ່າໂຕຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ. ສາວໃຊ້ຂອງເຮົານາງກໍ່ໃຊ້ການບໍ່ໄດ້ແທ້ໆ ແລະ ພັນລະຍາຂອງເຮົາກໍ່ຢາກຈະຫາຄົນໃໝ່ມາແທນນາງ ແຕ່ແນວໃດເຮົາກໍ່ຍັງນຶກບໍ່ອອກຢູ່ດີວ່າໂຕຮູ້ໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ."

ລາວຫົວກັບຕົນເອງ ແລະ ລູບໆມືທີ່ຈ່ອຍຜອມຂອງລາວ.

"ບໍ່ຍາກດອກ," ລາວເວົ້າ, "ຕາຂອງເຮົາບອກກັບເຮົາວ່າ ດ້ານໃນເກີບກິ່ງເບື້ອງຊ້າຍຂອງໂຕ ບ່ອນທີ່ແສງໄຟຕ້ອງໃສ່ ທາງດ້ານນອກມີຮອຍຊີ້ໆຢູ່ຫົກຮອຍ. ມັນເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າຮອຍດັ່ງກ່າວເກີດຂຶ້ນຈາກຜູ້ໃດຜູ້ໜຶ່ງທີ່ບໍ່ລະມັດລະວັງ, ພວກເຂົາໃຊ້ມີດແກະດິນແຂງໆຕິດຢູ່ຕາມຂອບຂອງເກີບ. ເຮົາສາມາດຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສະຫຼຸບໄດ້ສອງປະເດັນຄື: ໂຕໄດ້ອອກໄປນອກຕອນອາກາດບໍ່ດີ ແລະ ໂຕມີສາວໃຊ້ທີ່ໃຊ້ການບໍ່ໄດ້ເລີຍ. ໃນດ້ານອາຊີບການງານ ຖ້າມີສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນໜຶ່ງຍ່າງເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງຂອງເຮົາພ້ອມກັບກິ່ນເຄມີໄອໂອໂດຟອມ ເຮົາຈະຮູ້ສຶກວ່າຕົນເອງໂງ່ຫຼາຍ ຖ້າບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າຄົນໆນັ້ນເປັນທ່ານໝໍ."

ຂ້ອຍອົດຫົວບໍ່ໄດ້ທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນຄຳອະທິບາຍງ່າຍໆ ແລະ ໄດ້ຂໍ້ສະຫຼຸບມາ. "ພໍແຕ່ເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນໂຕໃຫ້ເຫດຜົນມາ," ຂ້ອຍຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສັງເກດ, "ທຸກຢ່າງກໍ່ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າງ່າຍດາຍແທ້ໆ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ສາມາດອະທິບາຍໄດ້ດ້ວຍຕົນເອງໂດຍງ່າຍເຊັ່ນກັນ ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າເຮົາຈະບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈ ການໃຫ້ເຫດຜົນຂອງໂຕໃນແຕ່ລະຂັ້ນຕອນ ຈົນ

and came home quite dirty. But I have changed my clothes, so I can't imagine how you knew it. As to my servant girl, she is terrible, and my wife is about to replace her, but there, again, I fail to see how you work it out."

He laughed to himself and rubbed his long hands together.

"It is simple," he said. "My eyes tell me that on the inside of your left shoe, just where the light of the fire hits it, the outside of the shoe is cut by six straight lines. Obviously the cuts were made by someone who was not careful as they ran a knife along the edges of the shoe in order to remove hardened dirt from it. So, you see, I could draw two conclusions: That you had been out in poor weather, and that you had a very bad servant girl. As to your job, if a gentleman walks into my rooms smelling of the chemical iodoform, I must be stupid, indeed, if I do not know that he is a doctor."

I could not help laughing at how easily he explained how he reached his conclusions. "When I hear you give your reasons," I remarked, "the thing always appears to me to be so absurdly simple that I could do it myself quite simply, though at each step in your chain of reasoning I fail to understand

ກວ່າໂຕຈະໄດ້ອະທິບາຍສິ່ງທີ່ໂຕຄິດອອກມາ ແຕ່ເຮົາກໍ່ຍັງເຊື່ອວ່າ ຕາຂອງເຮົາຍັງດີເທົ່າໆກັບຕາຂອງໂຕ.”

“ໂຕກໍ່ເປັນແບບນັ້ນຢູ່ເລື້ອຍໆຫັ້ນແຫຼະ,” ລາວເວົ້າ ພ້ອມທັງນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງ. “ໂຕເຫັນແຕ່ໂຕບໍ່ໄດ້ສັງເກດເລີຍ, ມັນແຕກຕ່າງກັນຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ, ຕົວຢ່າງ: “ໂຕເຫັນຂັ້ນໄດໃນເຮືອນ ທີ່ຂຶ້ນມາຫາຫ້ອງນີ້ຢູ່ເປັນປະຈຳ.”

“ແມ່ນແລ້ວເຫັນຢູ່ເປັນປະຈຳ.”

“ເຫັນຫຼາຍປານໃດ?”

“ເປັນຮ້ອຍໆເທື່ອແລ້ວ.”

until you explain your thinking. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours.”

“Quite so,” he answered, sitting himself down in a chair. “You see, but you do not observe. The difference is clear. For example, you have often seen the steps that lead up from the hall to this room.”

“Often.”

“How often?”

“Well, hundreds of times.”

“ມີຂັ້ນໄດຈັກຂັ້ນ?”

“ມີຈັກຂັ້ນຫວ່ະ? ໃຜຊິໄປຮູ້.”

“ມັນເປັນແບບນີ້ທຸກເທື່ອ! ໂຕບໍ່ໄດ້ສັງເກດມັນເລີຍ ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າໂຕຈະໄດ້ເຫັນ, ນັ້ນແຫຼະຄືຈຸດທີ່ເຮົາສັງເກດ. ຕອນນີ້ເຮົາຮູ້ວ່າ ຂັ້ນໄດມີຢູ່ 17 ຂັ້ນເພາະວ່າເຮົາໄດ້ເຫັນ ແລະ ໄດ້ສັງເກດພ້ອມ. ເອີ ເກືອບລືມໄປ, ໃນເມື່ອໂຕມີຄວາມສົນໃຈບັນຫາເລັກນ້ອຍເຫຼົ່ານີ້ ແລະ ໂຕກໍ່ມີທັກສະໃນການຂີດຂຽນດີ ເພື່ອຈະຂຽນຈັກໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ສອງເລື່ອງ ກ່ຽວກັບປະສົບການອັນເລັກນ້ອຍຂອງເຮົາ ໂຕອາດຈະມີຄວາມສົນໃຈທາງດ້ານນີ້ກໍ່ເປັນໄດ້.” ລາວເອົາເຈ້ຍໜາສີຊົມພູໃບໜຶ່ງທີ່ຖືກວາງເປີດໄວ້ໜ້າໂຕະໂຍນໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍ, ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: “ມັນຫາກໍ່ມາຮອດມື້ນີ້, ລອງອ່ານເບິ່ງດູ.”

ເຈ້ຍໃບນີ້ບໍ່ມີຊື່ ຫຼື ທີ່ຢູ່ໃດໆ.

ຂໍ້ຄວາມລະບຸໄວ້ວ່າ: “ຈະມີຄົນມາຫາເຈົ້າຄືນນີ້ ເວລາ 7:45 ນາທີ, ມີສຸພາບບູລຸດຜູ້ໜຶ່ງຕ້ອງການຄຳແນະນຳໃນປະເດັນທີ່ສຳຄັນທີ່ສຸດ. ການໃຫ້ຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຂອງເຈົ້າ ຕໍ່ກັບເຊື້ອເຈົ້າຜູ້ໜຶ່ງໃນຢູຣົບສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫັນວ່າ ເຈົ້າເປັນຜູ້ໜຶ່ງທີ່ໄວ້ເນື້ອເຊື່ອໃຈໄດ້ຢ່າງປອດໄພໃນເລື່ອງທີ່ສຳຄັນຢ່າງຍິ່ງ. ລາຍລະອຽດກ່ຽວກັບເຈົ້າ ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ມາຈາກຄົນທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກເຈົ້າເປັນຢ່າງດີ, ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າຢູ່ບ້ານຕາມເວລານັດໝາຍ, ແຂກຂອງເຈົ້າຈະໃສ່ໜ້າກາກມາຫາ.”

“ນີ້ເປັນເລື່ອງລຶກລັບ ແທ້ໆ,” ຂ້ອຍຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສັງເກດ, “ໂຕຄິດວ່າມັນແມ່ນເລື່ອງຫຍັງກັນແທ້?”

“Then how many steps are there?”

“How many? I don’t know.”

“Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are 17 steps, because I have both seen and observed. By the way, since you are interested in these little problems, and since you are good enough to write about one or two of my small experiences, you may be interested in this.” He threw over a piece of thick, pink paper that had been sitting open on the table. “It just arrived today,” he said. “Read it.”

The note was without either a name or an address.

“There will call upon you tonight, at a quarter to eight o’clock,” it said, “a gentleman who desires to ask for your advice on a matter of the very deepest importance. Your recent services to one of the royal houses of Europe have shown that you are one who may safely be trusted with matters that are of great importance. This description of you we have from all people received. Be in your home then at that hour. Your visitor will wear a mask.”

“This is indeed a mystery,” I remarked. “What do you imagine

"ເຮົາຍັງບໍ່ມີຂໍ້ມູນຫຍັງເທື່ອ, ມັນເປັນຄວາມຄິດທີ່ບໍ່ດີເລີຍ ທີ່ຈະໄປຄາດເດົາກ່ອນຄວາມເປັນຈິງ ແທນທີ່ຈະຄົ້ນຫາການຄາດການໃຫ້ແທດເໝາະກັບຄວາມຈິງ; ມັນຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ໂຕເລີ່ມຜັນແປໄປຈາກຄວາມຈິງ ຖ້າໂຕຄາດການໄວເກີນໄປ. ລອງມາສັງເກດເບິ່ງເຈ້ຍໃບນັ້ນກ່ອນ ໂຕມີຂໍ້ສະຫຼຸບຫຍັງແດ່ບໍ່?"

ຂ້ອຍສັງເກດເບິ່ງຕົວໜັງສືຢ່າງລະອຽດລະອໍ ພ້ອມທັງເຈ້ຍທີ່ໃຊ້ຂຽນ.

"ຜູ້ຂຽນອາດຈະເປັນຄົນລວຍ," ຂ້ອຍຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສັງເກດໂດຍການນຳໃຊ້ວິທີທາງແບບເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ, "ເຈ້ຍນີ້ຕ້ອງເປັນເຈ້ຍທີ່ມີລາຄາແພງ, ມັນເປັນເຈ້ຍທີ່ແປກແທ້ໆ."

"ແປກ! ນັ້ນແຫຼະເປັນຄຳທີ່ເໝາະສົມ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ມັນບໍ່ແມ່ນເຈ້ຍທີ່ຜະລິດຢູ່ໃນ ອັງກິດຈັກດີ້ເລີຍ, ເອົາມັນມາເບິ່ງໃກ້ໆໄຟພີ້ດູ."

ຂ້ອຍເຮັດຕາມທີ່ລາວບອກ ແລະ ປະກົດເຫັນມີຕົວອັກສອນ "E" ໃຫຍ່ກັບຕົວອັກສອນ "g"ນ້ອຍ; "P" ໃຫຍ່ ແລະຕົວ "G" ໃຫຍ່ກັບຕົວ "t" ນ້ອຍ.

"ໂຕມີຄວາມຄິດເຫັນຫຍັງກ່ຽວກັບຕົວອັກສອນເຫຼົ່ານີ້?" ໂຮມສຖາມ.

"ມັນເປັນຊື່ຂອງຜູ້ຂຽນຢ່າງບໍ່ຕ້ອງສົງໄສ ຫຼື ບໍ່ກໍ່ເປັນຕົວຂຶ້ນຕົ້ນຂອງຊື່."

"ບໍ່ແມ່ນຈັກດີ້ເລີຍ, ຕົວ "G" ກັບຕົວ "t" ແທນໃຫ້ກັບຄຳວ່າ: 'Gesellschaft,' ເຊິ່ງເປັນຄຳສັບ 'ທຸລະກິດ ຫຼື ບໍລິສັດ' ໃນພາສາເຢຍລະມັນ. ມັນຄືກັບທີ່ເຮົາໃຊ້ 'Co;' ສຳລັບ 'Company' ສ່ວນຕົວ 'P'

that it means?"

"I have no information yet. It is never a good idea to make a theory before you have information. If you make a theory too soon, then you begin to change facts to fit your theory, instead of looking for a theory which fits the facts. But look at the note itself. What do you conclude from it?"

I carefully looked at the writing, and the paper upon which it was written.

"The man who wrote it was probably rich," I remarked, doing my best to copy my friend's way of thinking. "This paper must be expensive. It is a strange paper, indeed."

"Strange – that is the very word," said Holmes. "It is not an English paper at all. Hold it up to the light."

I did so, and saw in the paper a large "E" with a small "g," a "P," and a large "G" with a small "t."

"What do you think of that?" asked Holmes.

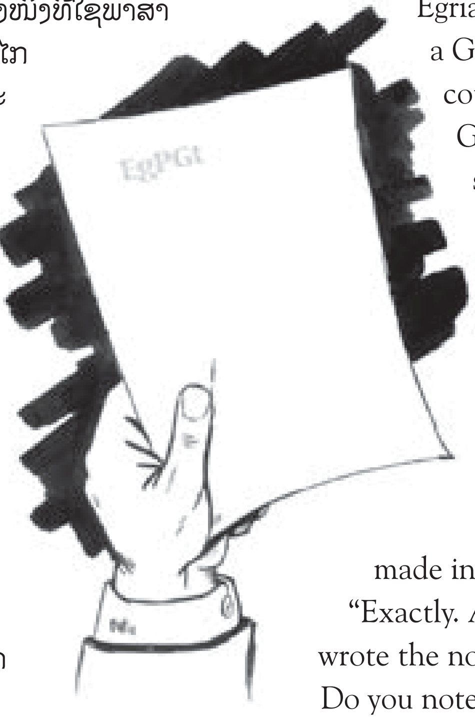
"The name of the writer, no doubt; or rather, the first letters of his name."

"Not at all. The 'G' with the small 't' stands for 'Gesellschaft,' which is the German word for 'business' or 'company.' It is like when we use 'Co.' to say 'Company.' The 'P,' of course,

ແນ່ນອນວ່າແທນໃຫ້ກັບ 'Paper'. ສຳລັບຕົວ 'Eg' ເຮົາລອງມາເບິ່ງປຶ້ມທີ່ກ່ຽວກັບທຸລະກິດໃນຢູຣົບກ່ອນ." ລາວເອົາປຶ້ມຫົວໜາສີນ້ຳຕານລົງມາ, ນີ້ເດຄືຄຳວ່າ: 'Egria' ມັນຢູ່ໃນໂບຮີເມຍ, ເປັນເມືອງໜຶ່ງທີ່ໃຊ້ພາສາເຢຍລະມັນ ເຊິ່ງຢູ່ບໍ່ໄກຈາກປະເທດເຢຍລະມັນ. ຢູ່ໃນປຶ້ມຂຽນໄວ້ວ່າ: "ເປັນທີ່ໜ້າສັງເກດເພາະມີບໍລິສັດຜະລິດເຈ້ຍຫຼາຍບໍລິສັດ." ຮາ ຮາ! ເພື່ອນເອີຍ, ໂຕມີຄວາມເຫັນແນວໃດກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງນີ້? ແວວຕາຂອງລາວສະຫວ່າງຂຶ້ນ.

"ເຈ້ຍນີ້ຖືກຜະລິດຂຶ້ນໃນ ໂບຮີເມຍ," ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ.

"ແນ່ນອນຢູ່ແລ້ວ ແລະ ຜູ້ຂຽນກໍ່ເປັນຄົນເຢຍລະມັນ, ໂຕຈົດຂໍ້ຄວາມອັນແປກໆໃນປະໂຫຍກນັ້ນໄວ້ແດ່ 'ລາຍລະອຽດຂອງເຈົ້າພວກເຮົາໄດ້ມາຈາກຄົນທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກເຈົ້າດີ.' ຄົນຝຣັ່ງບໍ່ໜ້າຈະຂຽນແບບນັ້ນ, ຄົນຝຣັ່ງກໍ່ຄືກັບຄົນອັງກິດ ມັກຈະໃຊ້ຄຳກິລິຍາໃນໃຈກາງຂອງປະໂຫຍກ. ມີແຕ່ຄົນເຢຍລະມັນເທົ່ານັ້ນທີ່ໃຊ້ຄຳກິລິຍາໄວ້ທ້າຍປະໂຫຍກ. ທັງໝົດເຫຼົ່ານີ້ກໍ່ເພື່ອຈະຄົ້ນຫາວ່າ ແມ່ນຫຍັງເປັນສິ່ງທີ່ຕ້ອງການຂອງຄົນເຢຍລະມັນຜູ້ທີ່ຂຽນລົງ



stands for 'Paper.' Now for the 'Eg.' Let us glance at our book of businesses in Europe." He took down a heavy brown book. "Here we are: Egria. It is in Bohemia, a German-speaking country not far from Germany. The book says it is 'Remarkable for its many paper-making companies.' Ha, ha, my boy, what do you make of that?" His eyes got brighter.

"So the paper was made in Bohemia," I said.

"Exactly. And the man who wrote the note is a German. Do you note the unusual way he wrote one sentence – 'This description of you we have from all people received.' A Frenchman could not have written that. Frenchmen, like Englishmen, put their verbs in the middle of their sentences. It is only the Germans who put their verbs at the end of their sentences. All that remains, therefore, is to discover what is wanted by this German who

ເຈ້ຍໃບນີ້ ແລ້ວສົ່ງມາແຕ່ ໂບຮິເມຍ ແລະລາວຍັງຈະໃສ່ໜ້າກາກ ເພື່ອບໍ່ໃຫ້ເຮົາເຫັນໃບໜ້າຂອງລາວ. ພໍດີລາວມາເຖິງທີ່ນີ້ແລ້ວລະ, ບໍ່ດົນເຮົາຈະໄດ້ຮູ້ຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ."

ຂະນະທີ່ລາວກຳລັງເວົ້າຢູ່ ກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງບາດຕີນມ້າປະສານກັບສຽງລໍ້ລົດຢຽບໃສ່ຫີນດັງມາແຕ່ທາງນອກ ຖັດມາກໍ່ມີສຽງກະດິງດັງຂຶ້ນ.

"ຟັງຈາກສຽງແລ້ວຕ້ອງແມ່ນມ້າສອງໂຕ," ລາວເວົ້າ, "ແມ່ນແລ້ວ," ລາວເວົ້າຕໍ່ ແລະ ເບິ່ງອອກໄປທາງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ, "ເປັນລົດທຽມມ້າຄັນນ້ອຍ ແລະ ມີມ້າທີ່ສວຍງາມສອງໂຕ, ແຕ່ລະໂຕໜ້າຈະມີລາຄາເຖິງ 150 ປອນ; ວັດສັນ, ຈະມີເງິນຫຼາຍໃນຄະດີນີ້ ຖ້າບໍ່ມີສິ່ງອື່ນອີກ."

"ເຮົາຄິດວ່າເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງກັບແລ້ວລະໂຮມສ."

"ຢ່າເລີຍ ດັອກເຕີ, ຢູ່ທີ່ນີ້ແຫຼະ, ວຽກນີ້ຈະບໍ່ສຳເລັດຖ້າບໍ່ມີໂຕ. ຮັບປະກັນໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າເລື່ອງນີ້ຕ້ອງເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈຫຼາຍ, ຖ້າພາດໄປກໍ່ຈະເສຍດາຍລ້າໆ."

"ແຕ່ວ່າແຂກຂອງໂຕ..."

"ບໍ່ເປັນຫຍັງດອກ, ເຮົາອາດຈະຕ້ອງການຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຈາກໂຕ ແລະ ລາວກໍ່ເຊັ່ນກັນ. ລາວມາຮອດແລ້ວ, ນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງຫັ້ນແຫຼະ ດັອກເຕີ ແລ້ວຕັ້ງໃຈຟັງໃຫ້ດີ."

ສຽງບາດຕີນໜັກໆຊ້າໆ ທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນມາແຕ່ທາງລຸ່ມ ຢຸດຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າປະຕູທັນທີ ແລ້ວພວກເຮົາກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງເຄາະປະຕູ.

"ເຂົ້າມາທາງໃນໂລດ!" ໂຮມສເຊີນ.

writes on paper from Bohemia and who wishes to wear a mask so that we won't see his face. And here he comes, I believe. We will soon know for sure."

As he spoke there was the sharp sound of horses' feet and of wheels rubbing against the stones outside, followed by a sharp ring of the bell.

"A pair of horses, by their sound," he said. "Yes," he went on, looking out the window. "A nice little car and a pair of beautiful horses. They would cost 150 pounds each. There's money in this case, Watson, if there is nothing else."

"I think that I had better go, Holmes."

"Not a bit, Doctor. Stay where you are. I am lost without you. And this promises to be interesting. It would be sad to miss it."

"But your client–"

"Never mind him. I may want your help, and so may he. Here he comes. Sit down in that chair, Doctor, and give us your best attention."

A slow and heavy step, which had been heard in the hall, stopped immediately outside the door. Then we heard someone at the door.

"Come in!" said Holmes.

ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ເຂົ້າມາມີຄວາມສູງບໍ່ຕ່ຳກວ່າຫົກຟຸດກັບຫົກນີ້ວ, ເປັນຄົນເອິກໃຫຍ່ ແລະ ເບິ່ງແຂງແຮງດີ; ເຄື່ອງນຸ່ງຂອງລາວມີລາຄາແພງ ແຕ່ເບິ່ງມັນມີລົດນິຍົມຕ່ຳໃນອັງກິດ. ເສື້ອຄຸມສີຟ້າແກ່ປົກຫຸ້ມຢູ່ເທິງບ່າ ມີເສັ້ນສີແດງພາດຕິດຈອດຢູ່ທີ່ຄໍ ແລະ ມີກະດຸມສີແດງຮຸ່ງຕິດໄວ້; ມືຂອງລາວຈັບໝວກຢູ່ ຂະນະທີ່ໃບໜ້າສ່ວນເທິງຫຸ້ມໄວ້ດ້ວຍໜ້າກາກສີດຳ, ລາວຕ້ອງຫາກໍ່ຍູ້ໜ້າກາກຂຶ້ນກ່ອນເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງນີ້ ເພາະວ່າມືຂອງລາວຍັງຍົກຢູ່ຕອນທີ່ລາວເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງ. ເບິ່ງຈາກໃບໜ້າແລ້ວ ລາວຈະຕ້ອງເປັນບຸກຄົນສຳຄັນ, ເປັນບຸກຄົນທີ່ຫວັງໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນເຮັດຕາມທີ່ລາວເວົ້າ. ເບິ່ງລາວເປັນຄົນທີ່ບໍ່ປ່ຽນໃຈແບບງ່າຍໆ.

"ເຈົ້າໄດ້ອ່ານຂໍ້ຄວາມຂອງຂ້ອຍແລ້ວແມ່ນບໍ່?" ລາວຖາມດ້ວຍນ້ຳສຽງທີ່ຂຶງຂັງ ແລະ ເປັນສຽງຄົນເຢຍລະມັນຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ, "ຂ້ອຍບອກເຈົ້າແລ້ວວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະມາພົບ," ລາວເບິ່ງໄປ-ມາລະຫວ່າງພວກເຮົາສອງຄົນ ເບິ່ງແລ້ວບໍ່ຄ່ອຍແນ່ໃຈວ່າຈະເວົ້າກັບໃຜດີ.

"ກະລຸນານັ່ງລົງກ່ອນ," ໂຮມສບອກ, "ນີ້ແມ່ນເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ດັອກເຕີ ວັດສັນ ຜູ້ທີ່ມັກຈະມາຊ່ວຍເລື່ອງຄະດີຕ່າງໆຂອງຂ້ອຍເປັນບາງຄັ້ງຄາວ. ບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າທ່ານຈະໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເອີ້ນວ່າແນວໃດດີ?"

"ເຈົ້າຈະເອີ້ນຂ້ອຍວ່າ ເຄົ້າ ວອນ ແຄຣມ ກໍ່ໄດ້, ຂ້ອຍເປັນຕົວແທນຂອງພະລາຊາ ແຫ່ງ ໂບຮີເມຍ. ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີວ່າ

A man entered who was at least six feet six inches tall, with a wide, strong chest. His clothes were rich in a way which would, in England, seem to be in bad taste. The deep blue cloth which was thrown over his shoulders was lined with flame-colored cloth and joined at the neck with a single, bright red stone. He carried a hat in his hand, while across the upper part of his face he had a black mask. He must have just pushed up the mask before coming into the room, for his hand was still raised as he entered. From his face, he appeared to be a man of importance, a man who expected others to do as he said. He did not look like a man who changed his opinions easily.

"You had my note?" he asked with a deep strong voice, clearly marked with a German sound. "I told you that I would call." He looked from one to the other of us, as if uncertain which to speak to.

"Please take a seat," said Holmes. "This is my friend, Dr. Watson, who is from time to time good enough to help me in my cases. Whom have I the honor to address?"

"You may address me as the Count von Kramm, here to speak for the king of Bohemia. I understand that this

ສຸພາບບູລຸດຜູ້ນີ້, ເພື່ອນຂອງເຈົ້າ, ເປັນຜູ້ທີ່ມີກຽດຕິຍົດ ເຊິ່ງຂ້ອຍພໍຈະໄວ້ວາງໃຈໄດ້ໃນເລື່ອງທີ່ສຳຄັນທີ່ສຸດ. ຖ້າບໍ່ດັ່ງນັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍຢາກຈະລົມກັບເຈົ້າຕາມລຳພັງ."

ຂ້ອຍຢືນຂຶ້ນຈະອອກໄປ ແຕ່ໂຮມສຈັບແຂນຂ້ອຍໄວ້ ແລ້ວບອກໃຫ້ນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງນັ້ນອີກ, "ຕ້ອງລົມກັບພວກເຮົາທັງສອງຄົນ ຖ້າບໍ່ດັ່ງນັ້ນຈະບໍ່ມີການເຈລະຈາໃດໆ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ເຈົ້າຈະເວົ້າຫຍັງກໍ່ໄດ້ຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າສຸພາບບູລຸດຜູ້ນີ້ ເໝືອນກັບເຈົ້າຈະເວົ້າກັບຂ້ອຍ."

ທ່ານ ເຄົ້າ ວົກທົວ, ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: "ຄັນຊັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງເລີ່ມຕົ້ນໂດຍການຂໍຮ້ອງໃຫ້ພວກເຈົ້າທັງສອງ ຈົ່ງເກັບໄວ້ເປັນຄວາມລັບເປັນເວລາເຖິງສອງປີ, ຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນເລື່ອງນີ້ຈະບໍ່ມີຄວາມສຳຄັນອີກຕໍ່ໄປ. ແຕ່ສຳລັບປະຈຸບັນນີ້ ມັນຄົງຈະບໍ່ໂພດເກີນໄປທີ່ຈະເວົ້າວ່າ ນ້ຳໜັກແຫ່ງຄວາມສຳຄັນຂອງມັນ ມີຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ການປ່ຽນແປງໃນປະຫວັດສາດຂອງຊາວຢູໂຣບເລີຍກໍ່ວ່າໄດ້."

"ຂ້ອຍໃຫ້ສັນຍາ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ.

"ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເຊັ່ນກັນ."

"ຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງຂໍໂທດທີ່ໃສ່ໜ້າກາກມາ," ແຂກແປກໜ້າຂອງເຮົາເວົ້າຕໍ່, "ບຸກຄົນສຳຄັນຜູ້ທີ່ຈ້າງຂ້ອຍມາ ປາຖະໜາບໍ່ໃຫ້ພວກເຈົ້າຮູ້ຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຂໍສາລະພາບເລີຍວ່າ ຊື່ທີ່ຂ້ອຍໃຊ້ນີ້ບໍ່ໄດ້ແມ່ນຊື່ແທ້ຂອງຂ້ອຍ."

"ຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໃຈດີໃນເລື່ອງນີ້," ໂຮມສເວົ້າຢ່າງຈິງຈັງ.

"ຄະດີນີ້ເປັນຄະດີທີ່ລະອຽດລະອໍແທ້ໆ

gentleman, your friend, is a man of honor, whom I may trust with a matter of the greatest importance. If not, I would like to talk with you alone."

I rose to go, but Holmes caught me by the arm and pushed me back into my chair. "It is both, or none," he said. "You may say before this gentleman anything that you may say to me."

The Count nodded. "Then I must begin," he said, "by asking you both to keep this a complete secret for two years; at the end of that time the matter will be of no importance. At the present time it is not too much to say that it is of such weight, it may change the course of European history."

"I promise," said Holmes.

"And I."

"I am sorry to appear in this mask," went on our strange visitor. "The important person who pays me wishes that I be unknown to you, and I may admit at once that the name by which I have just called myself is not actually my own."

"I already understood that," said Holmes dryly.

"This case is very delicate, and we

ແລະ ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງເຮັດທຸກສິ່ງທຸກຢ່າງທີ່ເຮັດໄດ້ ເພື່ອຢຸດຕິສິ່ງທີ່ອາດຈະກາຍເປັນເລື່ອງກ່າວຂວັນນິນທາອັນໃຫຍ່ຫຼວງ ແລະ ເປັນຄວາມສ່ຽງສູງຕໍ່ກຽດຕິຍົດຂອງຕະກຸນກະສັດແຫ່ງຢູຣົບ. ເວົ້າໃຫ້ເຂົ້າໃຈງ່າຍໆກໍ່ຄື ເລື່ອງນີ້ພົວພັນເຖິງລາດຊະວົງ ອອມສຕາຍ, ເຊິ່ງເປັນກະສັດແຫ່ງ ໂບຮີເມຍ.”

“ເລື່ອງນັ້ນຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໃຈດີ,” ໂຮມສ ເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງເຮັດຕົວສະບາຍໆຢູ່ກັບຕັ່ງອີ້ແລ້ວຫຼັບຕາ.

ແຂກຂອງເຮົາເຫຼືອກຕາເບິ່ງຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ມີສີໜ້າກຽດຄ້ານເຫງົານອນ, ຜູ້ທີ່ລາວຮູ້

must do everything we can to stop what might grow to be a great scandal and seriously risk the honor of one of the royal families of Europe. To speak plainly, the matter involves the great House of Ormstein, the kings of Bohemia.”

“I already understood that, as well,” said Holmes, making himself comfortable in his chair and closing his eyes.

Our visitor glanced with some apparent surprise at the loafing,

ມາວ່າເປັນນັກສືບສະຫຼຽວສະຫຼາດທີ່ສຸດໃນຢູຣົບ ດ້ວຍສີໜ້າແປກໃຈຢ່າງເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນ. ໂຮມສຄ່ອຍໆມືນຕາຂຶ້ນອີກຄັ້ງແລ້ວເບິ່ງໄປທີ່ແຂກຮ່າງໃຫຍ່ຂອງເຮົາ.

"ຖ້າພະອົງຈະກະລຸນາອະທິບາຍກໍລະນີນີ້ເອງ," ໂຮມສຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສັງເກດ, "ຂ້ອຍອາດຈະຊ່ວຍຫຍັງໄດ້ດີກວ່ານີ້."

ຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນລຸກຂຶ້ນປຸບປັບຈາກຕັ່ງແລ້ວຍ່າງໄປ-ມາຕາມຫ້ອງດ້ວຍສີໜ້າບໍ່ສະບາຍໃຈ, ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ຈີກໜ້າກາກອອກ ແລ້ວໂຍນລົງພື້ນຫ້ອງ, "ເຈົ້າເຂົ້າໃຈຖືກຕ້ອງແລ້ວ," ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງ, "ຂ້ອຍເອງຄືກະສັດ ແລ້ວເປັນຫຍັງຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງມາປົກປິດຕົວເອງແບບນີ້?"

"ແມ່ນຫຍັງກັນ?" ໂຮມສອຸທານຂຶ້ນ, "ກ່ອນທີ່ພະອົງເວົ້າອອກມາ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ສັງຫອນໃຈຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ຂ້ອຍກຳລັງເວົ້າກັບກະສັດແຫ່ງ ໂບຮິເມຍ ຢູ່."

"ແຕ່ເຈົ້າຄົງຈະເຂົ້າໃຈ," ແຂກແປກໜ້າຂອງເຮົາເວົ້າ ພ້ອມທັງນັ່ງລົງອີກຄັ້ງແລ້ວໃຊ້ມືທັງສອງລູບໃບໜ້າບ່ອນທີ່ໜ້າກາກເຄີຍຕິດຢູ່, "ເຈົ້າຄົງຈະເຂົ້າໃຈວ່າຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຊິນເຄີຍກັບການກະທຳແບບນີ້ດ້ວຍຕົວເອງ, ຊ້ຳບໍ່ໜຳມັນຍັງເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ລະອຽດລະອໍ ຈົນຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຢາກຈະໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນປະຕິບັດແທນ ໂດຍປາສະຈາກການອ້າງອີງເຖິງອຳນາດຂອງຂ້ອຍ. ຂ້ອຍມາຈາກ ໂບຮິເມຍ ໂດຍບໍ່ບອກໃຫ້ໃຜຮູ້ ເພື່ອມາຂໍຄຳປຶກສາຈາກເຈົ້າ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ຊ່ວຍກະລຸນາຖາມມາໄດ້ເລີຍ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຫຼັບຕາລົງອີກຄັ້ງ.

sleepy-looking figure of the man who, no doubt, he had been told was the best detective in Europe. Holmes slowly opened his eyes again and looked at his big client.

"If your Majesty would please explain your case," he remarked, "I would be better able to help you."

The man jumped from his chair and walked up and down the room with a very unhappy look on his face. Then he tore the mask from his face and threw it on the floor. "You are right," he cried; "I am the King. Why should I try to hide it?"

"Why, indeed?" said Holmes. "Even before Your Majesty spoke, I knew that I was addressing the King of Bohemia."

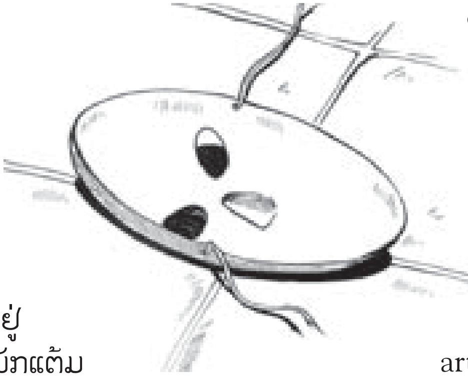
"But you can understand," said our strange visitor, sitting down once more and putting his hand to his face where the mask had sat, "you can understand that I am not used to doing such business in my own person. Yet the matter was so delicate that I could not give it to anyone else without putting myself in his power. I have come from Bohemia, without telling a single person, in order to ask for your advice."

"Then, please ask," said Holmes, shutting his eyes once more.

"ຄວາມຈິງມີຢູ່ວ່າ ປະມານຫ້າປີຜ່ານມານີ້ ໃນລະຫວ່າງການໄປຢ້ຽມຢາມ ວໍຊໍ ເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍມື້ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ພົບກັບ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ, ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງຮູ້ຈັກຊື່ນີ້ຢ່າງບໍ່ຕ້ອງສົງໄສ."

"ດັອກເຕີ, ໂຕຊ່ວຍກວດເບິ່ງລາຍຊື່ຂອງນາງ ໃນປື້ມບັນທຶກຂອງເຮົາແດ່," ໂຮມສ ບອກຂະນະທີ່ຕາຂອງລາວຍັງປິດຢູ່. ເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍປີທີ່ລາວເກັບບັນທຶກເລື່ອງລາວຈາກໜັງສືພິມ ກ່ຽວກັບປະເດັນທີ່ລາວຄິດວ່າ ມື້ໃດມື້ໜຶ່ງອາດຈະເປັນທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈ ໄວ້ເປັນພັນໆເລື່ອງ. ມັນເປັນການຍາກທີ່ຈະລະບຸຊື່ແຕ່ລະປະເດັນ ຫຼື ຊື່ບຸກຄົນໃດໜຶ່ງ ເຊິ່ງລາວບໍ່ສາມາດຊອກຂໍ້ມູນໄດ້ໂດຍທັນຕາ. ບໍ່ດົນຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຄົ້ນພົບຊີວະປະຫວັດຂອງນາງ ສອດຢູ່ລະຫວ່າງປະຫວັດຂອງນັກແຕ້ມຄົນຝຣັ່ງ ຜູ້ທີ່ແຕ້ມຮູບໂດຍໃຊ້ແຕ່ສີຂຽວ ແລະ ປະຫວັດຂອງຜູ້ທີ່ຂຽນເລື່ອງສັ້ນ ກ່ຽວກັບປາໃນທະເລເລິກ.

"ໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຄິດເບິ່ງກ່ອນ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ຮືມ! ເກີດຢູ່ອາເມລິກາ ໃນປີ 1858, ເປັນນັກຮ້ອງ, ໃນວໍຊໍ ແມ່ນແລ້ວ! ນາງເປັນນັກຮ້ອງທີ່ອາໄສຢູ່ໃນລອນດອນ ແມ່ນແລ້ວ! ພະອົງເອີຍ, ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ຂ້ານ້ອຍເຂົ້າໃຈ ມັນມີການພົວພັນຂອງຊາຍໜຸ່ມຄົນນີ້ ດ້ວຍການຂຽນຈົດໝາຍຫານາງ ຕາມທີ່ພະອົງເວົ້າຫຼາຍກວ່າທີ່ພະອົງຄວນເຮັດ



"The facts are these: Some five years ago, during a long visit to the city of Warsaw, I met Irene Adler. The name is no doubt known to you."

"Kindly look her up in my papers, Doctor," said Holmes without opening his eyes. For many years he had been keeping thousands of newspaper stories about subjects that might one day be of interest. It was difficult to name a subject or a person on which he could not at once give information. Very soon, I found her life story, between that of a French artist who painted using only the color green, and that of a man who had written a short book about the deep-sea fishes.

"Let me see!" said Holmes. "Hmm! Born in America in the year 1858. A singer, in Warsaw – yes! Stopped working as a singer – ha! Living in London – quite so! Your Majesty, as I understand, became involved with this young person, wrote her some letters in which you said more than

ແລະ ຕອນນີ້ພະອົງຕ້ອງການຈົດໝາຍເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນຄືນມາ."

"ຖືກຕ້ອງ, ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຈະເອົາກັບມາດ້ວຍວິທີໃດ?"

"ມີການແຕ່ງງານລັບໆບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່ເລີຍ."

"ບໍ່ມີເອກະສານໃດໆເລີຍບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງເລີຍ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນຂ້ານ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າຈະເຮັດແນວໃດດີ. ພະອົງຄົງຈະເປັນຫ່ວງວ່າ ແມ່ຍິງຄົນນີ້ຈະຄຸກຄາມພະອົງດ້ວຍການນຳເອົາຈົດໝາຍນີ້ລົງໃນໜັງສືພິມ ຖ້າພະອົງບໍ່ເອົາເງິນໃຫ້ນາງ ແຕ່ຂ້ານ້ອຍບໍ່ເຫັນວ່າມັນຈະເປັນບັນຫາແຕ່ຢ່າງໃດເລີຍ. ຈະເປັນໄປໄດ້ບໍ່ຖ້າພະອົງພຽງແຕ່ເວົ້າວ່າ ພະອົງກັບນາງບໍ່ເຄີຍມີການພົວພັນກັນ ແລະ ອາດມີຜູ້ໃດຜູ້ໜຶ່ງຂຽນຈົດໝາຍນັ້ນ ແລ້ວໃສ່ຊື່ຂອງພະອົງລົງຊອງກໍ່ໄດ້?"

"ແຕ່ມັນແມ່ນລາຍມືຂອງຂ້ອຍຫັ້ນເດ."

"ບໍ່ເປັນຫຍັງ! ພະອົງບອກໄປເລີຍວ່າ ມີຄົນສຳເນົາລາຍມືຂອງພະອົງ."

"ເຈ້ຍທີ່ໃຊ້ຂຽນແມ່ນເຈ້ຍຂອງຂ້ອຍ."

"ພະອົງບອກໄປເລີຍວ່າ ມີຄົນເອົາເຈ້ຍນັ້ນຈາກພະອົງໄປ."

"ມີຮູບຂອງຂ້ອຍຕິດຢູ່ຫັ້ນນຳອີກ."

"ອາດມີຜູ້ໃດຜູ້ໜຶ່ງຊື້ຮູບຂອງພະອົງໄປກໍ່ໄດ້."

"ແຕ່ມັນເປັນຮູບທີ່ຂ້ອຍຖ່າຍກັບນາງໄດ໋."

"ໝົດກັນ! ຊ່າງໂຊກຮ້າຍແທ້ໆ."

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ໄດ້ຄິດຖີ່ຖ້ວນ, ຈັ່ງແມ່ນຂ້ອຍເປັນບ້າແທ້ໆ."

you should have, and you now wish to get those letters back."

"Exactly so. But how–"

"Was there a secret marriage?"

"None."

"No papers?"

"None."

"Then I fail to follow your Majesty. You are worried that this young person could threaten to show your letters to the newspapers unless you give her money. But I don't see the problem. Couldn't you just say they are not real, that you and she were never involved, and that someone else wrote the letters and put your name on them?"

"There is the writing."

"No problem! You can say someone copied your writing."

"They are written on my note-paper."

"You can say someone took it from you."

"My photograph is with them."

"Anyone can buy your photograph."

"We were both in the photograph."

"Oh, dear! That is very bad!"

"I was not thinking well. I had lost all my senses."

“ພະອົງໄດ້ສ້າງບັນຫາໃຫຍ່ໃຫ້ກັບຕົວເອງແລ້ວ.”

“ຕອນນັ້ນຂ້ອຍເປັນພຽງເຈົ້າຊາຍທຳມະດາອົງໜຶ່ງ, ຂ້ອຍຍັງບໍ່ທັນເປັນຜູ້ໃຫຍ່ ແມ່ນແຕ່ດຽວນີ້ ອາຍຸຂ້ອຍຫາກໍ່ 30 ປີເທົ່ານັ້ນ.”

“ພວກເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງເອົາຄືນມາໃຫ້ໄດ້.”

“ເຮົາໄດ້ພະຍາຍາມຫຼາຍເທື່ອແລ້ວ ແຕ່ກໍ່ບໍ່ສຳເລັດ.”

“ພະອົງຕ້ອງໄດ້ໃຊ້ເງິນ, ຕ້ອງຊື້ເອົາມັນຄືນມາ.”

“ນາງຕ້ອງບໍ່ຂາຍງ່າຍໆ.”

“ຄັນຊັ້ນຕ້ອງລັກເອົາ.”

“ຫ້າເທື່ອແລ້ວທີ່ພວກເຮົາພະຍາຍາມລັກເອົາ, ມີຢູ່ສອງເທື່ອທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຈ້າງຄົນ ບຸກເຂົ້າໄປໃນເຮືອນຂອງນາງ, ອີກເທື່ອໜຶ່ງພວກເຮົາໄດ້ຄົ້ນເຄື່ອງຂອງນາງ ຕອນທີ່ນາງໄປທ່ຽວ ແລະ ອີກສອງເທື່ອພວກເຮົາຍຶດປຸ້ນຕົວນາງ ແຕ່ກໍ່ຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ຜົນ.”

“ບໍ່ມີວີ່ແວວຫຍັງເລີຍຫວ່ະ?”

“ບໍ່, ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງເລີຍ.”

“ໂຮມສຫົວຂຶ້ນ, “ມັນເປັນບັນຫາເລັກນ້ອຍເທົ່ານັ້ນ,” ລາວເວົ້າ.

“ແຕ່ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງໃຫຍ່ສຳລັບຂ້ອຍໄດ໋,” ພະອົງຕອບ.

“ໂດຍຂ້ານ້ອຍ, ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງໃຫຍ່, ແລ້ວນາງໄດ້ວາງແຜນເພື່ອເຮັດຫຍັງກັບຮູບນັ້ນບໍ່?”

“ເພື່ອທຳຮ້າຍ ແລະ ກ່າວຂວັນນິນທາຂ້ອຍແນ່ນອນ.”

“ແລ້ວນາງຈະເຮັດແບບນັ້ນໄດ້ແນວໃດ?”

“ຂ້ອຍກຳລັງຈະແຕ່ງງານ.”

“ເອີ, ຂ້ານ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນຂ່າວເຊັ່ນນັ້ນຄືກັນ.”

“You have made some serious problems for yourself.”

“I was only a prince then. I was young. Even now, I am still only 30.”

“We must get it back.”

“We have tried and failed.”

“Your Majesty must pay. It must be bought.”

“She will not sell.”

“Steal it, then.”

“Five times we have tried to steal it. Twice I have paid men to break into her house. Once we looked in her things when she traveled. Twice she has been stopped and searched. There has been no result.”

“No sign of it?”

“No. None.”

Holmes laughed. “It is quite a pretty little problem,” he said.

“But a very serious one to me,” replied the King.

“Very serious, indeed. And what does she plan to do with the photograph?”

“To hurt me. To cause a scandal.”

“But how?”

“I am about to be married.”

“So I have heard.”

“ສໍາລັບລູກສາວຂອງກະສັດແຫ່ງສແກນດີເນເວຍ ເຈົ້າອາດຈະຮູ້ຈັກກ່ຽວກັບຄອບຄົວຂອງນາງແລ້ວ, ພຽງແຕ່ຄວາມສົງໄສໃດໜຶ່ງກ່ຽວກັບອະດີດຂອງຂ້ອຍ ອາດຈະນໍາມາເຊິ່ງຈຸດຈົບຂອງການແຕ່ງງານໄດ້.”

“ແລ້ວ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ເດ?”

“ນາງຂູ່ວ່າຈະສົ່ງຮູບນັ້ນໄປໃຫ້ພວກເຂົາ ແລະ ນາງກໍ່ຈະເຮັດແທ້ໆ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີວ່ານາງຈະຕ້ອງເຮັດແນວນັ້ນ. ເຈົ້າບໍ່ຮູ້ຈັກແມ່ຍິງຄົນນີ້ພໍ, ຈິດໃຈຂອງນາງແຂງປານເຫຼັກກ້າ, ນາງເປັນຄົນທີ່ມີຄວາມສວຍງາມທີ່ສຸດ ແລະ ມີຈິດໃຈທີ່ເຂັ້ມແຂງປານຜູ້ຊາຍ; ຖ້າຂ້ອຍແຕ່ງງານກັບແມ່ຍິງຄົນອື່ນ ນາງຕ້ອງເຮັດສິ່ງໃດສິ່ງໜຶ່ງ, ນາງຈະຕ້ອງເຮັດແນ່ນອນ.”

“ພະອົງແນ່ໃຈບໍ່ ວ່ານາງບໍ່ໄດ້ສົ່ງຮູບນັ້ນໄປເທື່ອ?”

“ແນ່ໃຈ.”

“ແລ້ວເປັນຫຍັງພະອົງຈຶ່ງຄິດແບບນັ້ນ?”

“ເພາະນາງໄດ້ເວົ້າວ່າ ນາງຈະສົ່ງຮູບນັ້ນໄປ ເມື່ອໃດທີ່ພວກເຮົາມີການປະກາດຂ່າວແຕ່ງງານ ແລະ ນັ້ນກໍ່ຈະແມ່ນພາຍໃນສາມມື້ນີ້.”

“ໂອ, ພວກເຮົາຍັງມີເວລາຢູ່ອີກສາມມື້,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, “ນັບວ່າໂຊກດີແລ້ວ ດຽວນີ້ຂ້ານ້ອຍຍັງມີເລື່ອງອື່ນອີກໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ສອງເລື່ອງສໍາຄັນທີ່ຕ້ອງໄປເບິ່ງ. ຕອນນີ້ພະອົງພັກຢູ່ລອນດອນແມ່ນບໍ່?”

“ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ເຈົ້າຈະພົບຂ້ອຍໄດ້ທີ່ໂຮງແຮມ ແລງແຮມ ໃນນາມຂອງ ເຄົ້າ ວອນແຄຣມ.”

“To the daughter of the King of Scandinavia. You may know about her family. Any doubt as to my past would bring the matter to an end.”

“And Irene Adler?”

“Threatens to send them the photograph. And she will do it. I know that she will do it. You do not know her, but she has a soul of steel. She has the face of the most beautiful of women, and the mind of the strongest of men. Rather than let me marry another woman, she would do anything – anything at all.”

“You are sure that she has not sent it yet?”

“I am sure.”

“And why?”

“Because she has said that she would send it on the day when we made public our plan to marry. That will be in three days.”

“Oh, so we have three days yet,” said Holmes. “That is very good, as I have one or two matters of importance to look into just at present. Your Majesty will, of course, stay in London for the present?”

“Certainly. You will find me at the Langham Hotel under the name of the Count Von Kramm.”

“ຄັນຊັ້ນຂ້ານ້ອຍຈະສົ່ງຂ່າວຫາພະອົງເພື່ອລາຍງານຄວາມຄືບໜ້າຂອງພວກເຮົາ.”

“ກະລຸນາຮີບດຳເນີນການ, ຂ້ອຍກັງວົນກັບເລື່ອງນີ້ໄດ໋.”

“ແລ້ວເລື່ອງເງິນເດ?”

“ໃຊ້ຕາມຄວາມປະສົງທຸກຢ່າງທີ່ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງການໂລດ.”

“ໃຊ້ຕາມຄວາມປະສົງທຸກຢ່າງທີ່ຂ້ານ້ອຍຕ້ອງການຫວ໋ະ?”

“ຂ້ອຍຈະບອກໃຫ້ເຈົ້າຮູ້ເລີຍວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຍິນດີສະຫຼະເຄິ່ງໜຶ່ງຂອງອານາຈັກ ເພື່ອໃຫ້ໄດ້ຮູບນັ້ນຄືນມາ.”

“ແລ້ວຄ່າໃຊ້ຈ່າຍການດຳເນີນການເດ?”

ພະລາຊາເອົາກະເປົາໜັກໆອອກມາວາງໄວ້ເທິງໂຕະ.

“ໃນກະເປົານີ້ມີຫຼຽນຄຳຄິດເປັນເງິນສາມຮ້ອຍປອນ ແລະ ເປັນທະນາບັດອີກເຈັດຮ້ອຍປອນ,” ພະອົງເວົ້າ.

“ໂຮມສຂຽນຈຳນວນເງິນທີ່ສະເໜີໃຫ້ ລົງໃນເຈ້ຍແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງຈາກປຶ້ມບັນທຶກຂອງລາວແລ້ວກໍ່ຍື່ນໃຫ້ພະອົງ.

“ແລ້ວທີ່ຢູ່ຂອງແມ່ຍິງຄົນນັ້ນເດ?” ໂຮມສຖາມ.

“ນາງພັກຢູ່ໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ, ຖະໜົນຣິເວີຊາຍ, ເຊັ້ນຈອນສ ວູດ.”

ໂຮມສບັນທຶກໄວ້, “ອີກໜຶ່ງຄຳຖາມ,” ລາວເວົ້າ, “ຮູບດັ່ງກ່າວເປັນຮູບໃສ່ກະເປົາບໍ່ ຫຼື ມີຂະໜາດໃຫຍ່ກວ່ານັ້ນ?”

“ມັນເປັນຮູບໃຫຍ່.”

“ຄັນຊັ້ນລາຕີສະວັດ ພະອົງ, ຂ້ານ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າ ບໍ່ດົນພວກຂ້ານ້ອຍຈະມີຂ່າວດີມາໃຫ້ພະອົງ. ລາຕີສະວັດ ວັດສັນ,” ລາວເວົ້າອີກຕື່ມ

“Then I shall drop you a line to let you know how we are doing.”

“Please do so. I will be worried.”

“Then, as to money?”

“Spend whatever you need to spend.”

“Whatever I need?”

“I tell you that I would give half of my kingdom to have that photograph.”

“And for present costs?”

The King took a heavy bag and laid it on the table.

“There are three hundred pounds in gold and seven hundred pounds in notes,” he said.

Holmes wrote the amount received on a piece of paper from his notebook and handed it to the King.

“And the woman’s address?” he asked.

“She is at the Brian Hotel, Riverside Street, St. John’s Wood.”

Holmes took a note of it. “One other question,” he said. “Was the photograph pocket-sized, or large?”

“It was large.”

“Then, good night, your Majesty, and I trust that we shall soon have some good news for you. And good night, Watson,” he added,

ຂະນະທີ່ລົດມ້າແຂກຂອງເຮົາ ຜູ້ເຊິ່ງເປັນກະສັດ ພວມແລ່ນໄປຕາມຖະໜົນ. “ມື້ອື່ນຕອນທ່ຽງເວລາສາມໂມງ ຖ້າໂຕສະດວກມາຫາ ເຮົາຢາກລົມໂຕກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງລາວນ້ອຍໆນີ້.”

* * *

ເວລາບ່າຍສາມໂມງ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ມາຮອດຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ແຕ່ໂຮມສຍັງບໍ່ທັນກັບມາບ້ານ. ເຈົ້າຂອງບ້ານບອກຂ້ອຍວ່າ ລາວອອກຈາກບ້ານໄປຕັ້ງແຕ່ແປດໂມງປາຍໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້. ຂ້ອຍນັ່ງຢູ່ຂ້າງເຕົາໄຟ ກະວ່າຈະລໍຖ້າລາວ ແຕ່ຢ້ານວ່າມັນອາດຈະດົນ, ຂ້ອຍສົນໃຈໃນເລື່ອງການສືບສວນຂອງລາວຢ່າງເລິກເຊິ່ງແລ້ວ ແມ່ນວ່າມັນຈະບໍ່ມີຄວາມແປກປະຫຼາດ ໃນທາງດຽວກັນກັບເລື່ອງຄະດີທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍຂຽນມາແລ້ວສອງເທື່ອ ແຕ່ຄືງເປັນເພາະວ່າ ລູກຄວາມຂອງລາວເປັນກະສັດ ເລີຍເຮັດໃຫ້ຄະດີນີ້ເປັນຄະດີທີ່ພິເສດ.

ຈົນເກືອບຮອດສີ່ໂມງຈິ່ງເຫັນປະຕູເປີດອອກ, ມີຜູ້ຊາຍແຕ່ງຕົວບໍ່ຮຽບຮ້ອຍ, ໃບໜ້າແດງເພາະດື່ມເຫຼົ້າ ຍ່າງເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງ. ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະຄຸ້ນເຄີຍກັບຄວາມສາມາດອັນປະຫຼາດໃຈ ໃນການປະກົດຕົວຂອງເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຍັງໄດ້ເບິ່ງເຖິງສາມເທື່ອຈິ່ງແນ່ໃຈວ່ານັ້ນແມ່ນ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສແທ້ໆ. ລາວເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງໂດຍປາສະຈາກການສົ່ງສັນຍານໃດໆກັບຂ້ອຍ. ອີກຫ້ານາທີຖັດມາລາວກໍ່ອອກຈາກຫ້ອງມາ ແລະ ແຕ່ງຕົວດີໆ ໜ້ານັບຖືເຊັ່ນເຄີຍ. ມືຂອງລາວຈົກຢູ່

as the wheels of the royal car rolled down the street. “If you will be good enough to come tomorrow afternoon at three o’clock I would like to talk about this little matter with you.”

* * *

At exactly three o’clock I was at Baker Street, but Holmes had not yet returned. The owner told me that he had left the house shortly after eight o’clock in the morning. I sat down near the fire, planning to wait for him, however long he might be. I was already deeply interested in his investigation, for, though it was not strange in the same way as the two crimes that I have already written about, still, the fact that his client was a king made this case very special.

It was almost four o’clock before the door opened, and a badly dressed man, with his face red from drinking, walked into the room. Although I was quite used to my friend’s surprising ability to change his appearance, I had to look three times before I was certain that it was indeed Sherlock Holmes. With a nod he disappeared into the bedroom. He came out five minutes later, nicely dressed, as of old. Putting his hands into his pock-

ໃນຖົງເສື້ອ ແລະ ຢຽດຂາອອກຢູ່ຂ້າງເຕົາໄຟ ແລ້ວກໍ່ຫົວຂຶ້ນຢ່າງເຕັມໃຈດົນສົມຄວນ.

"ເພື່ອນເອີຍ ສະໜຸກແທ້ໆ!" ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງ ແລ້ວກໍ່ຫົວອີກຄັ້ງ, ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ນອນອີງເທົ້າລົງໃນຕັ່ງຢ່າງອິດເມື່ອຍອ່ອນເພຍ.

"ໂຕເປັນຫຍັງຫວ່ະ?"

"ກໍ່ມັນເປັນໜ້າຢາກຫົວແທ້ໆນີ້ນາ, ເຮົາແນ່ໃຈວ່າໂຕເດົາບໍ່ອອກດອກ ວ່າຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້ເຮົາໄປເຮັດຫຍັງມາ ແລະ ມັນຈົບລົງແບບໃດ."

"ຈະໃຫ້ເຮົານຶກອອກໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ ແຕ່ເຮົາຂໍເດົາວ່າ ໂຕຕ້ອງໄປລັກຊອມເບິ່ງ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ມາແນ່ນອນ."

"ໂຕເດົາຖືກແລ້ວ ແຕ່ສິ່ງທີ່ຕາມມາຂ້ອນຂ້າງຜິດປົກກະຕິ. ຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້ເຮົາອອກຈາກບ້ານໄປແປດໂມງປາຍໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງ, ແຕ່ງໂຕຄືຊາວນາພວມຊິອອກໄປເຮັດວຽກ. ຜູ້ຄົນທີ່ເຮັດວຽກຢູ່ກັບມ້າທຳຄວາມຮູ້ຈັກກັນ ແລະ ເຂົ້າກັນໄດ້ຢ່າງໄວວາ, ຖ້າໂຕໄດ້ຢູ່ກັບພວກເຂົາ ໂຕຈະໄດ້ຮູ້ທຸກສິ່ງທີ່ໂຕຢາກຈະຮູ້. ບໍ່ດົນເຮົາກໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ຢູ່ໃສ, ມັນມີສວນຢູ່ທາງດ້ານຫຼັງ ແຕ່ທາງດ້ານໜ້າຕິດກັບຖະໜົນ; ເປັນຕຶກສູງສອງຊັ້ນ ແລະ ປະຕູໃສ່ກະແຈໄວ້ຢ່າງໜາແໜ້ນ; ມີຫ້ອງຮັບແຂກກວ້າງໃຫຍ່ຢູ່ທາງດ້ານຂວາ ແລະ ມີປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຍາວລົງເກືອບຮອດພື້ນຫ້ອງ; ທາງຫຼັງຫ້ອງນັ້ນບໍ່ມີຫຍັງເປັນທີ່ສັງເກດ ນອກຈາກມີປ່ອງຢ້ຽມທີ່ສາມາດເຂົ້າໄປໄດ້ຈາກຫຼັງຄາເບື້ອງຫຼັງ. ເຮົາຍ່າງເບິ່ງຮອບໆ ແລະ

ets, he stretched out his legs in front of the fire and laughed heartily for some minutes.

"Well, really!" he cried, and then he laughed again until he had to lie back, helpless, in the chair.

"What is it?"

"It's quite too funny. I am sure you could never guess how I used my morning, or what I ended up doing."

"I can't imagine. I suppose that you have been carefully watching Miss Irene Adler."

"Quite so; but what came next was rather unusual. I left the house a little after eight o'clock this morning, dressed as a farmer out of work. Men who work with horses quickly make friends with one another. If you are one of them, you will know all that there is to know. I soon found the Brian Hotel. It has a garden at the back, but the front comes right up to the road, two stories high. It has a strong lock on the door. There is a large living room on the right side, with long windows almost to the floor. Behind there was nothing remarkable, except that the hall window could be reached from the top of the house in back. I walked around it and looked at it closely

ສຳຫຼວດທຸກໆຈຸດທີ່ສຳຄັນ ແຕ່ກໍ່ບໍ່ມີສິ່ງອື່ນໃດເປັນທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈ.

"ຈາກນັ້ນເຮົາກໍ່ຄ່ອຍໆຍ່າງອອກມານອກທາງ ແລະ ເຫັນມີຫົນທາງນ້ອຍເສັ້ນໜຶ່ງລຽບໄປຕາມກຳແພງຂອງສວນຕາມທີ່ເຮົາຄາດໄວ້. ເຮົາໄດ້ຊ່ວຍຄົນລ້ຽງມ້າຂັດຖູຂົນມ້າ ແລະ ເພື່ອເປັນຄ່າຕອບແທນພວກເຂົາເອົາເງິນໃຫ້ເຮົາໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງ, ເບຍແກ້ວໜຶ່ງ ແລະ ຂໍ້ມູນຫຼາຍຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບແອດເລີ ຕາມທີ່ເຮົາຕ້ອງການຢາກຮູ້. ພວກເຂົາຍັງໄດ້ບອກເຮົາຫຼາຍຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບອີກຫົກຄົນທີ່ຢູ່ຕາມບ້ານໃກ້ເຮືອນຄຽງ ທີ່ເຮົາມີຄວາມສົນໃຈໃນຕົວພວກເຂົາບໍ່ໜ້ອຍ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ຕ້ອງອົດທົນຟັງເລື່ອງລາວຊີວິດຂອງພວກເຂົານຳອີກ."

"ແລ້ວລາຍລະອຽດຂອງ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ເປັນແນວໃດ?" ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

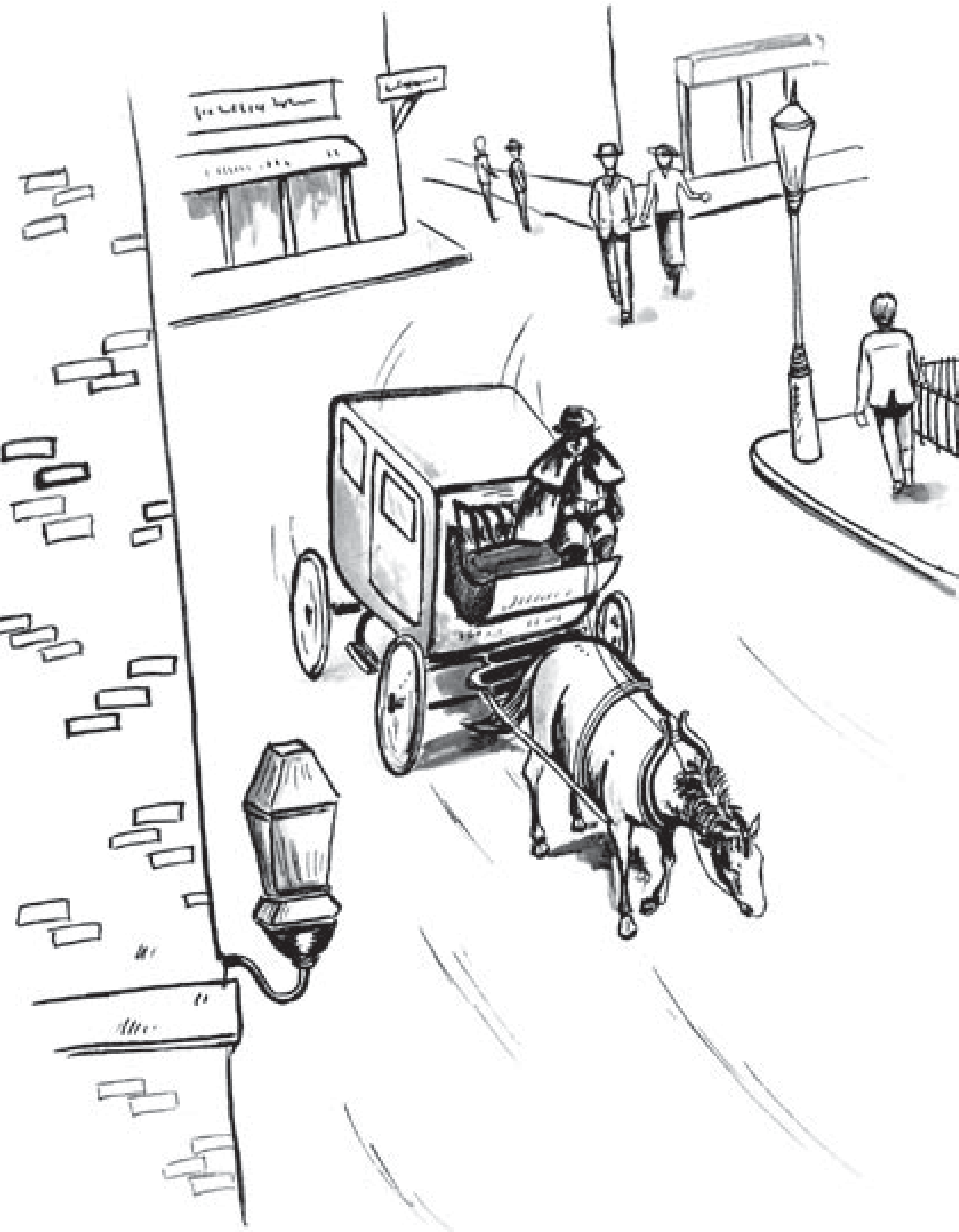
"ໂອ, ນາງກໍ່ປັ່ນຫົວພວກຜູ້ຊາຍແຖວໆນັ້ນໄປໝົດຫັ້ນແຫຼະ. ນາງເປັນແມ່ຍິງທີ່ລະອຽດອ່ອນ ແລະ ສວຍງາມທີ່ສຸດໃນໂລກ, ນີ້ຄືສິ່ງທີ່ຜູ້ຊາຍທຸກຄົນຕາມແຖວຖະໜົນຣິເວີຊາຍ ຄິດຢູ່. ນາງໃຊ້ຊີວິດຢູ່ແບບງຽບໆ, ມີອາຊີບຮ້ອງເພງ, ຂັບລົດອອກຈາກບ້ານເວລາຫ້າໂມງທຸກມື້ ແລະ ກັບມາບ້ານເພື່ອກິນເຂົ້າແລງໃນເວລາເຈັດໂມງ. ນາງບໍ່ຄ່ອຍອອກຈາກບ້ານໃນເວລາອື່ນນອກຈາກການໄປຮ້ອງເພງ; ມີຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນໜຶ່ງມັກມາຫານາງ ແລະ ກໍ່ໝັ່ນມາອີກດ້ວຍ; ຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນເປັນຄົນຜິວດຳ ແລະເຈົ້າຊູ້, ລາວມັກໄປຫານາງບໍ່ໜ້ອຍກວ່າໜຶ່ງຄັ້ງຕໍ່ມື້ ສ່ວນຫຼາຍແມ່ນສອງຄັ້ງ. ລາວຊື່ວ່າ ກອດເຟຣ ນໍຕັນ. ເຮົາໄດ້ລົມກັບຄົນ

from every point of view, but without noting anything else of interest.

"I then slowly walked down the street and found, as I expected, a smaller street that runs down along one wall of the garden. I helped the men rub down their horses. In return, they gave me a little money, a bottle of beer, and as much information as I could desire about Miss Adler. They also told me a great deal about six other people in the neighborhood in whom I was not in the least interested, but whose life stories I was forced to listen to."

"And what of Irene Adler?" I asked.

"Oh, she has turned all the men's heads down in that part. She is the most delicate, beautiful thing on this earth. That's what every man on Riverside Street thinks. She lives quietly, still sings now and then, drives out at five every day, and returns at exactly seven o'clock for dinner. She rarely goes out at other times, except when she sings. She has only one man visit her, but he visits quite often. He is dark and handsome, never calls less than once a day, and often twice. His name is Mr. Godfrey Norton. I talked to a man who had driven



ທີ່ຂັບລົດມ້າໄປສົ່ງລາວຢູ່ບ້ານມາແລ້ວເປັນສິບໆຄັ້ງ ແລ້ວເຮົາກໍ່ໄດ້ຮູ້ທຸກຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບຕົວລາວ. ເຫັນບໍ່ວ່າມັນມີປະໂຫຍດຫຼາຍສໍ່າໃດທີ່ໄປຮູ້ຈັກກັບຄົນຂັບລົດມ້າ ແລະໄດ້ຂໍ້ມູນຈາກພວກເຂົາ! ເມື່ອເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນທຸກຢ່າງທີ່ລາວບອກມາ ເຮົາກໍ່ລອງຍ່າງລຽບໄປ-ມາຕາມໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ອີກເທື່ອໜຶ່ງ ເພື່ອຄິດວາງແຜນການ.

"ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ຊື່ ກອດເຟຣ ນໍຕັນ ຄົນນີ້ ຄືບຸກຄົນທີ່ສໍາຄັນໃນເລື່ອງນີ້ຢ່າງເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນ. ແມ່ນຫຍັງຄືເຫດຜົນທີ່ພາໃຫ້ລາວມາຫານາງຄັ້ງແລ້ວຄັ້ງເລົ່າ? ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີເປັນລູກຄວາມຂອງລາວບໍ່ ຫຼືວ່ານາງເປັນຄົນຮັກແບບລັບໆລີ້ໆຂອງລາວກັນແທ້? ຖ້ານາງເປັນລູກຄວາມຂອງລາວ ນາງອາດຈະເອົາຮູບໃຫ້ລາວໄວ້ເພື່ອຄວາມປອດໄພ, ແຕ່ຖ້າຫາກພວກເຂົາພົວພັນກັນໃນທາງຊູ້ສາວ ນາງອາດຈະເກັບຮູບນັ້ນໄວ້ກັບນາງເອງ ເຮົາຕ້ອງການຄໍາຕອບໃຫ້ກັບຄໍາຖາມນີ້. ປະເດັນນີ້ອາດຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ເຮົາຮູ້ວ່າ ເຮົາຄວນຈະດໍາເນີນການຢູ່ທີ່ໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ຕໍ່ໄປ ຫຼື ຫັນກັບມາສົນໃຈຫ້ອງຂອງສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນນັ້ນ. ມັນເປັນຈຸດທີ່ລະອຽດອ່ອນ ແລະ ເຮັດໃຫ້ຂອບເຂດຂອງການສືບສວນຂອງເຮົາ ກວ້າງຂວາງອອກກວ່າເກົ່າ. ເຮົາຢ້ານວ່າ ລາຍລະອຽດເຫຼົ່ານີ້ຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ໂຕໜ້າເບື່ອ ແຕ່ເຮົາຈໍາເປັນຕ້ອງເຫຼົ່າບັນຫານ້ອຍໆນີ້ໃຫ້ໂຕຟັງ ວ່າໂຕພໍຈະເຂົ້າໃຈທຸກຢ່າງໄດ້ແດ່ບໍ່."

"ເຮົາຕາມໂຕທັນສະບາຍ." ຂ້ອຍຕອບ.

"ເຮົາກໍາລັງຄິດຢູ່ວ່າ ຈະເຮັດແນວໃດດີກັບເລື່ອງນີ້ ພໍດີມີລົດຄັນໜຶ່ງແລ່ນເຂົ້າມາ

him home ten or twelve times, and knew all about him. See how useful it is to have a cab driver to give us information! When I had listened to all he had to tell, I began to walk up and down near the Brian Hotel once more, and to think over my plan.

"This Godfrey Norton was apparently an important person in the matter. What was the reason for his repeated visits? Was Irene Adler his client, or his secret lover? If she was his client, she had probably given him the photograph to keep it safe. But if they were involved as a couple, then she probably kept the photograph to herself. I needed an answer to this question. That would tell me whether I should keep doing my work at the Brian Hotel, or turn my attention to the gentleman's rooms. It was a delicate point, and it made the field of my investigation wider. I fear that all these details bore you, but I have to let you see my little problems, if you are to understand everything."

"I am following you closely," I answered.

"I was still thinking the matter over when a cab drove up to the

ໃນໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ແລະ ມີສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນໜຶ່ງໂດດອອກຈາກລົດ. ລາວເປັນຄົນເຈົ້າຊູ້, ຜົມດຳ ແລະ ດັງແຫຼມຍາວດີ, ເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນເລີຍວ່າ ລາວເປັນຄົນທີ່ເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນມາ, ທ່າທາງຂອງລາວຟ້າວຟັ່ງທີ່ສຸດ, ລາວຮ້ອງໃຫ້ຄົນຂັບລົດລໍຖ້າ ແລ້ວຍ່າງຜ່ານຄົນໃຊ້ຜູ້ທີ່ເປີດປະຕູໃຫ້ລາວ ຄ້າຍກັບວ່າຄົນທີ່ຄຸ້ນເຄີຍກັບບ້ານຫຼັງນີ້ເປັນຢ່າງດີ.

“ລາວຢູ່ໃນບ້ານປະມານເຄິ່ງຊົ່ວໂມງ ເຮົາສາມາດເຫັນລາວໄດ້ຜ່ານທາງປະຕູປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຂອງຫ້ອງນັ່ງຫຼິ້ນ, ລາວຍ່າງຂຶ້ນໆລົງໆ ແລະ ເວົ້າດ້ວຍຄວາມຕື່ນເຕັ້ນພ້ອມທັງຍົກມືໄປ-ມາ. ສ່ວນ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ເຮົາບໍ່ເຫັນຫຍັງເລີຍ. ໃນທີ່ສຸດເຮົາກໍ່ເຫັນລາວຍ່າງພວດພາດອອກມາທາງນອກ ແລະ ເບິ່ງທ່າທາງຂອງລາວຍິ່ງຕື່ນເຕັ້ນກວ່າເກົ່າ. ຂະນະທີ່ລາວກ້າວຂາເຂົ້າໄປໃນລົດ ລາວກໍ່ຈົກເອົາໂມງຄຳອອກຈາກຖົງເສື້ອມາເບິ່ງຢ່າງໃຈຈົດໃຈຈໍ່, ‘ຮີບຂັບໄປໄວໆ,’ ລາວຮ້ອງສັ່ງ, ‘ໄປຮ້ານ ແຮງຄີ ທີ່ຖະໜົນ ຮິລ ກ່ອນ, ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ໄປ ໂບດ ເຊັນໂມນິກາ, ຂ້ອຍຈະເອົາຫຼຽນເງິນໃຫ້ເຈົ້າ ຖ້າເຈົ້າພາຂ້ອຍໄປຮອດທີ່ນັ້ນໄດ້ພາຍໃນຊາວນາທີ!’

“ເມື່ອພວກເຂົາອອກໄປແລ້ວ ເຮົາກໍ່ຄິດວ່າຄວນຈະຕາມພວກເຂົາໄປຫຼືບໍ່, ພໍໄປຮອດທາງນ້ອຍເສັ້ນໜຶ່ງ ກໍ່ມີລົດອີກຄັນໜຶ່ງແລ່ນເຂົ້າມາ, ຄົນຂັບລົດທັນໃສ່ກະດຸມເສື້ອໃຫຍ່ໄດ້ພຽງເຄິ່ງດຽວ, ສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນນັ້ນອອກມາຈາກເຮືອນ ແລ້ວຮີບຟ້າວຂຶ້ນລົດກ່ອນທີ່ລົດຍັງບໍ່ທັນຢຸດນິ້ງດ້ວຍຊ້ຳ. ຂະນະນັ້ນເຮົາທັນເຫັນນາງພຽງແວບ

Brian Hotel, and a gentleman jumped out. He was a remarkably handsome man, with dark hair and a sharp nose – apparently the man of whom I had heard. He appeared to be in a great hurry. He shouted to the cab driver to wait, and walked past the servant who opened the door with the air of a man who was quite at home.

“He was in the house about half an hour, and I could see him in the windows of the sitting-room, walking up and down, talking excitedly, and waving his arms. Of Irene Adler, I could see nothing. Finally he came out, looking even more excited than before. As he stepped up to the cab, he pulled a gold watch from his pocket and looked at it carefully. ‘Drive fast,’ he shouted, ‘first to Hankey’s Shop on Hill Street, and then to the Church of St. Monica. I’ll give you a silver coin if you do it in twenty minutes!’

“Away they went, and I was just wondering if I should follow them when up the small street came a cab, the driver with his coat half open. It hadn’t pulled up before the woman shot out of the hall door and into the cab. I only caught a glance of her

ດຽວ, ແຕ່ກໍ່ເຫັນໄດ້ວ່າ ນາງເປັນຄົນສວຍງາມແທ້ໆ, ໃບໜ້າຂອງນາງເຮັດໃຫ້ຜູ້ຊາຍອາດຍອມຕາຍແທນນາງໄດ້.

"'ໄປໂບດ ເຊັນໂມນິກາ ຈອນ,' ນາງສັ່ງ, 'ຂ້ອຍຈະໃຫ້ເຈົ້າສອງຫຼຽນເງິນ ຖ້າເຈົ້າພາຂ້ອຍໄປເຖິງບ່ອນນັ້ນພາຍໃນຊາວນາທີ.'

"ມັນເປັນໂອກາດອັນດີທີ່ເຮົາບໍ່ອາດໃຫ້ພາດໄປໄດ້ ວັດສັນ. ເຮົາກຳລັງຄິດຢູ່ວ່າ ຄວນຈະຕາມຫຼັງນາງໄປ ຫຼືວ່າຈະຂຶ້ນນັ່ງທາງຫຼັງລົດໄປກັບນາງໂດຍບໍ່ໃຫ້ນາງຮູ້ໄດ້ ແຕ່ພໍດີມີລົດຄັນໜຶ່ງແລ່ນຜ່ານທາງເຂົ້າມາ. ຄົນຂັບລົດເບິ່ງໜ້າຕາຈົນໆຢ່າງເຮົາສອງເທື່ອ ແຕ່ເຮົາຮີບໂດດຂຶ້ນລົດກ່ອນທີ່ລາວຈະທັນເວົ້າຫຍັງອອກມາ, 'ໄປໂບດເຊັນໂມນິກາ,' ເຮົາບອກ, 'ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຈະໃຫ້ເຈົ້າສອງຫຼຽນເງິນ ຖ້າເຈົ້າພາຂ້ອຍໄປເຖິງບ່ອນນັ້ນໄດ້ພາຍໃນຊາວນາທີ.' ມັນເປັນເວລາ 11:35 ນາທີ ແລະ ແນ່ນອນຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ທຸກຢ່າງເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນ ວ່າມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນ.

"ຄົນຂັບລົດຂອງເຮົາຂັບໄວສຸດຂີດ, ເຮົາບໍ່ເຄີຍໄດ້ຂີ່ລົດໄວປານນີ້ຈັກເທື່ອເລີຍ ແຕ່ພວກເຂົາກໍ່ຍັງໄປເຖິງບ່ອນນັ້ນກ່ອນເຮົາ. ລົດມ້າຂອງພວກເຂົາຈອດຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າປະຕູຕອນທີ່ເຮົາໄປຮອດ, ເຮົາຮີບຈ່າຍເງິນໃຫ້ຄົນຂັບລົດ ແລ້ວຟ້າວຍ່າງເຂົ້າໄປໃນໂບດ. ບໍ່ມີໃຜຢູ່ໃນນັ້ນ ນອກຈາກສອງຄົນທີ່ເຮົາຕາມໄປ ແລະ ບາດຫຼວງອີກຄົນໜຶ່ງ ເຊິ່ງກຳລັງໂອ້ລົມກັນຢູ່ຢ່າງຮີບດ່ວນ, ພວກເຂົາທັງສາມພວມຢືນຈຸ້ມກັນເປັນກຸ່ມ ຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າແທ່ນບູຊາ. ສ່ວນເຮົາເອງຢືນອີງຝາຢູ່ທຳທ່າຄ້າຍກັບຄົນຂີ້ຄ້ານ ທີ່ເຂົ້າມາເພິ່ງ

at the moment, but she was a beautiful woman, with a face that a man might die for.

"'The Church of St. Monica, John,' she cried, 'and two silver coins if you reach it in twenty minutes.'

"This was quite too good to lose, Watson. I was just deciding whether I should run for it, or whether I should sit behind her cab and get a ride where she couldn't see me. But then another cab came down the street. The driver looked twice at such a poor man as I, but I jumped in before he could say anything. 'The Church of St. Monica,' said I, 'and two silver coins if you reach it in twenty minutes.' It was twenty-five minutes to twelve, and of course it was clear enough what was happening.

"My driver drove fast. I don't think I ever moved faster, but the others were there before us. The cabs with their horses were in front of the door when I arrived. I paid the driver and hurried into the church. There was not a soul there save the couple whom I had followed and a minister, who was talking with them. They were all three standing in a group in the front of the church. I leaned up against a wall like any other loafer

ພາອາໄສຢູ່ໃນໂບດ. ທັນໃດນັ້ນມັນເຮັດໃຫ້ເຮົາປະຫຼາດໃຈຢ່າງຍິ່ງ ເມື່ອທັງສາມຄົນທີ່ຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າຫັນໜ້າມາຫາເຮົາ ແລ້ວ ກອດເຟຣ ນໍຕັນ ກໍ່ຮີບແລ່ນເຂົ້າມາຫາເຮົາຢ່າງຮີບຮ້ອນ.

"'ຂອບໃຈ ພະເຈົ້າ,' ລາວຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນ, 'ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງຊ່ວຍພວກເຮົາໄດ້, ຮີບມາ! ຮີບມາ!'

"'ແລ້ວເປັນແນວໃດຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນ?' ຂ້ອຍຖາມຕໍ່.

"'ຮີບມາເຖີດເຈົ້າ, ພຽງສາມນາທີເທົ່ານັ້ນ.'

"ເຮົາຖືກດຶງໄປຕໍ່ໜ້າແທ່ນບູຊາ ແລະ ກ່ອນທີ່ເຮົາຈະຮູ້ວ່າເຮົາກຳລັງເຮັດຫຍັງຢູ່ ກໍ່ພົບວ່າເຮົາກຳລັງເວົ້າຕາມຄຳທີ່ມີຄົນຊິ່ມໃສ່ຫູແບບຄ່ອຍໆ. ເຮົາໄດ້ຮູ້ໃນສິ່ງທີ່ເຮົາບໍ່ຮູ້ອີ່ໂນອີ່ເນຫຍັງເລີຍ ໂດຍການຊ່ວຍຮັບຮອງການແຕ່ງງານຂອງ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ກັບ ກອດເຟຣ ນໍຕັນ. ທຸກຢ່າງສຳເລັດໄປໂດຍໄວ ແລະ ສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນນັ້ນກໍ່ກ່າວຂອບໃຈເຮົາຢູ່ທາງຂ້າງໜຶ່ງ ແລະ ສຸພາບສະຕີຢູ່ອີກທາງຂ້າງໜຶ່ງ ຂະນະທີ່ບາດຫຼວງຢືນຍິ້ມຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າຂອງເຮົາ. ມັນເປັນສະຖານະການທີ່ບໍ່ໜ້າເຊື່ອທີ່ສຸດໃນຊີວິດທີ່ເຮົາເຄີຍພົບມາ, ພໍຄິດຂຶ້ນມາເທື່ອໃດ ເຮົາກໍ່ອົດຫົວບໍ່ໄດ້ຄືຕອນນີ້ໆແຫຼະ.

"ເບິ່ງຄືກັບວ່າມີບາງຢ່າງທີ່ບໍ່ຊອບມາພາຄວນ ໃນການແຕ່ງງານຂອງສອງຄົນນີ້ ແລະ ບາດຫຼວງຄົງປະຕິເສດການແຕ່ງງານຂອງພວກເຂົາ ທີ່ບໍ່ມີໃຜເປັນພະຍານ. ການປະກົດຕົວຂອງເຮົາໃນບ່ອນນັ້ນ ໄດ້ຊ່ວຍໃຫ້ທ່ານ ນໍຕັນ ບໍ່ຈຳເປັນຕ້ອງໄປ

who has dropped into a church. Suddenly, to my surprise, the three up in front turned to face me, and Godfrey Norton came running as hard as he could towards me.

"'Thank God,' he cried. 'You'll do. Come! Come!'

"'What then?' I asked.

"'Come, man, come, only three minutes.'

"I was pulled up to the front of the church. Before I knew where I was, I found myself repeating words that were quietly spoken in my ear. I said that I knew about things of which I knew nothing, and generally helped in the marriage of Irene Adler to Godfrey Norton. It was all done in an instant, and there was the gentleman thanking me on the one side and the lady on the other, while the minister smiled at me in front. It was the most absurd position in which I ever found myself in my life, and it was the thought of it that started me laughing just now.

"It seems that there had been something wrong in the papers that the couple needed to marry, and that the minister would not marry them without a witness of some sort. My lucky appearance saved Mr. Norton

ຊອກຫາພະຍານຢູ່ຕາມຖະໜົນ, ສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນນັ້ນເອົາຫຼຽນເງິນໃຫ້ເຮົາໜຶ່ງຫຼຽນ ແລະເຮົາກະວ່າຈະເອົາມັນຫ້ອຍໄວ້ສາຍໂມງ ເພື່ອເປັນຄວາມຊົງຈຳຈາກຕອນແລງຂອງມື້ນັ້ນ.”

“ມັນຊ່າງເປັນເຫດການທີ່ບໍ່ຄາດຄິດແທ້ໆ,” ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າ, “ແລ້ວຈາກນັ້ນມີຫຍັງຕື່ມອີກ?”

“ຄືວ່າ, ເຮົາພົບວ່າແຜນການຂອງເຮົາພວມຖືກຄຸກຄາມຢູ່ຢ່າງໜັກ, ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າທັງສອງຈະຮີບອອກໄປ, ຖ້າເປັນເຊັ່ນນັ້ນ ເຮົາກໍ່ຈະຮີບເຮັດບາງສິ່ງບາງຢ່າງ. ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມທັງສອງໄດ້ແຍກຈາກກັນໄປຄົນລະທິດທາງຢູ່ໜ້າປະຕູໂບດ. ສຸພາບບູລຸດຂີ່ລົດກັບໄປບ້ານຂອງລາວ ສ່ວນສຸພາບສະຕີກໍ່ກັບໄປບ້ານຂອງນາງ. ‘ຂ້ອຍຈະຂຶ້ນລົດໄປສວນສາທາລະນະເວລາຫ້າໂມງຕາມປົກກະຕິ,’ ນາງເວົ້າຂະນະທີ່ນາງຈາກລາວໄປ. ຈາກນັ້ນເຮົາກໍ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນຫຍັງອີກເລີຍ. ພວກເຂົາຂີ່ລົດອອກໄປ

from having to go out into the streets to look for a witness. The woman gave me a silver coin, and I mean to wear it on my watch-chain to remember the evening.”

“This is a very unexpected turn of affairs,” I said. “And what then?”

“Well, I found my plans very seriously threatened. It looked as if the pair might go away immediately. In that case, I would have to quickly do something. At the church door, however, they went in different directions. He drove back to his rooms, and she to her own house. ‘I shall drive out in the park at five as usual,’ she said as she left him. I heard no more. They drove

ຄົນລະທິດທາງ ແລ້ວເຮົາກໍ່ອອກໄປເພື່ອ ວາງແຜນໃໝ່."

"ແມ່ນຫຍັງຄືແຜນຂອງໂຕ?"

"ຊີ້ນເຢັນໆກັບເບຍຈັກໜຶ່ງຈອກໜ້າຈະດີ," ລາວຕອບ ພ້ອມທັງກົດກະດິງ, "ເຮົາຫຍຸ້ງເກີນໄປຈົນລືມຄິດເຫັນອາຫານ ແລະຕອນແລງນີ້ເຮົາອາດຈະຫຍຸ້ງກວ່ານີ້ດ້ວຍຊໍ້າ. ຈັ່ງໃດກໍ່ດີ ດັອກເຕີ, ເຮົາຢາກໃຫ້ໂຕຊ່ວຍເຮົາ."

"ເຮົາຍິນດີເຕັມທີ."

"ໂຕບໍ່ກັງວົນເລື່ອງຝ່າຝືນກົດໝາຍແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່ດອກ ຖ້າແມ່ນເລື່ອງທີ່ມີເຫດຜົນດີ."

"ໂອ, ມັນເປັນເຫດຜົນທີ່ສຸດຍອດເລີຍ!"

"ຄັນຊັ້ນເຮົາຂໍຢືນຄຽງຂ້າງໂຕ."

"ເຮົາແນ່ໃຈວ່າເຮົາຕ້ອງໄດ້ເພິ່ງພາໂຕ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕຈະໃຫ້ເຮົາເຮັດຫຍັງກັນແທ້?"

"ຖ້າມາດາມ ເທີນເນີ ເອົາອາຫານມາແລ້ວ ເຮົາຈະອະທິບາຍຈະແຈ້ງສູ່ໂຕຟັງ, ຕອນນີ້," ລາວເວົ້າດ້ວຍຄວາມຫິວໂຫຍຂະນະງວາກໜ້າໄປຫາອາຫານແບບງ່າຍໆ ທີ່ເຈົ້າຂອງບ້ານເອົາມາໃຫ້, "ເຮົາຈະເວົ້າສູ່ຟັງຕອນກຳລັງກິນເຂົ້າ ເພາະວ່າເຮົາບໍ່ມີເວລາຫຼາຍ, ຕອນນີ້ກໍ່ເກືອບຈະຫ້າໂມງແລ້ວ, ພາຍໃນອີກສອງຊົ່ວໂມງ ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງຕຽມພ້ອມປະຕິບັດການ; ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ຈະຂີ່ລົດກັບມາຕອນເຈັດໂມງ. ພວກເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງໄປ ໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນເພື່ອພົບນາງ."

"ແລ້ວຈະເຮັດແນວໃດຕໍ່ໄປ?"

"ໂຕປ່ອຍໃຫ້ເປັນໜ້າທີ່ຂອງເຮົາເອງ, ເຮົາໄດ້ຕຽມພ້ອມທຸກຢ່າງໄວ້ຮຽບຮ້ອຍ

away in different directions, and I went off to make my own plans."

"Which are?"

"Some cold meat and a glass of beer," he answered, ringing the bell. "I have been too busy to think of food, and I will probably be even busier this evening. By the way, Doctor, I need your help."

"I will be delighted."

"You don't mind breaking the law?"

"Not for a good cause."

"Oh, the cause is a very good one!"

"Then I am your man."

"I was sure that I could count on you."

"But what do you want me to do?"

"When Mrs. Turner has brought in the food I will make it clear to you. Now," he said as he turned hungrily to the simple food that the owner of our house had brought us, "I need to talk about it while I eat, because I don't have much time. It is nearly five now. In two hours we must be ready to act. Irene Adler returns from her drive at seven o'clock. We must be at the Brian Hotel to meet her."

"And what then?"

"You must leave that to me. I have already set up everything that

ແລ້ວ ສຳລັບເລື່ອງທີ່ຈະເກີດຂຶ້ນ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ໄດ້ບອກກັບທຸກຄົນທີ່ຈະເຂົ້າມາພົວພັນກັບເລື່ອງນີ້. ມີພຽງສິ່ງດຽວທີ່ໂຕຕ້ອງໃຫ້ສັນຍາກັບເຮົາ ນັ້ນກໍ່ຄື: ໂຕຕ້ອງບໍ່ເຂົ້າມາຂັດຂວາງ ບໍ່ວ່າຈະມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນ, ໂຕເຂົ້າໃຈແລ້ວແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ເຮົາຕ້ອງບໍ່ເຮັດຫຍັງຊັ້ນເບາະ?"

"ບໍ່ຕ້ອງເຮັດຫຍັງເລີຍເພື່ອນ, ອາດຈະມີສິ່ງທີ່ບໍ່ໜ້າປະທັບໃຈເລັກນ້ອຍເກີດຂຶ້ນ, ຫ້າມເຂົ້າໄປຫຍຸ້ງກ່ຽວເດັດຂາດ. ຈາກນັ້ນເຮົາກໍ່ຈະຖືກຫາມເຂົ້າໄປໃນບ້ານ, ສີ່ຫຼື ຫ້ານາທີຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນ ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຫ້ອງນັ່ງຫຼິ້ນຈະຖືກເປີດອອກ, ເຮົາຢາກໃຫ້ໂຕຢືນຢູ່ໃກ້ໆກັບປ່ອງຢ້ຽມທີ່ເປີດຢູ່ນັ້ນ."

"ໄດ້ເລີຍ."

"ໂຕຕ້ອງແນມເບິ່ງເຮົາໄວ້ ເຮົາຈະຢູ່ຈຸດທີ່ໂຕສາມາດແນມເຫັນ."

"ຕົກລົງ."

"ແລະເມື່ອເຮົາຕອດຫົວ-ຄືແນວນີ້- ໂຕຕ້ອງເອົາວັດຖຸທີ່ເຮົາຈະເອົາໃຫ້ໂຕ ໂຍນເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງ, ຂະນະດຽວກັນນັ້ນ ໃຫ້ໂຕຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນວ່າ ໄຟໄໝ້ ໄຟໄໝ້, ໂຕເຂົ້າໃຈບໍ່?"

"ເອີ, ເຂົ້າໃຈດີແລ້ວ."

"ມັນບໍ່ມີຫຍັງຍາກດອກ," ລາວເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຈົກເອົາວັດຖຸອັນໜຶ່ງອອກມາຈາກຖົງເສື້ອ, "ວັດຖຸນ້ອຍໆອັນນີ້ຈະພົ່ນຄວັນອອກ ເມື່ອໂຕດຶງສົ້ນໜຶ່ງອອກ. ໜ້າທີ່ຂອງໂຕທີ່ຕ້ອງເຮັດກໍ່ຄື ການດຶງສົ້ນຂອງວັດຖຸນີ້ອອກໂດຍງ່າຍ, ໂຍນມັນເຂົ້າໄປໃນປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ແລ້ວຮ້ອງດັງໆວ່າ: 'ໄຟໄໝ້! ໄຟໄໝ້!' ການຮ້ອງວ່າໄຟໄໝ້ຂອງໂຕ

is to happen, and I've spoken with everyone who will be involved. There is only one thing you must promise. You must not get in the way, no matter what happens. You understand?"

"I must do nothing?"

"Do nothing at all. There will probably be some small unpleasantness. Do not join in it. Then I will be carried into the house. Four or five minutes afterwards the sitting-room window will open. I want you to stand close to that open window."

"Yes."

"You are to watch me, for I will be where you can see me."

"Yes."

"And when I nod my head – like this – you must throw into the room the stick that I will give you to throw. At the same time, raise the cry of fire. Do you follow me?"

"Yes, very well."

"It is nothing very difficult," he said, taking a long stick from his pocket. "This little stick will produce smoke when you pull off the end. Your job is simply to pull off the end, throw it through the window, then shout 'Fire!' Your cry of fire will be repeated by quite a number of

ຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ຫຼາຍໆຄົນຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນນຳ. ຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນໃຫ້ໂຕຍ່າງອອກໄປນອກຖະໜົນພຸ້ນ ແລ້ວເຮົາຈະໄປພົບໂຕຢູ່ບ່ອນນັ້ນພາຍໃນອີກສິບນາທີ. ໂຕເຂົ້າໃຈຢ່າງແຈ່ມແຈ້ງແລ້ວແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່ໃຫ້ເຮົາເຮັດຫຍັງ, ພຽງແຕ່ຢືນຢູ່ຂ້າງໆປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ, ແນມເບິ່ງໂຕໄວ້ ແລະ ເມື່ອໂຕສົ່ງ

people. You may then walk to the end of the street, and I will join you again in ten minutes. I hope that I have made myself clear?"

"I am to do nothing, to get near the window, to watch you, and at

ສັນຍານ ໃຫ້ເຮົາໂຍນວັດຖຸນີ້ເຂົ້າໄປ, ຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ຮ້ອງວ່າ ໄຟໄໝ້ ໄຟໄໝ້ ແລ້ວໄປລໍຖ້າໂຕຢູ່ນອກຖະໜົນພຸ້ນ."

"ຖືກຕ້ອງແລ້ວ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ເປັນອັນວ່າໂຕໄວ້ວາງໃຈເຮົາໃຫ້ຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໂຕ."

"ດີຫຼາຍ, ເຮົາຄິດວ່າ ມັນເຖິງເວລາທີ່ເຮົາຕ້ອງຕຽມພ້ອມປະຕິບັດການແລ້ວ."

ລາວຫາຍແວບເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງນອນຂອງລາວ ແລ້ວຈັກໜ່ອຍກໍ່ອອກມາໃນຊຸດ ແຕ່ງກາຍຂອງບາດຫຼວງ. ໝວກສີດຳໃຫຍ່, ຊຸດແບບສະບາຍໆ, ຮອຍຍິ້ມທີ່ເປັນມິດ ແລະ ຮູບຮ່າງພາຍນອກອັນອ່ອນໂຍນຂອງລາວ ເບິ່ງແລ້ວເປັນທີ່ໜ້າເຄົາລົບເຊື່ອຖືຂອງທຸກໆຄົນ. ໂຮມສບໍ່ພຽງແຕ່ປ່ຽນຊຸດແຕ່ງກາຍຂອງລາວເທົ່ານັ້ນ ລາວຍັງປ່ຽນກິລິຍາທ່າທາງ ແລະ ຈິດວິນຍານຂອງລາວກໍ່ເບິ່ງຄ້າຍກັບວ່າປ່ຽນໄປໝົດ.

ເຮົາອອກຈາກຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ໄປເວລາ 6:15 ນາທີ ແລະ ພວກເຮົາໄປເຖິງຖະໜົນ ຣິເວີຊາຍ ເວລາ 6: 50 ນາທີ. ມັນມືດພໍດີ ແລະ ໄຟຖະໜົນກໍ່ເລີ່ມເປີດຂຶ້ນຂະນະທີ່ພວກເຮົາຍ່າງກັບໄປກັບມາຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ. ເບິ່ງຕົວອາຄານກໍ່ເປັນດັ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍວາດພາບໄວ້ໃນຕອນທີ່ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ອະທິບາຍສູ່ຂ້ອຍຟັງ ແຕ່ວ່າຖະໜົນເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍລົດລາງພາຫະນະ ຫຼາຍກວ່າທີ່ຂ້ອຍຄາດຄິດເອົາໄວ້. ຄວາມຈິງແລ້ວຖະໜົນແຄບໆໃນເຂດງຽບສະຫງົບແບບນີ້ ບໍ່ໜ້າຈະສັບສົນວຸ້ນວາຍປານນີ້. ມີກຸ່ມຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ແຕ່ງຕົວບໍ່

the sign, to throw in this stick, then to raise the cry of fire, and to wait for you at the corner of the street."

"Exactly."

"Then you may completely trust me to help."

"Very good. I think, perhaps, it is time for me to prepare for my job."

He disappeared into his bedroom and returned in a few minutes in the clothes of a friendly-looking minister. His wide black hat, comfortable clothes, friendly smile, and pleasant appearance were such that anyone would have trusted their soul to this kindly-looking man. It was not just that Holmes changed his clothes. His look, his manner, his very soul seemed to have changed, as well.

It was a quarter past six when we left Baker Street, and it was still ten minutes before seven when we found ourselves on Riverside Street. It was already getting dark, and the street lights were just being lit as we walked up and down in front of the Brian Hotel. The house was just as I had pictured it from Sherlock Holmes' description, but the street appeared to be busier than I expected. In fact, for a small street in a quiet neighborhood, it was remarkably busy. There

ເປັນລະບຽບຮຽບຮ້ອຍ, ສູບຢາ ແລະ ພາກັນຫົວຟົດສະໜັ່ນຢູ່ມູມໜຶ່ງ, ຄົນລັບມີດພ້ອມກັບລໍ້ຂອງລາວ, ຄົນຍາມສອງຄົນກຳລັງຍິ້ມ ແລະ ເວົ້າຢອກໄຍກັບຜູ້ສາວ ແລະ ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ແຕ່ງຕົວຮຽບຮ້ອຍອີກຫຼາຍໆຄົນພວມຍ່າງຫຼິ້ນໄປ-ມາ.

"ຮູ້ບໍ່ວ່າ," ໂຮມສຕັ້ງຂໍ້ສັງເກດ ຂະນະທີ່ພວກເຮົາຍ່າງໄປ-ມາຢູ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າໂຮງແຮມ, "ການແຕ່ງງານຂອງພວກເຂົາ ອາດຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ເລື່ອງລາວທຸກຢ່າງງ່າຍຂຶ້ນ. ຕອນນີ້ຮູບດັ່ງກ່າວອາດກາຍເປັນດາບສອງຄົມຕໍ່ກັບນາງ ເໝືອນກັບທີ່ມັນອາດຈະເປັນກັບລູກຄວາມຂອງເຮົາ. ໂອກາດມີຢູ່ວ່ານາງຈະຕ້ອງຢ້ານ ທ່ານກອດເຟຣ ນໍຕັນຈະເຫັນຮູບນັ້ນ ເໝືອນກັບພະລາຊາຢ້ານວ່າ ແມ່ຍິງທີ່ຈະມາເປັນພະມະເຫສີຂອງພະອົງໃນໄວໆນີ້ ຈະໄດ້ເຫັນຮູບນັ້ນເຊັ່ນກັນ. ຕອນນີ້ຄຳຖາມກໍ່ຄື: ເຮົາຈະພົບເຫັນຮູບນັ້ນຢູ່ໃສ?"

"ນັ້ນແຫຼະ, ມັນຢູ່ໃສກັນແທ້?"

"ເບິ່ງແລ້ວມັນເປັນໄປບໍ່ໄດ້ເລີຍ ທີ່ນາງຈະພົກຕິດຕົວໄວ້ຢູ່ຕະຫຼອດ, ມັນໃຫຍ່ເກີນໄປ, ໃຫຍ່ເກີນໄປທີ່ຈະຊ້ອນໄວ້ໃນຊຸດຂອງແມ່ຍິງໄດ້ໂດຍງ່າຍ. ນາງຮູ້ວ່າ ພະອົງສາມາດຍຶດ ແລະ ຄົ້ນຕົວນາງໄດ້, ການພະຍາຍາມເຮັດແບບນີ້ມີຂຶ້ນສອງເທື່ອແລ້ວ ສະນັ້ນການທີ່ເຮົາຈະໄດ້ມັນມາຄືງບໍ່ແມ່ນຕອນທີ່ນາງພົກຕິດຕົວແນ່ນອນ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນມັນຈະຢູ່ໃສຫວ່ະ?"

"ນາງອາດຈະເກັບມັນໄວ້ກັບຄົນອື່ນທີ່ນາງໄວ້ໃຈໄດ້, ນັ້ນອາດມີຄວາມເປັນໄປໄດ້

was a group of badly-dressed men smoking and laughing in a corner, a knife-sharpener with his wheel, two policemen who were smiling and joking with a young woman, and several well-dressed young men who were loafing about.

"You see," remarked Holmes, as we walked in front of the house, "this marriage should make matters simpler. Now, the photograph could hurt her, as easily as it could hurt our client. The chances are that she would be as afraid of its being seen by Mr. Godfrey Norton, as the King is of its being seen by the woman who will soon be his wife. Now the question is, Where are we to find the photograph?"

"Where, indeed?"

"It is most unlikely that she carries it about with her. It is too big. Too large to be easily hidden in a woman's dress. She knows that the King is able to have her stopped and searched. Two tries of the sort have already been made. We may take it, then, that she does not carry it about with her."

"Where, then?"

"She may have trusted it to someone else. There is that possibility.

ແຕ່ເຮົາວ່າມັນບໍ່ເປັນແນວນັ້ນດອກ. ໂດຍທົ່ວໄປແລ້ວ ແມ່ຍິງມັກຈະປົກປິດຄວາມລັບ ແລະ ພວກເຂົາມັກຈະຮັກສາຄວາມລັບໄວ້ກັບຕົວເອງ ແລ້ວເຫດໃດນາງຈະຕ້ອງເອົາມັນໃຫ້ກັບຄົນອື່ນ? ນາງໄວ້ໃຈຕົວເອງ ແລະ ຈຳໄດ້ບໍ່ວ່າ ນາງວາງແຜນຈະໃຊ້ມັນພາຍໃນສອງ-ສາມມື້ນີ້. ມັນຈະຕ້ອງເປັນບ່ອນທີ່ນາງສາມາດຈັບເອົາໄດ້ງ່າຍ, ມັນຈະຕ້ອງຢູ່ໃນເຮືອນຂອງນາງ.”

“ແຕ່ເຮືອນຂອງນາງຖືກບຸກລຸກ ແລະ ຄົ້ນມາແລ້ວສອງເທື່ອ.”

“ໂອຍ! ມັນຊິມີຄວາມໝາຍຫຍັງ ໃນເມື່ອພວກເຂົາບໍ່ຮູ້ວິທີຄົ້ນ.”

“ແລ້ວໂຕຈະຄົ້ນຫາມັນດ້ວຍວິທີໃດ?”

“ເຮົາບໍ່ຄົ້ນຫາມັນດອກ.”

“ຊັ້ນໂຕຈະເຮັດແນວໃດ?”

“ເຮົາຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ນາງເອົາມາໃຫ້ເຮົາເບິ່ງເອງ.”

“ນາງບໍ່ມີທາງເຮັດແບບນັ້ນດອກ!”

“ແຕ່ເຮົາວ່ານາງຕ້ອງເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ. ເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນສຽງລໍ້ລົດ, ມັນເປັນລົດຂອງນາງ, ຕອນນີ້ໂຕເຮັດຕາມທີ່ເຮົາບອກກໍ່ແລ້ວກັນ.”

ຂະນະທີ່ລາວເວົ້າຢູ່ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເຫັນໄຟດ້ານຂ້າງຂອງລົດມາແຕ່ມູມໜຶ່ງຂອງຖະໜົນ, ບໍ່ດົນລົດຄັນນັ້ນກໍ່ມາຮອດໜ້າປະຕູໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ. ພໍມາເຖິງ ໜຶ່ງໃນບັນດາຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ຍ່າງໄປ-ມາຢູ່ມູມໆໜຶ່ງກໍ່ແລ່ນເຂົ້າມາເປີດປະຕູລົດ ໂດຍຫວັງຈະໄດ້ເງິນທິບຈັກເລັກນ້ອຍ ແຕ່ລາວຊໍ້າພັດຖືກຜູ້ຊາຍອີກຄົນໜຶ່ງ ທີ່ຫວັງເຊັ່ນດຽວກັບລາວຍູ້ອອກ. ມີການຕ່ອຍຕີກັນເກີດຂຶ້ນ

But I think not. Women are naturally secretive, and they like to keep their secrets to themselves. Why should she hand it over to anyone else? She could trust herself. Also, remember that she had planned to use it within a few days. It must be where she can quickly lay her hands on it. It must be in her own house.”

“But her house has twice been broken into and searched.”

“Meaningless! They did not know how to look.”

“But how will you look?”

“I will not look.”

“What then?”

“I will get her to show me.”

“But she will never do that!”

“Oh, I think she will. But I hear the sound of wheels. It is her car. Now carry out my orders to the letter.”

As he spoke, I could see the side-lights of a car come around the corner of the street. Soon a cab rolled up to the door of the Brian Hotel. As it pulled up, one of the loafing men at the corner ran forward to open the door in the hope of earning a little money, but he was pushed away by another loafer, who had run up with the same plan in mind. A fight broke

ໂດຍຖືກຍົວະຍວນຈາກຄົນຍາມ
ສອງຄົນ ທີ່ເຂົ້າຂ້າງຝ່າຍໜຶ່ງ ແລະ
ມີຄົນລັບມີດເຂົ້າຂ້າງອີກຝ່າຍໜຶ່ງ.

ຄົນໜຶ່ງຟາດກຳປັ້ນໃສ່ຝ່າຍກົງ
ກັນຂ້າມ ຂະນະທີ່ສຸພາບສະຕີອອກ
ມາຈາກລົດ, ນາງຖືກອ້ອມຮອບໄວ້
ດ້ວຍກຸ່ມຄົນທີ່ກຳລັງຕີກັນດ້ວຍໄມ້
ຄ້ອນຢູ່. ໂຮມສຣີບແລ່ນເຂົ້າໄປໃນ
ກຸ່ມ ເພື່ອປ້ອງກັນສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນ
ນັ້ນ, ພໍແຕ່ລາວເຂົ້າໄປເຖິງນາງ ລາວ

out. The two policemen only made it worse: They both took sides with one of the loafers, while the knife-sharpener was equally eager to help the other side.

One man hit another, and in an instant the lady, who had stepped from her car, was the center of a little group of fighting men, who hit at each other with sticks. Holmes ran into the crowd to protect the lady; but just as he reached her he gave

ກໍ່ຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງ ແລະ ນອນຟຸບລົງກັບພື້ນ, ມີເລືອດໄຫຼອາບໜ້າຂອງລາວຢ່າງບໍ່ຂາດສາຍ.

ພໍລາວລົ້ມລົງ ຄົນຍາມທັງສອງກໍ່ແລ່ນໜີໄປທິດທາງໜຶ່ງ ແລະ ພວກຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ຕີກັນໄປອີກທາງໜຶ່ງ ຂະນະກຸ່ມຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ແຕ່ງຕົວດີຫຼາຍຄົນ ເຊິ່ງບໍ່ເຂົ້າເປັນສ່ວນຮ່ວມຂອງການຕົບຕີກັນນີ້ ກໍ່ພາກັນຫຸ້ມເຂົ້າມາຊ່ວຍສຸພາບສະຕີ ແລະ ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ. ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ຮີບແລ່ນຂຶ້ນຂັ້ນໄດໄປ ແຕ່ນາງຢຸດຢູ່ຫົວຂັ້ນໄດ ແລ້ວຫຼຽວກັບໄປ ທາງຖະໜົນດ້ວຍຮູບໂສມອັນສວຍງາມ ທ່າມກາງແສງໄຟທີ່ສາດສ່ອງຢູ່ໃນບ້ານ.

"ສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນນັ້ນເຈັບຫຼາຍບໍ່?" ນາງຖາມ.

"ລາວຕາຍແລ້ວ," ມີຫຼາຍສຽງຮ້ອງບອກ.

"ບໍ່, ບໍ່ຕາຍເທື່ອ, ລາວຍັງມີຊີວິດຢູ່," ມີສຽງໜຶ່ງຮ້ອງອອກມາ, "ແຕ່ລາວຈະຕ້ອງຕາຍກ່ອນທີ່ເຈົ້າຈະພາລາວໄປພົບທ່ານໝໍໄດ້."

"ລາວເປັນຄົນກ້າຫານແທ້ໆ," ແມ່ຍິງຄົນໜຶ່ງເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ, "ພວກເຂົາອາດຈະດຶງກະເປົາ ແລະ ໂມງຂອງນາງໄປໄດ້ ຖ້າສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນນີ້ບໍ່ເຂົ້າໄປຊ່ວຍໄວ້ທັນ, ພວກເຂົາເປັນແກ໊ງອັນທະພານທີ່ຊົ່ວຮ້າຍ. ເອີ! ລາວຫາຍໃຈໄດ້ແລ້ວ."

"ຈະປ່ອຍໃຫ້ລາວນອນຢູ່ຫົນທາງແບບນີ້ບໍ່ໄດ້໋, ພາລາວເຂົ້າໄປໃນເຮືອນກ່ອນຈະໄດ້ບໍ່?"

ນາງຕອບຫົວ "ໄດ້, ພາລາວເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງນັ່ງຫຼິ້ນພີ້ ມີບ່ອນສະດວກສະບາຍຢູ່

a cry and dropped to the ground, with blood running freely down his face.

At his fall the policemen ran off in one direction and the loafers in the other, while a number of better-dressed people, who had watched the fight without taking part in it, crowded in to help the lady and the hurt man. Irene Adler, as I will still call her, had hurried up the steps; but she stood at the top with her beautiful figure clearly lit against the lights of the hall, looking back into the street.

"Is the poor gentleman badly hurt?" she asked.

"He is dead," cried several voices.

"No, no, there's life in him!" shouted another. "But he'll be gone before you can get him to a doctor."

"He's a daring man," said a woman. "They would have had the lady's money and watch if it hadn't been for him. They were a gang, and a rough one, too. Ah, he's breathing now."

"He can't lie in the street. May we bring him in?"

She nodded. "Surely. Bring him into the sitting-room. There is a

ດອກ, ມາທາງພີ້ເດີ!"

ລາວຖືກຫາມເຂົ້າໄປໃນໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ຢ່າງລະມັດລະວັງ ແລະ ຖືກວາງໄວ້ໃນຫ້ອງກວ້າງ ຂະນະທີ່ ຂ້ອຍເອງຍັງສັງເກດການຢູ່ຂ້າງໆ ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ. ດອກໄຟຖືກເປີດໄວ້ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເຫັນໂຮມສນອນພັກຜ່ອນຢູ່. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຮູ້ວ່າ ຂະນະນັ້ນລາວຈະມີ ແຜນສອງໄວ້ຫຼືບໍ່ ສໍາລັບການຫຼິ້ນລະ ຄອນຂອງລາວ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ແຕ່ວ່າ ໃນຊີ

comfortable place for him. This way, please!"

Slowly he was carried into the Brian Hotel and laid out in the main room, while I still observed everything from my place by the window. The lights were on, and I could see Holmes as he lay resting. I do not know whether he had any second thoughts at that moment for the part he was playing, but I know that

ວິດນີ້ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍຮູ້ສຶກລະອາຍໃຈ ເທົ່າກັບທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເຫັນແມ່ຍິງງາມໆ ແລະ ມີຄວາມເມດຕາກະລຸນາ ທີ່ເຝົ້າຄອຍຢູ່ກັບຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ ເຊິ່ງເປັນຄົນທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຮັດວຽກນໍາ. ແຕ່ວ່າ ໂຮມສກໍ່ຍັງໄວ້ວາງໃຈຂ້ອຍ ເພື່ອປະຕິບັດງານນີ້ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍເອງກໍ່ໃຫ້ສັນຍາໄວ້ກັບລາວແລ້ວ. ຂ້ອຍເຮັດໃຈເຂັ້ມແຂງ ແລ້ວຈົກເອົາວັດຖຸທີ່ພົ່ນຄວັນອອກມາຈາກຖົງເສື້ອໃຫຍ່, ຂ້ອຍຄິດຢູ່ວ່າພວກເຮົາບໍ່ໄດ້ພະຍາຍາມທໍາຮ້າຍນາງ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາກໍາລັງພະຍາຍາມສະກັດກັ້ນ ບໍ່ໃຫ້ນາງໄປທໍາຮ້າຍຄົນອື່ນຕ່າງຫາກ.

ໂຮມສລຸກຂຶ້ນນັ່ງຢູ່ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ເຫັນລາວຄ່ອຍໆຍ້າຍມືຂຶ້ນມາແປະເອິກ ເໝືອນກັບຄົນທີ່ຕ້ອງການອາກາດປອດໂປ່ງ. ຄົນໃຊ້ຮີບແລ່ນໄປເປີດປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ, ໃນເວລາດຽວກັນນັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍເຫັນລາວຫຼຽວມາທາງຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ຕອດຫົວ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໂຍນວັດຖຸດັ່ງກ່າວເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງ ພ້ອມທັງຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງວ່າ: “ໄຟໄໝ້ ໄຟໄໝ້!” ພໍແຕ່ໄດ້ຍິນຂ້ອຍຮ້ອງອອກໄປ ຜູ້ຄົນທັງຫຼາຍ ບໍ່ວ່າຈະເປັນຄົນທີ່ແຕ່ງຕົວດີ, ຄົນແຕ່ງຕົວທີ່ບໍ່ເປັນລະບຽບຮຽບຮ້ອຍ, ບັນດາສຸພາບບູລຸດ, ລວມທັງຊາວສວນ ແລະ ຄົນໃຊ້ ຕ່າງກໍ່ພາກັນຫຸ້ມເຂົ້າມາ ແລະ ຮ້ອງເປັນສຽງດຽວກັນວ່າ: “ໄຟໄໝ້ ໄຟໄໝ້!” ຄວັນທີ່ທຶບໜາແຜ່ກະຈາຍໄປທົ່ວຫ້ອງ ແລະ ອອກມາທາງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມທີ່ເປີດຢູ່. ຂ້ອຍຫຼຽວແວບເຫັນຮ່າງໆໜຶ່ງແລ່ນອອກໄປ ແລະ ອີກບໍ່ດົນຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງຂອງໂຮມສຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນວ່າມັນເປັນພຽງການເຂົ້າໃຈຜິດເທົ່ານັ້ນ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ສວຍໂອກາດແລ່ນຜ່າຝູງຄົນ ທີ່ກໍາ

I never in my life felt worse about myself than when I saw the beautiful woman against whom I was working, or the kindness with which she waited upon the hurt man. And yet Holmes had trusted me to do a job, and I had made a promise to him. I hardened my heart, and took the smoke-stick from under my coat. After all, I thought, we are not hurting her. We are just stopping her from hurting another.

Holmes had been sitting, and I saw him move his hand to his chest, like a man who is in need of air. A servant ran across and threw open the window. At the same instant I saw him nod his head in my direction, and I threw my stick into the room with a cry of “Fire!” The word was no sooner out of my mouth than the whole crowd, well-dressed and ill-dressed – gentlemen, farmers, and servants – joined in a general cry of “Fire!” Thick clouds of smoke came through the room and out the open window.

I glanced at the running figures, and a moment later I heard the voice of Holmes from within calling out that it was a false alarm. Slipping through the shouting crowd I made

ລັງສັບສົນວຸ້ນວາຍ ອອກໄປທາງແຈຖະໜົນ, ອີກປະມານສິບນາທີຕໍ່ມາ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້ສຶກໂລ່ງໃຈຂຶ້ນອີກຄັ້ງ ທີ່ໄດ້ເຫັນເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ແລ້ວພວກເຮົາກໍ່ພາກັນໜີອອກຈາກລະຄອນຕໍ່ສູ້ສາກນັ້ນໄປ. ໂຮມສຍ່າງໄວ ແລະ ມິດງຽບຢູ່ຫຼາຍນາທີ ຈົນພວກເຮົາມາຮອດຖະໜົນທີ່ງຽບສະຫງົບແຫ່ງໜຶ່ງ.

"ໂຕເຮັດໄດ້ດີຫຼາຍ ດັອກເຕີ," ລາວເວົ້າ, "ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງຈະດີໄປກວ່ານີ້ແລ້ວ, ທຸກຢ່າງຮຽບຮ້ອຍດີ."

"ໂຕໄດ້ຮູບມານຳບໍ່?"

"ເຮົາຮູ້ແລ້ວວ່າມັນຢູ່ບ່ອນໃດ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ນາງເອົາອອກມາໃຫ້ເຮົາເບິ່ງເອງ ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ເຮົາໄດ້ເວົ້າກັບໂຕນັ້ນແຫຼະ ວ່ານາງຈະຕ້ອງເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ."

"ເຮົາບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈເລີຍ ວ່າມັນເປັນໄປໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ."

"ເຮົາບໍ່ໄດ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງປິດສະໜາດອກ," ລາວເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຫົວ, "ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງທຳມະດາແທ້ໆ, ໂຕກໍ່ເຫັນແລ້ວວ່າ ທຸກຄົນຢູ່ກາງຖະໜົນແລ່ນເຂົ້າຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອເຮົາ, ເຮົາໄດ້ຈ້າງພວກເຂົາເຮັດທຸກຢ່າງສຳລັບຕອນແລງນີ້ໂດຍສະເພາະ."

"ເປັນດັ່ງທີ່ເຮົາຄາດເອົາໄວ້."

"ຕອນນັ້ນ ເມື່ອມີການຕໍ່ສູ້ກັນເກີດຂຶ້ນ ເຮົາໄດ້ກຳສີແດງໄວ້ໃນມື, ເຮົາເດີນຜ່າເຂົ້າໄປ, ທຳທ່າລົ້ມລົງ ແລ້ວກໍ່ເອົາມືມຸບໃສ່ໜ້າ ທຳທ່າເໝືອນໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບໜັກ. ມັນເປັນແຜນການແບບເກົ່າໆ."

"ນັ້ນເຮົາກໍ່ພໍເດົາອອກ."

"ຈາກນັ້ນພວກເຂົາກໍ່ຫາມເຮົາເຂົ້າໄປໃນ

my way to the corner of the street, and in ten minutes was happy to find my friend's arm in mine, and to get away from the scene of the fight. He walked quickly and quietly for some few minutes until we had turned down a quiet street.

"You did it very nicely, Doctor," he remarked. "Nothing could have been better. It is all right."

"Do you have the photograph?"

"I know where it is."

"And how did you find out?"

"She showed me, as I told you she would."

"I still don't understand."

"I do not wish to make a mystery," he said, laughing. "The matter was perfectly simple. You, of course, saw that everyone in the street was helping me. I paid them all to work for me for the evening."

"I guessed as much."

"Then, when the fight broke out, I had a little red paint in my hand. I took a step forward, fell down, hit my hand to my face, and looked like I was badly hurt. It is an old trick."

"That also I could guess."

"Then they carried me in. She

ຫ້ອງ, ນາງຈຳເປັນຕ້ອງອະນຸຍາດໃຫ້ເຮົາເຂົ້າໄປ. ນາງບໍ່ມີທາງເລືອກອື່ນອີກແລ້ວ ແລະ ມັນແມ່ນຫ້ອງນັ່ງຫຼິ້ນຂອງນາງ ເຊິ່ງເປັນຫ້ອງທີ່ເຮົາຄິດວ່ານາງເກັບຮູບນັ້ນໄວ້. ມັນຈະຕ້ອງແມ່ນຫ້ອງນັ້ນ ຫຼືບໍ່ກໍ່ຫ້ອງນອນຂອງນາງ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ຢາກຈະຮູ້ເຊັ່ນກັນວ່າມັນຢູ່ຫ້ອງໃດກັນແທ້. ພວກເຂົາວາງເຮົາລົງ ແລະ ເຮົາທຳທ່າວ່າຕ້ອງການອາກາດສົດ, ພວກເຂົາຈຶ່ງຈຳເປັນເປີດປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ແລ້ວໂຕກໍ່ໄດ້ໂອກາດນັ້ນ."

"ແລ້ວມັນຊ່ວຍໂຕໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ທຸກຢ່າງລ້ວນແຕ່ສຳຄັນໝົດ, ເມື່ອສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນນັ້ນຄິດວ່າ ຫ້ອງຂອງນາງຖືກໄຟໄໝ້ ນາງກໍ່ຈະຮີບແລ່ນໄປຫາສິ່ງທີ່ນາງຄິດວ່າສຳຄັນທີ່ສຸດ. ມັນເປັນຄວາມຮູ້ສຶກອັນແຮງກ້າ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ໄດ້ໃຊ້ວິທີນີ້ມາກ່ອນຫຼາຍກວ່າໜຶ່ງຄັ້ງແລ້ວ ເຊັ່ນວ່າ: ຄະດີກ່າວຂວັນນິນທາຂອງຄົນຝຣັ່ງ ແລະ ເລື່ອງທຸລະກິດຄາດຕະກຳຢູ່ທາງທິດເໜືອ ເຮົາກໍ່ໃຊ້ແຜນນີ້ຢ່າງໄດ້ຜົນ. ຍົກຕົວຢ່າງ: ແມ່ຍິງທີ່ມີລູກນ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະຮີບຊ່ວຍລູກໄວ້ກ່ອນ. ຕອນນີ້ທຸກຢ່າງຊັດເຈນຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນນີ້ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງໃນຫ້ອງຂອງນາງ ທີ່ສຳຄັນໄປກວ່າສິ່ງທີ່ພວກເຮົາກຳລັງຕາມຫາ. ການເຮັດໄຟໄໝ້ຂອງໂຕແມ່ນເຮັດໄດ້ດີຫຼາຍ, ຄວັນ ແລະ ສຽງຮ້ອງຂອງໂຕພຽງພໍທີ່ເຮັດໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນຢ້ານກົວໄດ້ ແລ້ວນາງກໍ່ໄດ້ເຮັດຕາມທີ່ເຮົາຄາດໄວ້. ຮູບດັ່ງກ່າວຊ້ອນຢູ່ກ້ອງແຜ່ນໄມ້ບາງໆຂ້າງປະຕູ, ນາງຟ້າວເຂົ້າໄປບ່ອນນັ້ນທັນທີ ແລະ ເຮົາທັນເຫັນມັນພຽງແວບດຽວ ຕອນທີ່ນາງດຶງມັນອອກມາ.

had to let me in. What else could she do? And into her sitting-room, which was the very room where I thought the photograph was hidden. It was either there, or in her bedroom, and I needed to see which. They laid me down, I showed that I needed air, they were forced to open the window, and you had your chance."

"How did that help you?"

"It was all-important. When a woman thinks that her house is on fire, she will at once hurry to the thing that she thinks is most important. It is a strong feeling, and I have more than once been able to make use of it. In the case of the French scandal it was of use to me, and also in the business of the killings up north. A married woman grabs at her baby, for example. Now it was clear to me that our lady of today had nothing in the house more important to her than what we are looking for. She would hurry to save it. The alarm of fire was well done. The smoke and shouting were enough to scare anyone. She acted just as I expected. The photograph is in a space behind a thin piece of wood just next to the door. She was there in an instant, and I only had

ເມື່ອເຮົາຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນວ່າ ມັນເປັນພຽງການ
ເຂົ້າໃຈຜິດ ນາງກໍ່ຊຸກມັນໄວ້ບ່ອນເກົ່າ,
ເຫຼືອດຕາເບິ່ງວັດຖຸພົ່ນຄວັນ, ແລ່ນອອກ
ຈາກຫ້ອງໄປ ແລ້ວເຮົາກໍ່ບໍ່ເຫັນນາງເລີຍ.
ເຮົາລຸກຂຶ້ນ ແລະ ອະທິບາຍວ່າ ເຮົາຈຳ
ເປັນຕ້ອງຮີບກັບອອກຈາກຫ້ອງນີ້ໄປ. ເຮົາ
ຄິດຢູ່ບຶດໜຶ່ງ ວ່າເຮົາຄວນຈະເຂົ້າໄປເອົາ
ຮູບນັ້ນເລີຍບໍ່? ແຕ່ວ່າຄົນຂັບລົດເຂົ້າມາ
ແລະ ລາວຍັງຈ້ອງເບິ່ງເຮົາຢ່າງບໍ່ພັບຕາ,
ມັນໜ້າຈະປອດໄພກວ່າຖ້າລໍຢູ່ເສີຍໆ. ຖ້າ
ເຮົາເຮັດສິ່ງໃດສິ່ງໜຶ່ງເລັກໆນ້ອຍໆລົງໄປ
ເຮົາອາດຈະສູນເສຍທຸກຢ່າງກໍ່ເປັນໄດ້."

"ແລ້ວຕອນນີ້ຈະເຮັດແນວໃດດີ?"
ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

"ການສືບຫາຂອງເຮົາໃກ້ຈະຈົບລົງ
ແລ້ວ. ມື້ອື່ນເຮົາຈະໄປພົບນາງພ້ອມກັບ
ພະອົງ ແລະ ໂຕກໍ່ຕ້ອງໄປນຳເຮົາຖ້າໂຕ
ຢາກຈະໄປ. ພວກເຮົາຈະຖືກນຳເຂົ້າໄປໃນ
ຫ້ອງຮັບແຂກ ເພື່ອລໍຖ້ານາງ ແຕ່ມັນອາດ
ຈະເປັນໄປໄດ້ວ່າ ນາງຈະບໍ່ມາພົບພວກ
ເຮົາພ້ອມກັບຮູບນັ້ນ, ພະອົງອາດຈະຮູ້ສຶກ
ດີທີ່ຈະມີໂອກາດໄດ້ຮູບນັ້ນຄືນມາ ດ້ວຍມື
ຂອງພະອົງເອງ."

"ແລ້ວໂຕຈະໄປຕອນຈັກໂມງ?"

"ແປດໂມງຕອນເຊົ້າ, ນາງຈະຕ້ອງບໍ່
ທັນຕື່ນນອນ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ຈະເຂົ້າໄປໄດ້ສະ
ບາຍ; ພວກເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງຮີບດຳເນີນການ
ເພາະວ່າການແຕ່ງງານຂອງນາງເທື່ອນີ້
ອາດໝາຍເຖິງການປ່ຽນແປງຊີວິດ ແລະ
ການກະທຳຂອງນາງໂດຍສິ້ນເຊີງ. ເຮົາຈະ
ຕ້ອງໂທລະເລກຫາພະລາຊາດຽວນີ້
ແຫຼະ."

a glance at it as she pulled it out. When I cried out that it was a false alarm, she put it back, glanced at the smoking stick, ran from the room, and I have not seen her since. I got up, and, explaining that I had to leave, hurried from the house. I thought for a moment; should I try to get the photograph at once? But the driver had come in, and he was watching me carefully. It seemed safer to wait. A little over-eagerness, and we could lose everything."

"And now?" I asked.

"Our search is nearly finished. Tomorrow I shall call on her, with the King, and with you, if you care to come with us. We will be shown into the sitting-room to wait for the lady, but it is probable that when she comes she may find neither us nor the photograph. His Majesty might be happy for a chance to get it back in his own hands."

"And when will you call?"

"At eight in the morning. She will not be up, so that we shall have a clear field. Also, we must be quick, for this marriage may mean a complete change in her life and what she does. I must wire to the King immediately."

ພວກເຮົາໄປເຖິງຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ແລະ ຢຸດຢູ່ຂ້າງປະຕູ, ຂະນະທີ່ລາວກຳລັງຊອກຫາຂໍກະແຈຕາມຖົງເສື້ອ ກໍ່ມີຄົນຍ່າງກາຍມາ ແລະ ເວົ້າວ່າ:

“ລາຕີສະວັດ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ.”

ມີຜູ້ຄົນຢູ່ຕາມທາງຍ່າງເປັນຈຳນວນຫຼວງຫຼາຍໃນຂະນະນັ້ນ ແຕ່ສຽງເວົ້ານັ້ນມາຈາກຊາຍໜຸ່ມຮ່າງຜອມ ນຸ່ງເສື້ອໃຫຍ່ໂຕຍາວ ພວມແລ່ນກາຍໄປຢ່າງຟ້າວຟັ່ງ.

“ເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນສຽງນັ້ນມາກ່ອນ,” ໂຮມສ ເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງເບິ່ງອອກໄປກາງຖະໜົນ ທີ່ມີແສງໄຟພໍມົວໆ. “ຕອນນີ້ເຮົາສົງໄສຢູ່ວ່າ ຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນຈະແມ່ນໃຜກັນແທ້.”

* * *

ຄືນນັ້ນຂ້ອຍນອນຄ້າງຢູ່ບ້ານທີ່ຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ແລະ ຂະນະທີ່ພວກເຮົາກຳລັງກິນເຂົ້າເຊົ້າຢູ່ນັ້ນ ພະລາຊາແຫ່ງໂບຮີເມຍ ກໍ່ແລ່ນເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງພໍດີ.

“ເຈົ້າໄດ້ຮູບນັ້ນມາແທ້ໆ!” ພະອົງຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມຕື່ນເຕັ້ນ, ມືທັງສອງເບື້ອງຈັບຢູ່ບ່າຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ແລະຕາຈ້ອງຢູ່ຊື່ໜ້າຂອງລາວ ດ້ວຍທ່າທາງຢາກຮູ້ຢາກເຫັນ.

“ຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ເທື່ອ.”

“ແຕ່ເຈົ້າຍັງມີຄວາມຫວັງບໍ່ແມ່ນຫວ່ະ?”

“ຂ້ານ້ອຍຍັງມີຄວາມຫວັງ.”

“ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ຮີບໄວ, ຂ້ອຍຢາກໄດ້ມັນມາສຸດຂີດແລ້ວ.”

“ພວກເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງຊອກລົດໜຶ່ງຄັນກ່ອນ.”

“ບໍ່ຕ້ອງດອກ, ລົດຂອງຂ້ອຍກຳລັງລໍຖ້າຢູ່.”

We had reached Baker Street and had stopped at the door. He was searching his pockets for the key when someone passing said:

“Good night, Sherlock Holmes.”

There were several people on the sidewalk at the time, but the voice appeared to come from a thin young man in a long coat who had hurried by.

“I’ve heard that voice before,” said Holmes, staring down the badly-lit street. “Now, I wonder who in the world that could have been.”

* * *

I spent the night at Baker Street that night, and we were eating our morning meal when the King of Bohemia ran into the room.

“You have really got it!” he cried, grabbing Sherlock Holmes by both shoulders and looking eagerly into his face.

“Not yet.”

“But you have hopes?”

“I have hopes.”

“Then, come. I am eager to be gone.”

“We must have a cab.”

“No, my car is waiting.”

“ຄັນຊັ້ນທຸກຢ່າງກໍ່ຍິ່ງສະດວກຂຶ້ນ.” ພວກເຮົາເດີນທາງໄປໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ອີກເທື່ອໜຶ່ງ.

“ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ແຕ່ງງານແລ້ວ,” ໂຮມສ ບອກ.

“ແຕ່ງງານຫວ່ະ! ແຕ່ງຕອນໃດ?”

“ມື້ວານນີ້.”

“ນາງແຕ່ງກັບໃຜ?”

“ແຕ່ງກັບຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ຊື່ວ່າ ນໍຕັນ.”

“ແຕ່ນາງຮັກກັບລາວບໍ່ໄດ້ດອກ.”

“ຂ້ອຍຫວັງຢາກໃຫ້ນາງຮັກກັບລາວໄດ້.”

“ແລ້ວເປັນຫຍັງເຈົ້າຈິ່ງຫວັງແນວນັ້ນ?”

“ເພາະວ່າຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນພະອົງກໍ່ບໍ່ຈຳເປັນຕ້ອງຢ້ານກົວ ບັນຫາໃດໆໃນອະນາຄົດ. ຖ້າສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນນັ້ນຮັກສາມີຂອງນາງນັ້ນກໍ່ແປວ່ານາງບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັກພະອົງແລ້ວ. ເມື່ອເປັນເຊັ່ນນີ້ມັນກໍ່ບໍ່ມີເຫດຜົນເລີຍ ທີ່ນາງຈະເຂົ້າມາຂັດຂວາງແຜນການຂອງພະອົງ.”

“ມັນກໍ່ແມ່ນຢູ່ ແຕ່ວ່າ – ດີແລ້ວ! ຂ້ອຍປາຖະໜາໃຫ້ນາງໄປພົ້ນຈາກຊີວິດຂອງຂ້ອຍ! ນາງຈະມາເປັນພະມະເຫສີຂອງຂ້ອຍໄດ້ແນວໃດ!” ພະອົງມິດງຽບໄປ ແລະພວກເຮົາກໍ່ບໍ່ເວົ້າຫຍັງ ຈົນກວ່າພວກເຮົາມາເຖິງຈຸດໝາຍ.

ປະຕູຂອງໂຮງແຮມ ໄບຣອັນ ຖືກເປີດອອກ, ມີແມ່ຍິງສູງອາຍຸຄົນໜຶ່ງຢືນຢູ່ເທິງຂັ້ນໄດ, ລາວແນມເບິ່ງພວກເຮົາຢ່າງບໍ່ພັບສາຍຕາ ຂະນະທີ່ພວກເຮົາກ້າວລົງຈາກລົດ.

“ທ່ານເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ແມ່ນບໍ່?” ລາວຖາມ.

“Then that will make things simpler.” We started off once more for the Brian Hotel.

“Irene Adler is married,” remarked Holmes.

“Married! When?”

“Yesterday.”

“But to whom?”

“To a man named Norton.”

“But she could not love him.”

“I hope that she does.”

“And why do you hope that?”

“Because then your Majesty has no need to fear any future problem. If the lady loves her husband, then she does not love your Majesty. If she does not love your Majesty, then there is no reason why she should get in the way of your Majesty’s plan.”

“It is true. And yet – Well! I wish she had been of my own station! What a queen she would have made!” He grew silent, and we did not speak again until we arrived.

The door of the Brian Hotel was open, and an old woman stood on the steps. She watched us with a sharp eye as we stepped from the car.

“Mr. Sherlock Holmes, I believe?” said she.

"ຂ້ອຍແມ່ນ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ," ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍຕອບ ພ້ອມທັງຈ້ອງເບິ່ງລາວດ້ວຍທ່າທາງທີ່ແອບແຝງໄວ້ດ້ວຍຄຳຖາມ ແລະ ແປກໃຈ.

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ! ທ່ານສຸພາບສະຕີບອກຂ້ອຍວ່າ ເຈົ້າອາດຈະມາທີ່ນີ້. ນາງຫາກໍ່ອອກໄປປະເທດຝຣັ່ງ ພ້ອມກັບສາມີຂອງນາງໃນຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້ ກັບຂະບວນລົດໄຟເວລາ 5:15 ນາທີ."

"ແມ່ນຫຍັງກັນ! ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ຖອຍຫຼັງກ້າວໜຶ່ງ, ສີໜ້າຈືດ ແລະແປກໃຈ, "ເຈົ້າໝາຍຄວາມວ່າ ນາງໄດ້ອອກຈາກປະເທດອັງກິດໄປແລ້ວຊັ້ນຫວ່ະ?"

"ນາງຈະບໍ່ກັບມາອີກເລີຍ."

"ແລ້ວຮູບນັ້ນເດ?" ພະອົງຖາມສຽງຄ່ອຍໆ, "ທຸກຢ່າງໝົດກັນ."

"ພວກເຮົາຈະເຂົ້າໄປເບິ່ງກ່ອນ," ໂຮມສແລ່ນຜ່າຄົນໃຊ້ເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງນັ່ງຫຼິ້ນ ເຊິ່ງມີກະສັດ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຕາມໄປ. ມີຕັ່ງອີ້ຊະຊາຍໄປທົ່ວບໍລິເວນ ເບິ່ງແລ້ວຄ້າຍກັບວ່າສຸພາບສະຕີຄົນນັ້ນຄົ້ນເບິ່ງທຸກຈອກທຸກແຈຢ່າງຮີບຮ້ອນ ກ່ອນທີ່ນາງຈະອອກໄປ. ໂຮມສແລ່ນຊື່ເຂົ້າໄປຫາປະຕູ, ງ້າງເບິ່ງແຜ່ນໄມ້ບາງໆ, ຈັບເອົາຮູບ ແລະ ຈົດໝາຍສະບັບໜຶ່ງໄວ້ໃນກຳມື. ມັນເປັນຮູບຖ່າຍໃນຊຸດນອນຂອງ ໄອຣີນ ເອງແລະຈົດໝາຍນັ້ນຈ່າໜ້າຊອງວ່າ: "ເຖິງເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ, ຕ້ອງໄດ້ອອກໄປກ່ອນເວລານັດໝາຍ." ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍຈີກມັນອອກມາແລ້ວພວກເຮົາກໍ່ອ່ານພ້ອມໆກັນທັງສາມຄົນ. ຈົດໝາຍນີ້ຫາກໍ່ຖືກຂຽນຂຶ້ນຄືນກ່ອນ ແລະ ມີເນື້ອໃນດັ່ງນີ້:

"I am Mr. Holmes," answered my friend, looking at her with a questioning and rather surprised look.

"Indeed! My lady told me that you would probably call. She left this morning with her husband by the 5:15 train to go to France."

"What!" Sherlock Holmes stepped back, white with surprise. "Do you mean that she has left England?"

"Never to return."

"And the papers?" asked the King softly. "All is lost."

"We shall see." Holmes pushed past the servant and ran into the drawing-room, followed by the King and myself. The chairs had been thrown about in every direction, as if the lady had hurriedly searched through everything before she left. Holmes ran towards the door, tore back a thin piece of wood, and, putting in his hand, pulled out a photograph and a letter. The photograph was of Irene Adler herself in evening dress, the letter was addressed to "Sherlock Holmes, To be left till called for." My friend tore it open and we all three read it together. It had been written the night before and ran in this way:

“ທ່ານເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ທີ່ຮັກແພງ,

ເຈົ້າປະຕິບັດການໄດ້ດີແທ້ໆ, ເຈົ້າດຶງຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າໄປຮ່ວມໄດ້ຢ່າງສົມບູນແບບ. ຈົນກະທັ້ງເລື່ອງດຳເນີນໄປເຖິງຕອນມີສຽງຮ້ອງວ່າ ໄຟໄໝ້ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຍັງນຶກບໍ່ອອກວ່າເຈົ້າກຳລັງເຮັດຫຍັງຢູ່ ແຕ່ຫຼັງຈາກທີ່ຂ້ອຍປ່ອຍໃຫ້ເຈົ້າໄດ້ພົບວ່າ ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອງຮູບໄວ້ບ່ອນໃດ ຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງເລີ່ມນຶກອອກ.

“ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮູ້ຂ່າວກ່ຽວກັບເຈົ້າມາຫຼາຍເດືອນແລ້ວ, ມີຄົນບອກຂ້ອຍວ່າ ຖ້າພະລາຊາຈຳເປັນຕ້ອງໃຊ້ນັກສືບ ຄົນໆນັ້ນ

“My Dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes,

You really did it very well. You took me in completely. Until after the fire alarm, I had no idea what you were doing. But then, when I realized that I had let you see where I hid the photograph, I began to think.

“I had been told about you months ago. I had been told that if the King used a detective

ຕ້ອງເປັນເຈົ້າແນ່ນອນ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຍັງມີທີ່ຢູ່ຂອງເຈົ້າ ອີກດ້ວຍ. ແຕ່ເຖິງຂະໜາດນີ້ເຈົ້າກໍ່ຍັງສາມາດພົບເຫັນຄວາມລັບຂອງຂ້ອຍໄດ້. ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະເລີ່ມສົງໄສ ແຕ່ມັນກໍ່ເປັນການຍາກສຳລັບຂ້ອຍ ທີ່ຈະຄິດຊົ່ວຮ້າຍຕໍ່ກັບບາດຫຼວງຜູ້ແກ່ຊະລາ, ເປັນທີ່ເຄົາລົບຮັກ ແລະ ມີຄວາມເມດຕາກະລຸນາ. ແຕ່ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ເຈົ້າຮູ້ ການແຕ່ງຕົວຂອງຄົນເຮົາບໍ່ມີຫຍັງເປັນສິ່ງໃໝ່ໆສຳລັບຂ້ອຍເລີຍ. ຂ້ອຍມັກຈະແຕ່ງຕົວແບບຜູ້ຊາຍ ເພາະມັນເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກເປັນອິດສະລະ ທີ່ຈະໄປໃນບ່ອນທີ່ຂ້ອຍຢາກໄປ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ສັ່ງຄົນຊື່ ຈອນ ຄົນຂັບລົດໃຫ້ຕິດຕາມເຈົ້າ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ແລ່ນຂຶ້ນຂັ້ນໄດ, ຍ່າງໄປຫາຊຸດໃສ່ສຳລັບຍ່າງຫຼິ້ນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ລົງມາລຸ່ມທັນທີທີ່ເຈົ້າກັບໄປ.

"ຂ້ອຍຕິດຕາມເຈົ້າໄປຈົນຮອດປະຕູບ້ານຂອງເຈົ້າ ເພື່ອໃຫ້ແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ເຈົ້າແມ່ນທ່ານເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ຜູ້ທີ່ມີຊື່ສຽງໂດ່ງດັງເຊິ່ງເປັນຄົນທີ່ໃຫ້ຄວາມສົນໃຈໃນຕົວຂ້ອຍ. ຈາກນັ້ນຂ້ອຍກໍ່ອວຍພອນໃຫ້ເຈົ້ານອນຫຼັບຝັນດີ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄປຫາສາມີຂອງຂ້ອຍ.

"ພວກເຮົາທັງສອງຄິດວ່າ ເມື່ອຖືກສັດຕູຢ່າງເຈົ້າໄລ່ລ່າຢູ່ ທາງທີ່ດີທີ່ສຸດກໍ່ຄືການໜີໄປ, ສະນັ້ນເຈົ້າຈະໄດ້ເຫັນແຕ່ຫ້ອງທີ່ຫວ່າງເປົ່າເມື່ອເຈົ້າມາຮອດ. ສ່ວນຮູບນັ້ນລູກຄວາມຂອງເຈົ້າຄວນຈະຢຸດພັກຢູ່ໃນຄວາມສະຫງົບສາ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮັກ ແລະ ເປັນທີ່ຮັກຂອງຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ດີກວ່າລາວແລ້ວ. ພະອົງຄວນເຮັດໃນສິ່ງທີ່ພະອົງປະສົງສາ, ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າ ພະອົງຈະເຄີຍເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍ

it would certainly be you. And your address had been given me. Yet, with all this, you were able to learn my secret. Even after I began to have doubts, I found it hard to think badly of such a dear, kind old minister. But, you know, men's clothes are nothing new to me, either. I often dress as a man because it frees me to go where I wish. I sent John, the driver, to watch you. Then I ran up the steps, got into my walking clothes, as I call them, and came down just as you left.

"Well, I followed you to your door, and so made sure that I was really someone of interest to the well-known Mr. Sherlock Holmes. Then, I wished you good night, and went to see my husband.

"We both thought that when chased by such a strong enemy as yourself, the best idea was to run. So you will find the room empty when you call tomorrow. As to the photograph, your client may rest in peace. I love and am loved by a better man than he. The King may do what he wishes. Though he has hurt me,

ເສຍໃຈ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະບໍ່ແກ້ແຄ້ນຄືນ ດອກ. ທີ່ຂ້ອຍເກັບຮູບນັ້ນໄວ້ກໍ່ເພື່ອ ປ້ອງກັນຕົວຂ້ອຍເອງຈາກສິ່ງໃດໜຶ່ງ ທີ່ພະອົງອາດຈະເຮັດກັບຂ້ອຍໃນອະ ນາຄົດ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ປະຮູບນີ້ໄວ້ ເພື່ອວ່າ ພະອົງອາດຈະສົນໃຈເກັບມັນໄວ້ ແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະໄດ້ສະບາຍໃຈ ທ່ານເຊີລັອ ກ ໂຮມສ ທີ່ຮັກແພງ.

"ດ້ວຍຄວາມນັບຖືເປັນຢ່າງສູງ,

"ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ນໍຕັນ."

* * *

"ນາງເປັນແມ່ຍິງແບບໃດກັນແທ້! ໂອ, ນາງເປັນຄົນເກັ່ງແທ້ໆ!" ກະສັດແຫ່ງ ໂບ ຮີເມຍ ຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນ ຫຼັງຈາກພວກເຮົາທັງ ສາມອ່ານຈົດໝາຍຈົບ, "ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ໄດ້ບອກ ເຈົ້າບໍ ວ່ານາງເປັນແມ່ຍິງທີ່ເດັດດ່ຽວ? ນາງຈະເປັນລາຊິນີຜູ້ດີເດັ່ນໄດ້ບໍ່? ມັນບໍ່ ໜ້າເສຍດາຍບໍທີ່ນາງບໍ່ໄດ້ເກີດມາໃນລະ ດັບດຽວກັບຂ້ອຍ?"

"ເທົ່າທີ່ຂ້ານ້ອຍໄດ້ເຫັນມາ ເບິ່ງນາງ ແຕກຕ່າງໄປຈາກລະດັບຂອງພະອົງ ແທ້ໆ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າດ້ວຍນ້ຳສຽງເຢັນໆ, "ຂ້ານ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກເສຍໃຈຫຼາຍ ທີ່ບໍ່ສາມາດ ດຳເນີນການເລື່ອງຂອງພະອົງໃຫ້ຈົບລົງ ດ້ວຍດີ."

"ມັນກົງກັນຂ້າມດ້ວຍຊ້ຳ ທ່ານເອີຍ," ພະອົງເວົ້າ, "ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງດີຂຶ້ນເລີຍ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ ວ່າຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອໃນສິ່ງທີ່ນາງເວົ້າ. ຕອນນີ້ຮູບ ນັ້ນປອດໄພເທົ່າໆກັບວ່າ ມັນເຂົ້າໄປຢູ່ໃນ ກອງໄຟແລ້ວ."

"ຂ້ານ້ອຍດີໃຈທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນພະອົງເວົ້າເຊັ່ນ ນັ້ນ."

I will do nothing to hurt him. I keep the photograph only to protect myself from anything that he might do in the future. I leave a photograph that he might care to own; and I remain, dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes,

"Very truly yours

"Irene Adler Norton"

* * *

"What a woman – oh, what a woman!" cried the King of Bohemia, when we had all three read this letter. "Did I not tell you how quick and strong she was? Would she not have made a very good queen? Is it not sad that she was not on my level?"

"From what I have seen of the lady she seems indeed to be on a very different level to your Majesty," said Holmes coldly. "I am sorry that I have not been able to bring your Majesty's business to a better end."

"Just the opposite, my dear sir," cried the King. "Nothing could be better. I know that I can trust her word. The photograph is now as safe as if it were in the fire."

"I am glad to hear your Majesty say so."

“ກະລຸນາບອກຂ້ອຍແດ່ວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຈະສະແດງຄວາມຂອບໃຈກັບເຈົ້າຈັ່ງໃດດີ. ແຫວນວົງນີ້–”ພະອົງຖອດແຫວນຄຳອອກມາຈາກນິ້ວມື ແລ້ວວາງໄວ້ໃນອົ້ງມືຂອງລາວ.

“ພະອົງມີບາງຢ່າງທີ່ເປັນທີ່ຕ້ອງການຂອງຂ້ານ້ອຍຫຼາຍກວ່ານີ້,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າ.

“ມີຫຍັງກໍ່ບອກມາໄດ້ເລີຍ.”

“ຮູບແຜ່ນນີ້!”

ພະລາຊາຈ້ອງເບິ່ງໜ້າ ໂຮມສ ດ້ວຍຄວາມປະຫຼາດໃຈ.

“ຮູບຂອງ ໄອຣີນ ນີ້ຫວ່ະ! ພະອົງເວົ້າຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງ, “ໄດ້ເລີຍ ຖ້າເຈົ້າຢາກໄດ້ມັນ.”

“ຂໍຂອບພະໄທພະອົງເປັນຢ່າງສູງ, ຄັນຊັ້ນເຮົາກໍ່ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງທີ່ຕ້ອງເຮັດອີກໃນເລື່ອງນີ້, ຂ້ານ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກເປັນກຽດທີ່ຈະກ່າວຄຳວ່າ ລາກ່ອນ.” ລາວຫັນໜ້າກັບໂດຍບໍ່ໄດ້ສັງເກດມືຂອງຕົນ ທີ່ພະອົງຍື່ນຫຍັງໃຫ້, ພວກເຮົາພາກັນກັບໄປບ້ານຂອງລາວ.

“ແລະນັ້ນຄືເລື່ອງລາວຊ້ອກເມືອງອັນໃຫຍ່ຫຼວງ ທີ່ມາຄຸກຄາມອານາຈັກແຫ່ງ ໂບຮີເມຍ ແລະ ກໍ່ເປັນການຄຸກຄາມຄັ້ງໃຫຍ່ຫຼວງຂອງແມ່ຍິງ ທີ່ມີພະລັງຈິດອັນແຂງກ້າຕໍ່ກັບແຜນການອັນສຸດຍອດຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ. ລາວເຄີຍຫົວຂວັນກັບຄວາມສະຫຼຽວສະຫຼາດຂອງແມ່ຍິງ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນລາວເຮັດແບບນັ້ນອີກໃນຊ່ວງຫຼັງໆນີ້ ແລະ ເມື່ອໃດທີ່ລາວເວົ້າເຖິງ ໄອຣີນ ແອດເລີ ຫຼື ເມື່ອລາວເວົ້າເຖິງຮູບຂອງນາງ ກໍ່ມັກຈະເປັນເລື່ອງຂອງກຽດຕິຍົດຂອງແມ່ຍິງຄົນນີ້ສະເໝີ.

“Please tell me in what way I can thank you. This ring–” He slipped a gold ring from his finger and held it out in his hand.

“Your Majesty has something that I should like even more,” said Holmes.

“You have but to name it.”

“This photograph!”

The King stared at him in surprise.

“Irene’s photograph!” he cried. “Certainly, if you wish it.”

“I thank your Majesty. Then there is no more to be done in the matter. I have the honor to wish you a very good morning.” Turning away without seeing the hand that the King had stretched out to him, he set off in my company for his rooms.

And that was how a great scandal threatened the kingdom of Bohemia, and how the best plans of Mr. Sherlock Holmes were beaten by a woman’s sharp mind. He used to make fun of the intelligence of women, but I have not heard him do it of late. And when he speaks of Irene Adler, or of her photograph, he always speaks of her as “the woman.”

3

ຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳ

THE DANCING MEN

ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ເຮັດວຽກງຽບໆຢູ່ຄົນດຽວເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍຊົ່ວໂມງ, ຫຼັງທີ່ຈ່ອຍຍາວຂອງລາວກົ່ງຄ້ອງນິ້ງຢູ່ກັບຫຼອດແກ້ວທົດລອງ. ໃນຫຼອດແກ້ວນັ້ນລາວກຳລັງຕົ້ມທາດແຫຼວບາງຢ່າງທີ່ມີກິ່ນເໝັນໆ. ລາວກົ້ມຫົວລົງຮອດໜ້າເອິກ, ຈາກມູມທີ່ຂ້ອຍນັ່ງຢູ່ ເບິ່ງລາວແລ້ວຄືກັບນົກທີ່ແປກປະຫຼາດ, ຜອມ ແລະ ມີຂົນສີໝົ່ນໝອງ.

ແລ້ວລາວກໍ່ເວົ້າຂຶ້ນວ່າ: "ວັດສັນ, ໂຕບໍ່ຄິດຢາກໄປລົງທຶນຂຸດຄົ້ນບໍ່ຄຳໃນອາຟຣິກາໃຕ້ແລ້ວຫວ່ະ?"

ຂ້ອຍເງີຍຫົວຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມປະຫຼາດໃຈ. ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະເຫັນຜົນສຳເລັດອັນຈົບງາມ ໃນການເຮັດວຽກຂອງໂຮມສ ຢູ່ເປັນປະຈຳກໍ່ຕາມ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ອາດອະທິບາຍໄດ້ວ່າ ລາວຮູ້ສິ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍກຳລັງຄິດຢູ່ໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ.

My friend Sherlock Holmes had been working quietly for several hours. His long, thin back was bent over a glass bottle. In the bottle, he was heating some chemicals with a bad smell. His head was resting on his chest. From where I sat, he looked like a strange, thin gray bird.

"So, Watson," he said suddenly, "you do not plan to invest in any South African gold mines?"

I raised my head in surprise. Although I had often seen the results of Holmes's wonderful mind at work, I still could not explain how he knew what I was thinking.

“ໂຕຮູ້ໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ?” ຂ້ອຍຖາມ.

ໃນມືຈັບຫຼອດແກ້ວທົດລອງ ແລະ ຫຼຽວໄປ-ມາ, ເບິ່ງຈາກສາຍຕາຂອງລາວແລ້ວ ແມ່ນກຳລັງມີຄວາມສຸກ.

“ວັດສັນ, ຕອນນີ້ໂຕຕ້ອງຍອມຮັບວ່າ ໂຕປະຫຼາດໃຈສຸດໆ,” ລາວເວົ້າ.

“ແມ່ນແລ້ວ.”

“ເຮົາຄວນຈະໃຫ້ໂຕເຊັນຮັບຮອງເອົາຜົນນັ້ນໄວ້”.

“How on earth do you know that?” I asked.

He turned around, with a bottle in his hand. From the sparkle of his eyes I could see that he was enjoying himself.

“Now, Watson, admit that you are completely surprised,” he said.

“I am.”

“I should make you sign a paper to that effect.”

“ເປັນຫຍັງຕ້ອງເຮັດເຊັ່ນນັ້ນ?”

“ເພາະວ່າໃນອີກຫ້ານາທີໂຕກໍ່ຈະ
ເວົ້າວ່າ: ມັນຊ່າງງ່າຍດາຍເຫຼືອເກີນ.”

“ເຮົາໝັ້ນໃຈວ່າຈະບໍ່ເວົ້າແບບນັ້ນ
ແນ່ນອນ.”

“ເບິ່ງເດີ ວັດສັນ ເພື່ອນທີ່ຮັກ,” ລາວ
ວາງຫຼອດແກ້ວທົດລອງໄວ້ໜ້າໂຕະ.
“ມັນງ່າຍທີ່ຈະເກາະຕ່ອງໂສ້ອັນສຸດ
ທ້າຍ ເຊິ່ງແຕ່ລະຕ່ອງໂສ້ເກາະກ່າຍໄປ
ຫາຕ່ອງອື່ນ. ຂັ້ນຕອນໃນການເກາະ
ຕ່ອງໂສ້ນັ້ນອາດຈະງ່າຍດາຍ. ຫຼັງຈາກ
ສ້າງໂສ້ຂຶ້ນມາແລ້ວ ເຮົາພຽງແຕ່ເອົາຂໍ້
ເລີ່ມຕົ້ນ ແລະ ຂໍ້ສຸດທ້າຍມາເຂົ້າກັນ
ໂດຍບໍ່ຫຍຸ້ງກ່ຽວຕ່ອງທາງກາງ ເຮົາ
ອາດຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ໂຕປະຫຼາດໃຈໄດ້.
ຕອນນີ້ມັນບໍ່ຍາກເລີຍ ຫຼັງຈາກທີ່ເຮົາ
ເຫັນງ່າມນິ້ວໂປ້ມືຂ້າງຊ້າຍຂອງໂຕກໍ່ຮູ້
ເລີຍວ່າ ໂຕບໍ່ຢາກລົງທຶນໃນການຂຸດ
ຄົ້ນບໍ່ຄຳທີ່ອາຟຣິກາໃຕ້.”

“ເຮົາບໍ່ເຫັນວ່ານິ້ວໂປ້ມືຂອງເຮົາ ຈະ
ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງກັບອາຟຣິກາໃຕ້ເລີຍ.”

“ມັນອາດຈະບໍ່ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ ແຕ່ເຮົາສາ
ມາດສະແດງໃຫ້ໂຕເຫັນເຖິງຂໍ້ກ່ຽວ
ຂ້ອງຢູ່ໃກ້ໆນີ້ໄດ້. ນີ້ຄືຂໍ້ຕ່າງໆທີ່ຂາດໄປ
ຂອງໂສ້ອັນທຳມະດາໆທີ່ເຮົາສ້າງຂຶ້ນ:
1. ມີສໍຂາວຕິດຢູ່ງ່າມມືນິ້ວຊີ້ກັບນິ້ວໂປ້
ເບື້ອງຊ້າຍຂອງໂຕ ຕອນກັບມາຈາກ
ສະມາຄົມມື້ຄືນນີ້; 2. ໂຕມັກໃຊ້ຜົງສໍ
ຂາວລົງໃສ່ງ່າມມືເປັນປະຈຳເວລາຫຼິ້ນ
ສະນຸກເກີ; 3. ໂຕຫຼິ້ນສະນຸກເກີກັບ ເທີ
ສຕັນ ພຽງຜູ້ດຽວ; 4. ໂຕໄດ້ບອກເຮົາ
ສີ່ອາທິດຜ່ານມານີ້ວ່າ: ເທີສຕັນ ອາດ

“Why?”

“Because in five minutes you will say that it is all absurdly simple.”

“I am sure I will say nothing of the kind.”

“You see, my dear Watson” – he placed his bottle back on the table – “it is often easy to form a chain of conclusions, in which each conclusion leads to another one. Each step in this chain may be simple in itself. If, after making such a chain, I simply state the starting point and the conclusion, without explaining the steps in between, I may surprise you. Now, it was not difficult, after I saw the space by your left thumb, to feel sure that you did NOT plan to invest your money in the gold mines of South Africa.”

“I see no connection between my thumb and South Africa.”

“Probably not. But I can quickly show you a close connection. Here are the missing pieces of the very simple chain of conclusions that I formed: 1. You had chalk between your left finger and thumb when you came home from the club last night. 2. You always put chalk there when you play snooker. You use the chalk to hold the stick. 3. You only play snooker with Thurston. 4. You told me four weeks ago that Thurston

ຈະຊື້ບໍ່ຄຳໃນ ອາຟຣິກາໃຕ້, ລາວຕ້ອງການໃຫ້ໂຕຊື້ບາງສ່ວນ ແຕ່ໂຕຕ້ອງຕັດສິນໃຈພາຍໃນໜຶ່ງເດືອນ; 5. ໃບເຊັກຂອງໂຕຖືກໃສ່ກະແຈໄວ້ນຳເຈ້ຍຂອງເຮົາ ແລະໂຕກໍ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ຖາມເອົາຂໍກະແຈນຳເຮົາເລີຍ; 6. ເພາະສະນັ້ນໂຕບໍ່ຕ້ອງການລົງທຶນຂຸດຄົ້ນບໍ່ຄຳໃນອາຟຣິກາໃຕ້ເລີຍ."

"ມັນຄືມາງ່າຍແທ້!" ຂ້ອຍຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນ.

"ຈັ່ງຊັ້ນແຫຼະ!" ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມຫງຸດຫງິດ. "ທຸກໆບັນຫາເບິ່ງຄືວ່າງ່າຍໄປໝົດ ຫຼັງຈາກທີ່ສ່ວນປິດບັງຖືກອະທິບາຍອອກມາແລ້ວ; ແຕ່ນີ້ຄືບັນຫາທີ່ຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ອະທິບາຍ ເພື່ອນ; ລອງເບິ່ງດູ໋ ວ່າໂຕຊິເຂົ້າໃຈສ່ຳໃດ." ລາວວາງເຈ້ຍໃບໜຶ່ງໄວ້ເທິງໜ້າໂຕະ ແລ້ວກໍ່ຫັນໜ້າໄປຫາການທົດລອງເຄມີຂອງລາວຕໍ່.

ຂ້ອຍແນມເບິ່ງພາບອັນໜ້າຂັບຂັນຢູ່ເຈ້ຍໃບນັ້ນ ແລ້ວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນວ່າ: "ແມ່ນຫຍັງເບາະ ໂຮມສ. ນີ້ມັນແມ່ນຮູບທີ່ເດັກນ້ອຍແຕ້ມຫຼິ້ນຊື່ໆໄດ໋."

"ເຮີຍ! ນັ້ນເປັນພຽງຄວາມຄິດຂອງໂຕເທົ່ານັ້ນ."

"ມັນເປັນຫຍັງໄດ້ອີກແດ່?"

"ນັ້ນແຫຼະຄືສິ່ງທີ່ ທ່ານຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດຈາກ ຣິດລິງ ທັອບ ແມນເນີ, ນໍຟອກຢາກຈະຮູ້. ສິ່ງປິດສະໜາຊິ້ນນ້ອຍນີ້ ຫາກໍ່ຖືກສົ່ງມາຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້, ສ່ວນຕົວລາວເອງຈະຕາມມາພ້ອມລົດໄຟຖ້ຽວຕໍ່ໄປ. ວັດສັນ, ເຮົາໄດ້ຍິນສຽງກະດິງ, ເຮົາຈະບໍ່ແປກໃຈເລີຍ ຖ້າວ່ານັ້ນແມ່ນລາວມາ."

ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນສຽງບາດຕີນໜັກໆດັງມາແຕ່ຂັ້ນໄດ; ບຶດໜຶ່ງກໍ່ມີສຸພາບບູລຸດຮ່າງ

had a chance to buy some South African gold mines. He wanted you to buy some also, but you had to decide within a month. 5. Your checks are locked with my papers, and you have not asked for the key. 6. Therefore, you do not plan to invest your money in South African gold mines."

"How absurdly simple!" I cried.

"Quite so!" he said, a little annoyed. "Every problem seems easy after the hidden connections are explained. Here is an unexplained problem. See what you can make of that, my friend." He threw a piece of paper on the table and turned again to his chemical investigations.

I looked at the absurd drawings on the paper. "Why, Holmes, it is a child's drawing," I cried.

"Oh, that's your idea!"

"What else could it be?"

"That is what Mr. Hilton Cubitt, of Ridling Thorpe Manor, Norfolk, wishes to know. This little puzzle came just this morning. He said he would follow by the next train. I hear the bell ring, Watson. I would not be surprised if this is him."

I heard a heavy step on the steps. A moment later a tall gentleman

ສູງຄົນໜຶ່ງເຂົ້າມາໃນຫ້ອງ. ດວງຕາທີ່ສົດໃສ ແລະ ໜ້າແດງບົ່ງບອກໃຫ້ຮູ້ວ່າ ລາວອາໄສຢູ່ຫ່າງໆຈາກເຂດໝອກຄວັນໃນລອນດອນ. ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າລາວໄດ້ນຳເອົາອາກາດອັນມີກິ່ນຫອມສົດຊື່ນຈາກທະເລມາພ້ອມ. ລາວຈັບມືກັບພວກເຮົາທັງສອງ ແລະ ໃນຂະນະທີ່ລາວກຳລັງຈະນັ່ງລົງ ສາຍຕາຂອງລາວກໍ່ແນມເຫັນເຈ້ຍ ທີ່ມີເຄື່ອງໝາຍອັນໜ້າສົນໃຈ ເຊິ່ງຂ້ອຍຫາກໍ່ເບິ່ງແລ້ວ.

"ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ເຈົ້າຈະເຮັດແນວໃດກັບພາບເຫຼົ່ານີ້?" ລາວຖາມ. "ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນວ່າເຈົ້າເປັນນັກສືບທີ່ມັກເລື່ອງປິດສະໜາລຶກລັບ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຄິດວ່າ ເຈົ້າຈະເຄີຍພົບເລື່ອງທີ່ແປກໄປກວ່ານີ້ອີກແລ້ວ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ສົ່ງຮູບນັ້ນມາໃຫ້ເຈົ້າກ່ອນ ເພື່ອວ່າເຈົ້າຈະໄດ້ມີເວລາພຽງພໍໃນການສືບສວນກ່ອນທີ່ຂ້ອຍຈະມາເຖິງ."

"ມັນເປັນເຈ້ຍທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈແທ້ໆ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ທຳອິດເບິ່ງຄືວ່າເປັນພຽງພາບທີ່ເດັກນ້ອຍແຕ້ມຫຼິ້ນເທົ່ານັ້ນ, ມີພາບກາຕູນເຕັ້ນລຳອັນໜ້າຂັບຂັນຢູ່ເປັນແຖວໆເຕັມໄປໝົດ; ເປັນຫຍັງເຈົ້າຈຶ່ງຄິດວ່າມັນສຳຄັນ?"

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ໄດ້ຄິດແນວນັ້ນດອກ ທ່ານໂຮມສ ແຕ່ວ່າພັນລະຍາຂອງຂ້ອຍຄິດແບບນັ້ນ. ຄວາມຢ້ານກົວກຳລັງບີບຄັ້ນນາງແທບຕາຍ. ນາງບໍ່ໄດ້ເວົ້າຫຍັງ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍເຫັນຄວາມຢ້ານກົວແຝງຢູ່ໃນແວວຕາຂອງນາງ ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງມາຫາເຈົ້າທີ່ນີ້."

ໂຮມສຈັບເອົາເຈ້ຍນັ້ນຂຶ້ນມາຊ່ອງເບິ່ງຢູ່ບ່ອນທີ່ມີແສງສະຫວ່າງ, ມັນເປັນເຈ້ຍທີ່

entered our room. His clear eyes and red face told us that he lived far from the cloudy gray skies of London. He seemed to bring a smell of strong, fresh, sea air with him. He shook hands with each of us, and he was about to sit down when his eye fell on the paper with the curious mark, which I had just looked at.

"Well, Mr. Holmes, what do you make of these?" he asked. "They told me that you are a detective who likes puzzling mysteries, and I don't think you can find a stranger one than this. I sent the paper on before me, so that you would have time to begin your investigation before I came."

"It is certainly a curious paper," said Holmes. "At first, it looks like a child's drawing. There are a number of absurd little figures dancing across the paper. Why would you think it is important?"

"I never would, Mr. Holmes. But my wife does. Fear is killing her. She says nothing, but I can see terror in her eyes. That's why I came to you."

Holmes held up the paper so the bright sun fell on it. It was a page

ຈີກມາຈາກສະມຸດບັນທຶກ, ພາບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນເປັນແບບນີ້ແຫຼະ:

ໂຮມສໄດ້ວິເຄາະເບິ່ງຈັກໜ່ອຍ ແລະເກັບໄວ້ໃນສະມຸດບັນທຶກຂອງລາວຢ່າງລະມັດລະວັງ.

ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: "ນີ້ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າຈະເປັນກໍລະນີທີ່ແປກ ແລະ ໜ້າສົນໃຈ. ເຈົ້າໃຫ້ລາຍລະອຽດພຽງເລັກນ້ອຍໃນຈົດໝາຍຂອງເຈົ້າ ທ່ານຄິວບິດ; ຕອນນີ້ເຈົ້າ

taken from a notebook. The markings looked like this:

Holmes studied it for some time. Then he carefully put it in his notebook.

"This looks like it will be an interesting and unusual case," he said. "You gave me a few details in your letter, Mr. Cubitt. Now, would you

ຊ່ວຍອະທິບາຍເລື່ອງທັງໝົດອີກຄັ້ງໃຫ້ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ, ດັອກເຕີ ວັດສັນ ຟັງໄດ້ບໍ່?"

"ຂ້ອຍເປັນຄົນເລົ່າເລື່ອງບໍ່ເກັ່ງ," ແຂກຂອງພວກເຮົາເວົ້າ. "ກະລຸນາຖາມຂ້ອຍອີກ ຖ້າມີບ່ອນໃດຂ້ອຍເວົ້າບໍ່ຈະແຈ້ງ, ຂ້ອຍຈະເລີ່ມເລົ່າຕັ້ງແຕ່ຕອນຂ້ອຍແຕ່ງງານປີກາຍນີ້ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຂໍບອກໄວ້ກ່ອນເລີຍວ່າ ເຖິງວ່າຂ້ອຍບໍ່ແມ່ນຄົນລ້ຳລວຍ, ຄອບຄົວຂອງຂ້ອຍອາໄສຢູ່ທີ່ ຣິດລິງ ທັອບ ເປັນເວລາກວ່າຫ້າສະຕະວັດ ແຕ່ກໍ່ບໍ່ມີຄອບຄົວໃດຈະເປັນທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກກັນດີ ກວ່າຄອບຄົວຂອງຂ້ອຍໃນເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ.

"ປີແລ້ວນີ້ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ມາລອນດອນ, ຂ້ອຍພັກຢູ່ບ້ານພັກຫຼັງໜຶ່ງໃນຈະຕຸລັດ ຣັສແຊລ; ມີຍິງສາວຊາວອາເມລິກາຄົນໜຶ່ງຊື່ເອລຊີ ແພັດທຣິກ, ພວກເຮົາກາຍເປັນເພື່ອນກັນ ແລະ ກ່ອນຈະຈາກທີ່ນັ້ນໄປຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຫຼົງໄຫຼໃນຕົວນາງເປັນທີ່ຮຽບຮ້ອຍດັ່ງທີ່ຜູ້ຊາຍທຸກຄົນມັກຈະເປັນ. ສະນັ້ນພວກເຮົາເລີຍແຕ່ງງານກັນແບບງຽບໆແລ້ວພວກເຮົາກໍ່ກັບມາທີ່ເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ ໃນຖານະສາມີ-ພັນລະຍາກັນ. ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ເຈົ້າຄົງຄິດວ່າມັນເປັນເລື່ອງແປກແມ່ນບໍ່ ທີ່ຜູ້ຊາຍໃນຕະກຸນມີຖານະເກົ່າແກ່ຄົນໜຶ່ງໄປແຕ່ງງານກັບແມ່ຍິງໂດຍທີ່ບໍ່ຮູ້ເລື່ອງລາວອະດີດ ແລະ ຄອບຄົວຂອງນາງມາກ່ອນ; ແຕ່ຖ້າຫາກເຈົ້າໄດ້ເຫັນ ແລະ ຮູ້ຈັກນາງ ເຈົ້າກໍ່ຄົງຈະເຂົ້າໃຈ.

"ນາງເປັນຄົນສັດຊື່ຕໍ່ຂ້ອຍໃນບາງຢ່າງ ແລະ ນາງໃຫ້ໂອກາດຂ້ອຍຢ່າຮ້າງກັບນາງທຸກເວລາ ຖ້າຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງການ. 'ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮູ້

please explain it all again for my friend, Dr. Watson?"

"I'm not good at telling stories," said our visitor. "Please ask me about anything that I don't make clear. I'll begin at the time of my marriage last year; but I want to say first of all that, although I'm not a rich man, my family has lived at Ridling Thorpe for five centuries. There is no better known family in the County of Norfolk.

"Last year I came to London. I stayed at a guesthouse in Russell Square. There was a young American lady there, named Elsie Patrick. We became friends, and by the time I left, I was as much in love as a man could be. We were quietly married, and we returned to Norfolk as a married couple. You'll think it very strange, Mr. Holmes, that a man from a good old family would marry a wife, without knowing anything about her past or her family. But if you saw her and knew her, it would help you to understand.

"She was very honest with me about something, and she gave me every chance of getting out of the marriage if I wished to do so.

ຈັກກັບຄົນບໍ່ດີມາຫຼາຍໃນຊີວິດນີ້,' ນາງ
ເວົ້າກັບຂ້ອຍ. 'ຂ້ອຍຢາກຈະລືມພວກ
ເຂົາໄປໃຫ້ໝົດ, ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຢາກຈະເວົ້າເຖິງ
ເລື່ອງອະດີດອີກເລີຍ ເພາະມັນເຮັດໃຫ້
ຂ້ອຍເຈັບປວດ. ຮິວຕັນ, ຖ້າເຈົ້າແຕ່ງງານ
ກັບຂ້ອຍ ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງຖືວ່າເຈົ້າໄດ້ແຕ່ງກັບ
ແມ່ຍິງທີ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ເຮັດສິ່ງຜິດໆມາກ່ອນ. ເຈົ້າ
ຈະຕ້ອງເຊື່ອຂ້ອຍໃນເລື່ອງນີ້ ແລະ ເຮັດ
ໃຫ້ສິ່ງທີ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນໃນຊີວິດຂອງຂ້ອຍມິດ
ງຽບ ຈົນກວ່າເຮົາຈະໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານກັນ. ຖ້າ
ເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າເຮັດໄດ້ຍາກ ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າກັບໄປນໍ
ຟອກໄດ້ເລີຍ ແລະ ປ່ອຍໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຢູ່ຄືດັ່ງ
ທີ່ຜ່ານມາໂລດ.' ນາງຫາກໍ່ເວົ້າເລື່ອງນີ້
ກັບຂ້ອຍກ່ອນວັນແຕ່ງງານພຽງວັນ
ດຽວ. ຂ້ອຍໃຫ້ສັນຍາວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຈະເຊື່ອ
ນາງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຈະບໍ່ຖາມເຖິງເລື່ອງອະ
ດີດຂອງນາງອີກເລີຍ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮັກສາສັນ
ຍາໄວ້ແລ້ວ."

"ເຮົາແຕ່ງງານກັນໄດ້ໜຶ່ງປີແລ້ວ ແລະ
ມີຄວາມສຸກດ້ວຍກັນດີ, ແຕ່ວ່າໜຶ່ງ
ເດືອນຜ່ານມານີ້ ຄືຕອນທ້າຍຂອງເດືອນ
6 ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເລີ່ມເຫັນວີ່ແວວຂອງບັນຫາ; ມື້
ໜຶ່ງພັນລະຍາຂອງຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮັບຈົດໝາຍ
ສົ່ງມາຈາກອາເມລິກາ, ສີໜ້າຂອງນາງກໍ່
ຊີດລົງ, ນາງອ່ານຈົດໝາຍ ແລ້ວໂຍນ
ມັນໃສ່ໄຟ. ຕໍ່ຈາກນັ້ນມານາງກໍ່ບໍ່ເວົ້າບໍ່ວ່າ
ຫຍັງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ງຽບຢູ່ເຊັ່ນກັນ ເພາະ
ສັນຍາກໍ່ຄືສັນຍາ. ຕັ້ງແຕ່ວັນນັ້ນມານາງ
ກໍ່ບໍ່ມີຄວາມສຸກ ແລະ ອຶດອັດໃຈຢູ່
ເລື້ອຍໆ, ໃນແວວຕາຂອງນາງມີແຕ່
ຄວາມຢ້ານກົວແອບແຝງຢູ່ຕະຫຼອດເວ
ລາ, ເບິ່ງຄືວ່ານາງກຳລັງລໍຄອຍວ່າອາດ

'I have known some very bad people in my life,' she said to me. 'I wish to forget all about them. I would rather never talk about the past, for it is very painful to me. If you marry me, Hilton, you will marry a woman who has done nothing that was wrong. But you will have to believe me about this, and let me be silent about all that happened in my life up to the time when I married you. If that is too difficult, then go back to Norfolk and leave me to the life in which you found me.' It was only the day before we were married that she said those words to me. I promised that I would believe her, and that I would not ask questions about her past. I have kept that promise.

"We have been married now for a year, and we have been very happy. But about a month ago, at the end of June, I saw the first signs of trouble. One day my wife got a letter from America. She turned white, read the letter, and threw it into the fire. She said nothing about it afterwards, and neither did I, for a promise is a promise. But from that moment she has never been happy or comfortable. There is always a look of terror in her face. She looks as if she is expecting

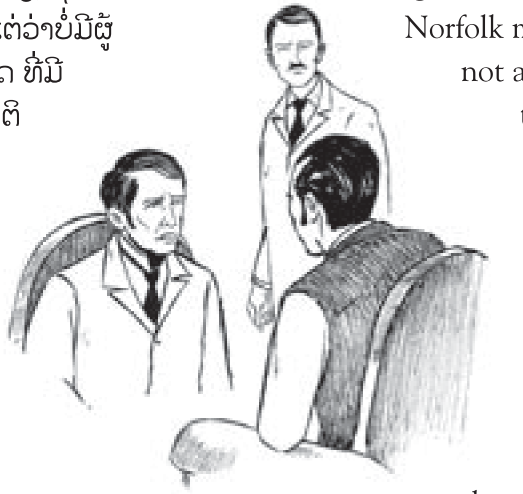
ຈະມີສິ່ງໃດສິ່ງໜຶ່ງທີ່ບໍ່ດີເກີດຂຶ້ນ; ຂ້ອຍຢາກໃຫ້ນາງເຊື່ອໃຈຂ້ອຍ ແລ້ວນາງຈະໄດ້ຮູ້ວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຄືເພື່ອນທີ່ດີທີ່ສຸດສຳລັບນາງ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເວົ້າຫຍັງບໍ່ອອກຈົນກວ່ານາງຈະເວົ້າອອກມາໄດ້.

"ນາງເປັນຄົນທີ່ຊື່ສັດ, ທ່ານໂຮມສ. ບັນຫາໃດກໍ່ຕາມທີ່ນາງປະສົບມາໃນອະດີດ ຂ້ອຍແນ່ໃຈວ່າບໍ່ແມ່ນນາງເປັນຄົນເຮັດຜິດ. ຂ້ອຍເປັນພຽງຊາວນໍຟອກທຳມະດາຄົນໜຶ່ງ ແຕ່ວ່າບໍ່ມີຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນໃດໃນອັງກິດ ທີ່ມີຄອບຄົວອັນມີກຽດຕິຍົດຄືກັບຄອບຄົວຂອງຂ້ອຍ. ນາງຮູ້ເລື່ອງນີ້ ແລະກໍ່ຮູ້ກ່ອນທີ່ນາງຈະແຕ່ງງານກັບຂ້ອຍຊ້ຳອີກ. ຂ້ອຍໝັ້ນໃຈວ່ານາງຈະບໍ່ມີວັນເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເສຍຊື່ສຽງເພາະເລື່ອງນັ້ນເດັດຂາດ."

"ເອົາລະ, ຕອນນີ້ມາເຖິງຈຸດທີ່ເປັນປິດສະໜາຂອງເລື່ອງແລ້ວ; ປະມານໜຶ່ງອາທິດຜ່ານມານີ້ ເຊິ່ງເປັນວັນອັງຄານ ຂ້ອຍພົບເຫັນຮູບກາຕູນເຕັ້ນລຳອັນໜ້າຂັບຂັນຫຼາຍຮູບຢູ່ບານປ່ອງຢ້ຽມເຊິ່ງຄືກັບຮູບທີ່ຢູ່ເຈ້ຍໃບນີ້ແຫຼະ. ຮູບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນແຕ້ມດ້ວຍສໍຂາວ, ທຳອິດຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າແມ່ນເດັກໃນຟາມເປັນຄົນແຕ້ມ ແຕ່ລາວກໍ່ເວົ້າວ່າບໍ່ຮູ້ອີ່ໂນອີ່ເນຫຍັງ. ຮູບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນຖືກແຕ້ມຂຶ້ນຕອນກາງຄືນ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້

something bad to happen. I wish she would trust me. She would find that I was her best friend. But until she speaks, I can say nothing.

"She is an honest woman, Mr. Holmes. Whatever trouble she might have had in her past life, I am sure it was not because she did anything wrong. I am only a simple Norfolk man, but there is not a man in England to whom family honor is as important as it is to me. She knows that, and she knew it before she married me. She would never hurt my reputation – of that I am sure.



"Now I come to the puzzling part of my story. About a week ago – it was Tuesday of last week – by a window, I found a number of absurd little dancing figures, like the ones on this paper. They were drawn with chalk. I thought the farmboy had drawn them, but the boy said he knew nothing about it. They had appeared there during the night. I

ລຶບຮູບນັ້ນອອກ ແລ້ວຈຶ່ງມາເຫຼົ່າຕໍ່ເມຍຟັງພາຍຫຼັງ ແລະ ສິ່ງທີ່ເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍປະຫຼາດໃຈກໍ່ຄື: ເມຍຂ້ອຍຈິງຈັງກັບເລື່ອງນັ້ນ, ນາງບອກຂ້ອຍວ່າ ຖ້າເຫັນເທື່ອໜ້າໃຫ້ມາບອກນາງໄປເບິ່ງແດ່.

"ຜ່ານໄປໜຶ່ງອາທິດກໍ່ບໍ່ປະກົດເຫັນພາບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນອີກ ແລະ ເປັນຕອນເຊົ້າວານນີ້ເອງ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ພົບເຫັນເຈ້ຍໃບນີ້ວາງໄວ້ໜ້າປັດໂມງແດດຢູ່ກາງສວນ. ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍນຳເຈ້ຍໃບນັ້ນມາໃຫ້ ເອລຊີ ເບິ່ງ ໜ້າຂອງນາງກໍ່ຊີດ ແລະລົ້ມລົງກັບພື້ນ. ຕັ້ງແຕ່ນັ້ນມາສະພາບຂອງນາງກໍ່ເປັນຄືກັບນອນຝັນ, ໃນແວວຕາຂອງນາງມີແຕ່ຄວາມຢ້ານກົວ ແລະ ຕອນນັ້ນເອງ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍສົ່ງເຈ້ຍໃບນີ້ມາໃຫ້ເຈົ້າ ທ່ານໂຮມສ. ມັນບໍ່ແມ່ນສິ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍຄວນຈະເອົາໄປແຈ້ງຕຳຫຼວດ ເພາະຢ້ານເຂົາເຈົ້າຈະຫົວຂວັນ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຫວັງວ່າເຈົ້າຄົງຊ່ວຍຂ້ອຍໄດ້ ວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະເຮັດແນວໃດກັບມັນດີ, ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ແມ່ນຄົນລ້ຳລວຍ ແຕ່ຖ້າມີອັນຕະລາຍໃດໜຶ່ງມາຄຸກຄາມພັນລະຍາສຸດທີ່ຮັກຂອງຂ້ອຍ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຍອມໃຊ້ເງິນທັງໝົດທີ່ຂ້ອຍມີ ເພື່ອປົກປ້ອງນາງ."

ລາວເປັນຄົນອັງກິດທີ່ດີ, ທຳມະດາ, ຊື່ຕົງ ແລະ ສຸພາບຮຽບຮ້ອຍ, ມີດວງຕາສີຟ້າ, ມີສາຍຕາທີ່ເຂັ້ມແຂງ ແລະ ໜ້າຕາກໍ່ດີ. ເບິ່ງໃບໜ້າຂອງລາວແລ້ວຮູ້ໄດ້ຊັດເຈນເລີຍວ່າ ລາວມີຄວາມຮັກ ແລະ ໄວ້ເນື້ອເຊື່ອໃຈຕໍ່ກັບເມຍຫຼາຍ. ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ຟັງເລື່ອງທີ່ລາວເລົ່າມາຢ່າງຕັ້ງອົກຕັ້ງໃຈ ແຕ່ຕອນນີ້ລາວຊ້ຳພັດນັ່ງຄິດຽບຢູ່.

ໃນທີ່ສຸດລາວກໍ່ເອີ່ຍຖາມຂຶ້ນມາວ່າ:

had them washed off, and I only told my wife about them afterwards. To my surprise she took it very seriously. She asked me, if any more came, to let her see them.

"None did come for a week. Then, yesterday morning, I found this paper on the sun-dial in the garden. When I showed it to Elsie, she turned white and fell down. Since then she has looked like a woman in a dream, with terror always showing in her eyes. That was when I sent the paper to you, Mr. Holmes. It was not a thing that I could take to the police, for they would have laughed at me, but I hope you will tell me what to do. I am not a rich man; but if there is any danger facing my little woman I would spend all of my money to protect her."

He was a fine man, this man of the old English earth, simple, straight, and gentle, with his great, blue eyes and wide, handsome face. His love for his wife, and his trust in her, were clear in his face. Sherlock Holmes listened to his story with great attention, and now he sat in silent thought.

"Don't you think, Mr. Cubitt,"

“ທ່ານຄິວບິດ, ເຈົ້າຈະຄິດບໍ່ວ່າ ທາງທີ່ດີທີ່ສຸດກໍ່ຄື ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງອ້ອນວອນໃຫ້ພັນລະຍາຂອງເຈົ້າບອກຄວາມລັບນັ້ນກັບເຈົ້າ?”

ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ແກວ່ງຫົວ.

“ສັນຍາກໍ່ຄືສັນຍາ ທ່ານໂຮມສ; ຖ້າເອລຊີ ຢາກຈະບອກຂ້ອຍ ນາງກໍ່ຈະບອກເອງ; ແຕ່ຖ້ານາງບໍ່ຢາກບອກ ມັນກໍ່ບໍ່ຖືກຕ້ອງທີ່ຈະໄປບັງຄັບນາງ; ແຕ່ວ່າຂ້ອຍມີສິດທີ່ຈະຊອກຫາຄຳຕອບດ້ວຍຕົວຂ້ອຍເອງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ.”

“ຖ້າດັ່ງນັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຈະຊ່ວຍເຈົ້າຢ່າງສຸດໃຈ ແຕ່ກ່ອນອື່ນໝົດເຈົ້າເຄີຍຮູ້ວ່າ ມີຜູ້ພົບເຫັນຄົນແປກໜ້າແຖວໆບ້ານໃກ້ເຮືອນຄຽງແດ່ບໍ່?”

“ບໍ່.”

“ຄົງຈະຕ້ອງເປັນບ່ອນທີ່ມິດງຽບຫຼາຍ, ຈະມີຄົນກ່າວເຖິງບໍ່ ຖ້າມີຄົນແປກໜ້າເຂົ້າໄປທີ່ນັ້ນ?”

“ມີ ທ່ານ, ແຖວບ້ານໃກ້ເຮືອນຄຽງຂອງຂ້ອຍ; ແຕ່ວ່າມັນມີຮ້ານກິນດື່ມເລັກໆນ້ອຍໆຫຼາຍຢູ່ບໍ່ໄກຈາກແຖວນັ້ນ, ບາງເທື່ອຄົນງານ ແລະ ນັກທ່ອງທ່ຽວກໍ່ພັກຢູ່ທີ່ນັ້ນກັບຊາວສວນ.”

“ຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳພວກນີ້ ເບິ່ງແລ້ວຄືມີຄວາມໝາຍ. ພວກມັນໜ້າຈະເປັນລະຫັດອັນໃດອັນໜຶ່ງ, ຖ້າແມ່ນລະຫັດຍາກມັນກໍ່ອາດຈະແກ້ໄຂບໍ່ໄດ້ເລີຍ; ແຕ່ຖ້າມັນເປັນລະຫັດທີ່ງ່າຍ ແລະ ຮູບທີ່ຢູ່ໃນຕຳແໜ່ງເດີມ ກໍ່ເປັນຕົວແທນໃຫ້ກັບຕົວອັກສອນຂອງພະຍັນຊະນະໃດໜຶ່ງ ຂ້ອຍແນ່ໃຈວ່າພວກເຮົາຈະແກ້ໄຂໄດ້.”

he said, at last, “that your best plan would be to appeal to your wife to share her secret with you?”

Hilton Cubitt shook his large head.

“A promise is a promise, Mr. Holmes. If Elsie wished to tell me, she would. If not, it is not right for me to make her say things. But I have a right to look for answers on my own – and I will.”

“Then I will help you with all my heart. First, have you heard of any strangers being seen in your neighborhood?”

“No.”

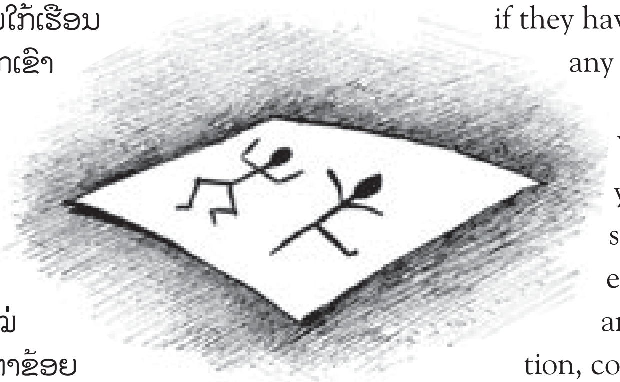
“This must be a very quiet place. Would any fresh face cause people to talk?”

“In the neighborhood near me, yes. But we have several small bars not far away. And sometimes workers and travelers stay with the farmers.”

“These dancing men seem to have a meaning. They are a code, of some sort. If it is a difficult code, it might be impossible to solve. But if it is a simple code, and a man in the same position always stands for one letter of the alphabet, then I believe we can solve it.

"ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ສ່ວນທີ່ເຈົ້າສົ່ງມາໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍນັ້ນສັ້ນເກີນໄປ ແລະ ສິ່ງທີ່ເຈົ້າເລົ່າມາ ກໍ່ບໍ່ຊັດເຈນພໍທີ່ຈະຊ່ວຍຂ້ອຍແກ້ໄຂໄດ້, ພວກເຮົາບໍ່ສາມາດເຮັດຫຍັງໄດ້ຕອນນີ້. ທາງທີ່ດີຂ້ອຍວ່າເຈົ້າຄວນກັບໄປ ນໍຟອກ ເສຍກ່ອນ ແລະ ຊອກຫາຂໍ້ມູນເພີ່ມເຕີມ. ສຳເນົາເອົາທຸກໆຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳອັນໃໝ່ທີ່ພົບເຫັນຢ່າງລະອຽດ, ເສຍດາຍທີ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ສຳເນົາເອົາໂຕທີ່ແຕ້ມດ້ວຍສໍຂາວຢູ່ບານປ່ອງຢ້ຽມເພາະມັນອາດເປັນປະໂຫຍດທີ່ດີ. ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າຖາມຄົນບ້ານໃກ້ເຮືອນຄຽງເບິ່ງວ່າ ພວກເຂົາເຄີຍພົບເຫັນຄົນແປກໜ້າມາແຖວໆນັ້ນແດ່ບໍ່. ເມື່ອເຈົ້າໄດ້ຫຼັກຖານ ແລະ ຂໍ້ມູນອັນໃໝ່ແລ້ວ ໃຫ້ກັບມາຫາຂ້ອຍອີກ. ນີ້ຄືຂໍ້ແນະນຳທີ່ດີທີ່ສຸດ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍບອກເຈົ້າໄດ້ ທ່ານຄິວບິດ. ຖ້າມີສິ່ງໃດສິ່ງໜຶ່ງເກີດຂຶ້ນ ເຊິ່ງເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍຄວນຈະຮູ້ໂດຍດ່ວນ ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າສົ່ງຂ່າວຫາຂ້ອຍ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຈະຮີບໄປຫາເຈົ້າຢູ່ ນໍຟອກ ທັນທີ."

ການພົບປະກັນເຮັດໃຫ້ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ຄິດຢູ່ຢ່າງໜັກ. ສອງສາມມື້ຕໍ່ມາ ຂ້ອຍເຫັນລາວຈັບເອົາເຈ້ຍໃບນັ້ນຈາກປື້ມບັນທຶກ ຂຶ້ນມາພິຈາລະນາເບິ່ງຮູບພາບເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນຢ່າງພິຖີພິຖັນຫຼາຍໆຄັ້ງ ແຕ່ກໍ່ບໍ່ເວົ້າຫຍັງກ່ຽວກັບມັນເລີຍ



"However, the piece you sent me is very short, and the facts that you have told me are not enough to help me solve it. We cannot do anything yet. I think you should return to Norfolk, and watch for more messages. Make a good, clear copy of any new dancing men that appear. I wish we had a copy of those that were drawn in chalk by the window, they could be quite useful. Also ask your neighbors if they have seen any strangers around. When you have some fresh evidence and information, come to me again. That is the best suggestion I can give you, Mr. Cubitt. If anything happens that you think I should know about immediately, send me a message. I will run down and see you in your Norfolk home."

The meeting left Sherlock Holmes very thoughtful. Several times in the next few days I saw him take the paper from his notebook and study the curious figures drawn on it. He said nothing about the case, however,

ຈົນມາຮອດຕອນສວາຍຂອງວັນໜຶ່ງ ປະມານສອງອາທິດຕໍ່ມາ, ຂ້ອຍກຳລັງຈະອອກໄປນອກ ແຕ່ລາວເອີ້ນຂ້ອຍກັບຄືນ.

"ວັດສັນ, ໂຕຕ້ອງຢູ່ທີ່ນີ້ກ່ອນ."

"ມີຫຍັງຊັ້ນເບາະ?"

"ຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້ເຮົາໄດ້ຮັບຂ່າວຈາກ ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ, ໂຕຈຳ ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ, ເຈົ້າຂອງຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳໄດ້ບໍ່? ລາວກະວ່າຈະມາເຖິງລອນດອນເວລາ 1:20 ນາທີ. ລາວອາດຈະມາເຖິງທີ່ນີ້ຕອນໃດກໍ່ໄດ້, ຂໍ້ຄວາມທີ່ລາວສົ່ງມາບອກໃຫ້ຮູ້ວ່າ ມີບາງຢ່າງສຳຄັນເກີດຂຶ້ນ."

ພວກເຮົາຖ້າຢູ່ບໍ່ດົນກໍ່ເຫັນແຂກຂອງເຮົາທີ່ມາຈາກເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ ຍ່າງຊື່ເຂົ້າມາຈາກສະຖານີລົດໄຟຢ່າງຮີບດ່ວນ ຄ້າຍກັບວ່າມີລົດມ້າມາສົ່ງລາວ. ເບິ່ງລາວເປັນກັງວົນ ແລະ ສີໜ້າໂສກເສົ້າ, ດວງຕາອ່ອນເພຍ ແລະ ມີຮອຍຫ່ຽວແຫ້ງຢູ່ໃບໜ້າອັນລໍ່ຂອງລາວ.

"ມັນເປັນຊ່ວງເວລາທີ່ອຶດອັດທີ່ສຸດສຳລັບຂ້ອຍ ທ່ານໂຮມສ," ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ ຂະນະພວມນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງອີ້. "ມັນຊົ່ວຮ້າຍພໍໆທີ່ຈະຮູ້ສຶກວ່າ ມີຄົນທີ່ບໍ່ສາມາດຮູ້ເຫັນໄດ້ຕ້ອງການຈະທຳລາຍເຈົ້າ ໃນເມື່ອເຈົ້າກໍ່ຮູ້ຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ມັນກຳລັງຄຸກຄາມພັນລະຍາຂອງຕົນເອງຢ່າງຊ້າໆ ຈົນເກືອບຈະເອົາຊີວິດບໍ່ລອດ. ຂ້ອຍເຫັນນາງຮູ້ສຶກອຶດເມື່ອຍ ຈ່ອຍຜອມລົງຕໍ່ໜ້າຕໍ່ຕາ."

"ນາງໄດ້ປາກເວົ້າຫຍັງແດ່ແລ້ວບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່ເລີຍ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ນາງບໍ່ໄດ້ເວົ້າຫຍັງ. ບາງຄັ້ງຂ້ອຍແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ຂ້ອຍເຫັນນາງຢາກຈະເວົ້າກ່ຽວກັບມັນ ແຕ່ນາງບໍ່

until one afternoon about two weeks later. I was going out when he called me back.

"You had better stay here, Watson."

"Why?"

"Because I had a message from Hilton Cubitt this morning – you remember Hilton Cubitt, of the dancing men? He expected to arrive in London at one-twenty. He may be here at any moment. I understand from his message that some important things have happened."

We did not have to wait long. Our visitor from Norfolk came straight from the train station as fast as a cab could bring him. He was looking worried and sad, with tired eyes and lines on his handsome face.

"It has been a very difficult time for me, Mr. Holmes," he said, as he sat into a chair. "It's bad enough to feel that an unseen, unknown person wants to hurt you. When, in addition, you know that it is slowly killing your wife, then it becomes almost impossible to live. She's wearing away from it – just wearing away before my eyes."

"Has she said anything yet?"

"No, Mr. Holmes, she has not. At times, I have been sure that the poor girl wanted to speak about it, but

ມີພະລັງທີ່ຈະເວົ້າອອກມາໄດ້. ຂ້ອຍພະຍາຍາມຊ່ວຍນາງ ແຕ່ກໍ່ຫຼົ້ມເຫຼວ ເລີຍຍິ່ງເຮັດໃຫ້ນາງມິດງຽບໄປ. ນາງໄດ້ເວົ້າເຖິງຄອບຄົວຂອງຂ້ອຍໃນເມື່ອກ່ອນ, ຊື່ສຽງຂອງພວກເຮົາພາຍໃນເມືອງ ແລະ ກຽດຕິຍົດ; ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກສະເໝີວ່າ ນາງກຳລັງຈະເວົ້າເຖິງສິ່ງສຳຄັນບາງຢ່າງ; ແຕ່ແລ້ວນາງກໍ່ຢຸດມັນລົງ."

"ແລ້ວເຈົ້າປະກົດເຫັນບາງຢ່າງດ້ວຍຕົນເອງແດ່ບໍ່?"

"ເຫັນຫຼາຍເລີຍ ທ່ານໂຮມສ. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເອົາຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳຫຼາຍອັນໃໝ່ໆມາໃຫ້ເຈົ້າເບິ່ງ, ທີ່ສຳຄັນໄປກວ່ານີ້ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເຫັນຄົນໆນັ້ນແລ້ວ."

"ແມ່ນຫຍັງ? ເຫັນຄົນຜູ້ທີ່ແຕ້ມຮູບນັ້ນຫວະ?"

"ແມ່ນແລ້ວ, ຂ້ອຍເຫັນລາວແຕ້ມຢູ່ກັບຕາ, ຂ້ອຍຈະບອກເຈົ້າໃຫ້ຮູ້ເປັນລຳດັບ. ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍກັບໄປເຖິງບ້ານຈາກຕອນທີ່ມາພົບເຈົ້າເທື່ອແລ້ວ ສິ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ພົບເຫັນໃນຕອນເຊົ້າມື້ຕໍ່ມາກໍ່ຄື: ຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳອັນໃໝ່ສົດ ເຊິ່ງຖືກແຕ້ມດ້ວຍສໍຂາວຢູ່ເທິງບານປະຕູສີດຳຂອງຫ້ອງເກັບເຄື່ອງມືຂ້າງສະໜາມຫຍ້າ ເຊິ່ງພວກເຮົາເຫັນໄດ້ຈາກປ່ອງຢ້ຽມທາງດ້ານໜ້າ. ນີ້ເດ, ຂ້ອຍສຳເນົາເອົາມາເປັນຢ່າງດີ." ລາວວາງເຈ້ຍນັ້ນໄວ້ໜ້າໂຕະ, ຂ້າງລຸ່ມນີ້ເດຄືຮູບແຕ້ມເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ:

"ວິເສດແທ້ໆ!" ໂຮມສເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ. "ວິເສດແທ້ໆ! ເວົ້າຕໍ່ໄປເບິ່ງດູ່."

was not quite strong enough to start. I have tried to help her; but I did it badly, and she was afraid to say more. She has spoken about my old family, and our reputation in the county, and our honor, and I always felt she was about to talk about the important things; but somehow she always stopped before we got there."

"But you have found out something on your own about this mystery?"

"A good deal, Mr. Holmes. I have several fresh pictures of dancing men for you to see. And, more important, I have seen the man."

"What, the man who draws them?"

"Yes, I saw him at his work. But I will tell you everything in order. When I got back home after my visit to you, the first thing I saw the next morning was a fresh set of dancing men. They had been drawn in chalk on the black wooden door of the toolhouse, which is next to the grass. We can see it from the front windows. I made an exact copy, and here it is." He laid a piece of paper on the table. Here is a copy of the drawings:

"Wonderful!" said Holmes. "Wonderful! Please go on."

"ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍໄດ້ສຳເນົາເອົາພາບນັ້ນແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ລຶບຮອຍແຕ້ມນັ້ນອອກ ແຕ່ວ່າສອງມື້ຕໍ່ມາກໍ່ປະກົດເຫັນພາບໃໝ່ອີກ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ສຳເນົາເອົາໄວ້ອີກ."

ໂຮມສລູບມື ແລະ ຫົວຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມດີໃຈ.

ລາວເວົ້າວ່າ: "ຂໍ້ມູນຂອງພວກເຮົາເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນໄວວາແທ້ໆ."

"ສາມມື້ຕໍ່ມາກໍ່ປະກົດມີເຈ້ຍແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງຢູ່ກ້ອງກ້ອນຫີນເທິງໂມງແດດ. ນີ້ເດ ຄືຮູບພາບເຕັ້ນລຳທີ່ເຈົ້າເຄີຍເຫັນ, ມັນ

"When I had made the copy, I rubbed away the marks; but two mornings later, new marks had appeared. I have a copy of them here."

Holmes rubbed his hands and laughed with delight.

"Our base is growing quickly," he said.

"Three days later a piece of paper was put under a stone on the sun-dial. Here it is. The dancing figures are, as

ຄືກັບພາບກ່ອນບໍ່ຜິດເລີຍ. ຈາກນັ້ນມາ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ລັກຊອມເບິ່ງ, ຂ້ອຍພົກປືນສັ້ນ ແລ້ວຊອມຢູ່ໃນຫ້ອງຂຽນໜັງສື. ຈາກທີ່ນັ້ນຂ້ອຍສາມາດເບິ່ງເຫັນເດີ່ນຫຍ້າ ແລະ ສວນໄດ້ຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ. ປະມານສອງໂມງຕອນເດິກ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ນັ່ງຊອມຢູ່ຂ້າງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ, ມັນມືດ ແຕ່ກໍ່ມີແສງເດືອນສ່ອງລົງຂ້າງນອກ. ແລະແລ້ວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງບາດຕີນຍ່າງມາທາງຫຼັງ; ມັນແມ່ນພັນລະຍາຂອງຂ້ອຍເອງ, ນາງບອກຂ້ອຍກັບໄປນອນສາ, ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍບອກນາງວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງການເຫັນຄົນທີ່ມາຫຼິ້ນເກມອັນຕະຫຼົກນີ້ກັບເຮົາ. ນາງຕອບຂ້ອຍວ່າ ມັນເປັນພຽງເລື່ອງຕະຫຼົກທີ່ໄຮ້ສາລະ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຄວນໄປສົນໃຈກັບມັນເລີຍ."

"'ຮິວຕັນ, ຖ້າເລື່ອງນີ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ເຈົ້າລຳຄານໃຈ ເຮົາຄວນຈະໄປທ່ອງທ່ຽວນຳກັນ ເພື່ອຈະໄດ້ລືມເລື່ອງເຫຼົ່ານີ້.'

"'ແມ່ນຫຍັງກັນ? ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງໜີຈາກບ້ານຂອງຕົນເອງ ເພາະເລື່ອງຕະຫຼົກໄຮ້ສາລະນີ້ຫວ່ະ?' ຂ້ອຍຖາມ. 'ເປັນຫຍັງເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ, ຄົນອື່ນຈະຫົວຂວັນເຮົາໄດ໋.'

"'ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ໄປນອນສາ, ມື້ອື່ນເຊົ້າຄ່ອຍລົມກັນໃໝ່,' ນາງເວົ້າ.

"ພໍດີນາງເວົ້າສຸດຄຳ, ທັນໃດນັ້ນ ຈາກແສງເດືອນທີ່ສ່ອງລົງມາ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເຫັນໃບໜ້າຂອງນາງຍິ່ງຈືດຈາງລົງກວ່າເກົ່າ, ມືຂອງນາງກຳບ່າຂ້ອຍແໜ້ນ. ມີບາງຢ່າງກຳລັງເຄື່ອນໄຫວຢູ່ຂ້າງຫ້ອງເກັບເຄື່ອງມື, ຂ້ອຍເຫັນຮ່າງຄົນພໍລິບລີ່ ພວມຄ່ອຍໆໝອບມາທາງແຈ ແລ້ວກໍ່ຢືນຂຶ້ນທີ່ໜ້າປະ

you see, exactly the same as on the last one. After that I decided to lie in wait; so I got out my handgun and I sat up in my study. From there, I can clearly see the grass and garden. At about two o'clock in the morning I was seated by the window. It was dark except for the moonlight outside. Then I heard steps behind me. It was my wife. She asked me to come to bed. I told her that I wanted to see who it was that played such absurd games with us. She answered that it was probably just a joke, and that I should not pay any attention to it.

"'If it really annoys you, Hilton, we should go and travel, you and I, and so miss all of this.'

"'What, be driven out of our own house by a joker?' I said. 'Why, everyone would laugh at us.'

"'Well, come to bed,' said she, 'and we can talk about it in the morning.'

"Suddenly, as she spoke, I saw her white face grow even whiter in the moonlight. Her hand got tighter on my shoulder. Something was moving near the toolhouse. I saw a dark figure, which came slowly around the corner and stood

ຕູຫ້ອງເກັບເຄື່ອງມື. ຂ້ອຍຈັບເອົາປືນ ກະວ່າຈະແລ່ນອອກໄປ ແຕ່ນາງຊໍ້າ ພັດກອດຂ້ອຍໄວ້ຢ່າງແໜ້ນ, ຂ້ອຍພະ ຍາຍາມດຶງນາງອອກ ແຕ່ນາງກໍ່ບໍ່ ວາງ. ໃນທີ່ສຸດນາງກໍ່ປ່ອຍມື ແຕ່ພໍ ຂ້ອຍເປີດປະຕູ ແລະ ອອກໄປຮອດ ຫ້ອງເກັບເຄື່ອງມື ບັກນັ້ນກໍ່ໜີໄປແລ້ວ.

"ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ມັນໄດ້ປະຮ່ອງ ຮອຍເອົາໄວ້, ມີຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳຫຼາຍ ຮູບເທິງບານປະຕູ ຄືກັບທີ່ເຄີຍມີມາ ກ່ອນແລ້ວສອງຄັ້ງ, ຄືດັ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ສຳ ເນົາເອົາໄວ້ໃນເຈ້ຍໃບນີ້ຫັ້ນແຫຼະ. ຂ້ອຍ ຊອກເບິ່ງອ້ອມແອ້ມຫຼາຍໆບ່ອນ ແຕ່ກໍ່ ບໍ່ເຫັນມີຮ່ອງຮອຍບັກນັ້ນເລີຍ ແລະ ສິ່ງທີ່ແປກກໍ່ຄື: ບັກນັ້ນຈະຕ້ອງລີ້ຢູ່ ບ່ອນໃດບ່ອນໜຶ່ງແຖວໆນັ້ນໝົດຄືນ ເພາະວ່າຮຸ່ງເຊົ້າມາ ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ໄປເບິ່ງທີ່ ບານປະຕູນັ້ນອີກ ແລ້ວກໍ່ເຫັນມີຮູບ ອັນໃໝ່ອີກ ເຊິ່ງແຕ້ມໄວ້ກ້ອງໂຕເກົ່າ."

"ແລ້ວເຈົ້າເອົາຮູບໃໝ່ນັ້ນມານຳ ບໍ່?"

"ເຈົ້າ, ເອົາມາ; ມັນເປັນພາບສັ້ນໆ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ສຳເນົາເອົາໄວ້, ນີ້ເດ."

ລາວຈັບເອົາເຈ້ຍແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງອອກມາ, ຮູບພາບໂຕໃໝ່ເປັນແບບນີ້ແຫຼະ:

"ບອກຂ້ອຍມາເບິ່ງດູ່," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. ຈາກສີໜ້າຂອງລາວແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍເຫັນ ໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າລາວຕື່ນເຕັ້ນ. "ມັນຕໍ່ເນື່ອງ ກັບພາບກ່ອນບໍ່ ຫຼືວ່າມັນແຕກຕ່າງ ຢ່າງສິ້ນເຊີງ?"

in front of the door. I took my handgun and started to run out, when my wife threw her arms round me and held me strongly. I tried to throw her off, but she held on to me. At last I got free, but by the time I opened the door and reached the toolhouse, he was gone.

"Afterwards, however, I found that he had left a sign of his visit. There on the door were the very same dancing men that had already appeared twice, and which I have copied on that paper. There was no other sign of the man anywhere, though I looked all over. And yet the strange thing is that he must have been there all the time, for when I looked at the door again in the morning, he had written more of his pictures under the ones I had already seen."

"Do you have that fresh drawing?"

"Yes; it is very short, but I made a copy of it, and here it is."

Again he produced a paper. The new dance was in this form:

"Tell me," said Holmes – and I could see by his eyes that he was quite excited – "was this a simple addition to the first, or did it appear to be a different message?"

“ມັນຖືກແຕ້ມຢູ່ບານປະຕູອີກບານໜຶ່ງຕ່າງຫາກ.”

“ວິເສດແທ້ໆ! ມັນເປັນຈຸດສຳຄັນທີ່ສຸດຕໍ່ການທຳງານຂອງພວກເຮົາ, ມັນເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍມີຄວາມຫວັງຂຶ້ນຕື່ມ. ບັດນີ້ທ່ານຄິວບິດ, ກະລຸນາເລົ່າເລື່ອງອັນໜ້າສົນໃຈຂອງເຈົ້າຕໍ່ໄປ ວ່າມັນມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນອີກ.”

“ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ມີຫຍັງຈະເລົ່າຕໍ່ອີກແລ້ວ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ຂ້ອຍພຽງແຕ່ໃຈຮ້າຍກັບພັນລະຍາຂອງຂ້ອຍ ເພາະວ່ານາງກອດຂ້ອຍໄວ້ ຖ້າບໍ່ດັ່ງນັ້ນຂ້ອຍອາດຈະຈັບ

“It was on a different part of the door.”

“Wonderful! This is by far the most important of all, for us. It fills me with hopes. Now, Mr. Cubitt, please tell us the rest of your interesting story of what happened.”

“I have nothing more to say, Mr. Holmes, except that I was angry with my wife because she held me back when I might have caught the man. She said she was afraid I might be

ບັກນັ້ນໄດ້. ນາງເວົ້າວ່ານາງຢ້ານຂ້ອຍຈະໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ ແຕ່ຕອນນັ້ນຂ້ອຍກັບນຶກສົງໄສວ່າ ບາງທີນາງຢ້ານບັກນັ້ນຕ່າງຫາກຈະໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບຫຼາຍກວ່າ ເພາະມັນຊັດເຈນຢູ່ແລ້ວວ່າ ນາງຮູ້ວ່າບັກນັ້ນແມ່ນໃຜ ແລະ ມີແຜນຫຍັງຕໍ່ກັບຂໍ້ຄວາມປິດສະໜາພວກນັ້ນ; ແຕ່ວ່າ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ພໍໄດ້ຟັງນໍ້າສຽງ ແລະ ໄດ້ເຫັນແວວຕາຂອງນາງແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍໝັ້ນໃຈວ່ານາງເປັນຫ່ວງຂ້ອຍແທ້ໆ. ນີ້ແຫຼະຄືເລື່ອງທັງໝົດທີ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນ ແຕ່ຕອນນີ້ຂ້ອຍຢາກໃຫ້ເຈົ້າຊ່ວຍແນະນໍາວ່າ ຂ້ອຍຄວນຈະເຮັດແນວໃດຕໍ່ໄປ. ຕາມຄວາມຄິດຂອງຂ້ອຍແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍຄວນຈະໃຫ້ເດັກໃນຟາມຈັກຫ້າ-ຫົກຄົນລີ້ຊອມຢູ່ຕາມພຸ່ມໄມ້, ເມື່ອບັກນັ້ນມາອີກໃຫ້ພວກເຂົາລຸມຕີມັນ ແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ຈະບໍ່ມາກໍ່ກວນອີກ."

"ຂ້ອຍຢ້ານວ່າເລື່ອງນີ້ເລິກເກີນໄປ ທີ່ຈະແກ້ໄຂໄດ້ດ້ວຍວິທີງ່າຍໆເສຍແລ້ວ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ເຈົ້າຈະຢູ່ລອນດອນໄດ້ອີກດົນປານໃດ?"

"ຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງກັບບ້ານມື້ນີ້, ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຢາກໃຫ້ພັນລະຍາຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງຢູ່ຄົນດຽວທັງຄືນ, ນາງຢ້ານກົວຫຼາຍ ແລະ ບອກໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຮີບກັບ."

"ເຈົ້າເຮັດຖືກຕ້ອງແລ້ວ ແຕ່ຖ້າຫາກເຈົ້າຢູ່ທີ່ນີ້ໄດ້ອີກຈັກມື້ສອງມື້ ຂ້ອຍຈະໄດ້ກັບໄປພ້ອມເຈົ້າ. ເອົາລະ, ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າເອົາເຈ້ຍພວກນີ້ປະໄວ້ກັບຂ້ອຍກ່ອນ, ບາງທີຂ້ອຍອາດຈະໄປຫາເຈົ້າໃນໄວໆນີ້ ແລະ ພໍເຖິງຕອນນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຄົງຈະໄດ້ເຂົ້າໃຈເລື່ອງລາວນີ້ຕື່ມອີກ."

hurt. For a moment I wondered if perhaps she was really afraid that HE might be hurt, because clearly she knew who this man was and what he planned when he left these puzzling messages. But there was a sound in my wife's voice, Mr. Holmes, and a look in her eyes, and I am sure that she was worried about me. So that is everything that happened, and now I want your advice about what I should do. My own opinion is that I should put five or six of my farmboys in the bushes, and when this man comes again, tell them to give him such a beating that he will leave us in peace"

"I am afraid it is too deep a case to be fixed so simply," said Holmes. "How long can you stay in London?"

"I must go back today. I do not want to leave my wife alone all night. She is very afraid. She asked me to come back."

"I think you are right. If you could have stayed in town, I might have been able to return with you in a day or two. Meanwhile, please leave me these papers. I can probably come visit you soon, and at that time I should understand more about your case."

ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າມັນຈະງ່າຍທີ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ວ່າ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສຕື່ນເຕັ້ນ ແຕ່ລາວກໍ່ຍັງ ມິດງຽບຢູ່ ຈົນກະທັ້ງແຂກຂອງພວກ ເຮົາກັບໄປ. ຂະນະທີ່ທ່ານ ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວ ບິດ ພວມຍ່າງໄປທາງປະຕູ ໂຮມສກໍ່ ຟ້າວໄປທີ່ໂຕະ ແລ້ວເອົາເຈ້ຍທີ່ມີຮູບຄົນ ເຕັ້ນລຳທັງໝົດຂຶ້ນມາວາງໄວ້ຕໍ່ໜ້າ. ເປັນເວລາເຖິງສອງຊົ່ວໂມງທີ່ຂ້ອຍເບິ່ງ ລາວຂຽນຕົວເລກ ແລະ ຕົວອັກສອນໃສ່ ເຈ້ຍແຜ່ນແລ້ວແຜ່ນເລົ່າ, ລາວສົນໃຈຕໍ່ ກັບວຽກນີ້ຫຼາຍ ຈົນເບິ່ງຄ້າຍກັບວ່າ ລາວລືມໄປວ່າມີຂ້ອຍຢູ່ໃນຫ້ອງນຳ, ບາງເທື່ອລາວເຮັດວຽກກ້າວໜ້າໄດ້ ລາວກໍ່ຈະຮ້ອງເພງ ແຕ່ພໍຂ້ອງຄາ ລາວ ກໍ່ຈະນັ່ງລະເມີຢູ່ ດ້ວຍແວວຕາອັນ ຫວ່າງເປົ່າເປັນເວລາດົນນານ.

ໃນທີ່ສຸດລາວກໍ່ລຸກຂຶ້ນຈາກຕັ່ງປຸບ ປັບ ແລ້ວຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມດີໃຈ, ລາວຍ່າງຂຶ້ນ ຍ່າງລົງຕາມຫ້ອງ ແລະ ລູບມືໄປ-ມາ, ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ຂຽນຂໍ້ຄວາມ ຍາວຢຽດເຖິງ ທ່ານຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ແລ້ວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນວ່າ: “ວັດສັນ, ຖ້າໄດ້ຄຳ ຕອບຮັບດັ່ງທີ່ເຮົາຄາດຫວັງເອົາໄວ້ ໂຕ ກໍ່ຈະໄດ້ຮູບຄະດີອັນໜ້າສົນໃຈ ມາປະ ກອບກັບຫຼັກຖານທີ່ໄດ້ສະສົມເອົາໄວ້, ເຮົາຄິດວ່າມື້ອື່ນນີ້ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງໄປ ເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ ພ້ອມກັບນຳບາງຄຳ ຕອບກ່ຽວກັບບັນຫາດັ່ງກ່າວ ໄປໃຫ້ ເພື່ອນຂອງພວກເຮົາ.”

ຂ້ອຍຍອມຮັບວ່າຂ້ອຍຢາກຮູ້ຢາກ ເຫັນ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້ດີວ່າ ໂຮມສມັກຈະ ເວົ້າເຖິງການສືບສວນຂອງລາວ ໃນເວ

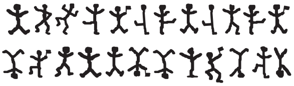
Sherlock Holmes remained quiet until our visitor had left, although it was easy for me to see that he was very excited. The moment that Hilton Cubitt had disappeared through the door, Holmes hurried to the table, and put all the slips of paper with dancing men in front of him. For two hours I watched as he wrote figures and letters on one piece after another. He was so interested in his work that he seemed to have forgotten I was in the same room. Sometimes he was making progress, and he would sing at his work. Sometimes he was puzzled by the mystery, and would sit for long spells with an empty look in his eyes.

At last he jumped from his chair with a cry of delight. He walked up and down the room, rubbing his hands together. Then he wrote a long message to Mr. Hilton Cubitt. “If my answer to this is what I hope for, you will have quite an interesting case to add to what you have already written, Watson,” he said. “I think we can go down to Norfolk tomorrow, with some answers for our friend about his problem.”

I admit that I was filled with curiosity, but I knew that Holmes liked to explain his investigations at his

ລາທີ່ລາວຢາກຈະເວົ້າ ແລະ ກໍ່ຈະເວົ້າດ້ວຍວິທີທາງຂອງລາວເອງ, ດັ່ງນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງລໍຖ້າ ຈົນກວ່າລາວຈະບອກທຸກຢ່າງເອງ.

ແຕ່ມັນຜ່ານໄປເຖິງສອງມື້ ພວກເຮົາຈຶ່ງໄດ້ຄຳຕອບຈາກຂໍ້ຄວາມນັ້ນ. ໂຮມສຢາກຮູ້ຂ່າວຄາວ ແລະ ລາວຈະຫຼຽວໄປເບິ່ງທຸກຄັ້ງທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງກະດິງ. ຕອນແລງຂອງມື້ທີ່ສອງ ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບຈົດໝາຍຈາກທ່ານຮີວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ. ລາວບອກວ່າບໍ່ມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນອີກ ນອກຈາກມີຈົດໝາຍຍາວໆກ້ານໜຶ່ງຢູ່ເທິງໂມງແດດໃນຕອນເຊົ້າວັນນັ້ນ. ລາວໄດ້ສົ່ງສຳເນົາຂອງຈົດໝາຍນັ້ນມານຳ.



ໂຮມສຈັບຂໍ້ຄວາມແປກໆນັ້ນງ່ຽງໄປມາເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍນາທີ ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ລຸກຢືນຂຶ້ນປຸບປັບທັນທີ ພ້ອມທັງຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມຕົກໃຈ ແລະ ປະຫຼາດໃຈ.

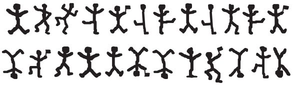
"ພວກເຮົາປ່ອຍໃຫ້ເລື່ອງນີ້ໄປໄກພໍແລ້ວ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ຄືນນີ້ມີລົດໄຟໄປເມືອງນໍຟອກບໍ່?"

ຂ້ອຍຫຼຽວເບິ່ງຕາຕະລາງ, ລົດໄຟຂະບວນສຸດທ້າຍຫາກໍ່ອອກໄປນີ້ເອງ.

"ຄັນຊັ້ນມື້ອື່ນເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງກິນເຂົ້າແຕ່ເຊົ້າ ແລ້ວໄປກັບລົດໄຟຂະບວນຖ້ຽວທຳອິດເລີຍ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ພວກເຮົາພວມເປັນທີ່ຕ້ອງການດ່ວນ. ອ໊າ! ນີ້ເດຄືຂໍ້ຄວາມທີ່ເຮົາຄາດຫວັງເອົາໄວ້, ຂໍ້ຄວາມນີ້ຍິ່ງມີຄວາມສຳຄັນ ທີ່ເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງບອກ ທ່ານ

own time and in his own way, so I waited until he decided to tell me everything.

But it was two days before we got an answer to the message. Holmes wanted to hear some news, and he looked up every time he heard the bell ring. On the evening of the second day, we got a letter from Hilton Cubitt. There was nothing new, he said, except that a long message had appeared that morning on the sun-dial. He sent this copy of it:



Holmes bent over this strange message for several minutes. Then he suddenly jumped to his feet with a cry of fear and surprise.

"We have let this case go far enough," he said. "Is there a train to Norfolk tonight?"

I looked at the timetable. The last train had just gone.

"Then we will eat early and take the very first train in the morning," said Holmes. "We are needed immediately. Ah! Here is the message I have been expecting. This message makes it even more important that

ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ໂດຍບໍ່ໃຫ້ເສຍເວລາໄປແມ່ນແຕ່ຊົ່ວໂມງດຽວ. ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງອັນໂຫດຮ້າຍ ທີ່ຊາຍໜຸ່ມທຳມະດາຊາວນໍຟອກຄົນນີ້ພວມປະເຊີນຢູ່."

ມັນເປັນແບບນັ້ນແທ້ໆ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກວ່າມັນໜ້າຢ້ານກົວ ເມື່ອຕອນທີ່ຂ້ອຍດຳເນີນມາເຖິງຕອນຈົບອັນໂຫດຮ້າຍຂອງເລື່ອງທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍຄິດວ່າ ມັນເປັນພຽງການຫຼິ້ນເກມ ອັນແປກໆຂອງເດັກນ້ອຍເທົ່ານັ້ນ. ຂ້ອຍປາຖະໜາໃຫ້ຕົນເອງມີຕອນຈົບອັນສະໜຸກກວ່ານີ້ ມາເລົ່າຕໍ່ທ່ານຜູ້ອ່ານ ແຕ່ນີ້ຄືເລື່ອງຈິງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຕ້ອງບັນລະຍາຍແຕ່ລະຂັ້ນຕອນອັນແປກໆຂອງເລື່ອງດ້ວຍຄວາມຊື່ສັດເປັນເວລາຫຼາຍມື້ ເພື່ອເຮັດໃຫ້ ຣິດລິງ ທັອບແມນເນີ ເປັນທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກໄປທົ່ວອັງກິດ.

ພໍແຕ່ພວກເຮົາເດີນອອກຈາກລົດໄຟທີ່ເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ ແລະ ເອີ່ຍເຖິງຈຸດໝາຍທີ່ພວກເຮົາຈະໄປ ຫົວໜ້າເຈົ້າໜ້າທີ່ລົດໄຟກໍ່ຮີບຍ່າງຕົງເຂົ້າມາຫາພວກເຮົາ ແລະເວົ້າວ່າ: "ພວກທ່ານຈະຕ້ອງແມ່ນນັກສືບມາຈາກລອນດອນ ແມ່ນບໍ່?"

ເບິ່ງໂຮມສບໍ່ຄ່ອຍຮູ້ສຶກດີປານໃດ. "ເຈົ້າຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ເພາະວ່າທ່ານສາລະວັດ ມາຕິນ ຈາກເມືອງ ນໍວິດຈ ຫາກໍ່ຜ່ານໄປ, ແຕ່ວ່າບາງເທື່ອພວກທ່ານອາດຈະເປັນທ່ານໝໍກໍ່ໄດ້. ຕາມທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຍິນມາຄັ້ງຫຼ້າສຸດ ນາງຍັງບໍ່ທັນຕາຍ ຫຼື ອາດຈະບໍ່ຕາຍ. ພວກທ່ານອາດຈະທັນຊ່ວຍຊີວິດຂອງນາງໄດ້, ເຖິງວ່າຕອນນີ້ພວກທ່ານຈະທັນຊ່ວຍນາງໄວ້ໄດ້ ແຕ່ຈັ່ງໃດນາງກໍ່ຕ້ອງຖືກແຂນຄໍຕາຍ

we should not lose an hour in telling Hilton Cubitt what we know. It is a dangerous business in which this simple Norfolk man is caught."

So, indeed, it was. As I come to the terrible ending of a story which at first I had thought was only a strange child's game, I feel once again the terror which I felt then. I wish I had a brighter ending to tell to my readers, but this is a story of fact, and I must honestly describe the strange chain of events which for several days made Ridling Thorpe Manor known everywhere in England.

As soon as we got off the train in Norfolk, and said where we were going, the station-master hurried towards us. "I suppose that you are the detectives from London?" he said.

Holmes looked annoyed. "What makes you think such a thing?" he asked.

"Because Inspector Martin from Norwich has just passed through. But maybe you are the doctors. She's not dead – or wasn't dead yet, from the last I heard. You may still be in time to save her – though if you save her now, she will still be hanged

ຢູ່ດີ."

ສີໜ້າຂອງໂຮມສ ເຊັ່ງຂຶມຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມເປັນຫ່ວງ.

"ພວກເຮົາກຳລັງຈະໄປທີ່ ຣິດລິງ ທັອບ ແມນເນີ, ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາບໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນຂ່າວວ່າມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ.

"ມັນເປັນເລື່ອງທີ່ໂຫດຮ້າຍ," ເຈົ້າໜ້າທີ່ເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ. "ທ່ານຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ແລະພັນລະຍາຖືກຍິງ, ຄົນໃຊ້ເວົ້າວ່ານາງຍິງຜົວ ແລ້ວຍິງຕົນເອງ. ສາມີຕາຍ ແລະ ຊີວິດຂອງນາງກຳລັງຢູ່ໃນຂີດອັນຕະລາຍ. ໂອຍນໍ! ລາວເປັນຄົນໃນຕະກຸນທີ່ເກົ່າແກ່ທີ່ສຸດໃນເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ ແລະ ກໍ່ເປັນທີ່ເຄົາລົບນັບຖືທີ່ສຸດເຊັ່ນກັນ."

ໂຮມສຮີບຟ້າວໄປຂຶ້ນລົດມ້າໂດຍປາສະຈາກຄຳເວົ້າໃດໆ. ໃນລະຫວ່າງທາງໄກເຖິງເຈັດໄມ ລາວບໍ່ເອີ່ຍປາກຈັກຄຳເລີຍ ມັນຍາກທີ່ຂ້ອຍຈະເຫັນລາວເສຍໃຈ ເຖິງຂະໜາດນີ້, ລາວຮູ້ສຶກບໍ່ສະບາຍໃຈຕະຫຼອດການເດີນທາງມາຈາກລອນດອນ. ຕອນນີ້ລາວເສຍໃຈຫຼາຍທີ່ຮູ້ວ່າສິ່ງທີ່ລາວກັງວົນທີ່ສຸດໄດ້ກາຍເປັນຈິງເສຍແລ້ວ ລາວນັ່ງອີງເທິ້ງ ແລະ ຈົມຢູ່ກັບຄວາມຄິດ ຈົນໃນທີ່ສຸດກໍ່ເຫັນທະເລພົ້ນຂຶ້ນແຄມຝັ່ງອັນຂຽວງາມແຫ່ງເມືອງນໍຟອກ ແລະ ຄົນຂັບລົດມ້າກໍ່ຊີ້ໃສ່ຫຼັງຄາ ທີ່ເຫັນພົ້ນຂຶ້ນທ່າມກາງຕົ້ນໄມ້ "ນັ້ນແຫຼະຄື ຣິດລິງ ທັອບ ແມນເນີ," ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ.

ພໍແຕ່ພວກເຮົາໄປເຖິງປະຕູ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ສັງເກດເຫັນບາງຢ່າງກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງແປກໆທີ່ພວກເຮົາເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນ ຢູ່ທີ່ໜ້າປະຕູ

later."

Holmes's face was dark with worry.

"We are going to Ridling Thorpe Manor," he said, "but we have heard nothing about what happened there."

"It's a terrible thing," said the station-master. "They are shot, both Mr. Hilton Cubitt and his wife. She shot him and then herself – that's what the servants say. He's dead and her life is in danger. Dear, dear, one of the oldest families in the County of Norfolk, and one of the most honored."

Without a word Holmes hurried to a cart. During the long seven miles' drive he never opened his mouth. Rarely have I seen him so sad. He had been uneasy during all our trip from London. Now, learning that his worst fears had come true, he was very sad. He sat back in his seat, lost in his thoughts. At last the sea appeared over the green edge of Norfolk, and the cart driver pointed to a roof that could be seen above the trees. "That's Ridling Thorpe Manor," he said.

As we drove up to the door I saw in front of it the black toolhouse and the sun-dial, about which we

ຫ້ອງເກັບເຄື່ອງມື ແລະໂມງແດດ. ມີຜູ້ຊາຍຮູບຮ່າງນ້ອຍ, ໃສ່ຊຸດບໍ່ທັນຮຽບຮ້ອຍດີ ແລະ ມີກິລິຍາທ່າທາງວ່ອງໄວ ຫາກໍ່ລົງຈາກລົດມ້າ. ລາວແນະນຳຕົວວ່າລາວແມ່ນສາລະວັດຕຳຫຼວດ ມາຕິນ ແຫ່ງເມືອງ ນໍຟອກ ແລະ ລາວຍັງຮູ້ສຶກປະຫຼາດໃຈ ທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນຊື່ເພື່ອນນັກສືບຂອງຂ້ອຍ.

"ນີ້ມັນຈັ່ງໃດກັນ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ຄະດີຫາກໍ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນສາມໂມງຕອນເຊົ້ານີ້ເອງ ແລ້ວເຈົ້າຢູ່ລອນດອນຈະຮູ້ໄດ້ໄວ ແລະ ມາເຖິງທີ່ນີ້ທັນທີທີ່ຂ້ອຍມາຮອດໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ຂ້ອຍຄາດຄະເນວ່າຄົງມີເລື່ອງເກີດຂຶ້ນ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍມາເພື່ອປ້ອງກັນມັນ."

had heard such strange stories. A neatly-dressed little man, with a quick manner, had just gotten out of a cart. He said that his name was Inspector Martin, of the Norfolk Police, and he was surprised when he heard the name of my detective friend.

"Why, Mr. Holmes, the crime only took place at three o'clock this morning. How could you hear of it in London and get here as soon as I did?"

"I expected it to happen. I came in the hope of stopping it."

“ຄັນຊັ້ນຈະຕ້ອງມີຫຼັກຖານອັນສຳຄັນທີ່ພວກເຮົາບໍ່ຮູ້ ເພາະຕາມທີ່ໄດ້ຍິນມາ ຜົວ-ເມຍຄູ່ນີ້ດີຕໍ່ກັນທີ່ສຸດ.”

“ຂ້ອຍມີພຽງຫຼັກຖານເປັນຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳເທົ່ານັ້ນ,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. “ຂ້ອຍຈະອະທິບາຍສູ່ທ່ານຟັງພາຍຫຼັງ. ຕອນນີ້ເມື່ອຮູ້ວ່າມັນສວາຍເກີນໄປທີ່ຈະປ້ອງກັນເລື່ອງອັນໂຫດຮ້າຍນີ້ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຍັງຕ້ອງການເຫັນຄົນຮ້າຍໃຫ້ໄດ້. ທ່ານຈະຮ່ວມມືຂ້ອຍໃນການສືບສວນເລື່ອງນີ້ບໍ່ ຫຼື ທ່ານຕ້ອງການໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເຮັດຕາມລຳພັງ?”

“ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກພູມໃຈ ແລະ ເປັນກຽດຖ້າໄດ້ຮ່ວມມືກັບເຈົ້າ ທ່ານໂຮມສ,” ທ່ານສາລະວັດເວົ້າ.

“ຄັນຊັ້ນຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຍິນດີ ແລະ ຢາກຈະຟັງຂໍ້ມູນ, ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງໄປກວດສອບເບິ່ງຕາມເຮືອນ ແລະ ຕາມເດີ່ນໃຫ້ໄວເທົ່າທີ່ຈະເຮັດໄດ້.”

ທ່ານສາລະວັດມາຕິນ ມີຄວາມສະຫຼາດພໍ ທີ່ຈະປ່ອຍໃຫ້ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເຮັດຕາມວິທີຂອງລາວ ຂະນະທີ່ທ່ານສາລະວັດເອງ ເປັນຜູ້ບັນທຶກຜົນທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບດ້ວຍຄວາມລະມັດລະວັງ. ທ່ານໝໍເປັນຄົນມີອາຍຸສູງ ແລະ ຜົມຂາວ ຫາກໍ່ລົງມາຈາກຫ້ອງຂອງນາງ ເອລຊີ ຄິວບິດ, ລາວບອກວ່າ ນາງໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບສາຫັດ ແຕ່ຄົງບໍ່ເຖິງຂັ້ນເສຍຊີວິດ, ລູກປືນທະລຸຜ່ານດ້ານໜ້າສະໝອງຂອງນາງ ແລະ ຄົງຈະໃຊ້ເວລາຈັກໜ່ອຍກວ່ານາງຈະຟື້ນ.

ເມື່ອພວກເຮົາຖາມວ່ານາງຖືກຍິງ ຫຼື ນາງຍິງຕົວເອງກັນແທ້ ທ່ານໝໍກໍ່ບໍ່ໃຫ້ຄຳ

“Then you must have important evidence that we don’t know about, for they were said to be a very happy couple.”

“I have only the evidence of the dancing men,” said Holmes. “I will explain the matter to you later. Meanwhile, since it is too late to stop this terrible thing, I want to see that the killer is found. Will you work with me in your investigation, or do you wish me to work on my own?”

“I would be proud to feel that we were acting together, Mr. Holmes,” said the inspector.

“In that case, I would be glad to hear the evidence. We should look at the house and yard as soon as possible.”

Inspector Martin was smart enough to let my friend do things his way, while he himself just made careful notes about the results. The doctor, an old, white-haired man, had just come down from Mrs. Cubitt’s room. He told us that she was badly hurt, but might not die. The bullet had passed through the front of her brain, and it would probably be some time before she would be conscious again.

When he was asked whether she had been shot or had shot herself, he

ເຫັນ. ມັນແນ່ນອນຢູ່ແລ້ວ ລູກປືນຖືກຍິງມາຈາກບ່ອນໃກ້ໆ, ໃນຫ້ອງກໍ່ພົບເຫັນປືນພຽງກະບອກດຽວ ແລະ ປືນນັ້ນຖືກໃຊ້ຍິງສອງນັດ, ທ່ານຮິວຕັນຄິວບິດ ຖືກຍິງທະລຸຫົວໃຈ ເຊິ່ງກໍ່ອາດເປັນໄປໄດ້ເຊັ່ນກັນທີ່ລາວຈະຍິງເມຍແລ້ວຈຶ່ງຍິງຕົວເອງ ຫຼື ບໍ່ກໍ່ແມ່ນເມຍເປັນຄົນເຮັດແບບນັ້ນ ເພາະວ່າປືນວາງຢູ່ລະຫວ່າງກາງພວກເຂົາ.

"ຮິວຕັນ ຖືກເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍບໍ່?" ໂຮມສຖາມ.

"ພວກເຮົາບໍ່ໄດ້ຍ້າຍຫຍັງ ນອກຈາກເອລຊີ, ພວກເຮົາບໍ່ອາດທົນເຫັນນາງນອນຢູ່ກັບພື້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມເຈັບປວດແບບນັ້ນໄດ້."

"ທ່ານໝໍມາທີ່ນີ້ດົນປານໃດແລ້ວ?"

"ແຕ່ສີ່ໂມງເຊົ້າ."

"ມີຄົນອື່ນມາທີ່ນີ້ແດ່ບໍ່?"

"ເຈົ້າ, ມີຕຳຫຼວດ."

"ເຈົ້າໄດ້ແຕະຕ້ອງຫຍັງແດ່ບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່, ບໍ່ໄດ້ແຕະຕ້ອງຫຍັງ."

"ເຈົ້າປະຕິບັດໜ້າທີ່ໄດ້ດີແທ້ໆ ແລ້ວໃຜເປັນຜູ້ໄປບອກເຈົ້າກ່ຽວກັບເລື່ອງນີ້?"

"ຄົນໃຊ້ຊື່ ຊອນເດີສ."

"ແມ່ນນາງບໍ່ ເປັນຜູ້ບອກທຸກໆຄົນ?"

"ນາງ ແລະ ແມ່ຄົວຊື່ ມາດາມຄິງ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນເຮົາຕ້ອງໃຫ້ພວກເຂົາເລົ່າເລື່ອງສູ່ຟັງດຽວນີ້ເລີຍ."

ຫ້ອງໂຖງໃຫຍ່ໃນເຮືອນໄດ້ກາຍເປັນຫ້ອງສານສືບສວນ, ໂຮມສນັ່ງລົງຕັ່ງອີ້

would not give an opinion. Certainly the bullet had been fired from a very close distance. There was only one gun found in the room. Two shots had been fired from it. Mr. Hilton Cubitt had been shot through the heart. It was equally possible that he had shot her and then himself, or that she had done the shooting, because the hand-gun was on the floor between them.

"Has he been moved?" asked Holmes.

"We have moved nothing except the lady. We could not leave her wounded on the floor."

"How long have you been here, doctor?"

"Since four o'clock."

"Has anyone else been here?"

"Yes, the policeman."

"Have you touched anything?"

"No, nothing."

"You have acted very well. Who called to tell you about the shootings?"

"The house servant, Saunders."

"Was it she who called everyone?"

"She and Mrs. King, the cook."

"Then I think we should hear their story at once."

A large room in the house had been turned into a court of investigation. Holmes sat in a large chair, his bright

ໃຫຍ່ອັນໜຶ່ງ, ແວວຕາທີ່ສະຫວ່າງໄດ້ສ່ອງອອກຈາກໃບໜ້າອັນອິດເມື່ອຍຂອງລາວ. ຈາກສາຍຕາຂອງລາວຂ້ອຍອ່ານອອກໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ຖ້າຈຳເປັນລາວຈະຕ້ອງໃຊ້ເວລາທັ້ງຊີວິດ ເພື່ອສືບຫາຄາດຕະກອນໃຫ້ກັບລູກຄວາມຂອງລາວ ຜູ້ເຊິ່ງລາວບໍ່ສາມາດຊ່ວຍຊີວິດໄວ້ໄດ້. ຍັງມີ ທ່ານສາລະວັດ ມາຕິນ, ທ່ານໝໍ, ຕົວຂ້ອຍເອງ ແລະ ປ້ອງກັນບ້ານນຳອີກ ທີ່ປະກອບກັນເປັນຫ້ອງສານນັ້ນຂຶ້ນ.

ແມ່ຍິງສອງຄົນນັ້ນບອກເລື່ອງລາວຢ່າງລະອຽດ ພວກເຂົາພະຫວາຕື່ນຂຶ້ນຍ້ອນສຽງປືນທີ່ດັງແຮງ; ຕໍ່ມາປະມານໜຶ່ງນາທີກໍ່ມີສຽງປືນດັງຂຶ້ນເທື່ອທີ່ສອງ; ທັງສອງຄົນນອນຢູ່ຫ້ອງຂ້າງໆກັນ ແລະ ມາດາມຄິງ ຮີບແລ່ນໄປທີ່ຫ້ອງນາງຊອນເດີສ ແລ້ວທັງສອງກໍ່ພາກັນລົງມາຊັ້ນລຸ່ມ, ປະຕູຫ້ອງຂຽນໜັງສືຖືກເປີດປະໄວ້ ແລະ ມີທຽນໄຕ້ຢູ່ເທິງໂຕະ, ທ່ານຜູ້ຊາຍນອນຂວ້ຳໜ້າຢູ່ກາງຫ້ອງ ແລະ ເສຍຊີວິດແລ້ວ; ສ່ວນຜູ້ເປັນເມຍນັ່ງຫົວອີງຝາຢູ່ຂ້າງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ, ນາງໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບສາຫັດ ແລະ ໜ້າຂອງນາງຂ້າງໜຶ່ງເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍເລືອດ, ນາງໝົດສະຕິ. ທັງອາຄານເຮືອນ ແລະ ຫ້ອງເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍຄວັນກັບກິ່ນໝື້ຂອງປືນ.

ແມ່ຍິງທັງສອງຄົນໝັ້ນໃຈວ່າ ປະຕູປ່ອງຢ້ຽມປິດໄວ້ສະໜິດ ແລະ ທາງໃນລັອກໄວ້ຢ່າງດີ, ພວກນາງຮີບໄປຫາທ່ານໝໍ ແລະ ແຈ້ງຕໍ່ຕຳຫຼວດ, ຈາກນັ້ນ

eyes shining out of his tired face. I could read in his eyes that he would spend the rest of his life, if necessary, to find the killer of the man whom he had failed to save. Inspector Martin, the old country doctor, myself, and a village policeman made up the rest of that strange group.

The two women told their story clearly. They had been awoken from their sleep by the sound of a loud shot from a gun, which had been followed a minute later by a second one. They had been sleeping in two rooms next to one another, and Mrs. King had run into Saunders's room. Together they had gone down the steps. The door of the study was open and a candle was burning on the table. The owner of the house lay on his face in the center of the room. He was quite dead. Near the window sat his wife, her head against the wall. She was badly hurt, and the side of her face was red with blood. She was not conscious. The hall, as well as the room, was full of smoke and the smell of gunpowder.

The window was certainly shut. It was locked on the inside. Both women were certain about this. They had immediately called for the doctor and for the police. Then, with the help

ພວກເຂົາພ້ອມກັບເດັກໃນຟາມກໍ່ອູ້ມແມ່ຍິງທີ່ໝົດສະຕິຂຶ້ນໄປຫ້ອງ, ນາງໃສ່ຊຸດນອນຢູ່ ນອກນັ້ນແມ່ນບໍ່ມີຫຍັງໃນຫ້ອງຂຽນໜັງສືຖືກເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍເລີຍ. ຕັ້ງແຕ່ພວກເຂົາເຄີຍຮູ້ມາ ຜົວ-ເມຍຄູ່ນີ້ບໍ່ເຄີຍມີຂໍ້ຂັດແຍ່ງຕໍ່ກັນ, ຄົນໃຊ້ໃນເຮືອນຕ່າງກໍ່ຍ້ອງວ່າ ທັງສອງເປັນຄູ່ຜົວ-ເມຍທີ່ມີຄວາມສຸກດີທີ່ສຸດ.

ທັງໝົດນີ້ຄືປະເດັນສຳຄັນທີ່ຄົນໃຊ້ໄດ້ເວົ້າ. ເພື່ອເປັນການຕອບຄຳຖາມຂອງສາລະວັດມາຕິນ ທັງສອງຢືນຢັນວ່າ ປະຕູທຸກບານຖືກປິດ ແລະ ລັອກຢູ່ເຊິ່ງບໍ່ໜ້າຈະມີໃຜທັນໜີໄປຈາກເຮືອນນີ້ໄດ້ ແລະ ຕໍ່ການຕອບຄຳຖາມຂອງໂຮມສ ພວກນາງຈຳໄດ້ວ່າ ພວກນາງຍັງໄດ້ກິ່ນຄວັນໝື້ຕອນທີ່ແລ່ນລົງມາຈາກຫ້ອງຊັ້ນເທິງ. “ນີ້ແຫຼະຄືຄວາມຈິງອັນສຳຄັນ ຂໍໃຫ້ທ່ານຈົ່ງບັນທຶກເອົາໄວ້,” ໂຮມສເວົ້າກັບສາລະວັດ. “ຕອນນີ້ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າພວກເຮົາຄວນຈະກວດເບິ່ງຫ້ອງນັ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມລະມັດລະວັງ.”

ຫ້ອງຂຽນໜັງສືເປັນຫ້ອງນ້ອຍ ແລະ ມີປື້ມລຽນຢູ່ສາມດ້ານ; ໂຕະຂຽນໜັງສືຫັນໜ້າໃສ່ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ເຊິ່ງເຫັນໄປຮອດກາງສວນ. ສິ່ງທີ່ພວກເຮົາເຫັນທຳອິດກໍ່ຄື ຮ່າງອັນໂຊກຮ້າຍຂອງທ່ານ ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ນອນຢຽດຂວາງຢູ່ໃນຫ້ອງ, ຈາກການນຸ່ງຖືທີ່ບໍ່ເປັນລະບຽບຂອງລາວສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫັນວ່າລາວໄດ້ອອກມາຈາກຫ້ອງນອນຢ່າງຮີບດ່ວນ. ລູກປືນຖືກຍິງໃສ່ລາວທາງ

of the farmboy, they had carried the unconscious woman to her room. She was wearing her dress. Nothing had been moved in the study. As far as they knew, there had never been any fight between husband and wife. The servants had always looked upon them as a very happy couple.

These were the main things that the servants said. In answer to Inspector Martin, they repeated that every door was locked on the inside, and that no one could have escaped from the house. In answer to Holmes, they both remembered that they could smell gunpowder from the moment they ran out of their rooms on the top floor. “This fact is important, I suggest you write it in your notes,” said Holmes to the Inspector. “And now I think that we should make a careful search of the room.”

The study was a small room, lined on three sides with books. A writing-table faced a window, which looked out on the garden. The first thing we saw was the large body of the unlucky Hilton Cubitt, which was stretched across the room. From the way he had dressed, we could see that he had quickly gotten out of bed. The bullet had been fired at him from the

ດ້ານໜ້າທະລຸເຂົ້າຫົວໃຈ ແລ້ວຄ້າງຢູ່ໃນຮ່າງກາຍ. ລາວຕາຍໄປທັນທີໂດຍປາສະຈາກຄວາມເຈັບປວດໃດໆ, ເຄື່ອງນຸ່ງ ແລະ ມືຂອງລາວບໍ່ມີຮອຍໝື້ຕິດຢູ່, ທ່ານໝໍເວົ້າວ່າ ມີຮອຍໝື້ຕິດຢູ່ໜ້າຂອງທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງ ແຕ່ບໍ່ມີຢູ່ມືຂອງນາງ.

"ຄວາມຈິງທີ່ວ່າບໍ່ມີໝື້ຕິດຢູ່ມືຂອງນາງ ແມ່ນບໍ່ມີຄວາມໝາຍຫຍັງ. ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າຈະພົບຮ່ອງຮອຍເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ ແຕ່ມັນກໍ່ໝາຍເຖິງຢ່າງອື່ນໄດ້," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ຖ້າຫາກໝື້ຈາກລູກປືນທີ່ບໍ່ແນບນຽນບໍ່ຟົ້ງມາທາງດ້ານຫຼັງ ຄົນເຮົາກໍ່ສາມາດຍິງປືນໄດ້ຫຼາຍນັດໂດຍບໍ່ມີໝື້ຕິດຢູ່ມືກໍ່ໄດ້. ຕອນນີ້ຈະຍ້າຍຮ່າງກາຍຂອງ ທ່ານ

front. It had gone through his heart, then remained in his body. His death had certainly come quickly, and without pain. There was no mark of gunpowder either on his clothes or on his hands. The country doctor said that the lady had marks on her face, but none on her hands.

"The fact that she has no gunpowder on her hands means nothing, though if we had found such marks, they could mean everything," said Holmes. "Except if the gunpowder from a badly-fitting bullet happens to jump back, a person can fire many shots without getting any gunpowder on their hands. Mr. Cubitt's

ຄືວບິດ ອອກກໍ່ໄດ້. ທ່ານໝໍ, ເຈົ້າເອົາລູກປືນທີ່ຍິງຖືກທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງອອກແລ້ວບໍ່?"

"ຍັງເອົາອອກບໍ່ໄດ້, ການທີ່ຈະເອົາລູກປືນອອກນັ້ນ ຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງໄດ້ຂໍຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຈາກຄົນອື່ນ ແຕ່ວ່າຍັງມີລູກປືນສີ່ນັດຢູ່ໃນປືນນັ້ນ ສອງລູກຖືກຍິງອອກໄປ ແລະ ມີຄົນໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບສອງຄົນ, ສະນັ້ນພວກເຮົາຈຶ່ງຮູ້ວ່າ ມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນກັບລູກປືນແຕ່ລະລູກທີ່ຖືກຍິງອອກໄປ."

ໂຮມສເວົ້າວ່າ: "ທຳອິດມັນເບິ່ງເປັນແບບນັ້ນ, ແລ້ວລູກປືນທີ່ຍິງຖືກຂອບປ່ອງຢ້ຽມນັ້ນເດ?"

ລາວຫັນໜ້າໄປທາງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມທັນທີ ນິ້ວມືອັນຜອມຍາວຂອງລາວ ຊີ້ໄປໃສ່ຮູທີ່ຂອບປ່ອງຢ້ຽມທາງດ້ານລຸ່ມ ເຊິ່ງຢູ່ຫ່າງຈາກຂອບພື້ນປະມານໜຶ່ງນິ້ວ.

"ໂອ!" ທ່ານສາລະວັດຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນ. "ເຈົ້າເຫັນມັນໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ?"

"ເພາະວ່າຂ້ອຍຊອກຫາມັນ."

"ວິເສດແທ້ໆ!" ທ່ານໝໍເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ. "ເຈົ້າເວົ້າຖືກອີ່ຫຼີ, ຄັນຊັ້ນລູກປືນນັດທີ່ສາມກໍ່ຖືກຍິງອອກມາ, ໝາຍຄວາມວ່າຈະຕ້ອງມີບຸກຄົນທີ່ສາມມາທີ່ນີ້ ແຕ່ມັນຈະເປັນໃຜກັນແທ້ ແລ້ວມັນໜີໄປໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ນັ້ນແຫຼະຄືບັນຫາທີ່ເຮົາຈະຕ້ອງແກ້ໄຂ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ທ່ານສາລະວັດ ມາຕິນ, ຄົນໃຊ້ເວົ້າວ່າ ຕອນທີ່ພວກເຂົາອອກຈາກຫ້ອງມາ ພວກເຂົາໄດ້ກິ່ນໝີ້ທັນທີ; ທ່ານຈຳຄຳທີ່ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າບໍ່ວ່າ ນີ້ແຫຼະຄືຄວາມຈິງທີ່ສຸດແສນສຳຄັນອັນໜຶ່ງ?"

body may now be taken away. Doctor, have you been able to take out the bullet that wounded the lady?"

"Not yet. I'll need more help to get the bullet out. But there are still four bullets in the handgun. Two have been fired and we see two wounds, so we know what happened to each bullet that was fired."

"That's how it looks at first," said Holmes. "But what about the bullet that hit the edge of the window?"

He had turned suddenly. Now, his long, thin finger was pointing to a hole in the lower part of the window, about an inch above the bottom.

"Oh!" cried the inspector. "How did you ever see that?"

"Because I looked for it."

"Wonderful!" said the country doctor. "You are certainly right, sir. Then a third shot was fired, and so a third person must have been here. But who could that have been? And how could he have got away?"

"That is the problem that we are now about to solve," said Sherlock Holmes. "Inspector Martin, the servants said that when they left their room they could immediately smell gunpowder. Do you remember, I said this fact was a very important one?"

“ເຈົ້າ, ຂ້ອຍຈຳໄດ້ ແຕ່ຈັ່ງໃດຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຍັງບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈວ່າເປັນຫຍັງ.”

“ໝາຍຄວາມວ່າ ຕອນທີ່ປືນຖືກຍິງຂຶ້ນ ທັງປະຕູ ແລະ ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຖືກເປີດຢູ່, ຖ້າວ່າປ່ອງຢ້ຽມປິດໄວ້ກິ່ນຂອງໝື້ກໍ່ບໍ່ສາມາດປິວໄປທົ່ວເຮືອນໄດ້ໂດຍໄວ; ມີລົມຢູ່ໃນຫ້ອງພຽງເລັກນ້ອຍກໍ່ເຮັດໃຫ້ເປັນເຊັ່ນນັ້ນໄດ້, ຢ່າງໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ທັງປະຕູ ແລະ ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມແມ່ນຖືກເປີດຢູ່ໃນຊ່ວງເວລາອັນສັ້ນໆເທົ່ານັ້ນ.”

“ເຈົ້າຮູ້ເລື່ອງນີ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ?”

“ສັງເກດເບິ່ງທຽນເຫຼັ້ມນັ້ນ, ຖ້າຫາກມີລົມພັດຄ່ອຍໆຫຼາຍກວ່າສອງ-ສາມນາທີ ເຮົາກໍ່ຈະເຫັນຂີ້ເຜີ້ງຍ້ອຍຢູ່ຂ້າງດຽວ.”

“ເກັ່ງຫຼາຍ! ຈັ່ງແມ່ນວິເສດແທ້ໆ!” ທ່ານສາລະວັດຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນ.

“ຂ້ອຍໝັ້ນໃຈວ່າປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຈະຕ້ອງເປີດຢູ່ໃນຕອນທີ່ເກີດເຫດສະຫຼົດໃຈນີ້, ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຕັດສິນໃຈວ່າ ອາດຈະມີບຸກຄົນທີ່ສາມຢູ່ໃນເຫດການນີ້ຢືນຢູ່ທາງນອກປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ແລ້ວຍິງທະລຸເຂົ້າມາ; ຖ້າຄົນທີ່ຢູ່ດ້ານໃນພະຍາຍາມຍິງໃສ່ຄົນຢູ່ທາງນອກ ລູກປືນກໍ່ອາດຈະຖືກຂອບປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ, ຂ້ອຍຊອກ ແລະ ກໍ່ພົບເຫັນຮ່ອງຮອຍລູກປືນ!”

“ແລ້ວປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຈະຖືກປິດ ແລະ ລັອກໄດ້ແນວໃດ?”

“ຄວາມຄິດທຳອິດຂອງທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງກໍ່ຄື: ຕ້ອງປິດປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ແຕ່ວ່າເບິ່ງນີ້ດູ!

“Yes, sir; but I admit I did not quite understand why.”

“It tells us that at the time the guns were fired, both the window and the door of the room were open. If they had been closed, the smell of gunpowder could not have been blown through the house so fast. A small wind in the room was necessary for that. Both door and window were only open for a very short time, however.”

“How do you know that?”

“Look at the candle. If there had been a light wind for more than a few minutes, we would see all the wax on one side.”

“Wonderful!” cried the inspector. “Wonderful!”

“I felt sure that the window had been open at the time of the terrible event. So I decided that there might have been a third person in all this, who stood outside the window and fired through it. If someone inside tried to shoot at that person, their bullet might hit near the window. I looked, and, sure enough, there was the bullet mark!”

“But how was the window shut and locked?”

“The woman’s first thought would be to shut and lock the window. But,

ມັນແມ່ນຫຍັງ?"

ນັ້ນແມ່ນກະເປົາຖືນ້ອຍໆຂອງນາງ ເຊິ່ງຕັ້ງຢູ່ເທິງໂຕະ. ໂຮມສເປີດເບິ່ງ ແລ້ວເອົາສິ່ງຢູ່ໃນກະເປົາອອກມາວາງໄວ້ເທິງໂຕະ, ມີເງິນແຫ່ງທະນາຄານອັງກິດ ໃບ 50 ປອນຊາວໃບ, ນອກນັ້ນກໍ່ບໍ່ມີຫຍັງອີກ.

"ເຮົາຕ້ອງເກັບເອົາໄວ້ ມັນຈະຕ້ອງເປັນຫຼັກຖານສຳຄັນ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ ຂະນະພວມຍື່ນກະເປົາທີ່ບັນຈຸເງິນໃຫ້ກັບທ່ານສາລະວັດ. "ຕອນນີ້ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງພະຍາຍາມທຳຄວາມເຂົ້າໃຈກັບລູກປືນລູກທີ່ສາມນີ້, ພວກເຮົາສັງເກດຮອຍລູກປືນທີ່ຂອບປ່ອງຢ້ຽມໄດ້ວ່າ ມັນຖືກຍິງມາຈາກດ້ານໃນ. ຂ້ອຍຢາກພົບແມ່ຄົວທີ່ຊື່ ມາດາມຄິງ ອີກຄັ້ງ," ແມ່ຍິງຄົນນັ້ນຖືກພາເຂົ້າມາ. "ມາດາມຄິງ, ເຈົ້າເວົ້າວ່າເຈົ້າຕື່ນຂຶ້ນເພາະສຽງປືນທີ່ດັງ, ເມື່ອເຈົ້າເວົ້າແບບນັ້ນ ເຈົ້າໝາຍຄວາມວ່າມັນດັງກວ່າເທື່ອທີ່ສອງແມ່ນບໍ່?"

"ຈະເວົ້າແນວໃດດີ ທ່ານ, ມັນເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຕື່ນຂຶ້ນ ຂະນະທີ່ຂ້ອຍພວມຫຼັບຢູ່, ສະນັ້ນມັນຈຶ່ງຍາກທີ່ຈະເວົ້າ ແຕ່ເບິ່ງຄືວ່າມັນດັງແຮງແທ້ໆ."

"ເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າມັນອາດຈະເປັນການຍິງປືນສອງເທື່ອເກືອບພ້ອມໆກັນບໍ່?"

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຮູ້ດອກ ທ່ານ."

"ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າຕ້ອງເປັນແບບນັ້ນ. ທ່ານສາລະວັດ ມາຕິນ, ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າໃນຫ້ອງນີ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ເຮົາໄດ້ຮັບຮູ້ຫຼາຍຢ່າງ. ຖ້າທ່ານຈະໄປຍ່າງເບິ່ງຕາມອ້ອມແອ້ມກັບຂ້ອຍ ເຮົາອາດຈະພົບເຫັນຫຼັກຖານ

look! What is this?"

It was a small lady's handbag, which sat on the table. Holmes opened it and put everything that was inside onto the table. There were twenty 50-pound notes of the Bank of England. Nothing else was in the handbag.

"This must be kept. It will be important," said Holmes, as he handed the handbag and the money to the inspector. "Now we must try to understand more about this third bullet. We can see, from the way the wood broke, that it was fired from inside the room. I would like to see Mrs. King, the cook, again." The woman was brought in. "You said, Mrs. King, that a LOUD noise woke you. When you said that, did you mean that it was louder than the second one?"

"Well, sir, it woke me from my sleep, and so it is hard to say. But it did seem very loud."

"Do you think that it might have been two shots fired at almost the same instant?"

"I don't know, sir."

"I believe that it was so. I think, Inspector Martin, that we have now learned all that this room can teach us. If you will please step around with me, we will see what fresh evidence

ຊິ້ນໃໝ່ຢູ່ຕາມກາງສວນກໍ່ໄດ້."

ມີໜານດອກໄມ້ຢູ່ກ້ອງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຫ້ອງຂຽນໜັງສື, ພໍເຂົ້າໄປໃກ້ຈຸດນັ້ນພວກເຮົາກໍ່ພາກັນຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງ, ມີຄົນຢຽບດອກໄມ້ ແລະ ເຫັນຮອຍຕີນຫຼາຍຮອຍຢູ່ຕາມບ່ອນດິນອ່ອນ; ມັນເປັນຮອຍໃຫຍ່, ຫົວໂປ້ຕີນແຫຼມຍາວ ແລະ ນັ້ນຄືຮອຍຕີນຜູ້ຊາຍ. ໂຮມສສັງເກດເບິ່ງຕາມຫຍ້າ, ຕາມໃບໄມ້ ຄ້າຍກັບໝາພວມຕາມຫານົກທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ, ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ກົ້ມລົງຈັບເອົາເສດໂລຫະມົນກົມນ້ອຍໆອັນໜຶ່ງ.

"ຂ້ອຍຄິດຢູ່ແລ້ວ," ລາວເວົ້າຂຶ້ນ. "ມັນເປັນປືນສັ້ນແບບຍັນກະສອບອອກ ຫຼັງຈາກທີ່ລູກປືນຖືກຍິງອອກໄປແລ້ວ, ນີ້ຄືກະສອບທີ່ສາມ. ທ່ານສາລະວັດ ມາຕິນ, ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າຄະດີຂອງພວກເຮົາໃກ້ຈະຈົບແລ້ວ."

ສີໜ້າຂອງທ່ານສາລະວັດ ສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫັນເຖິງຄວາມປະຫຼາດໃຈ ທີ່ໄດ້ເຫັນຄວາມຄືບໜ້າອັນວ່ອງໄວໃນການສືບສວນຂອງໂຮມສ. ທຳອິດນັ້ນມີບາງເທື່ອທີ່ທ່ານສາລະວັດຢາກຈະອອກຄວາມຄິດເຫັນ ແຕ່ຕອນນີ້ທ່ານພ້ອມທີ່ຈະປະຕິບັດຕາມນັກສືບໂດຍປາສະຈາກຄຳຖາມໃດໆ.

"ເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າໃຜຄືຄົນຮ້າຍ?" ລາວຖາມ.

"ຂ້ອຍຈະເວົ້າເຖິງເລື່ອງນັ້ນຕາມທີ່ຫຼັງ, ຍັງມີຢູ່ຫຼາຍປະເດັນໃນບັນຫານີ້ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ສາມາດຈະອະທິບາຍສູ່ທ່ານຟັງໄດ້, ຕອນນີ້ມັນເປັນການດີທີ່ຂ້ອຍຄວນຈະ

we can find in the garden."

A bed of flowers grew under the study window, and we all cried out as we got close to it. Someone had stepped on the flowers, and there were many marks left by feet in the soft ground. They had been made by large feet, long, pointed men's feet. Holmes looked through the grass and leaves like a dog going after a wounded bird. Then he bent forward and picked up a small round piece of metal.

"I thought so," he said. "It was a kind of handgun that pushes out the empty shell after a bullet is fired. Here is the third shell. I think, Inspector Martin, that our case is almost complete."

The country inspector's face had shown his surprise at the fast progress of Holmes's investigation. At first, he had sometimes wanted to give his own opinions; but now he was ready to follow the detective without question.

"Who do you think is the killer?" he asked.

"I'll talk about that later. There are several points in this problem which I have not been able to explain to you yet. Right now, it's best for me to just

ສືບຕໍ່ງານນີ້ ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຈະອະທິບາຍສູ່ຟັງພາຍຫຼັງທີ່ທຸກຢ່າງສຳເລັດ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນກໍ່ຕາມໃຈເຈົ້າ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ຂ້ອຍພຽງຢາກຈະຈັບຄົນໆນັ້ນໃຫ້ໄດ້."

"ບໍ່ແມ່ນຂ້ອຍພະຍາຍາມປິດບັງຄວາມລັບ ແຕ່ຕອນນີ້ມັນເປັນໄປບໍ່ໄດ້ ທີ່ຈະໃຊ້ເວລາມາອະທິບາຍເລື່ອງຍາວນີ້, ດຽວນີ້ຂ້ອຍພໍເຂົ້າໃຈວ່າມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນ, ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງຈະບໍ່ມີວັນເລົ່າຕໍ່ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ ພວກເຮົາກໍ່ຍັງຈະຮູ້ໄດ້ວ່າ ມື້ຄືນນີ້ມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນກັນແທ້ ແລະ ຈິ່ງໝັ້ນໃຈໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ຄົນຮ້າຍຕ້ອງໄດ້ຊົດໃຊ້. ກ່ອນອື່ນໝົດຂ້ອຍຢາກຮູ້ວ່າ ມີເຮືອນພັກຊື່ ເອລຣິຈ ຢູ່ແຖວໆນີ້ແດ່ບໍ່?"

keep going. Then I'll explain everything when it is finished."

"Just as you wish, Mr. Holmes. I just want to get our man!"

"I am not trying to keep secrets, but it is impossible right now to take time for a long explanation. I now understand what has happened. Even if this lady can never talk to us, we can still know what happened last night and be sure that the killer pays for his crime. First of all, I want to know if there is a guesthouse in this neighborhood known as 'Elrige's'?"

ຄົນໃຊ້ຖືກຖາມ ແຕ່ກໍ່ບໍ່ມີໃຜເຄີຍໄດ້ຍິນສະຖານທີ່ນັ້ນເລີຍ ແຕ່ວ່າເດັກໃນຟາມຜູ້ໜຶ່ງຈຳໄດ້ວ່າ ມີເຈົ້າຂອງຟາມຄົນໜຶ່ງຊື່ ເອລຣິຈ ດຳລົງຊີວິດຢູ່ຫ່າງຈາກທີ່ນີ້ຫຼາຍໄມ.

“ຟາມຂອງລາວຢູ່ຫ່າງໄກຜູ້ຄົນບໍ່?”

“ຢູ່ໄກຫຼາຍ ທ່ານ.”

“ມັນເປັນໄປໄດ້ບໍ່ວ່າ ພວກເຂົາຍັງບໍ່ທັນໄດ້ຍິນເລື່ອງທີ່ເກີດຂຶ້ນມື້ຄືນນີ້?”

“ອາດຈະຍັງບໍ່ທັນໄດ້ຍິນ ທ່ານ.”

“ໂຮມສຄິດຢູ່ຈັກໜ່ອຍ ແລະແລ້ວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເຫັນຮອຍຍິ້ມທີ່ກະຕືລືລົ້ນປະກົດຂຶ້ນບົນໃບໜ້າຂອງລາວ.

“ຕຽມມ້າໃຫ້ພ້ອມ ນ້ອງຊາຍ,” ລາວເວົ້າກັບເດັກໃນຟາມ. “ຂ້ອຍຈະໃຫ້ເຈົ້າເອົາຈົດໝາຍໄປສົ່ງທີ່ຟາມຂອງ ເອລຣິຈ.”

ລາວຈັບເອົາເຈ້ຍທີ່ມີຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງອອກມາຈາກປຶ້ມບັນທຶກ ແລ້ວວາງໄວ້ຕໍ່ໜ້າ; ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ປະຕິບັດວຽກຢູ່ໜ້າໂຕະຈັກໜ່ອຍ ແລະ ໃນທີ່ສຸດລາວກໍ່ຍື່ນຈົດໝາຍໃຫ້ກັບເດັກໃນຟາມ. ລາວບອກວ່າໃຫ້ເອົາໄປໃຫ້ກັບມືຜູ້ທີ່ມີຊື່ຢູ່ໜ້າຊອງ ແລະ ບໍ່ຕ້ອງຕອບຄຳຖາມໃດໆທີ່ຖາມມາ. ຂ້ອຍສັງເກດເຫັນດ້ານນອກຂອງຈົດໝາຍ ໂຮມສຂຽນທີ່ຢູ່ໃສ່ດ້ວຍຕົວໜັງສືທີ່ບໍ່ເປັນລະບຽບ ເຊິ່ງແຕກຕ່າງຈາກລາຍມືປົກກະຕິຂອງລາວ. ຈົດໝາຍນັ້ນຈ່າໜ້າຊອງເຖິງ ທ່ານເອບ ສະລານີທີ່ຟາມຂອງ ເອລຣິຈ ໃນເມືອງນໍຟອກ.

“ທ່ານສາລະວັດ, ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າ,” ໂຮມສກ່າວ, “ທ່ານຄວນຈະສົ່ງຂໍ້ຄວາມ

The servants were asked. None of them had heard of such a place, but the farmboy remembered that a farmer named Elrige lived several miles away.

“Is his farm far from other people?”

“Very far, sir.”

“Is it possible they have not yet heard about the things that happened here during the night?”

“Maybe not, sir.”

Holmes thought for a short time, and then I saw a curious smile come over his face.

“Get a horse ready, my boy,” he said. “I want you to take a note to Elrige’s Farm.”

He took the pieces of paper with the dancing men from his notebook. He put them in front of him, then worked for some time at the table. At last, he handed a note to the boy. He told the boy to put it into the hands of the person to whom it was addressed, and not to answer questions of any sort. I saw the outside of the note. Holmes had written the address in badly-shaped letters, very different from his usual writing. It was addressed to Mr. Abe Slaney, Elrige’s Farm, Norfolk.

“I think, Inspector,” Holmes said,

ໄປຂໍກຳລັງຕຳຫຼວດມາອີກຈັກສອງຄົນ. ຖ້າການປະເມີນສະຖານະການຂອງຂ້ອຍຖືກຕ້ອງ ທ່ານອາດຈະໄດ້ຈັບຄົນຮ້າຍທີ່ໜ້າຢ້ານກົວໃນໄວໆນີ້, ໃຫ້ເດັກໃນຟາມທີ່ໄປສົ່ງຈົດໝາຍຂ້ອຍນຳຂໍ້ຄວາມໄປລາຍງານກໍ່ໄດ້." ແລ້ວໂຮມສກໍ່ຫັນໜ້າມາຫາຂ້ອຍ. "ວັດສັນ, ຖ້າມີລົດໄຟໄປໃນເມືອງຕອນທ່ຽງນີ້ ເຮົາຄິດວ່າເຮົາຄວນຈະໄປພ້ອມ ເພາະວ່າເຮົາຢາກໃຫ້ການວິເຄາະທາງເຄມີຂອງເຮົາສຳເລັດ. ສ່ວນຄະດີນີ້ມີຄວາມກ້າວໜ້າຢ່າງໄວວາ ແລະ ຈະສຳເລັດໃນໄວໆນີ້ແລ້ວ."

ເມື່ອເດັກໃນຟາມຂີ່ມ້າອອກໄປພ້ອມກັບຈົດໝາຍແລ້ວ ໂຮມສກໍ່ບອກຄົນໃຊ້ວ່າ ຖ້າມີຄົນມາຖາມຫາທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງ ບໍ່ຕ້ອງບອກຫຍັງເຂົາໄປ, ແຕ່ຕ້ອງພາແຂກຄົນນັ້ນເຂົ້າໄປໃນຫ້ອງຮັບແຂກເລີຍ, ໂຮມສເວົ້າຍ້ຳເລື່ອງນີ້ກັບຄົນໃຊ້ເພື່ອໃຫ້ແນ່ໃຈວ່າພວກເຂົາເຂົ້າໃຈດີ. ຈາກນັ້ນລາວກໍ່ພາພວກເຂົາໄປໃນຫ້ອງຮັບແຂກ ແລະ ກ່າວວ່າທຸກຢ່າງພົ້ນໄປຈາກມືຂອງພວກເຮົາແລ້ວ; ພວກເຮົາຕ້ອງລໍຖ້າຢ່າງດຽວ ເພື່ອເບິ່ງວ່າຈະມີຫຍັງເກີດຂຶ້ນ, ສ່ວນທ່ານໝໍໄດ້ກັບໄປແລ້ວ ມີພຽງຂ້ອຍກັບທ່ານສາລະວັດຢູ່ເທົ່ານັ້ນ.

"ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍຊ່ວຍພວກເຈົ້າຜ່ານເວລາໜຶ່ງຊົ່ວໂມງນີ້ໄປໄດ້ ດ້ວຍວິທີທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ ພ້ອມທັງຍັບຕັ່ງຂອງລາວເຂົ້າມາໃກ້ໂຕະ, ລາວຈົກເອົາເຈ້ຍທີ່ມີຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳທັງໝົດ

"that you should send a message to ask for two more policemen. If my conclusions are right, you may soon have a very dangerous prisoner. The boy who takes this note could probably also take your message." Then Holmes turned to me. "If there is an afternoon train to town, Watson, I think we should take it, because I want to finish my chemical investigation. This case is progressing quickly. It will soon end."

When the boy had ridden off with the note, Sherlock Holmes told the servants what to do. If any visitor came and asked for Mrs. Hilton Cubitt, nothing should be told to the visitor. Instead, the visitor was to be taken at once into the living room. Holmes repeated these points to the servants, to be sure they understood. Then he led the way into the living room. The business was now out of our hands, he said; we must just wait and see what happened. The doctor had left. Only the inspector and myself were left.

"I think I can help you to pass an hour in an interesting manner," said Holmes, pulling his chair up to the table. In front of him, he spread all the papers with pictures of the dancing

ອອກມາເປີດໄວ້ຕໍ່ໜ້າ. "ວັດສັນ ເພື່ອນຮັກ, ເຮົາຕ້ອງຂໍໂທດທີ່ປ່ອຍໃຫ້ຄຳຖາມຂອງໂຕເປັນໂມຄະເປັນເວລາດົນນານ. ສຳລັບທ່ານສາລະວັດແລ້ວ ນີ້ຄົງເປັນຄະດີອັນໜ້າສົນໃຈທີ່ຕ້ອງສຶກສາ."

"ກ່ອນອື່ນໝົດຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງບອກພວກເຈົ້າເລື່ອງທີ່ ທ່ານຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ບອກຕໍ່ຂ້ອຍ ເມື່ອຕອນທີ່ທ່ານໄປຫາຂ້ອຍທີ່ຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ໃນລອນດອນ," ແລ້ວໂຮມສກໍ່ເລົ່າເລື່ອງຂອງ ທ່ານຄິວບິດ ຕໍ່ທ່ານສາລະວັດຟັງ. "ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮັບເຈ້ຍອັນປິດສະໜາເຫຼົ່ານີ້ຈາກລາວ ເຊິ່ງເບິ່ງແລ້ວອາດເປັນໜ້າຍາກຫົວ ຖ້າຫາກມັນບໍ່ເປັນປະເດັນທີ່ນຳໄປສູ່ເລື່ອງໂຫດຮ້າຍນັ້ນ, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ສຶກສາລະຫັດຫຼາຍຊະນິດ ແລະ ຂໍ້ຄວາມທີ່ລຶກລັບ ມາແລ້ວ, ຂ້ອຍຍັງໄດ້ຂຽນຂໍ້ຄວາມໃສ່ເຈ້ຍສັ້ນໆກ່ຽວກັບໃຈຄວາມ ເຊິ່ງຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເບິ່ງມາຫຼາຍກວ່າ 160 ລະຫັດທີ່ແຕກຕ່າງກັນ ແຕ່ລະຫັດນີ້ເປັນອັນໃໝ່ສຳລັບຂ້ອຍ. ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າໃຜກໍ່ຕາມທີ່ສ້າງລະຫັດນີ້ຂຶ້ນມາ ແມ່ນເພື່ອປິດບັງຄວາມຈິງບາງຢ່າງ ເຊິ່ງໃຫ້ຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳເປັນເຄື່ອງສື່ສານ, ຜູ້ສ້າງຕ້ອງການໃຫ້ໃຜກໍ່ຕາມທີ່ພົບເຫັນຮູບເຫຼົ່ານີ້ເຊື່ອວ່າ ມັນເປັນພຽງຮູບທີ່ເດັກນ້ອຍແຕ້ມຫຼິ້ນ ແລະ ບໍ່ມີຄວາມໝາຍຫຍັງ.

"ແຕ່ພໍຂ້ອຍແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳແຕ່ລະອັນ ແທນໃຫ້ຕົວອັກສອນແຕ່ລະຕົວ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ສາມາດອ່ານກົດນັ້ນອອກ ດ້ວຍການໃຊ້ກົດທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍໃຊ້ ເພື່ອອ່ານລະຫັດຕົວອື່ນໆມາກ່ອນແລ້ວ, ກົດດັ່ງກ່າວນັ້ນສາມາດໃຊ້ໄດ້ກັບລະຫັດຫຼາຍຕົວ ເຊິ່ງ

men. "As to you, my friend Watson, I am sorry that I have left your questions unanswered for so long. To you, inspector, this should be quite an interesting case to study.

"I must tell you first of all about what Mr. Hilton Cubitt said when he visited me on Baker Street in London." Holmes then told the inspector about those visits. "I have here in front of me these puzzling papers. They might make us smile, if they had not led to such a terrible event. I have studied many kinds of codes and secret writing. I myself have written a short paper about the subject, in which I look at 160 different codes, but this one is quite new to me. I believe that whoever made this code wanted to hide the fact that the dancing men contain a message. The person who made the code wanted anyone who saw the pictures to believe that they were nothing more than the drawings of children.

"But once I was sure that that the dancing men each stood for a letter, then I could use the rules that I have used before to read other codes. The same rules can be used to understand many codes. It

ມັນງ່າຍທີ່ຈະໄຂລະຫັດນີ້. ຂໍ້ຄວາມທຳອິດທີ່ ທ່ານຄິວບິດ ເອົາໄປໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເບິ່ງນັ້ນສັ້ນເກີນໄປ, ສະນັ້ນ ຈຶ່ງບໍ່ມີທາງທີ່ຈະແກ້ໄຂໄດ້ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍພໍຈະຕັດສິນໃຈໄດ້ວ່າ ສັນຍາລັກ ອາດຈະໝາຍເຖິງຕົວອັກສອນ E. ດັ່ງທີ່ຮູ້ກັນດີແລ້ວວ່າ E ເປັນຕົວອັກສອນທີ່ນິຍົມໃຊ້ກັນດີໃນພະຍັນສະນະພາສາອັງກິດ, ມັນຖືກນິຍົມໃຊ້ຫຼາຍກວ່າອັກສອນຕົວອື່ນໆ ແມ່ນແຕ່ໃນປະໂຫຍກສັ້ນໆກໍ່ຍັງປະກົດເຫັນຢູ່ເລື້ອຍ. ຈາກສັນຍາລັກ 15 ຕົວໃນຂໍ້ຄວາມທຳອິດນັ້ນ ມີສີ່ຕົວທີ່ຄືກັນ, ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງແນ່ໃຈວ່າ ສັນຍາລັກນັ້ນກໍ່ຄືຕົວອັກສອນ E, ມັນຈິງຄືແບບນັ້ນ ເພາະວ່າມີບາງກໍລະນີຮູບຈັບທຸງຢູ່ ແລະ ບາງກໍລະນີກໍ່ບໍ່ຈັບທຸງ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍສະຫຼຸບຈາກກໍລະນີຈັບທຸງ ເພາະວ່າພວກມັນຖືກໃຊ້ຂັ້ນລະຫວ່າງປະໂຫຍກມາເປັນຄຳໆ.

"ຕອນນີ້ມາເຖິງບ່ອນທີ່ຍາກຂຶ້ນຂອງເລື່ອງແລ້ວ, ລຳດັບຕົວອັກສອນທັດຈາກຕົວ E ບໍ່ຊັດເຈນ, ຕົວອັກສອນຕົວໜຶ່ງອາດຈະຖືກນິຍົມໃຊ້ຫຼາຍກວ່າຕົວອື່ນເລັກນ້ອຍ ແຕ່ວ່າໃນປະໂຫຍກດ່ຽວທີ່ສັ້ນ ບາງເທື່ອຕົວອັກສອນທີ່ບໍ່ຄ່ອຍນິ

was easy enough to solve this code. The first message that Mr. Cubitt brought to me was so short that it was impossible to solve it. But I was able to decide that the symbol probably stood for the letter E. As you know, E is the most common letter in the English alphabet. It is so much more common than other letters that even in a short sentence, it usually appears the most often. Out of 15 symbols in the first message, four were the same, so I decided that symbol was the letter E. It is true that in some cases the figure was holding a flag and in some cases it was not holding a flag, but I decided from where the flags were placed that they were used to break the sentence up into words.

"But now things become more difficult. The order of the English letters after E is not clear. One letter may be a little more common than another, but in a single short sentence, the less-common letter will sometimes

ນິຍົມໃຊ້ຈະປະກົດເຫັນຢູ່ເລື້ອຍ. ຖັດຈາກ ຕົວ E ແມ່ນຕົວ T, A, O, I, N, S, H, R, D, ແລະ L ເຊິ່ງເປັນຕົວອັກສອນທີ່ນິຍົມໃຊ້ຫຼາຍໃນລຳດັບນັ້ນ ແຕ່ວ່າ T, A, O, ແລະ I ແມ່ນນິຍົມໃຊ້ພໍໆກັນ. ມັນອາດດົນເກີນໄປຖ້າຈະເອົາມາປະກອບເຂົ້າກັນຈົນໄດ້ຄວາມໝາຍ, ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງລໍຖ້າຂໍ້ຄວາມອັນໃໝ່.

"ຕອນທ່ານຄິວບິດ ໄປພົບຂ້ອຍຄັ້ງທີ່ສອງ ລາວເອົາໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍອີກສອງຂໍ້ຄວາມສັ້ນໆ ແລະ ຮູບອີກໃບໜຶ່ງ, ໃນເມື່ອຮູບນັ້ນບໍ່ຈັບທຸງມັນອາດຈະໝາຍເຖິງຄຳໜຶ່ງຄຳ. ນີ້ເດຄືສັນຍາລັກນັ້ນ: ບັດນີ້ໃນຄຳເວົ້າຄຳດຽວຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້ໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ມີຕົວ E ສອງຕົວມາເປັນລຳດັບທີ່ສອງ ແລະ ທີ່ສີ່ໃນຄຳເວົ້າທີ່ມີຕົວອັກສອນຫ້າຕົວ. ຄຳໆນັ້ນອາດຈະໝາຍເຖິງ SEVER (ແຍກ) ຫຼື LEVER (ງ້າງ) ຫຼື NEVER (ບໍ່ເຄີຍ) ນີ້ຄືການຕອບຄຳຂໍຮ້ອງ ແລະ ພວກເຮົາຮູ້ໄດ້ວ່າ ນີ້ອາດຖືກຂຽນຂຶ້ນໂດຍແມ່ຍິງ, ສະນັ້ນຄຳວ່າ NEVER (ບໍ່ເຄີຍ) ໜ້າຈະແມ່ນຄຳຕອບ. ຖ້າພວກເຮົາຕັດສິນວ່າຄຳໆນີ້ແມ່ນ NEVER, ເຮົາກໍ່ສາມາດສະຫຼຸບໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ສັນຍາລັກ ຍບຫ ແມ່ນແທນໃຫ້ຕົວ N, V ແລະ R."

"ຂ້ອຍຍັງມີບັນຫາຢູ່ ແຕ່ເປັນເພາະຄວາມຄິດທີ່ສ້າງສັນ ຈຶ່ງເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍອ່ານອອກໄດ້ຫຼາຍໆຕົວ. ຄຳຂໍຮ້ອງເຫຼົ່ານີ້ອາດຈະມາຈາກບາງຄົນທີ່ມີຄວາມຜູກພັນກັບຊີວິດຂອງນາງໃນອະດີດ, ໃນກໍລະນີດັ່ງກ່າວ ຄຳທີ່ມີຕົວອັກສອນປະກອບເຂົ້າກັນດ້ວຍສອງຕົວ E ຢູ່ສອງລົ້ນ ແລະ

appear more often. After E, the most common letters of the alphabet are T, A, O, I, N, S, H, R, D, and L, in that order; but T, A, O, and I are about equally common. It would take too long to try each combination until we found a meaning. Therefore, I waited for a new message.

"In my second meeting with Mr. Cubitt, he gave me two other short sentences and one message. Since the message had no flag, it was probably just one word. Here are the symbols: Now, in the single word, I already knew there were two E's coming second and fourth in a word of five letters. The word might be 'sever,' or 'lever,' or 'never.' This was an answer to an appeal, and we knew it was probably written by the lady, so the word 'never' was the most probable answer. If we decide that this word is 'never', we are now able to say that the symbols nvr stand for N, V, and R.

"I still had trouble, but a happy thought helped me make progress with several other letters. These appeals probably came from someone who had been close to the lady in her early life. In that case, a combination that contained two E's with three

ຕົວອັກສອນສາມຕົວຢູ່ລະຫວ່າງກາງ ອາດຈະແມ່ນຊື່ ELSIE (ເອລຊີ) ຂໍ້ຄວາມໜຶ່ງມີຊ້ຳກັນເຖິງສາມເທື່ອ, ເມື່ອສັງເກດເບິ່ງແທ້ ຂ້ອຍພົບວ່າມີການປະສົມອັກສອນຢູ່ຕອນທ້າຍຂອງຂໍ້ຄວາມ, ມັນເປັນຄຳຂໍຮ້ອງເຖິງ ເອລຊີແທ້ໆ. ເຖິງຕອນນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຮູ້ວ່າ ພະຍັນຊະນະຕົວໃດແທນໃຫ້ກັບຕົວ L, S ແລະ I."

"ແຕ່ວ່າມັນຈະເປັນຄຳຂໍຮ້ອງເລື່ອງຫຍັງກັນແທ້? ມີຕົວອັກສອນພຽງສີ່ຕົວຢູ່ໜ້າຄຳໆນັ້ນ ເຊິ່ງມັນກາຍກັບຄຳວ່າ ເອລຊີ ແຕ່ວ່າລົງທ້າຍດ້ວຍຕົວ E ແນ່ນອນວ່າມັນຈະຕ້ອງແມ່ນ COME (ມາ) ສະນັ້ນກໍ່ແປວ່າຂ້ອຍຖອດລະຫັດຕົວ C, O ແລະ M, ໄດ້ແລ້ວ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ລອງອ່ານເບິ່ງຂໍ້ຄວາມເບື້ອງຕົ້ນອີກເທື່ອໜຶ່ງ. ເທື່ອນີ້ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ແຍກອອກເປັນຄຳໆ ແລະ ວາງເຄື່ອງໝາຍຈ້ຳແທນສັນຍາລັກທີ່ຍັງບໍ່ທັນຮູ້ ບໍ່ດົນຂ້ອຍກໍ່ໄດ້ແບບນີ້:

.M .ERE ..E SL.NE.

"ສະນັ້ນອັກສອນຕົວທຳອິດຈະຕ້ອງແມ່ນ A ເຊິ່ງເປັນການຄົ້ນພົບທີ່ມີປະໂຫຍດແທ້ໆເລີຍ ເພາະມັນປະກົດເຫັນຢູ່ໃນປະໂຫຍກສັ້ນໆນີ້ເຖິງສາມຄັ້ງ ແລະ ມັນຊັດເຈນເລີຍວ່າ ຄຳທີ່ສອງຈະຕ້ອງຂຶ້ນຕົ້ນດ້ວຍຕົວ H, ຕອນນີ້ມັນເລີຍເປັນ:

AM HERE A.E SLANE.

"ເພາະສະນັ້ນມັນຈຶ່ງງ່າຍທີ່ຈະຕື່ມຕົວອັກສອນສອງຕົວທີ່ຂາດໄປຈາກຊື່, ດັ່ງນັ້ນຈຶ່ງໄດ້ຄຳວ່າ:

AM HERE ABE SLANEY
(ຂ້ອຍຢູ່ທີ່ນີ້ ເອບ ສະລານີ).

"ຕອນນີ້ຂ້ອຍມີຕົວອັກສອນອື່ນໆຫຼາຍ

letters between them might be the name 'ELSIE.' One message had been repeated three times. When I looked, I found this combination at the end of that message. It was certainly an appeal to 'Elsie.' Now I knew which characters stand for L, S, and I.

"But what appeal could it be? There were only four letters in the word which came before 'Elsie,' and it ended in E. Surely the word must be 'COME.' So now I had the letters C, O, and M, and I could try to read the first message once more. This time I broke it into words, and put periods for each symbol that was still unknown. Soon I had this:–

.M .ERE ..E SL.NE.

"Now the first letter must be A, which is a useful discovery, since it appears three times in this short sentence. It is also clear that the second word must begin with H. Now it becomes:–

AM HERE A.E SLANE.

"Then it was easy to fill in the two missing letters in the name:–

AM HERE ABE SLANEY.

"I had so many letters now that I could begin working on

ຕົວ ໃນຂໍ້ຄວາມອັນທີ່ສອງທີ່ຈະຕ້ອງເຮັດຕໍ່, ຕົວອັກສອນປະກອບມີ:

A. ELRI.ES

"ຕອນນີ້ຂ້ອຍສາມາດເຮັດໃຫ້ມັນອ່ານອອກໄດ້ໂດຍການຕື່ມຕົວ T ແລະ G ໃສ່ບ່ອນທີ່ຂາດໄປ, ຂ້ອຍສະຫຼຸບໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ຊື່ນັ້ນຈະຕ້ອງເປັນຊື່ຂອງເຮືອນພັກແຫ່ງໃດແຫ່ງໜຶ່ງທີ່ຜູ້ຂຽນໄດ້ພັກຢູ່."

ທ່ານສາລະວັດມາຕິນ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍຕັ້ງອົກຕັ້ງໃຈຟັງເລື່ອງທັງໝົດ ທີ່ເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍເລົ່າມາຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ ແລະ ວິທີການທີ່ລາວໄດ້ຂໍ້ສະຫຼຸບມາ ດ້ວຍຄວາມສົນໃຈເປັນຢ່າງຍິ່ງ.

"ຈາກນັ້ນເຈົ້າເຮັດແນວໃດຕໍ່?" ສາລະວັດມາຕິນຖາມ.

"ຂ້ອຍມີເຫດຜົນພໍທີ່ຈະຄິດວ່າ ເອບ ສະລານີ ຄົນນີ້ເປັນຄົນອາເມລິກາ ເພາະຄຳວ່າ ເອບ ແມ່ນຊື່ແບບອາເມລິກາ ແລະ ກໍ່ເພາະວ່າບັນຫາທຸກຢ່າງເລີ່ມຂຶ້ນຍ້ອນຈົດໝາຍທີ່ສົ່ງມາຈາກອາເມລິກາ, ຂ້ອຍຍັງມີອີກຫຼາຍໆເຫດຜົນທີ່ຈະຄິດວ່າ ມີຄາດຕະກອນລຶກລັບ ບາງຄົນໃນເລື່ອງນີ້. ຄວາມຈິງທີ່ວ່າທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງໄດ້ເວົ້າກ່ຽວກັບບັນຫາໃນອະດີດຂອງນາງ ແລະ ນາງປະຕິເສດທີ່ຈະບອກບັນຫາໃດໆເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນຕໍ່ສາມີ, ສອງປະເດັນນີ້ເຊື່ອມໂຍງໄປໃນທິດທາງດຽວກັນ.

"ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງສົ່ງຂ່າວນີ້ໄປຫາເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍຊື່ ວິລສັນ ຮາກຣີຟ ທີ່ເປັນຕຳຫຼວດປະຈຳຢູ່ນິວຢອກ, ຂ້ອຍເຄີຍຊ່ວຍລາວຫຼາຍຄັ້ງ ເມື່ອລາວມີຄຳຖາມກ່ຽວກັບການຄາດຕະກຳໃນລອນດອນ. ຂ້ອຍຖາມ

the second message. I had these letters:–

A. ELRI.ES.

"Here I could only make sense by putting T and G for the missing letters. I decided that the name was the name of some guesthouse where the writer was staying."

Inspector Martin and I had listened with great interest to the full and clear story of how my friend had produced his results.

"What did you do then, sir?" asked the inspector.

"I had every reason to think that this Abe Slaney was an American, since Abe is an American name, and since the trouble had all started with a letter from America. I had also every reason to think that there was some criminal secret in the matter. The fact that the lady had talked about problems in her past, and that she would not tell her husband anything about those problems, both pointed in that direction.

"So I sent a message to my friend, Wilson Hargreave, of the New York Police. I have helped him many times when he had questions about London crime. I asked if he

ເພື່ອວ່າລາວອາດຈະຮູ້ຄົນທີ່ຊື່ ເອບ ສະລານີ ແລະ ນີ້ກໍ່ຄືຄຳຕອບຈາກລາວ: 'ມັນເປັນຄາດຕະກອນທີ່ໂຫດຫ້ຽມທີ່ສຸດໃນຊິກາໂກ.' ຕອນແລງໃນມື້ທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮັບຄຳຕອບນີ້ ທ່ານຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ກໍ່ໄດ້ສົ່ງຂໍ້ຄວາມອັນສຸດທ້າຍຂອງ ສະລານີ ໄປໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເຊັ່ນກັນ. ພໍຂ້ອຍປະກອບຄຳທີ່ຮູ້ເຂົ້າກັນ ກໍ່ໄດ້ມາແບບນີ້:

ELSIE .RE.ARE TO MEET THY GO.

"ຂ້ອຍເລີຍຕື່ມຕົວ P ແລະ D ໃຫ້ສົມບູນໄດ້ຢ່າງງ່າຍດາຍດັ່ງນີ້:

ELSIE. PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD. (ເອລຊີ ຈົ່ງຕຽມຕົວຕາຍໄດ້ແລ້ວ.)

"ເຖິງຕອນນີ້ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ຮູ້ໄດ້ເລີຍວ່າ ຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນກຳລັງປ່ຽນຈາກການຂໍຮ້ອງມາເປັນການຂູ່ເຂັນ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີກ່ຽວກັບຄົນຮ້າຍໃນຊິກາໂກ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າມັນອາດຈະລົງມືຢ່າງໄວວາ ເພື່ອຄຸກຄາມໃນສິ່ງທີ່ມັນຢາກຈະເຮັດ. ຂ້ອຍຮີບມາທີ່ເມືອງນໍຟອກ ກັບເພື່ອນຂອງຂ້ອຍ ດຣ. ວັດສັນ, ແຕ່ຈົ່ງແມ່ນໂຊກຮ້າຍແທ້ໆ ເພາະພວກເຮົາມາຮອດພາຍຫຼັງທີ່ເຫດການອັນໂຫດຮ້າຍນັ້ນເກີດຂຶ້ນແລ້ວ."

"ຂ້ອຍພູມໃຈຫຼາຍທີ່ໄດ້ຮ່ວມມືກັບເຈົ້າໃນຄະດີນີ້," ທ່ານສາລະວັດເວົ້າດ້ວຍຄວາມຊື່ນຊົມ. "ແນວໃດກໍ່ຕາມ ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງໄດ້ເວົ້າກົງໆກັບເຈົ້າເລີຍວ່າ ເຈົ້າມີຄຳຕອບໄວ້ໃນຕົວເຈົ້າເທົ່ານັ້ນ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງລາຍງານຕໍ່ຫົວໜ້າຂອງຂ້ອຍ; ຖ້າ ເອບ ສະລານີ ເຊິ່ງພັກຢູ່ທີ່ ເອລຣິຈ ຫາກເປັນຄາດຕະກອນແທ້ໆ ແລະ ຖ້າມັນໜີໄປໃນຂະນະທີ່ຂ້ອຍພວມນັ່ງຢູ່

knew the name of Abe Slaney. Here is his answer: 'The worst criminal in Chicago. A dangerous man.' On the same evening that I got that answer, Hilton Cubitt sent me the last message from Slaney. After I filled in the known letters, it looked like this:–

ELSIE .RE.ARE TO MEET THY GO.

"I could easily see that adding the letters P and D completed the message:–

ELSIE. PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD.

"Now I knew that the man was moving from appeals to threats. I knew enough about the criminals of Chicago to believe that he might very quickly do what he threatened to do. I came to Norfolk at once with my friend, Dr. Watson, but, unhappily, we arrived only in time to find that the worst had already happened."

"I am very proud to be working with you on this case," said the inspector, warmly. "But I hope I may speak honestly to you. You need to answer only to yourself, but I have to answer to my boss. If this Abe Slaney, living at Elrige's, is indeed the killer, and if he has escaped while I am seated here, I will certainly get into

ທີ່ນີ້ ຂ້ອຍຈະຕ້ອງມີບັນຫາແນ່ນອນ."

"ບໍ່ຕ້ອງກັງວົນເລື່ອງຫົວໜ້າຂອງທ່ານ, ບັກນັ້ນຈະບໍ່ໜີໄປໃສດອກ."

"ເຈົ້າຮູ້ໄດ້ແນວໃດ?"

"ການໜີໄປນັ້ນຄືການຍອມຮັບວ່າຕົນເອງແມ່ນຄາດຕະກອນ."

"ຄັນຊັ້ນພວກເຮົາຮີບໄປຈັບມັນໄດ້ເລີຍ."

"ຂ້ອຍຄາດຄະເນວ່າ ມັນຈະມາທີ່ນີ້ໃນໄວໆນີ້."

"ແລ້ວເປັນຫຍັງມັນຈະຕ້ອງມາທີ່ນີ້?"

"ເພາະວ່າຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຂຽນຈົດໝາຍໄປເຊີນມັນມາ."

"ມັນແປກເກີນໄປແລ້ວແຫຼະ ທ່ານໂຮມສ, ເປັນຫຍັງມັນຈະຕ້ອງມາ ເພາະເຈົ້າເຊີນມັນ? ການຂໍຮ້ອງແບບນັ້ນອາດຈະເຮັດໃຫ້ມັນໜີໄປ ບໍ່ແມ່ນຫວ໋ະ?"

"ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີໃນສິ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ເວົ້າໄປໃນຈົດໝາຍ," ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ກ່າວຂຶ້ນ. "ຄວາມຈິງແລ້ວ ສຸພາບບູລຸດຄົນນັ້ນພວມມາຮອດພໍດີ."

ມີຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນໜຶ່ງກຳລັງຍ່າງເຂົ້າມາຊື່ໜ້າປະຕູ; ລາວເປັນຄົນສູງ, ເຈົ້າຊູ້, ໃສ່ຊຸດສີໝົ່ນ, ຖືໝວກ, ດັງໂມ ແລະ ກຳລັງຍ່າງແກວ່ງໄມ້ຄ້ອນເທົ້າມາຕາມທາງ; ລາວຍ່າງເຂົ້າມາເຊິ່ງໜ້າປະຕູດ້ວຍຄວາມກ້າຫານຄ້າຍກັບວ່າລາວພວມຍ່າງເຂົ້າບ້ານຕົນເອງ ແລ້ວກໍ່ກົດກະດິງ.

ໂຮມສເວົ້າຄ່ອຍໆວ່າ: "ທ່ານສຸພາບບູລຸດທັງຫຼາຍເອີຍ, ຂ້ອຍຄິດວ່າພວກເຮົາຄວນຈະໄປລີ້ຢູ່ທາງຫຼັງປະຕູ, ເຮົາຕ້ອງລະວັງຕົວໃນການຈັດການກັບຄົນໂຫດ

serious trouble."

"You need not worry about your boss. He will not try to escape."

"How do you know?"

"To escape would be the same as to say that he was the killer."

"Then let us go to get him."

"I expect him here any instant."

"But why should he come?"

"Because I have written and asked him."

"But this is very strange, Mr. Holmes! Why should he come because you have asked him? I think such an appeal would just make him try to escape, wouldn't it?"

"I think I knew what to say in the letter," said Sherlock Holmes. "In fact, I believe this is the gentleman himself coming to the house."

A man was walking up the path to the door. He was a tall, handsome man, wearing a gray suit and a hat. He had a large nose, and he waved a walking stick as he came up the path. He walked up to the door as if he owned the place, and he rang the bell.

"I think, gentlemen," said Holmes, quietly, "that we should take up our position behind the door. We must be careful when dealing with such a

ຮ້າຍແບບນີ້. ທ່ານສາລະວັດ, ທ່ານຈຳເປັນຕ້ອງໃຊ້ກັບມື ແລ້ວປ່ອຍໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າກັບມັນເອງ."

ພວກເຮົາຖ້າຢູ່ງຽບໆປະມານໜຶ່ງນາທີ, ມັນເປັນໜຶ່ງໃນນາທີທີ່ເຮົາຕ້ອງຈົດຈຳ. ຈາກນັ້ນປະຕູກໍ່ເປີດອອກ ແລ້ວຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນກໍ່ເຂົ້າມາ, ທັນໃດນັ້ນໂຮມສກໍ່ຈີ້ປືນໃສ່ຫົວຂອງມັນ ແລະ ສາລະວັດມາຕິນ ກໍ່ຫູບເຂົ້າໃສ່ກັບມືກວມແຂນມັນທັນທີ. ທຸກຢ່າງສຳເລັດໄດ້ໂດຍໄວ ແລະລະອຽດດີ, ກວ່າຄົນໆນັ້ນຈະຮູ້ສຶກຕົວວ່າຕົນເອງຖືກຈັບ ກໍ່ເຮັດຫຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ແລ້ວ. ຕາດຳໆທັງຄູ່ຂອງມັນຈ້ອງເບິ່ງພວກເຮົາ ແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ຫົວຂຶ້ນປືນກັບໃຈຮ້າຍວ່າ:

"ທ່ານສຸພາບບູລຸດທັງຫຼາຍ, ຄັ້ງນີ້ພວກເຈົ້າຈັບຂ້ອຍໄດ້ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍມາທີ່ນີ້ກໍ່ເພື່ອຈະຕອບຄຳຖາມໃນຈົດໝາຍຈາກທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງ, ຢ່າບອກຂ້ອຍເດີ້ວ່ານາງກໍ່ຢູ່ໃນເຫດການນີ້? ແລະ ຢ່າບອກເດີ້ວ່ານາງເປັນຄົນສົມຮູ້ຮ່ວມຄິດເພື່ອຈັບຂ້ອຍ?"

"ທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບສາຫັດ, ບໍ່ມີສະຕິ ແລະ ພວມຕົກຢູ່ໃນຂີດອັນຕະລາຍ."

ຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນນັ້ນຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນດ້ວຍຄວາມໂສກເສົ້າເສຍໃຈດັງໄປທົ່ວເຮືອນ.

"ມັນຕ້ອງບໍ່ເປັນແບບນັ້ນ," ມັນຮ້ອງຂຶ້ນຢ່າງແຮງ. "ຜົວຂອງນາງຕ່າງຫາກທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ, ບໍ່ແມ່ນນາງ; ໃຜຈະມາທຳຮ້າຍເອລຊີ ຕົວນ້ອຍໆໄດ້? ຂ້ອຍອາດໄດ້ຂົ່ມຂູ່ນາງ ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍແມ່ນແຕ່ຈະແຕະຕ້ອງເສັ້ນຜົມຢູ່ຫົວອັນງົດງາມຂອງນາງເລີຍ; ຖອນຄຳເວົ້າຂອງພວກເຈົ້າໄປເລີຍ! ນາງ

dangerous man. You will need your handcuffs, inspector. You can leave the talking to me."

We waited quietly for a minute – one of those minutes that one can never forget. Then the door opened and the man stepped in. In an instant Holmes put a handgun to his head and Martin slipped the handcuffs over his arms. It was all done so quickly that the man was helpless before he knew that he was caught. He looked at us with a pair of black eyes. Then he laughed angrily.

"Well, gentlemen, you got me this time. But I came here in answer to a letter from Mrs. Hilton Cubitt. Don't tell me that she is in on this? Don't tell me that she helped you catch me?"

"Mrs. Hilton Cubitt was seriously hurt. She is unconscious, and is at death's door."

The man gave a cry of sadness which rang through the house.

"It can't be!" he cried loudly. "It was he that was hurt, not she. Who would have hurt little Elsie? I may have threatened her, but I would not have touched a hair of her pretty head. Take it back – you! Say

ຈະຕ້ອງບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ?"

"ມີຄົນພົບເຫັນນາງໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບສາຫັດທີ່ໜ້າຜາກ ແລະ ນອນຢູ່ຂ້າງໆສາມີທີ່ເສຍຊີວິດແລ້ວ."

ມັນຊຸດຕົວລົງກັບຕັ່ງອີ້ ແລະ ໃຊ້ມືທັງສອງທີ່ໃສ່ກັບມືໄວ້ປິດໜ້າຂອງຕົນເອງ ພ້ອມທັງຮ້ອງໄຫ້ຄ່ຳຄວນ ແລ້ວກໍ່ນິ້ງໄປປະມານຫ້ານາທີ, ຈາກນັ້ນກໍ່ເງີຍໜ້າຂຶ້ນອີກຄັ້ງ ແລະ ເວົ້າດ້ວຍນ້ຳສຽງເຢັນໆວ່າ:

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ມີຫຍັງປິດບັງພວກເຈົ້າແລ້ວ ທ່ານສຸພາບບູລຸດ," ມັນເວົ້າ. "ທີ່ຂ້ອຍຍິງສາມີຂອງນາງກໍ່ເພາະລາວຍິງຂ້ອຍກ່ອນ, ສະນັ້ນມັນບໍ່ແມ່ນການຄາດຕະກຳ ທີ່ຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງຍິງໂຕ້ກັບ, ແຕ່ຖ້າຫາກພວກເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍເປັນຄົນເຮັດໃຫ້ນາງໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບ ສະແດງວ່າພວກເຈົ້າບໍ່ຮູ້ຈັກຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ນາງດີພໍ; ບໍ່ມີຜູ້ຊາຍຄົນໃດໃນໂລກນີ້ຈະຮັກນາງຫຼາຍກວ່າທີ່ຂ້ອຍຮັກນາງ, ຂ້ອຍມີສິດໃນຕົວນາງ; ນາງໄດ້ໃຫ້ສັນຍາກັບຂ້ອຍມານານຫຼາຍປີແລ້ວ; ຜູ້ຊາຍອັງກິດຄົນນັ້ນເປັນໃຜ? ລາວມີສິດຫຍັງທີ່ມາພັດພາກພວກເຮົາໄປຈາກກັນ? ຂ້ອຍບອກພວກເຈົ້າເລີຍວ່າຂ້ອຍມີສິດໃນຕົວນາງກ່ອນ; ຂ້ອຍພຽງຢາກຈະມາທວງຄືນເອົາສິ່ງທີ່ເປັນຂອງຂ້ອຍເທົ່ານັ້ນ."

"ນາງໄດ້ໜີໄປຈາກເຈົ້າ ກໍ່ເພາະນາງຮູ້ດີວ່າເຈົ້າເປັນຄົນແບບໃດ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ນາງອອກຈາກອາເມລິກາມາກໍ່ເພື່ອໜີຈາກເຈົ້າ ແລ້ວນາງໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານກັບສຸພາບບູລຸດຊາວອັງກິດທີ່ດີຄົນນີ້; ເຈົ້າຕິດຕາມນາງມາ ແລະ ເຮັດໃຫ້ຊີວິດຂອງນາງບໍ່ມີຄວາມສຸກ ເພາະເຈົ້າຢາກໃຫ້ນາງໜີຈາກສາມີຜູ້ເປັນທີ່ແສນ

that she is not hurt!"

"She was found badly wounded by the side of her dead husband."

He sat slowly into a chair and put his face in his handcuffed hands. For five minutes he was silent. Then he raised his face once more, and spoke with a cold voice.

"I have nothing to hide from you, gentlemen," he said. "If I shot the man, he first shot at me, and it's no crime to shoot back. But if you think I could have hurt that woman, then you don't know either me or her. There was never a man in this world who loved a woman more than I loved her. I had a right to her. She was promised to me years ago. Who was this Englishman? What right did he have to come between us? I tell you that I had the first right to her. I was only coming to take what was mine."

"She broke away from you when she found what kind of man you are," said Holmes. "She ran from America to escape from you, and she married a fine gentleman in England. You followed her and made her life unhappy because you wanted her to leave the husband

ຮັກ ແລະ ເຄົາລົບຂອງນາງ ແລ້ວໄປຢູ່ກັບເຈົ້າ ຜູ້ເຊິ່ງນາງທັງຢ້ານກົວ ແລະກຽດຊັງ; ເຈົ້າໄດ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ເລື່ອງຈົບລົງດ້ວຍການນຳມາເຊິ່ງຄວາມຕາຍຂອງຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ເປັນຄົນດີ ແລະ ພະຍາຍາມທຳໃຫ້ນາງຂ້າຕົວຕາຍ; ນັ້ນແຫຼະຄືສິ່ງທີ່ເຈົ້າໄດ້ກະທຳລົງໄປ ເອບ ສະລານີ, ເຈົ້າຈະຕ້ອງໄດ້ຮັບໂທດຕາມກົດໝາຍ."

"ຖ້າຫາກ ເອລຊີ ຕາຍໄປແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ສົນໃຈວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະເປັນຫຍັງໄປ," ຄົນອາເມລິກາຜູ້ນັ້ນເວົ້າ. ລາວແບມືເບື້ອງໜຶ່ງອອກແລ້ວເບິ່ງເຈ້ຍຍໍ່ໆຮຳອ້ອມລ້ອມແຜ່ນໜຶ່ງໃນມື."ເບິ່ງນີ້ແມ໋ ທ່ານ," ມັນຮ້ອງອອກມາດ້ວຍແວວຕາດຳໆອັນໜ້າສົງໄສ. "ຖ້າຫາກທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງໄດ້ຮັບບາດເຈັບສາຫັດຄືດັ່ງພວກເຈົ້າເວົ້າ ແລ້ວແມ່ນໃຜເປັນຄົນຂຽນຈົດໝາຍ

she loved and respected in order to live with you, whom she feared and hated. You have ended by bringing about the death of a good man and driving his wife to kill herself. That is what you have done, Mr. Abe Slaney, and you will answer for it to the law."

"If Elsie dies, I don't care what becomes of me," said the American. He opened one of his hands and looked at a note balled up in his hand. "See here," he cried, with a sparkle of doubt in his black eyes, "if the lady is hurt as bad as you say, who was it that wrote this

ສະບັບນີ້?" ລາວຖິ້ມເຈ້ຍລົງໜ້າໂຕະ.

"ຂ້ອຍຂຽນມັນເອງ ເພື່ອເຊີນເຈົ້າມາທີ່ນີ້," ໂຮມສຕອບ.

"ເຈົ້າເປັນຄົນຂຽນຊັ້ນເບາະ? ບໍ່ມີໃຜໃນໂລກນີ້ຮູ້ຄວາມລັບຂອງຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳ ນອກຈາກກຸ່ມພວກຂ້ອຍ, ແລ້ວເຈົ້າຈະຂຽນມັນໄດ້ຈັ່ງໃດ?"

"ເມື່ອມີຄຳຖາມກໍ່ຍ່ອມມີຄຳຕອບ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ. "ຕຳຫຼວດກຳລັງຈະມາເອົາຕົວເຈົ້າໄປ, ທ່ານສະລານີ. ຕອນນີ້ເຈົ້າຍັງພໍມີເວລາ ເພື່ອສາລະພາບຄວາມຜິດທີ່ເຈົ້າໄດ້ກະທຳລົງໄປ, ເຈົ້າຮູ້ບໍ່ຕຳຫຼວດເຊື່ອວ່າ ທ່ານນາງຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ອາດເປັນຄົນຂ້າສາມີຂອງຕົນເອງ? ຖ້າເຈົ້າຮັກນາງ ເຈົ້າຕ້ອງປະກາດໃຫ້ຄົນທັງໂລກຮູ້ວ່າ ນາງບໍ່ໄດ້ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ ແລະ ບໍ່ມີວັນທີ່ຈະຈົບສິ້ນຊີວິດຂອງສາມີໄປໄດ້."

"ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ຂໍຫຍັງໄປຫຼາຍກວ່ານີ້," ມັນເວົ້າ. "ສິ່ງທີ່ຂ້ອຍເຮັດໄດ້ດີທີ່ສຸດກໍ່ຄືບອກຄວາມຈິງ."

"ຂ້ອຍຂໍບອກກັບເຈົ້າວ່າ ການສາລະພາບຈະເປັນເຄື່ອງພິສູດຕໍ່ເຈົ້າ," ທ່ານສາລະວັດເວົ້າ.

"ຂ້ອຍຈະເຮັດຕາມນັ້ນ," ສະລານີຕອບ. "ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ຈັກກັບແມ່ຍິງຄົນນີ້ຕັ້ງແຕ່ນາງຍັງນ້ອຍ, ພວກເຮົາມີເຈັດຄົນໃນກຸ່ມຢູ່ຊິກາໂກ; ພໍ່ຂອງ ເອລຊີ ເປັນຫົວໜ້າແກ້ງ ແລະ ທ່ານເປັນຄົນສະຫຼາດ; ທ່ານເປັນຄົນສ້າງລະຫັດນັ້ນຂຶ້ນເອງ ແລະ ມັນກໍ່ຈະເບິ່ງຄ້າຍຄືຮູບທີ່ເດັກນ້ອຍແຕ້ມຫຼິ້ນ ຖ້າຫາກເຈົ້າບໍ່ຮູ້ຄວາມລັບຂອງມັນ.

note?" He threw it on the table.

"I wrote it to bring you here."

"You wrote it? There was no one on earth outside the Gang who knew the secret of the dancing men. How could you write it?"

"What one man can create, another can discover," said Holmes. "The police are coming to take you away, Mr. Slaney. But, meanwhile, you have time to make up, in a small way, for what you have done. Do you know that the police believe Mrs. Hilton Cubitt may have killed her husband? If you love her, you should tell the whole world that she in no way caused her husband's sad end."

"I ask nothing better," said the American. "I guess the very best thing I can do for myself is to tell the truth."

"I must tell you that it will be used against you," cried the inspector.

"I'll take that chance," Slaney said. "I have known this lady since she was a child. There were seven of us in a gang in Chicago. Elsie's father was the boss of the gang. He was a smart man. He was the one who made that code, which looked like a child's drawings if you didn't know the secret to it.

“ແລ້ວ ເອລຊີ ກໍ່ໄດ້ຮຽນເອົາສິ່ງທີ່ພວກຂ້ອຍເຮັດຢູ່ ແຕ່ນາງບໍ່ມັກມັນ. ນາງມີເງິນໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງທີ່ຫາມາໄດ້ດ້ວຍຄວາມຊອບທຳ ສະນັ້ນນາງຈຶ່ງໜີມາລອນດອນໃນຕອນກາງຄືນຂອງວັນໜຶ່ງ; ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າພວກເຮົາຈະໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານກັນ ຖ້າຂ້ອຍເຮັດວຽກທີ່ຊື່ສັດ ແຕ່ນາງບໍ່ໄດ້ເຮັດຫຍັງລົງໄປກັບແກັ່ງຄາດຕະກຳພວກຂ້ອຍເລີຍ. ຂ້ອຍຫາກໍ່ຄົ້ນພົບທີ່ຢູ່ຂອງນາງ ຫຼັງຈາກນາງໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານກັບຄົນອັງກິດແລ້ວ; ຂ້ອຍຂຽນຈົດໝາຍຫານາງ ແຕ່ກໍ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບຄຳຕອບ; ຫຼັງຈາກຈົດໝາຍໃຊ້ການບໍ່ໄດ້ ຂ້ອຍກໍ່ອອກຕາມຫານາງ ແລະ ຂຽນຂໍ້ຄວາມໃສ່ຕາມບ່ອນທີ່ນາງສາມາດອ່ານໄດ້.

“ຂ້ອຍມາຢູ່ທີ່ນີ້ໄດ້ໜຶ່ງເດືອນແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍພັກຢູ່ທີ່ຟາມແຫ່ງນັ້ນ ແລະ ຫ້ອງພັກຂອງຂ້ອຍຢູ່ຊັ້ນລຸ່ມ, ສະນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງທຽວເຂົ້າ-ອອກໄດ້ທຸກຄືນໂດຍບໍ່ມີໃຜຮູ້; ຂ້ອຍເຮັດທຸກສິ່ງທຸກຢ່າງທີ່ສາມາດເຮັດໄດ້ ເພື່ອໃຫ້ ເອລຊີ ກັບຄືນມາຫາຂ້ອຍ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ວ່ານາງໄດ້ອ່ານຂໍ້ຄວາມທີ່ຂ້ອຍຂຽນໄວ້ ເພາະວ່າມີຢູ່ຄັ້ງໜຶ່ງທີ່ນາງຂຽນຕອບໄວ້ດ້ານລຸ່ມຂອງຂໍ້ຄວາມເຫຼົ່ານັ້ນ. ຈາກນັ້ນຂ້ອຍກໍ່ເກີດໃຈຮ້າຍ ແລ້ວເລີ່ມຂູ່ເຂັນນາງ; ຕໍ່ມານາງໄດ້ຂຽນຈົດໝາຍຫາຂ້ອຍ ແລະ ບອກໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍໜີໄປ. ນາງເວົ້າວ່ານາງຈະຜິດຫວັງເປັນຢ່າງຍິ່ງ ຖ້ານາງຕ້ອງທຳລາຍຊື່ສຽງຂອງສາມີຕົນເອງ.

“ນາງໃຫ້ສັນຍາວ່າຈະລົງມາລົມກັບຂ້ອຍຢູ່ປ່ອງຢ້ຽມຕອນສາມໂມງເຊົ້າ ເມື່ອສາມີຂອງນາງພວມນອນຫຼັບຢູ່ ຖ້າຫາກ

“Well, Elsie learned about what we were doing, and she didn’t like it. She had a bit of honest money of her own, so she ran out one night and went to London. She would have married me, I believe, if I had taken an honest job; but she would have nothing to do with a crime gang. It was only after her marriage to this Englishman that I was able to find out where she was. I wrote to her, but got no answer. After that I came over, and, as letters were no use, I put my messages where she could read them.

“Well, I have been here a month now. I lived on that farm. I had a room on the first floor, so I could get in and out every night, and no one knew it. I tried all I could to get Elsie to come back to me. I knew that she read the messages, because one time she wrote an answer under one of them. Then I got angry, and I began to threaten her. She sent me a letter then, asking me to go away. She said it would break her heart if anything should hurt the reputation of her husband.

“She promised to come down when her husband was sleeping at three in the morning, and to speak

ຂ້ອຍຈະໜີໄປ ແລະ ປ່ອຍໃຫ້ນາງຢູ່ຢ່າງສະຫງົບ. ວັນນັ້ນນາງໄດ້ລົງມາພ້ອມກັບເງິນຈຳນວນໜຶ່ງ ເພື່ອຈ້າງໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍໜີໄປ, ສິ່ງນີ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍໂກດແຄ້ນ ຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຈັບແຂນຂອງນາງ ແລ້ວພະຍາຍາມດຶງນາງອອກຈາກປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ແລະ ຂະນະນັ້ນເອງ ສາມີຂອງນາງກໍ່ຈັບປືນແລ່ນລົງມາ. ເອລຊີ ລົ້ມລົງກັບພື້ນ ແລ້ວພວກເຮົາກໍ່ປະທະກັນໜ້າຕໍ່ໜ້າ, ຂ້ອຍລົ້ມລົງ ແລ້ວລາກປືນອອກມາຈີ້ໃສ່ລາວ ເພື່ອວ່າລາວຈະປ່ອຍໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍໜີໄປ; ລາວຍິງປືນໃສ່ຂ້ອຍ ແຕ່ບໍ່ຖືກ ຂ້ອຍຍິງຕອບທັນທີ ແລ້ວກໍ່ເຫັນລາວລົ້ມລົງກັບພື້ນ. ຂ້ອຍແລ່ນໜີຜ່ານໄປທາງສວນ ແລະ ຂະນະນັ້ນເອງກໍ່ໄດ້ຍິນສຽງປ່ອງຢ້ຽມປິດຢູ່ທາງຫຼັງ.

"ນີ້ແຫຼະຄືຄວາມຈິງທັງໝົດ ທ່ານສຸພາບບູລຸດ, ຕໍ່ນັ້ນມາຂ້ອຍກໍ່ບໍ່ຮູ້ເລື່ອງຫຍັງ ຈົນກະທັ້ງມີເດັກຄົນໜຶ່ງຂີ່ມ້າມາພ້ອມກັບຈົດໝາຍສະບັບນັ້ນທີ່ພາໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍມາທີ່ນີ້ ເຊິ່ງບໍ່ຕ່າງຫຍັງກັບນົກໂງ່ແລ່ນເຂົ້າຫາກັບດັກ."

ຕຳຫຼວດພໍດີມາຮອດ ຂະນະທີ່ໜຸ່ມອາເມລິກາກຳລັງເວົ້າຢູ່, ຕຳຫຼວດສອງຄົນພວມລໍຖ້າຢູ່ທາງນອກ, ທ່ານສາລະວັດມາຕິນ ຢືນຂຶ້ນ ແລະ ຈັບບ່ານັກໂທດຄົນນັ້ນ.

"ເຖິງເວລາທີ່ເຮົາຕ້ອງໄປແລ້ວ."

"ຂ້ອຍຂໍພົບນາງກ່ອນໄດ້ບໍ່?"

"ບໍ່ໄດ້ດອກ, ນາງຍັງບໍ່ທັນຟື້ນສະຕິ." ແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ຫັນໜ້າມາຫາເພື່ອນຂອງ

with me through the window, if I would go away afterwards and leave her in peace. She came down and brought money with her, trying to pay me to go. This made me angry, so I took her arm and tried to pull her through the window. At that moment the husband ran in, holding a handgun. Elsie had fallen down on the floor, and we were face to face. I had fallen, too, and I held up my gun so he would let me get away. He fired and missed me. I fired my gun almost at the same instant, and he fell to the floor. I ran across the garden, and as I went I heard the window shut behind me.

"That's the truth, gentlemen, every word of it, and I heard no more about it until that boy came riding up with the note that made me walk in here, like a simple-minded bird, right into your hands."

The police had driven up while the American was talking. Two policemen were waiting outside. Inspector Martin rose and touched his prisoner on the shoulder.

"It is time for us to go."

"Can I see her first?"

"No, she is not conscious." Then he turned to my friend and said, "Mr.

ຂ້ອຍ ພ້ອມທັງເວົ້າວ່າ: "ທ່ານເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ, ຖ້າຫາກຂ້ອຍມີຄະດີອັນສຳຄັນອີກ ຄັ້ງ ຂ້ອຍຫວັງວ່າຈະໂຊກດີມີທ່ານມາຢູ່ ຂ້າງໆ."

ພວກເຮົາຢືນຢູ່ແຄມປ່ອງຢ້ຽມ ຈ້ອງ ເບິ່ງຕຳຫຼວດຂັບລົດອອກໄປພ້ອມກັບນັກ ໂທດ, ພໍຂ້ອຍຫັນໜ້າກັບມາ ກໍ່ປະກົດ ເຫັນເຈ້ຍຮຳກົມອ້ອມລ້ອມທີ່ນັກໂທດຄົນ ນັ້ນຖິ້ມໄວ້ໜ້າໂຕະ, ມັນເປັນຈົດໝາຍທີ່ ໂຮມສ ຂຽນໃຫ້ໜຸ່ມອາເມລິການມາຫານັ້ນ ເອງ.

"ວັດສັນ, ເບິ່ງດູ ວ່າໂຕຈະອ່ານມັນໄດ້ ບໍ່?" ໂຮມສເວົ້າພ້ອມທັງຍິ້ມ.

ມັນບໍ່ມີຄຳເວົ້າຫຍັງເລີຍ, ແຕ່ວ່າມີຮູບ ຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳເປັນແຖວໆດັ່ງນີ້.

"ຖ້າໂຕໃຊ້ລະຫັດທີ່ເຮົາເຄີຍອະທິບາຍສູ່ ຟັງ," ໂຮມສເວົ້າ, "ໂຕຈະພົບວ່າມັນມີ ຄວາມໝາຍວ່າ: 'ມາທີ່ນີ້ດຽວນີ້'. (Come here at once.) ເຮົາກະວ່າມັນຈະຕ້ອງມາ ເພາະມັນຄົງຄິດວ່າ ນີ້ບໍ່ແມ່ນໃຜເປັນຄົນ ຂຽນ ນອກຈາກຈະເປັນທ່ານຜູ້ຍິງພຽງ ຄົນດຽວ. ເພາະສະນັ້ນ, ວັດສັນເພື່ອນຮັກ, ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ເສັດສິ້ນທຸກຢ່າງລົງ ດ້ວຍ ການປ່ຽນຮູບຄົນເຕັ້ນລຳທີ່ເຄີຍຖືກໃຊ້ໃນ ທາງຮ້າຍມາເປັນດີໄດ້. ເຮົາໄດ້ໃຫ້ສັນຍາ ກັບໂຕວ່າ ຈະມີຄວາມລຶກລັບ ອັນໜ້າສົນ ໃຈມາຂຽນລົງໃນປຶ້ມບັນທຶກຂອງໂຕ ແລະ ເຮົາກໍ່ເຊື່ອວ່າ ເຮົາໄດ້ເຮັດສິ່ງນັ້ນແລ້ວ. ລົດ ໄຟຈະອອກເດີນທາງເວລາ 3: 40 ນາທີ ເຮົາຄິດວ່າພວກເຮົາຄວນຈະໄປຮອດ

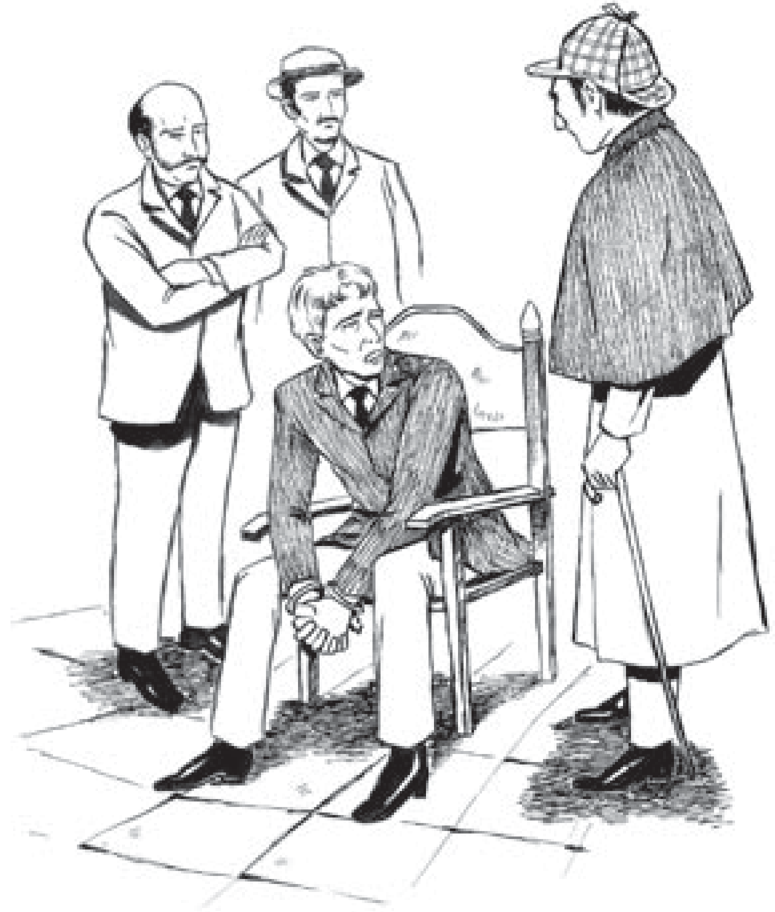
Sherlock Holmes, I only hope that if I ever again have an important case, I will have the good luck to have you by my side."

We stood at the window and watched the police drive away with their prisoner. As I turned back, my eye caught the ball of paper that the prisoner had thrown on the table. It was the note with which Holmes had made him come to us.

"See if you can read it, Watson," he said, with a smile.

It contained no word, but this little line of dancing men:

"If you use the code that I have explained," said Holmes, "you will find that it simply means 'Come here at once.' I expected him to come, since he could never imagine that it could have been written by anyone but the lady. And so, my dear Watson, we have ended by turning the dancing men to good when they have so often been used for bad. I promised to give you an unusual mystery for your notebook, and I believe I have done so. Our train is at 3:40, and I think we should be back home at Baker



ເຮືອນທີ່ຖະໜົນ ເບເກີ ຕອນກິນເຂົ້າແລງ
ໄດ໋.”

ຂໍເວົ້າຕື່ມອີກໜ້ອຍໜຶ່ງກ່ອນວ່າ: ໜຸ່ມ ອາເມລິກາຊື່ ເອບ ສະລານີ ຄົນນັ້ນຖືກຕັດສິນຈຳຄຸກຕະຫຼອດຊີວິດ. ສ່ວນທ່ານນາງ ຮິວຕັນ ຄິວບິດ ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ພຽງວ່ານາງຫາຍເຈັບແລ້ວ ແລະ ມີສຸຂະພາບດີ ແຕ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານອີກ ແລະ ນາງອຸທິດຊີວິດທັງໝົດຂອງນາງ ໃຫ້ກັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຄົນທຸກຈົນ.

Street in time for dinner.”

Only one last word: The American, Abe Slaney, was put in prison for the rest of his days. As for Mrs. Hilton Cubitt I only know that she is now healthy again, and that she has never married again, and now spends all of her time caring for the poor.

ຄຳສັບ
Vocabulary

aardvark: ໂຕກິນມົດ

able: ສາມາດ

absurd: ໜ້າຢາກຫົວ, ເຫຼືອເຊື່ອ, ເລື່ອງບ້າໆ

address: ທີ່ຢູ່

adventure: ການປະຈົນໄພ

advertise: ໂຄສະນາ, ປະກາດ

advertisement: ການໂຄສະນາ, ການປະກາດ

advice: ຄຳແນະນຳ, ຂໍ້ແນະນຳ

affair: ເຫດການ

afterwards: ຫຼັງຈາກນັ້ນ, ພາຍຫຼັງ

ah: ອ໊າ (ຄຳອຸທານ, ໃຊ້ເມື່ອຄິດສິ່ງໃດສິ່ງໜຶ່ງຂຶ້ນມາໄດ້)

alarm: ສັນຍານ, ສິ່ງສັນຍານ

alphabet: ພະຍັນຊະນະ, ອັກສອນ

annoy: ລົບກວນ, ເຮັດໃຫ້ໃຈຮ້າຍ

apparent: ເຫັນແຈ້ງ, ເຫັນກັບຕາ

appeal: ຂໍຮ້ອງ, ອ້ອນວອນ

appearance: ການປະກົດຕົວ, ຮູບຮ່າງພາຍນອກ

apply: ສະໝອງ, ສະໝັກ

April: ເດືອນເມສາ

armor: ເສື້ອເກາະ

assistant: ຜູ້ຊ່ວຍ

awoken: ຮູ້ເມື່ອ, ຕື່ນຕົວ (ມາຈາກ awake)

bake: ປີ້ນ, ອົບ

bedroom: ຫ້ອງນອນ

beer: ເບຍ

Bohemia: ໂບຮີເມຍ, ຊື່ປະເທດໜຶ່ງຢູ່ທາງທິດຕາເວັນອອກຂອງຢູຣົບ ເຊິ່ງຕອນນີ້ບໍ່ມີແລ້ວ.

bold: ກ້າຫານ

bore: ໜ້າເບື່ອ

boss: ຫົວໜ້າ, ເຈົ້ານາຍ

boyish: ຄືເດັກນ້ອຍ

breathe: ຫາຍໃຈ

brick: ດິນຈີ່

bullet: ລູກປືນ

bus: ລົດເມ

bye: ລາກ່ອນ

cab: ລົດຮັບຈ້າງ, ຫ້ອງໃນລົດ, ລົດມ້າ

candle: ທຽນ

cart: ກວຽນ, ລົດມ້າ

cellar: ຫ້ອງໃຕ້ດິນ

chalk: ສໍຂາວ

chase: ໄລ່, ໄລ່ລ່າ

cheap: ຍ່ອມເຍົາ, ຖືກ

chemical: ສານເຄມີ

Chicago: ຊິກາໂກ (ຊື່ເມືອງໜຶ່ງໃນອາເມລິກາ)

China: ປະເທດຈີນ

Chinese: ຊາວຈີນ, ຄົນຈີນ

client: ລູກຄວາມ, ລູກຄ້າ

clock: ໂມງແຂວນຝາ

cloth: ຜ້າແພ

club: ສະມາຄົມ, ສະໂມສອນ

Coburg Square: ໂຄເບີກ ສແຄ (ຊື່ເມືອງໜຶ່ງໃນລອນດອນ)

code: ລະຫັດ

coin: ເງິນຫຼຽນ

combine: ປະສົມ, ບວກເຂົ້າກັນ

complicate: ສັບສົນ, ຫຍຸ້ງ

concert: ຄອນເສີດ

conclude: ລົງຄວາມເຫັນ, ສະຫຼຸບ

conclusion: ການສະຫຼຸບ, ຂໍ້ສະຫຼຸບ

connect: ເຊື່ອມຕໍ່

connection: ການເຊື່ອມຕໍ່

conscious: ມີສະຕິ

county: ເມືອງ, ຂົງເຂດການປົກຄອງ

criminal: ຄົນຮ້າຍ

curious: ຢາກຮູ້ຢາກເຫັນ

dangerous: ອັນຕະລາຍ

dare: ກ້າ

darkness: ຄວາມມືດມົນ

delicate: ລະອຽດອ່ອນ

detective: ນັກສືບ

dial: ໜ້າປັດ (ໜ້າປັດໂມງ)

director: ອະທິບໍດີ, ອຳນວຍການ, ຜູ້ອຳນວຍການ

dirt: ຂີ້ດິນ, ຂີ້ຕົມ

disappoint: ຜິດຫວັງ, ເຮັດໃຫ້ຜິດຫວັງ

Dr.: ດຣ., ທ່ານໝໍ, ດ໋ອກເຕີ.

drawn: ແຕ້ມ (ມາຈາກ draw)

driven: ຂັບລົດ, ຂັບໄລ່, ບັງຄັບ (ມາຈາກ drive)

drove: ຂັບລົດ, ຂັບໄລ່, ບັງຄັບ (ມາຈາກ drive)

eager: ກະຕືລືລົ້ນ

earn: ຫາມາໄດ້

easy: ງ່າຍ

Egypt: ອີຢິບ

Encyclopedia Britannica: ປະທານຸກົມ ບຣິທານນິກາ (ປຶ້ມທີ່ເປັນຊຸດ, ປະກອບດ້ວຍ 20-30 ເຫຼັ້ມ ເຊິ່ງບັນຈຸຂໍ້ມູນທຸກຮູບແບບ)

Englishman: ຄົນອັງກິດຜູ້ຊາຍ

evidence: ພະຍານຫຼັກຖານ, ຫຼັກຖານ, ຂອງກາງ

expensive: ແພງ

false: ຜິດ, ປອມ, ເຂົ້າໃຈຜິດ

farmboy: ຄົນຟາມ, ເດັກຟາມ, ຄົນລ້ຽງມ້າ

final: ສຸດທ້າຍ, ໃນທີ່ສຸດ

flag: ທຸງ

French: ພາສາຝຣັ່ງ

Frenchmen: ຄົນຝຣັ່ງ

gang: ກຸ່ມ, ແກັ່ງ

gentleman: ສຸພາບບູລຸດ

German: ພາສາເຢຍລະມັນ, ຄົນເຢຍລະມັນ

Germany: ປະເທດເຢຍລະມັນ

glance: ເຫຼືອດຕາເບິ່ງ, ແນມເບິ່ງ, ຫຼຽວເບິ່ງ

grab: ຈັບ, ຄວ້າ

grandfather: ພໍ່ຕູ້, ພໍ່ເຖົ້າ

gray: ສີເທົາ

grown: ເຕີບໂຕ (ມາຈາກ grow)

guesthouse: ເຮືອນພັກ

gunpowder: ໝື້ປືນ

hall: ອາຄານ, ຕຶກ; ຫ້ອງໂຖງ; ທາງຍ່າງໃນເຮືອນ

handbag: ກະເປົານ້ອຍ, ກະເປົາຫິ້ວ

handcuff: ກັບມື

handsome: ເຈົ້າຊູ້, ລໍ່

harden: ເຮັດໃຫ້ຍາກ, ເຮັດໃຫ້ແຂງ

helpless: ເຮັດຫຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້

hidden: ລີ້, ຊ່ອນ (ມາຈາກ hide)

hmm: ຮຶມ (ຄຳອຸທານ ໃຊ້ເມື່ອຕອນກຳລັງຄິດຫາສິ່ງໃດໜຶ່ງ)

honest: ຊື່ສັດ

honor: ກຽດ, ສັກສີ

hotel: ໂຮງແຮມ

inspector: ຜູ້ກວດການ

instant: ບຶດໜຶ່ງ

intelligence: ຄວາມສະຫຼາດ, ສະຕິປັນຍາ

intelligent: ສະຫຼາດ

invest: ລົງທຶນ

investigate: ສືບສວນ

investigation: ການສືບສວນ

involve: ພົວພັນ, ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ

Italy: ປະເທດອີຕາລີ

joke: ຕະຫຼົກ, ການຕະຫຼົກ

June: ເດືອນມິຖຸນາ

kingdom: ລາຊະອານາຈັກ

lantern: ຕະກຽງ, ໂຄມໄຟ

lean: ອີງ, ອຽງ

lever: ຄານງັດ

lit: ໄຕ້, ຮຸ່ງ (ມາຈາກ light)

loaf: ຂີ້ຄ້ານ, ຢູ່ລ້າໆ

London: ລອນດອນ

luck: ໂຊກ

lucky: ໂຊກດີ

magnifying glass: ແກ້ວຂະຫຍາຍ

Majesty: ຄຳສັບສຸພາບ, ໃຊ້ເວລາເວົ້າກັບກະສັດ

manor: ເຮືອນຫຼັງໃຫຍ່, ອາຄານ, ເຄຫາສະຖານ

marriage: ການແຕ່ງງານ

mask: ໜ້າກາກ

meaningless: ໄຮ້ຄວາມໝາຍ

meanwhile: ໃນເວລາດຽວກັນນັ້ນ

message: ຈົດໝາຍ, ຂໍ້ຄວາມ

minister: ຫົວໜ້າໂບດ, ບາດຫຼວງ

Monday: ວັນຈັນ

mood: ອາລົມ

moonlight: ແສງຈັນ, ແສງເດືອນ

Mr.: ທ່ານ

Mrs.: ທ່ານນາງ, ມາດາມ

mystery: ຄວາມເລິກລັບ, ຄວາມປິດສະໜາ

neighbor: ຄົນໃກ້ຄຽງ, ເພື່ອນບ້ານ

neighborhood: ບ້ານໃກ້ເຮືອນຄຽງ

New York: ນິວຢອກ (ເມືອງທີ່ໃຫຍ່ທີ່ສຸດໃນອາເມລິກາ)

newspaper: ໜັງສືພິມ

nod: ຕອດຫົວ, ງຶກຫົວ

notebook: ປຶ້ມຂຽນ, ສະມຸດບັນທຶກ

obvious: ແຈ່ມແຈ້ງ, ຊັດເຈນ

October: ເດືອນຕຸລາ

ordinary: ທຳມະດາສາມັນ

ourselves: ພວກເຮົາເອງ

paid: ຈ່າຍແລ້ວ (ມາຈາກ pay)

pants: ສົ້ງຂາຍາວ

patient: ຄົນໄຂ້, ຄົນເຈັບ; ອົດທົນ

pen: ບິກ, ປາກກາ

period: ຈ້ຳເມັດ

photograph: ຮູບຖ່າຍ, ພາບຖ່າຍ

photography: ການຖ່າຍຮູບ, ວິຊາຖ່າຍຮູບ

pink: ສີຊົມພູ, ສີບົວ

pipe: ກອກຢາ, ທໍ່

place: ສະຖານທີ່

plain: ທົ່ງ

pleasant: ສຸພາບຮຽບຮ້ອຍ, ສະບາຍໃຈ

police: ຕຳຫຼວດ, ນາຍຍາມ

policemen: ຕຳຫຼວດ

prince: ເຈົ້າຊາຍ

progress: ກ້າວໜ້າ, ຈະເລີນກ້າວໜ້າ

protect: ປົກປ້ອງ

proud: ພາກພູມໃຈ, ອວດອົ່ງ

puzzle: ງົງ, ມຶນງົງ, ສັບສົນ

rang: ກົດກະດິ່ງ (ມາຈາກ ring)

realize: ສຳນຶກໄດ້, ນຶກອອກ

reappear: ປະກົດຂຶ້ນອີກ

remark: ຂໍ້ສັງເກດ

remarkable: ໜ້າສັງເກດ

repute: ມີຊື່ສຽງ, ເຮັດໃຫ້ມີຊື່ສຽງ

risk: ສ່ຽງ

riverside: ແຄມແມ່ນ້ຳ

rob: ປຸ້ນ, ລັກ

robbery: ການປຸ້ນຈີ້

royal: ກ່ຽວກັບກະສັດ

rub: ຮຸກຖູ, ລູບ

Russell Square: ຣັດແຊລ ສແຄ (ຊື່ເມືອງໜຶ່ງໃນລອນດອນ)

Saturday: ວັນເສົາ

scandal: ເລື່ອງອັບອາຍຂາຍໜ້າ

Scandinavia: ກຸ່ມປະເທດ ສແກນດິເນເວຍ (ລວມມີ 3 ປະເທດເຊັ່ນ: ນໍເວ, ສວີເດັນ, ເດນມາກ; ບາງເທື່ອກໍ່ມີທັງ ຟິນແລນ ແລະ ໄອສແລນ)

scare: ຂີ້ຢ້ານ

scene: ສາກ

Scotland: ສກັອດແລນ (ຊື່ປະເທດໜຶ່ງ ຢູ່ຕອນເໜືອຂອງສະຫະລາຊະອານາຈັກອັງກິດ)

Scotland Yard: ສກັອດແລນ ຢາດ (ສຳນັກງານໃຫຍ່ຂອງກົມຕຳຫຼວດໃນລອນດອນ)

sever: ຕັດ, ແຍກ, ຕັດອອກຈາກກັນ

sharpener: ເຄື່ອງຫຼັບ, ຄົນຫຼັບ ເຊັ່ນ: ຫຼັບມີດ ເປັນຕົ້ນ

shell: ສອບລູກປືນ

shine: ສ່ອງແສງ

shirt: ເສື້ອເຊີດ

shook: ສັ່ນ (ມາຈາກ shake)

shoot: ຍິງ

shopkeeper: ເຈົ້າຂອງຮ້ານ

sidewalk: ທາງຍ່າງ

sleepy: ຫິວນອນ, ງ່ວງນອນ

sleeve: ແຂນເສື້ອ

smooth: ກ້ຽງ

snooker: ສະນຸກເກີ

solve: ແກ້ໄຂ

sorry: ເສຍໃຈ, ຂໍໂທດ

spoken: ເວົ້າ (ມາຈາກ speak)

stare: ຈ້ອງເບິ່ງ

steal: ລັກເອົາ

stupid: ຈ້າ, ໂງ່

successful: ສຳເລັດຜົນ

symbol: ສັນຍາລັກ

tattoo: ລາຍສັກ, ເມິກ

terrible: ໂຫດຮ້າຍ, ຮ້າຍແຮງ

terror: ຄວາມໂຫດຮ້າຍ

thoughtful: ມີຄວາມຄິດ

threat: ຂົ່ມຂູ່, ຄຸກຄາມ

threaten: ຂົ່ມຂູ່

thrown: ໂຍນ, ພາດໄວ້, ຢອງໄວ້ (ມາຈາກ throw)

thumb: ໂປ້ມື, ນີ້ວໂປ້

thy: ຄຳສັບບູຮານເປວ່າ: ເຈົ້າ, ຂອງເຈົ້າ (ໃຊ້ສະເພາະຄົນພາຍໃນຄອບຄົວດຽວກັນ ຫຼື ເພື່ອນສະໜິດ)

timetable: ຕາຕະລາງເວລາ

toolhouse: ເຄື່ອງໃຊ້ພາຍໃນເຮືອນ

tore: ຈີກ, ຂາດ (ມາຈາກ tear)

treat: ປະຕິບັດ, ໃຊ້

trick: ອຸບາຍ, ຫຼອກລວງ

Tuesday: ວັນອັງຄານ

tunnel: ອຸບມຸງ

unanswered: ຕອບບໍ່ໄດ້, ບໍ່ມີຄຳຕອບ

understood: ເຂົ້າໃຈ (ມາຈາກ understand)

unexplained: ອາທິບາຍບໍ່ໄດ້, ບໍ່ມີຄຳອະທິບາຍ

unless: ນອກຈາກວ່າ, ຖ້າບໍ່

unpleasantness: ຄວາມບໍ່ເປັນລະບຽບຮຽບຮ້ອຍ, ສິ່ງທີ່ບໍ່ໜ້າປະທັບໃຈ

verb: ກິລິຍາ

Warsaw: ວໍຊໍ (ເມືອງຫຼວງຂອງປະເທດໂປແລນ)

wax: ຂີ້ເຜີ້ງ

whenever: ເມື່ອໃດກໍ່ຕາມ

whoever: ໃຜກໍ່ຢ່າ, ໃຜກໍ່ຕາມ

witness: ພະຍານ, ສັກຂີພະຍານ

woke: ຕື່ນ (ມາຈາກ wake)

worn: ນຸ່ງ, ຖື (ມາຈາກ wear)

worry: ກັງວົນ, ເປັນຫ່ວງ

worse: ຊົ່ວ, ຮ້າຍ, ຮ້າຍໄປກວ່ານັ້ນ (ມາຈາກ bad)

worst: ຊົ່ວ, ຮ້າຍ (ມາຈາກ bad)

ຫວັງວ່າທ່ານຈະມ່ວນຊື່ນກັບການອ່ານປຶ້ມຟຣີ ຂອງອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍ

ປຶ້ມຂອງອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍທີ່ໄດ້ຜ່ານການຄັດເລືອກໃຫ້ມີໃນອິນເຕີເນັດ. ຂໍເຊີນຊວນພວກທ່ານປະຕິບັດດັ່ງນີ້:

- ພິມປຶ້ມຫົວນີ້ໄວ້ອ່ານສ່ວນຕົວ;
- ພິມອອກເປັນຫຼາຍສຳເນົາເພື່ອປະກອບການຮຽນໃນໂຮງຮຽນໃດໜຶ່ງ ຫຼື ໃນທ້ອງຖິ່ນ;
- ສົ່ງເປັນເອກະສານ ແບບ PDF ຕໍ່ໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນໆ;
- ຕື່ມຫົວຂໍ້ໃຫ້ຄົນຕິດຕາມກ່ຽວກັບປຶ້ມເຫຼົ່ານີ້ລົງໃນ ເວັບໄຊ້ ຂອງທ່ານ. ບໍ່ຕ້ອງເຊື່ອມເຂົ້າຫາປຶ້ມໂດຍກົງ ເພາະທີ່ຢູ່ ເວັບໄຊ້ ຂອງປຶ້ມເຫຼົ່ານີ້ອາດຈະປ່ຽນແປງ. ກະລຸນາເຊື່ອມຕໍ່ເຂົ້າຫາໜ້າຫຼັກເວັບໄຊ້ ຂອງພວກເຮົາ ເຊິ່ງເປັນບ່ອນທີ່ສາມາດເບິ່ງລາຍການປຶ້ມທີ່ຈະດາວໂຫຼດໄດ້.

ທ່ານຈະບໍ່:

- ຈັດພິມປຶ້ມນີ້ ແລ້ວຂາຍ ຫຼື ແຈກຈ່າຍຢ່າງກວ້າງຂວາງເກີນກວ່າທີ່ໄດ້ອະນຸຍາດໄວ້ຂ້າງເທິງ ຖ້າບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບອະນຸຍາດຈາກອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍ.
- ເອົາປຶ້ມຂຶ້ນໜ້າ ເວັບໄຊ້. ກະລຸນາເຮັດພຽງສ້າງການເຊື່ອມຕໍ່ເຂົ້າຫາ ເວັບໄຊ້ ຂອງພວກເຮົາດັ່ງທີ່ໄດ້ກ່າວໄວ້ຂ້າງເທິງນັ້ນ.

ຖ້າທ່ານເປັນຄົນມັກອ່ານ ລອງຄຳນຶງເຖິງຫຼາຍຄົນໃນປະເທດລາວ ຜູ້ທີ່ບໍ່ເຄີຍເຫັນປຶ້ມຈັກເທື່ອ. ດ້ວຍການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຂອງທ່ານ ພວກເຮົາສາມາດເຮັດປຶ້ມອ່ານໃຫ້ເຖິງເຂົາເຈົ້າເລົ່ານັ້ນ. ຂໍຈົ່ງພິຈາລະນາສະໜັບສະໜູນການພິມປຶ້ມ ຫຼື ຊ່ວຍໃນທາງອື່ນ. ເວັບໄຊ້ຂອງພວກເຮົາມີຂໍ້ມູນເພີ່ມເຕີມລະອຽດ. ຂໍຂອບໃຈ!

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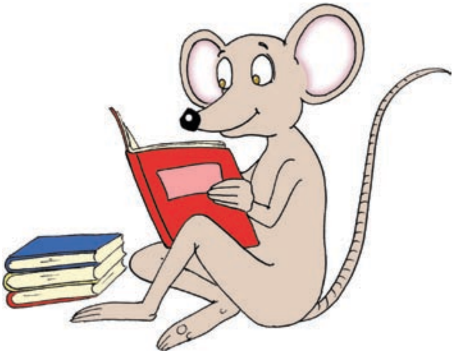

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ສະມາຄົມຜົມແດງ ແລະເລື່ອງອື່ນໆ

ການ ປະຈົນໄພ ຂອງ

ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ

ຄົນເຝົ້າຮ້ານຄົນໜຶ່ງໄດ້ຮັບຄ່າຈ້າງຢ່າງງາມ ແຕ່ຕ້ອງເສຍໄປແບບງ່າຍດາຍ ເພາະລາວມີຜົມສີແດງ. ພາບແຕ້ມທຳມະດາຂອງພວກຜູ້ຊາຍເຕັ້ນລຳຄ້າຍກັບເກມເດັກນ້ອຍ ແຕ່ສຸດທ້າຍພັດເຖິງແກ່ຄວາມຕາຍ.

ການປະຈົນໄພຂອງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ ເປັນເລື່ອງນັກສືບທີ່ນິຍົມກັນທີ່ສຸດ ທີ່ເຄີຍມີມາ. ປັດຈຸບັນ ພວກເຮົາສາມາດຊອກຫາມາອ່ານໄດ້ໃນປະເທດລາວ. ມາ... ພວກເຮົາມາຄົ້ນຫາຂໍ້ມູນນຳກັນ ວ່າເປັນຫຍັງ ເຊີລັອກ ໂຮມສ, ຜູ້ຊາຍທີ່ບໍ່ມີຕົວຕົນ ມີແຕ່ຢູ່ໃນກະດາດເຈ້ຍເທົ່ານັ້ນ, ແຕ່ລາວພັດກາຍມາເປັນນັກສືບຜູ້ມີຊື່ສຽງທີ່ສຸດໃນໂລກ.

ອ້າຍໜູນ້ອຍ ••••0033