

Notes on translating I Dreamed a Dream

Tigers or Wolves?

I understand that most Les Mis people who have seen an English production will expect that the word “老虎 tigers” appears in the Chinese lyric for the English line “but the tigers come at night”.

In fact, it is “狼群 les loups” that was in the original French lyrics.

I am not quite sure why in English translation “tiger” was used instead, probably for its two syllables for singability (Anyone can shed light on this? Thanks!). In Hugo’s novel, the man who destroyed Fantine’s life was Tholomyes. He was not such a charming hunk as a tiger, but an unattractive man with a look older for his age (receding hairline, missing teeth and unhealthy skin colour). He won Fantine’s heart by his eloquence (as the mastermind of a group of four law students, so 4 wolves in my lyrics) and by offering her some financial support (a ‘ransom’ to be paid with her miserable life later). It is probably more accurate to describe him as a wolf (in sheep's clothing) rather than a tiger.

This song is one of the earliest Les Mis titles I started translating, but I am still unsatisfied with my lines for the paragraph, probably due to my tiger-or-wolf dilemma. Any suggestions would be highly appreciated!

〈春梦不在〉译注：

老虎还是色狼？

我猜想，大多数人接触的是英语版音乐剧《悲惨世界》，他们会预期在“**But the tigers come at night**”的译句中出现“老虎”的字眼。

其实，在最早的法文版里，用词就是“狼群 les loups”。

我还没有弄清为什么英语歌词要用 tiger，大概是需要有两个音节的动物名词（特别希望有人在此赐教）。根据雨果的原著，毁掉芳汀贞洁的 Tholomyes（及其他三个玩弄女工的学生，所以我试用了四个“狼”字），根本就没有老虎的威风倜傥。而且在英文里，老虎一般也没有“衣冠禽兽”的含义。相反，Tholomyes 三十刚出头，就已缺牙并开始秃顶，一付未老先衰的模样。他完全靠的是言智的狡黠和施舍小恩惠，来捕获芳汀的。形容他为色狼或披着羊皮的狼，应该说是比老虎更准确。

这是一首我很早就开始翻译的《悲》歌，但对这“或狼或虎”的一段我到现在还不是很有把握。期待大家不吝赐教斧正！

I Dreamed a Dream

Music by Claude-Michel SCHÖNBERG
French Lyrics by Alain BOUBLIL
English Lyrics by Herbert KRETZMER

Chinese lyrics by Jing DENG ©
For internal assessment
Version 20071002 with suggestions
by ChinaMusical.Net fans, xhyzyl

Andante (♩=72)

Fantine

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, containing a whole rest. The middle staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a melodic line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a bass line.

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a melodic line. The middle staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, containing a whole rest. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, containing a bass line. The lyrics are: 忆 花 样 年 华 春 梦 开, 我 生 活 多 姿 向 往 多 彩。

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a melodic line. The middle staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, containing a whole rest. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature, containing a bass line. The lyrics are: 迷 恋 那 梦 里 不 朽 爱, 青 春 无 忌 上 帝 都 不 怪。
青 春 浪 漫 上 帝 也 不 怪。

12 *mf*

年轻的心无忧无虑, 多情的夜晚许身未来。

mp

mp

16

真相信无偿的爱, 欢歌唱尽美酒敞入怀。
慷慨, 喝满怀。

Cresc.

Cresc.

Cresc.

20

夜色朦胧人醉了, 耳边细语化作狼嚎。
色狼脱下假羊毛, 温柔细语变成狼嚎。

24

狼爪撕破我美梦, 狼牙咬碎我贞操。

Cresc. Accel.

p

fresc. Accel.

fresc. Accel.

28 $\text{♩} = 66$ $\text{♩} = 66$ *mf*

他带我漫步塞纳河畔,
他与我同浴夏日海滩,

32

他让我饱尝偷欢浪漫。 他将我真情当客棧,
他将我童贞都要玩,

36 *ff* *Accel. Cresc.* $\text{♩} = 70$

秋风吹来他却不再还。
孩子来临 秋果欲坠

Accel. Cresc. $\text{♩} = 70$

Accel. Cresc. $\text{♩} = 70$

39 *Decresc.*

在梦里我仍将他盼, 一家人团圆幸福平安。
梦里里 他父女相见咱好合百年。

Decresc.

Decresc.

43 Cresc.

可没有不醒的梦幻, 苦海挣扎经不住狂澜。
爱情小帆经不起狂澜。 Cresc.

47 3 Cresc.

悲惨世界白日梦魔, 我命运坎坷难了

51 Decresc. *mp*

夙愿, 现实欺骗了我期待, 生活如冬, 春梦不

54 ♩ = 66 ♩ = 66

再。