

Émile Erckmann

The Mysterious Sketch

[ze słownikiem]

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C1

Arkana szkicu

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

dla osób znających język angielski co najmniej na poziomie C1

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Ruda Śląska, 2024

Contents

Chapter I	6
Chapter II	11
Chapter III	16
Vocabulary of words translated in this book.....	24

The Mysterious Sketch

Chapter I

Opposite the **chapel** of Saint Sebalt in Nuremberg, at the corner of Trabaus Street, there stands a little **tavern**, tall and narrow, with a toothed **gable** and **dusty** windows, whose roof is **surmounted** by a **plaster Virgin**.

It was there that I spent the unhappiest days of my life. I had gone to Nuremberg to study the old German masters; but in default of ready money, I had to paint portraits-and such portraits!

Fat old women with their cats on their laps, **big-wigged aldermen**, **burgomasters** in **three-cornered** hats-all **horribly** bright with **ochre** and **vermilion**.

From portraits I descended to sketches, and from sketches to **silhouettes**.

Nothing is more annoying than to have your landlord **come to** you every day with **pinched** lips, **shrill** voice, and **impudent** manner to say: "Well, sir, how soon are you going to pay me? Do you know how much your bill is? No; that doesn't worry you! You eat, drink, and sleep **calmly** enough. God feeds the **sparrows**."

Your bill now amounts to two hundred **florins** and ten kreutzers-it is not worth talking about."

Those who have not heard any one talk in this way can form no idea of it; love of art, imagination, and the sacred enthusiasm for the beautiful are blasted by the breath of such an attack. You become awkward and **timid**; all your energy **evaporates**, as well as your feeling of personal dignity, and you **bow respectfully** at a distance to the **burgomaster** Schneegans.

chapel - kaplica
tavern - tawerna, karczma, austeria
gable - wzniesienie, szczyt
dusty - zakurzony, pylisty, zgaszony, złamany
surmounted - zwieńczyć, przewyciężyć
plaster - gips, tynk
virgin - prawiczek, dziewiczy, dziewica

big-wigged - wielkoduszny
aldermen - radny, ławnik
burgomasters - burmistrz
three-cornered - trójkątny; trójramienny; trójstronny
horribly - strasznie, przeraźliwie
ochre - ochra, czerwono-żółty kolor
vermilion - cynober

silhouettes - zarys, kontur, sylwetka

come to - przyjść
pinched - szczypać, uszczypnąć, szczypanie
shrill - piskliwy, przeszywający, przenikliwy
impudent - bezczelny
calmly - spokojnie
sparrows - wróbel, trznadel

florins - floren

timid - bojaźliwy, płochliwy, nieśmiały
evaporates - wyparowywać, wyparować
bow - zginać się, uklonić się, klaniać się, łuk, kokarda, dziób statku
respectfully - z szacunkiem
burgomaster - burmistrz

One night, not having a **sou**, as usual, and threatened with imprisonment by this worthy Mister **Rap**, I determined to make him a **bankrupt** by cutting my throat. Seated on my narrow bed, opposite the window, in this **agreeable** mood, I gave myself up to a thousand philosophical reflections, more or less comforting.

"What is man?" I asked myself. "An **omnivorous** animal; his **jaws**, provided with **canines**, **incisors**, and **molars**, prove it. The canines are made to tear meat; the incisors to bite fruits; and the molars to **masticate**, grind, and **triturate** animal and vegetable substances that are pleasant to smell and to taste.

But when he has nothing to masticate, this being is an **absurdity** in Nature, a **superfluity**, a **fifth wheel** to the coach."

Such were my reflections. I dared not open my **razor** for fear that the **invincible** force of my logic would inspire me with the courage to make an end of it all. After having argued so **finely**, I blew out my candle, postponing the **sequel** till the **morrow**.

That **abominable** Rap had completely **stupefied** me. I could do nothing but silhouettes, and my sole desire was to have some money to rid myself of his **odious** presence. But on this night a **singular** change **came over** my mind.

I **awoke** about one o'clock-I lit my lamp, and, enveloping myself in my grey **gabardine**, I drew upon the paper a rapid sketch after the **Dutch** school-something strange and bizarre, which had not the slightest **resemblance** to my ordinary conceptions.

Imagine a **dreary courtyard enclosed** by high **dilapidated** walls. These walls are **furnished** with hooks, seven or eight feet from the ground. You see, at a glance, that it is a **butchery**.

sou - grosz, mała ilość pieniędzy
rap - ostro krytykować, stukanie, stuknięcie, pukanie, oskarżenie
bankrupt - bankructwo, zbankrutowany, bankrut, bankrutka
agreeable - zgoda, miły, przyjemny, zgodny

omnivorous - wszystkożerny
jaws - szczeka
canines - kły, psi
incisors - siekacz
molars - trzonowce, trzonowy
masticate - żuć, przeżuwać
triturate - sproszkować, rozcierać na proszek

absurdity - absurd, bezsens, absurdalność, niedorzeczność, bezsensowność
superfluity - zbędność, nadmiar
fifth wheel - piąte koło

razor - brzytwa, szabla
invincible - niezwyciężony
finely - dokładnie, drobno, cienko, precyzyjnie, świetnie
sequel - sequel
morrow - nazajutrz, jutro

abominable - obrzydliwe, ohydny, odrażający, plugawy, niegodziwy
stupefied - oszołomiony, ogłuszać, ogłuszyć
odious - wstrętny, ohydny
singular - w liczbie pojedynczej, osobliwy, pojedynczy, nieodwracalna, osobliwa
came over - nagle się poczuć inaczej (np. słabo); ogarniać kogoś (uczucie)

awoke - obudził się, budzić się, uświadomić sobie, obudzić, przebudzony
gabardine - gabardyna
dutch - niderlandzki, holenderski, (język) holenderski, Holendrzy, Niderlandczycy
resemblance - podobieństwo

dreary - ponury
courtyard - dziedziniec, podwórze, dwór
enclosed - otoczyć, mieścić w sobie, załączyć
dilapidated - zniszczyć, zniszczony
furnished - meblować, umeblować, dostarczyć, dostarczać, zaopatrzyć, zaopatrywać
butchery - rzeźnictwo, masakra

On the left, there extends a **lattice** structure; you perceive through it a quartered beef suspended from the roof by enormous **pulleys**. Great pools of blood run over the **flagstones** and unite in a **ditch** full of **refuse**.

The light falls from above, between the **chimneys** where the **weathercocks** stand out from a bit of the sky the size of your hand, and the roofs of the neighbouring houses throw bold shadows from story to story.

At the back of this place is a shed, beneath the shed a pile of wood, and upon the pile of wood some ladders, a few **bundles** of **straw**, some **coils** of rope, a **chicken-coop**, and an old dilapidated **rabbit-hutch**.

How did these **heterogeneous** details suggest themselves to my imagination? I don't know; I had no **reminiscences**, and yet every stroke of the pencil seemed the result of observation, and strange because it was all so true. Nothing was lacking.

But on the right, one corner of the sketch remained a blank. I did not know what to put there.... Something suddenly seemed to **writhe** there, to move! Then I saw a foot, the sole of a foot. **Notwithstanding** this **improbable** position, I followed my inspiration without reference to my own criticism.

This foot was joined to a leg-over this leg, stretched out with effort, there soon floated the skirt of a dress. In short, there appeared **by degrees** an old woman, pale, **dishevelled**, and wasted, **thrown down** at the side of a well, and struggling to free herself from a hand that **clutched** her throat.

It was a murder scene that I was drawing. The pencil fell from my hand.

This woman, in the boldest attitude, with her **thighs** bent on the **curb** of the well, her face contracted by terror, and her two hands grasping the **murderer's** arm, frightened me. I could not look at her. But the man-he, the person to whom that arm belonged-I could not see him. It was impossible for me to finish the sketch.

"I am tired," I said, my forehead **dripping** with **perspiration**; "there is only this figure to do; I will finish it tomorrow. It will be easy then."

And again I went to bed, thoroughly frightened by my vision.

The next morning, I got up very early. I was dressing in order to resume my interrupted work, when two little knocks were heard on my door.

"Come in!"

lattice - kratownica, krata
pulleys - blok, koło pasowe
flagstones - kamień brukowy
ditch - zerwać, puścić, porzucić, pozbyć, wymknąć, rozwalić, rów
refuse - odmówić, odmawiać, odpadki

chimneys - komin, dymnik
weathercocks - wiatrowskazy, kurek

bundles - w pakiecie, wiązka, pęk, zawiniątko
straw - słomka, słoma, słomiany
coils - cewki, zwinąć, owinać, wici się, zwój, krąg, lok, spirala
chicken-coop - kurnik
rabbit-hutch - budka dla królika, klatka z królikami

heterogeneous - heterogeniczny
reminiscences - wspomnienia, reminiscencja

writhe - wije się, wici się
notwithstanding - mimo wszystko
improbable - nieprawdopodobne, nieprawdopodobny

by degrees - stopniowo, powoli
dishevelled - rozczochrać
thrown down - zrzucony
clutched - zaciśnięty, ścisnąć, trzymać, uchwycić, sprzęgło, leg, grupa, portmonetka

thighs - udo
curb - powściągnąć, ograniczenie, krawężnik
murderer - morderca, zabójca

dripping - (drip) przepuszczać, ociekać, kapać, kropla, ciekący, kapiący, przemoknięty
perspiration - perspiracja, pocenie się

The door opened. An old man, tall, thin, and dressed in black, appeared on the threshold. This man's face, his eyes set close together and his large nose like the **beak** of an **eagle**, surmounted by a high **bony** forehead, had something severe about it. He **bowed** to me **gravely**.

"Mister Christian Vénius, the painter?" said he.

"That is my name, sir."

He bowed again, adding:

"The Baron Frederick Van Spreckdal."

The appearance of the rich amateur, Van Spreckdal, judge of the criminal court, in my poor **lodging**, greatly disturbed me. I could not help throwing a **stealthy** glance at my old **worm-eaten** furniture, my **damp hangings** and my dusty floor. I felt **humiliated** by such **dilapidation**; but Van Spreckdal did not seem to take any account of these details; and sitting down at my little table:

"Mister Vénius," he resumed, "I come--" But at this instant his glance fell upon the **unfinished** sketch-he did not finish his phrase. I was **sitting on** the edge of my little bed; and the sudden attention that this **personage bestowed** upon one of my productions made my **heart beat** with an **indefinable apprehension**.

At the end of a minute, Van Spreckdal lifted his head:

"Are you the author of that sketch?" he asked me with an intent look.

"Yes, sir."

"What is the price of it?"

"I never sell my sketches. It is the plan for a picture."

"Ah!" said he, picking up the paper with the tips of his long yellow fingers.

He took a lens from his **waistcoat** pocket and began to study the design in silence.

The sun was now shining **obliquely** into the **garret**. Van Spreckdal never said a word; the hook of his immense nose increased, his heavy **eyebrows** contracted, and his long pointed chin took a turn **upward**, making a thousand little **wrinkles** in his long, thin cheeks. The silence was so profound that I could **distinctly** hear the **plaintive buzzing** of a fly that had been caught in a spider's web.

beak - dziób

eagle - orzeł, bielik, dziesięciodolarówka

bony - kościasty, ościasty, kostny

bowed - zginać się, uklonić się, kłaniać się, luk, kokarda

gravely - poważnie, ogromnie

lodging - zakwaterowanie, kwatera, nocleg, (lodge), portiernia, żeremie

stealthy - ukradkowy, skradający się

worm-eaten - robaczywy; spróchniały, stoczony przez korniki

damp - wilgotny

hangings - (hang) wisieć, wieszac, powiesić, kotara, wiszące, wywieszone

humiliated - upokarzać, upokorzyć, poniżać, poniżyć

dilapidation - ruina

unfinished - niedokończone

sitting on - siedzieć na czymś; ulokować się na; przeciągać coś w czasie

personage - osobistość, persona

bestowed - obdarzyć, nadać, obdarowywać

heart beat - uderzenie serca, bicie serca

indefinable - niedający się określić, nieokreślony

apprehension - niepokój, zatrzymanie

waistcoat - kamizelka, bezrękawnik

obliquely - ukośnie

garret - poddasze

eyebrows - brew

upward - w górę, do góry, zwrócony ku górze

wrinkles - pokonać trudności, zmarszczyć,

pognieść, pokryć, pościagać się

distinctly - wyraźnie

plaintive - żaloszny, zawodzący, płacziwy

buzzing - (buzz) przelecieć, brzęczeć, buczeć, gwar, brzęczenie, bzyczenie, dzwonienie

"And the dimensions of this picture, Mister Vénus?" he said without looking at me.

"Three feet by four."

"The price?"

"Fifty **ducats**."

Van Spreckdal laid the sketch on the table, and drew from his pocket a large **purse** of green silk shaped like a **pear**; he drew the **rings** of it--

"Fifty ducats," said he, "here they are."

I was simply **dazzled**.

The Baron rose and bowed to me, and I heard his big **ivory-headed cane resounding** on each step until he reached the bottom of the stairs. Then recovering from my **stupour**, I suddenly remembered that I had not thanked him, and I flew down the five flights like **lightning**; but when I reached the bottom, I **looked to** the right and left; the street was deserted.

"Well," I said, "this is strange."

And I went upstairs again **all out** of breath.

ducats - dukat

purse - portmonetka, portfel, torebka

pear - gruszka, grusza

rings - dzwięczeć, dzwonić, pierścień, kółko

dazzled - osłepić, oszałamiać, olśnić, blask, jaskrawe światło

ivory-headed - kości słoniowej

cane - laska, chłostać

resounding - dudnić, dzwięczeć, rozbrzmiewać

stupour - otępienie

lightning - błyskawica, piorun, grom,

błyskawiczny, błyskawicowy

looked to - oczekiwać czegoś, liczyć na coś (np. pomoc)

all out - powszechny, generalny; zmasowany; zdecydowany