

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



The Red-Headed League

Die Liga der Rothaarigen

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Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

ENGLISCH

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Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von

Dennis Kienzler

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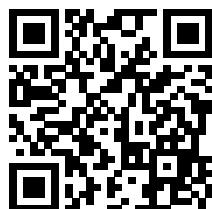
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I had called upon my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes (ich hatte bei meinem Freund, Mister Sherlock Holmes, vorgesprochen: «appelliert»), one day in the autumn of last year (eines Tages im Herbst letzten Jahres; *autumn* ['ɔ:təm]) and found him in deep conversation (und ihn in tiefem Gespräch vorgefunden; *conversation* [.kɒnvə'seɪʃən]) with a very stout, florid-faced, elderly gentleman (mit einem äußerst stämmigen, rotgesichtigen, älteren Gentleman; *stout* [staut]; *florid* ['flɔrɪd] — *schwülstig, gerötet*) with fiery red hair (mit feuerrotem Haar; *fiery* ['faɪəri]). With an apology for my intrusion (mit einer Entschuldigung für mein Eindringen = mich für mein Eindringen entschuldigend; *apology* [ə'pɒlədʒi]; *intrusion* [ɪn'tru:ʒən]), I was about to withdraw (wollte ich mich /soeben/ zurückziehen; *to be about to* — *dabei sein etwas zu tun, etwas tun wollen; withdraw* [wið'drɔ:]), when Holmes pulled me abruptly into the room (als Holmes mich abrupt in den Raum zog; *abruptly* [ə'brʌptli]) and closed the door behind me (und die Tür hinter mir schloss).

1

I had called upon my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, one day in the autumn of last year and found him in deep conversation with a very stout, florid-faced, elderly gentleman with fiery red hair. With an apology for my intrusion, I was about to withdraw, when Holmes pulled me abruptly into the room and closed the door behind me.

"**You could not possibly have come at a better time** (sie hätten unmöglich zu einer besseren Zeit kommen können = sie kommen genau zur richtigen Zeit; *possibly* [,_pɒsɪblɪ]), **my dear Watson** (mein guter Watson),“ **he said cordially** (sagte er herzlich; *cordially* [,kɔ:dɪəlɪ]).

"**I was afraid that you were engaged** (ich fürchtete, Sie wären beschäftigt; *afraid* [ə'freɪd]; *engaged* [ɪn'geɪdʒd]).“

"**So I am** (so = das bin ich). **Very much so** (sogar sehr).“

"**Then I can wait in the next room** (dann kann ich im Nebenzimmer warten; *next* — *nächstes, neben*).“

2

"**You could not possibly have come at a better time**, my dear Watson," he said cordially.

"**I was afraid that you were engaged**."

"**So I am. Very much so.**"

"**Then I can wait in the next room.**"

“Not at all (auf keinen Fall). This gentleman (dieser Gentleman), Mr. Wilson, has been my partner and helper in many of my most successful cases (ist in vielen meiner erfolgreichsten Fällen mein Partner und Helfer gewesen; *successful* [sək’sesfʊl]), and I have no doubt (und ich habe keinen Zweifel; *doubt* [daʊt]) that he will be of the utmost use to me in yours also (dass er auch in Ihrem von größtem Nutzen für mich sein wird; *utmost* [‘ʌt,məʊst]).”

The stout gentleman half rose from his chair (der stämmige Gentleman erhob sich halb aus seinem Stuhl; *to rise* — aufsteigen, sich erheben) and gave a bob of greeting (und nickte zur Begrüßung: «und gab ein Nicken des Grußes»), with a quick little questioning glance from his small fat-encircled eyes (mit einem schnellen, kleinen, fragenden Blick aus seinen kleinen, fettumringten Augen; *questioning* [,kwestʃənɪŋ]; *glance* [gla:n:s]; *encircle* [ɪn’sɜ:k(ə)l]).

3

“Not at all. This gentleman, Mr. Wilson, has been my partner and helper in many of my most successful cases, and I have no doubt that he will be of the utmost use to me in yours also.”

The stout gentleman half rose from his chair and gave a bob of greeting, with a quick little questioning glance from his small fat-encircled eyes.

"Try the settee (setzen Sie sich aufs Sofa: «probieren Sie das Sofa»; *settee* [sɛ'ti:])," said Holmes, relapsing into his armchair and putting his fingertips together (sich in seinen Sessel zurücklehnen und seine Fingerspitzen aneinanderlegend; *to relapse* [rɪ'læps] — *zurückfallen, zurücklehnen*; *armchair* [,a:m,tʃeə]; *fingertip* [,fɪŋgə,tip]), as was his custom when in judicial moods (wie es seiner Art war, wenn in konzentrierter Stimmung; *judicial* [dʒu:'dɪʃəl] — *richterlich, konzentriert*). "I know, my dear Watson (ich weiß, mein lieber Watson), that you share my love of all (dass Sie meine Liebe zu allem teilen) that is bizarre and outside the conventions and humdrum routine of everyday life (dass bizarre und außerhalb der Konventionen und eintönigen Routine des alltäglichen Lebens ist; *bizarre* [br'za:]; *convention* [kən'venʃən]; *humdrum* [,hʌm,drʌm]; *routine* [ru:tɪ:n]; *everyday* [,evrɪ,deɪ] — *jeden Tag, alltäglich*). You have shown your relish for it by the enthusiasm (Sie haben Ihre Faszination dafür durch den Enthusiasmus gezeigt; *relish* [,rəliʃ] — *Genuss, Faszination; enthusiasm* [ɪn'θju:zɪ,æzəm]) which has prompted you to chronicle (welcher Sie veranlasste /es/ zu dokumentieren; *to chronicle* [,krɒnɪk(ə)l] — *chronologisch aufzeichnen, dokumentieren*), and, if you will excuse my saying so (und, wenn Sie mir meine Bemerkung verzeihen: «wenn Sie meine Aussage verzeihen werden»; *excuse* [ɪk'skju:z]), somewhat to embellish so many of my own little adventures (so viele meiner eigenen kleinen Abenteuer etwas zu verbrämen; *embellish* [ɪm'bɛliʃ]; *adventure* [əd'ventʃə])."

"Try the settee," said Holmes, relapsing into his armchair and putting his fingertips together, as was his custom when in judicial moods. "I know, my dear Watson, that you share my love of all that is bizarre and outside the conventions and humdrum routine of everyday life. You have shown your relish for it by the enthusiasm which has prompted you to chronicle, and, if you will excuse my saying so, somewhat to embellish so many of my own little adventures."

"Your cases have indeed been of the greatest interest to me (ihre Fälle sind tatsächlich von größtem Interesse für mich gewesen; *indeed* [ɪn'di:d]), "**I observed** (bemerkte ich; **to observe** [əb'zɜ:v] — *beobachten, bemerken*).

"You will remember that I remarked the other day (sie werden sich erinnern, dass ich anderntags die Bemerkung machte; *remember* [rɪ'membə]; **to remark** [rɪ'ma:k] — *anmerken, eine Bemerkung machen*), **just before we went into the very simple problem presented by Miss Mary Sutherland** (gerade bevor wir uns in das sehr einfache, von Miss Mary Sutherland dargelegte Problem vertieften; **to go into** — *hineingehen, sich vertiefen*; *problem* [,prɒbləm]; **present** [prɪ'zent]), **that for strange effects and extraordinary combinations** (dass, für merkwürdige Effekte und außergewöhnliche Konstellationen; *effect* [ɪ'fekt]; *extraordinary* [ɪk'strɔ:d8nri]; **combination** [,kɒmbɪ'neɪʃən] — *Kombination, Konstellation*) **we must go to life itself** (wir zum Leben selbst gehen müssen

= wir uns dem Leben selbst zuwenden müssen), which is always far more daring (welches immer weit herausfordernder ist; *daring* [,'deərɪŋ]) than any effort of the imagination (als jegliche Vorstellungskraft; *effort* [,eфt] — *Anstrengung, Kraft; imagination* [i,mædʒɪ'neɪʃən]).“

5

“Your cases have indeed been of the greatest interest to me,” I observed.

“You will remember that I remarked the other day, just before we went into the very simple problem presented by Miss Mary Sutherland, that for strange effects and extraordinary combinations we must go to life itself, which is always far more daring than any effort of the imagination.”

"A proposition which I took the liberty of doubting (eine Behauptung, welche ich mir die Freiheit = *mir erlaubte* zu bezweifeln; *proposition* [,prɒpə'zɪʃən]; *liberty* [,lɪbəti]; *doubting* [,daʊtnɪŋ]).“

"You did, Doctor (Sie taten, Doktor), but none the less (aber nichtsdestotrotz) you must come round to my view (müssen Sie zu meiner Sicht wechseln = meine Sicht als richtig akzeptieren; *to come round* — *zu sich kommen, Meinung wechseln*), for otherwise I shall keep on piling fact upon fact on you (denn andernfalls beabsichtige ich, weiterhin Fakt auf Fakt über Ihnen aufzuschichten; *otherwise* [,ʌðə'waɪz]; *shall* — *werden, beabsichtigen; to pile* — *anhäufen, aufschichten*) until your reason breaks down under them (bis Ihr Verstand unter ihnen

zusammenbricht; *reason* [,ri:z(ə)n] and **acknowledges me to be right** (und mir zugibt richtig zu sein = und mir recht gibt; *acknowledge* [ək'npolidʒ]). Now, Mr. Jabez Wilson here has been good enough to **call upon me this morning** (jetzt = *also*, Mr. Jabez Wilson hier ist gut genug gewesen, heute morgen bei mir vorzusprechen; *enough* [ɪ'nʌf]), and **to begin a narrative** (und eine Erzählung zu beginnen; *narrative* [,nærətɪv]) which promises to be one of the most singular (welche eine der einzigartigsten zu sein verspricht; *promise* [,prɒmɪs]; *singular* [,sɪŋjʊlə] — *singulär, einzigartig*) which I have listened to for some time (die ich in einiger Zeit gehört habe; *listen* [,lis(ə)n]; **which** — welche/r/s, der/die/das).

6

“A proposition which I took the liberty of doubting.”

“You did, Doctor, but none the less you must come round to my view, for otherwise I shall keep on piling fact upon fact on you until your reason breaks down under them and acknowledges me to be right. Now, Mr. Jabez Wilson here has been good enough to call upon me this morning, and to begin a narrative which promises to be one of the most singular which I have listened to for some time.

You have heard me remark (sie haben mich feststellen hören; **to remark** [rɪ'ma:k] — *anmerken, feststellen*) that the strangest and most unique things are very often connected (dass die merkwürdigsten und einmaligsten Dinge sehr oft verbunden sind; *unique* [ju:'ni:k]) not

with the larger but with the smaller crimes (nicht mit den größeren, sondern den kleineren Verbrechen), **and occasionally, indeed** (und gelegentlich, tatsächlich; *occasionally* [ə'keɪʒənəlɪ]), **are those where there is room for doubt** (gibt es jene, bei denen es Raum für Zweifel gibt; *there is — es gibt*) **whether any positive crime has been committed** (ob ein wirkliches Verbrechen begangen wurde; *whether* ['weðə]; *positive* ['pozɪtɪv] — *positiv, wirklich; commit* [kə'mɪt]). **As far as I have heard** (soweit wie ich gehört habe) **it is impossible for me to say** (ist es unmöglich für mich zu sagen; *impossible* [ɪm'pɒsəb(ə)l]) **whether the present case is an instance of crime or not** (ob der gegenwärtige Fall ein Umstand des Verbrechens ist = *den Umstand des Verbrechens erfüllt* oder nicht; *present* [,prez(ə)nt]; *instance* [,instəns] — *Beispiel, Umstand*), **but the course of events is certainly among the most singular** (aber der Ablauf der Ereignisse ist eindeutig unter den einzigartigsten; *certainly* [,sɜ:t(ə)nli]) **that I have ever listened to** (denen ich je zugehört habe). **Perhaps** (vielleicht; *perhaps* [pə'hæps]), **Mr. Wilson, you would have the great kindness to recommence your narrative** (hätten Sie die große Güte, Ihre Erzählung wieder /von vorne/ zu beginnen; *recommence* [,ri:kə'məns]).

7

You have heard me remark that the strangest and most unique things are very often connected not with the larger but with the smaller crimes, and occasionally, indeed, are those where there is room for doubt whether any positive crime has been committed. As

far as I have heard it is impossible for me to say whether the present case is an instance of crime or not, but the course of events is certainly among the most singular that I have ever listened to. Perhaps, Mr. Wilson, you would have the great kindness to recommence your narrative.

I ask you not merely because my friend Dr. Watson has not heard the opening part (ich bitte Sie nicht nur, weil mein Freund Dr. Watson den Beginn nicht gehört hat; **to ask** — *fragen, bitten*; **merely** [‘mɪəli]; **opening part** — eröffnender Teil, Beginn) but also because the peculiar nature of the story (sondern auch, weil die sonderbare Natur der Geschichte; **peculiar** [pr’kju:lɪə]) makes me anxious to have every possible detail from your lips (mich jedes mögliche Detail von Ihren Lippen bekommen möchten lässt: «mich bestrebt macht, jedes mögliche Detail von Ihren Lippen zu haben»; **anxious** [‘æŋkʃəs]; **possible** [‘pɒsɪb(ə)l]). As a rule (normalerweise), when I have heard some slight indication of the course of events (wenn ich irgendeine geringe Andeutung über den Verlauf von Ereignissen gehört habe; **indication** [ɪndɪ’keɪʃən] — *Anzeichen, Andeutung*), I am able to guide myself by the thousands of other similar cases (kann ich mich an den Tausenden von anderen ähnlichen Fällen führen = orientieren; **guide** [gaɪd]) which occur to my memory (welche in meiner Erinnerung aufkommen; **to occur** [ə’kɜː] — *aufreten, aufkommen*; **memory** [‘meməri]). In the present instance I am forced to admit (im gegenwärtigen Fall bin ich gezwungen zuzugeben; **instance** [‘ɪnstəns]; **admit** [əd’mit]) that the facts

are to the best of my belief, unique (dass die Fakten meines Wissens nach: «zum Besten meines Glaubens» einzigartig sind).”

8

I ask you not merely because my friend Dr. Watson has not heard the opening part but also because the peculiar nature of the story makes me anxious to have every possible detail from your lips. As a rule, when I have heard some slight indication of the course of events, I am able to guide myself by the thousands of other similar cases which occur to my memory. In the present instance I am forced to admit that the facts are, to the best of my belief, unique.”

The portly client puffed out his chest (der korpulente Klient blähte seine Brust auf; *client* ['klaɪənt]) **with an appearance of some little pride** (mit einem Anschein von ein wenig Stolz: «etwas kleinem Stolz»; *appearance* [ə'priərəns]) **and pulled a dirty and wrinkled newspaper from the inside pocket of his greatcoat** (und zog eine dreckige und zerknitterte Zeitung aus der Innentasche seines Mantels; *newspaper* ['nju:z,peɪpə]; *greatcoat* ['greɪtkəʊt]). **As he glanced down the advertisement column** (als er die Anzeigenspalte hinunterblickte; *advertisement* [əd'veɪtɪsmənt]; *column* [,kɒləm]), **with his head thrust forward and the paper flattened out upon his knee** (mit seinem Kopf vorgestreckt und der Zeitung auf seinen Knien ausgebreitet; *forward* [,fɔ:wəd]; *paper — Papier*; *Zeitung*; *flatten* [,flæt(ə)n]), **I took a good look at the man and endeavored** (nahm ich einen guten Blick an dem Mann = *nahm ich*

*den Mann genau in den Blick und bemühte mich; endeavor [ɪn'devə], after the fashion of my companion (nach der Art und Weise meines Gefährten; **fashion** — Mode, Art und Weise; **companion** [kəm'pænjən]), to read the indications which might be presented by his dress or appearance (die Anzeichen zu deuten, welche seine Kleidung oder sein Auftreten möglicherweise boten: «die Anzeichen zu lesen, welche durch seine Kleidung oder Auftreten präsentiert sein mögen»; **indication** [ɪndɪ'keɪʃən]; **appearance** [ə'priərəns]).*

9

The portly client puffed out his chest with an appearance of some little pride and pulled a dirty and wrinkled newspaper from the inside pocket of his greatcoat. As he glanced down the advertisement column, with his head thrust forward and the paper flattened out upon his knee, I took a good look at the man and endeavored, after the fashion of my companion, to read the indications which might be presented by his dress or appearance.

I did not gain very much, however, by my inspection (jedoch, ich erreichte nicht viel mit meiner Untersuchung; **however** [hau'evə]; **inspection** [ɪn'speksʃ(ə)n]). Our visitor bore every mark of being an average commonplace British tradesman (unser Besucher trug jedes Merkmal, ein durchschnittlicher, gewöhnlicher britischer Kaufmann zu sein; **visitor** ['vɪzɪtə]; **to bear**; **average** ['ævərɪdʒ]; **commonplace** ['kɒmənplēs]; **tradesman** ['treɪdzmən]), **obese, pompous, and slow** (dickleibig, aufgeblasen

und langsam; *obese* [əʊ'bi:s]; *pompous* ['pɒmpəs]). **He wore rather baggy gray shepherd's check trousers** (er trug eine bereits ausgebeulte, graue Pepita-Hose; *rather* ['ra:ðə]; *shepherd* ['ʃepəd]; *trousers* ['trauzəz]), **a not over-clean black frock-coat** (eine nicht über-sauberen = *nicht sonderlich sauberen*, schwarzen Gehrock), **unbuttoned in the front** (die Vorderseite nicht zugeknöpft; *unbuttoned* [ʌn'bʌt(ə)nd]), **and a drab waistcoat with a heavy brassy Albert chain** (und eine eintönige Weste mit einer schweren messingartigen Albert-Kette; *waistcoat* ['weɪs,kəut]; *heavy* ['hevɪ]; *brassy* ['bra:sɪ]), **and a square pierced bit of metal dangling down as an ornament** (und einem rechtwinklig aufgespießten Metallstück als Ornament herabhängend; *square* [skwɛə]; *pierce* [piəs]; *metal* ['met(ə)l]; *dangling* ['dæŋglɪŋ]; *ornament* ['ɔ:nəmənt]).

10

I did not gain very much, however, by my inspection. Our visitor bore every mark of being an average commonplace British tradesman, obese, pompous, and slow. He wore rather baggy gray shepherd's check trousers, a not over-clean black frock-coat, unbuttoned in the front, and a drab waistcoat with a heavy brassy Albert chain, and a square pierced bit of metal dangling down as an ornament.

A frayed top-hat and a faded brown overcoat with a wrinkled velvet collar (ein ausgefranster Zylinder und ein verblichener brauner Überzieher mit einem knittrigen Samtkragen; *frayed* [freɪd]; *velvet* ['vɛlvɪt]; *collar* ['kɒlə]) **lay upon a chair beside him** (lagen auf

einem Stuhl neben ihm; *to lie*). **Altogether** (alles in allem; *altogether* [ɔ:l'tə'geðə]), **look as I would** (so sehr ich auch schaute), **there was nothing remarkable about the man** (gab es nichts bemerkenswertes an dem Mann; *remarkable* [rɪ'ma:kəb(ə)l]) **save his blazing red head** (außer seinem flammend roten Kopf; *blazing* ['bleɪzɪŋ]), **and the expression of extreme chagrin and discontent upon his features** (und dem Ausdruck extremen Ärgers und Unzufriedenheit in seinen Gesichtszügen; *expression* [ɪk'spreʃən]; *extreme* [ɪk'stri:m]; *chagrin* ['ʃægrɪn]; *discontent* [,dɪskən'tent]; **features** ['fi:tʃə] — *Eigenschaften, Gesichtszüge*).

11

A frayed top-hat and a faded brown overcoat with a wrinkled velvet collar lay upon a chair beside him. Altogether, look as I would, there was nothing remarkable about the man save his blazing red head, and the expression of extreme chagrin and discontent upon his features.

Sherlock Holmes's quick eye took in my occupation (Sherlock Holmes flinkes Auge = *aufmerksamer Blick* vernahm meine Beschäftigung; *occupation* [,ɒkjju'peɪʃən]), **and he shook his head with a smile** (und mit einem Lächeln schüttelte er seinen Kopf; *to shake*) **as he noticed my questioning glances** (als er meine fragenden Blicke bemerkte; *notice* ['nəʊtɪs]). “**Beyond the obvious facts** (jenseits der offensichtlichen Fakten; *beyond* [bɪ'jɒnd]; *obvious* ['ɒbviəs]) **that he has at some time done manual labour** (dass zu irgendeiner Zeit körperliche Arbeit getan

= *geleistet hat*; *manual* ['mænjuəl]; *labour* ['leɪbə], **that he takes snuff** (dass er Schnupftabak nimmt = konsumiert), **that he is a Freemason** (dass er ein Freimaurer ist; *Freemason* ['fri:meis(ə)n]), **that he has been in China** (dass er in China gewesen ist; *China* ['tʃamə]), **and that he has done a considerable amount of writing lately** (und dass er zuletzt eine beträchtliche Menge an Schreiben getan = *Schreibtätigkeiten vollbracht* hat; *considerable* [kən'sidərəb(ə)l]; *amount* [ə'maunt]) **I can deduce nothing else** (kann ich nichts anderes folgern; *deduce* [di'dju:s])."

12

Sherlock Holmes's quick eye took in my occupation, and he shook his head with a smile as he noticed my questioning glances. "Beyond the obvious facts that he has at some time done manual labour, that he takes snuff, that he is a Freemason, that he has been in China, and that he has done a considerable amount of writing lately, I can deduce nothing else."

Mr. Jabez Wilson started up in his chair (schrak auf seinem Stuhl auf), **with his forefinger upon the paper** (mit seinem Zeigefinger auf der Zeitung; *forefinger* [,fɔ:,finjgə]), **but his eyes upon my companion** (aber seinen Augen auf meinem Gefährten).

"**How, in the name of good-fortune** (wie, im Namen des guten Schicksals = woher, bei allen guten Geistern; *fortune* [,fɔ:tʃən]), **did you know all that** (wussten Sie das alles), **Mr. Holmes?**" he asked. "**How did you know** (woher wussten Sie), **for example** (zum Beispiel; *example*

[ɪg'za:mp(ə)l]), that I did manual labour (dass ich körperliche Arbeit geleistet habe)? It's as true as gospel (es ist wahr wie das Evangelium; gospel [,gpsp(ə)l]), for I began as a ship's carpenter (denn ich begann als Schiffszimmermann; carpenter [,ka:pɪntə]).“

"Your hands, my dear sir (Ihre Hände, mein guter Sir). Your right hand is quite a size larger than your left (Ihre rechte Hand ist eine ziemliche Größe = ganze Ecke größer als Ihre linke; quite [kwait]). You have worked with it (Sie haben mit ihr gearbeitet), and the muscles are more developed (und die Muskeln sind mehr = stärker entwickelt; muscle [,mʌsl]; developed [dɪ'veləpt]).“

13

Mr. Jabez Wilson started up in his chair, with his forefinger upon the paper, but his eyes upon my companion.

"How, in the name of good-fortune, did you know all that, Mr. Holmes?" he asked. "How did you know, for example, that I did manual labour? It's as true as gospel, for I began as a ship's carpenter."

"Your hands, my dear sir. Your right hand is quite a size larger than your left. You have worked with it, and the muscles are more developed."

"Well, the snuff, then (gut, der Schnupftabak dann), and the Free-masonry (und das Freimaurertum)?"

“I won’t insult your intelligence by telling you (ich werde Ihre Intelligenz nicht /damit/ beleidigen, indem ich Ihnen sage; *insult* [in’salt]; *intelligence* [in’telɪdʒəns]) **how I read that** (wie ich das gelesen = *geschlussfolgert* habe), **especially as** (speziell da; *especially* [ɪ’speʃəli]), **rather against the strict rules of your order** (eher entgegen den strikten Regeln Ihres Ordens), **you use an arc-and-compass breastpin** (Sie eine Bogen-und-Kompass-Brustbrosche benutzen = tragen; *arc* [a:k]; *compass* ['kʌmpəs]; *breastpin* ['brest,pɪn].”

“Ah, of course (ah, natürlich), **I forgot that** (ich vergaß das). **But the writing** (aber das Schreiben)?”

“What else can be indicated (was sonst kann angezeigt sein = *geschlussfolgert* werden; *indicated* ['ɪndɪkeɪtɪd]) **by that right cuff so very shiny for five inches** (durch die, für fünf Zoll so sehr glänzenden rechten Manschette), **and the left one with the smooth patch near the elbow** (und die linke mit der glatten Stelle nahe dem Ellbogen; *smooth* [smu:ð]; *elbow* ['elbəʊ]) **where you rest it upon the desk** (wo Sie ihn auf dem Schreibtisch ausruhen; **to rest — ruhen, ausruhen**)?”

14

“Well, the snuff, then, and the Freemasonry?”

“I won’t insult your intelligence by telling you how I read that, especially as, rather against the strict rules of your order, you use an arc-and-compass breastpin.”

“Ah, of course, I forgot that. But the writing?”

“What else can be indicated by that right cuff so very shiny for

five inches, and the left one with the smooth patch near the elbow where you rest it upon the desk?”

“Well, but China (gut, aber China)?”

“The fish that you have tattooed immediately above your right wrist (der Fisch, den Sie direkt über Ihrem Handgelenk tätowiert haben; *tattoo* [tæ’tu:]; *immediately* [ɪ’mi:dɪətlɪ]; *above* [ə’bʌv]; *wrist* [rɪst]) could only have been done in China (konnte nur in China gemacht worden sein). I have made a small study of tattoo marks (ich habe eine kleine Studie über Kennzeichen von Tätowierungen gemacht) and have even contributed to the literature of the subject (und habe sogar zur Literatur über das Thema beigetragen; *contribute* [kən’tribju:t]; *literature* [‘lɪtərɪtʃə]; *subject* [‘sʌbdʒɪkt]). That trick of staining the fishes’ scales of a delicate pink (dieser Trick, die Schuppen des Fisches mit einem delikaten pink zu färben; *scale* [skeɪl]; *delicate* [‘delɪkit]) is quite peculiar to China (ist ziemlich eigentümlich für China). When, in addition (wenn ich, darüber hinaus; *addition* [ə’dɪʃən]), I see a Chinese coin hanging from your watch-chain (eine chinesische Münze von Ihrer Uhrkette hängen sehe), the matter becomes even more simple (wird die Sache sogar noch einfacher).”

“Well, but China?”

“The fish that you have tattooed immediately above your right wrist could only have been done in China. I have made a small study of tattoo marks and have even contributed to the literature of the subject. That trick of staining the fishes’ scales of a delicate pink is quite peculiar to China. When, in addition, I see a Chinese coin hanging from your watch-chain, the matter becomes even more simple.”

Mr. Jabez Wilson laughed heavily (lachte schwer = ausgiebig; *laugh* [la:f]; *heavily* ['hevili]). “Well, I never (nein, so was)!” said he. “I thought at first (ich dachte zuerst) that you had done something clever (Sie hätten etwas schlaues getan), but I see that there was nothing in it, after all (aber ich sehe, dass letztendlich da nichts drin = dabei war).”

“I begin to think (ich beginne zu denken), Watson,” said Holmes, “that I make a mistake in explaining (dass ich einen Fehler mache / es/ zu erklären; *mistake* [mi'steik]; *explaining* [ik'spleinɪŋ]). ,**Omne ignotum pro magnifico** (“alles Unbekannte gilt /ihnen/ für großartig“ /lat./), ‘you know (wissen Sie), and my poor little reputation (und meine bescheidene, kleine Reputation; *poor* — *arm*, *bescheiden*; *reputation* [,repju'teiʃ(ə)n]), such as it is (so wie sie /gerade/ ist), will suffer **shipwreck** (wird Schiffbruch erleiden; *shipwreck* [,ʃɪprek]) if I am so **candid** (wenn ich so offen bin; *candid* [,kændɪdɪd]). Can you not find

the advertisement (können Sie die Anzeige nicht finden; *advertisement* [əd'veɪtɪsmənt] — *Werbung, Anzeige*), **Mr. Wilson?**“

"Yes, I have got it now (ja, jetzt habe ich sie),“ he answered with his thick red finger planted halfway down the column (mit seinem dicken, roten Finger in der Mitte der Spalte verharrend: «die Spalte halb herunter aufgepflanzt»; *plant* [pla:nt]; *halfway* [,ha:f'wei]). "Here it is (hier ist es). This is what began it all (hiermit begann alles: «dies ist, was es alles begann»). You just read it for yourself, sir (lesen Sie es nur selbst, Sir).”

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Mr. Jabez Wilson laughed heavily. “Well, I never!” said he. “I thought at first that you had done something clever, but I see that there was nothing in it, after all.”

“I begin to think, Watson,” said Holmes, “that I make a mistake in explaining. ‘Omne ignotum pro magnifico,’ you know, and my poor little reputation, such as it is, will suffer shipwreck if I am so candid. Can you not find the advertisement, Mr. Wilson?”

“Yes, I have got it now,” he answered with his thick red finger planted halfway down the column. “Here it is. This is what began it all. You just read it for yourself, sir.”

I took the paper from him and read as follows (ich nahm die Zeitung von ihm und las wie folgt = folgendes):

TO THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE (AN DIE LIGA DER ROTHAARIGEN:
«**ROTKÖPFE**; **league** [li:g] — **Bund, Liga**): On account of the bequest
of the late Ezekiah Hopkins, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, U. S. A. (auf
Grund des Vermächtnis des verstorbenen Ezekiah Hopkins, aus Leba-
non, Pennsylvania, USA; **account** [ə'kaunt] — **Konto; Grund; bequest**
[bɪ'kwest]; **late** — spät; **verstorben**), there is now another vacancy open
(gibt es jetzt eine weitere vakante Stelle: «ist jetzt eine weitere Vakanz
offen»; **vacancy** ['veɪk(ə)n(t)sɪ]) which entitles a member of the League
to a salary of 4 pounds a week for purely nominal services (welche
ein Mitglied der Liga zu einem Lohn von vier Pfund die Woche für rein
nominelle Dienste berechtigt; **entitle** [ɪn'taɪtl]; **salary** ['sæl(ə)ri]; **purely**
['pjuelɪ]; **nominal** ['nɔmin(ə)l]). All red-headed men who are sound
in body and mind (alle rothaarigen Männer, die in Kopf und Körper
gesund sind; **sound** — Geräusch; gesund) and above the age of twenty-
one years (und über 21 Jahre alt), are eligible (sind berechtigt; **eligible**
['elɪdʒəbl]). Apply in person on Monday, at eleven o'clock (bewerben
Sie sich persönlich am Montag, elf Uhr; **apply** [ə'plai]), to **Duncan Ross**,
at the offices of the League, 7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street (bei Duncan
Ross in den Geschäftsräumen der Liga, Popenhof 7, Flottenstraße; **offices**
— Büros, Geschäftsräume; **pope** — Papst, Pope; **court** [kɔ:t]).

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I took the paper from him and read as follows:

TO THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE: On account of the bequest of the
late Ezekiah Hopkins, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., there is now

another vacancy open which entitles a member of the League to a salary of 4 pounds a week for purely nominal services. All red-headed men who are sound in body and mind and above the age of twenty-one years, are eligible. Apply in person on Monday, at eleven o'clock, to Duncan Ross, at the offices of the League, 7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street.

“**What on earth does this mean** (*was, auf Erden = in aller Welt, bedeutet das; earth [ɜ:θ]*)?” I ejaculated after I had twice read over the extraordinary announcement (*ejakulierte ich = stieß ich heraus nachdem ich die außergewöhnliche Anzeige zweimal durchgelesen hatte; ejaculate [ɪ'dʒækjəleɪt]; twice [twais]; extraordinary [ɪk'strɔ:d(ə)n(ə)rɪ]; announcement [ə'naun(tsmənt)]*).

Holmes chuckled and wriggled in his chair (*lachte leise und wand sich in seinem Stuhl; chuckle ['tʃʌkl]; wriggle ['rɪgl]*), as was his habit when in high spirits (*wie seine Angewohnheit war, wenn /er/ in Hochlaune /war/; spirits — Geister; Laune*). "It is a little off the beaten track, isn't it (*es ist ein wenig abseits des befestigten Weges, ist es nicht = abseits des Normalen, nicht wahr?*)?" said he. "And now (*und nun*), Mr. Wilson, off you go at scratch (*beginnen Sie von Anfang an: «fort mit Ihnen vom Kratzer aus»*) and tell us all about yourself (*und erzählen uns alles über sich selbst*), your household (*Ihren Haushalt; household [,haʊshəuld]*), and the effect (*und den Effekt; effect [ɪ'fekt]*) which this advertisement had upon your fortunes (*welche diese Anzeige auf Ihr Schicksal hatte; fortune [,fɔ:tʃu:n]*). You will first make a note, Doctor

(Sie werden erst eine Notiz machen, Doktor), **of the paper and the date** (über die Zeitung und das Datum).“

“It is **The Morning Chronicle of April 27, 1890** (es ist die Morgen-chronik des 27. April 1890; *Chronicle* ['krɔnɪkl]). **Just two months ago** (nur zwei Monate her).”

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“What on earth does this mean?” I ejaculated after I had twice read over the extraordinary announcement.

Holmes chuckled and wriggled in his chair, as was his habit when in high spirits. “It is a little off the beaten track, isn’t it?” said he. “And now, Mr. Wilson, off you go at scratch and tell us all about yourself, your household, and the effect which this advertisement had upon your fortunes. You will first make a note, Doctor, of the paper and the date.”

“It is **The Morning Chronicle of April 27, 1890**. Just two months ago.”

“**Very good (sehr gut).** Now (nun), Mr. Wilson?”

“Well, it is just as I have been telling you (nun, es ist genau wie ich Ihnen erzählt habe; **well — gut; nun**), Mr. Sherlock Holmes,” said Jabez Wilson, mopping his forehead (sich die Stirn abwischend; *forehead* ['fɔː,hed]); “I have a small pawnbroker’s business at **Saxe-Coburg Square** (ich habe einen kleinen Pfandleiher-Geschäft am

Saxe-Coburg-Platz; *pawnbroker* ['pɔ:nbrəukə], **near the City** (nahe der City; *the City /of London/ — historischer Kern Londons*). It's not a very large affair (es ist keine sehr große Sache; *affair* [ə'feə] — *Affäre, Sache*), **and of late years it has not done more** (und in den letzten Jahren hat es nicht mehr gemacht) **than just give me a living** (als meinen Unterhalt zu ermöglichen: «mir nur ein Leben zu geben»). I used to be able to keep two assistants (ich war gewohnt, zwei Assistenten beschäftigen zu können; *assistant* [ə'sist(ə)nt]), **but now I only keep one** (aber jetzt behalte ich nur einen); **and I would have a job to pay him** (und ich hätte eine Arbeit = *Schwierigkeiten*, ihn zu bezahlen), **but that he is willing to come for half wages** (aber, dass er gewillt ist = *wenn er nicht gewillt wäre*, für den halben Lohn zu kommen; *wage* [weɪdʒ]), **so as to learn the business** (um das Geschäft zu lernen).“

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“Very good. Now, Mr. Wilson?”

“Well, it is just as I have been telling you, Mr. Sherlock Holmes,” said Jabez Wilson, mopping his forehead; “I have a small pawnbroker's business at Saxe-Coburg Square, near the City. It's not a very large affair, and of late years it has not done more than just give me a living. I used to be able to keep two assistants, but now I only keep one; and I would have a job to pay him, but that he is willing to come for half wages, so as to learn the business.”

“What is the name of this obliging youth (was ist der Name dieses entgegenkommenden Jugendlichen; *obliging* [ə’blaidʒɪŋ]; *youth* [ju:θ])?” asked Sherlock Holmes.

“His name is (sein Name ist) Vincent Spaulding, and he’s not such a youth, either (und er ist auch nicht so ein Jugendlicher mehr; *either* [‘aɪðə]). It’s hard to say his age (es ist schwer, sein Alter zu sagen = zu schätzen). I should not wish a smarter assistant (ich sollte = könnte mir keinen schlaueren Assistenten wünschen), Mr. Holmes; and I know very well that he could better himself (und ich weiß sehr gut, dass er sich = *seine Lage* verbessern könnte) and earn twice what I am able to give him (und das Doppelte von dem, was ich ihm geben kann, verdienen könnte; *earn* [ɜ:n]). But, after all, if he is satisfied (aber, wenn er letztendlich zufrieden ist; *satisfied* [,sætɪsfɪəd]), why should I put ideas in his head (warum sollte ich ihn auf Gedanken bringen: «Ideen in seinen Kopf tun»; *idea* [aɪ’dɪə])?“

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“What is the name of this obliging youth?” asked Sherlock Holmes.

“His name is Vincent Spaulding, and he’s not such a youth, either. It’s hard to say his age. I should not wish a smarter assistant, Mr. Holmes; and I know very well that he could better himself and earn twice what I am able to give him. But, after all, if he is satisfied, why should I put ideas in his head?”

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