

Pandora's Box 打开潘多拉的盒子

According to Greek myth, a **Titan** named **Prometheus** brought fire to mankind, an act that brought man much power. **Zeus**, the king of the gods, decided to hit back. He wanted to fool men into accepting a gift, a **menacing** present that would bring them misery. Fearful of his **rage**, men would accept nothing from him, however, so Zeus **devised** a **subtle** plan.

根据希腊神话，泰坦巨人普罗米修斯为人类带来火种，此举赋予人类强大力量。众神之王宙斯决定反击，他想要骗人类接受一份将会带来苦难的险恶礼物。然而人类因畏惧天神的愤怒，坚决不接受祂送的任何礼物，于是，宙斯精心策划了一项密谋。

Zeus created the first woman, **Pandora**, and **granted** her many unique characteristics. He also gave her a special box, but warned her not to open it. Pandora hid the box shortly after her marriage to **Epimetheus**, the brother of Prometheus. But one of her unfortunate characteristics was curiosity. She tried to resist **temptation**, but when she ultimately **gave in** and opened the box, she realized too late that she had made a terrible mistake. For inside, Zeus had placed all that made men **sorrowful**. Zeus didn't want men to live all their lives in **despair**, however, so he added hope to the box. Then, no matter how difficult their lives became, men would remain hopeful.

宙斯创造了第一个女人潘多拉，并赋予她许多特质。他同时也给她一个特殊的盒子，但是警告她不可以打开。潘多拉在嫁给普罗米修斯的弟弟艾比米修斯后，马上将盒子藏起来。然而，潘多拉令人遗憾的特质中，其中有项便是好奇心。她努力抵挡诱惑，不过最后还是屈服于好奇心，打开了盒子。那时她了解到自己犯下了可怕的错误，但为时已晚。因为在盒子里，宙斯放进一切会让人类痛苦的事物。尽管如此，宙斯并不想让人类一辈活在绝望之中，所以他把「希望」加进盒子里。这么一来，不管生活变得有多苦，人类依旧保有希望。

Today, to say that you've "opened a Pandora's box" means that you've begun a process that will have a bad **outcome**. And once it is done, you cannot reverse the effects, just as mankind was unable to put all the evil back into **Pandora's box**.

如今，「打开潘多拉的盒子」就意味着揭开将结恶果的历程，而且一旦做了，也无法逆转结果，正如同人类一样，无法将所有的邪恶放回潘多拉的盒子中。

-by Seraphim Davidson

Vocabulary

rage [redʒ] n. (一阵) 狂怒，盛怒

devise [dɪˈvaɪz] v. 设计；发明

temptation [tempˈteɪʃən] n. 诱惑

despair [dɪˈspeɪr] n. 绝望

outcome [ˈaʊtˌkʌm] n. 结果；结局

More Information

Titan [ˈtaɪtən] n. 【希神】 泰坦

Prometheus [prəˈmiθjəs] n. 【希神】 普罗米修斯

Zeus [zjuːz] n. 【希神】 宙斯（希腊神话中的主神）

menacing [ˈmenɪsɪŋ] adj. 险恶的

subtle [ˈsʌtl̩] adj. 狡猾的；精明的

Pandora [pænˈdɒrə] n. 【希神】 潘多拉（第一个来到人间的女人）

Epimetheus [ˌɛpəˈmiθiəs] n. 泰坦巨神厄庇米修斯

give in: 投降, 屈服 **abandon, surrender**

grant [grænt] v. 给予, 授予

sorrowful [ˈsɒrəfəl] adj. 悲伤的, 伤心的