

Settled Accounts

A young man at the age of thirty came to the police station in Vannes, a small provincial town in the western part of France. He said he had come to give a statement. He introduced himself as Tomáš Zahradník from the Czech Republic and reported that he had just shot his father. Without being invited, he sat down at the desk opposite a policeman and started to tell his story. The policeman began to take down his statement.

The man looked like he could hardly wait to get rid of the great pressure. He started to tell his story; determined to open his heart to someone at last. He told about his life up to now and about his feelings which he had bottled up for many years and which had resulted in this tragedy. He seemed to be decided to conclude this period of his life, which wasn't very happy and discouraged him to live happily and in a meaningful way. He didn't appear to be sorry for his act. He spoke about the murder of his father as if it was a matter of course, as if it was something that he had to do, something that was the natural concluding of events in his life. He didn't look upset; on the contrary, he was calm and mentally balanced, like a man who had just finished a piece of work which he had been working on purposefully for many years. His narration was clear and comprehensible, so it wasn't necessary to interrupt him with any other questions.

"I am from Znojmo, a town in the south of Moravia. My mother brought me up by herself from my age of four. My father walked out on us and disappeared abroad to look for a better life. He left us alone in, at that time, communist Czechoslovakia. For a long time, my mother didn't want to admit that Father had abandoned us. She wanted the authorities to search for her husband. She would rather have accepted his death. Only a few months later, Father let her know he was in France, thanks to his connections after running away from our Republic. It was then that mother realized he had left us without any respect.

The following years were really difficult for my mother. With the fact that she had an emigrant husband she became unreliable in the eyes of the State. Nothing changed for the better even after her divorce with Father. Her chance to get a better job was completely lost. She slaved as a char at several places to support me and to let me have an impression of a light-hearted life. After her daily exhausting work she took even more strenuous night cleaning. I used to wait for her at our neighbour's. The neighbour was a good aunt to me and I liked this way of life because she allowed me much more than my mother. I could even watch films for the adults.

The older I got, the worse it was for me to put up with my mother's night work. I understood that she slaved day and night for me to have a good time. I often lay in my bedroom alone waiting for my mother to come home late at night and I promised myself I would give her everything back one day. I wanted to repay her for the hard years she spent looking after

Vyrovnané účty

Mladý muž ve věku třiceti roků přišel na policejní stanici ve Vannes, malém provinčním městě v západní části Francie. Řekl, že přišel učinit výpověď. Představil se jako Tomáš Zahradník z České republiky a oznámil, že právě zastřelil svého otce. Aniž by byl vyzván, posadil se za stůl naproti jednomu policistovi a začal vyprávět svůj příběh. Policista začal sepisovat protokol.

Muž působil dojmem, jakoby se už nemohl dočkat, až ze sebe sejme velkou tíhu. Začal vyprávět svůj životní příběh odhodlaný konečně se někomu svěřit. Vyprávěl o svém dosavadním životě a o svých pocitech, které potlačoval mnoho roků a které vedly k této tragédii. Zdálo se, že je rozhodnutý uzavřít tuto etapu svého života, která nebyla velmi šťastná a která mu nedovolovala žít šťastně a smysluplně. Vypadalo to, že svého činu nelituje. Hovořil o vraždě svého otce jakoby to byla samozřejmost, jakoby to bylo něco, co musel udělat, něco, co bylo přirozeným završením událostí v jeho životě. Nevypadal rozrušeně, naopak byl klidný a duševně vyrovnaný jako člověk, který právě dokončil dílo, na kterém cílevědomě pracoval mnoho roků. Jeho vyprávění bylo jasné a vyčerpávající, takže nebylo nutné ho přerušovat žádnými dalšími otázkami.

„Pocházím ze Znojma, města na jihu Moravy. Moje matka mě vychovávala sama od mých čtyř roků. Můj otec nás opustil a zmizel do ciziny, aby hledal lepší život. Nechal nás samotné v tehdy komunistickém Československu. Moje matka si nechtěla dlouho připustit, že nás otec opustil. Chtěla po úřadech, aby po jejím muži pátraly. Byla by se raději smířila s jeho smrtí. Teprve po několika měsících jí otec dal vědět, že je ve Francii, díky svým stykům po útěku z naší republiky. Právě tehdy si matka skutečně uvědomila, že nás naprosto bezohledně opustil.

Následující roky byly pro mou matku opravdu těžké. S manželem emigrantem se stala pro stát nedůvěryhodnou osobou. Nic se nezměnilo k lepšímu dokonce ani po jejím rozvodu s otcem. Její šance sehnat lepší zaměstnání byla naprosto ztracená. Dřela jako uklízečka na několika místech, aby mě uživila a vytvořila pro mě dojem radostného života. Po své denní vyčerpávající práci přijímala ještě namáhavější noční úklid. Já jsem na ni čekával u naší sousedky. Byla pro mě hodnou tetou a tento způsob života se mi líbil, protože mi dovozovala mnohem víc než moje matka. Dokonce jsem se mohl dívat na filmy pro dospělé.

Čím jsem byl starší, tím hůře jsem se vyrovnával s matčinou noční prací. Chápal jsem, že dře ve dne v noci, abych se měl dobře. Často jsem lehával ve svém pokoji sám a čekal na matku, až přijde pozdě v noci domů, a sliboval jsem si, že jí všechno jednoho dne vrátím. Chtěl jsem jí vynahrudit těžké roky, které trávila péčí o mě. Věřil jsem tomu,



The man looked like he could hardly wait to get rid of the great pressure.



I understood that she slaved day and night for me to have a good time.

me. I believed what mother had told me – that it had been a long time since my father had died. I was even sorry that my mother hadn't found anyone that would love her as much as my father.

In time, I came to realize that a good education was necessary for me to get a good job and repay my mother all her care. While my friends from school were enjoying themselves, I was studying hard. I already knew that my father hadn't died but that he had abandoned me and my mother and, furthermore, he had burdened us with the problem of the emigration. I thought of my father whenever I was losing my strength to study or to overcome a crisis. My hate for father gave me the same great energy like my love for mother when I was a child. I graduated from grammar school with honours and was accepted for studies at a college owing to my excellent results in the entrance examination, despite the political blot on my reputation. As a college student I went through the Velvet Revolution in 1989. I engaged a lot politically and I sailed through this revolutionary year with the vision of an open frontier.

After the revolution everyone was a hero who had been repressed somehow by the previous regime. My mother improved her position by having gotten a job as a clerk in an office. Everything seemed to be all right and I graduated from the college the next year. As I was the best student in our class, I could choose a good job because the employers wrestled for me. My mother and I found a better flat. However, there was one thing my mother was worried about. I didn't want to hear about any girl. I always told my mother I didn't want to get married and that I was going to make it up to her for everything she had done. Mother told me that I didn't have to do anything like that. However, I fixed all my strong will to the idea that I had to compensate my mother for the hard years. Then my mother fell ill and doctors diagnosed cancer. Soon after that my mother died. After her death I had only one aim in my life – to destroy that man who hurt my mother so much. I knew from Mother that Father lived somewhere in France. My friend from school who lived and worked in France finally got me his address.

When I rang the bell on the door of his house, I was absolutely calm. The man who opened the door looked like me, except twenty years older. We stood there looking at each other for awhile. Then he stretched out his hand to touch my face. I didn't turn away although the feel of his touch burnt me. I asked him about his name to make sure of what I had already known. When I was quite sure that it was my father standing in front of me, I pulled out my gun and shot him. After that I came straight to you to explain and confess everything."

co mi matka řekla – že už uplynul dlouhý čas od té doby, co můj otec zemřel. Dokonce jsem litoval, že si matka nenašla někoho, kdo by ji miloval jako můj otec.

Během času jsem si postupně uvědomoval, že dobré vzdělání je pro mne nutné, abych jednou sehnal dobré zaměstnání a vynahradil matce veškerou její péči. Zatímco moji spolužáci si lehkomyšlně užívali, tvrdě jsem studoval. Už jsem věděl, že můj otec nezemřel, ale opustil mě a mou matku a navíc nám pověsil na krk břemeno emigrace. Myslel jsem na otce, kdykoli jsem ztrácel svou sílu studovat nebo překonat nějakou krizi. Moje nenávisť k otci mi dávala stejnou obrovskou sílu jako moje láska k matce, když jsem byl dítě. Maturoval jsem na gymnáziu s vyznamenáním a byl jsem přijat ke studiu na vysoké škole vzhledem k mým výborným výsledkům u přijímací zkoušky a navzdory politickému škraloupu. Jako vysokoškolák jsem prošel sametovou revolucí v roce 1989. Velmi jsem se politicky angažoval a proplul jsem tímto revolučním rokem s představou otevřených hranic.

Po revoluci byl hrdinou každý, kdo byl nějak pronásledován předchozím režimem. Moje matka sehnala práci úřednice v jedné kanceláři a zlepšila svoje postavení. Všechno se zdálo být v pořádku a já jsem promoval na vysoké škole v příštím roce. Protože jsem byl nejlepší student v našem ročníku, mohl jsem si vybrat dobré zaměstnání, neboť zaměstnavatelé se o mě přetahovali. Moje matka a já jsme si našli lepší byt. Avšak jedna věc dělala mé matce starosti. Nechtěl jsem slyšet o žádné dívce. Vždy jsem matce říkal, že se nechci ženit a že jí chci vynahradit všechno, co pro mě udělala. Moje matka mi říkala, že nemusím nic takového dělat. Avšak já jsem se upnul celou svou silnou vůlí na myšlenku, že jí musím vynahradit ty těžké roky. Potom moje matka onemocněla a lékaři diagnostikovali rakovinu. Brzy poté matka zemřela. Po její smrti jsem měl už jenom jediný životní cíl – zničit toho člověka, který tolik ublížil mé matce. Věděl jsem od matky, že otec žije někde ve Francii. Můj spolužák, který žil a pracoval ve Francii, mi konečně sehnal jeho adresu.

Když jsem zazvonil na zvonek na dveřích jeho domu, byl jsem naprosto klidný. Muž, který otevřel dveře, vypadal jako můj o dvacet roků starší obraz. Stáli jsme tam a dívali se chvíli na sebe. Potom natáhl ruku, aby se dotkl mé tváře. Neodvrátil jsem se, třebaže mě ten dotek pářil. Jen jsem se ho zeptal na jeho jméno, abych se ujistil o tom, co jsem už věděl. Když jsem si byl zcela jistý, že přede mnou stojí můj otec, vytáhl jsem pistoli a vystřelil na něho. Potom jsem šel přímo k vám, abych všechno vysvětlil a ke všemu se přiznal.“



Then he stretched out his hand to touch my face.

Activities:

2.1 Listen to the story and say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

1. Tom reported he had just shot his mother.
2. He was very sorry for his act.
3. The man's narration was rather confusing.
4. Tom's father disappeared abroad when Tom was 6 years old.
5. Tom's mother didn't believe her husband had abandoned her.
6. The situation improved for Tom's mother after she divorced.
7. It was impossible for her to get a good job.
8. The neighbour didn't let Tom watch films for the adults.
9. At first Tom believed his father had died.
10. Tom didn't want his mother to find another husband.
11. Tom didn't study properly at secondary school.
12. Tom started to hate his father after he had found out he had abandoned him and his mother.
13. Tom graduated from grammar school with honours.
14. Tom graduated from college in 1989.
15. Tom's mother got a job as a shop assistant in a department store.
16. Tom was going out with a nice girl and he wanted to marry her.
17. Tom wanted to make up to his mother for everything that she had done for him.
18. After Tom's mother had died he forgave his father.
19. Tom got his father's address from his uncle living in France.
20. Tom and his father didn't take after one another at all.
21. Seeing his father, Tom was calm and determined to do what he had decided.
22. Tom shot at his father after he had made sure it was really him.
23. Tom came to the police station to confess the murder quite consensually.

2.2 Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Tomáš Zahradník come to the police station in Vannes?
2. What did he look like?
3. What town does he come from?
4. Why did Tom's father disappeared abroad?
5. Was it before or after the Velvet Revolution?
6. Which country did Tom's father live in?
7. Why was the situation for Tom's mother so difficult?
8. How did she make their living?
9. Who looked after Tom while she was working at night?
10. When did Tom decide to give his mother everything back one day?
11. Why did Tom study so hard?
12. What did Tom hope to do after the Velvet Revolution in 1989?
13. Did Tom's mother want him to make up to her for everything she had done for him?
14. What was Tom's only aim after his mother had died?
15. How did he get his father's address?
16. How did Tom feel when he saw his father at last?
17. What did his father do?
18. At which moment did Tom decide to shoot him?

What would you do if you were Tom?

Write a short composition saying what you think Tom should have done and how he could have changed his attitude to his father and his future life. Do you think that his solution was right? Justify your opinion.

Grammar:

Object + infinitive after “want” and “wait for”:

Vazba předmětu s infinitivem po slovesech “want” a “wait for”:

Look at these examples:

She **wanted the authorities to search** for her husband.

I often lay in my bedroom alone **waiting for my mother to come** home late at night.

Subject + verb + infinitive after “appear” and “seem”:

Vazba podmětu s infinitivem po slovesech “appear” a “seem”:

Look at these examples:

He seemed to be decided to conclude this period of his life.

He didn't appear to be sorry for his act at all.

Everything seemed to be all right.

For + object + infinitive can be used for **purpose clauses** with different subjects.

Vazba for + předmět + infinitiv může být použita pro účelové věty s nestejnými podměty.

Look at this example:

I understood that she slaved day and night **for me to have** a good time.

2.3 Complete the questions. Use “do you want me to...?” with one of these verbs + any other necessary words:

shut wait help show lend tell

1. Shall I leave the door open or do you want ?
2. Do you know how to use the camera or do you want ?
3. Can I go now or do you want ?
4. Do you know the story or do you want ?
5. Have you got a pen or do you want ?
6. Are you going to do this work by yourself or do you want ?

2.4 Complete the sentences with one of these verbs:

be work can come be disappoint understand

1. Jim, what are you doing here? I'm waiting for my wife
2. Sue is singing. She seems in a good humour today.
3. Tom looked rather confused at the meeting. He didn't seem the situation at all.
4. There's a light in Jack's window. He still seems
5. You don't look very happy. You appear by the message.
6. Why are you buying so many flowers? I'm buying them for my girlfriend happy.
7. Why is Mr. Brown making dinner? He's making it for his wife to have a rest.

Grammar:

We use **present participles** to express two things that happen at the same time or when one action happens during another action.

Přítomné přechodníky používáme k vyjádření dvou činností, které se dějí současně, nebo když jeden děj se odehrává během dalšího děje.

Look at these examples:

I often lay in my bedroom alone **waiting for** my mother to come home late at night.

I wanted to repay her the hard years she spent **looking after** me.

When one action happens before another action, we use **past participles**.

Když jeden děj předbíhá dalšímu ději, užíváme **přechodník minulý**.

Look at this example:

My mother improved her position **having gotten** a job as a clerk in an office.

2.5 Make one sentence from two using an –ing clause:

Example: Jim slipped. He was getting off a bus. Jim slipped getting off a bus.

1. Alice was having dinner. She watched a film on TV.
2. We got stuck in a traffic jam. We were coming back from holiday.
3. Jack was asked about his income. He felt embarrassed.
4. Rob was in the hotel bar. He was having a drink.
5. The tourists walked round the town. They looked at the sights and took photographs.
6. Ann felt very tired. She went to bed early.
7. That man ran out of the house. He was shouting.
8. Stan hurt his arm. He was playing tennis.

2.6 Make sentences using present or past participles (doing, having done):

1. I don't know his address. So I can't contact him.
2. He has read about dinosaurs a lot. So he can tell you about them.
3. Sue had spent nearly all her money in the first shop. So she couldn't afford to go on trips with us.
4. George thought Jane might be interested in the collection of art. He took her to the gallery.
5. The children have eaten a heap of sweets. Now they feel sick.
6. I had already seen the film twice. I didn't want to go to the cinema with my friends.
7. Tom is unemployed now. He hasn't got much money.
8. I had been introduced to Jane's parents. So I was allowed to take Jane to a party.

Grammar:

Gerund after prepositions:

Gerundium po předložkách:

Without being invited, he sat down at the desk opposite a policeman and started to tell his story.

Only a few months later, Father let her know he was in France, thanks to his connections

after running away from our Republic.

2.7 Complete the sentences so that they mean the same as the sentences in brackets:

1. (Why is it useful to have good friends?) What are the advantages of ?
2. (James won't get the job. He has no chance.) James has no chance of
3. (I didn't come to see my brother. I called him instead.) Instead of
4. (They left the flat secretly. They didn't tell any of their friends.) They left the flat without
5. (Tom thinks that speaking about problems is better than being quiet.) Tom prefers speaking about problems to
6. (We continued on our way but we were really exhausted.) We continued on our way in spite of
7. (You were late coming to the meeting, weren't you? Did you apologize to the people there?)
Did you apologize for
8. (She had a bad cold. She needed to have a hot drink before she went to bed.)
Before

Grammar:

We use **would rather** to say what somebody wants in a particular situation (not in general).

After **would rather** we use **the infinitive without to**. When we want somebody else to do something, we say **I'd rather you did** something. For the past wishes we use **would rather have done**; for somebody else **I'd rather you had done** something.

Vazba **would rather** vyjadřuje naše přání v určité situaci (nikoli obecně). Po **would rather** používáme **infinitiv bez to**. Když požadujeme, aby někdo jiný něco udělal, říkáme **I'd rather you did** something. Pro přání minulá užíváme **I'd rather have done**; pro požadavek vůči někomu jinému užíváme tvar **I'd rather you had done** something.

Look at this example:

She **would rather have accepted** his death.

2.8 Complete sentences using I'd rather do (have done) or I'd rather you did (had done):

1. The Browns arrived much earlier than I expected. You were still out, so I had to make dinner by myself. I'd rather you (help me to prepare dinner).
2. I'm so busy today. I have to write a lot of business letters now and you are disturbing me. I'd rather you (go out for an hour).
3. I'm tired. I'd rather (not go out) this evening, if you don't mind.
4. The film was really boring. I'd rather (go home and watch football on TV).
5. "Shall I stay here?" "I'd rather you (come with us)."
6. "The Blacks were disappointed by the news, weren't they?"
"Yes, they were. I'd rather you (not tell them anything.)"
7. Do you want me to go now or would you rather I (stay here and wait for Jane)?
8. This is a private letter addressed to me. I'd rather you (not to read it).

Grammar:

We use **come to + infinitive** to say that an action developed gradually.

Vazba **come to + infinitiv** vyjadřuje postupné rozvíjení děje.

Look at this example:

In time, I **came to realize** that a good education was necessary for me to get a good job one day.

We use **used to + infinitive** to say that someone did something often in the past but he doesn't do it any more.

Vazba **used to + infinitiv** vyjadřuje, že někdo něco dělával dříve často, ale teď už to nedělá.

Look at this example:

I **used to wait for** her at our neighbour's.

We use **do/did + infinitive** to emphasize an activity.

Vazbu **do/did + infinitiv** užíváme ke zdůraznění nějakého děje.

Look at this example:

Just then **did** mother **realize** he had left us without any respect.

2.9 Use the verbs in brackets to rephrase the following sentences:

1. At first I didn't admit to having any problems. Later I knew our marriage wasn't very good. (realize)
2. Did you often go to the forest? (use)
3. Yesterday Jack explained all the problems to us at last. At that moment we really understood our difficult situation. (did)
4. I didn't often write letters to my friends. But now I like sending emails to them. (use)
5. Jack often helped his parents take care of their house and garden when he lived in the village. However, he moved to town a year ago, so he can't help them so much any more. (use)
6. At first I didn't like my new neighbour. But later I realized he had very good character. (admire)
7. "Where's the letter, Jane? You should have written it yesterday afternoon."
"I swear I really wrote it, Mr. Smith. But I don't know where I put it." (did)

Grammar:

We use **the past continuous** to say that somebody was doing something at a certain time or for a certain amount of time.

Minulý průběhový čas vyjadřuje, že někdo něco dělal v určitém časovém okamžiku či po určitý čas v minulosti.

Look at this example:

We **were looking at** each other **for a while**.

We also use **the past continuous** for two different activities being done by two different people at the same time.

Minulý průběhový čas také vyjadřuje, že dvě různé činnosti prováděné dvěma lidmi probíhají zároveň.

Look at this example:

While **my friends** from school **were enjoying** themselves, **I was studying** hard.

We often use **the past simple** and **the past continuous** together to say that an action happened in the middle of another one.

Často užíváme **minulý čas prostý a průběhový** společně, abychom vyjádřili, že jeden děj se uskutečnil v rámci jiného děje.

Look at this example:

I **thought of** my father whenever I **was losing** my strength to study or to overcome a crisis.

2.10 Put the verbs into the correct form - past continuous or past simple:

1. My aunt Ann (look out of) the window when I (arrive).
2. "What (you/do) between 2 and 4 p.m. yesterday?"
"I (work) in my office."
3. "..... (you/go out) last night?"
"No, I (be) too tired."
4. "Was Mrs. Black at the party last Saturday?"
"Yes, she (wear) a really nice dress."
5. How many cakes (you/take) when she (not/look)?
6. Where (your son/play) while you (repair) your car?
7. When I (meet) Jane yesterday, she (leave) Jack's flat.
8. "What (you/do) all afternoon yesterday?"
"While my husband (write) some business letters, I (study) English."

Grammar:

Do you understand all **the phrasal verbs** in these sentences? :

My mother **brought me up** by herself from my age of four.

My father **walked out on** us and he disappeared abroad **to look for** a better life.

I wanted to repay her the hard years she spent **looking after** me.

I asked him about his name **to make sure** of what I had already known.

I always told my mother I didn't want to get married and that I was going **to make it up to her for** everything she had done.

The older I was, the worse I **put up with** my mother's night work.

I **thought of** my father whenever I was losing my strength to study or to overcome a crisis.

The policeman began **to take down** his statement.

The man looked like he could hardly wait **to get rid of** the pressure.

He started to tell his story; determined to open his heart to someone at last. He told about his life up to now and about his feelings which he **had bottled up** for many years and which had resulted in this tragedy.

I **didn't turn away** although the feel of his touch burnt me.

2.11 Complete the sentences with the phrasal verbs mentioned above:

1. You should that your brake is all right before you leave on holiday.
2. "When did you on your husband?" "Last autumn. I wasn't able to with his manners any longer."
3. He was up by his old aunt in a village.
4. "What are you doing here?"
"I'm my glasses. I know they're here somewhere."
5. I couldn't of my old habits.
6. She up her anger and away from him.
7. I of you very often when you were far away.
8. She's a devoted mother. Nobody could after the children better.
9. I promise, I'll you up for all the good you've done for me.
10. Which of the policemen has down the statement of that prisoner?