

Lesson 4 - The Double Life of Alfred Bloggs

Why did Alf want a white-collar job?

ðiiz deiz piip'l huu duu mæ'ny'l
wæk of'n rəsiiv faa moo ma'nii
ðæ'n piip'l huu wæk in ofisiz

piip'l huu wæk in ofisiz aa
friikw'ntlii rəfəəd tuuw əz wait
ko'lə wækəz foo ðə simp'l riiz'n
ðæt ðei yuuzəyə'lii wær ə ko'lə
'nd tai tə gou tə wæk

satʒ iz hyuum'n neitʃə ðæt ə
greit me'nii piip'l aar of'n wi'liŋ tuu
sækrifais hai·ə pei foo ðə
privi'lidʒ ov bika'miŋ wait ko'lə
wækəz

ðis kæ'n giv raiz tuu kyuu·ərii·əs
sitʃəweif'nz æz it did i'n ðə keis
əv æ'lfrid blogz huu wækð əz ə
dastmə'n foo ðii e'lsmii·ə
koopəreiʃ'n

we'n hii got mərid æ'lf woz tuuw
e'mbærist tə sei e'nipiŋ tuu hiz
waif əbaut hiz dʒob

hii si'mplii to'ld həə ðæt hii wækt
foo ðə koopəreiʃ'n

evrii mooniŋ hii left hou'm drest
in ə smaat blæk suut

ðe'n hii tʃei'ndʒd i'ntuu ouvəroo'lz
æ'nd spe'nt ðə nekst eit au·əz æz
ə dastmə'n
bifoo rətəə'niŋ hou'm ət nait hii
tuk ə jau·ə æ'nd tʃei'ndʒd bæk
intuu his suut

æ'lf did ðis foo ouvə tuu yii·əz
æ'nd hiz felou dastmə'n kept hiz
siikrit

æ'lf's waif həz nevə diskavəd ðæt
jii mərid ə dastmə'n æ'nd jii
nevə wi'l foor æ'lf həz dʒast
fau'nd ə'naðə dʒob

hii wi'l suu'n bii wækiniŋ in ən ofis

hii wi'l bii əə'niŋ ou'nlii haaf əz matʃ
əz hii yuus tuu

bat hii fii'lz ðæt ðis rais i'n steitəs
iz we'l wæp ðə los əv ma'nii

fro'm nauw o'n hii wi'l weer ə
suut oo'l dei æ'nd aðəz wi'l koo'l
hi'm mistə blogs not æ'lf

These days, people who do manual work often receive far more money than people who work in offices. People who work in offices are frequently referred to as "white-collar workers" for the simple reason that they usually wear a collar and tie to go to work. Such is human nature, that a great many people are often willing to sacrifice higher pay for the privilege of becoming white-collar workers. This can give rise to curious situations, as it did in the case of Alfred Bloggs who worked as a dustman for the Ellesmere Corporation.

When he got married, Alf was too embarrassed to say anything to his wife about his job. He simply told her

that he worked for the Corporation. Every morning, he left home dressed in a smart black suit. He then changed into overalls and spent the next eight hours as a dustman. Before returning home at night. He took a shower and changed back into his suit. Alf did this for over two years and his fellow dustmen kept his secret Alf's wife has never discovered that she married a dustman and she never will, for Alf has just found another job. He will soon be working in an office. He will be earning only half as much as he used to, but he feels that his rise in status is well worth the loss of money. From now on, he will wear a suit all day and others will call him 'Mr. Bloggs', not 'Alf'.

New words and expressions

Write	Say	Class	Chinese
collar	ko'lə	adjective	衣领
corporation	koopəreɪʃ'n	noun	公司
dustman	dastmən	noun	清洁工
manual	mæ'nyəl	adjective	体力的
overalls	ouvəroʊ'lz	noun	工作服
privilege	prɪvɪlədʒ	verb	好处
sacrifice	sækrɪfaɪs	noun	牺牲，献出
secret	si:krit	noun	秘密
shower	ʃau·ə	noun	淋浴
status	steɪtəs	noun	地位

如今，从事体力劳动的人的收入一般要比坐办公室的人高出许多。坐办公室的之所以常常被称作“白领工人”，就是因为他们通常是穿着硬领白衬衫，系着领带去上班。许多人常常情愿放弃较高的薪水以换取做白领工人的殊荣，此乃人之常情。而这常常会引起种种奇怪的现象，在埃尔斯米尔公司当清洁工的艾尔弗雷德·布洛斯就是一个例子。

艾尔弗结婚时，感到非常难为情，而没有将自己的职业告诉妻子。他只说在埃尔斯米尔公司上班。每天早晨，他穿上一身漂亮的黑色西装

离家上班，然后换上工作服，当 8 个小时清洁工。晚上回家前，他洗个淋浴，重新换上那身黑色西服。两年多以来，艾尔弗一直这样，他的同事也为他保守秘密。艾尔弗的妻子一直不知道她嫁给了一个清洁工，而且她永远也不会知道了，因为艾尔弗已找到薪职，不久就要坐办公室里工作了。他将来挣的钱只有他现在的一半。不过他觉得，地位升高了，损失点儿钱也值得。从此，艾尔弗可以一天到晚穿西服了。别人将称呼他为“布洛格斯先生”，而不再叫他“艾尔弗”了。