

世界文學名著之一

# 青春

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**YOUTH**

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## YOUTH

This could have occurred nowhere but in England, where men and sea interpenetrate, so to speak<sup>1</sup> — the sea entering into the life of most men, and the men knowing something or everything about the sea, in the way of<sup>2</sup> amusement, of travel, or of bread-winning.

We were sitting round a mahogany table that reflected the bottle, the claret-glass, and our faces as we leaned on our elbows. There was a director of companies, an accountant, a lawyer, Marlow, and myself. The director had been a Conway boy, the accountant had served four years at sea, the lawyer—a fine crusted<sup>3</sup> Tory, High Churchman,<sup>4</sup> the best of old fellows, the

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1. so to speak——if I may say thus 若使我可以這樣說。

2. in the way of——as regards 關於，

3. crusted——inveterate 根深蒂固的；頑梗的。

4. High Church——party

## 青 春

這件事只能發生於英國，別的地方都不行，因為在英國，人同海可以說是互相貫穿——海走進許多人的生活裏面去，人們也都知道一些，也許完全曉得，海上的娛樂，海上的旅行，或者海上掙麵包的生涯。

我們圍着一個烏木棹子，牠反映出酒瓶，紅葡萄酒酒杯，同我們的臉孔，當我們倚肘而坐。一個是公司經理，一個是會計員，一個是律師，一個叫做馬羅，還有一個是我。公司經理從前是昆威船上的水手，會計員在海上服務過四年，律師——一個值得敬

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attaching much importance to ceremonies and symbols 英國注重儀式派的教會。

soul of honour—had been chief officer in the P. & O. service in the good old days when mail-boats were square-rigged at least on two masts, and used to come down the China Sea before a fair monsoon with stun'sails<sup>1</sup> set alow and aloft. We all began life in the merchant service. Between the five of us there was the strong bond of the sea, and also the fellowship of the craft, which no amount of enthusiasm for yachting, cruising, and so on<sup>2</sup> can give, since one is only the amusement of life and the other is life itself.

Marlow (at least I think that is how he spelt his name)<sup>3</sup> told the story, or rather the chronicle, of a voyage:—

“Yes, I have seen a little of the Eastern seas; but what I remember best is my first voyage there. You fellows know there are those voyages that seem ordered for the illustration of life, that might stand for a symbol of existence. You fight, work, sweat, nearly kill yourself, sometimes do kill yourself, trying to ac-

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1. **stun'sails**——studding sail; light sail set at the side of a principal square sail in free wind 補助帆。

2. **and so on**——and more of the similar kind 和其他同類的事情。

愛的根深蒂固的保守黨，高派教會信徒，是一個極好的老頭子，一位知恥的君子——曾經當俾·奧公司船上的大副，在從前好日子時候，那時郵船最少有兩隻桅裝了橫帆，常乘一陣合式的時令風走下中國海，低處高處都安有許多補助帆。我們大家起始都是靠着商船謀生。所以在我們五個人裏面，有海這個堅固的關係，還有同行的友誼，這種親切之感是對於遊艇，航行取樂和其他海上玩意兒的任何熱心都不能給的，因為一個只是人生的遊戲，而那個却是人生本身的事情。

馬羅（最少我相信他自己是這樣子拚他的名字）說出某一次航行的故事，或者還是說某一次航行史比較妥當些：——

‘是的，我也見過一些東半球的海；但是我記得最清楚的是我第一次到那裏去的航行。你們諸位知道

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3. Marlow——這個字本來應當拚做 Marlowe 後面這個 e 字却沒有音，粗人拚這個字時常把牠省略了，所以這裏這樣說。

4. to stand for——to be the representative of 代表，



comply something—and you can't. Not from any fault of yours. You simply can do nothing, neither great nor little—not a thing in the world—not even marry an old maid, or get a wretched 600-ton cargo of coal to its port of destination.

“It was altogether a memorable affair. It was my first voyage to the East, and my first voyage as second mate; it was also my skipper's<sup>1</sup> first command. You'll admit it was time.<sup>2</sup> He was sixty if a day;<sup>3</sup> a little man, with a broad, not very straight back, with bowed shoulders and one leg more bandy than the other, he had that queer twisted-about<sup>4</sup> appearance you see so often in men who work in the fields. He had a nut-cracker face—chin and nose trying to come together over a sunken mouth—and it was framed in iron-gray fluffy hair, that looked like a chin-strap of cotton-wool sprinkled with coal-dust. And he had blue eyes in that old face of his, which were amazingly like a boy's, with that candid expression some quite common men

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1. **skipper**——captain of ship, especially of small trading ship 船主, 特別指小商船的船主。

2. **time**——a period of time as favorable for something 宜於某件事的時期；適當的時候。

有些航行好像是上天安排好來做人生的解釋，牠簡直可以說是人生的象徵。你奮鬥，你工作，你出汗，你幾乎把自己殺死，有時的確把你自己殺死，只是爲着要幹一件事情——而結果你不能成功。並不是因爲你有什麼錯處。你無非什麼也做不好，無論大小的事情——簡直世界上沒有一件事你能夠做——甚至於連娶一個老處女，或者把無聊的六百噸煤運到原地的港口都辦不到。

‘那次航行從頭到尾是個值得紀念的事情。那是我第一次到東方去的航行，又是我第一次當二副的航行；又是我船主第一次帶船。你們會承認這是個極有意思的時候。他最少也有六十歲了；一個身材矮小的人，背寬大，却不很直，肩膀彎着，一隻腿比那隻腿更望外曲，他有那種絞扭的形態，在田地上工作的人們所常俱有的。他有一副像破堅果的傢伙的臉孔——下巴同鼻子想相遇，把陷進去的嘴遮住——臉的四圍有絨毛一樣的鐵灰色鬚髮，那好像灑有煤灰的棉織圍巾。他這副古老臉孔裏有一雙藍色的眼睛，出奇地活像一個小孩的眼睛，俱有一種坦白的神情；有些很普

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3. He was sixty, if a day ——假使我們承認他活過一天，我們就得承認他是六十歲了。這無非是一種加重語氣。

4. twisted-about ——distorted; warped 扭歪的。

preserve to the end of their days by a rare internal gift of simplicity of heart and rectitude of soul. What induced him to accept me was a wonder. I had come out of a crack<sup>1</sup> Australian clipper<sup>2</sup>, where I had been third officer, and he seemed to have a prejudice against crack clippers as aristocratic and high-toned<sup>3</sup>. He said to me, 'You know, in this ship you will have to work.' I said I had to work in every ship I had ever been in. 'Ah, but this is different, and you gentlemen out of them big ships; ..... but there! I dare say you will do<sup>4</sup>. Join to-morrow.

"I joined to-morrow. It was twenty-two years ago; and I was just twenty. How time passes! It was one of the happiest days of my life. Fancy! Second mate for the first time—a really responsible officer! I wouldn't have thrown up my new billet for a fortune. The mate looked me over carefully. He was also an old chap, but of another stamp. He had a Roman<sup>5</sup> nose, a snow-white, long beard, and his name was Mahon;

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1. **crack**——of superior excellence; having qualities to be boasted 優美的；值得誇口的。

2. **clipper**——a kind of fast-sailing vessel, with a sharp bow 船首尖小的輕快船。

通的人們靠着天生難得的純潔心地同正直胸懷能夠一直到死都保存有這種情調。什麼使他肯僱我當船員，的確是件奇怪的事。我剛從一條走奧斯大利亞洲的上等快帆船出來，我在那裏當三副，他對於上等快帆船好像有個偏見，認為是貴族的，時髦的。他對我說，‘你知道，在這條船裏，你得工作。’我說我一向到無論那一條船都得工作。‘啊，可是這裏的工作跟你所說的不同，而且你們這班從大船出來的先生們……好罷！我敢說你幹得下。明天來加入罷。’

‘我第二天去加入。這是二十二年前的事情；那時我纔二十歲。時間過得多麼快呀！那是我一生裏最快樂日子裏的一個。請想一想！第一次當二副——一個真真有責任的職務！我不肯把我這個新任命狀拿去換百萬家產。大副仔細地把我打量一下。他也是個老頭子，但是另外一個派頭。他有羅馬人的高鼻子，

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3. high-toned——elevated; fashionable 尊榮的；時髦的。

4. to do—to serve the purpose 合用。

5. Roman nose——羅馬人鼻梁特別高，高到連高鼻子的西洋人都覺牠太高了。

but he insisted that it should be pronounced Mann. He was well connected; yet there was something wrong with his luck, and he had never got on.<sup>1</sup>

“As to the captain, he had been for years in coasters, then in the Mediterranean, and last in the West Indian trade. He has never been round the Capes. He could just write a kind of sketchy<sup>2</sup> hand, and didn’t care for writing at all. Both were thorough good seamen of course, and between those two old chaps I felt like a small boy between two grandfathers.

“The ship also was old. Her name was the Judea. Queer name, isn’t it? She belonged to a man Wilmer, Wilcox—some name like that; but he has been bankrupt and dead these twenty years or more, and his name don’t matter. She had been laid up in Shadwell basin for ever so long. You may imagine her state. She was all rust, dust, grime—soot aloft, dirt on deck. To me it was like coming out of a palace into a ruined cottage. She was about 400 tons, had a primitive windlass, wooden latches to the doors, not a bit of brass about her, and a big square stern. There was on it, below her name in big letters, a lot of scrollwork, with

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1. to get on—to succeed; prosper 成功；諸事順利。

雪白的長鬍子，他的名字是馬洪，但是他堅持這個字該念做冒納。他的親友很有權勢；然而他的命運總不好，他老沒有成功。

‘至于船主，他有許多年頭都在海岸上來往的小船裏，後來到地中海去，最後進走西印度羣島的商船。他從來沒有繞過好望角。他只能寫出麻糊的字，根本就不大注意寫字。這兩位當然都是極好的海員，夾在這兩個老漢之中，我覺得像一個小孩子跟兩個當祖父的人們一起。

‘船也是古老的。牠的名字是猶太。這是一個奇怪的名字嗎？牠屬於一個叫做維爾麥的，也許是叫做維爾可克斯——大概總是這類的名字罷；但是他破產了，死了，已經有二十年了，或者還要多些，他的名字也是無關緊要的。這隻船起先在沙德衛爾小池塘裏攔了不少時候。你們可以想像出牠的情形。牠滿身都是鐵銹，塵埃，垢膩——上面有煙泥，船面有污穢東西。對於我，這好像從一座皇宮出來，走進一所頹廢

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2. sketchy——lacking detail or finish 缺乏精細。

the gilt off, and some sort of<sup>1</sup> a coat of arms, with the motto 'Do or Die' underneath. I remember it took my fancy<sup>2</sup> immensely. There was a touch<sup>3</sup> of romance in it, something that made me love the old thing—something that appealed to my youth!

"We left London in ballast—sand ballast—to load a cargo of coal in a northern port for Bangkok. Bangkok! I thrilled. I had been six years at sea, but had only seen Melbourne and Sydney, very good places, charming places in their way<sup>4</sup>—but Bangkok!

"We worked<sup>5</sup> out of the Thames under canvas, with a North Sea pilot on board. His name was Jermyn, and he dodged all day long about the galley drying his handkerchief before the stove. Apparently he never slept. He was a dismal man, with a perpetual tear sparkling at the end of his nose, who either had been in trouble, or was in trouble, or expected to be in trouble—couldn't be happy unless something went wrong. He mistrusted my youth, my common-sense, and my

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1. some sort of — something like to 頗像……的東西。

2. to take one's fancy — to please one 稱他的心；使他悅意。

3. touch — tinge; trace 色澤；痕跡。

的茅屋。牠是四百噸左右的船，有一個簡陋的絞盤車，門門都是木做的，整個船沒有一點銅，有一個四方形的大船尾。船尾上用大字寫出牠的名字，下面有許多雲形裝飾，泥金已經脫落了，還畫有某種徽章，底下有一句銘語！‘工作，否則滅亡。’我記得我非常喜歡這句話。這裏面含有浪漫的情緒，有一種色彩使我愛這個老東西——有一種色彩感動了我少年的心境。

‘我們離開倫敦時船上帶個鎮船重物——沙包——去北方一個海港裝上煤運到盤谷去。盤谷！我高興極了。我在海上已經有六年了，但是只見到墨爾本同悉德尼，很好的地方，也各有牠的妙處——但是怎麼能比得上盤谷呢！

‘我們揚帆乘着順風駛出泰晤士河，有一個北海的引港者在我們船上。他的名字是澤明，他整天躲在船上廚房裏面，向着爐火烘乾他的手巾。他分明沒有睡覺。他是一個悲愁的人，總有一粒眼淚掛在他鼻子尖端發光着，他也許曾經遇到災難，或者正在災難之中，或者預料將有災難來臨——不會高興，除非有什麼亂子出來。他瞧不起我的年青，我的常識，同我的

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4. in their way——in their special manner各有其(好處)。

5. to work——to move or progress laborously 費勁地前進。



seamanship, and made a point<sup>1</sup> of showing it in a hundred little ways. I dare say he was right. It seems to me I knew very little then, and I know not much more now; but I cherish a hate for that Jermyn to this day.

“We were a week working up as far as Yarmouth Roads, and then we got into a gale—the famous October gale of twenty-two years ago. It was wind, lightning, sleet, snow, and a terrific sea. We were flying light, and you may imagine how bad it was when I tell you we had smashed bulwarks and a flooded deck. On the second night she shifted her ballast into the lee bow, and by that time we had been blown off somewhere on the Dogger Bank. There was nothing for it<sup>2</sup> but go below with shovels and try to right her, and there we were in that vast hold, gloomy like a cavern, the tallow dips<sup>3</sup> stuck and flickering on the beams, the gale howling above, the ship tossing about like mad on her side<sup>4</sup>; there we all were, Jermyn, the captain,

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1. to make a point of—to be particular about 非常留心；堅持。

2. nothing for it but——no way of meeting the case but 沒有其他對付法子，只好……。