

我赤身出于母胎，也必赤身回去。赏赐的是耶和华，取走的也是耶和华。

——《约伯记》

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

——Job

圣经

名言名典

主编 王文明



湖北长江出版集团
湖北教育出版社

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(鄂)新登字 02 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

圣经名言名典:英汉对照/王文明主编.

—武汉:湖北教育出版社,2009.1

ISBN 978 - 7 - 5351 - 5143 - 8

I. 圣…

II. 王…

III. ①英语 - 汉语 - 对照读物②圣经 - 通俗读物

IV. H319.4:B

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2008)第 083624 号

出版发行 湖北教育出版社

邮政编码 430015 电 话 027 - 83619605

地 址 武汉市青年路 277 号

网 址 <http://www.hbedup.com>

经 销 新 华 书 店

印 刷 武汉中远印务有限公司

地 址 武汉市硚口区长丰大道特 6 号

开 本 787mm × 1092mm 1/16

印 张 20.75

字 数 365 千字

版 次 2009 年 1 月第 1 版

印 次 2009 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978 - 7 - 5351 - 5143 - 8

印 数 1 - 5 000

定 价 49.80 元

如印刷、装订影响阅读,承印厂为你调换

序

一

要学习英语，了解西方文化，《圣经》是逃不开、躲不掉的。至少，不了解西方人常引用的《圣经》中的事件、人物、典故和说法，会令你如坠五里雾中。

一种文化要向外渗透和扩大影响，很大程度上是通过这种文化的代表作品或经典作品，而《圣经》正是西方文化中的代表和经典。

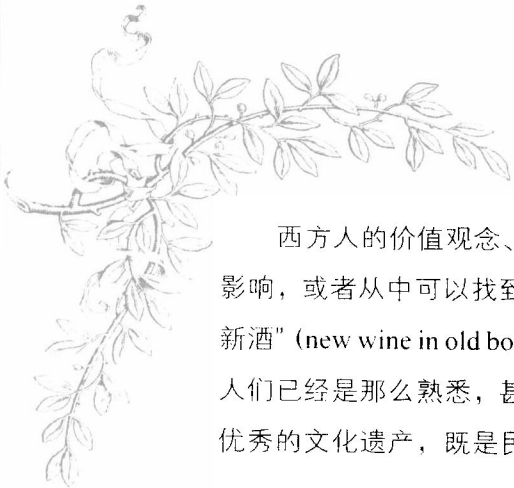
人们要了解和走进一种文化，方法很多，但比较而言，最简便的方法是了解这种文化的为数不多的经典。

一种文化的少数几部经典是这种文化中根系最发达、枝叶最广阔、树冠最高大的林中标志性大树，找到这棵大树就找到了那片林子，进林子的路也就好走了。

二

《圣经》在西方的影响可说是无所不在。单就文学和艺术而言，举其大者，不了解《圣经》中的名篇、典故和名言，弥尔顿、莎士比亚、拜伦的许多诗歌，拉斐尔、米开朗琪罗的绘画和雕塑，你就无法欣赏。





西方人的价值观念、生活习俗和举止谈吐，都常常反映出《圣经》的影响，或者从中可以找到根据。岂止西方，像中国人耳熟能详的“旧瓶装新酒”(new wine in old bottles)和“披着羊皮的狼”(wolf in sheep's clothing)，人们已经是那么熟悉，甚至不觉得它们原来出自《圣经》了。可见，真正优秀的文化遗产，既是民族的，更是世界的。

三

在注重素质教育的时代，我们想为大、中学生和其他读者提高西方文化素养、更好地学习英语做些基础性工作，于是我们组织编写了此书。但读者也许会问，坊间已经有那么多讲《圣经》故事或典故的书了，我们的努力岂不多余？恰恰相反，我们发现，符合广大英语学习者的需要，领他们《圣经》入门的书还真不多见！因此，我们要做的，就是化难为易的工作，即通过通俗化、大众化，降低《圣经》这部经典著作的难度，使我们的读者有信心、有勇气走近《圣经》和感悟《圣经》。至于进去了还走不走或还走多远，那就要靠读者自己了。

四

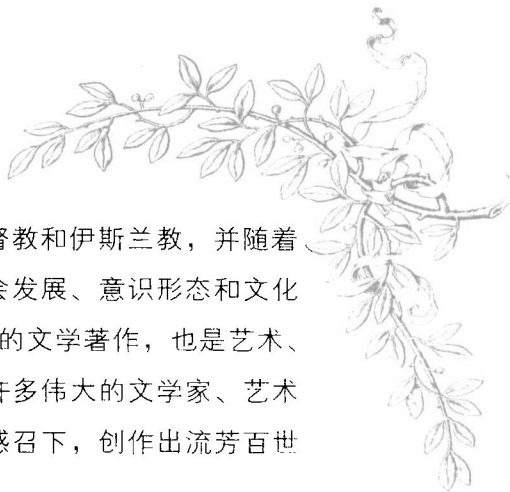
《圣经》是怎样一部书啊！

一提到《圣经》，人们马上联想到基督教。但《圣经》的历史比基督教的历史要久远得多，大部分《圣经》内容早在基督教诞生之前就已经出现了。以《旧约圣经》为基础的宗教就有三个，即犹太教、基督教和伊斯兰教。

2

《圣经》这部古老经籍，是希伯来民族文化的宝贵遗产，它记载了古代中东乃至南欧一带的民族、社会、政治、军事等多方面情况和风土人





情，其中的哲学和神学观念孕育了犹太教、基督教和伊斯兰教，并随着基督教的广泛传播，给世界，尤其是西方的社会发展、意识形态和文化习俗带来巨大影响。而且，《圣经》不仅是重要的文学著作，也是艺术、建筑、音乐等其他杰作的孵化器。西方历史上许多伟大的文学家、艺术家、建筑家和音乐家，都是在《圣经》精神的感召下，创作出流芳百世的不朽之作。

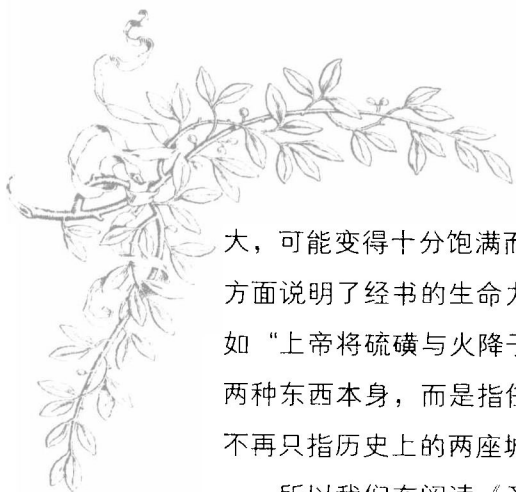
《圣经》在中国的影响也可谓不小。只举两个例子：早在明朝万历年间，意大利传教士利玛窦（Matteo Ricci）就来到中国，传播天主教。当时笃信程朱理学的中国士大夫，有许多觉得他讲的有道理，就接受了天主教。而且随着西方传教士的到来，中国的上层知识分子，包括皇室，开始了解到西方的天文、历法、几何等近代科学，进而促进了中国近代科技的发展。清朝洪秀全领导的太平天国革命，虽然是当时中国社会阶级矛盾激起的一场农民起义，但他创立的“拜上帝会”，也是受到西方天主教的启发。

《圣经》是世界上被翻译的语言最多、流传最广的一部经典，被视为人类历史上最有影响的书籍。严格说来，《圣经》并不是一部书，而是 66 部书的汇集，其中最早的可能写于公元前 1000 年左右，最晚的可能写于公元 150 年左右。所以，即使逃不开，躲不掉，作为普通读者，也只能花有限的时间去熟悉《圣经》中非熟悉不可的一部分，并从中学习英语，增长智慧。

五

最后想特别提一下的是，任何经书，由于在历史的长河中被太多的人带着虔诚的心情反复阅读，并出于信仰把它们运用于生活的各个方面，试图用它来指导生活，结果本来十分平淡朴实原话，经过读者心灵的放





大，可能变得十分饱满而富有寓意。经书的这种“微言大义”的现象，一方面说明了经书的生命力，另一方面也给其他文化中的读者带来困惑。比如“上帝将硫磺与火降于所多玛和蛾摩拉”，这里的硫磺与火已不再指这两种东西本身，而是指任何毁灭性的惩罚或灾难；“所多玛和蛾摩拉”也不再只指历史上的两座城市，而成了任何罪恶渊薮的代名词。

所以我们在阅读《圣经》这部异域经典时，应张开自己心灵的翅膀，开放地思索而不是拘泥于字面，要将其植根于现实生活，由此及彼地加以理解，这将有助于我们咀嚼出更多的滋味来。语言和文化之间有一种类似于骨头和汤的关系。没有骨头当然做不出好的骨头汤，但是要获得真正的营养和滋味，却不能只啃骨头不喝汤。

我们衷心希望您能从这本书里，既啃到了骨头，又喝到了汤！

五随先生





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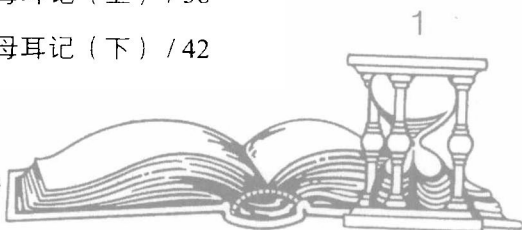
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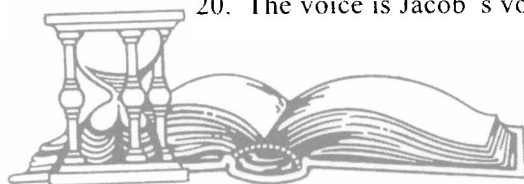
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