



# 居里夫人自传

[法] 玛丽·居里◎著



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## 代序一 悼念玛丽·居里

爱因斯坦

在像居里夫人这样一位崇高人物结束她的一生的时候，我们不要仅仅满足于回忆她的工作成果和对人类已经做出的贡献。第一流人物对于时代和历史进程的意义，在其道德品质方面，也许比单纯的才智成就方面还要大。即使是后者，它们取决于品格的程度，也许超过通常所认为的那样。

我幸运地同居里夫人有20年崇高而真挚的友谊。我对她的人格的伟大愈来愈感到钦佩。她的坚强，她的意志的纯洁，她的律己之严，她的客观，她的公正不阿的判断——所有这一切都难得地集中在一个人身上。她在任何时候都意识到自己是社会的公仆，她的极端谦虚，永远不给自满留下任何余地。由于社会的严酷和不公平，她的心情总是抑郁的。这就使得她具有严肃的外貌，很容易使那些不接近她的人对她产生误解——这是一种无法用任何艺术气质来解脱的少见的严肃性。一旦她认识到某一条道路是正确的，她就毫不妥协地、并且极端顽强地坚持走下去。

她一生中最伟大的科学功绩——证明放射性元素的存在并把它们分离出来——所以能取得，不仅是靠着大胆的直觉，而且也靠着难以想象的在极端困难情况下工作的热忱和顽强，这样的困难，在实验科学的历史中是罕见的。

居里夫人的品德力量和热忱，哪怕只有一小部分存在于欧洲的知识分子中间，欧洲就会面临一个比较光明的未来。

(1935年11月23日，在纽约罗里奇博物馆举行的居里夫人悼念会上，爱因斯坦所作的演讲。)



## 代序二 我的信念

居里夫人

生活对于任何一个男女都非易事，我们必要有坚韧不拔的精神；最要紧的，还是我们自己要有信心。我们必须相信，我们对一件事情是有天赋的才能，并且，无论付出任何代价，都要把这件事情完成。当事情结束的时候，你要能够问心无愧地说：“我已经尽我所能了。”

有一年的春天里，我因病被迫在家里休息数周，我注视着我的女儿们所养的蚕，结着茧子。这使我极感兴趣，望着这些蚕固执地、勤奋地工作着，我感到我和它们非常相似，像它们一样，我总是耐心地集中在一个目标。我之所以如此，或许是因为有某种力量在鞭策着我——正如蚕被鞭策着去结它的茧子一般。

在近五十年来，我致力于科学的研究，而研究基本上是对真理的探讨。我有许多美好快乐的回忆。少女时期我在巴黎大学孤独地过着求学的岁月；在那整个时期中，我丈夫和我专心致志地，像在梦幻之中一般，艰辛地在简陋的书房里研究，后来我们就在那儿发现了镭。

我在生活中，永远是追求安静的工作和简单的家庭生活。为了实现这个理想，我一直竭力保持宁静的环境，以免受人事的侵扰和盛名的喧嚣。

我深信在科学方面，我们是有对事而不是对人的兴趣。当皮埃尔·居里和我决定应否在我们的发现上取得经济上的利益时，我们都认为这违反我们的纯粹研究观念。因而我们没有申请镭的专利，也就抛弃了一笔财富。我坚信我们是对的。诚然，人类需要寻求现实的人——他们在工作中，获得最大的报酬。但是，人类也需要梦想家——他们在一件忘我事业的进展中，受到了强烈的吸引，使他们没有

闲暇，也无热情地去谋求物质上的利益。我的唯一奢望，是在一个自由国家中，以一个自由学者的身份从事研究工作，我从没有视这种权益为理所当然的，因为在二十四岁以前，我一直居住在被占领和蹂躏的波兰，我估量过法国自由的代价。

我并非生来就是一个性情温和的人。我很早就知道，许多像我一样的人，哪怕只是受了一言半语的呵责，便会过分懊恼，他们会尽量隐藏自己的敏感。从我丈夫的温和沉静的性格中，我获益匪浅。当他猝然长逝以后，我便学会了逆来顺受。我年纪愈渐老了，也愈会欣赏生活中的种种琐事，如栽花、植树、建筑；对诵诗和眺望星辰，我也有一点兴趣。

我一直沉醉于世界的优美之中，我所热爱的科学，也不断展示给我更新的远景。

我认定科学本身就具有伟大的美。一位从事研究工作的科学家，不仅是一个技术人员，也是一个小孩，他好像沉醉于神话故事中那样，沉醉在大自然的景色当中。这种魅力，就是使我终生能够在实验室里埋头工作的主要原因了。

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# 第一章 我的家庭

(Chapter I My Family)

美国的朋友们让我把自己的生活经历写出来。开始的时候，我觉得这个建议对我来说真的是难以接受，但是最后，我还是被友人们说服了，勉强地写了这个简短的生平传记。但我不可能凭借这本简略的传记写出我一生中的全部感受，也没办法对我所经历过的全部事情进行详述。时过境迁，许多关于当时感受的记忆已经模糊，时间越久，就越加模糊不清，竟至有时还认为有些事情与自己无关，像是别人所经历的。无疑，人的一生总会受一些主要思想以及某些深刻感受的影响与支配，从而使生活能够沿着一条主线往前走。有了这一主线，就会明白当时为什么这么做而不是那么做，就可以看出当事人的性格等各方面的特点。我会把自己并不算一帆风顺的一生作一个概述，将其中的要点记叙下来。相信我的故事能够将我从工作和生活中得到的启示展示给大家。

我祖籍波兰，名叫玛丽·斯可罗多夫斯卡。我的父母都出生于波兰的小地主家庭。在我的祖国，像我父母那样拥有一份不大产业的中产阶级的人数颇多。他们成为了社会上的一个阶层，彼此之间通常有着千丝万缕的联系。直到现在，波兰的知识分子大部分都还来自于这一阶层。

我的祖父对一所省立中学进行管理，闲暇时也干一些农活。我的父亲热爱学习，曾在俄国圣彼得堡大学读书，毕业后回到波兰，在华沙的一所预科大学里教授物理和数学。他娶了一位和他情投意合、志趣相同的女子为妻。母亲很年轻时，就已经在华沙一所女子学校担任校长了。那时候，她所从事的教育事业是极其崇高而又庄严的。

I have been asked by my American friends to write the story of my life. At first, the idea seemed alien to me, but I yielded to persuasion. However, I could not conceive my biography as a complete expression of personal feelings or a detailed description of all incidents I would remember. Many of our feelings change with the years, and, when faded away, may seem altogether strange; incidents lose their momentary interest and may be remembered as if they have occurred to some other person. But there may be in a life some general direction, some continuous thread, due to a few dominant ideas and a few strong feelings, that explain the life and are characteristic of a human personality. Of my life, which has not been easy on the whole, I have described the general course and the essential features, and I trust that my story gives an understanding of the state of mind in which I have lived and worked.

My family is of Polish origin, and my name is Marie Sklodowska. My father and my mother both came from among the small Polish landed proprietors. In my country this class is composed of a large number of families, owners of small and medium-sized estates, frequently interrelated. It has been, until recently, chiefly from this group that Poland has drawn her intellectual recruits.

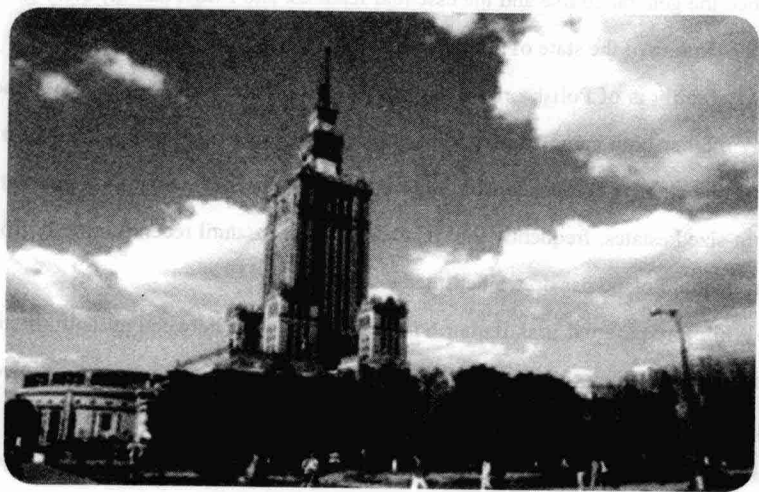
While my paternal grandfather had divided his time between agriculture and directing a provincial college, my father, more strongly drawn to study, followed the course of the University of Petrograd, and later definitely established himself at Warsaw as Professor of Physics and Mathematics in one of the lyceums of that city. He married a young woman whose mode of life was congenial to his; for, although very young, she had, what was, for that time, a very serious education, and was the director of one of the best Warsaw schools for young girls.



我的父母对自己所从事的教育事业兢兢业业、恪尽职守。他们的学生遍及波兰，可谓桃李满天下。这些学生直到现在仍对我的父母十分感激，并且怀念着他们。即便在今天，每当我回到波兰，遇见以前父母教过的学生，他们还总要向我倾诉对我父母的怀念。

我的父母尽管在城市从事教育事业，但他们与农村的亲戚们也都保持着往来。每到放假，我都会到农村亲戚家去住上一段日子，这使我对波兰的农村了解很深，并因此喜欢上了它。在那里，我很自然地就会感到无拘无束，散淡惬意。我想这段难忘的生活经历也正是我终生喜爱田野乡村，热爱大自然的原因吧。

1867年11月，我出生于华沙，是家中五个孩子中最小的一个，但是我的大姐于14岁时不幸病逝，所以留下了我们姐妹三个和一个兄弟。我的母亲因为大女儿的不幸病逝而悲恸欲绝，并因此而患上了不治之症，在她年仅42岁的时候便撒手人寰。母亲去世时，我仅9岁，哥哥也只有13岁，全家人都沉浸在无以言表的悲痛之中。



华沙，波兰的首都，居里夫人的出生地

My father and mother worshiped their profession in the highest degree and have left, all over their country, a lasting remembrance with their pupils. I cannot, even today, go into Polish society without meeting persons who have tender memories of my parents.

Although my parents adopted a university career, they continued to keep in close touch with their numerous family in the country. It was with their relatives that I frequently spent my vacation, living in all freedom and finding opportunities to know the field life by which I was deeply attracted. To these conditions, so different from the usual villegiature, I believe, I owe my love for the country and nature.

Born at Warsaw, on the 7th of November, 1867, I was the last of five children, but my oldest sister died at the early age of fourteen, and we were left, three sisters and a brother. Cruelly struck by the loss of her daughter and worn away by a grave illness, my mother died at forty-two, leaving her husband in the deepest sorrow with his children. I was then only nine years old, and my eldest brother was hardly thirteen.



亲人的突然离去，是我人生中第一次遭遇的最悲惨、最痛苦的事情。在这之后，我就陷入了忧伤悲戚之中，我的母亲品格高尚，温柔敦厚，心地善良，而且她知识广博，心胸坦荡且又严于律己，在家中很有威望，大家都信服她。她对自己的信仰非常虔诚(我的父母亲都是天主教徒)，但又能够包容一切，对有关宗教的不同看法，她向来都是求同存异，不将自己的观点强加于人。这对我们是有着很大影响的。就我个人而言，一方面是因为身为小女儿备受呵护与关切，从而使我深爱着我的母亲，另一方面，那种崇拜之情也将我和母亲紧密地联系在一起。

母亲去世之后，父亲非常悲痛，但他并没有因此而消沉，而是全身心地投入到了自己的工作当中，投入到对自己孩子们的教育上来，从而使自己没有多少空闲再去伤心难过。母亲过世多年后，我们仍然感到很习惯，总是觉得家中少了灵魂和主宰。

我们兄弟姐妹很早就开始学习了。我在6岁的时候就入了学，在班里年龄最小，个子最矮。每当有人听课或是参观时，老师总是把坐在第一排的我叫上讲台朗读课文。我性格内向，一叫我上台就会吓得不行，恨不能跑出教室躲起来。我的父亲是一位优秀的教师，十分关心我们的学习，并懂得如何对我们进行指导，但是由于家里的经济条件不是很好，一开始我们上的是私立学校，后来就不得不转到公立学校了。


华沙当时正处在俄国的统治之下，而他们的统治中最残酷的一面就是对学校和学生进行严格的控制与迫害，波兰人经营的私立学校都被警方监视，并且全部使用俄语教学。这样学生们在很小的时候就开始学习俄语，以至于对自己的母语波兰语反而说不利索了。幸亏这些学校的老师全是波兰人，他们不想受此迫害，想尽一切办法让学生们多掌握一些波兰语。这些私立学校都不被准许授予正式文凭，仅有公立学校才有这个权力。

This catastrophe was the first great sorrow of my life and threw me into a profound depression. My mother had an exceptional personality. With all her intellectuality she had a big heart and a very high sense of duty. And, though possessing infinite indulgence and good nature, she still held in the family a remarkable moral authority. She had an ardent piety (my parents were both Catholics), but she was never intolerant; differences in religious belief did not trouble her; she was equally kind to any one not sharing her opinions. Her influence over me was extraordinary, for in me the natural love of the little girl for her mother was united with a passionate admiration.

Very much affected by the death of my mother, my father devoted himself entirely to his work and to the care of our education. His professional obligations were heavy and left him little leisure time. For many years we all felt weighing on us the loss of the one who had been the soul of the house.

We all started our studies very young. I was only six years old, and, because I was the youngest and smallest in the class, was frequently brought forward to recite when there were visitors. This was a great trial to me, because of my timidity; I wanted always to run away and hide. My father, an excellent educator, was interested in our work and knew how to direct it, but the conditions of our education were difficult. We began our studies in private schools and finished them in those of the government.


Warsaw was then under Russian domination, and one of the worst aspects of this control was the oppression exerted on the school and the child. The private schools directed by Poles were closely watched by the police and overburdened with the necessity of teaching the Russian language even to children so young that they could scarcely speak their native Polish. Nevertheless, since the teachers were nearly all of Polish nationality, they endeavored in every possible way to mitigate the difficulties resulting from the national persecution. These schools, however, could not legally give diplomas, which were obtainable only in those of the government.



俄国人领导着所有的公立学校，他们一味地对波兰人的民族意识觉醒进行压制。学校里所有的课程全由俄国人用俄语讲授。由于仇视波兰民族，那些俄国教师对待学生就好像对待敌人似的。品德高尚、知识渊博的老师都不愿意到这种学校去教书，因为他们忍受不了这种敌视。处于这种校园环境中，孩子们学习的知识是否有用是很让人怀疑的。尤其严重的是，这样的环境对孩子们道德品质的影响是着实令人担忧的。在这种监视之下，孩子们不小心说了一句波兰话，或是用词稍不留神，就要受到严厉的处罚，不但自己倒霉，还会殃及家人。在这种严酷的环境里，孩子们天真烂漫的本性丧失殆尽，也无法感受到生命的乐趣。但是，另一方面，这种恐怖的氛围也将青少年内心极大的爱国热情激发起来了。

在异族蹂躏和丧母之痛的双重影响下，我少年时期的日子过得郁郁寡欢，了无生趣。不过，仍旧有着一些愉快的事情，保留在我的记忆当中。亲朋好友的欢聚令人兴奋愉快，使我们原本郁闷的生活出现了慰藉与希望。除此之外，我父亲特别喜欢文学，对于波兰和外国诗人们的诗歌都能够熟记，并且自己也能作诗赋词，他还经常将外国的优秀诗篇翻译成波兰文。他以家庭琐事为题材所写的短诗常使我们赞叹不已，佩服至极。每个周末的夜晚，我们都围在他旁边，听他为我们朗诵波兰的著名诗歌和散文。这样的夜晚其乐融融，并且在不知不觉中使我们的爱国主义情愫日益增强。





The latter, entirely Russian, were directly opposed to the Polish national spirit. All instruction was given in Russian, by Russian professors, who, being hostile to the Polish nation, treated their pupils as enemies. Men of moral and intellectual distinction could scarcely agree to teach in schools where an alien attitude was forced upon them. So what the pupils were taught was of questionable value, and the moral atmosphere was altogether unbearable. Constantly held in suspicion and spied upon, the children knew that a single conversation in Polish, or an imprudent word, might seriously harm, not only themselves, but also their families. Amidst these hostilities, they lost all the joy of life, and precocious feelings of distrust and indignation weighed upon their childhood. On the other side, this abnormal situation resulted in exciting the patriotic feeling of Polish youths to the highest degree.

Yet of this period of my early youth, darkened though it was by mourning and the sorrow of oppression, I still keep more than one pleasant remembrance. In our quiet but occupied life, reunions of relatives and friends of our family brought some joy. My father was very interested in literature and well acquainted with Polish and foreign poetry; he even composed poetry himself and was able to translate it from foreign languages into Polish in a very successful way. His little poems on family events were our delight. On Saturday evenings he used to recite or read to us the masterpieces of Polish prose and poetry. These evenings were for us a great pleasure and a source of renewed patriotic feelings.