

红字

THE SCARLET LETTER

中英对照全译本

[美] 纳撒尼尔·霍桑 著

Nathaniel Hawthorne

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译



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美国文学卷

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前言

通过阅读文学名著学语言，是掌握英语的绝佳方法。既可接触原汁原味的英语，又能享受文学之美，一举两得，何乐不为？

对于喜欢阅读名著的读者，这是一个最好的时代，因为有成千上万的书可以选择；这又是一个不好的时代，因为在浩繁的卷帙中，很难找到适合自己的好书。

然而，你手中的这套丛书，值得你来信赖。

这套精选的中英对照名著全译丛书，未改编改写、未删节削减，且配有权威注释、部分书中还添加了精美插图。

要学语言、读好书，当读名著原文。如习武者切磋交流，同高手过招方能渐明其间奥妙，若一味在低端徘徊，终难登堂入室。积年流传的名著，就是书中“高手”。然而这个“高手”，却有真假之分。初读书时，常遇到一些挂了名著名家之名改写改编的版本，虽有助于了解基本情节，然而所得只是皮毛，你何曾真的就读过了那名著呢？一边是窖藏了50年的女儿红，一边是贴了女儿红标签的薄酒，那滋味，怎能一样？“朝闻道，夕死可矣。”人生短如朝露，当努力追求真正的美。

本套丛书的英文版本，是根据外文原版书精心挑选而来；对应的中文译文以直译为主，以方便中英文对照学习，译文经反复推敲，对忠实理解原著极有助益；在涉及到重要文化习俗之处，添加了精当的注释，以解疑惑。

读过本套丛书的原文全译，相信你会得书之真意、语言之精髓。

送君“开卷有益”之书，愿成文采斐然之人。



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1. The Prison-Door

一. 狱门

A throng of bearded men, in sad-colored garments and gray steeple-crowned hats, inter-mixed with women, some wearing hoods, and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.

The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison. In accordance with this rule, it may safely be assumed that the forefathers of Boston had built the first prison-house somewhere in the Vicinity of Cornhill, almost as seasonably as they marked out the first burial-ground, on Isaac Johnson's lot, and round about his grave, which subsequently became the nucleus of all the congregated sepulchres in the old churchyard of King's Chapel. Certain it is that, some fifteen or twenty years after the settlement of the town, the wooden jail was already marked with weather-stains and other indications of age, which gave a yet darker aspect to its beetle-browed and gloomy front. The rust on the ponderous

一群身着暗色衣服，头戴灰色尖顶高帽，留着胡子的男人，和混在其中的的一些围着头巾或不戴帽子的女人，被召集在一所木质建筑物前面。这所建筑物的房门是用厚实的橡木材料打造而成，上面布满了颗颗铁钉。

无论新殖民地的开创者怎样在最初设定了关于人类优秀品质和美满幸福的乌托邦式幻想，始终不变的是要在各种早期实际需要之中，指定分配出一块处女地作为墓地，再分出另一部分作为监狱的位置。依照这一惯例，可以非常有把握地推断出：波士顿的祖先们在谷山附近一带的某个地方修建了第一座监狱，几乎与他们在艾萨克·约翰逊地段标出第一块墓地是同一时期。后来在以他的坟墓为核心的周围，发展成皇室教堂中那一片片墓群聚集的古老墓地。毫无疑问，在小镇建立之后的 15 年或 20 年中，这座木质监狱就已因为风吹雨打和岁月流逝而为它那狰狞和阴暗的面目更增添了几分晦暗的景象。橡木大门上笨重的铁质工艺，那斑斑锈痕看上去比新大陆的任何东西都陈旧，像是一切都与罪恶二字息息相关。这座监狱似乎



iron-work of its oaken door looked more antique than anything else in the New World. Like all that pertains to crime, it seemed never to have known a youthful era. Before this ugly edifice, and between it and the wheel-track of the street, was a grass-plot, much overgrown with burdock, pig-weed, apple-pern, and such unsightly vegetation, which evidently found something congenial in the soil that had so early borne the black flower of civilized society, a prison. But on one side of the portal, and rooted almost at the threshold, was a wild rose-bush, covered, in this month of June, with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the condemned criminal as he came forth to his doom, in token that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him.

This rose-bush, by a strange chance, has been kept alive in history; but whether it had merely survived out of the stern old wilderness, so long after the fall of the gigantic pines and oaks that originally overshadowed it, or whether, as there is fair authority for believing, it had sprung up under the footsteps of the sainted Ann Hutchinson, as she entered the prison-door, we shall not take upon us to determine. Finding it so directly on the threshold of our narrative, which is now about to issue

从未经历过青春年少期。从这座丑陋的建筑物门前到轧着车辙的街道之间，有一片草地，过于繁茂地簇生着牛蒡、蒺藜、毒莠等这些不堪入目的杂草，它们显然是在这块土地上找到了某些气味相投的东西，才使这块土地上早早便盛开了文明社会的那朵恶花——监狱。然而，在大门的另一侧，几乎就在门口处，竟有一丛野玫瑰。在6月里，盛开着雅致的宝石般的花朵。它们被猜测可能是在囚徒步入牢门或刑犯迈向厄运时奉献着自己的芬芳气味和纤巧美丽，来表达大自然内心深处对他们的一丝怜悯和仁慈。

漫漫历史长河，这一丛野玫瑰机缘巧合才得以存活。但无论它们是否仅仅因为原先遮住野玫瑰的巨松和伟橡早已倒下，能够在古老而苛刻的荒野中侥幸存活，抑或像人们深信不疑的公正权威所说，当年圣徒安妮·哈钦逊踏入狱门时，它们便从她脚下破土而出。我们不必自伤脑筋去验证，我们这个故事开端恰恰发生于这个不吉利的门口，因此我们很难不摘下其中一朵玫瑰花，将其献给读者。但

from that inauspicious portal, we could hardly do otherwise than pluck one of its flowers, and present it to the reader. It may serve, let us hope, to symbolise some sweet moral blossom, that may be found along the track, or relieve the darkening close of a tale of human frailty and sorrow.

愿这株玫瑰花在叙述的进程中能够象征着道德之花的芳香馥郁，或在故事阴晦凄惨的结局后，可以缓解人性的脆弱和悲哀。

2. The Market-Place

二. 市场

The grass-plot before the jail, in Prison-Lane, on a certain summer morning, not less than two centuries ago, was occupied by a pretty large number of the inhabitants of Boston; all with their eyes intently fastened on the iron-clamped oaken door. Amongst any other population, or at a later period in the history of New England, the grim rigidity that petrified the bearded physiognomies of these good people would have augured some awful business in hand. It could have betokened nothing short of the anticipated execution of some noted culprit, on whom the sentence of a legal tribunal had but confirmed the verdict of public sentiment. But, in that early severity of the Puritan character, an inference of this kind could not so indubitably be drawn. It might be that a sluggish bond-servant, or an undutiful child, whom his parents had given over to the civil authority, was to be corrected at the whipping-post. It might be, that an Antinomian, a Quaker, or other heterodox religionist, was to be scourged out of the town, or an idle or vagrant Indian, whom the white man's firewater had made riotous about the streets, was to be driven with stripes into the shadow of

两个世纪前的一个夏日早上，狱前街上、监狱门前的草地上挤满了一大群波士顿居民，所有人的眼睛都紧紧盯着布满铁钉的橡木牢门。若其中有其他百姓，或是在后来新英格兰的历史时期，这些蓄着胡须的好心人板着冷冰冰僵硬的面孔，就可能预示着某些凶险的来临。即使不预示什么也代表对某个臭名昭著的罪犯进行备受期待的制裁，法庭对他们的判决绝对是认可公众情绪的裁处。但是，由于早期清教徒性格的严苛，得出这类推测也未免过于武断。也许会是一个懒散的契约奴隶或是一名不孝逆子被家长送交给当局准备在这笞刑柱上接受管教。也许，是一位唯信仰论者、一位教友派信徒或其他信仰异端宗教的狂热者被鞭挞赶出城，抑或是一个闲散的印第安游民喝了白人的烈酒而满街胡闹，被鞭子赶进树林。也可能是像西宾斯老夫人那样如巫婆般生性恶毒的地方官员，将要被吊死在绞架上。无论是哪种情况，围观者都要摆出一副相同的一本正经的严肃举止。这倒与将宗教和法律视为同一体的人们十分相符，二者在他们的品性中完全融合。不管是最轻微的还

the forest. It might be, too, that a witch, like old Mistress Hibbins, the bitter-tempered widow of the magistrate, was to die upon the gallows. In either case, there was very much the same solemnity of demeanour on the part of the spectators; as befitted a people amongst whom religion and law were almost identical, and in whose character both were so thoroughly interfused, that the mildest and severest acts of public discipline were alike made venerable and awful. Meagre, indeed, and cold, was the sympathy that a transgressor might look for, from such bystanders, at the scaffold. On the other hand, a penalty which, in our days, would infer a degree of mocking infamy and ridicule, might then be invested with almost as stern a dignity as the punishment of death itself.

It was a circumstance to be noted on the summer morning when our story begins its course, that the women, of whom there were several in the crowd, appeared to take a peculiar interest in whatever penal infliction might be expected to ensue. The age had not so much refinement, that any sense of impropriety restrained the wearers of petticoat and farthingale from stepping forth into the public ways, and wedging their not unsubstantial persons, if occasion were, into the throng nearest to the scaffold at an execution. Morally, as well as materially, there was a coarser fibre in

是最严重的公共纪律都同样使她们肃然起敬和望而生畏。的确，这样一个站在刑台上的罪人能够从这些旁观者身上寻求到的同情是少而冷漠的。另外，当今在某种程度上只意味着令人嘲笑讥讽的惩罚，在当时却可能被赋予同死刑本身一样严厉的威严。

就在我们这个故事发生的那个夏日的早晨，有个情况值得注意：人群中的几位女士，看起来对可能发生的任何刑罚措施都抱有特殊的兴趣。那年代没有那么多高雅的讲究，穿着衬裙和裙撑的女人们信步出现在大庭广众面前，只要有可能，在行刑时将她们那并不娇弱的身躯插进最靠近刑台的人群中去是不会有不成体统的感觉的。那些在英伦故土出生和成长的媳妇和姑娘们，比起她们那些六七代之后漂亮的后裔来，无论是身体状态还是精神世界都要粗犷些。因为

those wives and maidens of old English birth and breeding than in their fair descendants, separated from them by a series of six or seven generations; for, throughout that chain of ancestry, every successive mother had transmitted to her child a fainter bloom, a more delicate and briefer beauty, and a slighter physical frame, if not character of less force and solidity than her own. The women who were now standing about the prison-door stood within less than half a century of the period when the man-like Elizabeth had been the not altogether unsuitable representative of the sex. They were her countrywomen: and the beef and ale of their native land, with a moral diet not a whit more refined, entered largely into their composition. The bright morning sun, therefore, shone on broad shoulders and well-developed busts, and on round and ruddy cheeks, that had ripened in the far-off island, and had hardly yet grown paler or thinner in the atmosphere of New England. There was, moreover, a boldness and rotundity of speech among these matrons, as most of them seemed to be, that would startle us at the present day, whether in respect to its purport or its volume of tone.

“Goodwives,” said a hard-featured dame of fifty, “I’ll tell ye a piece of my mind. It would be greatly for the public behoof if

通过家系遗传链，每代母亲即使不是遗传给她女儿比她自身较少坚实有力的性格，也会是更柔弱的体质、更精巧简洁的美貌和更纤细的身材。当时在牢门旁边站着的妇女们距离那位堪称女性代表且兼具男子气概的伊丽莎白不足半个世纪。她们是那位女王的老乡：她们家乡的牛肉和麦酒，佐以未经纯化的精神食粮，大量进入她们的身体。因此，明亮的晨光所照射着的是宽阔的臂膀、丰满的胸脯和又圆又红的双颊——她们都是在辽远的祖国本岛上长大的，远还没有在新英格兰的气氛沐浴中变得白皙瘦削。尤其是大多数主妇们一开口便是粗声大嗓。要是放在今天，无论是她们言谈的含义还是音量都足以使我们惊讶。

“婆娘们，”一个年纪约莫 50 岁、面目可憎的老婆子说道，“我来说说我的想法。如果我们这些上

we women, being of mature age and church-members in good repute, should have the handling of such malefactresses as this Hester Prynne. What think ye, gossips? If the hussy stood up for judgment before us five, that are now here in a knot together, would she come off with such a sentence as the worshipful magistrates have awarded? Marry, I trow not.”

“People say,” said another, “that the Reverend Master Dimmesdale, her godly pastor, takes it very grievously to heart that such a scandal should have come upon his congregation.”

“The magistrates are God-fearing gentlemen, but merciful overmuch, — that is a truth,” added a third autumnal matron. “At the very least, they should have put the brand of a hot iron on Hester Prynne’s forehead. Madame Hester would have winced at that, I warrant me. But she, — the naughty baggage, — little will she care what they put upon the bodice of her gown! Why, look you, she may cover it with a brooch, or such like heathenish adornment, and so walk the streets as brave as ever!”

“Ah, but,” interposed, more softly, a young wife, holding a child by the hand, “let her cover the mark as she will, the pang of it will be always in her heart.”

“What do we talk of marks and brands, whether on the bodice of her gown, or the flesh of her forehead?” cried another

了些年纪、名声又好的教会会友能够处置海丝特·白兰那种坏女人，倒是给大家造福啊。你们觉得怎么样，婆娘们？要是让那个贱妇站在我们这五姐们儿跟前听候判决，她能带着那些可敬的官老爷们赏给她的判决混过去吗？老天爷，我才不信呢！”

“有人说，”另一个女人说，“尊敬的丁梅斯代尔教长，也就是她的牧师，因为在他的教众中出了这等丑闻，已经伤透心啦。”

“那帮官老爷都是尊敬神明的绅士，可惜太过慈悲——这可是真事，”第三个人老珠黄的婆娘补充道，“他们最低限度也应该在海丝特·白兰的脑门上用热烙铁烙个记号。我敢保证海丝特应该会有些害怕退缩。但她——那个破烂货——才不在乎他们在她的胸衣前襟上贴什么呢！为什么？你们等着瞧吧，她准会别个胸针，或者是异教徒的首饰之类的，挡住胸口，照样勇敢地招摇过市！”

“啊，不过，”一个手里领着孩子的年轻媳妇轻声插嘴道，“随她去挡着那记号呗，反正她的心里总是会受尽折磨的。”

“我们说什么标记还是记号的，管他是贴在她前襟上还是脑门上呢？”另一个女人叫嚷着，她在

female, the ugliest as well as the most pitiless of these self-constituted judges. "This woman has brought shame upon us all, and ought to die. Is there not law for it? Truly there is, both in the Scripture and the statute-book. Then let the magistrates, who have made it of no effect, thank themselves if their own wives and daughters go astray!"

"Mercy on us, goodwife," exclaimed a man in the crowd, "is there no virtue in woman, save what springs from a wholesome fear of the gallows? That is the hardest word yet! Hush, now, gossips! for the lock is turning in the prison-door, and here comes Mistress Prynne herself."

The door of the jail being flung open from within there appeared, in the first place, like a black shadow emerging into sunshine, the grim and grisly presence of the town-beadle, with a sword by his side, and his staff of office in his hand. This personage prefigured and represented in his aspect the whole dismal severity of the Puritanic code of law, which it was his business to administer in its final and closest application to the offender. Stretching forth the official staff in his left hand, he laid his right upon the shoulder of a young woman, whom he thus drew forward, until, on the threshold of the prison-door, she repelled him, by an action marked with natural dignity and force of

这些自以为是的法官中长相最丑，也最无情，“这女人给我们所有人都带来了耻辱，她就该死。难道说没有为这事设立的法律吗？肯定有的，《圣经》里和法令书上都写着呢。那就让那些不照章办事的官老爷们的太太和小姐们去走邪路吧，这就叫自作自受！”

“我的天哪，婆娘们，”一个男人在人群中惊呼道，“女人看到绞刑架就害怕，除此之外难道就没有什么德行了吗？话说得太重了！安静点儿，婆娘们！看，牢门的锁在转呢，海丝特太太本人就要出来了。”

牢门一下子从里面打开了，最先出现的是一副严酷恐怖模样的狱吏，像一个黑影出现在日光之中。他侧面挎剑，手里握着工作的权杖，这个人的模样预示和代表着清教徒法典的全部冷酷和无情，对触犯法律之人施以最终和最直接的惩罚是他的职责。此时，他左手向前伸出，拿着工作权杖，右手放在一位年轻女士的肩头，拖着她向前走。直到牢门口，她用了一个颇能表现她尊严本性和个性力量的动作，推开了狱吏，像是出于她自由的意志似的走进空旷场地。她臂弯中抱着一个 3 个月左右大的婴儿，那孩子眨着眼睛，转动着小脸躲避开过分刺眼的阳光。这是由于

character, and stepped into the open air as if by her own free will. She bore in her arms a child, a baby of some three months old, who winked and turned aside its little face from the too vivid light of day; because its existence, heretofore, had brought it acquainted only with the gray twilight of a dungeon, or other darksome apartment of the prison.

When the young woman — the mother of this child — stood fully revealed before the crowd, it seemed to be her first impulse to clasp the infant closely to her bosom; not so much by an impulse of motherly affection, as that she might thereby conceal a certain token, which was wrought or fastened into her dress. In a moment, however, wisely judging that one token of her shame would but poorly serve to hide another, she took the baby on her arm, and with a burning blush, and yet a haughty smile, and a glance that would not be abashed, looked around at her townspeople and neighbors. On the breast of her gown, in fine red cloth, surrounded with an elaborate embroidery and fantastic flourishes of gold thread, appeared the letter A. It was so artistically done, and with so much fertility and gorgeous luxuriance of fancy, that it had all the effect of a last and fitting decoration to the apparel which she wore, and which was of a splendour in accordance with the taste of

在此之前,孩子自降生以来还只习惯于监狱中土牢或其他暗室中那种昏暗的光线。

当那位年轻妇女——就是婴儿的母亲——全身屹立展现在人群面前时,似乎她的第一个冲动就是把孩子紧紧抱住贴在胸膛。倒不是完全出于母爱的冲动,而是她可以借此掩盖住钉在或紧固在衣襟上的那个标记。然而,她很快就聪明地醒悟了,用她那一个耻辱的标记来掩盖另一个标记是毫无意义的。她索性用一条胳膊架着孩子,虽然羞得面色发红,却露出高傲的微笑,用毫不尴尬的目光扫视着与她同镇的居民和街坊邻里。她胸前的裙袍上有一个用红色细布做的字母A,字母周围是用金丝线精心绣成的精美花边。这个字母颇有艺术造诣,体现着思维丰富而华美动人的匠心,佩在衣服上形成了尽善尽美的装饰,而其衣服的华美与她所处的时代相一致,只是大大超过了殖民地俭朴标准的规定。

the age, but greatly beyond what was allowed by the sumptuary regulations of the colony.

The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so glossy that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam; and a face which, besides being beautiful from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes. She was ladylike, too, after the manner of the feminine gentility of those days; characterized by a certain state and dignity, rather than by the delicate, evanescent, and indescribable grace which is now recognized as its indication. And never had Hester Prynne appeared more ladylike, in the antique interpretation of the term, than as she issued from the prison. Those who had before known her, and had expected to behold her dimmed and obscured by a disastrous cloud, were astonished, and even startled, to perceive how her beauty shone out, and made a halo of the misfortune and ignominy in which she was enveloped. It may be true that, to a sensitive observer, there was some thing exquisitely painful in it. Her attire, which indeed, she had wrought for the occasion in prison, and had modelled much after her own fancy, seemed to express the attitude of her spirit, the desperate recklessness of

那年轻妇女身材高挑，体态优美典雅。她那乌黑浓密的头发光彩夺目，在阳光的照耀下投射出熠熠光辉。她的面孔除了五官端正，皮肤滋润以外，令人印象深刻的还有那一对鲜明的眉毛和一双漆黑的深眸，真是楚楚动人。就那个年代女性彬彬有礼的风范而言，她也属贵妇之列。她的性格中自有某种端庄的风韵，并不同于如今人们心目中认定的那种纤巧、轻盈和不可言喻的优雅。即使以当年的概念来说，从来没有比海丝特·白兰此时此刻步出监狱这样更像贵妇的了。那些原本认识她的人，期待这一灾难性的乌云会使她黯然失色，却都很惊讶甚至呆住了，因为他们所看到的是她焕发得如此美丽，竟能把包覆着她的不幸和耻辱凝成一个光环。但无疑，敏锐的旁观者一定能发觉其中那一种微妙的痛楚。她的服饰确实是她专门为这场合作作的。按照她特有的想法成型，似乎是以独特的野性和别致表达了她的精神境界和因绝望而无所顾忌的心境。而吸引了所有人目光且事实上令海丝特·白兰焕然一新的，则是她胸前那闪闪发光、绣得妙不可言的红字，以致那些与她认识的男男女女感到震撼，好像是第

her mood, by its wild and picturesque peculiarity. But the point which drew all eyes, and, as it were, transfigured the wearer – so that both men and women who had been familiarly acquainted with Hester Prynne were now impressed as if they beheld her for the first time – was that SCARLET LETTER, so fantastically embroidered and illuminated upon her bosom. It had the effect of a spell, taking her out of the ordinary relations with humanity, and enclosing her in a sphere by herself.

“She hath good skill at her needle, that’s certain,” remarked one of her female spectators; “but did ever a woman, before this brazen hussy, contrive such a way of showing it! Why, gossips, what is it but to laugh in the faces of our godly magistrates, and make a pride out of what they, worthy gentlemen, meant for a punishment?”

“It were well,” muttered the most iron-visaged of the old dames, “if we stripped Madame Hester’s rich gown off her dainty shoulders; and as for the red letter which she hath stitched so curiously, I’ll bestow a rag of mine own rheumatic flannel to make a fitter one!”

“O, peace, neighbors – peace!” whispered their youngest companion; “do not let her hear you! Not a stitch in that embroidered letter but she has felt it in her heart.”

一次与她谋面。这个红字有一种魔力般的效果，竟能把她从普通的人际关系中超脱出来，紧闭在自身的氛围里。

“她精于女工这点倒是可以肯定的，”一个旁观的女人说，“但这个厚脸皮的淫妇居然想出用这种方法来显示自己，真是见所未见啊！我说，婆娘们，这纯粹是当面嘲笑我们那些规规矩矩的官老爷，这不是借这些尊敬的先生们的判罚来大出风头吗？”

“我说啊！”一个面孔板得最紧的老太婆嘟囔着，“要是我们能将海丝特那件讲究的衣袍从她秀气的肩膀上扒下来才不错呢。至于她那个绣得稀奇古怪的红字，我倒愿意赏她一块我害风湿病时用过的法兰绒破布片，那才更合适呢！”

“噢，安静点，邻居们，安静点！”她们当中最年轻的同伴低声说道，“别让她听见我们的话！她绣那个字的每针每线可全都扎在她心头呢。”