

BOOKS in Books 新东方双语书话译丛

书海逸趣/

# 有书陪伴的人生不寂寞





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## 前言

在这个世界上,有这样一些人——他们一走近书店,心就怦怦乱跳,不管有多少琐事缠身,总忍不住进店转转;见到一本心仪的书,不弄到手就坐立难安,哪怕买了书就要挨饿,也觉得心满意足。他们最爱做的,是在午后时分沏一杯香茶,捧读一本墨香淡淡、诗意浓浓的好书;他们最难忍的,是眼见好书被人蹂躏却无可奈何,抑或爱书在眼皮底下被抢去借走;他们最渴望的,莫过于拥有一间窗明几净、翰墨芬芳的书房,坐拥书城、徜徉书海。这些人,便是所谓的爱书之人了。

许多名人亦为爱书人,他们会在文章中经意不经意地流露爱书之情。这些文章林林总总,篇幅不一,或论读书历程和体会,或谈购书方法与艰辛,或道藏书室中的轶闻趣事,或抒群书散尽的悲伤感触。这套专为爱书人准备的"新东方双语书话译丛"系列之中,就收录了百余篇这样的文章。

此套丛书共五本,分别是:

- ·探讨读书方法与阅读境界的《书林辟径——邂逅生命中挚爱的书》
- · 分享书海轶闻与随想感悟的《书海逸趣——有书陪伴的人生不寂寞》
- · 介绍书籍天敌与呵护爱书的《护书之苦——书若安好, 便是晴天》
- · 讲述静处书斋与淘书苦乐的《藏书之乐——书架上的珍宝》
- · 谈及爱书缘起与书虫定义的《一派书心——缘何此 生只爱书》

在这套书中,你将看见形形色色的爱书人。有些以清新隽永的文字,如炉边谈话般将阅读心得娓娓道来;有些以诙谐幽默的笔触,令你或是会心微笑或是心有戚戚;有

些担忧书的未来演进,如数家珍地罗列自己与书的陈年往事;有些则对此不以为然,并以各种事例证明,书籍永远是人类的挚友……同为爱书人的你,是否深有共鸣?

值得一提的是,为了让读者在文山书海遨游的同时,能够领略大师笔下清晰明澈的英文,"新东方双语书话译丛"系列特以中英对照的形式呈现。其中每一篇英文,无不经过多方查找、层层筛选,意图穷尽西方 books about books 的经典之作,以及《纽约书评》《伦敦书评》等报刊的最新评述;每一篇译文,也都经过反复修改、多重校对,力求在贴近原文风格的同时,更符合当代读者的眼光、口味。

"新东方双语书话译丛"系列虽只有小小五本,但从策划、选文到翻译、注释再到编辑、出版却尝尽了"十月怀胎"的艰辛。在这漫长的征程中,我与王岑卉、钱卫、陈滢、姚洋、李鹏程等诸位优秀译者常常为一个句子的结构推敲再三.

也曾为一个短语的用法争执良久,为一个动词的译法辗转半宿更是稀松平常之事。足足十个月废寝忘食的坚持,才有了今天呈现于诸位眼前的精美小书。然而,书海无垠、译界无涯。该系列虽为悉心打造之作,但难免存在疏漏之处。如果您认为选取篇目尚可斟酌、译文质量仍可精进,欢迎随时与我们联系沟通!

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谨以此书献给天下爱书人! 愿各位畅享阅读之乐!

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# The Commerce of Reading 阅读的价值

Michel de Montaigne 蒙田

#### 作者简介

蒙田 (Michel de Montaigne, 1533—1592), 文艺复兴时期最具影响力的法国作家之一, 欧洲近代散文的创始人, 代表作为晚年所写的《蒙田随笔》(Essays)。

在《蒙田随笔》中,作者几乎无所不谈,日常生活、传统习俗、 人生哲理等都有涉及,他旁征博引了许多古希腊、古罗马作家的论述。 各章篇幅长短不一,文章结构随意自然,文笔平易通畅,语言生动 而充满睿智。该书与《培根随笔》(Bacon's Essays)和《帕斯卡尔思 想录》(Pascal's Pensées)一起,被誉为欧洲近代哲理散文三大经典。

本文即节选自《蒙田随笔》。该书出版 于 1580 年,本篇经威廉·哈兹利特(William Hazlitt)根据 17世纪查尔斯·科顿(Charles Cotton)的经典英译本修改而成。从文中可见, 蒙田对读书之乐深有体会,但又不为书所缚, 能够以理智的态度对待阅读,他深邃辩证的思 考值得爱书人细细领悟。



The [commerce of books] goes side by side with me in my whole course, and everywhere is assisting to me; it comforts me in my age and solitude; it eases me of a troublesome weight of idleness, and it delivers me at all hours from company that I dislike; and it blunts the point of griefs if they are not extreme, and have got an entire possession of my soul.

To divert myself from a troublesome fancy'tis¹ but to run to my books; they presently fix me to them, and drive the other out of my thoughts; and do not mutiny at seeing I have only recourse to them for want of other more real, natural, and lively conveniences; they always receive me with the same kindness. "He may well go a-foot," say they, "who leads his horse in his hand."

In the experience and practice of this sentence, which is a very true one, all the benefit I reap from books consists; and yet I make as little use of it almost as those who know it not; I enjoy it as a miser does his money, in knowing that I may enjoy it when I please; my mind is satisfied with this right of possession. I never travel without books, either in peace or war; and yet I sometimes pass over several days, and sometimes months, without looking at them; I will read by and by, say I to myself, or tomorrow, or when I please, and time meanwhile steals away without 人生旅途中,我始终与书相伴而行。每当我需要帮助,书给我指引,当我年老孤寂,书给我宽慰;书让我免于无所事事,随时带我远离我厌恶的人群,缓解我未到极致的悲伤。 书已占据我的全部灵魂。

为逃离白日梦的烦扰,我奔向书的怀抱;书即刻吸引我的注意,将旁心杂念尽数驱散;我依赖书,只为寻求更加真实、自然、鲜活之物;书也从不背叛,始终以善意相待。书中有云:"扬鞭策马者,亦有步行时。"

. . . . . .

此话乃真知灼见,一语道破书的种种益处,经得起细细体味,乃至实践检验。不过,正如那些不知开卷有益之人一般,我对书远未物尽其用。我爱书,正如守财奴爱钱;他们想到拥有金钱就心花怒放,我则想到拥有书籍就心满意足。无论战争年代还是和平时期,我外出旅行必携书同往;可有时一连几天,甚至数月,我都无暇捧书;我告诉自己,回头再看,明天再读,或有了兴致再说吧。然而,时间早在不知不觉中

any inconvenience; for it is not to be imagined to what degree I please myself, and rest content in this consideration, that I have them by me, to divert myself with them when I am so disposed, and call to mind what an ease and assistance they are to my life. 'Tis the best viaticum I have yet found out for this human journey, and I very much pity those men of understanding who are unprovided with it. I rather accept of any sort of diversion, how light soever, in the feeling that this can never fail me.

When at home, I a little more frequent my library from whence I at once survey all the whole concerns of my family. As I enter it, I thence see under me my garden, court, and base-court, and into all the parts of the building. There I turn over now one book, and then another, of various subjects, without method or design. One while I meditate; another I record, and dictate as I walk to and fro, such whimsies as these with which I here present you.

'Tis in the third story of a tower, of which the ground-room is my chapel, the second story an apartment with a with drawing-room and closet, where I often lie to be more retired; above it is this great wardrobe, which formerly was the most useless part of the house. In that room I pass away most of the days of my life, and most of the hours of the day; in the night I am never there. There is within it a cabinet handsome and neat enough, with a very convenient fireplace for the winter, and windows that afford a great deal of light, and very pleasant prospects; and were I not afraid, less of the expense than of the trouble, that frights me from all