



ENGLISH CLASSICS READERS

EDITED BY H. D. LING

---

TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

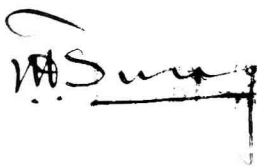
By CHARLES AND MARY LAMB

WITH CHINESE NOTES

---

華 文 詳 註

莎 氏 樂 府 本 事



---

THE WORLD BOOK CO., LTD.  
SHANGHAI, CHINA

ENGLISH CLASSICS READERS  
TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

AUTHOR: CHARLES & MARY LAMB

ANNOTATOR: H. D. LING

Price \$1.75

First Edition, November, 1932

Printed, November, 1932

---

華文詳註 莎氏樂府本事 (全一冊)

原著者 查理拉穆・瑪麗拉穆

註釋者 林漢達

定價每冊大洋一元七角五分

外埠酌加郵費匯費

民國二十一年十一月初版

民國二十一年十一月印刷

發行兼印刷者 上海大連灣路 世界書局

發行所 上海四馬路  
暨各省 世界書局

版權所有不准翻印

## 作者傳略

英文文學裏最偉大的名字，當然是莎士比亞了(William Shakespeare, 1564-1616)。他是文藝林中矗天的巨樹，巍巍乎，蕩蕩乎，那個比他得來！林中的佳木奇卉，固然也不少，可是都在他的覆蔭之下。歌德說，“我總覺得我生平所遇見的任何書籍，任何人物，任何事蹟，對於我的印象，總不及莎士比亞劇本的那樣深刻。”不過莎氏的原文太深奧，一般讀者竟感到可望不可即的惆悵。於是拉穆姊弟二人，便根據莎氏原文寫了這一本“莎氏樂府本事，”不但可作研究莎氏劇本的入門，且因文字優美，故事有味，反比原文更受讀者的歡迎，真所謂青出於藍而青於藍。

瑪麗·拉穆 (Mary Lamb, 1764-1847) 和查理·拉穆 (Charles Lamb, 1775-1834) 是英國文學史中很有趣的姊弟倆。姊姊終身不嫁，弟弟也終身未娶，共同過着他們畸零的生活。

歷來的天才總有些瘋頭瘋腦，他們倆不過顯著些罷了。1796年查理在瘋人院裏關了六星期；那年九月，瑪麗忽然發狂，拿了小刀竟刺死了他的母親。瑪麗以後時發時輟，幸而查理沒有發過第二次瘋，得以照顧其姊。她清醒時笑盈盈和老弟合作文章；雲翳來時，她老弟只好流着淚送她入瘋人院。查理終身不娶，便是爲了這個緣故。

查理生於熱鬧的倫敦，而性情恬靜，既不喜愛自然又不善於交際。幼年受教育於基督醫院，與哥爾利治 (Coleridge)

同學，二人從此結爲莫逆之交。查理爲了家境窮困，年才十五，便脫離了學校生活，初在南海公司，後在東印度公司，當了三十餘年的書記職司。書記的所得有限，年老的父母又是多病多痛，於是查理忙裏偷閒，寫些文藝作品，得些稿費；瑪麗則以女紅，爲人作嫁；姊弟二人，苦心孤詣，維持着窮困的生活。後來東印度公司，一來爲了查理歷來辦事忠誠，二來爲了他文名日盛，每年給他四百四十一鎊的恩俸，查理從此得以安逸地過他的幽居生活。但是很希奇，他從此反而不努力於文藝了。

莎氏樂府本事是在 1807 年出版的，那時祇署查理的名字。但在事實上，瑪麗的工作却比查理多。瑪麗寫了十四篇喜劇和一篇 *Pericles*，查理祇寫了六篇悲劇。

除莎氏樂府本事外，他們合作的尚有 *Mrs. Leicester's School* (1807)，和 *Poetry for Children* (1809)。查理所譯述的 *Adventures of Ulysses* 頗合少年的口胃。他的小品文更是名貴非凡。他是英國小品文家中第一名手，那幾十篇 *Essays of Elia* 可說是獨創一格的自傳，簡直是百讀不厭的妙文。

編者。

# CONTENTS

|  | PAGE    |
|--|---------|
| The Tempest .....                      | 1       |
| A Midsummer Night's Dream .....        | 16      |
| The Winter's Tale .....                | 32      |
| Much Ado about Nothing .....           | 47      |
| As You Like It .....                   | 64      |
| The Two Gentlemen of Verona .....      | 85      |
| The Merchant of Venice .....           | 102     |
| Cymbeline .....                        | 120     |
| King Lear .....                        | 136     |
| Macbeth .....                          | 156     |
| The Taming of the Shrew .....          | 171     |
| The Comedy of Errors .....             | 185     |
| Twelfth Night; or, What You Will ..... | 204     |
| Timon of Athens .....                  | 221     |
| Romeo and Juliet .....                 | 239     |
| Hamlet, Prince of Denmark .....        | 261     |
| Othello .....                          | 282     |
| Pericles, Prince of Tyre .....         | 299     |
| Notes .....                            | 321-375 |

# TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

## THE TEMPEST

THERE was a certain island in the sea, the only inhabitants of which were an old man, whose name was Prospero, and his daughter Miranda, a very beautiful young lady. She came to this island so young, that she had no memory 5 of having seen any other human face than her father's.

They lived in a <sup>in</sup>cave or <sup>S</sup>cell, made out of a rock; it was divided into several apartments, one of which Prospero called his study; there he kept 10 his books, which chiefly treated of magic, a study at that time much affected by all learned men: and the knowledge of this art he found very useful to him; for being thrown by a strange chance upon this island, which had been enchanted by a witch 15 called Sycorax, who died there a short time before his arrival, Prospero, by virtue of his art, released many good spirits that Sycorax had imprisoned in the bodies of large trees, because they had refused to execute her wicked commands. These gentle 20 spirits were ever after obedient to the will of Prospero. Of these, Ariel was the chief.

The lively little sprite Ariel had nothing mischievous in his nature, except that he took rather too much pleasure in tormenting an ugly monster 25 called Caliban, for he owed him a grudge because

he was the son of his old enemy Sycorax. This Caliban, Prospero found in the woods, a strange misshapen thing, far less human in form than an ape: he took him home to his cell, and taught him  
5 to speak; and Prospero would have been very kind to him, but the bad nature which Caliban inherited from his mother Sycorax, would not let him learn anything good or useful: therefore he was employed like a slave, to fetch wood, and do the most laborious  
10 offices; and Ariel had the charge of compelling him to these services.

When Caliban was lazy and neglected his work, Ariel (who was invisible to all eyes but Prospero's) would come slyly and pinch him, and sometimes  
15 tumble him down in the mire; and then Ariel, in the likeness of an ape, would make mouths at him. Then swiftly changing his shape, in the likeness of a hedgehog, he would lie tumbling in Caliban's way, who feared the hedgehog's sharp quills would  
20 prick his bare feet. With a variety of such like vexatious tricks Ariel would often torment him, whenever Caliban neglected the work which Prospero commanded him to do.

Having these powerful spirits obedient to his  
25 will, Prospero could by their means command the winds, and the waves of the sea. By his orders they raised a violent storm, in the midst of which, and struggling with the wild sea-waves that every moment threatened to swallow it up, he showed  
30 his daughter a fine large ship, which he told her was full of living beings like themselves. "O my dear father," said she, "if by your art you have



raised this dreadful storm, have pity on their sad distress. See! the vessel will be dashed to pieces. Poor souls! they will all perish. If I had power, I would sink the sea beneath the earth, rather than the good ship should be destroyed, with all the 5 precious souls within her."

"Be not so amazed, daughter Miranda," said Prospero; "there is no harm done. I have so ordered it, that no person in the ship shall receive any hurt. What I have done has been in care of 10 you, my dear child. You are ignorant who you are, or where you came from, and you know no more of me, but that I am your father, and live in this poor cave. Can you remember a time before you came to this cell? I think you cannot, for 15 you were not then three years of age."

"Certainly I can, sir," replied Miranda.

"By what?" asked Prospero; "by any other house or person? Tell me what you can remember, my child." 20

Miranda said, "It seems to me like the recollection of a dream. But had I not once four or five women who attended upon me?"

Prospero answered, "You had, and more. How is it that this still lives in your mind? Do you 25 remember how you came here?"

"No, sir," said Miranda, "I remember nothing more."

"Twelve years ago, Miranda," continued Prospero, "I was duke of Milan, and you were a 30 princess, and my only heir. I had a younger brother, whose name was Antonio, to whom I trusted

every thing ; and as I was fond of retirement and deep study, I commonly left the management of my state affairs to your uncle, my false brother (for so indeed he proved). I, neglecting all worldly  
5 ends, buried among my books, did dedicate my whole time to the bettering of my mind. My brother Antonio being thus in possession of my power, began to think himself the duke indeed. The opportunity I gave him of making himself  
10 popular among my subjects awakened in his bad nature a proud ambition to deprive me of my dukedom : this he soon effected with the aid of the king of Naples, a powerful prince, who was my enemy."

15 "Wherefore," said Miranda, "did they not that hour destroy us ? "

"My child," answered her father, "they durst not, so dear was the love that my people bore me. Antonio carried us on board a ship, and when we  
20 were some leagues out at sea, he forced us into a small boat, without either tackle, sail, or mast : there he left us, as he thought, to perish. But a kind lord of my court, one Gonzalo, who loved me, had privately placed in the boat, water, provisions,  
25 apparel, and some books which I prize above my dukedom."

"O my father," said Miranda, "what a trouble must I have been to you then ! "

"No, my love," said Prospero, "you were a  
30 little cherub that did preserve me. Your innocent smiles made me bear up against my misfortunes. Our food lasted till we landed on this desert island,

since when my chief delight has been in teaching you, Miranda, and well have you profited by my instructions."

"Heaven thank you, my dear father," said Miranda. "Now pray tell me, sir, your reason for 5 raising this sea-storm?"

"Know then," said her father, "that by means of this storm, my enemies, the king of Naples, and my cruel brother, are cast ashore upon this island."

Having so said, Prospero gently touched his 10 daughter with his magic wand, and she fell fast asleep; for the spirit Ariel just then presented himself before his master, to give an account of the tempest, and how he had disposed of the ship's company, and though the spirits were always in- 15 visible to Miranda, Prospero did not choose she should hear him holding converse (as would seem to her) with the empty air.

"Well, my brave spirit," said Prospero to Ariel, "how have you performed your task?" 20

Ariel gave a lively description of the storm, and of the terrors of the mariners; and how the king's son, Ferdinand, was the first who leaped into the sea; and his father thought he saw his dear son swallowed up by the waves and lost. "But he 25 is safe," said Ariel, "in a corner of the isle, sitting with his arms folded, sadly lamenting the loss of the king, his father, whom he concludes drowned. Not a hair of his head is injured, and his princely garments, though drenched in the sea-waves, look 30 fresher than before."

"That's my delicate Ariel," said Prospero.

"Bring him hither: my daughter must see this young prince. Where is the king, and my brother?"

"I left them," answered Ariel, "searching for Ferdinand, whom they have little hopes of finding, 5 thinking they saw him perish. Of the ship's crew not one is missing; though each one thinks himself the only one saved: and the ship, though invisible to them, is safe in the harbor."

"Ariel," said Prospero, "thy charge is faithfully 10 performed; but there is more work yet."

"Is there more work?" said Ariel. "Let me remind you, master, you have promised me my liberty. I pray, remember, I have done you worthy service, told you no lies, made no mistakes, served 15 you without grudge or grumbling."

"How now!" said Prospero. "You do not recollect what a torment I freed you from. Have you forgot the wicked witch Sycorax, who with age and envy was almost bent double? Where was she 20 born? Speak; tell me."

"Sir, in Algiers," said Ariel.

"O was she so?" said Prospero. "I must recount what you have been, which I find you do not remember. This bad witch, Sycorax, for her 25 witch-crafts, too terrible to enter human hearing, was banished from Algiers, and here left by the sailors; and because you were a spirit too delicate to execute her wicked commands, she shut you up in a tree, where I found you howling. This torment, 30 remember, I did free you from."

"Pardon me, dear master," said Ariel, ashamed to seem ungrateful; "I will obey your commands."

"Do so," said Prospero, "and I will set you free." He then gave orders what further he would have him do; and away went Ariel, first to where he had left Ferdinand, and found him still sitting on the grass in the same melancholy posture. 5

"O my young gentleman," said Ariel, when he saw him, "I will soon move you. You must be brought, I find, for the Lady Miranda to have a sight of your pretty person. Come, sir, follow me." He then began singing : 10

"Full fathom five thy father lies:  
Of his bones are coral made;  
Those are pearls that were his eyes:  
Nothing of him that doth fade,  
But doth suffer a sea-change 15  
Into something rich and strange.  
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:  
Hark! now I hear them,—Ding-dong, bell."

This strange news of his lost father soon roused the prince from the stupid fit into which he had 20 fallen. He followed in amazement the sound of Ariel's voice, till it led him to Prospero and Miranda, who were sitting under the shade of a large tree. Now Miranda had never seen a man before, except her own father. 25

"Miranda," said Prospero, "tell me what you are looking at yonder."

"O father," said Miranda, in a strange surprise, "surely that is a spirit. Lord! how it looks about! Believe me, sir, it is a beautiful creature. Is it not 30 a spirit?"

"No, girl," answered her father: "it eats, and

sleeps, and has senses such as we have. This young man you see was in the ship. He is somewhat altered by grief, or you might call him a handsome person. He has lost his companions, and is wandering about to find them."

Miranda, who thought all men had grave faces and gray beards like her father, was delighted with the appearance of this beautiful young prince; and Ferdinand, seeing such a lovely maiden in this desert place, and from the strange sounds he had heard, expecting nothing but wonders, thought he was upon an enchanted island, and that Miranda was the goddess of the place, and as such he began to address her.

She timidly answered, she was no goddess, but a simple maid, and was going to give him an account of herself, when Prospero interrupted her. He was well pleased to find they admired each other, for he plainly perceived they had (as we say) fallen in love at first sight: but to try Ferdinand's constancy, he resolved to throw some difficulties in their way: therefore advancing forward, he addressed the prince with a stern air, telling him, he came to the island as a spy, to take it from him who was the lord of it. "Follow me," said he, "I will tie you neck and feet together. You shall drink sea-water; shell-fish, withered roots, and husks of acorns shall be your food." "No," said Ferdinand, "I will resist such entertainment, till I see a more powerful enemy," and drew his sword; but Prospero, waving his magic wand, fixed him to the spot where he stood, so that he had no power to move.

Miranda hung upon her father, saying, "Why are you so ungentle? Have pity, sir; I will be his surety. This is the second man I ever saw, and to me he seems a true one."

"Silence," said the father; "one word more 5 will make me chide you, girl! What! an advocate for an impostor! You think there are no more such fine men, having seen only him and Caliban. I tell you, foolish girl, most men as far excel this, as he does Caliban." This he said to prove his 10 daughter's constancy; and she replied, "My affections are most humble. I have no wish to see a goodlier man."

"Come on, young man," said Prospero to the prince; "you have no power to disobey me." 15

"I have not indeed," answered Ferdinand; and not knowing that it was by magic he was deprived of all power of resistance, he was astonished to find himself so strangely compelled to follow Prospero: looking back on Miranda as long as he could see 20 her, he said, as he went after Prospero into the cave, "My spirits are all bound up, as if I were in a dream; but this man's threats, and the weakness which I feel, would seem light to me if from my prison I might once a day behold this fair maid." 25

Prospero kept Ferdinand not long confined within the cell: he soon brought out his prisoner, and set him a severe task to perform, taking care to let his daughter know the hard labour he had imposed on him, and then pretending to go into his study, he 30 secretly watched them both.

Prospero had commanded Ferdinand to pile up

some heavy logs of wood. Kings' sons not being much used to laborious work, Miranda soon after found her lover almost dying with fatigue. "Alas!" said she, "do not work so hard; my father is at  
5 his studies, he is safe for these three hours; pray rest yourself."

"O my dear lady," said Ferdinand, "I dare not. I must finish my task before I take my rest."

"If you will sit down," said Miranda, "I will  
10 carry your logs the while." But this Ferdinand would by no means agree to. Instead of a help Miranda became a hindrance, for they began a long conversation, so that the business of log-carrying went on very slowly.

15 Prospero, who had enjoined Ferdinand this task merely as a trial of his love, was not at his books, as his daughter supposed, but was standing by them invisible, to overhear what they said.

Ferdinand inquired her name, which she told,  
20 saying it was against her father's express command she did so.

Prospero only smiled at this first instance of his daughter's disobedience, for having by his magic art caused his daughter to fall in love so suddenly,  
25 he was not angry that she showed her love by forgetting to obey his commands. And he listened well pleased to a long speech of Ferdinand's, in which he professed to love her above all the ladies he ever saw.

30 In answer to his praises of her beauty, which he said exceeded all the women in the world, she replied, "I do not remember the face of any woman,



nor have I seen any more men than you, my good friend, and my dear father. How features are abroad, I know not; but, believe me, sir, I would not wish any companion in the world but you, nor can my imagination form any shape but yours that I could like. But, sir, I fear I talk to you too freely, and my father's precepts I forget." 5

At this Prospero smiled, and nodded his head, as much as to say, "This goes on exactly as I could wish; my girl will be queen of Naples." 10

And then Ferdinand, in another fine long speech (for young princes speak in courtly phrases), told the innocent Miranda he was heir to the crown of Naples, and that she should be his queen.

"Ah! sir," said she, "I am a fool to weep at what I am glad of. I will answer you in plain and holy innocence. I am your wife if you will marry me." 15

Prospero prevented Ferdinand's thanks by appearing visible before them.

"Fear nothing, my child," said he; "I have 20 overheard, and approve of all you have said. And, Ferdinand, if I have too severely used you, I will make you rich amends, by giving you my daughter. All your vexations were but trials of your love, and you have nobly stood the test. Then as my gift, 25 which your true love has worthily purchased, take my daughter, and do not smile that I boast she is above all praise." He then, telling them that he had business which required his presence, desired they would sit down and talk together till he returned; 30 and this command Miranda seemed not at all disposed to disobey.