

# 英语美文赏析

Appreciation of Famous English and  
American Literary Works



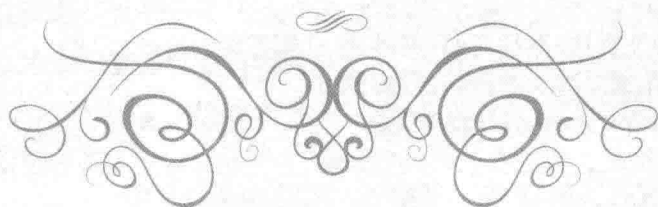
主编 刘 丹 席红梅

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## 内 容 简 介

本书是根据英美文学历史顺序结合作品选读所编写的一套适合我国高等院校非英语专业使用的选修课教材。它既是提高非英语专业本科学生的文学素养与欣赏水平的新型实用教材,同时也是欣赏英语美文的入门书籍。

本书按英国文学和美国文学作品分为两大篇,按时间顺序共分九个单元,每个单元下的作者都附有作家简介、作品欣赏、注释、学习提示、问题讨论、拓展阅读六个项目,旨在帮助学生更加深入地了解各阶段的主要作家及其作品。

本书可作为普通高等院校非英语专业本科生教材使用,同时也可供爱好英语美文阅读的人士参考。

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# 前 言

为了适应我国高等教育发展的新形式,深化大学英语课程的教学改革,满足国家对高素质复合型人才的需要,全方位提升学生英语综合能力,哈尔滨工程大学面向全校非英语专业本科生开设了英语美文赏析这门课程。本书是以《国家中长期教育改革和发展规划纲要》的培养目标要求为准则,着眼于学生的人文素质培养,有助于培养学生的世界眼光、树立国际意识。

文学是社会文化的重要表现形式,是人生的脉搏,是文字的艺术,是美的诠释。美文是作家用独特的语言艺术表现其独特心灵世界的杰作,著名的作品是艺术长河的瑰宝,超越时空,有永生不灭的力量与魅力。通过对其赏析,学生读史通今,不仅可以深刻了解当今社会,而且可以与历史伟人、名人进行思想交流,有利于提升世界观和人生观。同时学生可以了解文学的基本常识、陶冶性情、增强文学修养、提升审美观。通过本书,学生可以领略英语的语言之美,有利于学生英语兴趣的培养与能力的提高。

本书介绍欣赏英语美文的要点,为学生欣赏英语文学作品提供素材;同时精选英美文学中公认的经典作品作为选读材料,将作品分列英国文学与美国文学,并按年代排列,让学生能够在时代背景下更深入地理解作者写作的目的与意义所在。

学生通过作家简介,增长知识,激发对文学阅读的热情;通过对作品的欣赏与注释,提高英语水平,体会语言的魅力;通过学习提示,增强其文学修养与文学审美力;通过问题讨论,锻炼思辨、分析与鉴赏能力,增强师生互动;通过拓展阅读,开阔视野,提高自主学习能力。

本书的编写得到了“哈尔滨工程大学 2016 年本科生立项教材基金”的资助,得到了学校领导与出版社编辑的悉心指导和大力支持,在此向他们表示诚挚的谢意。由于编写时间紧张,水平有限,编写过程中难免出现疏漏、谬误之处,敬请专家和读者们批评指正。

编 者

2017 年 2 月

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# 第一篇 英国文学作品赏析

## 一、中古时期文学

### (一) *Beowulf* 《贝奥武夫》

#### 【作品简介】

英国最初的文学即故事与传说,是由口才好的人口头讲述的,渐渐产生了讲故事的人,称为“斯可卜”(Scop),这些人都是用说唱或歌唱的方式讲述,他们认为好故事这样吟唱才更动听,对于表现人民英雄事迹的歌曲,传唱的过程中会进行增饰、合编,最后才有写本,但是写本只是传唱的一小部分,而保存下来的写本更是稀少。迄今为止现存的古英语中最古老、最完整的英国民族史诗就是《贝奥武夫》,它也是欧洲最早的方言史诗,与法国的《罗兰之歌》和德国的《尼伯龙根之歌》并称为欧洲文学的三大英雄史诗。

《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*),是一部完成于公元8世纪左右的英国古代盎格鲁撒克逊民族的英雄叙事长诗,讲述了斯堪的纳维亚(Scandinavia)的英雄贝奥武夫(Beowulf)的英雄事迹,其唯一手抄本是用西撒克逊方言书写的,并保存于伦敦英国博物馆中。这本书的作者未知,但有人推断可能是一名基督教诗人,他将英雄传说、神话与历史结合起来,同时加上基督教的观点,写下3182行诗作。

《贝奥武夫》采用的形式是头韵,即用来押韵的字是以同一辅音开始,每一行通常有四个重读音节,在第二与第三重音节之间有一个停顿。作者语言上大量运用比喻、委婉语和克制的陈述手段,也运用插曲及离题的话,把神话提升到史诗的高度,来加深和加宽作品的内容。这些语言特点使史诗庄严、华丽,既简练又复杂、既含蓄又强烈。

《贝奥武夫》反映了氏族部落社会的价值观念。对于武士来说,最高的美德便是勇敢与忠诚,武士凭着勇敢来自我完善,忠诚于国王,他们是勇敢的斗士,如果在强敌面前显示出英勇的行为,就会为后世人所传颂纪念。



【作品欣赏】

**Beowulf<sup>1</sup>**

The Fight With Grendel

X

Then Hrothgar<sup>2</sup> went out of the hall with his company of warriors, the protector of the Scyldings. The war chief would seek the bed of Wealhtheow the queen. The King of Glory<sup>3</sup>—as men had learned—had appointed a hall-guard<sup>4</sup> against Grendel; he had a special mission to the prince of the Danes: he kept watch against monsters.

And the man of the Geats<sup>5</sup> had sure trust in his great might, the favor of the Ruler<sup>6</sup>. Then he took off his shirt of armor, the helmet<sup>7</sup> from his head, handed his embellished<sup>8</sup> sword, best of irons, to an attendant, bade him keep guard over his war-gear. Then the good warrior spoke some boast-words before he went to his bed, Beowulf of the Geats: “I claim myself no poorer in war-strength, war works, than Grendel claims himself. Therefore I will not put him to sleep with a sword, so take away his life, though surely I might. He knows no good tools with which he might strike against me, cut my shield in pieces, though he is strong in fight. But we shall forgo<sup>9</sup> the sword in the night—if he dare seek war without weapon—and then may wise God, Holy Lord, assign glory on whichever hand seems good to Him<sup>10</sup>. ”

The battle brave one laid himself down, the pillow received the earl's head, and about him many a brave seaman lay down to hall—rest. None of them thought that he would ever again seek from there his dear home, people or town where he had been brought up; for they knew that bloody death had carried off far too many men in the wine-hall, folk of the Danes. But the Lord granted to weave for them good fortune in war, for the folk of the Weather-Geats<sup>11</sup>, comfort and help that they should quite overcome their foe through the might of one man, through his sole strength; the truth has been made known that mighty God<sup>12</sup> has always ruled mankind.

There came gliding in the black night the walker in darkness. The warriors slept who should hold the horned house—all but one. It was known to men that when the Ruler did not wish it the hostile creature<sup>13</sup> might not drag them away beneath the shadows. But he, lying awake for the fierce foe, with heart swollen in anger awaited the outcome of the fight.

XI

Then from the moor under the mist-hills Grendel came walking, wearing God's anger<sup>14</sup>. The foul ravager<sup>15</sup> thought to catch some one of mankind there in the high hall. Under the clouds he moved until he could see most clearly the wine-hall, treasure-house of men, shining with gold. That was not the first time that he had sought Hrothgar's home<sup>16</sup>. Never before or since in his life-days did he find harder luck, hardier hall-thanes. The creature deprived of joy came walking to the hall. Quickly the door gave way, fastened with fire-forged bands, when he touched it with his

hands. Driven by evil desire, swollen with rage<sup>17</sup>, he tore it open, the hall's mouth. After that the foe at once stepped onto the shining floor, advanced angrily. From his eyes came a light not fair, most like a flame. He saw many men in the hall, a band of kinsmen all asleep together, a company of warmen. Then his heart laughed; dreadful monster, he thought that before the day came he would divide the life from the body of every one of them, for there had come to him a hope of full-feasting<sup>18</sup>. It was not his fate that when that night was over he should feast on more of mankind.

The kinsman of Hygelac, mighty man, watched how the evil-doer<sup>19</sup> would make his quick onslaught<sup>20</sup>. Nor did the monster mean to delay it, but, starting his work, he suddenly seized a sleeping man, tore at him ravenously<sup>21</sup>, bit into his bone-locks, drank the blood from his veins, swallowed huge morsels; quickly he had eaten all of the lifeless one, feet and hands. He stepped closer, then felt with his arm for the brave-hearted man on the bed, reached out towards him, the foe with his hand; at once in fierce response Beowulf seized it and sat up, leaning on his own arm. Straightway the fosterer of crimes<sup>22</sup> knew that he had not encountered on middle-earth, anywhere in this world, a harder hand-grip from another man. In mind he became frightened, in his spirit; not for that might he escape the sooner. His heart was eager to get away, he would flee to his hiding-place, seek his rabble<sup>23</sup> of devils. What he met there was not such as he had ever before met in the days of his life. Then the kinsman of Hygelac, the good man, thought of his evening's speech, stood upright and laid firm hold on him; his fingers cracked. The giant was pulling away, the earl stepped forward. The notorious<sup>24</sup> one thought to move farther away, wherever he could, and flee his way from there to his fen-retreat<sup>25</sup>; he knew his fingers' power to be in a hateful grip. That was a painful journey that the loathsome despoiler had made to Heorot. The retainers' hall rang with the noise—terrible drink for all the Danes<sup>26</sup>, the house-dwellers, every brave man, the earls. Both were enraged, fury-filled, the two who meant to control the hall. The building resounded. Then was it much wonder that the wine-hall withstood them joined in fierce fight, that it did not fall to the ground, the fair earth-dwelling; but it was so firmly made fast with iron bands, both inside and outside, joined by skillful smith-craft. There started from the floor—as I have heard say—many a mead-bench, gold-adorned, when the furious ones fought. No wise men of the Scyldings ever before thought that any men in any manner might break it down, splendid with bright horns, have skill to destroy it, unless flame should embrace it, swallow it in fire. Noise rose up, sound strange enough. Horrible fear came upon the North-Danes, upon every one of those who heard the weeping from the wall, God's enemy sing his terrible song, song without triumph—the hell-slave bewail<sup>27</sup> his pain. There held him fast he who of men was strongest of might in the days of this life.

## XII

Not for anything would the protector of warriors let the murderous guest go off alive; he did not consider his life-days of use to any of the nations. There more than enough of Beowulf's earls drew swords, old heirlooms<sup>28</sup>, wished to protect the life of their dear lord, famous prince, however they might. They did not know when they entered the fight, hardy-spirited warriors, and when they thought to hew him on every side, to seek his soul, that not any of the best of irons on earth, no

warsword, would touch the evil-doer; for with a charm he had made victory-weapons useless, every sword-edge. His departure to death from the time of this life was to be wretched; and the alien spirit<sup>29</sup> was to travel far off into the power of fiends. Then he who before had brought trouble of heart to mankind, committed many crimes—he was at war with God—found that his body would do him no good, for the great-hearted kinsman of Hygelac had him by the hand. Each was hateful to the other alive<sup>30</sup>. The awful monster had lived to feel pain in his body, a huge wound in his shoulder was exposed, his sinews sprang apart, his bone-locks broke. Glory in battle was given to Beowulf. Grendel must flee from there, mortally sick, seek his joyless home in the fenslopes. He knew the more surely that his life's end had come, the full number of his days. For all the Danes was their wish fulfilled after the bloody fight. Thus he who had lately come from far off, wise and stout-hearted<sup>31</sup>, had purged Heorot, saved Hrothgar's house from affliction. He rejoiced in his night's work, a deed to make famous his courage. The man of the Geats had fulfilled his boast to the East-Danes; so too he had remedied all the grief, the malice-caused sorrow that they had endured before, and had to suffer from harsh necessity, no small distress. That was clearly proved when the battle-brave man set the hand up under the curved roof—the arm and the shoulder; there all together was Grendel's grasp.

## 【注释】

1. Beowulf: 主人公贝奥武夫来自瑞典, 但却在丹麦完成壮举。全诗分为两部分, 其中第一部分讲述丹麦洛斯格国王 (King Hrothgar) 修建的宫殿里一直都有半人半魔的妖怪哥伦多 (Grendel) 每晚骚扰, 捉食战士。此刻瑞典南部盖特 (Geats) 王子贝奥武夫率家臣来访, 欲帮助国王除掉妖怪。国王当晚设宴款待, 妖怪突然出现, 贝奥武夫与之战斗, 将其打成重伤, 回其洞穴后死去; 第二晚, 其母来报仇, 贝奥武夫也将其杀死。贝奥武夫返回自己国家后, 被拥戴为王, 统治国家五十年, 举国大治。贝奥武夫在垂暮之年杀掉一只喷火巨龙, 受重伤死去。

2. Hrothgar: 指丹麦王洛斯格。

3. the King of Glory: 伟大的国王。

4. hall-guard: 护卫武士。

5. the man of the Geats: 指盖特人。

6. trust in his great might, the favor of the Ruler: 译为“在神的庇佑下相信自己的能力非凡”。

7. helmet: 头盔。

8. embellished: 装饰精美的。

9. forgo: 放弃、停止。

10. and then may wise God, Holy Lord, assign glory on whichever hand seems good to Him: 译为“上帝显灵, 我会给他好看”。

11. the folk of the Weather-Geats: 历经磨难的盖特乡亲。

12. mighty God: 万能的上帝。

13. hostile creature: 怀有敌意的生物, 这里指妖魔。

14. wearing God's anger:怀着对上帝的怨恨。
15. foul ravager:邪恶的破坏者。
16. Hrothgar's home:洛斯格国王的家,指丹麦王大厅。
17. swollen with rage:指怒火中烧。
18. full-feasting:指饕餮盛宴。
19. evildoer:为恶者,指邪怪,作者用不同的表达方式描述妖魔。
20. quick onslaught:快速猛攻。
21. ravenously:饥饿地。
22. the fosterer of crimes:罪恶滋养者,指妖怪。
23. rabble:乌合之众。
24. notorious:恶名昭彰的。
25. fen-retreat:沼泽避难地。
26. rang with the noise—terrible drink for all the Danes:作者用暗喻,指武士如在喝酒助威般环绕。
27. bewail:哀号。
28. heirlooms:祖传遗物。
29. alien spirit:异族精灵,指妖魔。
30. Each was hateful to the other alive:译为“每个将死之人都对活着的人抱有敌意”。
31. stout-hearted:勇敢的,大胆的。

### 【学习提示】

史诗,作为古代民间的一种庄严的文学体裁,与抒情诗和戏剧并称为西方文学三种基本类型,它通常指以民间传说或重大历史事件为题材的古代长篇民间叙事诗。作为人类最早的精神产品,史诗多为集体编创,即是在诞生之后,由一代代诗人不断吟唱、增删、整理、加工、记录所涵盖的人文历史等信息,让其内容丰富如百科全书,反映人类早年时期的具有重大意义的历史事件或者神话传说。史诗主要歌颂每个民族在其形成和发展过程中,战胜所经历的各种艰难险阻,克服自然灾害,抵御外敌的斗争及其英雄业绩。史诗来源于神话,但其发展最终又是对神话思想的一种否定。

史诗可分为创世史诗和英雄史诗。创世史诗也被称为“原始性”史诗或神话史诗,多运用艺术虚构手法,塑造著名的英雄形象,常充满神幻色彩,如印度的《摩诃婆罗多》等;英雄史诗是以长篇叙事为体裁讲述英雄人物的经历或事迹的诗,如荷马史诗《奥德赛》。上世纪末,劳里·航柯(Lauri Honko)对印度西里人的口传史诗的研究,标志着西方史诗观念和研究范式的转移。21世纪的史诗研究是多元化的,传统研究范式将成为历史。

### 【问题讨论】

1. Could you describe Beowulf's character?
2. Why couldn't Beowulf's followers hurt Grendel though they tried hard to hack and

stab him?

3. Why is Beowulf not afraid of fighting the monster?
4. How did Beowulf mortally wound Grendel?
5. Please discuss the features of old English poetry.

### 【拓展阅读】

Please appreciate the following sentences from *Beowulf*.

1. He lived to find comfort for that, became great under the skies, prospered in honors until every one of those who lived about him, across the whale-road, had to obey him, pay him tribute. That was a good king.

他(塞亚德)看来,活着的意义就是成为伟大的人物,要让生活在他周围的人民生活富足,在鲸路对岸生活的人们也向他进贡,依附于他。这样他才是个好国王。

2. Afterwards a son was born to him, a young boy in his house, whom God sent to comfort the people; He had seen the sore need they had suffered during the long time they lacked a king.

后来,他(塞亚德)生了一个儿子,这个儿子是上帝派来安抚乡亲的,因为他看到乡亲们的核心需要:他们长期以来经历了巨大的灾难,他们太需要一个国王了。

3. Therefore the Lord of Life, the Ruler of Heaven, gave him honor in the world; Beow was famous, the glory of son of Scyld spread widely in the Northlands.

生命的主宰,天国的统治者给他这世间的荣耀:贝奥成名了,塞亚德儿子的荣耀传遍了北部地区。

4. In this way a young man ought by his good deeds, by giving splendid gifts while still in his father's house, to make sure that later in life beloved companions will stand by him, that people will serve him when war comes.

以这种方式,这个年轻人(塞亚德的儿子)以自己的善行,通过自己优越的才能,使人们相信他就是他们深爱的伙伴,他与他们同在,这样当战争到来之时,他们才能为他效力。

5. He had ruled them with his words—long had the beloved prince governed the land.

他用他的言语领导过他们——长期以来受人爱戴的王子一直为国效力。

6. Sad was their spirit, mournful their mind.

人们脸上浮现悲伤,在心里为他哀悼。

7. Through deeds that bring praise, a man shall prosper in every country.

如果作为一个国王能得到赞扬,他所领导的任何国家都会强大。

8. For the monster was relentless, the dark death-shadow, against warriors old and young, lay in wait and ambushed them.

这个怪物凶残无情,让大地蒙上了死亡的阴影,他埋伏在那里,随时等着准备袭击年老的和年轻的武士们。

9. Woe is him who in terrible trouble must thrust his soul into the fire's embrace, hope for no comfort, not expect change. Well is the man who after his death-day may seek the Lord and find peace in the embrace of the Father.

不奋发有为,不百折不挠地去斗争是困境中人们最大的灾难。奋发有为,如果死了可以找到上帝,躺在天父宁静的怀抱中,这是最大的福祉。

10. They left the riches, golden joy of earls, in dust, for earth to hold; where yet it lies, useless as ever.

他们将富贵荣华归于尘土,一无所有地在故地重新开始。

## (二) Geoffrey Chaucer (杰弗雷·乔叟)

### 【作者简介】

杰弗雷·乔叟(Geoffrey Chaucer, 1343—1400)是英国诗歌之父,中世纪英国文学的集大成者,英国最具人文主义思想的代表作家,现实主义文学的奠基者。

乔叟 1343 年生于伦敦酒商家庭,17 岁成为王室亲族随从,1359 年随军远征法国被俘,后被英王赎回,担任王室管家。乔叟曾在牛津和剑桥就读,先后在法国、比利时、意大利等欧洲国家担任外交官职责,期间他被但丁(Dante, 1265—1321)、彼得拉克(Petrarch, 1304—1374)和薄伽丘(Boccaccio, 1313—1375)等人作品所影响,他们反宗教、反封建和人文的思想,使乔叟的创作转向现实主义,1373 年他出任伦敦港海关关长,并于晚上进行文学创作,1386 年他被选为议员,1389 年又被任为王室书记,1400 年乔叟于伦敦去世,葬于威斯敏斯特教堂里的“诗人之角”。

乔叟把属于中古英语的东中部方言(伦敦方言)发展成为英国的文学语言,他又继承和吸收法国与意大利诗人的诗歌技巧,并且借此来丰富诗歌的表达能力,除创作诗歌外,他还翻译了不少法国的诗歌。他的主要作品有《贞洁妇女传说》(*The Legend of Good Woman*)、《声誉之堂》(*The House of Fame*)、《百鸟议会》(*The Parliament of Fowls*)、《公爵夫人之书》(*The Book of the Duchess*)、《特罗勒斯与克丽西德》(*Troilus and Criseyde*)及其代表作《坎特伯雷故事集》(*The Canterbury Tales*)。



### 【作品欣赏】

#### The Canterbury Tales<sup>1</sup>

##### —General Prologue

As soon as April pierces to the root<sup>2</sup>  
The drought of March, and bathes each bud and shoot  
Through every vein of sap<sup>3</sup> with gentle showers  
From whose engendering liquor spring the flowers<sup>4</sup>;  
When zephyrs<sup>5</sup> have breathed softly all about

Inspiring every wood and field to sprout<sup>6</sup>,  
And in the zodiac the youthful sun  
His journey halfway through the Ram has run<sup>7</sup>;  
When little birds are busy with their song  
Who sleep with open eyes the whole night long,  
Life stirs their hearts and tingles in them so,  
Then off as pilgrims people long to go,  
And palmers<sup>8</sup> to set out for distant strands  
And foreign shrines<sup>9</sup> renowned in many lands.  
And specially in England people ride  
To Canterbury from every countryside  
To visit there the blessed martyred saint<sup>10</sup>  
Who gave them strength when they were sick and faint.

In Southwark at the Tabard<sup>11</sup> one spring day  
It happened, as I stopped there on my way,  
Myself a pilgrim with a heart devout  
Ready for Canterbury to set out  
At night came all of twenty-nine assorted  
Travellers<sup>12</sup>, and to that same inn resorted,  
Who by a turn of fortune chanced to fall  
In fellowship together<sup>13</sup>, and they were all  
Pilgrims who had it in their minds to ride  
Toward Canterbury. The stables<sup>14</sup> doors were wide,  
The rooms were large, and we enjoyed the best,  
And shortly, when the sun had gone to rest,  
I had so talked with each that presently  
I was a member of their company  
And promised to rise early the next day  
To start, as I shall show, upon our way.

But none the less, while I have time and spare,  
Before this tale has gone a further pace<sup>15</sup>,  
I should in reason tell you the condition  
Of each of them, his rank and his position,  
And also what array they all were in;  
And so then, with a knight I will begin.

A Knight was with us, and an excellent man,  
Who from the earliest moment he began  
To follow his career loved chivalry<sup>16</sup>.  
Truth, openhandedness<sup>17</sup>, and courtesy<sup>18</sup>.

He was a stout man in the king's campaigns  
 And in that cause had gripped his horse's reins  
 In Christian lands and pagan through the earth<sup>19</sup>,  
 None farther, and always honored for his worth.  
 He was on hand at Alexandria<sup>20</sup>'s fall.  
 He had often sat in precedence to all  
 The nations at the banquet board in Prussia<sup>21</sup>.  
 He had fought in Lithuania<sup>22</sup> and in Russia,  
 No Christian knight more often<sup>23</sup>; he had been  
 In Moorish Africa at Benmarin,  
 And the siege<sup>24</sup> of Algeciras<sup>25</sup> in Granada,  
 And sailed in many a glorious armada<sup>26</sup>  
 In the Mediterranean, and fought as well  
 At Ayas and Attalia<sup>27</sup> when they fell  
 In Armenia and on Asia Minor's coast.  
 Of fifteen deadly battles he could boast,  
 And in Algaria, at Tremessen,  
 Fought for the faith and killed three separate men  
 In single combat. He had done good work  
 Joining against another pagan Turk  
 With the king of Palatia<sup>28</sup>. And he was wise,  
 Despite his prowess<sup>29</sup>, honored in men's eyes,  
 Meek as a girl and gentle in his ways.  
 He had never spoken ignobly all his days  
 To any man by even a rude inflection.  
 He was knight in all things to perfection.  
 He rode a good horse, but his gear was plain,  
 For he had lately served on a campaign.  
 His tunic<sup>30</sup> was still spattered by the rust  
 Left by his coat of mail, for he had just  
 Returned and set out on his pilgrimage<sup>31</sup>.

### 【注释】

1. 《坎特伯雷故事集》是一部诗体短篇小说集,介绍了汇聚在泰巴旅店准备到伦敦 70 英里外的坎特伯雷去朝拜殉教圣人托马斯的一行 31 位朝圣者(其中包括叙述者本人乔叟),他们包括骑士、僧尼、商人、手工艺者、医生等各个阶层的人士,店主哈里·贝利建议在经返圣地的途中每人来回各讲两个故事,以排解寂寞,他自告奋勇担任向导与裁判,选出故事讲得最好的人,白吃一顿好饭。根据总序中的计划,全书应该有 120 个故事,但乔叟在去



世前只完成了全书的总序和 20 个完整的故事,另外有 4 个残篇。大多数故事与总序一样,采用双韵诗体写成的,只有 2 个故事是散文写成的,还有 4 个故事采用七行诗段(君主诗体)写成的,和尚讲的故事是用八行诗段写成的。乔叟逼真地描绘了当时英国社会的全貌,以幽默的笔调讽刺封建社会的丑恶,揭露教会的腐朽,反对禁欲主义,宣扬世俗享乐,展现了一幅幅富有生活气息和时代特征的画卷。乔叟虽是宫廷诗人,但他的生活经验却是多方面的,他熟悉 14 世纪英国各阶层的人物,对各阶层人物的语言,都能运用自如。他的作品反映了英国当时社会的面貌,而其对普遍人性的描画,也让他的作品长期吸引众多读者。

2. pierces to the root: 渗透根部。

3. every vein of sap: 汁液的丝丝经络。

4. engendering liquor spring the flowers: 百花盛开,生机勃勃。

5. zephyrs: 指西风。

6. sprout: 发芽。

7. the youthful sun/His journey halfway through the Ram has run: 太阳经过白羊宫时为 3 月 21 日到 4 月 21 日,正值春天,故谓 the youthful sun。本句译为“太阳刚转过半边”。

8. palmers: 指朝圣者们。

9. shrines: 指圣地。

10. martyred saint: 殉道的圣徒,此处指 St. Thomas à Becket of Canterbury, 这位大主教因与国王亨利二世(Henry II)冲突,于 1170 年被刺身死,激起民愤,于 1173 年被尊为殉难圣徒。他的遗骨葬在坎特伯雷,该处建有他的圣堂,供人朝拜。嗣后三百余年中,坎特伯雷成为信徒传统的圣地。

11. In Southwark, at The Tabard: Southwark 指伦敦一个郊区,位于泰晤士河南岸,故事中众香客投宿泰巴旅店的所在地。

12. twenty-nine assorted/Travellers: 指 29 位各行各业的旅人。

13. by a turn of fortune chanced to fall/In fellowship together: 译为“由命运之轮带领,不期而遇”。

14. stables: 厩,指马棚。

15. while I have time and spare, /Before this tale has gone a further pace: 译为“趁故事正文尚未开场,我还有时间和篇幅”。

16. chivalry: 骑士精神。

17. openhandedness: 慷慨大方。

18. courtesy: 彬彬有礼。

19. In Christian lands and pagan through the earth: 译为“转战于基督和异教之邦”。

20. Alexandria: 指埃及港书。

21. at the banquet boat in Prussia: 在普鲁士庆功宴上。

22. Lithuania: 指立陶宛。

23. No Christian Knight more often: 同级的骑士都大为逊色。

24. siege: 围攻。

25. of Algeciras: Algeciras, 地名,指当时摩尔人的一座城堡,在今西班牙境内。

26. glorious armada: 荣耀的舰队。