

# The Words of the Favourite Passages Personages with wisdom

英汉对照本



心爱的片段

## 哲人智语

● 吴石牧 编译

中国社会科学出版社

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# 前 言

自 1978 年我国实行对外开放政策以来,学习英语的热潮从未衰退过,而且随着国际交往的日益频繁,愈益高涨起来。因为人们无论专攻何种学问,无论从事何种职业,都会日益清醒地认识到:英语乃当今世界上信息量最大的载体,在当今如此高度信息化的时代,能否学好英语,往往决定事业成败。

学习任何东西,都须掌握其客观规律,循序渐进,此乃众所周知的常识;但是,由于不少人有急功近利的心态,又受到诸如“疯狂英语”、“速成英语”之类商业性炒作的蛊惑,不免开始变得浮躁起来,只读几本认为能“立竿见影”的教材,就以为万事大吉,而忘了学习英语同学习汉语一样,也须听、说、读、写全面发展,也须读些与专业无直接关系的课外读物,如用英语写的小说、散文、诗歌,等等,即不走所谓的“捷径”而多下些“课外”功夫,才能打下扎实的基础,才能真正学好英语。

我已年逾八旬,教了半个世纪英语。很久以来,一直想为广大英语学习者编几本开卷有益、宜诵宜背的英语课外读物。本书是根据我所读过并喜爱的数十本著名科学家、作家、画家、演员的传记、回忆录、日记、书信或著名记者的

采访实录精心编选而成的，原本有一百多个片段，由于篇幅所限，又从中精选出五十个片段而成此书；这些片段涉及古今中外许多名人的思想、情操，趣闻逸事，其内容生动活泼，文字浅显流畅。英语原文中的词语均用英语注释，以便读者扩大英语词汇量，并逐渐养成使用英英词典的习惯，从而提高用英语思维的能力。对英语原文中一些常用词或短语的用法，尤加关注，均在注释中配以多种例句，以便读者举一反三，模仿造句，进而提高用英语写作的能力。每个片段，均附有中译文，以便读者做英汉互译练习，提高英汉互译能力。此外，其篇幅也特别短小，如日诵几句，数日背一篇，持之以恒，日久必见大效。

本来，对本书的介绍到此也该结束了，刚巧，有一位从事过多年思想教育工作的朋友田丹同志前来寒舍造访，见到书稿便拿起来颇为仔细地翻阅了一遍，说：“这本书各个片段大多包含了生活中方方面面的一些道理甚至某些哲理，书中浓缩了许多闪光的真理，它既有知识性又有思想性。读这本书，不但可学到英语知识，还可学到做人处世的道理，不但可作为英语辅助读物，还可作为德育辅助读物。”我本不愿把朋友的这种评价写入序言，以免“老王卖瓜”之嫌，但朋友一定要我写入，说这也是对读者负责，于是我遵命了。

这里须特别提及，本书所收片段的译文，多为本人勉力完成；有些篇什参照了国内名家的译本，在此谨致谢忱。本书若有舛误之处，概由本人负责，敬请读者批评指正。

吴石牧

2004年3月1日

# CONTENTS

前 言 /1

Passage 1. The Smell of Holland in His Nose Started the Day off Right

一股荷兰乡土气息, 钻入鼻孔, 又一天开始了 /1

Passage 2. Father and Mother Were Alike in Their Love of Having Good Time

爸爸妈妈完全相像, 都爱享乐 /8

Passage 3. In 1831, Charlotte Bronte Was a Quiet, Thoughtful Girl

1831 年, 夏洛蒂·勃朗特是个安静的、爱深思的少女 /15

Passage 4. Naturally, I Was a Good Deal Moved

当然, 我深受感动 /21

Passage 5. Did You See the Movie?

你看过那部电影了吗? /27

Passage 6. After I Left School I Became a Great Reader

离开学校以后, 我成了一个真正爱读书的人 /33

Passage 7. The Last Thought of My Brain as I Lie Dying

临死前最后想的是/39

Passage 8. It Was Like Saying Good-bye to a Statue

那简直是在跟石像告别/45

Passage 9. Diaries of Norman Bethune

诺曼·白求恩日记/51

Passage 10. Letters to His Son

给儿子的信/57

Passage 11. I Might in Time to be a Tolerable English Writer

我可能成为一个过得去的英语作家/62

Passage 12. The Thing One Prizes Most Is Life

人最宝贵的是生命/68

Passage 13. Will, Work and Success Fill Human Existence

立志、工作、成功是人类活动的三大要素/73

Passage 14. This Touch Was Without Any Effect

触摸没有什么效果/77

Passage 15. Lucy, Bernard Shaw's Sister

露西, 萧伯纳的姐姐/82

Passage 16. *Eugenie Grandet*, One of the Best-known of Balzac's Works

《欧也妮·葛朗台》,巴尔扎克最著名的作品之一/87

Passage 17. A Man with a Constitution of Iron

钢筋铁骨的人/93

Passage 18. To His Sister Marie

给他的妹妹玛丽/99

Passage 19. Even the Cuffings Never Daunted Me

甚至那一顿痛打也没有吓倒我/105

Passage 20. "That Warms Me"

“这样好叫我心里暖暖的!”/110

Passage 21. A Holiday

度假/117

Passage 22. After Levinson Finished His Work

莱文森工作完毕以后/123

Passage 23. Soong Ching Ling Hold Firmly to Her Path

宋庆龄坚持走自己的道路/130

Passage 24. Tomorrow Tomorrow

啊,还有明天,明天! /137

Passage 25. Mother Told Us the Truth



母亲对我们说的是实情/141

Passage 26. My Friend, Return to Your Literary Activity

我的朋友,请回到文学活动上去/148

Passage 27. My Tears Began Flowing Again

我的眼泪又夺眶而出/154

Passage 28. For Years I Kept That Day Sacred in My Memory

我多年来把这一天当作神圣的纪念日/160

Passage 29. Keep Your Love for Nature

要保持你对大自然的爱/167

Passage 30. *Sorrow*, the Best Figure I Have Drawn As Yet

《悲哀》是我迄今所画的最好的人物画/173

Passage 31. I Want to See You Again So Much

我多么想再见到你一面啊/180

Passage 32. He Never Forgot His Own Country

他从未忘怀过他自己的故乡/186

Passage 33. For a Better Life for the Chinese People and All People

愿中国人民,愿全世界人民过上更美好的生活/192

Passage 34. My Father Was One of Them

我父亲就是其中的一个/199

Passage 35. Impact on the Audience

在观众身上产生的效果/205

Passage 36. Her Name Was Hsiao Hung, Her Fate Was Typical

她的名字叫萧红,她的命运是典型的/211

Passage 37. The Most Eloquent Face

最富于表情的脸/216

Passage 38. Poverty and Ignorance of My Youth

我少年时期的贫困和无知/222

Passage 39. Someone Must Stand and Fight

总得有人坚持战斗/229

Passage 40. What Was Truth and What Was Fancy

什么是现实,什么是幻想/235

Passage 41. The Rest of Her Life, a Kind of Perpetual Giving

她完全献出了她的余生/242

Passage 42. Having Been Given the Nobel Prize

诺贝尔奖金授予我们/247

Passage 43. After Pierre's Death

在皮埃尔死后/253

Passage 44. Marie Curie Is the Only One Whom Fame Has Not Corrupted

居里夫人是惟一不为荣誉所腐蚀的人/259

Passage 45. Today Mlle Sklodovska Was to Become Mme Pierre Curie

今天斯可罗多夫斯卡小姐要成为皮埃尔·居里夫人了/265

Passage 46. Goethe Received Me with Great Cordiality

歌德待我非常热情/270

Passage 47. You Did Well to Come Hither to Learn German

你来这里学德文是很明智的/277

Passage 48. The Most Important Part of an Individual's Life

一个人一生最重要的时期/283

Passage 49. My Real Happiness Was My Poetic Meditation and Production

我的真正快乐在于我在诗歌方面的思索和创作/288

Passage 50. Goethe Asked What Mr. H. Read in German Literature

歌德问 H 先生读过哪些德国文学作品/295

## Passage 1

# The Smell of Holland in His Nose Started the Day off Right

“Monsieur Van Gogh! It's time to wake up!” Vincent had been waiting for Ursula's voice even while he slept, “I was awake, Mademoiselle Ursula.” He called back.

“No, you weren't,” the girl laughed, “but you are now,” He heard her go down the stairs and into the kitchen.

Vincent put his hands under him, gave a shove, and sprang out of bed. His shoulders and chest were massive, his arms thick and powerful. He slipped into his clothes, poured some cold water out of the ewer, and stropped his razor.

Vincent enjoyed the daily ritual of the shave; down the broad cheek from the right sideburn to the corner of the voluptuous mouth; the right half of the upper lip from the

nostril out, then the left half; then down the chin, a huge, rounded slab of warm granite.

He suck his face into the wreath of Brabantine grass and oak leaves on the chiffonier. His brother Theo had gathered it from the heath near Zundert and sent it to London for him. The smell of Holland in his nose started the day off right.

*Lust for Life; a Novel of Vincent Van Gogh* by Irving Stone

# 一股荷兰乡土气息,钻入鼻孔, 又一天开始了

“凡高先生,该醒醒啦!”

“我早就醒了,乌尔苏拉小姐!”文森特高声应道。他一直在盼着乌尔苏拉的声音,甚至在睡梦中也是如此。

“不对,你刚才就没醒,”姑娘咯咯笑道,“你是这会儿才醒来的。”他听见她走下楼到厨房里去了。

文森特双手往后一撑,跳下床。他双肩滚圆,胸脯厚实,两条胳膊粗壮有力。他迅速地穿上衣服,从水罐里倒出一点冷水磨起剃刀来。

文森特轻松愉快地开始了每日必行的刮脸仪式——薄薄的剃刀顺着宽阔的脸颊,从右鬓脚滑到肉感的嘴角;从鼻孔滑到上唇的右半边,然后是脸的左半面,最后,薄薄的刀刃溜到了就像一大块暖色的圆形花岗岩一样的下巴。

他把脸凑近摆在五斗橱上的那只用布拉邦特草和橡树叶编织的花环。这只花环是弟弟提奥从津德尔特附近的荒原上采来,托人捎到伦敦来送给他的。一股荷兰老家的

乡土气息钻入他鼻孔,又一天顺利地开始了。

欧文·斯通著《渴望生活:凡高传记小说》

斯通(1903~1989)美国历史传记作家。因发表一部描述画家凡高的传记小说《渴望生活》(1934)而成名。他还写有关于玛丽·托德与 A. 林肯结婚的故事《爱情永恒》(1954),艺术家米开朗琪罗生平的《苦恼与狂喜》(1961),杰克·伦敦的传记《马背上的水手》(1938)等。

### New Words, Expressions and Notes

1. shove n. a hard push, usu. with the hands; v. to push; to jostle; to pace roughly or hastily

The angry man gave the other a shove/vigorous push.

I'm sorry I bumped into you—somebody shoved me.

2. massive adj. large, solid and heavy

The city is surrounded by a massive wall with fortified gate.

A massive amount of information is available now with computer.

3. slip v. put or take (something) easily or quickly; go or move smoothly, quietly, easily or quickly

She slipped the sweater on and dashed out of the door.

She slipped away without being seen.

4. ewer n. a wide-mouthed water-pitcher

The ewer and basin are on the wash-stand (= stand for holding a basin, pitcher, etc., for washing).

5. strop n. a narrow piece of leather for sharpening razors  
on v. to sharpen on a strop

6. razor n. a tool with a sharp blade to shave with

Dad uses a razor for shaving the hair off his face.

7. ritual n. an act or actions that one repeats often; a form or system of rites; traditional or fixed actions

His morning ritual is to make coffee, take a shower, eat breakfast, and brush his teeth.

A common ritual at a wedding is giving and receiving rings.

8. shave n. the act of cutting hair close to the skin

v. to cut off (hair or beard) close to the skin with razor

Do you shave yourself or go to the barber's?

9. sideburns [n. pl.] hair that grows on the side of a man's face, just in front of the ears

Sideburns go in and out of fashion.

10. voluptuous adj. sensual, sexy; shapely and sexually attractive; giving pleasure to the senses

She had a voluptuous mouth (body, lips).

It was a voluptuous, richly decorated masterpiece of 17th century art.



11. nostril n. one of the the two openings in the nose through which one breathes, smells etc.

The Indian princess wore a diamond in her right nostril.

As he left the meadow the sweet smell of wild flowers was still in his nostrils.

12. slab n. a thick slice or thick flat piece of anything

Some sidewalks are made of slabs of stone.

The cook cut off a slab of beef and put it on my plate.

13. suck v. to draw in or inhale

She was sitting on the grass sucking lemonade through a straw.

Sometimes a baby will hold the nipple in her mouth without really sucking on (Br also at) it.

14. wreath n. a ring of flowers or leaves twisted together

Groups of children placed brightly coloured wreaths around the necks of the visitors.

The bride wore a veil with a wreath of silk flowers.

15. chiffonier n. a high bureau, sometimes with a mirror, used as bedroom furniture; movable low cupboard with a flat top used as a table

A chiffonier often has a mirror.

16. heath n. open waste land covered with heather or bushes

Hikers love to walk on the heath of Scotland.

17. start off; to begin a journey; to cause or allow some-