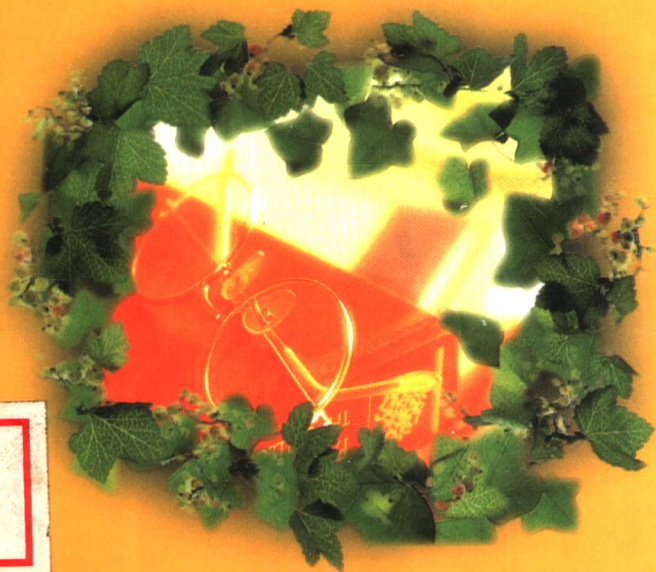


星火 5元 丛书

名人英语家书

Family Letters of Elites



4:K

姜典冠 编著

中国对外经济贸易出版社

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姜典冠
编著

丛书主编 马德高 范希春

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丛书致读者

腹中贮书一万卷，不肯低头在草莽。

这是中国历史上那位最为狂放的伟大诗人李白留下的最为令人怦然心动的诗句，也是每一位读书人的心里话。可以说，每一个人，从初涉人世起，就怀有一种渴望——那就是实现自身的价值。

本丛书所选的文章，全部出自名人之手，这些名人，不是一般意义上的 famous persons，而是严格意义上的 eminent，也就是说，这些人都是在人类文明发展史上做出过卓越贡献的人物——一群实现了自身价值的人物，属人中龙凤的那一类。

我们编辑出版这套丛书，目的就是要向读者提供最优秀的人创作的最经典的英文作品。

读其书而想见其人，只有读过了这些文章，你才能理解这些在不同领域做出了非凡成就的卓尔不群的人物，发现他们身上所折射出的人的光辉，明了人之所以为人的真谛。并体味他们成功的艰辛和快乐，失败时的沮丧和痛苦，从中汲取精神的力量，使自己变得深沉、积极、乐观起来，在人生的道路上奋然前行。

年轻的朋友们，学习最优秀的英文，学做最优秀的人，请自阅读本丛书始！

范希春

2000年6月18日

于中国社会科学院研究生院

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Elizabeth Barrett to Her Sisters

伊丽莎白·巴蕾特致她的姐妹们

【作者简介】

伊丽莎白·巴蕾特(Elizabeth Barrett 1806—1861) 英国女诗人, 她的主要诗篇有《葡萄牙人十四行诗》。

【作品原文】

(Roanne) October 2, 1846.

I thank and bless you my dearest Henrietta and Arabel... my own dearest kindest sister! —what I suffered in reaching Orleans, —at last holding all these letters in my hands, can only be measured by my deep gratitude to you, and by the tears and kisses I spent upon every line of what you wrote to me... dearest kindest that you are. The delay of the week in Paris brought me to the hour of my death warrant^① at Orleans—my ‘death warrant’ I called it at the time, I was so anxious and terrified. Robert brought in a great packet of letters... and I held them in my hands, not able to open one, and growing paler and colder every moment. He wanted to sit by me while I read them, but I would not let him. I had resolved never to let him do that, before the moment came—so, after some beseeching, I got him to go away for ten minutes, to meet the agony alone, and with more

① warrant: 许可证, 通行证。

courage so, according to my old habit you know—And besides, it was right not to let him read...

They were very hard letters, those from dearest Papa and dearest George—To the first I had to bow my head—I do not seem to myself to have deserved that full cup^①, in the intentions of this act—but he is my father and he takes his own view, of course, of what is before him to judge of. But for George, I thought it hard, I confess, that he should have written to me so with a sword. To write to me as if I did not love you all, —I who would have laid down my life a sign, if it could have benefitted one of you really and essentially. —With the proof, you should have had life and happiness at a sign.

It was hard that he should use his love for me to half break my heart with such a letter—Only he wrote in excitement and in ignorance. I ask of God to show to him and the most unbelieving of you, that never, never did I love you better, all my beloved ones, than when I left you—than in that day, and that moment...

...

... my dearest, dearest Arabel! Understand both of you, that if, from the apparent necessities of the instant, I consented to^② let the ceremony precede the departure by some few days, it was upon the condition of not seeing him again in that house and till we went away.

We parted, as we met, at the door of Marylebone Church—he helped me at the communion table, and not a word passed after. I looked like death, he has said since. You see we were afraid of a sudden removal preventing everything... or at least,

① cup: 苦事, 灾难。

② consent to: 同意, 赞成。

laying the unpleasantness on me of a journey to London previous to the ceremony, which particularly I should have hated, for very obvious reasons. There was no elopement^① in the case, but simply a private marriage; and to have given the least occasion to a certain class of observations, was repugnant to both of us... Wilson knew nothing till the night before. What I suffered under your eyes, you may guess—it was in proportion to every effort successfully made to disguise the suffering. Painful it is to look back upon now—Forgive me for whatever was expiated^② in the deepest of my heart.

...

Did you get my long letter from Paris? and Trippy, my short note from Havre. Ah, dear Trippy! let her not think hardly of me. No one can judge of this act, except some one who knows thoroughly the man I have married. He rises on me hour by hour. If ever a being of a higher order lived among us with a glory round his head, in these latter days, he is such a being.

Papa thinks that I have sold my soul—for genius... mere genius. Which I might have done when I was younger, if I had had the opportunity... but am in no danger of doing now. For my sake, for the love of me, from an infatuation^③ which from first to last has astonished me, he had consented to occupy for a moment a questionable position.

But those who question most, will do him justice fullest and we must wait a little with resignation^④. In the meanwhile, what he is, and what he is to me. I would fain teach you. Have faith

① elopement; 私奔。

② expiate; 惩罚, 处罚。

③ infatuation; 糊涂, 愚蠢。

④ resignation; 忍受, 顺从。

in me to believe it. He puts out all his great faculties to give me pleasure and comfort. . . charms me into thinking of him when he sees my thoughts wandering. . . forces me to smile in spite of all of them—if you had seen him that day at Orleans.

He laid me down on the bed and sat by me for hours, pouring out floods of tenderness and goodness, and promising to win back for me, with God's help, the affection of such of you as were angry. And he loves me more and more. Today we have been together a fortnight, and he said to me with a deep, serious tenderness. . . "I kissed your feet, my Ba, before I married you—but now I would kiss the ground under your feet, I love you with a so much greater love." And this is true, I see and feel. I feel to have the power of making him happy. . . I feel to have it in my hands. It is strange that anyone so brilliant should love me, — but true and strange it is. . . and it is impossible for me to doubt it any more. Perfectly happy therefore we should be, if I could look back on you all without this pang. His family have been very kind. His father considered him of age to judge, and never thought of interfering otherwise than of saying at the last moment, "Give your wife a kiss for me" this, when they parted. His sister sent me a little travelling writing desk, with a word written, "E. B. B. from her sister Sarianna." Nobody was displeased at the reserve used towards them, understanding that there were reasons for it which did not detract from ^① his affection for them and my respect.

...

But I think. . . think. . . of the suffering I caused you, my own, own Arabel, that evening! I tremble thinking of you that evening—my own dearest dearest Arabel! Oh, do not fancy that

① detract from: 减少, 减损, 转移。

new affections can undo the old. I love you now even more, I think. Robert is going to write to you from Pisa, and to Henrietta also. He loves you as his sisters, he says, and wishes that you were with us, and hopes that one day you will be with us... staying and travelling with us... exactly as I do myself...

...

... And do you feel and know, that as for me... for my position as a wife... it is awfully happy for this world. He is too good and tender, and beyond me in all things, and we love each other with a love that grows instead of diminishing. I speak to you of such things rather than of the cathedral at Bourges, because, it is of these, I feel sure, that you desire knowledge rather.

I am going to write to Papa—and to George—very soon, I shall. Ah—deal George would not have written so, if he had known my whole heart, yet he loved me while he wrote, as I felt with every pain the writing caused me. Dear George, —I love him to his worth. And my poor Papa! My thoughts cling to you all, and will not leave their hole. Dearest Henrietta and Arabel let me be as ever and for ever.

【作品点评】

巴蕾特的书信如同她的诗一样,充满真挚的情感。她忏悔自己所做的事,同时也在为爱情而祈祷,为幸福而颤栗。

Walter Raleigh to His Wife

瓦尔特·雷利致妻子

【作者简介】

瓦尔特·雷利(Walter Raleigh 1552—1618),英国著名的史学家、诗人。

【作品原文】

(1603)

You shall now receive (my deare wife) my last words in these my last lines. My love I send you that you may keep it when I am dead, and my counsell^① that you may remember it when I am no more. I would not by my will present you with sorrowes (dear Besse) let them go to the grave with me and be buried in the dust. And seeing that it is not Gods will^② that I should see you any more in this life, beare it patiently, and with a heart like thy selfe.

First, I send you all the thankes which my heart can conceive, or my words can rehearse^③ for your many travailes, and care taken for me, which though they have not taken effect as you wished, yet my debt to you is not the lesse; but pay it Never shall in this world.

① counsell: 建议, 忠告。

② Gods will: 天意。

③ rehearse: 详述, 复述。

Secondly, I beseech you for the love you beare me living, do not hide your selfe many dayes, but by your travailes seeke to helpe your miserable fortunes and the right of your poor childe. Thy mourning cannot availe me, I am but dust.

Thirdly, you shall understand, that my land was conveyed *bona fide* to my childe; the writings were drawne at midsummer was twelve months, my honest cosen Brett can testify so much, and Dolberry too, can remember somewhat therein. And I trust my blood will quench their malice that have cruelly murdered^① me; and that they will not seek also to kill thee and thine with extreame poverty.

To what friend to direct thee I know not, for all mine have left me in the true time of tryall^②. And I perceive that my death was determined from the first day. Most sorry I am God knowes that being thus surprised with death I can leave you in no better estate. God is my witnesse I meant you all my office of wines or all that I could have purchased by selling it, halfe of my stuffe, and all my jewels, but some one for the boy, but God hath prevented all my resolutions. That great God that ruleth all in all, but if you live free from want, care for no more, for the rest is but vanity. Love God, and begin betimes to repose your selfe upon him, and therein shall you finde true and lasting riches, and endlesse comfort; for the rest when you have travailed and wearied your thoughts over all sorts of wordly cogitations^③, you shall but sit downe by sorrowe in the end.

Teach your son also to love and feare God whilst he is yet young, that the feare of God may grow with him, and then God

① murder; 谋杀。

② tryall; 考验。

③ cogitations; 思考, 沉思。

will be a husband to you, and a father to him; a husband and a father which cannot be taken from you.

Baily oweth me 200 pounds, and Adrian Gilbert 600. In Jersey I also have much owing me besides. The arrearages of the wines will pay my debts. And howsoever you do, for my soules sake, pay all poore men. When I am gone, no doubt you shall be sought for by many, for the world thinkes that I was very rich. But take heed of the pretences of men, and their affections, for they last not but in honest and worthy men, and no greater misery can befall you in this life, than to become a prey, and afterwards to be despised. I speake not this (God knowes) to dissuade you from marriage, for it will be best for you, both in respect of the world and of God. As for me, I am no more yours, nor you mine, death hath cut us asunder; and God hath divided me from the world, and you from me.

Remember your poor childe for his father's sake, who chose you, and loved you in his happiest times. Get those letters (if it be possible) which I write to the Lords, wherein I sued for my life: God is my wittnesse it was for you and yours that I desired life, but it is true that I disdained^① myself for begging of it; for know it (my deare wife) that your son is the son of a true man, and one who in his owne respect despiseth death and all his misshapen & ugly formes.

I cannot write much, God he knows how hardly I steale this time while others sleep, and it is also time that I should separate my thoughts from the world. Begg my dead body which living was denied thee; and either lay it at Sherburne (and if the land continue) or in Exeter-Church, by my Father and Mother; I can say no more, time and death call me away.

① *disdain*, 鄙视。

The everlasting God, powerfull, infinite, and omnipotent^① God, That Almighty God, who is goodnesse it selfe, the true life and true light keep thee and thine; have mercy on me, and teach me to forgive my persecutors and false accusers, and send us to meet in his glorious Kingdome. My deare wife farewell. Blesse my poore boy. Pray for me, and let my good God hold you both in his armes.

Written with the dying hand of sometimes thy Husband, but now alasse overthrowne.

Yours that was, but now not my own.

Walter Raleigh

【作品点评】

这封家书写得既真挚动人,又缠绵悱恻,全篇浸透着一种情感的力量。

① omnipotent: 无所不能的。