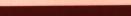


# 人类最辉煌的足迹

史诗般的英雄让人肃然起敬 科技创造的智慧值得继承

郭文正 编著

本书适用对象: 高中生、大学生及那些对知识仍抱有希望的人们











- ■最优美的文字
- 最辉煌的历史
- 最灿烂的文明



The Splendidest Trace in The William

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本书是"常春藤英语书系"中的一本,选译了包括文明的起源、世界七大奇观、人类的奇迹、科技的跨越、伟大的城市等短篇文章。中英对照,译文流畅。

阅读本书,让我们惊诧历史留下的永恒箴言。睿智的祖辈让我们在黑暗中看到了光明,史诗般的英雄让我们肃然起敬,科技创造的智慧值得我们继承,用生命雕刻谱写的艺术洗去了我们一身铅华,奥运赛场上的健儿让我们看到了生命原来可以这样演绎……

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### 前言

日往月来,物换星移,苍茫的穹庐下,我们终日埋首于平淡、琐碎与嘈杂当中。夜幕降临,华灯初上,沏一杯茶,坐在案旁,信手翻一页史书,蓦然间,多少悲怆,多少辉煌,又有多少沧桑,多少彷徨……

历史多被比作长河,也许因为时间永远不会倒流,往日,今天,未来,一切都会一去不返。在这个永恒的范畴里,每个人的存在只是短暂的一瞬,在生命绚烂的焰火闪过之后,我们的躯体会如尘埃般随风逝去,了无痕迹。于是未来的生者会对逝者顶礼膜拜,感叹他们曾经创造的辉煌,激励自己不能只做世间匆匆的过客,这样才能减少与伟大而永恒的时间对视时的尴尬和窘迫!

顺河而上,追溯先辈的足迹,也许你会慨叹:人类走过了一条不平凡的路。生而为人,睿智的先祖们毕生都在追寻人生之真谛。也许汉谟拉比刻在石柱上的法典、希腊民主、罗马帝国都是他们对生命本质、生活意义的论证。兴盛、衰亡,辉煌、悲怆,历史在冥冥中以一种独有、含蓄的方式向不懈追求的人类阐述着它真正的含义。历史真的是一本厚重难懂的书。人类向前迈出的每一步都是如此艰难,从钻木取火到电的发明、从珠子算盘到 IT 时代、几千年已悄然逝去……

回眸刹那间,我们惊诧历史留下的永恒箴言。睿智的祖辈

让我们在黑暗中看到了光明, 史诗般的英雄让我们肃然起敬, 科技创造的智慧值得我们传承, 用生命雕刻谱写的艺术洗去了我们一身铅华, 奥运赛场上的健儿让我们看到了生命原来可以这样演绎……这一切铸成了现代文明的璀璨, 我们的精神得到熏陶, 心灵受到震撼……

书籍是沉淀文化的圣地,我们怀着一颗谦卑的心,试着用文字来寻求一种永恒。先人们的思想已化作漫天的星斗,闪烁着智慧的光芒,穿越了历史为后来的人们指引航程。让我们在拥有历史遗产而骄傲欣喜之时,能沿着智者伟人的足迹用心描绘今日的天空,期待后人为我们传承发展,只有这样才能阐释生命,追求永恒。

愿以此书与所有不断追问生命本质的朋友共勉。希望在知识的指引下您能成为历史长河中一朵夺目的浪花!

编者



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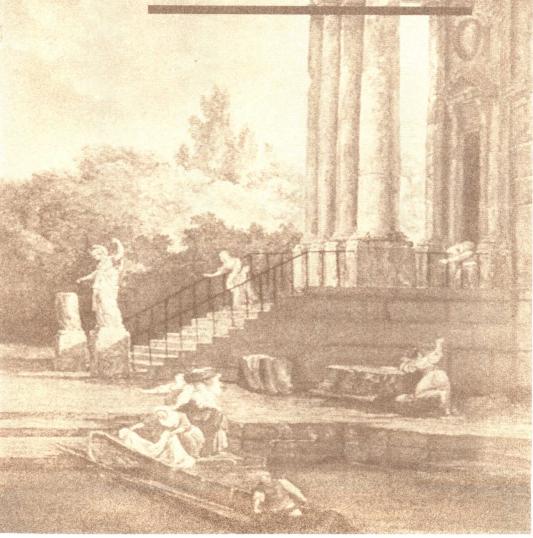


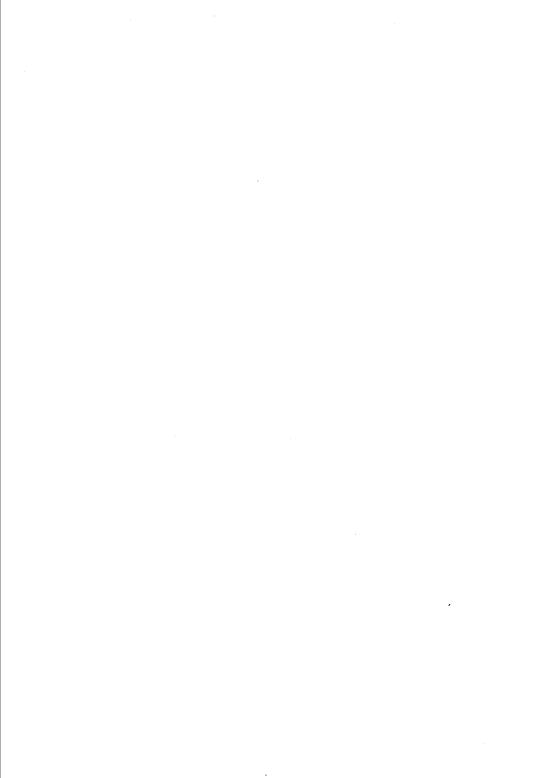


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第一篇

文明的起源





### **Egyptian Civilization**

### — the rise and fall of Egypt

The river Nile was a kind friend but occasionally it was a hard taskmaster. It taught the people who lived along its banks the noble art of "team-work". They depended upon each other to build their irrigation trenches and keep their dikes in repair. In this way they learned how to get along with their neighbors and their mutual-benefit-association quite easily developed into an organized state.

Then one man grew more powerful than most of his neighbors and he became the leader of the community and their commander-in-chief when the envious neighbors of western Asia invaded the prosperous valley. In due course of time he became their King and ruled all the land from the Mediterranean to the mountains of the West.

But these political adventures of the old Pharaohs (the word means "the Man who lived in the Big House") rarely interested the patient and toiling peasants of the grain fields. Provided they were not obliged to pay more taxes to their King than they thought just, they accepted the rule of Pharaoh as they accepted the rule of Mighty Osiris.

It was different, however, when a foreign invader came and robbed them of their possessions. After twenty centuries of independent life, a savage Arab tribe of shepherds, called the Hyksos, attacked Egypt and for five hundred years they were the masters of the valley of the Nile. They were highly unpopular and great hate was also felt for

the Hebrews who came to the land of Goshen to find a shelter after their long wandering through the desert and who helped the foreign usurper by acting as his tax-gatherers and his civil servants.

But shortly after the year 1700 BC the people of Thebes began a revolution and after a long struggle the Hyksos were driven out of the country and Egypt was free once more.

A thousand years later, when Assyria conquered all of western Asia, Egypt became part of the empire of Sardanapalus. In the seventh century BC it became once more an independent state which obeyed the rule of a king who lived in the city of Sais in the Delta of the Nile. But in the year 525 BC, Cambyses, the king of the Persians, took possession of Egypt and in the fourth century BC, when Persia was conquered by Alexander the Great, Egypt too became a Macedonian province. It regained a semblance of independence when one of Alexander's generals set himself up as king of a new Egyptian state and founded the dynasty of the Ptolemies, who resided in the newly built city of Alexandria.

Finally, in the year 39 BC, the Romans came. The last Egyptian queen, Cleopatra, tried her best to save the country. Her beauty and charm were more dangerous to the Roman generals than half a dozen Egyptian army corps. Twice she was successful in her attacks upon the hearts of her Roman conquerors. But in the year 30 BC, Augustus, the nephew and heir of Caesar, landed in Alexandria. He did not share his late uncle's admiration for the lovely princess. He destroyed her armies, but spared her life that he might make her march in his triumph as part of the spoils of war. When Cleopatra heard of this plan, she killed herself by taking poison. And Egypt became a Roman province.

### 埃及文明

### ——埃及的兴衰

尼罗河是人类的好朋友,但它偶尔也会是一个严厉的监工。它教会了两岸居民"团队工作"这一伟大做法。督促他们彼此合作,修建灌溉渠,维修堤防。这样,他们很快就学会了如何跟自己的邻居相处,这种互惠合作的方式,使他们极易发展成为一个有组织的国家。

后来,某个人变得比他的大多数邻居都强大,成了当地的领袖。 当心怀妒忌的西亚邻居入侵这个富饶的谷地时,他又成了总司令。 过了一段时间,他成了他们的国王,统治着从地中海到西部山脉的 所有土地。

但是,勤劳、憨厚的庄稼人,对这些古代法老的政治变革不太 感兴趣。只要国王不逼迫他们交纳不公正的税赋,他**们就接**受法老 的统治,就像他们接受伟大的奥西里斯的统治一样。

然而,当外来的人侵者夺走了他们的财产时,一切都变了。在 过了两千年的独立生活之后,有一个叫希克索斯的野蛮的阿拉伯游 牧部落,攻占了埃及。以后的五百年里,他们成了尼罗河谷地的主 人,他们很不受欢迎。还有一群在沙漠中游荡了很长时间的犹太人, 也来到了歌珊地,寻找栖身之所。他们成了这个外来入侵者的收税 官和官员。对于这些希伯来人,埃及人也恨之人骨。

但在公元前 1700 年后不久,底比斯的居民开始**革命,经过长期** 斗争,希克索斯人被赶出了这个国家,埃及又一次独立了。

一千年后,当亚述征服了整个西亚,埃及成了萨丹纳帕路斯帝国的一部分。公元前7世纪,埃及再次成了一个独立国家,听命于住在尼罗河三角洲萨伊斯城中的国王。但在公元前525年,波斯国