



Selected Poems of Du Fu

Translated by Xu Yuanchong

许渊冲英译杜甫诗选

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前言

梁启超在《情圣杜甫》一文中说:杜甫是当之无愧的情圣,"因为他的情感的内容,是极丰富的,极真实的,极深刻的。他表情的方法又极熟练,能鞭辟到最深处,能将它全部完全反映不走样子,能像电气一般,一振一荡地打到别人的心弦上,中国文学界写情圣手,没有人比得上他,所以我叫他做情圣。"

杜甫生于开元初年(712),开元盛世孕育了中国文学史上的黄金时代。杜甫早年漫游四方,写出了"会当凌绝顶,一览众山小"(《望岳》)这样气吞山河、反映盛唐气概的名作。他和李白、高适等人结交,又写出了"李白一斗诗百篇,长安市上酒家眠"等感情洋溢、脍炙人口的诗篇(《饮中八仙歌》)。

755 年爆发了安史之乱,他全家逃难,颠沛流离,亲眼目睹了人民生活的艰难困苦,写下了著名的《三吏》《三别》,这是那个时代社会动乱的真实写照。如《垂老别》中的"老妻卧路啼,岁暮衣裳单",《新安吏》中的"白水暮东流,青山犹哭声",《石壕吏》中的"存者且偷生,死者长已矣"。梁启超说:"这些诗是要作者的精神和那所写之人的精神并合为一,才能作出。……他作这首《垂老别》时,他已经化身做那位六七十岁拖去当兵的老头子;作这首《石壕吏》时,他已经化身做那

位儿女死绝、衣食不给的老太婆, 所以他说的话, 完全和他们 自己说一样。"

在安吏之乱中,杜甫家在羌村避难,他一人去灵武,途中被叛军抓了去,写下了著名的《月夜》和《春望》,表达了他爱国爱家的思想情怀。从叛军中逃出后,他回到羌村,写了《羌村》三首,描述了当时的离乱生活。梁启超说:"他处处把自己主观的情感暴露,原不算写实派的做法。但如《羌村》《北征》等篇,多用第三者客观的资格,描写观察所得来的环境和别人情感,从极琐碎的断片详密刻画,确是近世写实派用的手法,所以可叫做半写实。这种做法,在中国文学界上,虽不敢说是杜工部首创,却可以说是杜工部用得最多而最妙。"

760 年春天,杜甫流落到四川成都,投靠故人严武节度使。这时,他写了景仰诸葛亮的《蜀相》:"出师未捷身先死,长使英雄泪满襟。"也表达了他自己以身许国的胸怀。他在成都浣花溪畔修筑了草堂,描写草堂风景的名句有"窗含西岭千秋雪,门泊东吴万里船",描写草堂生活的有《客至》:"花径不曾缘客扫,蓬门今始为君开。"草堂屋顶被风吹破,他又写了著名的《茅屋为秋风所破歌》:"安得广厦千万间,大庇天下寒士俱欢颜!"梁启超说:"因为他对于下层社会的痛苦看得真切,所以常把他们的痛苦当作自己的痛苦。"

765年,杜甫因为严武去世,失去依靠,携家离开了成都草堂,流落到长江三峡西头的夔州(今四川奉节)。在这里,他写了著名的七言律诗《秋兴》和《登高》。这些诗把眼前景和心中情紧密地联系起来,情景交融,被认为是古今七律之冠。

杜甫写诗"语不惊人死不休",《登高》中的一联可以说明:

无边落木萧萧下, 不尽长江滚滚来。

这两句诗对仗工整,内容深刻,"无边落木"象征了唐王朝由盛转衰,"不尽长江"则象征了诗人对"开元之治"的怀念,希望荣华盛世随着滚滚江水又流回来,这种怀念在《秋兴八首》中表现得更多,但表现的不一定是现实的内容,而是艺术化了的情意,不但是内容超越了现实,形式也超越了传统的句法,如著名的一联:

香稻啄余鹦鹉粒, 碧梧栖老凤凰枝。

这两句诗不好理解,因为诗中的主语和宾语换了位置,正常的位置应该是: 鹦鹉啄余香稻粒,凤凰栖老碧梧枝。意思是说,"开元之治"政治开明,经济丰收,香稻遍地,余粒连鹦鹉都啄不完,可见其多;梧桐遮天蔽日,碧空万里,连凤凰都栖息在梧枝上,老了也不肯离开,可见安乐。那么,诗人为什么要颠倒主语和宾语的位置? 因为诗人怀念的是香稻和碧梧,如果把鹦鹉和凤凰当主语,那就是喧宾夺主了。所以他宁可主宾颠倒,可见他认为内容重于形式,所以就改变句法了。这样做可以摆脱传统格律的拘束,使格律成为工具,而不必破坏格律的形式,来求得格律的超越。这种超越就是象征主义的新发展,用意象来表达感情,超越了现实,对后人的影响很大。因

为这种意象化的表现比平铺直叙的现实描写更容易引起联想, 给人更丰富的感受。这样,杜甫就影响了李商隐,试读《锦瑟》 中的二联:

> 庄生晓梦迷蝴蝶,望帝春心托杜鹃。 沧海月明珠有泪,蓝田日暖玉生烟。

李商隐用来表现意象的景物和杜甫有所不同:杜甫用的落叶、江水、香稻、碧梧,都是现实中所有的景物;而李商隐用的意象,如庄生的晓梦、望帝的春心、明珠的泪、暖玉的烟,却都是假想的事物。这表明了李商隐心灵的敏感比杜甫更加精细,更进一步。叶嘉莹在《论杜甫七律之演进及其承先启后之成就》一文中说:杜李"二人有一个共同的特色,那就是感情的过人,虽然二者的感情之性质并不尽同。杜甫是以其博大溢出于事物之外,义山(李商隐)则是以其深锐透入于事物之中。杜甫之情得之于生活的体验者多,义山之情则得之于心灵之锐感者多。"由此可以看出杜甫和李商隐的异同,也可以看出杜甫对后人的影响,以及后人对唐诗的发展。

768年正月,杜甫离开了夔州,漂泊到江陵(今湖北宜昌)、岳州(今湖南岳阳)、潭州(今湖南长沙)等地。在江陵,他写了《江汉》一诗:"落日心犹壮,秋风病欲苏。古来存老马,不必取长途。"抒发了他怀才见弃的不平之气和报国思用的怀抱。在潭州,他遇见了流落江南的著名乐师李龟年,写出了"落花时节又逢君"这句总结时代沧桑、人生交往的名句。落花时

节既表明了时令,又象征了李龟年的潦倒、杜甫的落魄、大唐 王朝的衰落,含义非常丰富而又深刻。

清代金圣叹评点六才子书,认为第一才子书是《庄子》,第二是《离骚》,第三是《史记》,第四就是杜诗,第五则是《水浒》,第六是《西厢记》,由此可以看出杜甫在中国文学史上的地位。今天看来,《庄子》和《离骚》可以算是浪漫主义作品,李白继承发展了庄骚的文风,成了浪漫主义大诗人。《史记》和杜诗则是现实主义的代表作,开启了《水浒》及后来的现实主义一派。

许渊冲 2005年8月22日

Foreword

Du Fu (712-770) was one of the great poets of the Tang dynasty, golden age of Chinese literature which could boast of its pastoralism of Wang Wei (701-761), romanticism of Li Bai (701-762), classicism of Du Fu, realism of Bai Juyi (772-846) and symbolism of Li Shangyin (812-858). Du Fu was called "Sage of Poetry" and his works "History in Verse", for his love of his country and his poetic art combined to make his poems vivid pictures of the life of his time and reflections of the thoughts of the people. While young, he traveled widely in the land and wrote the following verse at the age of twenty-four while gazing on the Tai Mountains:

Try to ascend the mountain's crest: It dwarfs all peaks under our feet.

When he made friends with Li Bai, he wrote the following verse to show his admiration for his senior poet who was fond of drinking wine:

Li Bai would turn sweet nectar into verses fine.

During the rebellion of Tartar generals (755) he wrote many

poems to show his suffering and the people's calamity, for example:

Have you not seen

On borders green

Bleached bones since olden days unburied on the plain?

The old ghosts weep and cry, while the new ghosts complain;

The air is loud with screech and scream in gloomy rain.

(Song of the Conscripts)

By the roadside cries my wife old, So thinly clad in winter cold.

(Lament of an Old Man)

These verses, said Chinese critic Liang Qichao, proved what Keats wrote to be true: Beauty is truth and truth beauty. Liang also said the poem *Coming Back to Qiang Village* was highly realistic, forerunner of Bai Juyi's realism:

At my appearance starts my wife; Then calming down, she melts in tears. By chance I come back still in life, While people drift in bitter years.

In 760 Du Fu came to Chengdu and built his thatched cottage, which he described in the following couplet:

My window frames the snow-crowned western mountain scene; My door oft says to eastward-going ships "Goodbye!" As for his life in the cottage, he wrote in the poem For a Guest:

The footpath strewn with fallen blooms is not swept clean; My wicket gate is opened but for you today.

These lines show his love of secluded life as the pastoral poet Wang Wei. When his cottage was unroofed by an autumn gale, he wrote the following verse:

Could I get mansions covering ten thousand miles, I'd house all scholars poor and make them beam with smiles.

٠.,

Alas! Should these houses appear before my eye, Frozen in my unroofed cot, content I'd die.

These lines show his love for the poor people and poor scholars. As for heroes and personages, we may read the last couplet of *Temple of the Premier of Shu*:

But he died before he accomplished his career.

How could heroes not wet their sleeves with tear on tear!

Du Fu's motto in versification was "never to stop short of surprising verse". For example, we may read his famous couplet in the octave *On the Height*:

The boundless forest sheds its leaves shower by shower; The endless river rolls its waves hour after hour. The fallen leaves may symbolize the decline of the Tang Dynasty and the rolling waves predict the revival of the past glory which the poet could not forget, for instance, in the following verse of *Reflections in Autumn*:

Parrots can't peck up all the grains left on the plain; Phoenix when old on the plane tree will still remain.

Parrots and phoenix, grain and plane all symbolize the past glory. These symbols may be said to be forerunner of Li Shangyin's symbolic "Dim morning dream to be a butterfly". But grain and plane tree are visible while dim dream is not. From Du to Li we can see the development of symbolism in Tang poetry.

X. Y. Z. August 22, 2005

目 录 CONTENTS

002	望岳
	Gazing on Mount Tai
004	题张氏隐居(二首其二)
	Written at Zhang's Hermitage (II)
006	房兵曹胡马
	The Tartar Steed of Captain Fang
800	画鹰
	A Painted Falcon
010	兵车行
	Song of the Conscripts
016	赠李白
	To Li Bai
018	饮中八仙歌(节选)
	Songs of Eight Immortal Drinkers (Excerpts)
022	春日忆李白
	Thinking of Li Bai on a Spring Day
024	前出塞(九首其六)
	Song of the Frontier (VI)
026	丽人行
	Satire on Fair Ladies

030	贫交行
	Friendship in Poverty
032	后出塞(五首其二)
	Song on the Frontier (II)
034	自京赴奉先县咏怀五百字(节选)
	On the Way from the Capital to Fengxian (Excerpt)
036	月夜
	A Moonlit Night
038	悲陈陶
	Lament on the Defeat at Chentao
040	对雪
	Facing Snow
042	春望
	Spring View
044	哀江头
	Lament along the Winding River
048	喜达行在所(三首其二)
	At the Temporary Imperial Court (II)
050	羌村 (三首其一)
	Coming Back to Qiang Village (I)
052	曲江 (二首其一)
	The Winding River (I)
054	曲江(二首其二)
	The Winding River (II)
056	曲江对酒
	Drinking by Poolside

058	九日蓝田崔氏庄
	Mountain-climbing Day in Blue Field
060	日暮
	After Nightfall
062	独立
	Alone I Stand
064	赠卫八处士
	For Wei the Eighth
860	新安吏
	A Recruiting Sergeant at Xin'an
072	石壕吏
	The Pressgang at Stone Moat Village
076	潼关吏
	Officer at the Western Pass
080	新婚别
	Lament of the Newly Wed
084	垂老别
	Lament of an Old Man
880	无家别
	Lament of a Homeless
092	佳人
	A Fair Lady
096	梦李白(二首其一)
	Dreaming of Li Bai (I)
098	梦李白(二首其二)
	Dreaming of Li Bai (II)

100 秦州杂诗 (二十首其七) On the Frontier (VII) 天末怀李白 102 Thinking of Li Bai from the End of the Earth 104 月夜忆舍弟 Thinking of My Brothers on a Moonlit Night 同谷七歌(其七) 106 Seven Songs Written in Tonggu (VII) 108 病马 To My Sick Horse 110 野望 **Dim Prospect** 112 蜀相 Temple of the Premier of Shu 114 戏题王宰画山水图歌 Wang Zai's Painting of Landscape 118 南邻 My Southern Neighbor 120 狂夫 Unbent Mind 122 江村 The Riverside Village

124 野老 An Old Man by the Riverside 126 恨别 Separation

128	户游
	The Temple Revisited

- 130 客至 For a Guest
- 132 绝句漫兴九首(其一) Nine Quatrains Written at Random (I)
- 134 绝句漫兴九首(其三) Nine Quatrains Written at Random (III)
- 136 绝句漫兴九首(其五) Nine Quatrains Written at Random (V)
- 138 绝句漫兴九首(其七) Nine Quatrains Written at Random (VII)
- 140 春夜喜雨 Happy Rain on a Spring Night
- 142 江亭 Riverside Pavilion
- 144 琴台 Wooing Lutist
- 146 水槛遣心(二首其一) Waterside Hermitage (I)
- 148 茅屋为秋风所破歌 My Cottage Unroofed by Autumn Gales
- 152 赠花卿 To General Hua
- 154 不见 Longing for Li Bai