



**English-Chinese Edition** 



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# 昆虫记

(法) 法布尔 (Fabre, J. H.) / 著 张晨光 / 译

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Four years of hard labour underground, and a month of feasting in the sun; such is the life of the Cicada.
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.

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## 出版说明 Publisher's Note

英语是当今世界上主要的国际通用语言之一,也是世界上最广泛使用的语言。世界上有二十多个国家把英语作为官方语言或第二语言使用。据不完全统计,在全球差不多每十个人中就有一个人在讲英语。目前全世界的经济贸易、商业文书、政府交往、学术论文、旅游交通、银行文件语言等等都需要用到英文;互联网上的原版资料90%为英文;70%以上的邮件是用英文书写或用英文写地址的;全世界科技出版物70%以上用英语发表;全世界的广播节目中60%是用英语进行播放交流的;绝大部分的国际会议是以英语为第一通用语言(90%以上的国际会议用英语召开),它也是联合国的正式工作语言之一。

原本的非英语国家也早已将英语口语及课程普及化。大多数国家的高等学府、大学院校都开设英语语言文学专业,青少年也从小学习英语课程。仅在中国,就有一百多所大学设有英语专业或英语相关专业。随着我国对外开放的不断扩大化,科学技术不断进步,国际地位不断提高,迫切需要造就一大批精通外语的专门人才。而学好英语这门语言,对于我们来说,大有裨益:

- 第一,从小培养良好的英语读说听写基础,较早阅读原版图书和国外文献资料,增加课外知识,开阔眼界。
- 第二,英语是中考、高考的必选重点科目,即使不选择英语类专业,如 果英语口语、写作或者翻译有一技之长,也会被社会广泛需要。
- 第三,具有英语语言优势可以增加被重点学校录取的几率,同时,不管 将来从事哪个行业,英语交流都是必不可少的交际工具。

总之,加强英语学习已然刻不容缓,从今后的发展趋势来看,它就像我们的一日三餐一样不可或缺。

令人欣喜的是,我们的英语素质教育越来越受到重视,教师、家长和学生都逐渐意识到英语学习的重要性和必要性。其中对于基础英语教育而言,进行大量的原版英文阅读对提高英文学习水平是很有效的。国家教育部颁布的《英语课程标准》也对学生课外英语阅读提出了更高的标准和要求。

为全面提升英语爱好者的英语阅读能力,让亲爱的读者既读到原汁原味的英文原著,同时又能循序渐进,轻松愉快地学习世界文学文化,我们隆重推出了"读名著学英语"阅读书系。

衷心希望亲爱的读者在阅读"读名著 学英语"系列图书的过程中有所收获,让大家不再感到英语学习沉闷枯燥,而是有章有法,在潜移默化中得以领悟,轻松提高学习兴趣;同时帮助更多的读者爱上英文,阅读英文,享受英语文化的极美盛筵。

## 前言 Preface

一位来自穷乡僻壤的农家孩子;一位流浪街头、四处打工的贫苦少年;一位没钱读大学却获得两个硕士学位的优秀教师;一位在简陋实验室里从事研究的科学家;他的一生与昆虫结下了不解之缘,他的巨著《昆虫记》使他扬名世界。他,就是公元19世纪法国著名的昆虫学家——让·亨利·卡西米尔·法布尔(Jean-Henri Casimir Fabre)。

1823年12月22日,法布尔降生在法国南部阿韦龙省圣雷翁村一户农民家中。其父安杜瓦纳·法布尔能言善辩,好打抱不平;其母维克陶尔·萨尔格性情温顺,和蔼可亲。法布尔4岁左右,父母送他到祖母家生活,暂时减轻家庭衣食负担。天真的孩子爱上了祖母家的白鹅、牛犊和绵羊,迷上了户外大自然中的花草虫鸟——而这也成为了他终生的兴趣所在。

1875年,经过长期思考后,原本一直从事教学工作的法布尔决定远离城市喧嚣,加紧实现整理旧资料、开展新研究的昆虫学工作计划。他带领家人,迁往乡间小镇塞里尼昂。小镇各方面条件较差,甚至没有像样的学校。他鼓励小儿子:在这里能锻炼出强壮的身体和强健的头脑,比在故纸堆里更能发现美和真。经过四年努力,整理20余年资料而写成的《昆虫记》第一卷,于1879年问世。

1880年, 法布尔的夙愿终于实现: 他用积攒的一小笔钱, 在小镇附近购得一处坐落在生荒地上的老旧民宅, 进一步研究活虫子的计划即将变成现实。他精神舒畅, 用当地普罗旺斯语给这处居所取了个风趣的雅号——荒石园。年复一年, 荒石园主人穿着农民的粗呢子外套, 吃着普通老百姓的清汤淡饭,

尖镐平铲刨挖,于是,花草争妍,灌木成丛,一座百虫乐园建好了。他守着心爱的荒石园,开足生命的马力,不知疲倦地从事独具特色的昆虫学研究,把劳动成果写进一卷又一卷的《昆虫记》。他就是这样,孤独、欢欣、清苦、平静地度过了35年余生。

在法布尔那个时代,研究动物是蹲在实验室里做解剖与分类的工作,昆虫学家的研究是把昆虫钉在木盒里,浸在烧酒里,睁大眼睛观察昆虫的触角、上颚、翅膀、足,对这些器官在昆虫的劳动过程中起什么作用却很少思考;他们给昆虫工人命名,却不知道这个工人生产的是什么。昆虫生命的重要特征——本能与习性等等,登不了昆虫学的大雅之堂。法布尔挑战传统,深入昆虫的生活,用田野实验的方法研究昆虫的本能与习性。他的这种研究方法遭到了正统势力的责难,他辩驳道:"你们是把昆虫开膛破肚,而我是在它们活蹦乱跳的情况下进行研究;你们把昆虫变成一堆既可怖又可怜的东西,而我则使得人们喜欢它们;你们在酷刑室和碎尸场里工作,而我是在蔚蓝的天空下,在鸣蝉的歌声中观察;你们用试剂测试蜂房和原生质,而我却研究本能的最高表现;你们探究死亡,而我却探究生命。"

《昆虫记》是以大量科学报告材料和文学气质艰苦写成的巨著,文体基本为散文,主体内容集中在昆虫学问题上,同时收入一些讲述经历、回忆往事的传记性文章,若干解决理论问题的议论,以及少量带科普知识性的文字。一位饱经沧桑、追求不止的昆虫学探索者的优势,在这部巨著中得到充分发挥。十卷二百二十余篇,内容丰富自有公论;可其工程之艰难,恐怕只有作者本人才最清楚。法布尔这样说:"散文写作"比求解方程根来得更加"残酷"。

1910年,他已过86岁,第十卷问世了。他抱着书,拄着拐杖,装上放大镜,一步三摇,流连在"荒石园"中,仍想再把《昆虫记》写下去……但老人的心愿却难以实现了。

就在这一年,家人以"从事《昆虫记》写作五十周年"之名,邀请法布尔的挚友和学界好友来到"荒石园",为他举行一次小型庆祝会。法布尔倍感

安慰,热泪盈眶。消息传出,舆论界大哗:法国人居然把隐居"荒石园"中的这位值得骄傲的同胞忘得如此轻松!法布尔不在乎这一"疏忽",他正开始筹划出版全十卷精装本《昆虫记》,并亲自为这一版本写下一篇短短的序言。序言结尾是这样几句话:"非常遗憾,如今我被迫中断了这些研究。要知道从事这些研究,是我一生得到的唯一仅有的安慰。阅尽大千世界,自知虫类是其最多姿多彩者中之一群。即使能让我再获得些许气力,甚至有可能再获得几次长寿人生,我也做不到彻底认清虫类的益趣。"

新闻界造起宣传声势,"法布尔"的名字被四处传扬;"了不起"、"最杰出"、"伟大"一类的赞扬声此起彼伏,荣誉桂冠一个接一个飞向老人;"荒石园"热闹非凡,赶往参观、慰问、祝贺的人群络绎不绝,其中有普通读者,有学界要人,也有轿车成行的政府官员。但是,能令法布尔为之动心的消息只有一个:那一年里,自己小说、诗歌、文学作品销出的册数,是此前20年的总和。后来,法布尔的小石膏像四处出现;再后来,法布尔的大型塑像相继剪彩揭幕。老人一辈子未识光彩荣耀为何事,此时下意识地摇着头,颇有莫名其妙之感。近90岁的老翁,操着诙谐的口吻对老朋友说:"这些作法,也太'神乎'了。他们爱怎么着就怎么着吧,反正我是感到,自己一天比一天憔悴,一天比一天临近末日。"

离92岁生日只差一个月了,法布尔卧在床上,静候生命里程这又一标志性日子的到来。那是1915年11月的一天,他平静得像一位藐视死神的勇士。这时候人们发现,他已悄悄地长眠了。一位以昆虫为琴拨响人类命运颤音的巨人,从此消失。

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# The Wonders of Instinct 本能的奇迹

Regretting nothing in the past, save those whom I have lost; regretting nothing, not even my first youth; hoping nothing either, I have reached the point at which, worn out by the experience of things, we ask ourselves if life be worth the living.

对于往事,除了我已经失去了的,我 一无所悔,我什么也不后悔,甚至不后悔 二十年的光阴,我对一切也不抱有希望, 我已经到了这个地步,历历往事使我精疲 力竭,我思忖究竟值得不值得生活下去

10

#### The Harmas

This is what I wished for: a bit of land, oh, not so very large, but fenced in, to avoid the **drawbacks** of a public way; an abandoned, barren, sun-scorched bit of land, favoured by thistles and by Wasps and Bees. Here, without fear of being troubled by the passers-by, I could consult the Ammophila and the Sphex and engage in that difficult conversation whose questions and answers have experiment for their language; here, without distant expeditions that take up my time, without tiring rambles that strain my nerves, I could contrive my plans of attack, lay my **ambushes** and watch their effects at every hour of the day. A bit of land—yes, this was my wish, my dream, always cherished, always vanishing into the mists of the future.

And it is no easy matter to acquire a laboratory in the open fields, when **harassed** by a terrible anxiety about one's daily bread. For forty years have I fought, with **steadfast** courage, against the paltry plagues of life; and the long-wished-for laboratory has come at last. What it has cost me in perseverance and relentless work I will not try to say. It has come; and, with it—a more serious condition—perhaps a little leisure. I say perhaps, for my leg is still hampered with a few links of the convict's chain.

The wish is realized. It is a little late, O! my pretty insects! I greatly fear that the peach is offered to me when I am beginning to have no teeth wherewith to eat it. Yes, it is a little late: the wide horizons of the outset have shrunk into a low and **stifling** 



### 荒石园

drawback n. 缺点; 弊端

ambush n. 埋伏; 潜藏

harassed v. 骚扰; 折磨 steadfast a. 坚定 的; 不变的

stifling a. 令人窒 息的; 沉闷的 就是我所想要的:一块地。哦!一块不要太大,但四周有围墙,不会有公路上各种麻烦的土地;一块日晒热烤,荒芜不毛,被人抛弃但却是矢车菊和膜翅目昆虫钟爱的土地。在那儿,我可以不必担心过路人的打扰,与砂泥蜂和掘土蜂交谈——这种艰难的对话,就靠实验表达出来;在那儿,无需耗费时间的远行,无需急不可待的奔走,我可以编制我的进攻计划,设置我的埋伏陷阱,每天时时刻刻观察所得到的效果。一块地——是的,这就是我的愿望,我的梦想,是我一直苦苦追求但将来能否实现却没有明确把握的梦想。

所以,当一个人整天都在为每日的面包一筹莫展地操心时,要在旷野里给自己准备一个实验室是不容易的。我以不折不挠的勇气跟穷困潦倒的生活斗争了四十年;结果这朝思暮想的实验室终于得到了。这是我孜孜不倦、顽强奋斗的结果,我不想去说它了。它来到了,但伴随着它而来的,也许是必须要有一点儿空闲的时间,这是更重要的条件。我说也许,是因为我的腿上总是拖着"苦行犯"的锁链。

愿望是实现了,只是迟了一点儿啊,我的美丽的昆虫! 我很害怕有了桃子的时候,我的牙齿却啃不动了。是的,只 是迟了一点儿;原先那开阔的天际,如今已成了十分低垂、 canopy, more and more straitened day by day. Regretting nothing in the past, save those whom I have lost; regretting nothing, not even my first youth; hoping nothing either, I have reached the point at which, worn out by the experience of things, we ask ourselves if life be worth the living.

**Amid** the ruins that surround me, one strip of wall remains standing, immovable upon its solid base: my passion for scientific truth. Is that enough, O! my busy insects, to enable me to add yet a few seemly pages to your history? Will my strength not cheat my good intentions? Why, indeed, did I forsake you so long?

Friends have reproached me for it. Ah, tell them, tell those friends, who are yours as well as mine, tell them that it was not forgetfulness on my part, not weariness, nor neglect: I thought of you; I was convinced that the Cerceris' cave had more fair secrets to reveal to us, that the chase of the Sphex held fresh surprises in store. But time failed me; I was alone, deserted, **struggling against** misfortune. Before philosophizing, one had to live. Tell them that, and they will pardon me.

Others have reproached me with my style, which has not the solemnity, nay, better, the dryness of the schools. They fear lest a page that is read without fatigue should not always be the expression of the truth. Were I to take their word for it, we are profound only on condition of being obscure. Come here, one and all of you—you, the sting—bearers, and you, the wing—cased armour—clads—take up my defence and bear witness in my favour. Tell of the intimate terms on which I live with you, of the patience with which I observe you, of the care with which I record your actions. Your evidence is **unanimous**: yes, my pages, though they bristle not with hollow formulas nor learned **smatterings**, are the exact narrative of facts observed, neither more nor less; and whose cares to question you in his turn will obtain the same replies.

令人窒息而且日益缩小的穹庐。对于往事,除了我已经失去了的,我一无所悔,我什么也不后悔,甚至不后悔二十年的光阴,我对一切也不抱有希望,我已经到了这个地步,历历往事使我精疲力竭,我思忖究竟值得不值得生活下去了。

amid *prep*. 在其中;在其间

四周一片废墟,中间一堵断墙危立,石灰和沙使它岿然不动;这屹立着的断墙就是我对科学真理的热爱。哦,我的灵巧的膜翅目昆虫啊,这种热爱是不是足以让我名正言顺地对你们的故事再添上几页话呢?我会不会力不从心呢?为什么我自己也把你们抛弃了这么长时间呢?

朋友们为此责备我。啊,告诉他们,告诉那些既是你们的也是我的朋友们,告诉他们,并不是由于我的遗忘,我的懒散,我的抛弃;我想念你们;我深信节腹泥蜂的窝还会告诉我们动人的秘密,飞蝗泥蜂的捕猎还会给我们带来惊奇的故事。但是我缺少时间,我在跟不幸的命运作斗争中,孤立无援,被人遗弃。在高谈阔论之前,必须能够活下去。请您告诉他们吧,他们会原谅我的。

struggle against 与……作斗争

还有人指责我使用的语言不庄严,干脆说吧,没有干巴巴的学究气。他们害怕读起来不令人疲倦的作品就是没有说出真理。照他们这种说法,只有晦涩难懂,才是思想深刻。你们这些带着蜇针的和盔甲上长着鞘翅的,不管有多少都到这儿来,为我辩护,替我说话吧。你们说说我跟你们是多么亲密无间,我多么耐心地观察你们,多么认真地记录你们的行为。你们的证词会异口同声地说:是的,我的作品没有充满言之无物的公式,一知半解的瞎扯,而是准确地描述观察到的事实,一点儿不多,一点儿也不少;谁愿意询问你们就去问好了,他们也会得到同样的答复的。

unanimous a. 全体一致的;无 异议的 smattering n. 一知半解 And then, my dear insects, if you cannot convince those good people, because you do not carry the weight of tedium, I, in my turn, will say to them:

"You **rip up** the animal and I study it alive; you turn it into an object of horror and pity, whereas I cause it to be loved; you labour in a torture-chamber and dissecting-room, I make my observations under the blue sky, to the song of the Cicadae; you subject cell and **protoplasm** to chemical tests, I study instinct in its loftiest manifestations; you pry into death, I pry into life. And why should I not complete my thought: the boars have **muddled** the clear stream; natural history, youth's glorious study, has, by dint of cellular improvements, become a hateful and **repulsive** thing. Well, if I write for men of learning, for philosophers, who, one day, will try to some extent to unravel the tough problem of instinct, I write also, I write above all things, for the young, I want to make them love the natural history which you make them hate; and that is why, while keeping strictly to the domain of truth, I avoid your scientific prose, which too often, alas, seems borrowed from some Iroquois idiom!"

But this is not my business for the moment: I want to speak of the bit of land long cherished in my plans to form a laboratory of living **entomology**, the bit of land which I have at last obtained in the solitude of a little village. It is a "harmas," the name given, in this district, to an untilled, **pebbly** expanse abandoned to the vegetation of the thyme. It is too poor to repay the work of the plough; but the Sheep passes there in spring, when it has chanced to rain and a little grass shoots up.

My harmas, however, because of its **modicum** of red earth swamped by a huge mass of stones, has received a rough first attempt at cultivation: I am told that vines 另外,我亲爱的昆虫们,如果因为对你们的描述不够令人生厌,所以说服不了这些正直的人,那么就由我来对他们说:

rip up 撕碎;撕开

protoplasm n. 原生质;细胞质

muddy v. 使污浊; 把弄糊涂 repulsive a. 排斥 的; 令人反感的

entomology n. 昆虫学

pebbly a. 多卵石 的;多砾石的

modicum n. 少量; 一点点 "你们是把昆虫开膛破肚,而我是在它们活蹦乱跳的情况下进行研究;你们把昆虫变成一堆既可怖又可怜的东西,而我则使得人们喜欢它们;你们在酷刑室和碎尸场里工作,可我是在蔚蓝的天空下,在鸣蝉的歌声中观察;你们用化学试剂测试蜂房和原生质,而我却是研究本能的最高表现;你们探究死亡,而我却是探究生命。因此我为什么不进一步说明我的想法:野猪搅浑了清泉;博物史是青年人极好的学业,可由于越分越细,彼此隔绝,如今已成了可厌可嫌的东西。然而,如果说我是为了那些企图有朝一日稍微弄清本能这一热门问题的学者、哲学家们而写,我也为,我尤其是为年轻人而写,我希望使他们热爱这门被你们弄得令人憎恶的博物史;这就是为什么我在极力保持翔实的同时,不采用你们那种科学性的文字,因为这种文字似乎是从易洛魁人(指17世纪北美的印第安人——译者注)的语言中借用来的,这种情况,唉!真是太常见了。"

不过,眼下这并不是我的事;我要谈的是在我的计划中朝思暮想的那块地,我要使它成为活的动物学实验室。这块地我终于在一个荒僻的小村庄里得到了。这是一个荒石园,当地的语言中,"荒石园"这个词指的是一块荒芜不毛、乱石遍布、百里香悠生的荒地。这种地贫瘠得即使辛勤地犁耙也无法改善。当春天偶尔下雨,长出一点儿草时,绵羊会来到这儿。

不过,我的荒石园由于在无数乱石中还有一点儿红土, 所以开始长点儿作物;据说从前那儿有些葡萄。的确,为了 once grew here. And, in fact, when we dig the ground before planting a few trees, we turn up, here and there, remains of the precious stock, half **carbonized** by time. The three-pronged fork, therefore, the only implement of husbandry that can penetrate such a soil as this, has entered here; and I am sorry, for the primitive vegetation has disappeared. No more thyme, no more lavender, no more clumps of kermes-oak, the dwarf oak that forms forests across which we step by lengthening our stride a little. As these plants, especially the first two, might be of use to me by offering the Bees and Wasps a spoil to forage, I am compelled to reinstate them in the ground whence they were driven by the fork.

What abounds without my mediation is the invaders of any soil that is first dug up and then left for a time to its own resources. We have, in the first rank, the couch-grass, that **execrable** weed which three years of stubborn warfare have not succeeded in exterminating. Next, in respect of number, come the **centauries**, grim-looking one and all, bristling with prickles or starry halberds. They are the yellow-flowered centaury, the mountain centaury, the star-thistle and the rough centaury: the first **predominates**. Here and there, amid their inextricable confusion, stands, like a **chandelier** with spreading orange flowers for lights, the fierce Spanish oyster-plant, whose spikes are strong as nails. Above it towers the Illyrian cotton-thistle, whose straight and solitary stalk soars to a height of three to six feet and ends in large pink tufts. Its armour hardly yields before that of the oyster-plant. Nor must we forget the lesser thistle-tribe, with, first of all, the prickly or "cruel" thistle, which is so well armed that the plant-collector knows not where to grasp it; next, the spear-thistle, with its ample foliage, ending each of its veins with a spear-head; lastly, the black knap-weed, which gathers itself into a spiky knot. In among these, in long lines armed with hooks, the shoots of the blue dewberry creep along the ground. To visit the prickly thicket when the Wasp goes foraging, you must wear boots that come to mid-leg or else resign yourself to a smarting in the calves. As long as the ground retains a few rem-

