

金 涛 著 温绍贤 译 [英]蒂娜・巴莱 审校





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关于 光岛

《月光岛》最初在哈尔滨出版的《科学时代》(主编刘沙)1980 年第一期和第二期连载。

1980年发行全国的《新华月报》(文摘版)第7期转载《月光岛》。该期《新华月报》同时发表著名科幻作家郑文光对《月光岛》的评价文章《要正视现实——喜读金涛同志的科学幻想小说〈月光岛〉》,以及香港作家杜渐的论文《谈中国科学小说创作中的一些问题》(原载香港《开卷》1980年第10期)。

1981年3月,《月光岛》和作者另一篇科幻小说《沼地上的木屋》 结集,由地质出版社出版(责任编辑叶冰如)。

1998年10月,在初版过了17年之后,上海科技教育出版社出版一套"绘图科幻精品丛书",将《月光岛》改编后收入这套丛书,印了10000册。

2009年四川《科幻世界》30周年特别纪念(1979—2009),将《月光岛》评为"中国科幻三十年九大经典短篇"之一。全文收入《科幻世界》30周年特别纪念增刊。

2009年5月,湖北少年儿童出版社出版《月光岛》,与作者的另一部科幻小说《马小哈奇遇记》合为一集,纳入该社的"科普名人名著书系"。

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灯塔管理员

初秋的一个黄昏,落日余晖在大海的胸膜上披上了一件五彩斑斓的美丽罩衣,这时,有个二十来岁的年轻人默默地沿着一级级的石条蹬道,向月光岩的顶上攀去。他钻进一座高高耸立在月光岩上的灯塔。不大会儿工夫,一道白光从灯塔顶部的玻璃窗孔迸射出来,预告着黑夜来临了。

这个年轻人走出灯塔, 伫立在悬崖边缘。他眯缝着眼睛, 向落日沉没的远方凝视了很久。从那灼热的目光和一双紧闭的嘴唇上可以看出他似乎在期待着什么。然而在视线所及的海面,除了十几只在苍茫暮色中鼓噪的信天翁, 成双结队地在海滩附近徘徊外,海上空无一物。不一会儿,最后一抹玫瑰色的晚霞余晖也从天际消失了。

他沿原路走下月光岩,回到他住的屋子,这是一幢临 近海边的简陋石屋。他心烦意乱地闷坐在黑洞洞的房里,电 灯也忘记拧开,陷入深沉的思索中……

他叫梅生, 四年前从东南海洋大学海洋生物化学系毕

THE LIGHTHOUSE KFEPER

It was an evening in early autumn. The sun had recently set, and while the surface of the sea still glowed with the reflected gorgeous colour of the sky, a young man at his mid twenties climbed a long flight of rocky steps towards a lighthouse, high on top of the Moon Cliff. When he reached the lighthouse he disappeared inside it. Before long, a bright beam of light shone from its top glass-window, signaling that night had fallen.

When the young man emerged from the lighthouse again, he stood for a long time on the edge of the cliff, staring with narrowed eyes at the distant horizon, where the sky was still red. With his mouth tightly closed, he had an earnestly expectant look in his eyes, yet the wide expanse of sea over which he gazed showed nothing except a dozen of albatrosses near the beach at the foot of the cliff, circling in pairs, their harsh cries reaching him through the dusk. Then the last tinges of rosy colour slowly faded from the horizon.

The young man at last retraced his way down the steps from the Moon Cliff to his house. It was a simple stone house near the seashore. Inside, he sat silently in the dark, too preoccupied with his own thoughts and problems to remember to put the light on.

He was called Mei Sheng. He had graduated from the Southeast Oceanographical Institute four years before, but



业。那年夏天,一场比十二级台风还要猛烈千百倍的政治风暴,汪洋恣肆地席卷了九百六十万平方公里的大地。梅生这个毫无生活阅历的年轻大学生,像初次出海的水手,驾着一叶四处漏水的独木舟,在狂风恶浪中挣扎。不过比起和他同时代的青年人,他毕竟幸运得多。就在他惊魂未定时,不知来自何方的一股洋流推动他的小舟,把他送到荒凉的月光岛上,从此他开始了灯塔管理员的生活。

他确实是最合适不过的人选。他是个孤儿,是人民用乳汁把他哺养成人的。在旁人眼里看来,灯塔管理员的工作比起囚犯好不了多少,这里缺乏起码的物质生活和文化娱乐,唯一和世界的联系是每隔半个月航运局给他送来粮食和蔬菜的运输船,然而,他却深深爱上了荒凉的月光岛,也很满意他所从事的这个工作。

他是个天生喜欢和大自然为伍的人。刚来的那些日子, 他简直像个头一回逛动物园的孩子,成天在岛屿周围,在 丛林密集的山岩,在洁白如银的沙滩跑个不停。他一会儿 像条鲮鱼划开碧蓝碧蓝的海水,遨游在绚丽多彩的海底; that same summer people's life had been driven violently out of its expected course by the political storms hundreds of times more violent than a force 12 typhoon. In the turmoil which then engulfed the whole vast country, Mei Sheng, a young graduate with little experience in life – was like a sailor going to sea for the first time, adrift in a leaky canoe, struggling against a fierce wind and angry waves. In the event, however, he was more fortunate than many of his contemporaries; his canoe had been carried by a mysterious ocean current to this desolate job when he was still badly shaken and ever since he had been the lighthouse keeper on Moonlight Island.

The position suited him in many ways. He was an orphan, brought up in state institutions. To many people, the life of a lighthouse keeper would have been no better than that of a prisoner: there was no cultural life, existence was harsh, and his only contact with the outside world was the cargo ship sent by the Shipping Bureau which brought him food supplies every fortnight. But he was content with the work, and had grown to love Moonlight Island.

He had always been fascinated by nature. During the first weeks after his arrival he was simply like a child in paradise. He spent long hours traveling the places round the island, the cliffs in the thick forests, and the beach of silvery sand. He swam like a mullet, breaking up the blue water, or dived down



一会儿像只懒洋洋的海豹,仰卧在灼热的沙滩上,让热带的阳光炙烤他那一身古铜色的、充满青春活力的皮肤。他还花了整整一个来月的时间,对自己将要长期定居的环境作了一番认真的科学调查,把调查结果详详细细地写入他的笔记本:

"月光岛"——多么动听的名字!——是更新世一次海底火山爆发的产物,从岛上火山堆积物(主要成分是玄武岩)的结构和层次判断,它露出海面的时间不超过五万年。岛上的制高点,那座突兀高峻的月光岩海拔高达172.4米,是当初喷吐熔岩的火山锥。岛屿面积为0.95平方千米,距陆地最近距离为11.57海里^①。植物种类估计近百种,主要为桃金娘科、棕榈科、兰科、大戟科、番石榴科。动物种属不详,待查。

岛上灯塔根据建筑标记,是第二次世界大战时日本海军东亚舰队七十五军团所建。

全岛共有居民三十六人, 岛屿西部有一座渔村, 渔民

① 1海里=1852米。

to the gorgeous seabed, or lay like a languid seal on the hot beach, his skin tanning in the tropical sun which made him feel the full range of his youth and vigour. He also spent a whole month conducting a serious scientific survey of the island, and some details from his notebook give a concise description of the new place where he would stay for a long time to come:

Moonlight Island (a suitably beautiful name) is the result of a submarine volcanic eruption in the Pleistocene Epoch. Judging by the structure and layers of volcanic accumulation (of which the main element is basalt), it is less than fifty thousand years since the island emerged from the sea. The highest point of the island, the towering steep cliff with an elevation of 172.4 metres, is the top of the volcano which erupted at that time. The area of the island is 0.95 square kilometres, and the nearest distance to the mainland is 11.57 nautical miles. There are estimated to be about 100 species of plants, mostly Myrtaceae, Palmae, Orchidaceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Psidium guajava. The species and genera of the island's animals are unknown, and have yet to be surveyed.

According to the inscriptions on it, the lighthouse on the island was built by the 75th Army Group of the East Asian Fleet of the Japanese Navy during World War II.

There is a population of 36 people on the island. There is a fishing village in the western part, where the fisher folk live a



过着与世隔绝的生活。他们是什么时候迁入月光岛的,没有人知道。最令人费解的是,渔村没有小孩,一个也没有,只有二十五个男人,十个女人,也许是由于这里环境艰苦,他们把孩子们安置在别的什么地方,但也无从证实。至于海岛东部,唯一的居民是灯塔管理员……

不过,年轻的大学生安心在月光岛上生活还另有原因。 在大学,他勤奋刻苦,一丝不苟,深得生物化学家孟凡凯 教授的垂青。他的毕业论文便是在孟教授的直接指导下完成的,说得准确一些,这是他们师生合作的一项科研课题。 不幸的是,这项重大的科研项目刚进入实验阶段,孟教授 在一次意想不到的事件中身陷囹圄,至今下落不明;接着 梅生离开了大学,来到了几乎与世隔绝的孤岛。

气象学家发现盛行在南中国海和孟加拉国湾的台风,有个极为有趣的现象:台风中心,有个台风眼。尽管台风经过的地方的天气是遮天蔽日的狂风暴雨,小小的台风眼却依然风平浪静,天晴日朗。在风狂雨骤的那些年月,月光岛正

life isolated from the outside world. No one seems to know when they came to the island. One thing that has puzzled me is that there are no children; just 25 men and 10 women. Perhaps they send their children somewhere else, as the life is very hard here. However, I cannot confirm this. In the east part of the island, the only living being is the lighthouse keeper...

There was an additional reason for Mei Sheng to be contented with his position on the island. At the Institute of Oceanography he had been an extremely able and hard-working student, and had caught the attention of Professor Meng Fankai, an eminent biochemist. Mei Sheng's final thesis at the Institute was conducted under Professor Meng's supervision, but in fact it was the record of a piece of research which was being conducted jointly by himself and Professor Meng. However, at a crucial point in their research project of great importance, when they were about to start a series of experiments to test their theories, the storm had hit them. Out of the blue it had sent Professor Meng to prison – Mei Sheng knew neither why nor where – and Mei Sheng himself to his lonely life on the island.

Meteorologists have discovered that there was a very interesting phenomenon in the typhoons often seen in the South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal. They have at their very centre a "typhoon eye": all around, as the storm passes, the typhoon completely blots out the sky, but under the small typhoon eye the weather is sunny and the sea is calm. To Mei



是这样一个平静的台风眼。

梅生始终没有忘记他和孟教授合作的课题。他打心眼里爱上了"台风眼",爱上了这里的宁静和自由。的确,没有人愿意涉足这儿来过问他的工作,似乎也没有人注意到他这个游离在风暴之外的漏网之鱼。他在卧室隔壁一间堆放杂物的贮藏室里,精心布置了一间再简陋不过的实验室。四年的光阴就这样流逝了,他忘情地从事着这项课题的对比实验,积累了将近一千页的实验记录。他朦胧地意识到,一个惊人的结论,像黎明的曙光一样在这间陋室里快要诞生了……

但是,在这个节骨眼上,实验被迫中断了,整整中断 了半个月。

他逮住了一只活蹦乱跳的金丝猴,那是半个月前发生的事。他高兴得喘不过气来,小心翼翼地把这个毛茸茸的小馋鬼关进铁笼。一个成熟的念头在他的头脑里油然而生,他决定在这只难以觅求的灵长目高等动物身上进行一次难度最大的实验。他记得有一次孟教授用低沉的声调对他说:

Sheng, Moonlight Island was a peaceful typhoon eye amidst the fierce whirl of the political storms during that time.

He did not, however, forget their joint project. He had come to love this "typhoon eye" from the bottom of his heart, had come to love the tranquility and freedom of Moonlight Island. As a matter of fact no one would like to come to inspect what he did here; it seemed neither was there any one who took any notice of him who was like a fish that has escaped from the net. So he turned the storeroom by his bedroom into a simple but meticulously arranged laboratory, and for four years he had been completely absorbed in the project, conducting comparative experiments which he had planned, and now he had written nearly a thousand pages of notes, and he was vaguely conscious that these experiments, conducted in one humble room in a shabby little house, really were leading to the most astounding conclusion, which might be seen as a moment in history.

Just at the moment he was forced to be idle, because for two weeks – with the end of his work nearly in reach – he had had to suspend all experiments.

A fortnight ago he had managed to capture a golden monkey, and he was keeping the lively gluttonous little creature securely in an iron cage. This stroke of luck gave him an opportunity which made him breathless with excitement. A mature idea welled up in his mind. He decided to perform the most difficult experiment on one of the higher primates, which was an opportunity hard to come by. He had never forgotten a conversation with Professor Meng one day, "Remember," the



"记住,我们的最终目的是揭开人类死亡之谜。一切动物的实验都不能代替人体本身的试验。全部困难恰恰在于这点,因为我们很难实现人体的实验,这不仅要冒极大的风险,而且是科学所不允许的。"

"那该怎么办?"他询问自己的老师。

"我想,如果能用灵长目动物作为实验材料,我们至少可以接近真理一步,"孟教授深凹的眼窝里闪动着智慧的光芒,"这样的话,我准备下一步请你在我的身体上做最后一个对比实验,我相信我们的结论是正确的!"

"你……用你的身体?"梅生几乎惊叫起来。

"为什么不可以呢?每个献身科学的人都应该随时有这种准备,"教授的嘴角浮现一丝微笑,接着他向自己的学生谈起人类历史上许多献身科学的大无畏的勇士,他讲到布鲁诺、富兰克林、居里夫人、塞尔维特……

孟教授的谈话对年轻的大学生印象太深刻了。为了做 好这次实验,他花了几个通宵拟定了实验方案,对各种可 能出现的意外都制定了措施。