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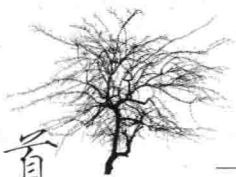
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李贺诗百首

100 POEMS OF LI HE

With Rhymed English Versions and Annotations

Translated and Annotated

By

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前 言

幼时读李贺诗，又喜又惧，觉得有些篇章鬼气森森，有些篇章晦涩难懂，但总体而言，它又那么具有吸引力，让人不忍释卷。及长，动了翻译李诗欲望，却又视为畏途。不曾想，几十年后，终于动笔，算是了却早年夙愿。

李贺(790—816)，字长吉，福昌(今河南宜阳)人。祖籍陇西，自称“陇西长吉”。因家居福昌昌谷，后世故称他为李昌谷。李贺一生经历了德宗、顺宗、宪宗三朝，其时唐王朝各类社会矛盾激化，藩镇割据，逐渐形成了黑暗腐败的政治局面。贺虽为唐宗室郑王李亮的后裔，但家境已败落。他“细瘦通眉，长指爪”，童年即能词章，抱负远大，自视极高。十五六岁时已以工乐府诗而与先辈李盖齐名。李贺父李晋肃，只做过低级官吏。因“晋”与“进”同音，与李贺争名的人就说他应避父讳，不举进士。后来他做了三年职卑位低的奉礼郎，备受人生苦涩，郁郁不得志。韩愈为此作《讳辩》鼓励他应试，但贺终不得登第。在京时，李贺常与友偕同出游，一小奴骑驴相随，背一破锦囊，每得诗句，即写投囊中，归家足成完篇。母郑夫人常说“是儿要呕出心乃已尔”。贺体弱多病，终生落魄，二十七岁英年早逝。他在诗歌创作上继承了楚辞的浪漫主义精神，又从汉魏六朝乐府和萧梁艳体诗多有汲取，以丰富的想象力和新颖诡异的语言，表现幽奇神秘的意境，感进伤逝，或寄

情天国,或幻念鬼蜮,形成了他自己独特的艺术风格,人称“诗鬼”。诗人遭际坎坷,情感复杂。时而清醒剖析现实,鞭笞中唐黑暗;时而歌唱人生,同情劳动人民;时而悲苦厌世,沉入幽冷凄清境界;时而愤懑激越,渴望施展抱负,以酬壮志;时而低徊烦闷,嘲弄、怒斥鱼肉百姓的藩镇官宦。优美和缺陷交相辉映在李贺的 242 首诗篇中。

李贺的诗,不管是清丽、激越、奔放,还是浓艳、奇僻、晦涩,不管是凄苦、悲痛、愤怒还是沉郁、阴森、幽冷,交织起来,成就了独自昂立的李贺。

译者选译了李贺诗 100 首。所选篇目并无定规,随缘而已。成集曰《英译李贺诗百首》。

译者
于南京紫金山南麓

Preface

Li He's poems were both attractive and scary to me when I was a mere child, for some of them were ghostly, some obscure, yet on the whole they were just fascinating. As soon as I started reading the poems, I was so fond of them that I was unwilling to part with them. Later, I had a strong desire to translate them into English though such idea excited as well as scared me. Dozens of years have elapsed before my long-cherished wish is gratified. I have selected 100 pieces from Li He's 242 poems and finally translated them into English.

Li He (790 – 816 AD), born in Fuchang (today's Yiyang County in Henan Province), styled himself Changji. His ancestral home was Longxi, so he often called himself Longxi Changji. He and his family resided in Changgu, Fuchang County, people of later generations call him Li Changgu. He underwent three emperors of Tang Dynasty (Emperor De Zong, 779 – 805 AD in power; Shun Zong, 805AD in power; and Xian Zong, 805 – 820 AD in power).

In this period, all social contradictions became intensified, military governors in control of outlying prefectures set up separatist regimes, and a dark political situation laden with corruption gradually took shape.

Though Li He was a descendant of the loyal clan, his family was on the decline.

He began to show promises even in his childhood. As a young man with lofty aspirations, he thought highly of himself. In his teens, his poems enjoyed equal popularity with elder celebrities at that time. Li He's father, Li Jingsu served as a petty official, whose name was said to be taboo that prevented his son from attending imperial examination for civil service. Han Yu (768 – 824), an eminent writer published an article *An Argumentation on Elders' Names as Taboo* to encourage Li He, unfortunately with little success. Thus Li He was stranded in his official career.

When in the capital, Li He used to go outing with friends. His pageboy riding a little donkey would follow him. Each time Li He got well-turned lines he would write them down, and the pageboy would collect them in a silk purse. Li He would develop them into poems back home. Li He's mother sighed, "the boy would work his heart out." Unfortunately her words came true. Li He was thin with heavy eyebrows and long limbs. He was debilitated, and remained frustrated all his life. He died at the young age of twenty-seven. But the Muse seemed to have shown exceptional care for him. Li He achieved great success in creating poems. He carried forward the romantic tradition of those great poets before him, such as Qu Yuan (? 340 BC – ? 278 BC), and assimilated nutriment from folk songs and ballads of Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD), and writing styles in Liang Dynasty (502 – 557 AD). He developed rich imagination, novel and unique language, mysterious and secluded artistic conception. He warmly

extolled any progress achieved, and was traumatized by the lapse of time. He entrusted his hopes in heavenly kingdom, cursed evil spirits and demons. All this formed his own unique artistic style. He earned himself the name of "Unorthodox Genius Poet".

Because of the lifetime frustrations, Li He's poems expressed complicated sentiments. Now he analyzed the reality and castigated the dark side of mid-Tang Dynasty soberly; now he sang in praise of the value of life, showed sympathy for the laboring people; now he was bitterly world-weary, and sank into his lonely, sad and wretched circumstances; now he detested the world and its ways, and longed to display his talents and ability to realize his aspirations; now he is unhappy and in extremely low spirit, and ridiculed and angrily rebuked those officials who victimized the people.

Grace and beauty mingled with defects and flaws in Li He's 242 poems. Delicacy, vehemence, enthusiasm, gaudiness, peculiarity, obscurity, misery, sorrow, anger, chill, gloom, ghastliness, were woven together and gave birth to an upright and dignified Li He.

Translator
Nanjing

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示 弟

别弟三年后，
还家一日余。
醪醕今夕酒，
綈帙去时书。
病骨犹能在，
人间底事无！
何须问牛马，
抛掷任皋卢。

To My Brother

Three years ago, I left you, my brother; *
I'm home for only one day, now another.
Tonight, happily together, we drink vintage wine;
In the silk wrap lie my books, companions of mine.
I have achieved little though bad illness I survive;
Full of oddities is this ridiculous world of a hive.
Who cares whether fish and fowl are the same;
Life is like a gamble: just try to win the game.

Translator's note:

* Li He wrote this poem to his brother when he quitted office after his three years' stay in the capital city of Chang'an.

马诗二十三首(选十五首)

其 一

龙脊贴连钱，
银蹄白踏烟。
无人织锦韉，
谁为铸金鞭？

23 Songs of Horses(15 are selected)

No. 1

What a fine horse with stringed-coin like spots on his back!
Over clouds of dust are four silver hoofs along galloping track.
No one would care for him or offer him a good saddle;
Nor would recognize his talent, nor buy him a gold bridle.