Pledge to the Sacred Tree Songs from the Heart of a Wa Woman





Pledge to the Sacred Tree Songs from the Heart of a Wa Woom

种的的人

布饶依露 著



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序— 佤族是她的根,文学是她的灵魂

中国社会科学院研究生院博士生导师中国散文学会会长

4 = 1 =

几年前的秋天,定居美国的女作家陈瑞琳,回国参加一个文学方面 的学术会议时,顺道在北京逗留了数日,曾经邀请多位旧雨新朋,欢聚畅 饮。正是在那次聚会时,认识了布饶依露女士。

几天之前,她打来电话,说是要向我"请教"有关散文创作的问题。 正好有几位散文评论家,约定在舍间聚会,于是请她也于当日前来。就在 这第二次会晤的时候,她拿出了自己一部散文集的打印稿,和几篇满纸都 留下了修改痕迹的原稿,让我匆匆地浏览了一遍。

她这种认真、执著、勤奋和追求不断提高自己的精神,实在是很使我 钦佩的。因此当她十分诚挚地提出,要我撰写一篇简短的序言时,我觉得 是无法加以拒绝的,尽管我已经年岁老迈,精力不济,很难胜任序文此种 文体的撰作了。

从次日的黎明开始,我在通过细致地阅读之后,得到了很大的收获。 像她的《木鼓声声》、《高脚楼的火塘边》这些有关的篇章,使我领略了 佤族的民风习俗、婚姻制度、宗教信仰和文化艺术等等方面的情况,真是 大开了眼界。更为感人的是她描述自己家庭发生着重大变化的篇章,像在 《佤家的四代女人》里,从祖母和母亲艰辛贫困的生活,写到自己从事的 文学创作,以及女儿在绘画方面获得的成功。凄风苦雨的生活逐渐过去 了,文明富裕的日子逐渐来临了。从这样一个细微的侧面,正好也反映了 整个佤族变迁的历程。在这篇散文里面,写到自己引吭高歌时,立即想起 了母亲关爱自己的情节,读来其为使人感动。

1 序言



她的《基诺山里,好大一条江》,写出了自然环境很洁净的云南家 乡,在邻里之间也保持着淳朴和亲切的情愫。就在这样高耸的山下和湍急 的江畔,一位忠诚于教育事业,全心全意地关怀着所有学生的教师车阿 老,为了安全地护送从乡里发下的考卷,几乎葬身于山洪突发的江底。像 这样品格高尚的人,太能够打动读者的心灵了。

她的文字也显得形象鲜明,华采翩翩,像《染饭花》中描写花卉的笔墨,真是栩栩如生,至于染出的金色的饭粒,又来得光彩照人,最终归结于对母亲深情的赞美,给人留下深深的印象。

在不断开放和前进的生活中,她走出了家乡阿佤山,领略了多么宽阔的世界,写下了不少新颖的篇章。像《翠微里的春天》和《七月槐花》这些作品,对于北京街道的草木与花卉,也闪烁出相当细腻的审美感受,显示了她灵敏的悟性,和挥洒文字的能力。《心不用防盗》则描摹着在京城打工的种种经历和感受,显得生动有趣,些微的辛酸中含着诙谐,细小的挫折中充满乐观的信心。还有这一篇《景颇神刀驱病魔》,记述自己与多位海外华人作家前去滇西采风时,对于陈瑞琳女士留下的鲜明印象,将她风风火火般热情的性格,真是写得惟妙惟肖。参加和投入种种不同的生活,无疑会增添和丰富自己描写的功力。

布饶依露女士在散文创作方面的收获是相当明显的,当然还必须继续向前迈进。我欣慰地祝愿她能够认真总结自己已经取得的经验,以便在今后写出更多更好的佳构来。唐代诗人王之涣所吟咏的"欲穷千里目,更上一层楼"(《登鹳雀楼》),很巧妙地说明了提高精神境界的重要性,有了这样高旷的境界,才能够更为深刻地认识和把握客观世界与主观世界的内涵。还有让自己所掌握的语言文字,能够得到流畅多变和美轮美奂的表达,也应该是毕生都得去努力追求与琢磨的。我在自己毕生的散文写作中间,觉得只要是缺乏生活气息和审美色彩的话语,就毫不留情地进行删削与修改,往往是一篇散文,修订了十多遍之后,还感到并不满意。既然是已经投身于这样迷人和神圣的事业,就必须对于自己提出如此严格的要求。凭着自己这样一些粗浅的经验,我是很理解她在锤炼文字上所花费的功夫的,盼望她获得更大的收成。

我想大凡能够被许多读者深深喜爱和击节赞赏的散文篇章,总是会 具有下述这样的几个原因: (一)最能够触发人们感动的,(二)最能 够引起人们回忆或神往的若干社会场景和自然风光的,(三)最能够引起人们深邃地思索的,(四)最能够在语言和艺术技巧方面满足人们审美期待的。想要在一篇散文作品中间,同时都具备这样的几种因素,肯定是相当困难和少见的,只要能够在某一个方面表现得很充分和突出,无疑就是弥足珍贵的了。这是因为对于描摹世事代谢和探索人们心灵的文学创作来说,最为重要的是必须表现出自己的个性和风格来,这就已经是谈何容易和万分艰辛的事情了,非常地难于做到集种种思想与艺术的成就于某篇具体的作品中间。不过这只是从如何达到作为杰出篇章的客观标准而言,而如果从对于作家主观上的努力追求来说,自然是应该尽量地做到精益求精,力争写出更为出色的作品来。

祝愿布饶依露女士能够一如既往地克服散文创作途程中的种种艰难困苦,向着更为高耸的前景,奋发有为地冲刺和迈进。当然在这同时也得要注意身体的健康啊!

2010年5月12日于北京静淑苑

林非简介:

1931生, 江苏海门人。1955年毕业于复旦大学中文系。历任中国社会科学院研究生院教授、博士生导师, 中国鲁迅研究会会长, 中国散文学会会长等。出版学术论著《中国现代散文史稿》、《鲁迅和中国文化》、《散文的使命》、《林非论散文》等。出版散文著作: 《话说知音》、《离别》、《询问司马迁》、《访美归来》、《中外文化名人印象记》、《当代散文名家精品文库·林非卷》等。迄今共出版30余部著作。并主编《中国散文大词典》、《中国当代散文大系》等。其学术论著与散文创作均追求独创个性和文化内涵,海外学者对其评论颇多,有部分论著和作品已被国外翻译出版或发表。







无论荒凉与开放、都能超越自我

云南民族大学人文学院硕士生导师、佤族博士

《神树的约定》是中国佤族历史上的第一部散文集,记载了佤族族群 中一个特殊家族的这位女作家,从原始部落的大山走向云南的省城昆明, 后来奔京城闯荡,她所经历的生活与孜孜不倦的创作过程。

本书作者布饶依露,为母系家族佤族的姓氏。她的外公刘国用(佤族 名: 尼嫩),曾是云南省沧源县南腊佤族部落的头人(酋长)。1934年, 英国军队侵犯佤山,刘国用出任抗英"军师",与佤族地区8个部落的头 人联合起来,英勇抗击英国侵略者,最终把英军驱出中国边境。

作者的汉文名为吴萌,是父系家族吴尚贤第十代子孙。据史书记载, 260多年以前,清朝初期,吴尚贤与佤山葫芦王建立致富同盟,在云南沧 源佤山地区开采银矿,兴建了拥有3万多矿工的茂隆银厂。吴尚贤以当时 的特殊身份,结识了境外的缅甸国王,并带领缅王的外交使臣,途经中国 赴京城朝贡。后清朝政府与缅甸建立了友好往来的南亚通道,吴尚贤为两 国之间的邦交,作出了重要贡献。

中国与缅甸接壤,佤族属跨界民族,在中缅境内外约有100多万佤 族:中国境内有近40万佤族同胞,境外有60多万佤族人口。中国佤族从原 始社会直接过渡到社会主义社会,是我国人口较少的民族之一。

为窥探内地文化的发展,实现人生闯世界的梦想,布饶依露从云南的 边寨走出了大山……1986年,她因抄写散文、诗歌、小说遇到偶然的机 会,进入云南一个文化馆的文学社,从此开始尝试文学创作。

到了1989年,她创作的报告文学《绿色的风》、《高原上的丰碑》 等,散文《故乡》、《初秋》等,诗歌《山里的女人》、《悄悄流淌的小 河》等文学作品不断问世,并受到社会的关注,同年加入了云南省作家协会。

20世纪90年代初,布饶依露调入云南省民政厅《云南民政》杂志编辑部。由于工作需要,她经常深入云南一些地区访问,在高寒山区的边地,在野花丛生的深山峡谷,在贫困农家的草屋里……她用独特的眼光,捕捉少数民族的生存环境,以及在那种生活状态下的民族心理,为后来的文学创作,打下了基础。这期间,她发表了《佤山新米节随想》、《你是一束灿烂的阳光》、《金沙江的种子》等大量的散文作品。

为探索"边缘文化怎样进入中原文化的共存与发展",她带着此课题,进入中国社会科学院研究生院文学系研修班学习,得到中国文学界的专家、艺术评论家的指教,她的创作进入了佳期,散文《佤家的四代女人》、《母女闯京城》、《木鼓声声》,诗歌《故乡的猛懂河》、《季节走过山寨》等作品,先后刊登于民族文学杂志、边疆文学杂志、人民日报、中国民族报、云南日报等报刊。

1996年开始,布饶依露借调全国政协《人民政协报》任副刊记者、编辑。作为报人,她一边办报一边搞文学创作,几年下来,她了解到中国政界的形势与社会各阶层的关系及情况,并且有机会结识了中国文艺界、教育界、科技界、企业界等各行业的专家及社会知名人士,通过交往与长期采访,从中获取人生的感悟,写出《他用生命歌唱》、《寻找中国人的自我》、《为了佤山求学的孩子》等多篇文学作品。

为补充少数民族记者队伍,4年后,布饶依露借调国家民委《中国民族》杂志,任"百年树人"专栏记者,经常往返于云南少数民族边远山区,调查了解到最基层老百姓的贫困生活,以及贫困山区"受教育难"的严重问题,她以散记的思路,采写了《哈尼山上,好大一棵树》、《基诺山里,好大一条江》、《阿佤的亮眼睛》、《苦聪山的歌》等较大篇幅的较有深度的系列作品,先后在《民族团结》杂志、英文《中国日报》、《中国教育报》等刊登并转载;后被中国中央人民广播电台转播。2007年,《中国民族》杂志创刊五十周年《看,这一本杂志》画册中"文本文档"专版记载了1999年作者采写的云南边疆少数民族教师"流泪的红烛"专题系列,引起全国新闻媒体及云南省政府的关注,同年云南省政府出台教育"三免费"新政策。

5 序言





在同时期,布饶依露的散文《隐藏在雾中的山梁》、《季节走过丽江》、《木鼓与神灵对话》等,诗歌《月亮山》、《牛铃》、《高贵的红土》等,刊登在人民文学杂志、美国美华文学杂志、欧洲中华时报、香港文汇报等报刊。

近几年,布饶依露的散文逐步走向成熟,创作手法新颖,作品题材丰富,充满了灵性与活力,并有了明显的个性符号,如新创作的《相遇响水河》、《醉眼看天下》、《心不用防盗》、《乡音难改》、《听兰》、《往事化作青烟》、《寻找岩布勒》、《红懋树》、《佤山牛》、《神树的约定》等质量上陈的未发表的大部分作品,即将通过本书问世,与广大读者见面。全书作品的内涵,表达了一个中国少数民族女性作家渴望生活、主动创作、永不放弃的社会责任。

多年的创作过程,佤族女作家以自己的亲身经历,生命体验,创作出各种文学体裁的佳作;她以少数民族女作家的心智,特殊的视觉,寻找生活的核心: "勇敢地参与生活,感受生活,创造生活。"在生活中得到启迪与智慧,获得人生宝贵的经验。她验证了同窗对她的评述: "民族族别不论大小,人口多少不论强弱,只要通过自身的努力,定能释放出奋斗的能量,人的潜能和才华可发挥到极致。"

布饶依露认为: "散文是一种能够充分表达佤族人文精神的载体,如佤族崇拜黑色的土地,佤族崇尚光明的太阳,佤族崇敬神器的木鼓,佤族崇仰图腾的牛头等,通过散文洒脱的、灵巧的、多彩的、厚重的描述,民族的传统文化能得到最完美的表达。如同佤族原始森林的荒寞而悠然,佤山悬崖峭壁上清新而纯朴的白露花,佤乡似云豹翻滚的漫天大雾,佤人司岗里(石洞)的神话传说……以及佤族勤劳善良女神般的女人,佤族古铜色雕像般的男子,等等,都能使本人认真地落笔,激情地描写。"

无论大山的荒凉与阻挡,无论都市的嘈杂与开放,布饶依露的边地与 都市的散文创作,都能超越自我。

2010年4月23日于台湾雅美人村落

郭锐(岩嘎)简介:

1963年生于云南,佤族。新中国第一个佤族博士。长期从事民族学、人类学教学和研究工作。1983年以一篇《父亲给我的印象》获全国民族团结征文二等奖。1994年,在"全国民族知识大奖赛"中获一等奖。2005年,以一篇《文化转型与文化适应——以金平县者米乡苦聪人社会为例》,获吴文藻民族学、人类学奖学金。并发表专业学术论文近30余篇。现任云南民族大学人文学院硕士生导师。2005年5月,《佤族木鼓的文化链接》专著/社会文化人类学丛书,由云南大学出版社出版。目前在台湾中央研究院民族学研究所做博士后。

7 序言





PREFACE THREE The Spirit of Her People, Her Works Spring form Life

By Prof. Mark Bender
The Ohio State University



Burao Yilu (Wu Meng) is a journalist, poet, and essayist of the Wa (Va) ethnic group of Yunnan province in southwest China. She is among an increasing number of ethnic minority writers and poets who have emerged on the Chinese literary scene since the early 1980s. These "Sinophone" ethnic authors use Chinese as a means of expression that allows them to interface with audiences on a national level, and a number of ethnic authors from groups such as the Tibetans, Mongols, and Yi have earned international reputations. However, relatively few Wa writers and poets have gained regional or even national attention. Burao, who also writes under the name Wu Meng, is regarded as the first female poet of the Wa ethnic group and the first woman of her ethnic group to gain international recognition as an author of sanwen essays. Sanwen is a style of discursive essay, sometimes mixing many styles of writing, which has a long history in China.

Like a number of other ethnic authors in China, Burao incorporates imagery and lore from her ethnic group in her writings. Her group, the Wa, are a mountain—dwelling people native to an area in southwest Yunnan known as the Awa Mountains, and to neighboring countries in Southeast Asia. Historically, the Wa subsisted on rice and other crops grown in high mountain fields and lived in compact mountain villages. An independent people, the Wa resisted various incursions into their territory and were widely feared for their practice of headhunting. Due to the difficulties in accessing the high mountain areas, change has come relatively slow to

many Wa areas, yet like other peoples in China, the increasing pace of development has instigated wide—ranging changes in traditional Wa society. Both elements of traditional Wa ways and the changes brought about by increased influences from outside the mountains figure in Burao's creative process.

Drawing on family tradition and life experiences in the Awa Mountains. Kunming, and Beijing, Burao has created a corpus of sanwen essays, entitled Pledge to the Sacred Tree, that presents a unique perspective on Wa people, introduces the lives of people of many backgrounds, and reveals the rich inner world of a writer who has created her own voice within a major literary tradition. As many writers of her generation, Burao grew up under trying circumstances. Born in the mountain village of Nanla in Cangyuan county, at an early age she moved to Kunming, where her father was an inventor. Circumstances soon went awry, and her mother was left to raise four children alone for several years. Burao was thus deprived of an education beyond middle school. She later managed to teach herself the basics of liteary composition by writing down poems and essays of famous writers word by word. By the mid 1980s she began to gain regional recognition as a poet and essayist and soon found herself working as an editor in a major ethnic minority journal in Beijing. This job provided her with many chances to travel and explore ethnic areas all over China. She grew as an author and a person by conducting countless interviews among a wide range of citizens, ranging from rural educators teaching under the harshest conditions to internationally acclaimed Chinese artists, writers, and film directors. Much of her work was devoted to investigative reporting, yet she developed a style that wove reporting and literary style together into one vivid cloth. Her varied experiences also provided the nourishment needed to bring her gifts as a poet and essayist to fruition. This volume contains many of the writings that sprang from these experiences.

The eighty-five essays are divided into five major parts, each reflecting one phase of Burao's career and one focus of her interests as a

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writer. These parts include essays on the Wa areas of Yunnan, essays about a variety of people from other ethnic groups in China's borderlands (Mongol, Chaoxian [Korean],Uygur, Lisu, Yi, Dai, and Bai), a section on primary school teachers of various ethnic groups in Southwest China and other border areas, Overseas Chinese authors and artists from many countries who have visited China, and a final part comprised of essays based on personal experiences. Among the most prominent sections (and those she personally values most) are those that treat the lives of her relatives and acquaintances in the Awa Mountains and her years as an investigative reporter based in Beijing. In some instances her essays have had a profound social impact. For instance, in 1999–2000 she published a series of reports on the conditions of primary school teachers in the poorest areas of Yunnan province, represented in the present collection by the essay, "In the Jinuo Mountains is a Great River" (Jinuo shan li, hao da yi tiao jiang) As a result or her reportage, policies towards supporting primary school education in many parts of the province were altered to properly reward the many young teachers who devote their lives to educating students in less developed areas.

Among the many essays is her well-known portrait of women in her own family entitled, "Four Generations of Wa Women" (Wazu si dai de nu ren) which charts the lives of her grandmother, the wife of a tribal headman; her mother, the wife of an accomplished inventor who was capped a Rightist in 1958; Burao herself as the first Wa poet and sanwen author; and her daughter, Burao Yiling, a child prodigy now regarded as the first Wa painter. "The Wooden Drum Speaks to the Spirits" (Mu gu yu shen ling de dui hua) details the intricacies of ritual process, myth, and drumbeats and regards to traditions involving the use of wooden drums in Wa rituals. In "One with the Sound of the River" (Xiang yu xiang shui he) Burao describes how she is lured by the sounds of water roaring over rocks and the swirling of a black dragonfly into a serendipitous meeting with Mosuo children picking berries along a river in northwest Yunnan. With a subtle yet vivid immediacy the essay stimulates readers to re-imagine living conditions in mountain areas

that are often romanticized by urban residents. The essay entitled "Roving Thoughts on the Ancient Ailao Kingdom" (Ailao gu guo de xia xiang) relates the journey of Shi Shuqing an Overseas Chinese writer from America, to experience the cultures of the border areas of western Yunnan province. The final essay in the collection, "One's Native Tongue is Hard to Forget" (Xiang yin nan gai) explores issues of ethnic identity among various friends and relatives who left the mountains for Beijing. Changes in accent and language use reflect larger issues of acculturation and globalization that are increasingly common and play out in various ways across all sectors of Chinese society, encapsulated in this essay about experiences of Wa individuals.

In many dimensions, Burao Yilu's collected sanwen essays adds a new literary voice to both ethnic and mainstream literary circles in China.

May 6, 2010 Shawnee Hills

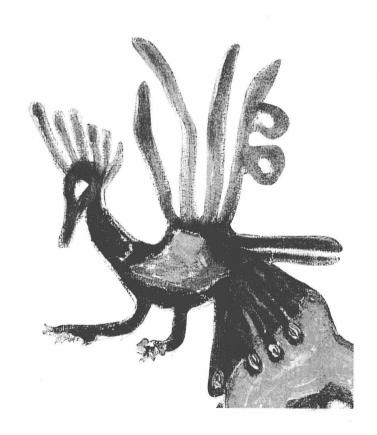
Biographical sketch:

Mark Bender was born in 1955. From 1981-1987 he taught American Literature at Guangxi University and founded the journal Cowrie, A Chinese Journal of Comparative Literature with Prof. Sun Jingyao. He took his doctorate in Chinese literature from The Ohio State University in 1995. He specializes in studies of oral tradition and folklore in China. His books include Plum and Bamboo: China's Suzhou Chantefable Tradition, Butterfly Mother: Miao/Hmong Creation Epics from Southeast Guizhou, China, Tiger Traces: Selected Nuosu and Chinese Poetry of Aku Wuwu, etc. He is co-editor of The Columbia Anthology of Chinese Folk and Popular Literature. Presently he is an associate professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

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