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英漢對照·世界名著 * 126 *

瑪利·麥克洛德 貝森夫人

Mary Mcleod Bethune

by C.O. PEARE





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英漢對照·世界名著

瑪利·麥克洛德 貝森夫人



石景宜》生赠书

類 爾 著 劉 宣 猷 譯



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瑪利・麥克洛德・貝森夫人簡介

貝森夫人出生在一個孩子衆多的家庭裡,父母都是曾為人 奴的黑人。為了她在幼年時,因不認識字所蒙受的羞辱和痛苦,使她在年輕的時候就夢想著有一天能為其他的黑人兒童建立 一所學校。

她以僅有的五個小女孩和一顆勇往邁進堅定不移的信心, 爲她的夢想而艱苦奮鬥,終於有志者事竟成,建立起一所在今 天已有一千名以上男女學生的高等學府。

貝森夫人,一位美國的真正偉大的女性,不僅為與她同種的黑人同胞服務;由於她對聯合國的工作貢獻,她同時也在求取較佳的生活方面幫助了世界各國的人民。

譯者

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1

DAYS OF NEVER-ENDING WORK

Mary Jane turned in her sleep as she lay on her hard bed. This bed was the only one she had, for she was a black child. Soft beds were for white people.

She waited for her sister to call her.

"Arise, child! It is morning."

Five o'clock in the morning was rising time every day. On a **cotton** farm the work was never finished. Not a minute of the day could be lost.

Mary jumped from her bed, put on a dress, and ran to the kitchen, the room everyone loved. There she found her mother preparing food.

"Go and wash, child," her mother said.

"Can we eat soon?"

"As soon as you wash and do your work."

Mary ran out to the place where all of her brothers and sisters were washing. Mary had to wait until all of the older children had finished.

永無休止的工作日子

瑪利·珍在睡夢中翻動著,因為她是睡在硬硬的床上。這是她僅有的一張床,因為她是一個黑人小孩子。柔軟的床是供白人享用的。

她在等待她的姐姐來呼喚她。

「起來啦,孩子!已經不早了。」

「清晨五點鐘是每天起床的時間。棉花田裡的工作是永遠 也做不完的,所以一天中的每一分鐘都不能浪費掉。」

瑪利從床上跳下來,披了一件衣服,就奔向了廚房,那間 每一個人都喜愛的屋子。在那裡她看到她的母親正在準備食物。

「去洗臉,孩子。」她的母親說。

「我們能很快吃飯嗎?」

「只要你洗好臉,做好了你的工作。」

瑪利跑出去,跑到她所有的兄弟姐妹們洗臉的地方去。瑪利必須等待,一直等到所有比她大的孩子們都洗完了之後。

"Hurry!"

"Be quiet!"

"Do not talk so much and do your work."

The house had to be cleaned and the animals fed before the children were allowed to eat. When this was done, Mary came running to the kitchen. She found the older members of the family already eating. Again the youngest had to wait. The table was not big enough for everyone to eat at the same time.

When the last dish was washed, the whole family—Sam and Patsy McLeod and their children—left their little house and went to the cotton fields.

It was time to plant the cotton, and the ground had to be prepared for the seed. The McLeods worked hard because the land was their own. They were free. Sam and Patsy had been slaves. They had been made to work from early morning to night on land that belonged to someone else and they had received no pay. Then came the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the law that made Negro slaves in the South free people Mary Jane and her younger sisters had been born free.

At noon Patsy returned to the house to prepare food for her family. A call from the house told them that the food was ready. The little group of all ages and sizes came in from the fields. Sam McLeod was a tall, strong man—much taller than the others in the family. He looked at his children lovingly and called to the one who was walking slowly behind the others.

「快點! |

「不要叫!!

「不要只顧說話,做你的工作。」

孩子們在可以吃飯以前,必須先將房子打掃清潔,並將家 畜餵過。當這些事做完之後,瑪利跑進了廚房。她發現家裡年 紀較大的人都已在吃飯了。但最小的還須要再等,因為飯桌不 夠大,不能使每一個人都坐下來一起用餐。

當最後的一個盤子洗完之後,全家人——山姆和潘茜·麥 克洛德以及他們的小孩子——離開了他們的小房子,走到棉花 田裡去。

正是種植棉花的季節,土地必須先耕犂好以便播種。麥克 洛德一家人工作得很努力,因為土地是他們自己的,他們是自 由的。山姆和潘茜以前曾經是奴隸,他們曾被命令著從早到晚 在屬於旁人的土地上工作著而得不到任何的報酬。後來內戰爆 發了,亞伯拉罕·林肯的黑奴解放令頒布了,這個法令使南方 的黑奴變成了自由的人民。瑪利·珍和她的妹妹們都是在黑人 解放後出生的。

到了中午的時候,潘茜返回家去為一家人準備午餐。她從家裡呼喚著告訴他們食物已經準備好了。於是由各種年齡和各種體型組成的一個小小人群從田裡走了回來。山姆·麥克洛德是一個高大强壯的男人——比家裡其他的人都高得多。他慈愛地注視著他的孩子們,並向慢慢地走在其他人後面的一個招呼著。

"Come, Mary Jane. Why are you walking so slowly?"

"I am thinking."

"What about?"

"About God."

"But aren't you hungry?"

Yes, she was very hungry and began to run fast. She arrived at the door before the others.

Her father laughed and thought how different Mary Jane was from the other children.

Again she had to wait to wash.

After eating, the family went back to work in the field until night. Finally, against the soft light of the setting sun, the McLeods went slowly home to rest.

After dinner there were still more jobs to be done in the house before the family met to pray.

In front of the fireplace that Sam McLeod had built long ago sat the one member of the family who had not gone to work in the fields—Sam's mother, whom they called Grandmother Sophia. She had spent her whole life in slavery, but now that she was old she no longer had to work. Grandmother Sophia talked continually in a low voice either to her family or to God.

"Dear God, I am so happy to be living in this loving family."

Mary finished her work and ran to her grandmother. This was the part of the evening when she was the happiest, the time when they all sang and prayed together. She sat down near her grand「來呀,瑪利·珍。你爲什麼走得這樣慢?」

「我正在思想。」

「想什麼?」

「關於上帝。」

「難道你的肚子不餓?」

是的,她是**很餓了,於是開始快跑。她搶先在其**他人之前 到了門口。

她的父親笑著,並且想着瑪利·珍和其他的孩子是多麼**地** 不相同啊!

又一次她必須爲洗臉手而等待著。

吃過午飯以後,全家人再回到田裡一直工作到黃昏,最後,在柔和的落日餘暉的映照下,麥克洛德一家慢慢地走回家去休息。

在晚餐之後,全家集合一起禱告之前,家裡仍然有很多的 事情要做。

在山姆·麥克洛德很久以前所裝置的壁爐的前面,坐著家人中唯一不去田裡工作的人——山姆的母親,他們都叫她蘇菲亞祖母。她以往的一生都是做著人家的奴隸,但現在她老了,不再需要工作了。蘇菲亞祖母以低弱的聲音繼續不斷地講說著,也許是對她的家人,也許是對上帝。

「親愛的主啊,我眞高興能生活在這個可愛的家庭裡!」 瑪利做完了她的工作之後就跑向她祖母的身邊去。這是她 晚間最愉快的一段時光,也是她一家在一起唱歌和祈禱的時間 。她坐下來靠近她的祖母。祖母知道許多其他人不知道的事 情。 mother. She knew many things the others did not know.

"We used to belong to the Wilsons and to the McLeods," she explained.

"Can we ever become slaves again?"

"No, child, no! We are free."

Mary Jane usually asked her grandmother many questions. She did this so that she would tell her many stories.

Patsy McLeod came near the fire to sit down. Samuel came, too, and also the other children. He sang the first song. After the singing, they all prayed quietly. Nobody had a prayer book because none of them could read.

Mary held her grandmother's hand while they prayed. She always loved those family prayers.

Soon it was time to go to bed. Mary fell on her hard bed and soon was asleep. Praying always made her sleep well.

The seasons passed, and work day followed work day. The fields had to be planted. And then the McLeods waited for the first small green leaves to appear above the ground.

Then the family had to work many hours in the hot sun, destroying all the other plants that would kill the young cotton. The young cotton plants grew slowly for the next three months. They grew until they were as tall as Mary's head. She walked up and down the rows caring for the young plants and looking for the first beginnings of a flower. 「我們以前是屬於威爾森家和麥克洛德家的。」她解釋著。 「我們還會再成爲奴隸嗎?」

「不會的,孩子,不會的!我們自由了。」

瑪利·珍通常會問她的祖母許多問題。她這樣做是爲了要 她告訴她很多故事。

播茜·麥克洛德走到火爐旁邊坐下來,山姆也過來了,還 有其他的孩子們。他唱第一首歌,唱完之後,他們全家就靜靜 地祈禱。沒有誰有一本祈禱書,因爲他們之中沒有一個人認得 字。

瑪利握著她祖母的手,當她們祈禱的時候。她永遠都愛著 家中的祈禱者。

不久之後就是上床睡覺的時候了。 瑪利倒在她硬硬的床上 ,很快就睡熟了, 祈禱總會使她睡得很香甜的。

時光流逝著,而工作天之後接著的還是工作天,田裡需要播種了。播種之後,麥克洛德一家就期待著第一批小小的綠葉子出現在土地上。

再往後,全家人就必須在烈日下工作許多個小時,以消滅 所有其他那些可「殺害」棉花嫩苗的植物。在以後的三個月裡 ,棉花的幼苗生長得很緩慢,它們長著長著,一直可以長得和 瑪利的頭頂一樣高。她在一行行的棉苗間走來走去,照顧著那 些幼嫩的植物,並且搜尋著初生的蓓蕾。 Work, work. . . . The sun grew hotter and burned deeper into her skin. But she could not leave the cotton fields.

"Dear God," Mary said softly. "Why does cotton take so long to grow?"

She watched the plants carefully because she wanted to be the first to see a flower. Her brothers and sisters did the same. There was honor in finding the first flower.

"Let me be the first," Mary prayed.

At that moment, as if in direct answer to her prayer, she saw the first small flower. She stopped to be sure. Then she shouted,

"Here it is! Here it is!"

All the McLeods left their work and hurried to see the first flower. Now they knew how much longer it would be before they could sell the first cotton. In three weeks the fields would be all red with the color of the flowers. In six more weeks the fields would be completely white with the new cotton.

It was this way every year. And each year the McLeods were thankful. They loved their cotton as much as they loved one another.

In the evening after dinner they prayed for the cotton. And then they all sat outside to talk about the new cotton. Other Negro families did the same. Mary loved these summer nights when she could look at the stars in the clear sky and just think.

"It is time to go to bed, children," said her mother and the youngest had to go in and go to sleep."

工作,工作.......太陽愈來愈熱,**炙痛**的感覺也愈來愈烈 ,深深地鑽淮了皮膚裡面,但是她不能離開棉花田。

「親愛的主啊,」瑪利柔和地說著:「爲什麼棉花生長要這樣久的時間呢?」

她小心地注視著這些植物,因為她想第一個看到花朵。她 的兄弟和姐妹們也是一群,因為能發現第一朵花是一種光榮。

「讓我是第一個吧。」瑪利祈禱著。

就在那一瞬間,宛如直接回答她的祈禱一樣,她看到了第一朵小花。她停下來看看清楚,接着,她歡叫了起來:

「在這裡!在這裡!」

所有麥克洛德家的人都丢下了他們的工作,趕過來看這第一架花。現在他們已能確定再有多久的時間,他們就可以出售第一批棉花了。在三個星期之內,田裡將會開滿了紅色的花;然後再有六個星期的時間,田裡就將全是白白的新棉花了。

每年都是這樣子的,而每年麥克洛德一家都是感主之恩的 。他們愛他們的棉花和他們彼此的相愛之情同樣的深厚。

在晚上晚餐之後,他們爲棉花而祈禱。然後他們坐在房子 外面談論著新生長的棉花。其他的黑人家庭當然也會像他們一 樣。瑪利喜愛這些她可以注視著晴空中的繁星而沈思的夏天的 夜晚。

「該上床了,孩子們。」她的母親說。於是最小的幾個就 必須回房去睡覺。 Patsy went into the house, too. She had to press the clothes with a hot iron before she could go to bed. After working in the fields all day, she washed and ironed clothes for the white people to earn more money for the family.

As Mary closed her eyes she knew that tomorrow morning her mother would have to take the basket of clean clothes to the owners before going to the fields. She hoped her mother would allow her to go too.

In the morning soon after eating, her mother picked up the heavy basket of clean clothes, put it on her head, and began to walk along the dusty road. Mary followed behind her.

She was happy and began to sing.

"Come, Mary," called her motner, turning her head slowly and holding the basket with one hand.

They continued walking along the road until finally they saw the big white house. This house belonged to Ben Wilson, the man who had been Patsy McLeod's owner. It was much larger than the McLeod's house and fewer people lived there.

The front entrance was not for black people, so they went to the back door.

The door opened, and Patsy went in the house. Mary remained outside.

A short distance away Mary saw the playhouse of the Wilson children. White children had a special house of their own, just to play in.

She looked through the open door and saw two golden-haired girls of her own age. They were the children of Ben Wilson's son.