

英汉对照 **文化** 阅读

彼岸视点

Foreign Perspectives



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英汉对照·文化阅读(二)

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主 编 张爱学

英文顾问 W.D. White

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PREFACE 前言

朋友，当走出国门的中国同胞向我们描述世界的时候，你可曾想过，外国人眼中的世界又是怎样的呢？我们的视角一样吗？

本书作为北京青年报“双语视窗”栏目的集萃，恰恰成为了中国读者透过外国人的目光观察世界的窗口。书中的文章全部由外国友人撰写，以他们的所见所闻为切入点，生动具体地反映了东西方观念、习俗的异同，向我们提出了一个个既有趣又值得深思的问题。“不识庐山真面目，只缘身在此山中”，换一个角度，从外国友人目光的折射中审视一下，更有助于我们对自身文化及异域文化的理解。在二十一世纪的今天，中国需要尽快与世界接轨，也就需要我们尽快地了解世界，了解自己。相信广大读者能从本书中有所感悟。

本书采用英汉对照的形式。原汁原味的英文不仅有助于加深我们对作者原意的理解，也可以将其视为学习现代英语的鲜活教材。

希望本书能在大家攻克英语的征途上成为一小片绿洲。

北京青年报社 社长 张延平

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敬告读者

若想收听美国在华专家 W.D. White 先生朗读本书文章,可通过拨打电话 1601199 再按照每篇文章末尾的文件号按键即可。

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Valentine's Day is not only a day for lovers

情人节不只为情人

Dan Warthman (美)



Perhaps more significantly, my own heart was beginning to flutter in the presence of certain specific girls.

也许更有意义的是，我的心开始在某些女孩面前悸动。

February 14 is Valentine's Day, and Chinese call it "lovers' day". I don't think the translation is an accurate one, since it doesn't belong exclusively to lovers. Valentine's Day is for expressing affection of all sorts. But it is unequivocally¹ the romantically involved who shine the brightest, who spend the most money, whose hearts are the most engaged.

When I was a boy my mother would buy enough cheap cards with clumsy² drawings of butterflies and bunnies³ and honeybees for me to give one to every kid in my class, about 20 or so. The cards came in bags, and each card had a few fatuous⁴ words — "Be Mine" or "I Like You" or "You've Got My Heart" or the utterly vapid⁵ "Hi, Valentine!" I would scrawl⁶ my name on the cards and the name of one of my classmates on each flimsy⁷ envelope. I would insert the cards into the envelopes and then I would lick each one shut, but they were so cheap that the envelopes rarely had enough glue. On Valentine's Day, I would take the cards to school — everyone did. We would have a party in our classroom, with cupcakes and juice and tiny candy hearts, which also had Valentine messages printed on them — "You're Sweet" or "Cupid" or "Love".

Ah, love! That's the Valentine's Day message: love. No one knows for certain the origin of the holiday. Several Catholic martyrs⁸ were named Valentine, but it's difficult to separate legend from fact. One story tells of a priest named Valentine who was imprisoned and

2月14日是瓦伦丁节，中国人称之为情人节。我认为对这一节日名称的中文翻译并不准确，因为这个节日并不仅仅属于相爱的男女。瓦伦丁节是表达各种爱的节日，但毫无疑问，陷入浪漫爱情的人在这个节日最有神采，也最肯花钱，也最为动情。

当我还是个小男孩时，妈妈会在瓦伦丁节之前给我买来很多便宜的贺卡，上面有画工拙劣的蝴蝶、小兔、蜜蜂，用来送给班里的每个孩子（全班一共有大约20名同学）。这些贺卡是装在塑料袋里的，每张贺卡上都有一句冒傻气的话：“做我的人吧”，“我喜欢你”，“你赢得了我的心”，还有十足的空话“你好，瓦伦丁！”我在每张贺卡上面潦草地写上自己的名字，并且在每个薄薄的信封上写上某个同学的名字。我把贺卡装进信封，然后用舌头去舔，好让信封粘上，但是因为价格太便宜，难得哪个信封上面带有足够的胶。在瓦伦丁节那天，我就把这些贺卡带到学校——其实谁都这样做。我们就在教室里开联欢会，有纸托蛋糕、果汁，还有小小的心形糖果，上面还印着瓦伦丁节特有的词语——“你真可爱”、“丘比特”或是“爱”。

啊，爱！这就是瓦伦丁节的信息：爱。没有人确切知道这一节日的来源。曾有几名

① unequivocally

/ˌɪnɪˈkwɪvəkəli/

adv. 毫无疑问

② clumsy

/ˈklʌmzi/

adj. 笨拙而难看的

③ bunny /ˈbʌni/

n. 兔子

④ fatuous

/ˈfætʃuəs/

adj. 傻的

⑤ vapid /ˈvæpɪd/

n. 乏味的话语

⑥ scrawl /skrɔ:l/

v. 潦草地写

⑦ flimsy /ˈflɪmzi/

adj. 轻而薄的

⑧ martyr /ˈmɑ:tə/

n. 殉道者

may have been stoned to death around 270 for performing marriages in defiance of⁹ the orders of the Roman Emperor Claudius II. But it's hard today to find any religious connection.

As I got a little older, I came to hate the school ritual¹⁰ around Valentine's Day. I didn't like the feel of the dry, brittle¹¹ paper of the cards, and licking the envelope flaps disgusted me. Plus the first blush of liking everyone had worn off — some kids just weren't nice, and I didn't want them as my "special" Valentine, which was always the message on the cards.

Perhaps more significantly, my own heart was beginning to flutter in the presence of certain specific girls — I had a crush on¹² Janice Lamb beginning at about age eleven. In fact, I remember writing her name on six or seven cards. The hard part was that Janice Lamb had a crush on Larry Jones, so she sent him extra cards, and he sent Dawn Rockwell extras, and so on around the room. Valentine's Day became something of a torment — an introduction to the heartbreak of unrequited¹³ love.

Mercifully¹⁴, the silliness of these juvenile¹⁵ cards stopped by about age 12, but the agony and the ecstasy¹⁶ of course continued. In 12th grade Mrs Skala, my literature teacher, whose family roots were in Scotland, constantly sang the praises of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. At that age, I was not fond of school or Mrs Skala and certainly

天主教殉道士的名字叫瓦伦丁，但是要把传说与事实分开是件很困难的事。有个故事是说在公元 270 年左右有一个名为瓦伦丁的神父，他无视罗马皇帝克劳狄二世的禁令为一对新人主持了婚礼而被关进牢房，后来可能被石头砸死。但是今天很难找到这个节日与宗教的任何关联。

在我长大一点儿后，开始讨厌学校里过瓦伦丁节的那套仪式。我不喜欢那种又干又脆的贺卡纸的感觉，用舌头舔信封的封口也让我觉得恶心。此外，喜欢每一个同学的第一次冲动已经消退——有的孩子并不那么好，我不想将他们作为我在瓦伦丁节最喜欢的人，可贺卡上总是写着这类的话。

也许更为有意义的是，我的心开始在某些女孩面前悸动——大约 11 岁的时候，我对詹妮斯·拉姆开始了少不更事的迷恋。实际上，我记得曾在 6、7 张贺卡上写上了她的名字，而令我难受的是，詹妮斯恋上了莱瑞·琼斯，所以她就给他很多贺卡，可莱瑞却给了多恩·洛克威尔很多贺卡，事情就这样在教室里发生着。瓦伦丁节变成了一件痛苦的事情——它带来了因为爱没有回报而感到的心碎。

谢天谢地，在大约 12 岁的时候，这些少年之间送贺卡的愚蠢游戏结束了。当然，内

⑨ in defiance of

表示蔑视或不顾的

⑩ ritual /'ritʃuəl/

n. 仪式

⑪ brittle /'brɪtl/

adj. 脆的

⑫ have a crush

on

迷恋

⑬ unrequited

/ˌʌnrɪ'kwɑɪtɪd/

adj. 无报答的

⑭ mercifully

/'mɜːsɪfəli/

adv. 仁慈地

⑮ juvenile

/'dʒuːvənail/

adj. 未成年的；少年的

⑯ ecstasy

/'ekstəsi/

n. 狂喜



.....

读诗观点

not of poetry. But I was by that time quite enamored of¹⁷ Linda Fowler, whom I would have done anything to impress. On Valentine's Day that year, Mrs Skala read aloud Burns's poem *A Red, Red Rose*. Perhaps my infatuation¹⁸ with Linda Fowler made me vulnerable¹⁹, and the mix of sweetness and joy and despair and hope in the poem took me by surprise.

It's appropriate to take a look at this famous poem today, in conjunction with²⁰ Valentine's Day.

A Red, Red Rose

O my luve²¹ is like a red, red rose, That's newly sprung in June;
O my luve is like the melody, That's sweetly played in tune.
As fair art thou²², my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee²³ still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.
Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun!
O I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.
And fare thee weel, my only luve,
And fare thee weel a while;
And I will come again, my luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!

心的痛苦与狂喜还继续着。在 12 年级（高三）的时候，我的语文老师斯嘎拉夫人（她祖上是苏格兰人）不断地赞美苏格兰诗人罗伯特·彭斯的诗。在那个年龄，我还不喜欢学校，不喜欢斯嘎拉夫人，当然也不喜欢诗，但那时候我很倾心于琳达·弗勒，为了给她留下好印象我愿意做任何事情。在那年的瓦伦丁节，斯嘎拉夫人大声朗读了彭斯的诗《一朵红红的玫瑰》。或许是我对琳达的迷恋让我变得敏感，诗中交织在一起的甜蜜与快乐、无望与希望一下子就抓住了我。

今天，在刚过了瓦伦丁节的时候，我们读一下这首著名的诗是很适宜的。

一朵红红的玫瑰

啊，我的恋人像红红的玫瑰，六月里绽放；

啊，我的恋人像一支乐曲，美妙，悠扬。

你真美，可爱的姑娘，我爱你至深至切；

永远爱你，我的挚爱，直到四海涸竭。

直到四海涸竭，直到岩石消融！

我会永远爱你，只要生命无穷。

再见吧，我惟一的恋人，

再见吧，这只是暂别片刻；

我定会回来，我的恋人，即使万里相隔！

① be enamored of

倾心于

② infatuation

/ɪn.fætʃu'eɪʃn/

n. 迷恋

③ vulnerable

/ˈvʌlnərəbl/

adj. 易受伤害的

④ in conjunction

with 与……一道

⑤ love

love 的古写法

⑥ thou

you 的古写法

⑦ thee

thou 的宾格形式

A few years ago, I read a survey²⁴ of one hundred men, celebrities²⁵ from various walks of life, all of whom were over 60. They were asked what they would do differently if they could live their lives again. Almost to a man they answered, "love more." (51150)