

丁子口上100N 以文学家的笔调 写科学家的故事

吴显奎 著



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# 自序

2008年春天,在成都,我结识了家住美国密苏里州密西西比河畔孟菲斯市的布莱恩先生。布莱恩先生携他美丽的太太珍妮到成都旅游。这是他们夫妇第一次来到中国西部,来到令他们向往的大熊猫的故乡,来到2000多年没有更改过名字的"天府之国"——成都。

我们愉快地相识,通过翻译交流着我们共同 感兴趣的话题。时间仿佛被定格。美国商务官员 吴天元和美国旅行家皮特也参加了那次会见。

虽然交流有许多障碍,但聪明的布莱恩似乎 全明白我所表达的思想、观念和主张,甚至我们 之间的眼神、动作都能传递出我们心灵的信息。 谈话间,我悟到,我们是同一类人,有着共同的 人生信念和生活主张,包括对美丽的大自然充满 热爱,对探索未知世界充满激情,对追求真理充 满渴望,对真诚的友谊充满向往,对人世间的苦 难充满同情……

布莱恩先生身材魁伟,面色红润,声音洪

### **♀** 勇士号冲向台风

亮;我虽个子没有他高,但由于我青少年时期,骑着烈马,在 内蒙古呼伦贝尔草原和莫力达瓦山上度过,练就了虎背熊腰, 看上去我俩仿佛是一对亲兄弟。

- ——从此,我们联系不断。
- ——2009年,我委派儿子天梦到美国孟菲斯市探访。布莱 恩先生为天梦到来做了悉心准备,最令我感动的是,在离他家 1000米的路口大树上,挂起一面巨幅中国国旗。
- ——2010年,我太太张卫星到美国参加培训,顺访孟菲斯市,热情奔放的布莱恩先生和举止高雅的珍妮女士将他们在纽约和洛杉矶的儿子和孙子叫回家里,盛情款待来自美丽中国的客人。
- ——2011年,布莱恩再访成都,这一次,我们有机会更加深入地交流。从美国的落基山,谈到中国东北的大兴安岭,从科罗拉多大峡谷到"5•12"汶川特大地震,从农耕文化到信息文明,从文明的起源到银河系、总星系再到基本粒子,我们在交流中分享着不同的经验、认识和智慧。

我们共同认为影响人类文明和社会进步的巨大力量,仍然是科学技术,没有科技的进步,就不会有社会的加速发展。一个国家,一个民族,如果尊重科学,尊重技术,尊重发明创造,尊重科学家和工程师,做什么事情都能够科学判断,理性分析,对万事万物都能进行科学思考,这个国家必将会十分强大,这个民族必将会得到全世界的尊重。

我告诉他,我早年是一位科幻爱好者,是一位科学家传记作者,他深为惊诧!我向他介绍,我写过血液循环发现者、英国实验科学奠基人威廉•哈维;英国"贝格尔"舰舰长、天气预

报先驱费支罗伊;海王星发现者、法国天文学家勒威耶;新中国气象事业奠基人、世界知名气象学家涂长望;质量守恒定律奠基者、俄国科学大师罗蒙诺索夫的故事。我通过传记小说描写他们人生最精彩的瞬间,展示他们在科学史上的地位和伟大的创造精神。听完我的介绍,布莱恩郑重地向我提出:他非常渴望能读到这些短篇小说的英文版,他将会因此而万分荣幸!

为了实现这位美国朋友的强烈愿望,我请两位英文专家翻译了三篇我在青年时代发表的科学文艺作品。它们是科幻小说《勇士号冲向台风》《诺科星人撤离地球》和描写德国科学家、大陆漂移学说创立者瓦格纳的传记小说《他死在北极光下》。这三篇作品以及上述五篇科学家传记小说,融入了我对科学技术进步对人类的深远影响的理解,对献身于探索未知世界和技术发明的先驱者们的无限敬仰和尊重,对创造了今天巨大的科学成果的精英们心存无限感激。描述了在探索的道路上,这些科学家崇高的献身精神,坚定的意志和勇气,像高山一样巍峨矗立的伟大人格、像大海一样宽广的人文情怀。

谨以此书,献给我尊敬的美国好友布莱恩先生和他的太太珍妮女士。

#### **AUTHOR'S PREFACE**

In the spring of 2008, I came to know with Mr. Bryan, who was from Memphis, a city by Mississippi River in the U.S., when he was visiting Chengdu with his beautiful wife Jane. It was their first trip to Chengdu, which is known as the home of the giant pandas and the land of abundant resources, and whose name has been there for more than 2,000 years.

We were glad to meet with each other. We talked extensively on topics we both interested in through the assistance of the interpreter. Time seemed to have been frozen and the happy scenes of that meeting had been with me all the time. At that time, the U.S. Commercial Officer Mr. Eric Wolff and the U.S. traveler Pete were also in the visiting group.

Mr. Bryan is very smart. He could fully understand my thoughts, ideas and opinions in spite of the language barrier between us. Messages from the bottom of our hearts were passed to each other through our eyes and gestures. Then I spontaneously realized that we are the same kind of people, as we share the same beliefs and observations about life, and we both have love for nature, and great

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passions for exploring the unknown world. We also share the same aspirations for truth and for true friendship, and the same compassion for the miseries in the world...

Mr. Bryan has a stalwart figure, a shiny florid face and sonorous voice. Though I am not as tall as him, I have developed a strong and sturdy figure out of my years of horse riding in the Hulun Buir Grassland and Morin Dawa mountains throughout my youth. We look like brothers from the same family.

Since then, we have stayed in touch with each other.

In 2009, I sent my son, Tianmeng, to visit them in Memphis. Mr. Bryan prepared very carefully to receive Tianmeng. What touched me most was that Mr. Bryan deliberately hung a big national flag of China on a big roadside tree, which was about 1,000 meters away from their house.

In 2010, my wife Zhang Weixing went to the U.S. to attend a training course and dropped by Memphis. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan got their sons and grandsons all back home from New York and Los Angeles. Their whole family received my wife at their home with the exceptional hospitality.

In 2011, Mr. Bryan revisited Chengdu. This time we had a chance to have more profound exchanges of our ideas and views. We shared with each other our own experiences, knowledge and wisdom on topics ranging from the Rocky Mountains of the U.S. to the Daxingan Mountains, from the Grand Canyon of Colorado to the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake, from the traditional farming culture to

the civilization of modern IT era, from the origin of civilization to the metagalaxy and then to the basic particles.

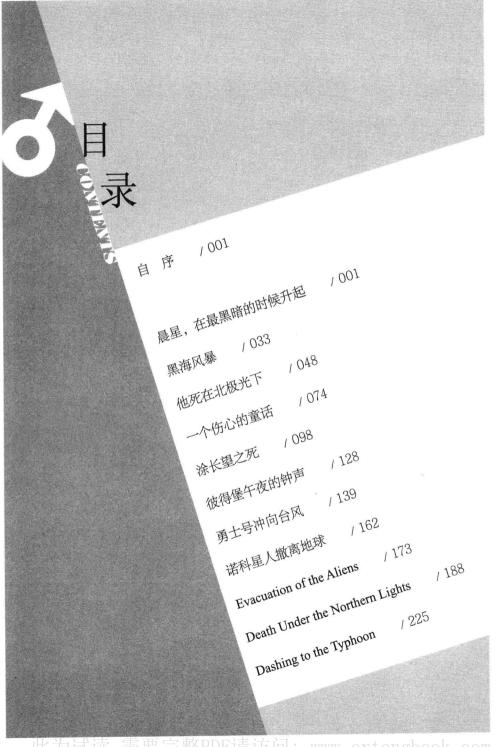
We both believe that science and technology is still the great drive of human civilization and social progress, without which there will be no advancement of the society. As long as a nation respects science and technology, values invention and creation, honors scientists and engineers, and is able to make scientific judgment and rational analysis, it will become very powerful and win the respect of the whole world.

Mr. Bryan was amazed when I told him that I have been a fan of science fiction and writer of scientists' biography since I was young. I told him that I have written stories about William Harvey, the English physician and founder of experimental physiology who discovered circulation of blood; I also wrote stories about Robert FitzRoy, captain of HMS Beagle and pioneering meteorologist in the field of weather forecasting; Le Verrier, the French astronomer who discovered Neptune; Tu Changwang, the world-famous meteorologist and founder of China's modern meteorology and Lomonosov, the great Russian scientist who founded the law of conservation of mass. In the biographic fictions I wrote about these scientists, I tended to describe the most splendid moments of their life, thus present their great creative spirit as well as their positions in the science history. Having heard these, Mr. Bryan said to me in an earnest and serious manner that he wished he could read the English versions of these stories, and that he would be greatly honored to read them!

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In order to realize my friend's wishes, I requested the assistance of two experts in Chinese-English translation to put three pieces of my previously published science literature works into English. They are science fictions Dashing to the Typhoon and Evacuation of the Aliens, and a biographic fiction titled Death Under the Northern Lights, which is the story of the German scientist Wegener who founded the continental drift theories. These three fictions, along with the other five biographic fictions of scientists mentioned earlier, well demonstrate my understanding of the long lasting impact those science and technology advancements have made upon human being. They also represent my personal respect to those pioneers and precursors of the unknown world and technology inventions as well as my infinite gratitude to the elites who have contributed to scientific achievements of today. In these fictions I endeavored to portray and honor the noble personality of those scientists, which stands out like tall mountains, and their humanistic feelings that are as soft and tolerant as the sea. And all these are significant demonstration of their huge dedication, strong will and courage in their scientific exploration efforts.

With tremendous pleasure and respect, I would like to dedicate this book to my dear American friend Mr. Bryan and his wife.



# 晨星, 在最黑暗的时候升起

爱琳娜艰难地爬到牢门前,大口大口地呼吸着外面湿漉漉的空气。她脸色苍白,清澈的大眼睛含着无限的悲哀,一头金发蓬乱地披在肩上。她忍着剧痛,抓住牢门,挣扎着站起来,透过门缝向外望去: 伦敦淹没在一片灰蒙蒙的雾海中,只有威严的圣保罗大教堂和威斯敏斯特宫露出两个尖顶,好像大洋中刚刚升起的两座火山岛,影影绰绰,若隐若现。一群鸽子从云雾里钻出,响着哨音掠过血塔向高处飞去,寻找着从云隙中透出来的阳光。

姑娘的心也随着鸽子向远方飞去。

三年前,也就是公元1628年,爱琳娜为了逃避新老教徒对真理和艺术的迫害,离开了风光秀丽的威尼斯,来到伦敦。可是,这座被人们标榜为自由文明的古都,同样是一座可怕的地狱。迷信和专制像英伦海峡终年不断的阴霾和浓雾,窒息了一切生机。伦敦和整个欧洲大陆一样,沉浸在茫茫的黑夜之中。

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三年来,她走遍了英伦三岛,用自己的歌声呼唤光明。可是,世界还是那样黑暗,人们还是那样愚昧。就在前一天晚上,灾难降临到她的头上,一群暴徒突然冲进皇家歌剧院,当众宣布她是魔女,把她拉下舞台。往日崇拜她的人全变成她的敌人,她遭到了围攻和毒打,最后被押进魔女监狱——血塔,关在这间潮湿、阴暗,散发着腐臭气味的牢房里。

她透过门缝向外张望, 她多么想见到阳光啊!

突然,"咔嚓"一声,牢门被打开了。一个粗野的看守出现在牢门前。他满脸皱纹,多须的下颌向外突出,一条隆起的粗大静脉从他的前额延伸到鼻梁上面,脸颊有两道深深的刀疤。那凶恶的面孔,吓得爱琳娜的头发都直立起来。

看守那燃烧着淫欲之火的眼睛,像一只老鹰在牢房里寻找猎物。爱琳娜大气都不敢出,心在嗓子眼儿里跳动。忽然,看守猛地侧过身,一道凶狠的目光落在爱琳娜苍白的脸上。他们相距太近了,看守只跨出一步就横在她的面前。

"你……你……干什么?" 姑娘战栗着,问道。

"美人儿,"他一把抓住姑娘的肩膀,"你明天就要见上帝去了,还不快把你的贞洁留给我。"说着他猛地抱住爱琳娜,姑娘只觉得一把猪鬃刷子在刺她的脸,她挣扎着、嘶叫着,但都无济于事,他像一堵

墙一样朝她压来。就在他把爱琳娜按倒在地的那一瞬间,姑娘的牙齿咬住了他的嘴唇,只听"啊——"的一声惨叫,一块肉被扯了下来。看守疼痛难忍,松开了双手,爱琳娜趁势冲出牢房。

可怜的姑娘太虚弱了,她刚跑出几步远,便摔倒在地,爬不起来了。看守在她身旁发出一阵狰狞的狂笑,他右脚踏着姑娘的臀部,左手抓住姑娘的头发,用右手卡住姑娘的脖子,就在这时,牢房下面传来了脚步声……

哈维和禁卫长从阴森森的大教堂地道来到血塔前。禁卫长是一个高个子军官,白净的脸,挺直的鼻梁,穿一身红色的军服,腰间佩着一把宗教裁判所赐给他的宝剑。四个看守见禁卫长到,一个个挺直腰杆站立,像接受检阅一样。

禁卫长站在门前,对看守说:"皇家医学院哈维教授奉国王之命来见魔女,开门吧。"

一个青脸看守从背后取出一把钥匙,打开了血塔 沉重的大门。

哈维和禁卫长跨进血塔,一股混浊、阴湿的霉臭 味夹杂着血腥气扑面而来。里面一片漆黑,好像走进 了无底深渊。哈维心想,这儿真像座地狱!

他们在黑暗中走了片刻,眼前透出一线光亮。引路的神父停住了脚步,回过头来说:"到了。"

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哈维走到神父前面,定神一看,吓了一跳。原 来面前是一道百米多高的断崖绝壁,牢房就在断崖顶 上,下面是雾气腾腾的泰晤士河。

一间牢门敞开着,门框上溅着血迹。禁卫长显得 有点紧张,慌忙喊着:

"爱琳娜、出来!"

顺着禁卫长的目光,哈维向牢内望去,里边黑洞洞的,什么也看不见。蜷缩在牢房里的爱琳娜听到喊声,战战兢兢地扶着石墙,向门口移动着。哈维看见一个黑影从牢里向外蠕动。渐渐地,他才看清,一个披头散发、脸和颈项血迹斑斑的女人,就像一个幽灵从地狱里走来。

爱琳娜惊恐地望了望禁卫长身边的小个子学者。 他有五十多岁,很清瘦,一双不大的眼睛特有神。

禁卫长板着面孔,厉声说道:

"听着,女妖! 这是对你进行医学检查的哈维教授。宗教法庭要根据他的检查结论来判明你是不是魔女。当然——"禁卫长耸耸肩,用狡黠的目光扫了哈维一眼,"还要看明天下午在宗教法庭上的复查结果。"禁卫长说着关上牢门。

姑娘浑身颤抖,立在哈维面前,双手紧捂着前胸。她的衣服已被撕烂,只剩下几条破布勉强挂在身上。

哈维的内心一阵战栗: "这哪里是昔日的女歌唱家呀!"他曾多次观看爱琳娜的演出,她身材修长,皮肤像石膏一样洁白,眼睛像卢加诺湖水一样碧蓝,微微上翘的小鼻子俏皮而又可爱,特别是她那甜蜜而天真的微笑,使无数青年人为之倾倒。她变了,变得哈维认不出来了。

哈维努力控制住自己的情绪,严厉地问: "有人告发你参加过魔鬼举办的舞会,是吗?"

- "没有!"
- "那么,魔鬼教过你害人的咒语?"
- "没有!"
- "那你和妖魔上过床?"
- "胡说!"姑娘愤怒了。
- "你玩弄魔法,害了冈维尔舰长,这总是事实吧?"哈维仍然平静地发问。
- "冈维尔!"姑娘惊叫一声,呆呆地望着哈维,突然双膝跪倒,拉着哈维的手,哭着哀求道:
  - "先生,求求您告诉我,他现在怎么样了?" 哈维心一动,一团疑惑像烟一样散开了。

他思索了一下,用试探的口吻答道:"他病情严重。伦敦教区大主教阿尔克莽在舰长的父亲约克公爵面前说:'只有烧死魔女爱琳娜,年轻的冈维尔才能得救。'"

### **父**, 勇士号冲向台风

姑娘低下头,金发散落在额前。她突然将头一扬,面色苍白,目光含着仇恨,从牙缝中挤出几个字:"那个大主教是个衣冠禽兽!"

哈维大吃一惊。主教是神圣的,代表着上帝的 意志。在基督世界里,辱骂主教是要被判处死刑的。 门外还有密探,哈维为姑娘的大胆捏了一把汗。为了 探清虚实,哈维只好硬着头皮将话题深入下去。"姑娘,主教大人是上帝的使臣,他来到基督世界是为了 拯救受苦的人,你怎么能亵渎神灵呢?"

"什么神灵,他是个淫棍,一个恶魔!他为了占有我,使出了种种卑鄙的手段。他曾经潜入我的化妆室,被我赶跑了;他曾经用金银首饰引诱我,被我拒绝了;后来他买通了我的车夫,在我从伦敦码头看望冈维尔舰长回来的时候,车夫把我拉到他的私邸……我不从,咬断了他的食指。他没能占有我,就诬我是魔女,要害死我……"

"胡说! 主教哪能干这种事。一定是你着了魔,满嘴胡言!"哈维怒气冲天,一脚把门踢开,抽身而去。

望着哈维远去的背影,躲在门外的禁卫长脸上露出一丝冷笑。他"咔嚓"一声锁上牢门,满意地离去,身后留下了爱琳娜低沉的哭泣声。