

### 英译中国当代 选 SELECTED WORKS OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PROSE

赵丽宏 主编 徐英才 译



汉 英 对 照 Chinese-English

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赵丽宏

最近三十多年,中国发生的变化举世瞩目。经历了"文化大革命"的风雨之后,中国走出了闭锁和迷茫,走向开放,走向强盛,走向民主。经济的飞速发展,牵动了社会的变革,也改变了中国人的生活。在这一时期中,中国的作家打破思想的桎梏,展示出丰富多姿的创造才华,佳作浩如烟海。这三十多年文学创作的本身,见证了中国的变化。要为三十年的中国文学编一本选集,好比银河摘星,花海寻蕾,让人眼花缭乱,不是一件容易的事情。

这本选集中的作品,选自这三十多年来在《上海文学》发表的散文佳作。这些散文的作者来自全国各地,有名满天下的重量级作家,也有初出茅庐的文坛新秀。其中的很多作品,发表后曾广为流传,引起强烈的反响,成为那一时期的代表之作,有些也成为年轻作家的成名之作。这些作品,题材多样,反映的生活和主题丰富多彩,写作的风格也都是独具个性。这些年中,中国文坛各种文学流派风云一时,作家真诚的态度、不拘一格求创新的艺术追求,使得这一时期的中国文学创作呈现出极为丰繁灿烂的景象。以"说真话"为灵魂的散文创作,最能反映这一时期中国的世态风情,也最能体现中国作家心态的变化和情感的起伏。散文形式的自由多样以及文字的个性化,也使得这种文学样式受到广大读者的欢迎。这个选本,收入发表于不同年代的四十余篇散文,读者可以管中窥豹,看到中国当代文学繁花似锦的景象。

中国对外国文学的翻译和介绍,一直采取一种积极开放、不遗余力的态度,这使得中国读者对当代的外国文学有比较全面的了解。而西方世界对中国当代文学的介绍,却少得可怜;西方读者对中国当代文学的了解,仍处于一种茫然无知的状况。这种不对等的状况,一时难以改变,但不应该一直这样延续下去。上海外语教育出版社能翻译出版这类中国当代文学选集的中英文对照读本,是一件非常有意义

的事情,这是改变这种不对等状况的一种卓有成效的努力。

我相信,读这样的文学选本,英文读者会产生一点惊讶:中国作家的散文,原来这样有意思!中文读者会产生一点自信:中国当代文学,可以毫无愧色地面对世界。

2011年2月27日于四步斋

### Preface

Zhao Lihong

Over the past thirty or more years, China has undergone stunning changes with global repercussion. After going through the asperities of the "Cultural Revolution," China has now stepped out of the impasse of its self-imposed isolation and confusion onto a road of openness, development, and democracy. Its soaring economic development has triggered social reform and has also changed the way the Chinese people live their lives. In the meantime, having broken their mental fetters, the Chinese writers have displayed kaleidoscopic creative talents and have produced a myriad of fine and variegated works. These literary achievements themselves manifest the changes that have taken place in China. These factors, however, make the task of compiling a literary selection for this period in China as difficult as plucking stars from the Milky Way or picking buds from among a sea of flowers — there are a dazzling number of choices.

All the works selected here come from the best of the prose published in *Shanghai Literature* in the past thirty or more years, and their writers are from all over China; among them, some are world-renowned giants and some are promising novices. Quite a number of the works, after publication, were widely circulated, actively responded, and regarded as representative writings of the period; some of them even established the prominence of their young authors. These writings are diverse in subject, rich and multi-colored in their reflection of lives and themes, and individualized in style. This is a period when all kinds of literary genres come on the scene to compete for prominence, and this is also a period when the writers' sincere literary approach and unrestrained artistic pursuit of novelty coincide to prompt a flourishing and resplendence in the field of Chinese literary creation. With "telling the truth" as its

soul, prose writing is the literary genre that most aptly reflects the nuances of Chinese lives and most fittingly reflects the changes in the mental and emotional spectrums of the Chinese writers. With its versatile format and individualized diction, prose is well-received by the reading public. Selected here are over forty pieces of prose published in different years during this period. Through this limited selection, readers will be able to conjure up a radiant scene of contemporary Chinese literature.

Thanks to the continued, proactive approach, open mentality, and strenuous endeavor of China to introduce and translate foreign literary works, Chinese readers are well-acquainted with contemporary western literature. But due to a lack of exposure, western readers remain uninformed about contemporary Chinese literature. This asymmetrical state shouldn't remain forever, although it will take time to change. Therefore, it is extremely meaningful for Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press to publish bilingual editions of contemporary Chinese literature. This is indeed a productive effort in correcting this unbalanced situation.

In reading this selection, I believe that English readers will be impressed by how interesting Chinese prose can be, and Chinese readers will be heartened by the uncompromising quality with which contemporary Chinese literature can face the world.

In the Four-step Study February 27, 2011

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# 大海在我瞳孔里<sup>1</sup>

○ 征南

夏日,海滩。

蓝色的涛声在空中忽明忽暗地飘荡。几束海风缠住我的头发<sup>2</sup>,我扯下一条放在嘴里。哦,海水把空气都染咸了。地质学家说是江河里带来的盐分,也有些诗人说是渔民的汗水、穷人的眼泪……可我说——我怎么说呢?海洋学家们正在为海水是在咸起来还是淡下去而争论不休。我说——本来嘛,大海!

一排大浪扑来,把我卷了进去3。

整个世界都在下沉、沉、沉······<sup>4</sup>冰凉的海水紧贴着皮肤,从每个毛孔里吸收着热量:我不断地释放,海水不断地吸收。趋向平衡也许是一种本能,人与自然的斗争是笼罩着地球的主旋律,而人与人的斗争则是它的伴奏······

大海带着嘲讽的神情注视着我的眼睛——5

大海: 你来干什么?

我:我来寻找……

大海: 又是一个。哈哈, 人们赞美我的深沉, 却在我的浅薄里寻找安全。

我:我来寻找你血管里的铀、氘、氚,要让它从寂寞里挣脱出来。

大海: 为了什么?

我:为了必然,为了不可避免,为了我是一个"人"。

大海: 在我的爆发中6, 你会被……

我:我将找到我自己7。

一个长长的深得没有底的吻,我透不过气来。大海疯狂地拥抱着我跳起了快步舞,一条条弧线在无限延伸……大海一松手,把我沿着切线抛上浪尖。一睁眼,阳光撞碎了浪,无数的三棱镜中,折射出色彩缤纷的人生……

视线卷曲向上升去——

夕阳,一个高血压患者8。

乌云, 倒映在天幕上的怨气。

海鸥,寻找着归宿的音符。

苍穹, 多少条正弦曲线的组合……

一连串朦胧的意象从海底浮起,刚刚冒出海面,就被水沫吞没了,一个、 一个·····一个也没剩下。

我走上沙滩,一步、一步,赤裸的脚狠劲地踩着,尽量把脚印留得大一点、深一点……粘着唾沫的浪舌伸了上来,一下子舔得干干净净。错误的痕迹?……打字机的改正液?

快门"咔嚓"一声。凝固了——尴尬的笑容,湿漉漉的头发,滴到一半的水珠,飞悬在空中的浪花,流泻在沙滩上的倒影……维苏威火山在这里洒下了一大堆透明的火山灰。时间想从画面上溜走,却被我伸腿一绊,摔倒在阳光的投影里。于是,弥漫在太空中的"永恒",悄悄地凝聚在这熟悉得留不下一点记忆却又永远不再重复出现的"一瞬间"里。

大海很大,很大……大海在我的瞳孔里。

## The Sea in My Eyes

O Jiang Nan

A summer beach.

The sound of the blue sea waves wafts in the air rhythmically — brightly for a moment and dimly for another. With a few strokes, the sea wind has caught my hair, and I pluck a strand and poke it between my lips — oh, the seawater has even salted my hair! Geologists argue that it is the salinity of streams and rivers that has salted the sea, while some poets lament that it is the sweat of fishermen and the tears of the poor that have done so. But I shall say — how shall I put it when oceanographers are engaged in a heated discussion about whether seawater is becoming saltier or less salty? I shall say — oh, well, a sea is a sea after all, isn't it?

A tidal wave comes crashing down upon me.

The entire world begins to sink and sink and sink ... and the ice-cold water, shrink-wrapping me up, begins to draw heat from every pore of my body. The more I release the heat, the more the water absorbs it — maybe complying with the law of equivalent exchange is a human instinct! But, anyway, the battle between humans and Mother Nature is a major theme in the earth's symphony, while the fights among humans themselves are but an accompaniment.

The sea looks me in the eye with a supercilious expression ...

The Sea: "What are you here for?"

Me: "To seek ..."

The Sea: "Another one, huh? Humans marvel at my depth, but only in my shallowness do they seek refuge. Ha-ha!"

Me: "I'm here to look for chemical elements in your veins — uranium, deuterium, and tritium — to free them from the spell of solitude."

The Sea: "What for?"

Me: "For it is inevitable! For it is unavoidable! And for I am a HUMAN."

The Sea: "What if I flare up? You can be ..."

Me: "Then, that will fulfill me."

A long, deep drowning kiss! I can hardly breathe! Then, the sea frantically tugs me into his arms and starts a jive dance with me: One sweep after another, one sweep after another — endlessly ... but suddenly, he releases his grab, and I am thrown, along a parabola onto the crest of a wave. Opening my eyes, I see, through countless triple prisms of broken waves smashed by sunlight, a reflection of life in a riot of colors ...

The view spirals up —

The setting sun, a hypertension sufferer!

Dark clouds, like grievances, hanging under the firmament!

Seagulls, musical notes, expressing a sense of nostalgia!

The firmament, a combination of myriad sine curves!

A succession of blurred visions floats up from the bottom of the sea, to be quickly devoured by foam as each vision pops out of the water surface — one after another, one after another ... until none is left!

I stride onto the beach. Barefoot, step by step, I tramp on the sand, in an attempt to leave larger and deeper footprints ... But the sea, unrolling his watery tongue which is bubbling with foam, licks them all up. — Error marks? — Typewriter white-outs?

"Click." A camera has captured the scene: a wry grin, wet hair, water drops hanging halfway down, splashes flying in the air, reflections rippling on the sand ... and the large pile of transparent ash Vesuvius has dumped here. Time tried to creep away from the scene, but I thrust out my leg and tripped him into the exposure of sunlight. Thus, quietly, I have frozen the "eternity" permeating the universe into the unrepeatable but elusively familiar moment.

The sea is vast, very vast ... and this is the sea seen in my eyes.



1. 原文标题《大海在我瞳孔里》所表达的意思就是"大海在我眼睛里"。英语里正好有一个对应说法叫: The Sea in My Eyes。原文作者之所以弃传统说法不用,而用"大海在我瞳孔里",用"瞳孔"来代替"眼睛"与"大海"搭配,是为了追求新意,用新颖的搭配来塑造新颖的形象,以此描绘出一个大海浮现在眼球里的景象。但翻译时,我们并没有采用这个新颖的搭配把该标题译成The Sea in My Pupils,而是按照传统说法,把它译作The Sea in

My Eyes。这是因为,英语里的pupil(瞳孔)并不能像eye(眼睛)那样给人以"看"的联想。在英语里,pupil给人更多的是解剖学上的联想。英译文艺作品时,我们往往既要注意词的字面意思(denotation)是否准确,也要注意它的联想意义(connotation)是否正确与丰富。

- 2. 把"缠住我的头发"译成has tangled my hair没有译作has caught my hair的联想意义更丰富。Has tangled my hair仅仅表达了"搞乱了我的头发"这层意思,而has caught my hair不但有"搞乱了我的头发"这层意思,还表达了从"没有搞乱"到"搞乱了"这个过程。Caught的动词原形catch作"缠住"解有下列用法:
  - (1) Her expensive wedding gown caught on a nail. 她那件昂贵的婚纱勾在了钉子上。
  - (2) The nail caught her expensive wedding gown. 钉子勾住了她那件昂贵的婚纱。
  - (3) She caught her expensive wedding gown on a nail. 她(不小心)把那件昂贵的婚纱勾在了钉子上。
- 3. "一排大浪扑来,把我卷了进去"译作A tidal wave comes crashing down upon me。译文里的a tidal wave是"巨浪"的意思。注意come crashing的用法。英语里,go/come + doing something表示"去/来做某事"。比如:
  - (1) go /come shopping 去/来买东西
  - (2) go/come hunting 去/来打猎
  - (3) go/come sailing 去/来航行
  - 把 "把我卷了进去"译作come crashing down upon me比译成come rolling me in与下文的衔接更紧密。Come rolling me in只有"把我卷进浪里去"的意思,与下文里的"沉、沉、沉、"的衔接不那么直接;而come crashing down upon me则有"向我扑来,把我朝下压垮"的意思。正因如此,它更能直接导致下文所描写的"沉、沉、沉、…"的结果。
- 4. "整个世界都在下沉、沉、沉……"译作The entire world begins to sink and sink and sink …。一般来说,译文要简练,但本译文在这里却一连用了两个 and来连接sink,这是因为,sink and sink and sink读起来要比sink, sink, and sink更带有连续不断性,因此其行文节奏也就更能与其所表达的意思相吻 合。翻译时,在可能的情况下,行文的节奏要与意思的表达联系起来,也就是说,形式要能有效地反映内容。
- 5. "大海带着嘲讽的神情注视着我的眼睛"译作The sea looks me in the eye

with a supercilious expression, 其中的looks me in the eye来自look somebody in the eye这个惯用语,作"直视某人的眼睛"解。注意look后没有at, eye也可以是复数形式。注意这个惯用语跟in the eyes of somebody或者in somebody's eyes的区别:

- A. look somebody in the eye(s) 的意思是"盯着某人的眼睛看"。比如:
  - (1) She looked me in the eye. 她直愣愣地看着我的眼睛。
  - (2) The doorman looked him in the eye. 看门人直勾勾地盯着他的眼睛看。
- B. in the eyes of somebody / something或者 in somebody's / something's eyes 的意思是"在……眼里"。比如:
  - (1) In your mom's eyes, you are always a child. 在你母亲的眼里, 你永远是个孩子。
  - (2) In the eyes of the society, this is immoral. 从社会的角度来看,这是不道 德的。
- 6. 不能把"在我的爆发中"直译成in my explosion,因为explosion通常是指火药、锅炉之类的"爆炸",而这里的"在我的爆发中"的意思是"(假如)我发怒了的话",故译作What if I flare up。 Flare up有实意用法(literal use)与喻意用法(figurative use)两种。实意用法作"闪耀"、"爆发"解,喻意用法作"发怒"、"震怒"解。比如:

### A. flare up(实意用法):

- (1) The firewood flared up at last. 柴火终于旺旺地烧了起来。
- (2) The fire flared up as I put more logs onto it. 我添了一些柴火,火苗蹿了起来。

### B. flare up(喻意用法):

- (1) He easily flares up. 他极易发火。
- (2) When he was accused of stealing, he flared up. 有人指控他偷窃, 他大发雷霆。
- 7. 翻译时一定要吃准原文的意思。"我将找到我自己"不是"我会找到我自己"或者"我不会丢失"的意思,而是"这将使我实现我的价值",所以不能译成I will find myself. 这里,我们把它译作Then, that will fulfill me. Fulfill 是"完成"或者"满足"的意思。比如:
  - (1) fulfill one's duties 尽到某人的责任
  - (2) fulfill one's task 完成了某人的任务
  - (3) fulfill hopes 实现了愿望