

世界经典名著节录丛书·中英文对照读物

世界经典名著节录丛书·中英文对照读物
瓦尔登湖

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英·汉

alden

瓦尔登湖

(美) 亨利戴维·梭罗

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瓦尔登湖

作 者	亨利戴维·梭罗		
译 者	袁文玲		
责任编辑	曾惠杰		
封面设计	丽娜		
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编者手记

世界经典名著节录英汉对照读物第二辑与读者见面了。感谢广大读者对这种形式的英文读物的认可、支持和爱护,以及对我们在第一辑实验版中由于时间仓促而存在的各种缺点与失误的宽容。

这一辑仍然秉承此套丛书的初衷与旨归,致力于为广大英语学习爱好者提供一条通往英语世界经典力作堂奥的捷径,使阅读英文原著不再枯燥乏味,费心费力。它寓学于乐,使你在英语学习方面的努力事半功倍。此辑除了保留第一辑的编排特点外,应广大读者的要求,我们做了一定的调整与改进。首先将开本改为国际流行的 36 开,便于携带;其次我们为每本书中的生僻单词及文化典故都加了注释,更易于初学者阅读与学习;最后,也是最重要的一点,这一次我们在对经典著作的节录过程中,更注重了情节的完整性和故事的可读性。这些无疑都使得这套书有了许多新的特点。

第二辑拟推出 30 种,仍由北京青年政治学院青年教师于溪滨同志担任总体策划与主编,译者由中国社会科学院研究生院中文系和英文系的博士生为主。囿于篇幅,我们就不在这里向他们一一致

谢了。另外,在本套书的运作过程中,始终都得到了社领导的亲切关怀与严格监督,从而保证了第二辑在各个方面尽善尽美。在此我们谨向所有给予这套丛书帮助的人道一声由衷的感谢。

由于水平有限,书中肯定仍有许多不尽人意之处。欢迎广大读者一如既往地对我们进行监督与批评,我们将不胜感激之至。来函请寄:北京百万庄大街24号外文出版社中文部曾惠杰或张勇收,邮编100037,或发电子邮件至:

zhangwolf@263.net 或

wolfzhang@cmmail.com

编者谨识

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内容简介

《瓦尔登湖》(WALDEN)是美国超验主义作家亨利戴维·梭罗(Henry David Thoreau, 生于1817年,卒于1862年)的名著。他于1845年的春天,在老家康科德城的瓦尔登湖边建造了一座木屋,过着自耕自食的生活,并在那里写下了著名的《瓦尔登湖》一书,记录他的观察、思维、理想和信念。

著名散文家徐迟先生说:这是一本宁静、恬淡、充满智慧的书。其分析生活,批判习俗,语语惊人,字字闪光,见解独特,耐人寻味。其中许多篇页是形象描绘,优美细致,像湖水的纯洁透明,像山林的茂密翠绿;也有一些篇页说理透彻,十分精辟,给人启迪。这也是一本清新、健康、引人向上的书,对于春于,对于黎明,都有极其动人的描写。读着它,会自然地体会到一股向上的精神在不断地将你提升、提高。

这也是一本静静的书,极静极静的书,一本寂寞的书,一本孤独的书,一本一个人的书。只有当你的心安静下来之后,你才能进到这本书里去。

Economy

When I wrote the following pages, or rather the bulk ^① of them, I lived alone, in the woods, a mile from any neighbor, in a house which I had built myself, on the shore of Walden Pond, in Concord, Massachusetts, and earned my living by the labor of my hands only. I lived there two years and two months. At present I am a sojourner ^② in civilized life again.

...

If I should attempt to tell how I have desired to spend my life in years past, it would probably surprise those of my readers who are somewhat acquainted ^③ with its actual history; it would certainly astonish those who know nothing about it. I will only hint at some of the enterprises which I have cherished.

In any weather, at any hour of the day or night, I have been anxious to improve the nick ^④ of time, and notch it on my stick too; to stand on the meeting of two eternities, the past and future, which is precisely the present moment; to toe that line. You will pardon some obscurities ^⑤, for there are more secrets in my trade than in most men's, and yet not voluntarily kept, but inseparable from its very nature. I would gladly tell all that I know about it, and never paint



经济篇

当我写后面那些篇页，或者后面那一大堆文字的时候，我是在孤独地生活着，在森林中，在马萨诸塞州的康科德城，瓦尔登湖的湖岸上，在我亲手建筑的木屋里，距离任何邻居一英里。只靠着我双手劳动，养活我自己。在那里，我住了两年零两个月。目前，我又是文明生活中的一名过客了。

.....

如果我要试着说一说我曾经希望如何度过往昔岁月中的生命，也许我会使那些对我的实际情况多少有点儿熟悉的读者们感到奇怪，当然更会使那些对我的情况一无所知的人们感到大为惊讶。我只略微述及我心头的几件事情就行了。

在任何天气情况下，在任何时辰，不论白天还是黑夜，我都希望及时改善我当前的状况，并且还要在我的手杖上刻下记号；过去和未来的交叉点正是现在，我希望自己就站在这个起点上。请原谅我说话晦涩，因为我那种职业比大多数人的职业有更多的秘密。不是我故意要保密，而是我这种职业有这种特点。我非常乐意把我所知道的情况全都说出来，在我的门

① bulk [balk] 体积，大批，大多数，散装

② sojourner
[ˈsɒdʒənə]
旅居的人，逗留的人

③ acquaint
[əˈkweɪnt] 使熟知，通知

④ nick [nik] 事情正好发生的时候，关键时刻

⑤ obscurity
[əbˈskjʊərɪti]
晦涩



"No Admittance ^①" on my gate.

I long ago lost a hound ^②, a bay horse, and a turtle dove, and am still on their trail. Many are the travellers I have spoken concerning them, describing their tracks and what calls they answered to. I have met one or two who had heard the hound, and the tramp of the horse, and even seen the dove disappear behind a cloud, and they seemed as anxious to recover them as if they had lost them themselves.

To anticipate ^③, not the sunrise and the dawn merely, but, if possible, Nature herself! How many mornings, summer and winter, before yet any neighbor was stirring about his business, have I been about mine! No doubt, many of my townsmen have met me returning from this enterprise, farmers starting for Boston in the twilight, or woodchoppers going to their work. It is true, I never assisted the sun materially in his rising, but, doubt not, it was of the last importance only to be present at it.

...

For a long time I was reporter to a journal, of no very wide circulation ^④, whose editor has never yet seen fit to print the bulk of my contributions, and, as is too common with writers, I got only my labor for my pains. However, in this case my pains were their own reward.

For many years I was self-appointed inspector of snow-storms and rain-storms, and did my duty faithfully; surveyor ^⑤,

口并没有“不准入内”的招牌。

很久以前我丢失了一头猎犬，一匹栗色马和一只斑鸠，至今我还在追踪它们。我对许多旅客描述它们的情况、踪迹以及它们会响应怎样的叫唤。我曾遇到过一两个人，他们曾听见过猎犬的吠叫声，奔跑的马蹄声，甚至还看到斑鸠消失在云层中。他们似乎也急于追寻它们回来，像是他们自己遗失了它们。

要观赏的，不仅仅是日出和黎明，如果可能，还要瞻仰大自然本身！多少个冬夏黎明，还在任何邻居为他们的事务奔波之前，我就已经出外干我的事情了！毫无疑问，许多市民都曾见到过我干完事情回来，清晨出发前往波士顿的农夫，或去干活的樵夫都遇到过我。真的，我虽然从来没有实质性地助日出以一臂之力，可是不要怀疑，在日出之前出现是最重要的事了。

.....

有很长一段时间，我是一家报纸的记者，报纸销路不广，而编辑从来不觉得我写的一大堆东西是可用的，所以，作家们都有同感，我忍受了很大苦痛，换来的只是我的劳动。然而在这件事上，苦痛又是它自身的报酬。

很多年来，我委任我自己为暴风雪与暴风雨的督察员，而且我忠心耿耿地履行我的职责；又

① admittance

[əd'mitəns]

入场权，准入

② hound

[haʊnd]

猎狗

③ anticipate

[æn'tisipeɪt]

预订，预见，期望，

预期

④ circulation

[sə'kju'leɪʃn]

循环，流通，发行额

⑤ surveyor

[sə'veɪə]

测量员，检查员

if not of highways, then of forest paths and all across-lot routes, keeping them open, and ravines ^① bridged and passable at all seasons, where the public heel had testified to their utility.

I have looked after the wild stock of the town, which give a faithful herdsman a good deal of trouble by leaping fences; and I have had an eye to the unfrequented nooks ^② and corners of the farm; though I did not always know whether Jonas or Solomon worked in a particular field to-day; that was none of my business. I have watered the red huckleberry, the sand cherry and the nettle-tree, the red pine and the black ash, the white grape and the yellow violet, which might have withered ^③ else in dry seasons.

In short, I went on thus for a long time (I may say it without boasting), faithfully minding my business, till it became more and more evident that my townsmen would not after all admit me into the list of town officers, nor make my place a sinecure with a moderate allowance ^④. My accounts, which I can swear to have kept faithfully, I have, indeed, never got audited ^⑤, still less accepted, still less paid and settled. However, I have not set my heart on that.

Not long since, a strolling Indian went to sell baskets at the house of a well-known lawyer in my neighborhood. "Do you wish to buy any baskets?" he asked. "No, we do not want any," was the reply. "What!" exclaimed the Indian as

兼测量员，虽然不是测量公路，却要测量森林小径和捷径，并保它们畅通，我还测量了一年四季都能通行的岩石桥梁，自有大众的足踵走来，证实它们的便利。

我也曾经守护照料过城区的野兽，使得忠于职守的牧人在跳过篱笆的时候，遇到过一大堆的困难；我对于人迹罕到的偏僻隐蔽的田庄角隅也特别注意；虽然我不大知道约那斯或所罗门今天在哪一块田地上工作；因为这已经不是我份内的事情了。我给红色的越橘，沙地上的樱桃树和荨麻，红松和黑岑，白葡萄藤和黄色的紫罗兰花都浇过水，否则在天气干燥的季节中，它们可能会枯萎的。

简单地说，我这样子干了很久（我一点不夸耀），我忠心耿耿地管理我的这些事，直到后来越来越明白了，市民们是不愿意把我包括在公职人员的名单之内，也不愿意给我一笔小小的薪俸，让我有个挂名职务的。我记的帐，我可以赌咒是很仔细的。真是从未被查对过，也不用说核准了，更不用说付款，结清帐目了。好在我的心思也不放在这上面。

不久以前，一个闲步的印第安人到我的邻舍一位著名律师家中兜卖篮子。“你们要买什么篮子吗？”他说。回答是“不，我们不买任何篮子”。“什么！”印第安人出门的时候大声叫道，“你们想

① ravine

[rə'vi:n]

沟壑，深谷

② nook [nuk] 偏

僻隐蔽的角落

③ wither ['wiðə]

枯萎，衰退，感

到羞愧

④ allowance

[ə'laʊəns]

津贴，补助，宽

容，允许

⑤ audit ['ɔ:dit]

审计，查帐

he went out the gate, "do you mean to starve ^① us?" Having seen his industrious ^② white neighbors so well off – that the lawyer had only to weave arguments, and, by some magic, wealth and standing followed – he had said to himself: I will go into business; I will weave baskets; it is a thing which I can do. Thinking that when he had made the baskets he would have done his part, and then it would be the white man's to buy them. He had not discovered that it was necessary for him to make it worth the other's while to buy them, or at least make him think that it was so, or to make something else which it would be worth his while to buy. I too had woven a kind of basket of a delicate ^③ texture, but I had not made it worth any one's while to buy them. Yet not the less, in my case, did I think it worth my while to weave them, and instead of studying how to make it worth men's while to buy my baskets, I studied rather how to avoid the necessity of selling them. The life which men praise and regard as successful is but one kind. Why should we exaggerate ^④ any one kind at the expense of the others?

Finding that my fellow-citizens were not likely to offer me any room in the court house, or any curacy ^⑤ or living anywhere else, but I must shift for myself, I turned my face more exclusively than ever to the woods, where I was better known. I determined to go into business at once, and not wait to acquire the usual capital, using such slender means

要饿死我们吗？”看到他的勤劳的白种人邻居，生活得如此富裕——因为律师只要把辩论之词编织起来，就像有魔术似的，富裕和地位都跟着来了——因而这印第安人曾自言自语：我也要做生意了；我要编织篮子；这件事是我能做的。他以为编织好篮子就完成了他那方面的工作，轮下来就应该是白种人向他购买了。他却不知道，对他来说还有一件事情是必须做的，那就是他必须使人感到购买他的篮子是值得的，至少得使别人相信，购买这一只篮子是值得的，要不然他应该制造其他一些值得叫人购买的东西。我也曾经编织了一种精巧的篮子，但是我并没有把它编造得使人感到值得购买它。在我这方面，我一点不觉得我犯不着编织它们，非但没有去研究如何编织这只篮子才能使人们觉得更加值得购买它，我倒是研究了如何可以避免这种买卖的勾当。人们赞美而认为成功的生活，只不过是生活中的这么一种。为什么我们要夸耀这一种而贬低别一种生活呢？

发现市民同胞们大约是不会在法院中，或者教堂中，或者任何别的地方给我提供一个职位的了，我只得自己改道，于是我比以往任何时候都更专心地把脸转向了森林，那里的一切都很熟识我。我决定立刻就开业。不必等候通常的所谓经费了，就动用我手上已经有的一点儿微薄的资财

① starve [stɑ:v]

使饿死

② industrious

[in'dʌstriəs]

勤勉的，刻苦的

③ delicate

['delikət]

精致的

④ exaggerate

[ig'zædʒəreɪt]

夸大，夸张

⑤ curacy

['kjʊərəsi]

副牧师的身份
或职位



as I had already got. My purpose in going to Walden Pond was not to live cheaply nor to live dearly ^① there, but to transact some private business with the fewest obstacles ^②; to be hindered ^③ from accomplishing which for want of a little common sense, a little enterprise and business talent, appeared not so sad as foolish.

...

I have thought that Walden Pond would be a good place for business, not solely on account of the railroad and the ice trade; it offers advantages which it may not be good policy to divulge ^④; it is a good port and a good foundation. No Neva marshes to be filled; though you must everywhere build on piles of your own driving. It is said that a flood-tide, with a westerly wind, and ice in the Neva, would sweep St. Petersburg from the face of the earth.

...

Near the end of March, 1845, I borrowed an axe ^⑤ and went down to the woods by Walden Pond, nearest to where I intended to build my house, and began to cut down some tall, arrowy white pines, still in their youth, for timber. It is difficult to begin without borrowing, but perhaps it is the most generous course thus to permit your fellow-men to have an interest in your enterprise. The owner of the axe, as he released his hold on it, said that it was the apple of his eye; but I returned it sharper than I received it. It was a pleasant

吧。我到瓦尔登湖上去的目的，并不是去那里节俭地生活，也不是去那里挥霍，而是去经营一些私事，为的是在那儿可以尽量少遇到些麻烦；免得我因为缺乏小小的常识，事业又小，又不懂得生意经，做出什么比愚蠢更加令人感到凄惨的事情来。

.....

我想到瓦尔登湖会是个做生意的好地方，不仅是因为那里的铁路线和贮冰的行业；这里是有许多的便利，或许把它泄露出来并不是一个好方针；这是一个良好的港口，有一个好基础。你不必填没那些好像涅瓦河区的沼泽；虽然到处你都得去打桩奠基。据说，涅瓦河要是涨了水，刮了西风，流来的冰块可以把圣彼得堡一下子从大地的表面上冲掉的。

.....

大约在一八四五年的三月末尾，我借来一柄斧头，走到瓦尔登湖边的森林里，到达距离我预备造房子的地点最近的地方，就开始砍伐一些箭矢似的高耸入云的还很年幼的白松来做我的木材。开始时要不东借西借，总是很难的，但这也许还是唯一的妙法，因为这样可以让你的朋友们对你的事业发生兴趣。斧头的主人，在他出手把斧头借给我的时候，说它是他掌中的珍珠；可是当我把它归还他的时候，斧头比我借来的时候愈加

① dearly ['diəli]

高价地，昂贵地

② obstacle

[ˈɒbstəkl] 障碍，

妨害物

③ hinder

[ˈhaɪndə]

阻碍，打扰

④ divulge

[daiˈvʌldʒ]

泄露，暴露

⑤ axe [æks]

斧，(经费的)大

削减



hillside where I worked, covered with pine woods, through which I looked out on the pond, and a small open field in the woods where pines and hickories ^① were springing up. The ice in the pond was not yet dissolved, though there were some open spaces, and it was all dark-colored and saturated ^② with water. There were some slight flurries of snow during the days that I worked there; but for the most part when I came out on to the railroad, on my way home, its yellow sand heap stretched away gleaming in the hazy atmosphere, and the rails shone in the spring sun, and I heard the lark and pewee and other birds already come to commence another year with us. They were pleasant spring days, in which the winter of man's discontent was thawing ^③ as well as the earth, and the life that had lain torpid began to stretch itself. One day, when my axe had come off and I had cut a green hickory for a wedge, driving it with a stone, and had placed the whole to soak in a pond-hole in order to swell the wood, I saw a striped snake run into the water, and he lay on the bottom, apparently without inconvenience, as long as I stayed there, or more than a quarter of an hour; perhaps because he had not yet fairly come out of the torpid ^④ state. It appeared to me that for a like reason men remain in their present low and primitive condition; but if they should feel the influence of the spring of springs arousing them, they would of necessity rise to a higher and more ethereal ^⑤ life.

锋利了。我工作的地点是一个怡悦的山腰，满山的松树，穿过松林我望见了湖水，还望见林中的一块小小空地，那儿有小松树和山核桃树丛生着。湖水凝结成冰，还没有完全融化，只化了几处地方，全都是黝黑的颜色，而且渗透着水。我在那里工作的那些日子里，还飘过几阵小雪；但当我在回家去的途中，出来走到铁道上的时候，在大部分的地方，它那黄色的沙地一直延伸过去，闪烁在蒙蒙胧胧的大气中，而铁轨也在春天的阳光下闪闪发光了，我听到云雀、小鹁和别的鸟雀都已经来了，来和我们一块儿开始过这新的一年。那是令人愉快的春日，人们感到不满的冬日正跟冻土一样地消溶，而蛰伏的生命开始舒伸了。有一天，我的斧头柄掉了，于是我砍下一段青青的山核桃木来做成一个楔子，用一块石头敲紧了它，然后就把整个斧头浸在湖水中，好让那木楔子涨大一些，这时我看到一条赤练蛇窜入水中，显然它毫不觉得有什么不方便，它躺在湖水底，何止一刻钟，竟跟我在那儿呆的时间一样长久；也许它还没有从蛰伏的状态中完全苏醒过来。照我看来，人类之还残留在目前的原始的低级状态中，也是由于同样的原因；可是人类如果感到万春之春的影响把他们唤醒了起来，他们必然要上升到更高级、更升华的生命中去。以前，

① hickery

['hikəri] 山胡桃树, 山胡桃木

② saturate

['sætʃəreɪt] 渗透; 使充满

③ thaw[θɔ:] 融化

④ torpid

['tɔ:pid] 蛰伏的, 麻木的

⑤ ethereal

[i'θiəriəl] 天上的, 非人间, 幽雅的