



步步高英语系列丛书

Level Four ★★

奥林匹克

OLYMPICS



翁燕珩

主编

北京理工大学出版社

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Level Four 3

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——请读步步高英语系列丛书

《步步高英语系列丛书》是一套快速提高英语阅读能力,扩大词汇量,增强英语语感,从而全面提高英语水平的好书。认真地阅读这套书,一定会在短期内取得学习英语和使用英语的成功,长期享用成功的快乐。

这套丛书具有大众性、普及性,适用于各个不同水平层次的英语学习者。既适用于学生,又适用于自学者。既适用于中学生,又适用于大学生。水平偏低的可以用作学习材料,水平较高的可以用作复习精品。作课内读物很好,作课外读物亦佳。可精读,可泛读,可玩味英语语言之美,也可领略人类体能和智能的奥妙。

这套丛书专门为非英语国家的人学英语而编,又有针对中国人阅读理解难点而进行的注释。按照难易程度分为六级,一级比一级增多 350 个新词和适量的新句型。一级接一级循序而读,自然而然地由浅入深,由简到繁,不知不觉地由低水平上升到高水平,体现了学习英语的最佳途径和方法。可使读者费力不多,而收效甚大。

这套丛书内容信息性强,知识层面广,读来有趣,引人入胜,欲罢不能,确实是同类书中的上品。因此我诚挚地向广大英语爱好者及有志于掌握英语这一工具的人推荐这套书。

北京师范大学外语系 胡春洞

致 读 者

随着不断的对外开放,人们越来越重视外语学习,各级各类学校对外语教学的要求也越来越高。但是,您是不是也同许多人一样遇到这么一个问题:英语学习多年,单词记了不少,语法也算熟悉,但每当需要用英语进行口头或文字表达时便不知所措,说出来的别人听不懂,写出来的别人看不懂。这主要是对常用词汇和语法缺乏具体感受,对英美文化缺乏一定了解的缘故。由此看来,多读英美国家的作品以增强语感和文化摄入,就显得十分必要了。可是,目前国内出版的选材合理、编排科学,集知识性、趣味性于一体的普及型英语读物实在是太少了。为解广大英语学习者之急需,我们选编了这套《步步高英语系列丛书》。这套丛书有以下几个特点:

取材广泛,内容新颖。这些英美作者的文章,短小精悍,妙趣横生。您从中既可以熟悉常用的词汇和语法,增强语感;又可以撷取大量的文化信息,提高您的阅读理解与表达能力。

分级编排,级级衔接。本丛书分为六级,词汇量分别为350、700……至2100。各级之间紧密衔接,成为一体,在一定程度上填补了目前我国高中与大学英语教学中存在的语言知识“断带”问题。

选词科学,难易适中。本书词汇均来源于《Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English》(《朗曼当代英语词汇》),是根据计算机统计的词频安排的。语法现象也是由易到难,精心设计。读者可以循序渐进,逐步提高。

略加注释,便于阅读。凡文中出现的个别难词、新词、俚

语、短语和比较复杂的语法现象,都略加注释,以免除读者查阅辞典之苦。每篇文章末尾配有练习题,可用以检测您的阅读与理解水平。

本书以国家教委颁布的《九年义务教育全日制初级中学英语教学大纲》初、高中学生应掌握的词汇量为依据,一、二级可供初中学生阅读,三、四级可供高中学生阅读,五、六级可供大专以上的学生阅读。全套书亦可用作英语教学的泛读辅助教材。

愿《步步高英语系列丛书》成为您的朋友!

编者

1993年3月

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Islam

1

Mohammed PBUH^① and the beginning of Islam^②

Mohammed PBUH was born in 570AD, in Holy Makkah^③, in southern Arabia. Holy Makkah was a rich city, busy with trade. Roads which joined the east and west ran through it. Fine things arrived from all over the world and were bought and sold in its markets. They were carried by caravans^④ of camels.

Mohammed's PBUH family were poor and he was left without father or mother when he was very young. Then he was sent out of the city to the desert where he lived with a desert tribe^⑤ and looked after sheep and goats. Mohammed PBUH loved the desert with its long, hot days and peaceful nights. He watched the stars in the beautiful night sky and

liked to be quiet and still. But he was good at his work too. He learned not only about animals but also about the ways of trade. As he grew up people thought well of[®] him. He was called 'the Trustworthy'[®] because they could trust him to be honest and fair.

As a young man Mohammed PBUH worked for a rich woman whose husband had died. She lived in Holy Makkah and he looked after her caravans, sometimes travelling long distances with them. Her name was Khadija. When he was twenty-five he married Khadija, who was fifteen years older than him. They were very happily married. In spite of the usual customs of the people, Mohammed PBUH had no other wives until after Khadija had died.

After he was married, Mohammed PBUH lived in Holy Makkah with Khadija. He looked after her business, sending the caravans on their long journeys. But now he did not have to work so hard. He had more time to himself. He was interested in religion and he was not satisfied with the ideas of the people of Makkah who, like most people in Arabia at that time, believed in many gods and thought gods lived in trees and stones and water. He often returned to the peace of the desert or climbed the sides of lonely mountains to wonder about life and death.

Then came the night which changed his life and the lives of millions of people after him. Mohammed PBUH was forty years old. He went up to a mountain called Hira'a[®] to

watch the stars and think. While he was thinking, the angel Gabriel[®] appeared to him. 'Read', he said. 'I cannot read,' said Mohammed PBUH. Three times the angel repeated the order, telling him to 'Read in the name of[®] the God, who has made man. Read; for your God is the most kind. It is he who has taught man to use the pen; He has taught man what he did not know.'

It seemed to Mohammed PBUH as if the angel had told him everything in the book, word by word. It was terrible. He ran down the mountain, filled with fear.

When Mohammed PBUH told Khadija what had happened she tried to calm his fears and give him help and strength. She believed in him and his call to be God's messenger[®].

At first Mohammed PBUH taught God's words secretly to his family and a few friends. But the small group which prayed so often was noticed by the people of Makkah. They laughed at Mohammed PBUH and his followers and they did not like them. Then Mohammed PBUH was ordered by God to teach openly. This made the people of Makkah angry. He taught things which were against their old beliefs and against their business interests. He taught that there was only one, true God and that after death there was another life with God; he taught that to give to the poor was better than getting rich and that people must be honest with each other.

The people of Makkah were really afraid that Mo-

hammed PBUH would become powerful, although most of the people who first believed his teaching were poor and unimportant. The rich townspeople made life very difficult for these first Muslims. Mohammed PBUH was protected by[®] his own tribe, although they did not believe his teaching. However, things became so difficult that some of the Muslims with no one to protect them had to run away. They went to Ethiopia. The Christians there also believed in one true God. Both Christians and Muslims believed in the teaching of the prophets[®] mentioned in the Bible, like Moses[®] and Abraham. The Muslims were safe in Ethiopia.

The year 622 was a sad one for Mohammed PBUH but it was the year of the real beginning of the Muslim age. Mohammed's PBUH great helper, his wife Khadija, died; and his uncle, his protector and the head of his tribe, died also. It became dangerous for Mohammed PBUH to stay in Holy Makkah. He and his followers went north to Medina[®]. They had to leave their belongings[®] behind, hide in rocky places and travel by strange roads, but when they arrived in Medina they were welcomed by many people. Mohammed PBUH was listened to as a prophet of God and also as a wise man in the problems of everyday life.

Now Mohammed PBUH was safe but his aim was to bring his own tribe and the people of Holy Makkah to believe in Islam. And he had another aim. In Holy Makkah there was a holy place built by the prophet Abraham, called

the Ka'bah[®]. For a long time this had been used by the people of Makkah and other Arabs as a place for their gods. Mohammed PBUH wanted to free the Ka'bah so that it could once more be a holy place for the One God.

Even the people of Medina who did not believe in Islam felt angry against the people of Makkah. Mohammed PBUH and his followers had left all their belongings in a rich city. Now the Medinans had to feed and clothe them. Medina was not a rich city like Holy Makkah.

Small groups of Muslims began to go out to fight parties of people of Makkah and take their caravans. Mohammed PBUH himself led three hundred Muslims, seventy on horses, to fight some of his own tribe. They heard that the Muslims were coming and sent for help. Nearly a thousand men on horses decided to fight Mohammed PBUH and his people and to finish them. Both sides took their positions and first there was a duel[®], then a combat with three people from each side.

Before the fight against the thousand tribesmen, Mohammed PBUH told his men that they were fighting for God. The Muslims won the fight with very few dead on their side. The dead, and any Muslims killed in future fighting, were called martyrs who had given their lives for God. However, Mohammed PBUH taught that this should not be the most important idea in a Muslim's mind, although it was a fine thing to die for God. When he was coming back from

one action he said, 'We return from the less important *ji-had* (struggle), to fight the more important *ji-had* (struggle)'. He meant that the fight against one's own bad character was the most difficult and serious thing.

The fighting went on for a long time and many Muslims and their enemies were killed. Sometimes different groups of people from Medina, such as the Jews¹⁰, fought for the enemy and Mohammed PBUH had to show his strength to them too. At last he took the city of Holy Makkah, but without much fighting. He had made an agreement with the ruler of Holy Makkah who realised how powerful Mohammed PBUH had become and Mohammed PBUH cleaned the Ka'bah of the old gods. Khadija had seen the beginning of his Call¹¹ and now he was the leader of Holy Makkah. Ten years after the Call almost all Arabia was Muslim. In 632, after saying goodbye to his followers in Holy Makkah, Mohammed PBUH returned to Medina and died there.

The desert

Beyond the city

Belongs to me

A place of beauty

For it reminds me

Of the Friend

And wherever
He is, there
Is place of beauty.

B. Sa'adi

A thirteenth century Persian poet.

Notes

- ① PBUH 是 peace be upon him 的缩写。
- ② Islam 伊斯兰教。
- ③ Holy Makkah 圣地麦加,也可写成 Mecca (伊斯兰教徒的朝圣地,在沙特阿拉伯西部)。
- ④ caravan (往返于沙漠等地带的)商队,旅行队。
- ⑤ tribe 部落。
- ⑥ think well of sb. 对…评价好。
- ⑦ the Trustworthy 值得依赖的人。
- ⑧ Hira'a (山名)。
- ⑨ angel 天使。
- ⑩ in the name of 以…名义,代表…。
- ⑪ messenger 使者。
- ⑫ be protected by 被…保护起来。
- ⑬ prophet 先知。
- ⑭ Moses 先知摩西。
- ⑮ Medina 麦地那(阿拉伯西部的一个城市,为穆罕默德墓地所在)。
- ⑯ belongings 行李,所有物。

⑰ Ka'bah (在麦加供有黑石的穆斯林圣堂)。

⑱ duel 决斗, 斗争。

⑲ Jews 犹太人。

⑳ Call (神的)感召, 启示。

Exercises

Fill out the blanks according to the information given in the passage.

Mohammed PBUH was born in 1 in 2 in southern Arabia. When he was very young he was left without father and mother and sent out of the city to live with a 3. When he grew up he was called "4". At the age of twenty-five he married 5 who was a rich widow. The first time he was taught by the God's messenger was at a mountain called 6. At first, not so many people believed in his teaching. The year of 7 was the year of the real beginning of the Muslim age. But Mohammed PBUH had to go north to 8. Ten years after the God messenger's call, Mohammed PBUH took the city of Holy Makkah and he cleaned the Ka'bah of 9. In 10, he said goodbye to his followers in Holy Makkah and returned to Medina and died there.

2

Pilgrimage^① and the holy cities

According to Muslims, the first man on earth was a Muslim and the prophet Abraham preached^② Islam only, which in turn was changed into Judaism^③ by the Jews and Christianity by the Christians, and reestablished by Mohammed PBUH. Each has its holy book, the Holy Qur'an^④, Old Testament and the New Testament. Muslims recognise Jews and Christians as People of the Book.

Mohammed PBUH had always hoped that the Jews would accept him as the leader promised in the Old Testament. Muslims believe that the teachings of the Old Testament led to the coming of Mohammed PBUH, the last and greatest prophet, as Abraham was the first. When Mohammed PBUH and his followers first prayed, they followed the Jewish custom and turned towards the Holy City of Jerusalem^⑤. But the Jews would not accept Mohammed PBUH as their prophet. The Muslims faced Holy Makkah instead when they prayed.

Although at that time Holy Makkah was still an enemy city, the Ka'bah was there, the House of God built by Abraham with the help of his son, Isma'il^⑥. The Ka'bah was important to the Muslims, not only because of its holi-

ness^⑦ but also because they believed Isma'il to be the first of the Arab race. His mother, Hagar, had been sent out of Abraham's house and left alone by the Ka'bah. She was frightened and thirsty. She ran among the hills searching for water. Returning to the Ka'bah, she saw a spring called Zamzam suddenly appear. The spring was taken as a sign from God and made the place more holy. Arabs had come on pilgrimages, holy journeys, to the place, before the time of Islam.

Zamzam is the sacred^⑧ spring (or well) of Holy Makkah, and is also called the well of Isma'il. It is in the south-east part of the Ka'bah, opposite the corner where the Black Stone is. It is 47 metres deep and there used to be a dome^⑨ on top.

Pilgrims drink the water, take it home with them to give to sick people, and dip the clothes they will be buried in when they die, into Zamzam.

The Angel Gabriel opened the spring to save Hagar who was dying from thirst. Later the *Djurhumis* filled in Zamzam and threw their treasure into it, but then the spring was rediscovered and dug out by 'Abd al-Muttalib, an ancestor of the Prophet. 'Abd al-Muttalib made the door of the Ka'bah from some of the gold which the *Djurhumis* had thrown into Zamzam.

When Mohammed PBUH took Holy Makkah he broke all the gods made of stone and wood and closed the city to