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## 译者序

一位西方的政治家在演讲时说:一本好书可以造就一位圣人。当时台下就有人哄笑,笑他在说痴话。那位政治家也许有夸大其词之嫌,但优秀书籍对人类精神世界之影响力的确非常巨大,它可以使恶徒"放下屠刀立地成佛",可以使普通人见识高远、情操高尚。一本好书就是一泓具有神奇功效的清澈的泉水,它可以涤荡我们思想里的污垢;一本好书犹如春风,给我们带来姹紫嫣红;一本好书仿佛良药,可以医治我们精神的病痛;一本好书恰似望远镜,帮我们看见远方的"无限风光";一本好书像一面明镜,使我们认清自我;一本好书如人间妙音,激励我们上进……好书记载了人类的历史,好书解读错综复杂的社会现实,好书展望似画如诗的未来锦绣世界。它是我们的益友,给我们以精神的抚慰;它是我们的良师,为我们把握人生的航向。这部《50+1部最该阅读的巨著》讲述的就是"好书"的故事……

《圣经》是最具有震撼力量的好书!此书于公元前1445年由摩西开始书写,其《旧约》部分完成于公元前450年。这部书成为人类最经典的思想指南,也是西方文学艺术的源泉。在《圣经》的感召下,人类文明迈上了一个新的台阶,每一发展阶段都会有"圣人"出现,他们传播友谊与和平。其影响力之大,超过了任何一部其他的书。当联合国大厦立基的时候,举行了一个仪式,将一本《圣经》放在瓶中,置于地下的基穴里,表示《圣经》才真正是世界和平的基础。当人类违背经训的时候,战争与痛苦就必来临;人类遵从《圣经》的时候,人们必定和睦相处。欧美的总统和君王就位之时,要把手按在《圣经》上宣誓:根据上帝的意愿,为人民谋福利。《圣经》的作用是多方面的,其中之一是教人弃恶从善。葡萄牙有一个制造假币的罪犯,他造的假币非常逼真,几乎没有人可以认出来。当警察带他去受审时,他闭口不讲实情。由于缺乏证据,只好将他关在牢里。坐牢期间他偶然得到一本《圣经》,于是从头到尾仔细阅读,但他阅读的目的不是要信仰基督,而是要证明《圣经》是虚假的。可是当他读到耶稣因"博爱"而被钉上十字架时,他大受感动,决定接受耶稣做自己的主。再次接受审判时,他说出了自己所有的罪行,当众认罪悔改,并且规劝听众相信耶稣。

英国作家狄更斯的小说《远大前程》的影响力也振聋发聩。当时有一种说法:19世纪中期的英国,不仅风行维多利亚时代的火车,也风行《远大前程》,其风行程度几近家喻户晓。毫不夸张地说,从王公贵族到平民百姓,几乎都是狄更斯小说的读者。他的小说以白描的手法阐释人生,揭示金钱的力量和由此而产生的罪恶;它讥讽由贪婪的秉性所导致的堕落;它歌颂真爱的欢乐,痛惜爱心受挫或被侮辱之后的痛苦。狄更斯之前,大不列颠这个产生了文豪莎士比亚的国度,极度注重传统文化,文学崇尚古典,弥漫着巴洛克气息。不妨做一想象,当时的文坛恐怕是这番情景;但凡文坛涉足者,或头戴礼帽,手拿文明

棍,身着燕尾服,一副绅士做派;或曳长裙,插翎毛,完全淑女姿态。他们出入沙龙,谈论古典主义、英雄主义和理想主义,面对波澜壮阔的社会现实却熟视无睹,对平民生活更不屑一顾。狄更斯的小说则开批判现实主义之先河,用大量的笔墨描写"小人物"的喜怒哀乐。他的小说有着鲜明的情感色彩,颂扬正义和善良,抨击丑陋和邪恶。在他的笔下,好人不光有一颗善良的心,而且禀赋极优,从容貌仪表到言谈举止都端庄得体,显得那么可信可靠、可亲可爱。此类人物中,男性或者像父亲一般慈祥,或者像兄弟一般值得信赖;女性大多善良美丽,人们不由自主要对她们倾心与呵护。《远大前程》中那一个个鲜活的人物就生活在我们周围,这大概就是它不朽的原因之一吧。

一本好书,展卷时读者情不自禁地受感动,思想插上翅膀随作者的一管笔翱翔;掩卷后,读者遐思不已,深悟人生哲理。要攀登人生的高峰,需以好书为台阶;要探究事物的真理,需用好书作敲门砖;要加快进步的步伐,需用好书作动力。好书益处多多,而本书是一个好书的集锦!

方华文 2009年4月于苏州大学

# 力华文简介

方华文,男,1955年6月生于西安,现任苏州大学外国语学院英语教授,著名学者、文学翻译家及翻译理论家,被联合国教科文组织国际译联誉为"the most productive literary translator in contemporary China"(中国当代最多产的文学翻译家,Babel.54:2,2008,145-158)。发表的著、译作品达1000余万字,其中包括专著《20世纪中国翻译史》等,计200余万字;译著《雾都孤儿》《无名的裘德》《傲慢与偏见》《蝴蝶梦》《魂断英伦》《儿子与情人》《少年维特之烦恼》《红字》《从巅峰到低谷》《马丁·伊登》《套向月亮的绳索》《君主论》《社会契约论》以及改写本的《飘》《汤姆叔叔的小屋》《查特莱夫人的情人》《大卫·科波菲尔》《苔丝》《高老头》《三个火枪手》《悲惨世界》等;主编的译作包括《基督山伯爵》《红与黑》《简·爱》《汤姆·索亚历险记》《茶花女》《金银岛》《鲁滨孙漂流记》《巴黎圣母院》《莎士比亚戏剧故事集》《精神分析引论》《论法的精神》和《国富论》等;并主编了多部英汉对照读物。以上均为单行本著作,所发表文章不计在内。

Simple words have had the most profound effect on the world—its history, literature, art, science, religion and economics. To know and to have read the great masters is to understand and appreciate the complex interaction of world events as they unfold. 50 plus one Great Books You Should Have Read (and probably didn't) is the first attempt to organize the great literature, both fiction and non-fiction, in such as way as to demonstrate their world-wide impact.

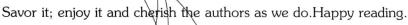
Every attempt has been made to introduce readers to books and literature that is international in scope and spans the centuries. The works chosen are not necessarily the most famous—nor are their authors. Rather, they represent seminal works, masterpieces that every educated individual should have at least some familiarity with.

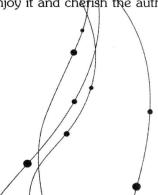
In a few short pages, you will learn about the authors, their background and influences, as well as a good deal about the works themselves. In many ways we have provided a very sophisticated book with many important topics—but it is presented to you in an easy-to-read reference style. While not being simplistic by any means, every effort has been make to ensure basic understanding of the authors and their works.

Please remember that we are trying to channel some of the greatest minds and the greatest works into a few pages—which is a trick in itself!

Nevertheless, readers will get a treat of their intellectual lifetimes when they begin sampling the many and the variety of writers and books.

For your own enjoyment, to impress others or to improve your trivia skills, this is a wonderfully enjoyable book filled with information and insight.





George Walsh

简单的词语对世界历史、文学、艺术、科学、宗教和经济产生了最深远的影响。了解并阅读这些伟大的著作就是去理解并体会世界上各种事件的相互影响。《50+1部最该阅读的巨著》首次尝试以这种方式来组编文学作品(包括小说和非小说)以展现其在世界范围的影响。

努力把国际范围的、各个时期的书和文学作品介绍给读者。所选择的作品并不一定是最著名的,作者也不一定是最著名的。然而,它们是具有影响力的作品或巨著的代表,是每一个受过教育的人应该有所熟悉的。

在短短的几页里,你会对作者、他们的背景和影响,以及作品本身有所了解。从各方面来讲我们提供了一本良好的书,书中涉及许多重要的话题、但本书是以易读的参考书的形式展现给你的。努力确保读者能对作者及其作品有基本的了解。

请记住我们努力把一些伟大思想和伟大作品写在几页纸上,这本身是一种戏法!不管怎样,当读者开始品读这许多不同的作家和作品时,他们将会享受他们的知识人生。

满足你自己的乐趣,影响他人或提高你小小的技能,这是一本非常不错的书,书中有大量的信息和真知灼见。

像我们一样,品读、享受它,珍爱作者们吧。阅读愉快。

乔治·沃尔什

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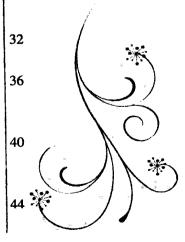
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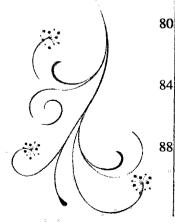
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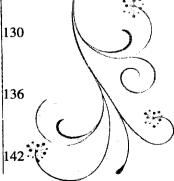
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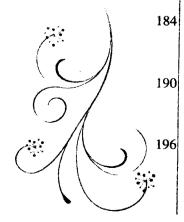
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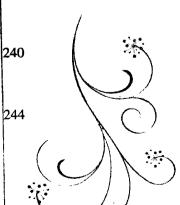
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外影响世界的书进行评论 阅读世界一流文学作品,提高文化素质

# The Bible: Old and New Testaments

#### The Bible

The complete Bible,both the "Old Testament" (which comprises of 66 books) and the "New Testament" (which comprises of 27),is the effort of many different authors who wrote over a period of time estimated to be about 1,600 years.

The first five books of the "Old Testament" (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) are, by tradition, believed to have been written by the Jewish prophet and leader Moses. Moses began his writings sometime prior to 1445 B.C. and finished them approximately 40 years later with the completion of Deuteronomy around 1405 B.C. The last book of the "Old Testament" was written by the prophet Malachi; it was completed some time around 450 B.C.

The books of the "New Testament" were written by the followers and apostles of Jesus Christ. The first four books of the "New Testament" (the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are perhaps the best known, because they chronicle the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul is credited as the author of thirteen of the books in the "New Testament." The book of Galatians was written in 49 A.D. and is one of, if not, the earliest books in the "New Testament."

Religious dogma credits the inspiration of the Biblical authors to the divine influence of the Holy Spirit, not to conventional human wisdom. Historic events and interpretation as a result of the personal experiences of the Biblical authors were probably just two of the many factors that shaped the writings that collectively became known as *The Bible*.

The Bible has variously been called Holy Writ or Divine Scripture or The Good Book—among many hundreds of descriptions. These exalted descriptions convey its importance to the world in general.

Since its creation in the centuries before and after the birth of Christ, it has been endlessly organized and reorganized. It is generally described as being in three parts: "The Old Testament," "The New Testament," and "The Apocrypha." "The Apocrypha" is not always included in modern versions, but it was translated and included in the famous King James translation of *The Bible* (1611), which is still the standard in the English-speaking world 4 centuries after it was created.

The three parts are organized by "books" (often, though not always, thought to be the work of one person); these books are subdivided into "chapters," and the chapters are divided into "verses"—not, as the name implies, poetry, but rather numerically designated sequences of a single sentence or two. This organization—thus, Matthew 4:16—was devised to make finding individual passages of *The Bible* simple and easy for readers.

Originally written in Hebrew and Greek, The Bible has been translated into more than 2,000 different languages—more than any other book in history. As well, The Bible is the world's runaway best-seller. Since the early 19th century, when accurate publishing records started being kept, it is believed to have sold more than five billion copies.

## 《圣经》 旧约和新约

#### 《圣经》

完整的《圣经》,"旧约"(包括66书)和"新约"(包括27书),是许多不同作者们的努力成果,在大约1600年内写成。

"旧约"的前五书(创世纪、出埃及记、利未记、民数记和申命记)传统上被认为是犹太人预言家和领袖摩西所著。摩西大约在公元前1445年之前开始写作,大约40年后,于大约公元前1405年完成申命记。"旧约"最后一书由预言家玛拉基所著,大约公元前450年写成。

"新约"中的书是由耶稣基督的追随者和使徒所著。"新约"前四书(马太福音、马克福音、路迦福音和约翰福音)或许是最著名的,因为它们记载了耶稣基督的生活、学说、死亡和复活。使徒保罗被认为是"新约"十三书的作者。加拉太书写于公元49年,是"新约"最早的书之一(如果不是最早的)。

宗教教义把圣经作者的灵感归于圣灵的感召而不是正常的人类智慧。历史事件和圣经作者们根据个人经历而得出的解释可能只是形成这些共同被称作《圣经》的作品的许多因素中的两个。

《圣经》有成千上万种叫法,被叫做神圣的文书、神圣的著作或好书。这些崇高的叫法体现了它对整个世界的重要性。

自从《圣经》问世以来,不管是耶稣基督诞生前还是诞生后,人们都不断地编写和重新编写《圣经》。《圣经》通常有三个部分:"旧约""新约"和"外典"。现代版的《圣经》并不总是包含"外典",但钦定版《圣经》中翻译并包括了"外典"。钦定版《圣经》在《圣经》问世的4个世纪后仍然是英语国家的标准版本。

《圣经》的三个部分是按"书"(通常被认为是一个人的作品)编写的。书下面是"章",章又分为"节"。节并非诗中的诗节,但却是一两个句子用数字表示的序列。这一编写方法(如马太福音4:16)是为了让读者能够容易地找到《圣经》具体的某一页。

《圣经》最初是用希伯来语和希腊语写的,已经被翻译成2000多种语言,是历史上翻译成语言最多的书。同时,《圣经》也是世界上最畅销的书。自19世纪早期开始准确记录以来,《圣经》已经销售了50多亿本。

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## Great Books You Should Have Read(and probably didn't)

Why this extraordinary popularity? One reason is obvious. The Bible is the basis of the Christian religion, and in the Western world in which we live, though that world has large minorities of other religious faiths (notably Jews and Muslims), Christianity is the dominant religious faith. And Christians, to varying degrees, regard The Bible as the Word of God, transmitted through human beings who were divinely inspired. It includes the moral

Some people would argue that, within the Western world, as well as those portions of the world in which Christianity is a minority faith, the Christian religion is dying. In Protestant countries—for example, England—most people no longer attend church or profess any Christian affiliation. In Catholic countries—for example, France—the same indifference to organized Christianity is growing. Even in the United States—the most religious country in the Western world—a good percentage of the population is secular, though not necessarily immoral or unethical: it is simply that their standards are based on philosophies other than those of traditional Christianity.

instructions and directives to which Christians adhere in their spiritual lives.

Such statistics are misleading. A belief in Evangelical Christianity and its practices is growing—in all parts of the Western world. Thus Bible study—and, particularly, interpretation of that study—is also increasing.

Even if one remains secular in his or her beliefs, there are still compelling reasons for modern man to be familiar with *The Bible*. The great conflicts of the new 21st century so far have been based on religion—conflicts between adherents of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. *The Bible* affects, is involved in, all three of these great world religions. The "Old Testament" recounts the story of the peoples of the ancient Near East, most notably those people we now call Jews. The "New Testament" concerns the life of Christ and commentary on that life.

Still, the seeds of each religion, to a greater or lesser degree, are obviously all contained within this one great book. And anyone wishing to understand the modern world and its conflicts should begin by reading *The Bible*, then perhaps reading specific accounts of Christianity, Judaism and Islam to see how *The Bible* has been variously interpreted over the centuries from the time these religions were founded and how *The Bible* became for each either the primary or a subsidiary religious guide. Part of the lesson here is that all three religions, despite occasionally painting God as wrathful or vengeful, primarily believe in a God of Love. He is not a God who asks us to destroy the Twin Towers or take revenge against its perpetrators, or, because of that revenge, plot the destruction of Israel. All three religions currently diverge from the teachings of their prophets, and reading *The Bible* shows us the extent of our misdeeds in the name of God.

Even if one has no interest in religion or in current affairs, there are still other reasons to be familiar with *The Bible*. In purely literary terms, the King James Bible is one of the world's great literary works, and, as well as the beauty of the writing contained in that translation, *The Bible*, in whatever version, contains sections—or books—acknowledged by literary scholars to be among the world's most notable literary works. The "Book of Job" is a beautifully written tragedy of loss and redemption—so fine in literary terms that it is consistently assigned in high school and college English classes. "The Psalms" are among the most beautiful lyric poems in any language. The four "Gospels" (the story of the Life of Christ) are superb novels-in-miniature. Not just the story they tell, but the way in which they tell it, has inspired writers throughout the ages. Anyone who aspires to have a well-rounded

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为什么如此受欢迎呢?一个原因是明显的。《圣经》是基督教的基础,并且基督教在我们所生活的西方是主导的宗教信仰,尽管其他少数宗教信仰的人数也很多(如犹太教徒和穆斯林)。基督教徒在不同程度上都认为《圣经》是上帝的语言,是由受上帝感召的人们传达的。《圣经》中包含了基督教徒精神生活所遵循的道德教诲和指令。

一些人会争论说,在西方世界和那些基督教是小教派的地方基督教正在消亡。在新教国家,如英格兰,大多数人不再去做礼拜或宣称信仰基督教。在天主教国家,如法国,对基督教的冷漠同样也在增长。甚至在美国这个西方最有宗教信仰的国家,相当一部分人是没有宗教信仰的,尽管不一定是不道德的或不合乎伦理的。他们的标准是以哲学为基础而不是传统的基督教。

这些统计是有误导性的。在西方世界信仰福音派基督教的人数在增加,因此《圣经》 研究特别是对研究结果的阐释也在增加。

尽管一个人可以没有宗教信仰,但由于某些原因现代人还是不得不对圣经有所熟悉。21世纪的巨大冲突至今还建立在宗教基础上:基督教徒、犹太教徒和伊斯兰教徒之间的冲突。《圣经》影响着这三大世界宗教。"旧约"讲述的是古代近东人们的故事,很可能就是我们现在所说的犹太人。"新约"是关于基督生平及有关评论的。

每一个宗教的种子都或多或少包含在这一伟大的书中。每一个渴望了解当今世界及其冲突的人都应该先读一下《圣经》;然后再分别读一下关于基督教、犹太教和伊斯兰的叙述,来看一下这些宗教建立以来的几个世纪里《圣经》是怎样被解释的以及《圣经》是怎样成为每一个宗教的宗教向导的(或是主要的或是次要的)。这里可以得出一个结论是:这三个宗教基本都信仰爱神,尽管上帝偶尔会被描写成是愤怒的或谋复仇的。上帝没有让我们去摧毁世贸中心大楼,没有让我们去向罪犯复仇,也没有让我们利用复仇谋划推翻以色列。三个宗教目前在预言家们的学说上有分歧,所以阅读《圣经》我们可以知道我们以上帝为名义所做的不良行为。

即使一个人对宗教和当今时事都不感兴趣,也有其他原因使你需要熟悉《圣经》。纯粹从文学方面来说,钦定版《圣经》是世界著名文学作品之一,译作也保留了原作之美。《圣经》,不管是什么版本,都分为许多个部分(或书);被学者们列为世界著名文学作品。"约伯记"是个关于损失与偿还的悲剧,写得很好以至于一直在中学和大学英语课中使用。"诗篇"是所有语言中最美的抒情诗。四个"福音"(基督生平故事)是极好的微型小说。不仅是他们讲述的故事,而且讲述的方式启迪了各个时代的作家。任何渴望获得全面教育的人必须要阅读《圣经》:因为它是人类创造的最伟大艺术作品之一。