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# 英语世界 精选

Selections from The World of English

1996—2005

升级版



## Selections from The World of English

## 英语世界精选

1996-2005

(升级版)

《英语世界》杂志社 编





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### 出版前言

1981年10月,《英语世界》诞生于北京顶银胡同的一栋小楼。2018年10月,《英语世界》将迎来自己的37岁生日。

37 年来,《英语世界》得到国内英语教学界和翻译界众多专家学者的指导和帮助,杂志得以快速成长和发展。杂志向来注意响应读者需求,注重内容质量,亦因此赢得良好的口碑,荣获多项国家级期刊奖项,被一代又一代的英语学习者视为良师益友。

至2015年12月,《英语世界》共计出版杂志 331 期。杂志选文考究,英语纯正,译文典范,经典而不失趣味,时尚而不落俗套,介绍和借鉴西方文明的同时对中国文化予以深切的关照。因杂志内容常读常新,不少读者建议我们精选往期杂志中的文章,结集出版图书,老读者可以感受重读之美好,新读者可以弥补漏读之遗憾。有鉴于此,我们决定根据不同年代跨度,编辑出版"升级版"的杂志精选本三本,以飨读者:

《英语世界精选 1981-1995》(升级版)

《英语世界精选 1996-2005》(升级版)

《英语世界精选 2006—2015》(升级版)

本册精选本收录 1996 年至 2005 年出版的 120 期杂志中的文章, 共计 80 篇, 包括散文 20 篇、小说 15 篇、纪事 10 篇、多棱镜 10 篇和其他栏目 25 篇。选文基本做到对杂志不同栏目的均衡覆盖, 对海量内容的优中选优。我们还特别邀请母语为英语的人士为选文录制地道的英语音频, 每本书既可读又可听(请扫描本书封底二维码进入"英语世界知识铺"点击"英语世界精选"收听),方便读者多角度品赏美文佳译。

本书的选编工作是由陈丽娟、高昕昕、吴悦、邢三洲、许秋萍、张博博、张慧云、赵岭合作完成的。因选文年代跨度较大,各篇注释等体例不尽相同,为谨慎起见,只是尽量保持单篇一致,全书不做硬性统一,以免引发问题,徒劳无益。虽然我们做了很多努力,但工作难免有不足之处,欢迎读者给我们提出良好建议,可发邮件至we@cp.com.cn,或关注《英语世界》微信公众号(theworldofenglish)后留言。

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## The Two Roads 两条道路

文/约翰·罗斯金 译注/王群 By John Ruskin<sup>1</sup>

man was standing at a window. He raised his mournful eyes towards the deep blue sky, where the stars were floating like white lilies<sup>2</sup> on the surface of a clear calm lake. Then he cast them on<sup>3</sup> the earth, where few more hopeless people than himself now moved towards their certain goal—the tomb. He had already passed sixty of the stages leading to it, and he had brought from his journey nothing but errors and remorse<sup>4</sup>. Now his health was poor, his mind vacant, his heart sorrowful, and his old age short of comforts<sup>5</sup>.

[2] The days of his youth appeared like dreams before him, and he recalled the serious moment when his father placed him at the entrance of the two roads—one leading to a peaceful, sunny place, covered with flowers, fruits and

[1]除夕之夜,一位老人站在窗前。他抬起哀伤的眼睛,遥望着深蓝色的天空,那儿,星星流光溢彩,宛若澄澈平静的湖面上盛开的朵朵白莲。继而,他的目光投向地面,那里望的人正缓缓走向人生的点点,他已经过了六十个平均,而他在这段漫长的旅程中除了过失和悔愧之外却两手空空,一无所获。现在,他健康欠佳,精神空虚,心情忧郁,没有晚年应有的那种舒适和安逸。

[2]年轻时代的美好时光梦幻般地浮现在他的眼前。他回想起早年那稍纵即逝的严肃时刻——父亲将他放在人生的岔路口上,摆在他面前有两条道路,供他挑选:一条路是通向和平宁静、阳光灿烂的胜境,那里缀满了鲜花、硕果,到处回荡着柔和、

**<sup>1</sup>**(1819—1900),19世纪英国著名的散文家和文学评论家。**2**睡莲;百合花。**3** cast on/over 向……投射(投下)。**4** 悔恨。**5** short of 短少;缺乏。这里作为后置。定语修饰 age。

resounding with soft, sweet songs; the other leading to a deep, dark cave, which was endless, where poison flowed instead of water and where devils and poisonous snakes hissed and crawled<sup>6</sup>.

[3] He looked towards the sky and cried painfully, "O youth, return! O my father, place me once more at the entrance to life, and I'll choose the better way!" But both his father and the days of his youth had passed away.

[4] He saw the lights flowing away in the darkness. These were the days of his wasted life; he saw a star fall from the sky and disappeared, and this was the symbol<sup>7</sup> of himself. His remorse, which was like a sharp arrow, struck deeply into his heart. Then he remembered his friends in his childhood, who entered on life together with him. But they had made their way to success and were now honoured and happy on this New Year's night.

[5] The clock in the high church-tower struck and the sound made him remember his parents' early love for him. They had taught him and prayed to God for his good. But he chose the wrong way. With shame and grief he dared no longer look towards that heaven where his

甜美的歌声;另一条路则通向黑暗的永无止境的深窟。那里的河流里流淌着的不是清水而是毒汁,在那里,恶魔肆虐,毒蛇嘶嘶爬动。

[3] 他仰望天空,痛苦地哭喊:"哦,青春,你回来吧!哦,爸爸,请把我重新放到人生的路口上吧,我会选择那条光明的正道的!"然而,他的父亲和他的宝贵的青春年华都早已一去不返了。

[4] 他看见一道道流星在黑暗的夜空中划过,那便是他那浪费了的时光;他看见一颗星星从空中陨落,消失,那是他自己的象征。后悔,如同一支利箭,深深地刺进他的心灵。接着,他又回忆起童年时代的朋友,他们同他一起踏上人生的旅程。而他们却经过努力获得了成功,现在受到人们的尊敬,此刻正尽情地享受这新年良宵的欢乐。

[5] 高高的教堂塔顶里的钟敲响了。钟声让他回忆起当年父母对他的爱。是他们给他以谆谆的教诲;是他们为他的美好前程而向上苍祈祷。可他偏偏选择了那条错误的人生之路。羞愧和忧伤使得他再也不敢正视父亲住着的天堂,他那双黯然无光的眼睛饱噙着泪水;在

<sup>6</sup> one..., the other...作 two roads 的同位语,对 roads 作进一步的说明或解释。其中分词短语 leading 作 one (road)和 the other (road)的定语。covered...和 resounding...作 place 的定语;which和 where 分别所引导的三个定语从句修饰 dark cave。 7 象征;代表物。

father lived. His darkened eyes were full of tears, and with a despairing effort, he burst out a cry: "Come back, my early days! Come back!"

[6] And his youth did<sup>8</sup> return, for all this was only a dream which he had on New Year's Night. He was still young though his faults were real; he had not yet entered the deep, dark cave, and he was still free to walk on the road which leads to the peaceful and sunny land.

[7] Those who still linger on the entrance of life, hesitating to choose the bright road, remember that when years are passed and your feet stumble<sup>9</sup> on the dark mountains, you will cry bitterly, but in vain<sup>10</sup>: "O youth, return! Oh give me back my early days!"

绝望中,他迸力发出一声高喊: "回来吧,我那逝去的年华! 回来吧!"

[6] 青春真的回到了他的身上。因为刚才所发生的一切只是他在除夕之夜所做的一场梦。尽管他真的犯有过失,但毕竟他还年轻;更何况他还没有堕入那个可怕的黑暗深窟;他仍然有自由去选择那条通向宁静和光明的道路。

[7] 在人生的路口徘徊,对选择光明大路尚在犹豫不决的年轻人啊,你们千万要记住:当青春年华已经逝去,你的双足在黑沉沉的群山之中跌跌绊绊的时候,才痛心疾首地呼唤着你的青春和早年岁月的复归,那只能是枉费心力,为时太晚了。

8表强调,"真的""确实"的意思。9 磕磕绊绊地走。10 徒劳;无效。

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## How to Read a Book

### 论 读 书

文/约瑟夫·布罗茨基 译注/赵亚莉 校/文伯 By Joseph Brodsky

获 1987 年诺贝尔文学奖的美国著名诗人约瑟夫·布罗茨基于 1996 年元月去世。他原籍苏联,1977 年加入美国国籍。他的《论悲哀和理性:论文集》(On Grief and Reason: Essays)及其最后诗集《到此为止》(So Forth)于 1996 年 10月 31日由 Hamish Hamilton出版社出版。下面是 1996 年 10月 21日英国《泰晤士报》刊登的其中一篇文章的摘要。

[1] On the whole, books are less finite than ourselves. Often they sit on the shelves absorbing dust long after the writer has turned into a handful of dust—and it is precisely the appetite for this posthumous dimension that sets one's pen in motion.

[2] So as we toss and turn these rectangular objects in our hands we won't be terribly amiss if we surmise that we fondle, as it were, the urns with our returning ashes. After all, what goes into writing a book is, ultimately, a man's only life. Whoever said that to philosophise is an exercise in dying was right in more ways than one, for by writing a book nobody gets younger.

[3] Nor does one become any younger

[1] 总的来说,书本的寿命要比我们自己长。常常是写书的人早已化为了一抔土而其著作却依旧立在书架上积聚尘土,但恰恰是死后占有这一席之地的欲望促使人们笔耕不辍。

[2] 所以,当我们手中摆弄和翻动这些方块形物体的时候,设想我们手里抚弄的不是书本,而是盛着我们自己回归大地的骨灰的瓮,那也没有什么不对,毕竟,写一本书投入进去的,说到底是一个人只有一次的生命。有人说过进行哲学思维就是一步步趋向死亡,不管是谁说的,这种说法从几种意义来说都是有道理的,因为一个人绝不会因为写一本书而变年轻。

[3] 同样读一本书也不会使

by reading one. Since this is so, our 人更年轻。既然如此, 我们自 natural preference should be for good 然倾向于读好书。然而,矛盾 books. The paradox, however, lies in the fact that in literature "good" is 别 "坏"来鉴定的。此外,要 defined by its distinction from "bad". What's more, to write a good book, a writer must read a great deal of pulpotherwise he won't be able to develop 这可能就会成为坏文学作品在 the necessary criteria. That's what may 最后审判日为自己辩护的最佳 constitute bad literature's best defence at 理由。 the Last Judgment.

[4] Since we are all moribund, and since reading books is time-consuming, we must devise a system that allows us a semblance of economy. Of course, there is no denying the pleasure of holding up with a fat, slow-moving, mediocre novel; but in the end, we read not for reading's sake but to learn. Hence the need for the works that bring the human predicament into its sharpest possible focus. Hence, too, the need for some compass in the ocean of available printed matter.

[5] The role of that compass, of course, is played by literary criticism, by reviewers. Alas, its needle oscillates wildly. What is north for some is south for others. The trouble with a reviewer is threefold; (a) he can be a hack, and as ignorant as ourselves; (b) he can have strong predilections for a certain kind of writing or simply be on the take with the publishing industry; and (c) if he is a writer of talent, he will turn his review writing into an independent art form

在于文学中的"好"是通过区 写出一本好书,一个作家就必 须阅读大量平庸读物,否则他 是没法找到必要的写作标准的,

[4] 既然我们精力不济, 既 然读书很耗费时间, 我们就必 须找出一个能让我们至少表面 上省时省力的方法来。当然, 不可否认长时间读一本厚厚的、 情节发展缓慢的平庸小说所带 来的乐趣, 但我们最终目的究 竟不是为读书而读书, 而是为 了学到点儿什么。因此,我们 需要一些最大限度地浓缩人生 矛盾困境的作品,需要一些在 浩如烟海的书籍中类似指南针 样的作品。

[5] 当然, 这个指南针的职 责是由文学评论及评论家们来 担当的。不幸的是, 指南针的 针摆动得太没谱了。对某些人 来说它指北, 而对另一些人来 说却是指南。评论家的问题有 三: 第一, 他可能是个作品低 劣的平庸文人,而且就和我们 自己一样无知:第二,他可能 对某一类作品特别偏爱或者干 脆从出版社得到好处;第三, 如果他是一个有才华的作家, 他会将他的评论写成一篇独立 George Luis Borges is a case in point and you may end up reading reviews rather than the books.

[6] In any case, you find yourselves adrift in the ocean, clinging to a raft whose ability to stay afloat you are not so sure of. The alternative, therefore, would be to develop your own taste, to build your own compass, to familiarise yourself, as it were, with particular stars and constellations—dim or bright but always remote. This, however, takes a hell of a lot of time and you may easily find yourself old and grey, heading for the exit with a lousy volume under your arm.

[7] So where is one's terra firma, even though it may be but an uninhabitable island? Where is our good man Friday2? Before I come up with my suggestion, I'd like to say a few words about this solution's source, i.e. about my humble self-not because of my personal vanity, but because I believe that the value of an idea is related to the context in which it emerges. Indeed, had I been a publisher, I'd be putting on my books' covers not only their authors' names but also the exact age at which they composed this or that work, to enable their readers to decide whether they care to reckon with the views contained in a book written by a person so much younger-or so much older-than themselves.

于原作的文学作品,在这一点 上乔治·路易斯·博尔赫斯就 是一个典型例子。结果,你可 能会只读他的评论而不去管他 评论的那些书了。

[6] 无论何种情况,你都会发现自己漂流在海洋中,紧紧多抓住一只你不知道它能另课了的木筏。因此,你如品品,你的人。因此,你自己的木筏。因此,你自己的,是是是一个人。这是那大量的自己是一个人。这是那大量的自己是一个人。这是我发现自己是一个人生的终点。

<sup>1 (1899—1986),</sup>阿根廷小说家、诗人兼文学翻译家。1923 年发表第一本诗集《布宜诺斯艾利斯的激情》,1941 年发表代表作短篇小说集《交叉小径的花园》。 2 英国作家丹尼尔・笛福的小说《鲁滨逊漂流记》(Robinson Crusoe)中的土著人。

[8] The source of the suggestion to come belongs to the category of people for whom literature has always been a matter of some hundred names: to the people who feel awkward at large gatherings, do not dance at parties, tend to find metaphysical excuses for adultery, and are finicky about discussing politics; the people who dislike themselves far more than their detractors do; who still prefer alcohol and tobacco to heroin or marijuana-those who, in W. H. Auden's words, "one will not find on the barricades and who never shoot themselves or their lovers". If such people occasionally find themselves swimming in their blood on the floor of prison cells or speaking from a platform, it is because they object not to some particular injustice but the order of the world as a whole.

[9] They have no illusions about the objectivity of their views; on the contrary, they insist on their unpardonable subjectivity. They act in this fashion, however, not for the purpose of shielding themselves from possible attack. Taking the stance opposite to Darwinian—they consider vulnerability the primary trait of living matter. This has less to do with masochistic tendencies than with their instinctive knowledge that extreme subjectivity, prejudice, and indeed idiosyncrasy are what help art to avoid cliché. And the resistance to cliché is what distinguishes art from life.

[10] Now that you know the back-

考虑这个比他们年轻得多或者 老得多的作者作品里的观点。

[8] 这个即将提出的建议出 自这样一类人, 在他们看来, 文学只不过是几百个人的名字 而已:他们在大型聚会上感到 别扭,在晚会上不跳舞,喜欢 为通奸找形而上学的借口,谈 论政治小题大做、吹毛求疵; 这类人比诽谤者更不喜欢他们 自己; 喜爱喝酒抽雪茄胜于吸 海洛因或大麻——用 W. H. 奥登 的话说,就是那种"你在街垒 旁看不到, 也绝不会朝自己或 情人开枪的人"。如果这样的 人偶尔发现自己满身是血倒在 监牢地板上,或是在讲坛上发 表演讲的话, 这是因为他们反 对的不是某种特殊的非正义行 为而是反对整个世界秩序。

[10] 现在你们知道了我要。