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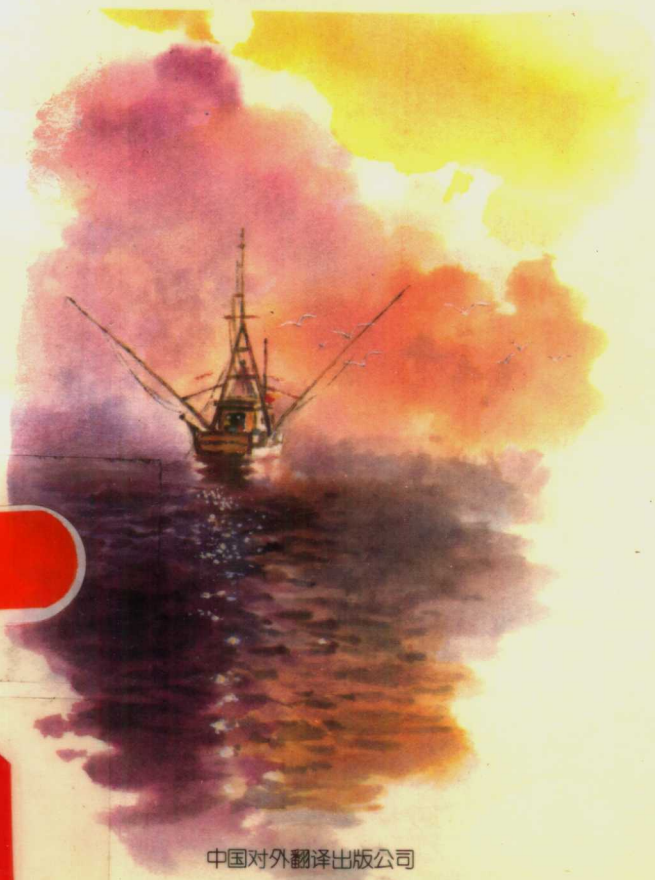
# YOUTH

英美文学精品译注丛书



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Joseph Conrad



中国对外翻译出版公司

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## 《青春》

约瑟夫·康拉德(1857—1924) 原名特奥多·约瑟夫·康拉德·科尔泽尼奥夫斯基。生在乌克兰,父母都是波兰人。父母流放到俄国北部时,他也跟着去了。后来,在克拉科夫上学。1874年他实现了自己的人生梦想:在一条法国船上当了水手。1878年,他又成了一条英国商船的船员。1884年加入英国国籍,1894年结束海上生活,专门从事文学创作。

康拉德的作品多数都是描写海上冒险的,这些作品表明他成功地掌握了母语以外的一种语言。

他最著名和最成功的作品是海洋小说《水仙号上的黑家伙》(1898)和《吉姆老爷》(1900),以及政治小说《诺斯特罗莫》(1904)和《在西方的眼睛下》(1911)。

《青春》,还有《黑暗的心脏》和《台风》(1902),都是康拉德最著名的短篇小说。《青春》写年轻二副马洛,随“朱迪号”运煤去缅甸,船曾一度被撞,两次遭到暴雨,经修复,继续前进。不料,航行到印度洋时,船上煤骤然起火爆炸。船员们死里逃生,终于游到亚洲大陆。情节曲折,描写生动,引人入胜。

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## YOUTH

To my wife  
... but the Dwarf answered:  
"No, something human is dearer to me  
than the wealth of the world".  
*(Grimm's Tales)*

This could have occurred nowhere but in England, where men and sea interpenetrate, so to speak – the sea entering into the life of most men, and the men knowing something or everything about the sea, in the way of amusement, of travel, or of bread-winning.

We were sitting round a mahogany table that reflected the bottle, the claret-glasses, and our faces as we leaned on our elbows. There was a director of companies, an accountant, a lawyer, Marlow, and myself. The director had been a *Conway* boy, the accountant had served four years at sea, the lawyer – a fine crusted Tory, High Churchman, the best of old fellows, the soul of honour – had been chief officer in the P. & O. service in the good old days when mail-boats were square-rigged at least on two masts, and used to come down the China Sea before a fair monsoon with stun'-sails set alow and aloft. We all began life in the merchant



**Dwarf:** small ugly manlike creature with magical powers.

**dearer:** more precious.

**wealth:** possessions; riches.

**occurred nowhere but:** could not have taken place, could not have happened anywhere except. **so to speak:** figuratively

speaking; not literally speaking. **most men:** the majority of men.

**in the way of amusement:** for pleasure.

**bread-winning:** making a living; earning an income.

**mahogany:** dark, strong wood from tropical America.

**claret-glasses:** wine glasses. **as:** while. **leaned:** put our weight.

**accountant:** one who keeps financial records.

**lawyer:** legal adviser.

**Conway boy:** sailor on a ship called *Conway*. **at sea:** on a ship.

**a fine crusted Tory:** a loyal member of the English conservative party. **High Churchman:** member of the most conservative

branch of the Church of England. **P. & O. service:** Peninsular and Oriental service. **square-rigged:** with square sails. **masts:**

wooden poles from which sails are hung. **stun'-sails:** studding-

sails; auxiliary sails. **alow:** near the deck. **aloft:** up above.

service. Between the five of us there was the strong bond of the sea, and also the fellowship of the craft, which no amount of enthusiasm for yachting, cruising, and so on can give, since one is only the amusement of life and the other is life itself.

Marlow (at least I think that is how he spelt his name) told the story, or rather the chronicle, of a voyage: –

“Yes, I have seen a little of the Eastern seas; but what I remember best is my first voyage there. You fellows know there are those voyages that seem ordered for the illustration of life, that might stand for a symbol of existence. You fight, work, sweat, nearly kill yourself, sometimes do kill yourself, trying to accomplish something – and you can’t. Not from any fault of yours. You simply can do nothing, neither great nor little – not a thing in the world – not even marry an old maid, or get a wretched 600-ton cargo of coal to its port of destination.

“It was altogether a memorable affair. It was my first voyage to the East, and my first voyage as second mate; it was also my skipper’s first command. You’ll admit it was time. He was sixty if a day; a little man, with a broad, not very straight back, with bowed shoulders and one leg more bandy than the other, he had that queer twisted-about appearance you see so often in men who work in the fields. He had a nut-cracker face – chin and nose trying to come together over a sunken mouth – and it was framed in iron-gray fluffy hair, that looked like a chin-strap of cotton-wool sprinkled with coal dust. And he had blue eyes in that old face of his, which were amazingly like a boy’s, with that candid expression some quite common men preserve to the end of their days by a rare internal gift of simplicity of heart and rectitude of soul.

What induced him to accept me was a wonder. I had come out of a crack Australian clipper, where I had been third

**between**: uniting. **bond**: link.

**the craft**: the skill of sailing square rigged ships.

**yachting**: sailing a pleasure boat (a yacht). **cruising**: sailing for pleasure. **since**: because.

**spelt**: wrote.

**rather**: more correctly.

**fellows**: men.

**seem**: appear to be.

**stand for a symbol**: represent.

**sweat**: perspire. **nearly**: almost. **do kill**: *emphatic use of the auxiliary verb to do*. **accomplish**: achieve; manage to do.

**any fault**: any error; any failure.

**neither... nor**: *coordinating conjunction*.

**old maid**: unmarried woman; spinster. **wretched**: miserable.

**cargo**: shipment.

**altogether**: entirely; completely. **memorable**: worth remembering; unforgettable. **second mate**: third in command, below captain and first mate. **skipper**: captain of the ship.

**He was sixty if a day**: he was at least 60 years old.

**straight**: perpendicular. **bowed**: bent forward, curved.

**bandy**: bow-legged; legs turned outward at the knees. **queer**

**twisted-about**: strange contorted look.

**nut-cracker face**: face without teeth, resembling a nutcracker.

**sunken**: lowered, retracted, depressed. **framed in**: surrounded by; enclosed by. **fluffy**: soft and feathery; light. **chin-strap**: strip from hat or helmet which encircles chin and jaw. **sprinkled**: scattered. **amazingly**: surprisingly, unexpectedly.

**preserve**: keep; do not lose.

**their days**: their life. **gift**: quality.

**rectitude**: rightness; correctness.

**wonder**: unknown reason; enigma; puzzle.

**crack**: *slang*, first class; excellent. **clipper**: sailing ship.

officer, and he seemed to have a prejudice against crack clippers as aristocratic and high-toned. He said to me, 'You know, in this ship you will have to work.' I said I had to work in every ship I had ever been in. 'Ah, but this is different, and you gentlemen out of them big ships; ... but there! I dare say you will do. Join to-morrow.'

"I joined to-morrow. It was twenty-two years ago; and I was just twenty. How time passes! It was one of the happiest days of my life. Fancy! Second mate for the first time – really a responsible officer! I wouldn't have thrown up my own billet for a fortune. The mate looked me over carefully. He was also an old chap, but of another stamp. He had a Roman nose, a snow-white, long beard, and his name was Mahon, but he insisted that it should be pronounced Mann. He was well connected; yet there was something wrong with his luck, and he had never got on. "As to the captain, he had been for years in coasters, then in the Mediterranean, and last in the West Indian trade. He had never been round the Capes. He could just write a kind of sketchy hand, and didn't care for writing at all. Both were thorough good seamen of course, and between those two old chaps I felt like a small boy between two grand-fathers.

"The ship also was old. Her name was the *Judea*. Queer name, isn't it? She belonged to a man Wilmer Wilcox – some name like that; but he has been bankrupt and dead these twenty years or more, and his name don't matter. She had been laid up in Shadwell basin for ever so long. You may imagine her state. She was all rust, dust, grime – soot aloft, dirt on deck. To me it was like coming out of the palace into a ruined cottage. She was about 400 tons, had a primitive windlass, wooden latches to the doors, not a bit of brass about her, and big square stern.

There was on it, below her name in big letters, a lot of

**high-toned:** superior.

**out of them:** *improper English*: out of those; from those.

**I dare say:** I think. **Join:** come here; enlist.

**just:** only.

**Fancy!:** *idiom*, what do you think about that?

**thrown up:** abandoned.

**billet:** *slang*, job. **looked me over:** inspected me; observed me very carefully. **chap:** *familiar form*, man.

**stamp:** type, kind. **Roman nose:** nose having a high prominent bridge. **should be pronounced:** was to be pronounced.

**was well connected:** knew important people.

**never got on:** never been successful.

**As to:** in regard to. **coasters:** ships that engage in coastal commerce. **last:** most recently. **West Indian trade:** commerce between the West Indies (Jamaica etc.) and England. **the Capes:** Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn. **sketchy hand:** poor handwriting. **didn't care for:** didn't like; wasn't interested in. **thorough:** conscientious. **seamen:** *plural of* seaman; mariners. **chaps:** men.

**Queer:** strange, unusual.

**isn't it?:** *question-tag*. **She:** the *Judea*; note that ships are often referred to in the *feminine*. **some name like that:** or a name similar to that. **don't matter:** *dialect*, doesn't matter; is not important. **laid up:** kept in storage. **basin:** sheltered area where ships may be repaired. **for ever so long:** for a long time. **rust:** iron oxide. **grime:** dirt. **soot:** coal dust. **aloft:** above deck.

**cottage:** small house in the country.

**windlass:** winch used to raise the anchor. **latches:** door fasteners.

**brass:** shiny yellow metal. **about her:** on the ship. **stern:** backside of the ship.

scrollwork, with the gilt off, and some sort of a coat of arms, with the motto 'Do or Die' underneath. I remember It took my fancy immensely. There was a touch of romance in it, something that made me love the old thing – something that appealed to my youth!

"We left London in ballast – sand ballast – to load a cargo of coal in a northern port for Bangkok. Bangkok! I thrilled. I had been six years at sea, but had only seen Melbourne and Sydney, very good places, charming places in their way – but Bangkok!

"We worked out of the Thames under canvas, with a North Sea pilot on board. His name was Jermyn, and he dodged all day long about the galley drying his handkerchief before the stove. Apparently he never slept. He was a dismal man, with a perpetual tear sparkling at the end of his nose, who either had been in trouble, or was in trouble, or expected to be in trouble – couldn't be happy unless something went wrong. He mistrusted my youth, my common-sense, and my seamanship, and made a point of showing it in a hundred little ways. I dare say he was right. It seems to me I knew very little then, and I know not much more now; but I cherish a hate for that Jermyn to this day.

"We were a week working up as far as Yarmouth Roads, and then we got into a gale – the famous October gale of twenty-two years ago. It was wind, lightning, sleet, snow, and a terrific sea. We were flying light, and you may imagine how bad it was when I tell you we had smashed bulwarks and a flooded deck. On the second night she shifted her ballast into the lee bow, and by that time we had been blown off somewhere on the Dogger Bank.

There was nothing for it but go below with shovels and try to right her, and there we were in that vast hold, gloomy like a cavern, the tallow dips stuck and flickering on the beams, the gale howling above, the ship tossing about like

**scrollwork**: ornamented design resembling a roll of paper. **gilt**: layer of gold. **off**: removed. **coat of arms**: heraldic bearing. **Do or Die**: (*idiom*) make the supreme effort. **underneath**: below. **it took my fancy**: it impressed me; I liked it.

**appealed**: was attractive.

**in ballast**: carrying ballast-extra weight. **to load a cargo**: to put a shipment onto the ship. **I thrilled**: I was excited.

**charming**: attractive; full of interest and beauty.

**in their way**: in their characteristic style.

**under canvas**: using sails; proceeding under sail power.

**pilot**: sailor who steers ships through ports or river mouths.

**dodged**: jumped around. **about the galley**: around the kitchen.

**before**: in front of. **stove**: cooking oven; apparatus for cooking food. **dismal**: unhappy, depressed. **tear**: drop. **sparkling**: reflecting light.

**mistrusted**: did not have faith in.

**seamanship**: skill, ability as a sailor. **made a point**: made special effort. **I dare say**: I think.

**cherish**: feel. **to this day**: even now.

**working up**: sailing; working our way up. **Yarmouth**: Great Yarmouth, a port and resort in East England. **gale**: strong wind.

**sleet**: rain mixed with snow.

**smashed**: broken. **bulwarks**: sides of the ship: walls along deck.

**flooded**: covered with water. **she**: the ship.

**shifted her ballast**: moved the ballast. **lee bow**: front part of the ship away from the wind. **Dogger Bank**: a submerged sandbank in the North Sea. **but go**: except go. **shovels**: tools used for digging. **right her**: put her back straight. **hold**: place for storing cargo. **tallow dips**: wax candles. **flickering**: burning intermittently.

**beams**: supports. **tossing about**: rolling back and forth.

mad on her side; there we all were, Jermyn, the captain, every one, hardly able to keep our feet, engaged on the gravedigger's work, and trying to toss shovelfuls of wet sand up to windward. At every tumble of the ship you could see vaguely in the dim light men falling down with a great flourish of shovels. One of the shop's boys (we had two), impressed by the weirdness of the scene, wept as if his heart would break. We could hear him blubbering somewhere in the shadows.

"On the third day the gale died out, and by-and-by a north-country tug picked us up. We took sixteen days in all to get from London to the Tyne! When we got into the dock we had lost our turn for loading, and they hauled us off to a tier where we remained for a month.

Mrs. Beard (the captain's name was Beard) came from Colchester to see the old man. She lived on board. The crew of runners had left, and there remained only the officers, one boy and the steward, a mulatto who answered to the name of Abraham. Mrs. Beard was an old woman, with a face all wrinkled and ruddy like a winter apple, and the figure of a young girl. She caught sight of me once, sewing on a button, and insisted on having my shirts to repair. This was something different from the captains' wives I had known on board crack clippers. When I brought her the shirts, she said: "And the socks? They want mending, I am sure, and John's - Captain Beard's - things are all in order now. I would be glad of something to do." Bless the old woman. She overhauled my outfit for me, and meantime I read for the first time *Sartor Resartus* and Buranby's *Ride to Khiva*. I didn't understand much of the first then; but I remembered I preferred the soldier to the philosopher at the time; a preference which life has only confirmed. One was a man, and the other was either more - or less. However, they are both dead and Mrs. Beard is



**hardly**: barely; almost not. **to keep our feet**: avoid falling; remain standing. **engaged**: busy. **gravedigger**: man who digs graves, tombs. **to toss**: throw. **shovelfuls**: amounts contained in a shovel. **windward**: side of the ship where the wind is blowing. **tumble**: roll; movement. **dim**: not bright; dull. **flourish**: waving. **weirdness**: strangeness; unusualness. **wept**: cried.

**hear him blubbing**: *note the -ing form following to hear.*

**blubbing**: trying to speak while crying. **somewhere**: in some place. **died out**: lost its vitality. **by-and-by**: eventually; finally.

**north-country**: from the northern region of Britain. **tug**: tugboat; boat used for pulling ships. **in all**: altogether. **Tyne**: river in North England. **got into**: entered. **dock**: port.

**loading**: taking the shipment into the ship. **hailed us off**: pulled the ship out. **tier**: storage area for ships.

**crew**: group of sailors. **runners**: ordinary sailors.

**wrinkled**: lined because of age. **ruddy**: red.

**caught sight of**: saw. **once**: one time.

**sewing on**: attaching with needle and thread. **insisted on**: demanded to; *note the preposition 'on'.*

**crack clippers**: first rate ships.

**want mending**: need to be repaired.

**be glad of**: be happy to have.

**Bless**: God bless. **overhauled**: repaired. **outfit**: set of clothes.

**meantime**: meanwhile; while she was doing that.

**at the time**: then; at that time.

**either... or**: *coordinating conjunction* **both**: the two of them.