

哈佛

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失乐园 Paradise Lost

[英] John Milton 原著

Patrick Gardner

James Sita 导读

杨峰 翻译

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天津科技翻译出版公司

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致读者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记,由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华,亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今“蓝星”漂洋过海,轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中,读者不需走出国门,即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。蓝星系列丰富的内容编排,使我们不仅仅停留于名著内容的了解,而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握,进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书,同时迅速增强英语水平,提高文学修养,增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的“蓝星”系列50册,在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次新推出的品种同样精挑细选了国外近现代经典作品,以期进一步丰富该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校,并严格按照原作的风格,提供原汁原味的英语环境,让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀,伴你前行!

CONTEXT

Milton's Life

John Milton was born on December 9, 1608, in London. Milton's father was a prosperous merchant, despite the fact that he had been disowned by his family when he converted from Catholicism to Protestantism. Milton excelled in school, and went on to study privately in his twenties and thirties. In 1638 he made a trip to Italy, studying in Florence, Siena, and Rome, but felt obliged to return home upon the outbreak of civil war in England, in 1639. Upon his return from Italy, he began planning an epic poem, the first ever written in English. These plans were delayed by his marriage to Mary Powell and her subsequent desertion of him. In reaction to these events, Milton wrote a series of pamphlets calling for more leniency in the church's position on divorce. His argument brought him both greater publicity and angry criticism from the religious establishment in England. When the Second Civil War ended in 1648, with King Charles dethroned and executed, Milton welcomed the new parliament and wrote pamphlets in its support. After serving for a few years in a civil position, he retired briefly to his house in Westminster because his eyesight was failing. By 1652 he was completely blind.

Despite his disability, Milton reentered civil service under the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, the military general who ruled the British Isles from 1653 to 1658. Two years after Cromwell's death, Milton's worst fears were realized—the Restoration brought Charles II back to the throne, and the poet

来龙·去脉

弥尔顿生平

约翰·弥尔顿 1608 年 12 月 9 日生于伦敦。弥尔顿的父亲是个成功的商人,尽管他的家庭由于他从天主教皈依新教而与之断绝关系。弥尔顿在学校时就很出色,而且在二、三十岁的时候仍然坚持自修。1638 年他前往意大利旅行,曾在佛罗伦萨、锡耶纳和罗马学习,1639 年英国内战的爆发使他感到有义务回国。从意大利归来后,他开始规划一部史诗的创作,这将是第一部用英语写的史诗。该计划由于他和玛丽·鲍威尔结婚以及随后被其抛弃而被延误。作为对这些事件的回应,弥尔顿写了一系列号召教会对离婚采取更宽容态度的小册子。他的观点使他更为知名,也使他受到了英国宗教界的严厉批判。第二次内战在 1648 年结束,随着国王查理被罢免并处死,弥尔顿欢迎新国会的成立并写了一些表达拥护的小册子。在一个行政职位上工作了几年之后,由于视力逐渐丧失,他隐退了一段时间,回到威斯敏斯特的家中。他在 1652 年完全失明。

不顾自身残疾,弥尔顿重新为 1653 至 1658 年统治英伦三岛的军事将领奥立弗·克伦威尔领导的政府工作。克伦威尔死后两年,弥尔顿最担忧的事发生了——王政复辟使查理二世登上王位,诗人不得不为

had to go into hiding to escape execution. However, he had already begun work on the great English epic which he had planned so long before: *Paradise Lost*. Now he had the opportunity to work on it in earnest. It was published in 1667, a year after the Great Fire of London. The greatness of Milton's epic was immediately recognized, and the admiring comments of the respected poets John Dryden and Andrew Marvell helped restore Milton to favor. He spent the ensuing years at his residence in Bunhill, still writing prolifically. Milton died at home on November 8, 1674. By all accounts, Milton led a studious and quiet life from his youth up until his death.

Education

Thanks to his father's wealth, young Milton got the best education money could buy. He had a private tutor as a youngster. As a young teenager he attended the prestigious St. Paul's Cathedral School. After he excelled at St. Paul's he entered college at Christ's College at Cambridge University. At the latter, he made quite a name for himself with his prodigious writing, publishing several essays and poems to high acclaim. After graduating with his master's degree in 1632, Milton was once again accommodated by his father. He was allowed to take over the family's estate near Windsor and pursue a quiet life of study. He spent 1632 to 1638—his mid to late twenties—reading the classics in Greek and Latin and learning new theories in mathematics and music.

Milton became fluent in many foreign and classical languages, including Italian, Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Hebrew, French, Spanish, Anglo-Saxon, and spoke some Dutch as well. His knowledge of most of these languages was immense and

保住性命而躲藏起来。然而,他已经开始创作酝酿已久的宏伟英语史诗:《失乐园》。现在他倒是有了认真写下去的机会。作品出版于1667年,也就是伦敦大火灾一年之后。弥尔顿史诗的伟大很快就受到公认,而深受敬重的诗人约翰·德莱顿和安德鲁·马维尔的赞美性评论又使弥尔顿重新受到欢迎。他在位于本希尔的住宅里度过随后的几年,继续大量地写作。弥尔顿于1674年11月8日死于家中。据说,弥尔顿从青年时代直到逝世始终过着勤勉而宁静的生活。

教育

由于父亲的富有,年轻的弥尔顿受到了金钱所能买到的最好教育。孩提时代他就有一个私人教师。少年时他在享有盛誉的圣保罗大教堂学校读书,在那里出色地完成学业后,进入剑桥大学克赖斯特学院。在剑桥,他大量地写作并发表了几篇受到高度赞誉的文章和诗歌,颇有名气。在1632年毕业并获得硕士学位后,弥尔顿再次被父亲供养。他被允许接管家族在温莎附近的房地产并寻求一种平静的学习生活。他在1632至1638年间——也就是他将近三十岁的时候——阅读了希腊文和拉丁文经典著作并学习了数学和音乐领域的新理论。

弥尔顿能流利地讲多种外语和古典语言,包括意大利语、希腊语、拉丁语、阿拉米语、希伯来语、法语、西班牙语以及古代英语,也能讲一些荷兰语。他在这些语言方面的知识很广博,并且很有天赋。他在青少

precocious. He wrote sonnets in Italian as a teenager. While a student at Cambridge, he was invited in his second year to address the first year students in a speech written entirely in Latin.

After Cambridge, Milton continued a quiet life of study well through his twenties. By the age of thirty, Milton had made himself into one of the most brilliant minds of England, and one of the most ambitious poets it had ever produced.

Early Works

In his twenties, Milton wrote five masterful long poems, each of them influential and important in its own separate way: "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity," "Comus," "Lycidas," "Il Penseroso," and "L'Allegro." Through these poems, Milton honed his skills at writing narrative, dramatic, elegiac, philosophical, and lyrical poetry. He had built a firm poetic foundation through his intense study of languages, philosophy, and politics, and fused it with his uncanny sense of tone and diction. Even in these early poems, Milton's literary output was guided by his faith in God. Milton believed that all poetry served a social, philosophical, and religious purpose. He thought that poetry should glorify God, promote religious values, enlighten readers, and help people to become better Christians.

Aside from his poetic successes, Milton was also a prolific writer of essays and pamphlets. These prose writings did not bring Milton public acclaim. In fact, since his essays and pamphlets argued against the established views of most of England, Milton was even the object of threats. Nevertheless, he continued to form the basis for his political and theological

年时期就用意大利语写过十四行诗。在剑桥读二年级时,他应邀为一年级学生做了一次拉丁语的演讲。

离开剑桥后,弥尔顿在三十岁之前继续着一种平静的学习生活。三十岁时,弥尔顿已经使自己成为英国最有才智的人物之一,也成为英国产生过的最有抱负的诗人之一。

早期作品

二十多岁时,弥尔顿娴熟地创作了五首长诗,每一首都以其独特的方式成为有影响的重要作品:《圣诞晨歌》、《科马斯》、《利西达斯》、《欢乐的人》和《沉思的人》。通过这些诗,弥尔顿磨砺了自己创作叙事诗、戏剧诗、挽诗、哲理诗和抒情诗的技艺。他通过对语言、哲学和政治的认真研究,奠定了坚实的诗歌基础,并使之与自身不寻常的乐感和用词风格相融合。甚至在这些早期诗歌中,弥尔顿的文学创作也是由他对上帝的信仰来指引的。弥尔顿相信一切诗歌都服务于某种社会的、哲学的和宗教的目的。他认为诗歌应该赞美上帝,弘扬宗教价值观,启发读者,并帮助人们成为更好的基督教徒。

除了诗歌上的成就以外,弥尔顿也是个多产的散文和小册子作家。这些散文作品并没有给弥尔顿带来公众的喝彩。实际上,由于他的文章和小册子是为反对大部分英国的既成观念而辩论,弥尔顿甚至成了威胁的对象。不过,他却继续以散文和小册子的形式来

beliefs in the form of essays and pamphlets.

Politics

Milton's political ideals are expressed in the many pamphlets he wrote during his lifetime. He championed the absolute freedom of the individual—perhaps because he had been so often betrayed by the institutions in which he put his trust. His distrust of institutions was accompanied by his belief that power corrupts human beings. He distrusted anyone who could claim power over anyone else, and believed that rulers should have to prove their right to lead other people.

Milton was an activist in his middle years, fighting for human rights and against the rule of England's leaders, whom he believed were inept. Knowing he was not a fighter, he demonstrated his activism by writing lengthy, rhetorical pamphlets that thoroughly and rigorously argue for his point of view. Although he championed liberty and fought against authority throughout his career, in theory he believed in a strict social and political hierarchy in which people would obey their leaders and leaders serve their people. He believed that leaders should be leaders because they are better and more fit to rule than their subjects. But despite these rigid views of authority, Milton believed that the social hierarchy that actually existed in his day was extremely corrupt, and he directly challenged the rule of Charles I, the king of England during much of Milton's lifetime. Milton argued that Charles was not, in fact, fit to lead his subjects because he did not possess superior faculties or virtues.