

最美丽的英文

The most Beautiful English

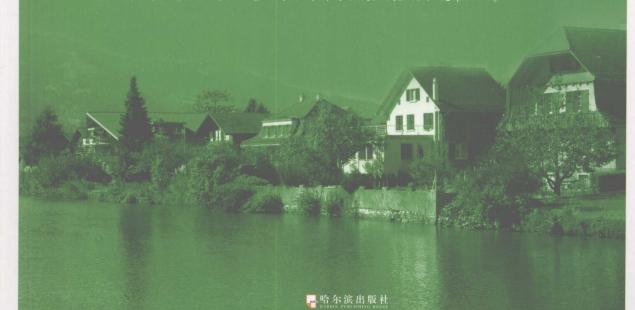
人人受益的心灵智慧书, 学习英文的最佳课外书。





王姿萱 编译

在临睡前、在等候时、在旅途中……随手翻开本书,让那些饱含哲理的有趣故事来陪伴你,给你一点一滴的启示与感动。我们都渴望拥有一个智慧而有品位的人生,就让这每日的人生哲理像条清冽的小溪洋满生活。 洛滩心田



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人生哲理林边书

全集

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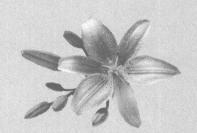
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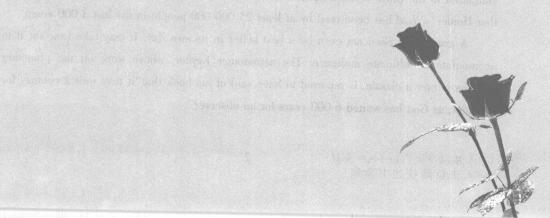
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第一卷 一种错觉

Part 1 An Illusion





What is a Great Book

Anonymous

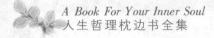
There is no end to the making of books. Nor does there seem to be any end to the making of lists of "great books". There have always been more books than anyone could read. And as they have multiplied through the centuries, more and more blue-ribbon lists have had to be made.

No matter how long your life is, at best, you will be able to read only a few books of all that have been written, and the few you do read should include the best. You can rejoice in the fact that the number of such is relatively small.

What are the signs by which we may recognize a great book? The six mentioned below may not be all there are, but they are the ones which are found most useful in explaining the choices over the years.

Great books are probably the most widely read. They are not best sellers for a year or two. They are enduring best sellers. Gone with the wind has had relatively few readers compared to the plays of Shakespeare or Don Quixote. It would be reasonable to estimate that Homer's Iliad has been read by at least 25 000 000 people in the last 3 000 years.

A great book need not even be a best seller in its own day. It may take time for it to accumulate its ultimate audience. The astronomer Kepler, whose work on the planetary motions is now a classic, is reported to have said of his book that "it may wait a century for a reader, as God has waited 6 000 years for an observer".



Great books are the most readable. They will not let you down if you try to read them well. They have more ideas per page than most books have in their entirety. That is why you can read a great book over and over again and never exhaust its contents.

They can be read at many different levels of understanding, as well as with a great diversity of interpretations. Obvious examples are *Robinson Crusoe* and *Odyssey*. Children can read them with enjoyment, but fail to find therein all the beauty and significance, which delight an adult's mind.

Great books are instructive. This follows from the fact that they are original communications, they contain what cannot be found in other books. Whether you ultimately agree or disagree with what they say, they are the primary teachers of mankind; they have made the basic contributions to human thought.

It is almost unnecessary to add that the great books are the most influential books. In the tradition of learning, they have been most discussed by readers who have also been writers.

Great books deal with the persistently unsolved problems of human life. There are genuine mysteries in the world that mark the limits of human knowing and thinking. Inquiry not only begins with wonder, but usually ends with it also. Great minds acknowledge mysteries honestly. Wisdom is fortified not destroyed, by understanding its limitations.

It is our privilege, as readers, to belong to the larger brotherhood of man which recognizes no national boundaries. I do know how we become friends of the human spirit in all its manifestations, regardless of time and place. It is by reading the great books.





什么书堪称伟大的作品

佚名

书层出不穷,伟大的作品也是不断地推陈出新。经过一个又一个世纪的沉淀,越来越多的优秀作品被孕育出来,因而,我们总有读不完的书。

不论你的寿命有多长,你也只能读到书籍的九牛之一毛,而你所读的这些书里应该包括伟大的作品,只有这样,你才能为这个小数目感到欣慰。

那么,什么样的书才称得上是伟大的作品呢?以下提及的6点虽不能面面俱到,但也是多年来我们找到的最合理的解释。

伟大的作品是最广为传阅的书。他们持久畅销,并非只持续一两年。与莎士比亚的戏剧或《唐吉诃德》比起来,《飘》的读者相对较少。在过去的3000年里,荷马的《伊利亚特》被2500万人阅读过,得出这样的估计不无道理。

一部伟大的作品并非只在它被创作出来的那个年代风行。随着时间的推移,它的读者会越来越多。致力于研究行星运动的天文学家开普勒的一本著作,现在已是经典读本了。有报道说,他曾说他的书"可能会等一个世纪才迎来一个读者,就像上帝等待了 6000 年才迎来一个观测者一样"。

伟大的作品具有很强的可读性。只要你用心去读,就会发现其中的精彩——大多数作品的所有思想加起来也没有它们每一页所包含的思想多。这就是你为何会百读不厌的原因。

不同的人有不同的见解,而伟大的作品对不同理解层次的人都适宜。《鲁滨孙漂流记》和《奥德赛》就是很明显的例子。孩子们也能津津有味地读,却体会不到成人感受到的那种优美的文字和深刻的哲理意义。

伟大的作品最具教育意义。它们本身就是以交流为目的,饱含着其他书目所没有的非凡宝藏。不论你是否尊崇书中的思想观念,它们始终是人类的启蒙老师,是人类思想的基本组成部分。

一再重申伟大的作品是最有影响力的书籍显然没有必要。传统的学术界里,评论 伟大作品最多的读者本身也是作家。

伟大的作品一直都关注人类生活中那些尚无法解决的问题。世界上存有的谜团正说明人类认知和思维的局限。探索常始于惊奇,却也以惊奇告终。大思想家们诚实地肯定神秘的存在。正是这种对人类知识有限性的认可,才使得智慧之花不断盛开,智慧之树硕果累累。

作为读者,我们为生活在这个没有国界的大家族里感到荣幸。我明白,不论时空如何变换,只要阅读这些伟大作品,我们便可在精神领域成为知己好友。

