



Biblical Idioms and Their Stories

郭尚兴

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成语及其掌故

河南大学出版社

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前 言

纵观英国语言文学史，英语版《圣经》的影响是任何其它书籍所无法相比的。尤其是钦定本《圣经》问世后，随着宗教的发展和普及，其人物、故事、寓言、谚语，甚至每一句话都逐渐地家喻户晓，妇孺皆知，其中的精华部分，形式逐渐固定，成为英语成语的重要组成部分。在文学方面，《圣经》的影响更大、更深远。因而，任何学习英语的人，任何英语工作者，对《圣经》及其成语若不熟悉，必然影响工作或学习。

《圣经》成语的构成方法主要有两种：一是凝缩其中的故事或寓言；二是直接引自《圣经》原文。不管哪种方法，绝大多数都出自《圣经》的钦定英译本（King James' Bible）。该版本1611年问世，其语言与现代英语差异很大，一般读者很难读懂，况且在我国也不多见。而近年的译本虽易读懂，但在语言上与钦定本相比，几乎面目全非，根本看不到这些成语的出处，两种情况都直接给读者带来不少的困难。如果能扬长避短，把两者结合起来，无疑是广大读者所十分需要的。

这本小册子力图解决的正是这个问题。它的编写原则如下：

- 一、尽可能筛选常用或比较常用的成语；
- 二、所有成语均选自有故事情节的部分，以增强其可读性；

三、每个成语后附有英汉双解定义及例句，以帮助读者理解和应用；

四、按入选成语在《圣经》中出现的顺序排列。为了查阅方便，书后附有按字母顺序排列的索引。由于这些成语大多出自《圣经》的主要部分和主要内容，所有故事既前后连贯，又独立成篇，阅其始终，是一本了解《圣经》全貌和主要内容、趣味性极强的读物；取其一篇，能了解一条或数条成语的来龙去脉及其用法和定义，具有简易辞书之功。

五、由于《圣经》的作者众多，前后经历了许多年才成集，各卷未严格按故事发展的时间排列，相互间，尤其是《新约》部分，重复现象比较普遍，编者参阅有关研究成果，尽可能按故事发生的时间排列全书，《新约》部分的前几卷以 Matthew 卷为基础，因为该卷的内容比较全面，复盖的时间也较长。

源自《圣经》的成语极多，这本小册子只能挂一漏万，加之编者水平有限，对《圣经》缺少深入研究，缺点和疏漏在所难免，恳请读者多加指正。

本书承蒙美国专家 Rebecca Neufeld 通阅，并提出了许多宝贵意见；河南大学出版社赵帆声、秦英骏、秦守福、段文勇、王超明等同志给予大力支持；河南大学外语系资料室孙伟勤同志分担了选例、打字及索引编写工作。在此一并致以衷心的感谢。

编 者

1989年11月14日于河南开封

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The Books of the Old Testament

Garden of Eden garden where Adam and Eve lived; (fig.) place of delight or loveliness, a paradise 亚当与夏娃的住所(伊甸园); (喻)乐园, 乐土, 天堂

Example,

Many students do not study very hard though universities are like the Garden of Eden. 在天堂般的大学校园里, 许多学生学习并不努力。

as old as Adam extremely old; (something) known from the earliest time 极古老的; 很久以前的, 陈旧的

Examples,

There are a large number of historical places in India which are as old as Adam. 印度有大量上古时期的历史遗址。

That joke you told us is as old as Adam, but I still think it's funny. 虽然您给我们讲的是个老掉牙的笑话, 但我仍觉得很有趣。

not know somebody from Adam not know somebody at all 全然不认识, 从未见过

Examples,

Mrs Smith is a friend of mine, but I don't know her husband from Adam. 史密斯夫人是我的朋友, 但她

丈夫我根本不认识。

“He called to see the Governor this morning,” replied Mr Chuckster, “and beyond that, I do not know him from Adam.” “今天上午他来看我们的上司”查克斯特先生答到,“除此之外,我对他一无所知。”

bone of one's bone and flesh of one's flesh (two or more people) closely linked 血肉相联, 关系密切
Example;

The union was bone of the bone and flesh of the flesh of the workers. 工会与工人血肉相联。

forbidden fruit something that is desired by a person and that is made even attractive by the fact that the person is unable or forbidden to obtain it; an immoral pleasure (as illicit sexual intercourse)
禁果; 淫荡的逸乐 (如非法的性关系)

Examples;

Boys and girls less than 15 years old are not allowed to enter the cinema. But they try every way to slip into it. It's really true that forbidden fruit is sweet. 十五岁以下的少男少女不允许进那家电影院, 可是他们总要千方百计地溜进去, 这可真是所谓的禁果分外甜。

A job is a forbidden fruit to many of the young graduates today. 当今, 对于刚刚走出校门的大学生, 工作几乎成了禁果。

by/in the sweat of one's brow/face through hard work or effort 靠自己的血汗, 靠自己的辛勤劳动
Example;

I don't have any rich relations who will leave me money when they die. Whatever I get in life, I'll have to earn by the sweat of my brow. 我没有任何有钱的亲戚能在死后给我留下钱财；我这辈子不管混到哪一步，都得靠自己的血汗去争取。

The Story,

Iehovah, the Lord, had created the earth, the sky, the sun, but the earth was formless and desolate. Then God created trees and plants and all living things, but there was no one to care for them. So He took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it, He breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and named him Adam*.

The Lord had planted a garden in Eden and had made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruits. In the middle of the very garden stood the tree that gives life and gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

The Lord placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. He said to him, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle. If you do, you will die."

Then the Lord said, "It is not good for the man to live alone, I shall make a suitable companion to

* This name in Hebrew means "mankind"

help him." He looked at all the animals and all the birds, but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him. So the Lord made Adam fall into a deep and long sleep and, while Adam was sleeping, took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to Adam who later named her Eve* because she was the mother of all human beings.

When Adam awoke, he said happily, "At last, here is one of my own kind—bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. Woman** is her name because she was taken out of man." At that time Adam and Eve were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.

Among all the animals and birds the snake was the most cunning. It asked Eve, "Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit of any tree in the garden?"

"We may eat the fruit of any tree except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die," Eve answered.

"That's not true. God said that just because He knows that when you eat it you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad."

* This name sounds similar to the Hebrew word for "life".

* * The word in Hebrew means "part of man"