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Law of Adaptation

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韩淑红 吴远庆 译

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译者前言

《顺道》一书是王培禄(字顺之)和王淑玉(字如凤)合著的一部富含人生哲理的哲学著作,它把哲学引进老百姓的实际生活中。《顺道》一经问世,就引起了社会的广泛关注和众多好评。中国外文局原副总编辑、现《对外传播》总编林良旗先生说:“《顺道》是老百姓的哲学,是老百姓贴身的哲学。”《烟台日报》评论说:“相信顺道思想必将助推社会、经济、文化等诸多方面的发展,为创建文明城市和建设和谐社会做出贡献。”

《顺道》对大学生的思想政治教育特别具有启发意义。大学生在学习、工作、生活当中,会遇到许多对人生、家庭、社会等感到困惑不解的地方,了解“顺道”理论有利于引导青年学生的实际行动,做到顺应历史、顺应万物、顺应和谐,为和谐社会的建设做出自己的贡献。《顺道》中讲述了许多中国优秀传统文化的精髓,传递的是正能量,它是烟台的文化、民族的文化、世界的文化。

在世界多极化、文化多元化的全球一体化新时代,中国政府也在积极推动文化走出去的战略,这就是当前正在掀起的中国典籍外译的高潮。把中华民族富有特色的文化精髓译成外语,是让世界了解中国、让中国文化参与全球文化交流的一个极好途径,正如典籍英译学科委员会召集人卓振英教授所说:“对于弘扬民族文化、促进东西方文化融合、保持中国固有的文化身份来说,典籍英译有着十分重大的现实意义。”季羨林先生也曾说过:“把翻译的重点从外译中转变为中译外,不仅需要更多具有开放胸襟和气象的‘拿来主义’,而且要有更多大胆的‘送去主义’。”鉴于此,把《顺道》翻译成英语、把顺道的理论和思想介绍给世界各国人民,也符合“顺道”的基本思想,是顺应时代潮流、传播中国文化的一次有益尝试,有利于宣传中国文化,和谐世界人民。

从接到原书作者翻译《顺道》的委托,到最终完成全书翻译,已是两年多

的时间。翻译过程中得到了徐杉杉、姜丽莉、单庆凤、左通、田利、李明涛、杨运婷、邹鹏、魏来贵、麻文静、崔思燕、崔家慧、翟珊、张萌、初开迪、丁赛男、吕婷、李香君等各位同学以及同事、好友和鲁东大学外国语学院领导的大力支持和帮助,尤其是2013年在美国布里奇波特大学访学期间,该校教务长 Stephen F. Healey 博士对部分章节的译文给予了具体的指导。同时,作为鲁东大学“国际化学生事务研究工作室”系列研究成果之一,得到了学校专门经费支持,在此一并表示感谢。虽然最终完成了全书的翻译,但一直都在不断地认真修改、润色、加工。许钧先生说过:“翻译决不仅仅是译者译得好不好的个人的小事,它是关乎到一个民族文化的传承、交流与发展的重大事件。”因此,当真正把译文交给出版社准备出版时,心情还是惴惴不安。原书作者在书中引用了大量的典故、谚语、古诗词,甚至使用了一些方言,并且提出了自己独特的哲学观点和理论,这些都成为翻译的难点。为解决这些问题,在翻译过程中采取了译者加注的方式,译者查找、参阅了部分著作、期刊和网络资料,恕不能一一列出,同时也不时与原作者进行必要的沟通和交流。尽管在翻译过程中对译文进行了反复推敲和研究,但是由于译者水平有限,不当乃至错误之处在所难免,敬请各位读者批评指正。

韩淑红 吴远庆

2015年9月17日

Translators' Foreword

Law of Adaptation, written by Wang Peilu (styled Shunzhi) and Wang Shuyu (styled Rufeng), is a philosophical work that is full of life philosophy. It brings philosophy into ordinary people's real life. *Law of adaptation* has aroused many concerns and praises since it was published. Mr. Lin Liangqi, the former deputy editor-in-chief of CIPG (China International Publishing Group) and the current editor-in-chief of the journal *International Communications* said, "*Law of Adaptation* is a philosophy that belongs to common people. It is a philosophy that is very close to people's life." *Yantai Daily* commented, "The idea of law of adaptation will certainly give an impetus to the development of society, economy and culture. It will make great contributions to the establishment of civilized cities and a harmonious society."

Law of Adaptation has great enlightening significance on the ideological and political education in the university. University students will often be confused about their life, their family and the society in their study, work and daily life. Knowing the theory of law of adaptation is helpful for guiding teenagers' practical behaviors. It helps students adapt to history, universe and harmony, and guides them to contribute to the construction of the harmonious society. *Law of Adaptation* tells us the essence of traditional Chinese culture, spreading the positive energy. It is the culture of Yantai, the culture of our nation and the culture of the world.

In the era of globalization, the Chinese government is also vigorously implementing the strategy for culture export under the situation of world multipolarization and cultural diversity, which sets off a new upsurge of translation of Chinese classics. It is a perfect way to let China be known better by the world and be part of the extensive global communication of culture. Just as Professor Zhuo Zhenying, the convener of the discipline committee of English translation of Chinese classics once said, "English translation of Chinese clas-

sics has a great practical significance in the promotion of national culture and cultural reconciliation of the east and the west, and the maintenance of the native cultural identity.” Ji Xianlin^① also said, “We need not only the open-minded bringism (bringing from foreigners) but also bold export (sending to foreigners) to transform the focus of translation from English-Chinese translation to Chinese-English translation.” Therefore, translating *Law of Adaptation* and introducing its theory to people from all over the world is a beneficial attempt that adapts to the idea of law of adaptation to follow the trend of the times, broadcast Chinese culture and harmonize people all over the world.

It took more than 2 years to complete the translation of *Law of Adaptation* after I was entrusted to translate it. During the time, I have benefited a lot from the vigorous support of many students, colleagues, friends and the leaders of School of Foreign Languages in Ludong University, especially the Provost of University of Bridgeport, Doctor Stephen F. Healey, who had given instructions on part of the translation when I visited there in 2013. As one of the research achievements of “Students’ International Affairs Research Studio”, the translation also got special financial support. Although I have finished the translation, I have been keeping modifying. Mr. Xu Jun (1954-) once said, “Translation is not only a personal petty thing about whether the translation is good or not, it is more about the inheritance, communication and development of culture.” Therefore, I was still uneasy when the translation was about to be published. The source-language writer quoted lots of allusions, proverbs, ancient poetry and even dialects, and put forward unique philosophical theory and view point, which are very difficult to translate. In order to solve those problems, I have taken the measure of translator’s annotation and made reference to many books, periodicals and other materials on Internet. It is a regret that I cannot list all of them here. Meanwhile, I have also made necessary communications with the source text writer from time to time. Despite repeated polishment and consideration, the translation cannot in the nature of things be free from errors. If really so, please don’t hesitate to correct us.

Han Shuhong Wu Yuanqing
Sept. 17th, 2015

① Ji Xianlin (1911—2009) is a famous historian translator and writer.

Preface

—In the name of daughter

Write a preface in the name of daughter with reverence and awe.

Juniors scarcely write a preface, especially daughter write it for her father. This book is a work with my father's efforts and experiences. As a child, I should not comment anything, but my father asked me to do so. I know some experience in the book well, and blood relationship passes from generation to generation. Therefore, it is proper for me to write a preface, hoping to throw away a brick in order to get a gem and serve as a modest spur to induce someone to come forward with his valuable contributions.

My father took enormous efforts to write this book, which has cost several years from the beginning to the end. Whenever he had time, he worked hard to summarize his experience and write down his comprehension. Reading this book, I am deeply touched. Everyone looks at the world with his own eyes to find life changes and inspiration. This is so-called enlightenment. Sometimes it is an idea that suddenly comes to mind or it may become a perceptual thing. However, it is no easy to write down the idea or the perceptual knowledge in words, to sublimate them into theories or logos and make them come down.

This book writes enlightenment beginning with life. Everyone's life is like a small boat in the time river. Everyone pursues wealth with different understandings of wealth. No matter how different the understandings are, there is an unchangeable standard about the purpose of pursuing wealth, which is to get happiness. Happiness is not only the purpose of wealth but also the wealth most difficult to get. This book writes about these in detail and tells you how to get the precious wealth from every detail.

This book is full of wisdom and philosophy of life. Our biggest enemy in life is ourselves. Therefore, only when we have a complete and deep realiza-

tion of human nature, can we fulfill our potential most and obtain the greatest success. These ideas are well known to any educated person, but they do not always achieve them. The key is that our circumstances are different from each other. Factors that can help one get success not necessarily make others get the same result. Therefore, anyone who wants to get success should grasp the nature of things. That's why this book will discuss human nature and ways of life alone. "No fish can survive if the water is too clean. For the same reason, no company can bear one whose requirements are too critical." "We shouldn't use perfect standard to measure others' emotions and our feelings." The wisdom of life and methods of realization will touch readers. After reading the unique and wise words in this aspect, readers can find ways suitable to themselves.

Family and career are two resources that make people feel happy and influence the society most. Doing these two things well has a great influence on people and society. If we are successful, we can advance or retreat so that we stay in an invincible position. If we are unsuccessful, we cannot advance or retreat so that we stay in a hopeless situation. My father has a deep realization with many years of thinking and experiencing. This book is written in pearl-like words from the bottom of my father's heart, which is like the irises and orchids in the room and worthy of tasting.

The later part of this book is the sublimation of my father's thought, which is the essence of the whole book. The enlightenment, inspiration and discipline of life are all in the book, which does not need any of my superficial comments. The wise readers will see their wisdom.

The preface comes to the end. I am afraid that I cannot express the idea in this book, feeling that everything goes as my father said in the beginning. "Time is just like a river, and life is just like a boat. Light is needed in the dark, bravery is needed in the torrent, guidance is needed in the confusion while we are sailing. We who are operating the boat just consider obtaining knowledge as illumination, consider accumulating experiences as an oar, and consider poring over this passage as the key of solving riddles and acquiring the truth!"

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Chapter 1 Life

Time is just like a river, and life is just like a boat. Light is needed in the dark, bravery is needed in the torrent, guidance is needed in the confusion while we are sailing. We who are operating the boat just consider obtaining knowledge as illumination, consider accumulating experiences as an oar, and consider poring over this passage as the key of solving riddles and acquiring the truth!

1.1 Living with outer coverings

Attire has characteristics of a certain era and ethnic groups all the time. From ancient times to modern times, from domestic areas to oversea areas, experts will know which dynasty and ethnic group the person comes from by learning his clothing style. Nowadays, there are a large number of professional wearings, such as customs uniforms, tax department uniforms, police uniforms, military uniforms, and so on, so that we can know their career as soon as we know what kind of uniforms they wear.

One's appearance can be the reflection of his immanence. Thus a fortune-teller tells fortunes by one's face. A doctor uses 4 methods of diagnosis, namely to look, to listen, to question, and to feel the pulse, among which to look is to watch patients' face just because we can see one's ideas, conditions, knowledge etc. by learning his face. Temperament can show one's immanence, just as Su Shi^①, a great poet, said in his poem that "Reading makes a man graceful." Applying this more widely, we can see one's innermost being as well as his education, personality, habits and spirit, even his family issues, the conditions of

① Su Shi, a poet and litterateur of the Northern Song Dynasty.

his country, and his hometown's traditions from his appearance.

Therefore, human beings are all living with outer coverings, which can be the surroundings or the inner world. The covering is always on his face no matter it is good or bad, no matter how high the civilization level is. The covering can be divided into national part, urban part, working part, inner part, and so on. It can be reflected by one's appearance that whether one's country is puissant or not, whether his city is civilized or not, whether his work is smooth or not, whether his family life is happy or not, and whether the person is open-minded or not. There is no need to inquire about the issues since we can clarify everything by reading one's face.

Surroundings can be divided into 2 parts: inner surroundings and objective surroundings. Surroundings consist of space, the elements of the space, and the relationships between the elements. Different people in the same family, the same working place, and the same society can still be in different surroundings. The surrounding that one is in is a unity of the inner one and the objective one. One's outer covering is made of objective elements used as materials and inner world used as bond.

1.2 Fortune is in your sight

1.2.1 The definition of fortune

"Human beings die in pursuit of wealth, and birds die in pursuit of food." One can take pursuing the fortune as the priority in his life. However, fortune doesn't only mean money. It is a general term of all kinds of richness. Money can be a kind of fortune. Similarly, health, friendship, posterity, happiness, knowledge, intelligence, tolerance, kindness, helpfulness, vivacity, smile, harmony, diligence, unity, and so on all belong to fortune. Civilized things that do good to people's mental and physical health can be called fortune. Fortune is one's possession that makes him happy, while happiness is the kind of fortune that people are most eager for and that is most difficult to own. All fortunes can be considered as methods. But only this kind of fortune—happiness—is our purpose of life. Happiness is the most valuable fortune in the world.

One should pursue more fortune and more varieties of fortune in his life, and that makes a perfect life. One may not be happy when he only has money, because he lacks other kinds of fortune. Although the saying that "I am so poor

that I only have money” is just a joke, it indicates that only having money does not mean happiness.

1.2.2 Fortune is in front of your eyes

Having a grasp of mundane affairs can be thought as treasure, and being experienced in the way of the world can be considered as fortune. Fortune exists everywhere and can be attained easily anytime you want, but people usually seek far and wide for what lies close at hand.

Someone has no ideas about cooking and abandons the food if there is something left, forgetting that “Diligence is money spinner and austerity is cornucopia.”

Someone hardly pays attention to the science of diet, having no ideas of matching the nutrition, or recklessly stuffing himself with food, in which way eating all kinds of nutritional food is still in vain. Or someone does not have breakfast, or starve himself for a long time; as a result, he gets some diseases like gallstone or hypoglycemia, not knowing that 80 percent of the diseases are related to eating.

Someone does not know that all kinds of recipe have something to do with science. Improper action can not only damage the nutrition, but also produce harmful elements. So it is not strange for those people who are used to cooking in the wrong way to obtain less nutrition in his life.

Someone does shopping too casually, never caring about the clothing matching, and always feels regretful about the clothes bought, putting them aside or throwing them away after wearing them for several times. He always buys clothes, but never has clothes to wear, forgetting the old saying that “One should spend three lifetimes learning wearing and five lifetimes learning eating”. We can’t wear or eat too casually! It may not be too much to give others a lot of money, but it is a kind of crime to waste things.

Someone looks down upon the waste and abandons things, throwing them at random, never realizing that trashy things can be sold to gain fortune after accumulating them.

Someone gets up late in the morning and has no physical exercises in the evening, not knowing that fresh air in the morning, outdoor activities in the evening, and physical exercises all have a better effect on one’s health than a lot of nutritional things, and therefore, they are fortunes, too.

Someone only knows doing physical exercises, but pays no attention to

protecting his health. One should know that one's health is based 30% on physical exercise and 70% on taking good care of it. It is more troublesome to use our fragile bodies at random and then heal them painfully.

Someone is always upset, seeming like that the doom's day is coming soon, never knowing that it is a kind of treasure to have a good mood, and that it is a kind of fortune that one can own however much he would like to have.

Someone is crazy about making money when he is young, and uses money to keep life long when he is old. Working all day long is only for money, eventually seeing doctors to heal his disease by spending all his money. He never knows that health is the greatest fortune for starting his own business.

Someone becomes anxious, arguing or even fighting with others and not cooperating with others in order to make money. Finally, he delays working, wastes time and fails to make money, forgetting that the greatest fortune is owning a happy family life and that if the family lives in harmony, all affairs will prosper.

Someone makes friends or business talks outside, being modest to others, knowing that harmony brings wealth. But he puts on airs when he mixes socially with his neighbors, giving up the ready accessible relationship, and forgetting that "A distant relative is not as good as a near neighbor."

Someone never uses his own ideas, and dare not be his own boss so as to create the opportunity to make great fortune. On the contrary, he begs others around to be in charge of him, and makes fortunes for others, only earning a little money for himself. One should know that daring to think it over and put it into action is the first step to success.

Someone is not good at mutual communication, pretending to be lofty and being disrespectful. He is only enthusiastic about contacting with his so-called benefiting partners, not knowing that human relations are just the source of fortune.

Someone is acrimonious, not allowing others to have disagreements with him about anything, not knowing that tolerance is also a kind of fortune. When you ask others to do something, especially when it is the first time for him to do it, it does not matter if there is something not satisfying you. Just let him do it, especially on the condition that there would not be any bad results even if he did something wrong. One shouldn't only pay attention to the accomplishment of some issues, but give others a chance to train themselves when the issue must be done but it has no influence on any other things even if it is completed im-