

MODEL ENGLISH COMPOSITION

for SENIOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

With Chinese Notes and Translation



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NARRATIVE COMPOSITION 記 敍 文

1. An Account of Myself

It has been well and truly said that life in reality is nothing more than a history. So we can in all probability say that the mission of life is to make a history. As Providence seems to be so ingenious as to make each history different from another, we often like to hear the histories of others. For this purpose I introduce my own history to my honorable readers in the following:—

Twenty years ago I was born in Shanghai. During my child-hood, I had nothing to eat when I was hungry; I did not put on or take off any clothing when I felt cold or hot; I could not go where I wished to go; I did not name something that I wanted. Had not my loving mother taken care of me in every respect, how could I have lived in the world till now? Therefore the kindness which my loving mother has shown me shall never go out of my mind.

In the autumn of my seventh year I was sent to an old-fashioned school about one li^7 from my home. There I began learning to read and write under a <u>tutor</u>⁸ who often threatened to beat me with a <u>ferule</u>⁹ which caused

一 我的小史

人生不過是一段歷史,這確是至理名言。所以我們也可 說人生的使命是造成歷史。誰也彷彿是都有着各種巧妙不同 的歷史,故我們常歡喜聽別人的歷史。如此我且介紹我自己 的歷史給可敬的讀者:

二十年以前我出生在上海。在兒童時代我飢時無食;寒冷時無衣;不能去要去的地方;我從未說過我需要任何物件。設無慈母來照顧我,我怎樣能在世上活到現在的呢?慈母的影像永遠印在我的腦中。

在我七歲時的一個秋天,我被送到一個離家一里路的私 墊唸書。在那冬烘先生手下我學習寫作,他常用戒尺打我, 使我嚇得怕去上學。每天早飯後我就去上學,一直到太陽落 下才囘來。我並不用功讀書,只相信世界上有人很注意我的 遊戲。當我上學時,就好似進了監獄;待囘家後才算釋放。 結果國文毫無進步。 me dread going to school. Just after taking breakfast, every day I was ordered to go to school and to remain there till the sun had set in the west. I did not care to study but believed that on earth there was none but gazed¹⁰ upon my play with indifference¹¹. When going to school I felt as if I were going to prison¹²; when returning home I felt as if I were released¹³. As a result I made little or no progress in Chinese.

Four years had elapsed¹⁴ before I entered a higher primary school as a boarder¹⁵. The first lesson I took was English, which seemed to me to be mere drudgery¹⁶ as my teacher persisted¹⁷ in commanding me to commit the English alphabets to memory¹⁸. If I had got a chance, certainly I would have gone somewhere else instead of going to school. My frequent absence¹⁹ from school alarmed my English teacher, who setting my chums²⁰ to watch me, discovered my love for theatre-going²¹. He called me to his room and said:—

"You should know how hard your father is working to give you an education. If you do not study hard now you cannot be independent when you grow up. How can you meet the wishes of your loving parents²². When you are going to bed, you had better muse²³ on your past errors."

Not long after this, I worked hard day and night. My English teacher was surprised at my wide reading and clear thinking. Indeed, since that time I have steadily²⁴ made progress both in Chinese and English.

在我考入高小做個住宿生以前,四年已經過去了。我第一種學習的功課是英文,我的教師硬教我記着英文字母,使 我覺得好像是件極苦的工作。如果我有機會,那我自然只有 到別處去來代替上學了。我的屢次缺席,使英文教員驚奇, 因此他差遣了我的同伴監視我,曉得我是愛進戲院的。於是 他叫我到他的房內對我說道:

「你須知道你的父親多麼辛苦給你受教育呀,你如不用功讀書,等到長大便不能自立。你怎能達到你父親的希望呢?你上床睡的時候,你最好默想你過去的錯誤。」

我聽了教師的教訓不久就日夜用功了。我的英文教師對 於我的多讀書和淸晰的思想都驚奇起來。實在說一句,那時 我已堅決地使中英文同時進步了。

【註釋】

	1 1 20						
1.	多半	2.	歷史	3.	天帝	4.	巧妙的
5.	提出,介紹	6.	觀察點	7.	里	8.	教師
9.	戒尺	10.	注視	11.	冷淡,無情	12.	監獄
13.	釋放	14.	過去	15.	寄膳宿者	16.	苦工

17. 堅持,持久 18. 將英文字母記牢 19. 缺課

20. 同伴 21. 看戲去 22. 符父母之期望

23. 默想 24. 穩定,堅決

2. A Sketch of My Native City

South of the Yangtze, there is a rich city, which has long been famous for its beautiful scenery, and rich products. It is situated near the end of the Nanking-Shanghai-Railway. Its soil is very fertile and is well irrigated by a branch of the Yangtze, the Grand Canal. It is a city of great antiquity and contains many ancient buildings and valuable relics of old architecture. Pagodas, arches, and ruins are signs of its past glory. Oh, what a noble, precious and splendid city is this! This is my native city, and Soochow is its name. I have been living in it for a long time, and so I can tell you something about it.

Soochow has been famous for scholars, long considered as the literary and cultural center. Economically, socially and educationally, it is Kiangsu's most important city, Shanghai, the metropolis of China, is its greatest

neighboring port.

Physically it is surrounded by canals and lakes; the most famous and beautiful lake Tai-hu is near by. Around the lake many hills irregularly stands in a curve like a fence. In the lake, there are many fishing boats hoisting their sails, gliding swiftly across the placids heet of water. In and near Soochow, there are many hill where we can amuse ourselves by their beautiful scenery. We also can see the general view of Tai-hu, when we get to the top of any of these hills. In short, nature makes the place attractive to all travelers.

二 我的本郷

在揚子江南面有個富庶的城,它早已有美麗的風景和豐富的物產著名。它座落京滬鐵路的末端,地土肥沃,且受揚子大江的灌溉。這是一個極大的古城,包含着許多舊時的屋宇和有價值的古建築的遺跡。塔,拱門與殘跡是它過去的光榮。啊,這是多麼一個高貴顯耀的城呀! 這就是我的故鄉——蘇州。我已在此地居住很久了,所以我能告訴你些關於這城的事情。

蘇州以學者爲最著名 , 是久被稱爲文學和文化的中心 了。不論是經濟,社會,和教育方面,它都是江蘇最重要的 城市。上海——中國的大都會——是它的最大鄰港。

以物質而論,它被江湖所包圍着,著名美麗的太湖即在鄰旁,湖的四周有許多參差不齊的小山,彎曲如關柵。湖中有很多漁船掠過水面。在蘇州附近也很多小山,我們可以怡情於美麗的風景。我們若登上這些小山,也可以看見太湖的景色。總之,大自然的這個地方引誘了許多遊客。

Politically Soochow has been well ruled by the local government during the recent years. The means of communication and transportation is becoming more convenient. The narrow streets are being widened and the humble houses are being rebuilt. Public parks and libraries will be situated in the central part of the city. There are many public schools in which boys and girls are both properly educated to the communication.

Soo how is densely populated. The people are good-natured and kind-hearted. They are peace-loving and have no spirit of adventure, but most of them are clever and are very intellectual. The chief occupations¹³ of our people are business¹⁴ and agriculture¹⁵. There are many large shops and banks in the city. Outside the city there are thousands of acres¹⁶ of productive fields. Most of the countrymen are farmers.

In the southern part of our city, there are many large and small factories. The leading industries are silk business, cotton factories, sugar and flour mills. The most skillful hand-workers are those who can do embroidery¹⁷. The fine native products are mostly transported to some other large ports or cities.

Apparently my native city has been greatly improved and developed recently. It becomes richer, more beautiful, and prosperous than ever before. I love my home, my native city, and my country forever.

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