

University Reader
大学生读书计划



孙犁小说选



Selected Stories by Sun Li

English-Chinese • Gems of Chinese Literature • Modern

英汉对照 • 中国文学宝库 • 现代文学系列

孙犁 著
Sun Li

中国文学出版社
Chinese Literature Press

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大学生读书计划

——中国文学宝库出版呼吁

在即将开机印刷这第一批 50 本名为中国文学宝库的英汉对照读本时,我们的心情竟然忧多于喜。因为我们只能以保守的 5000 册印数,去面对全国 400 万在校大学生。

虽然我们并非市场经济的局外者,若仅为印数(销售量)计,大可奋起而去生产诸如 TOFEL 应试指南,或者英语四六级模拟试题集一类的教辅图书,但我们还是决定宁可冒着债台高筑的风险,也有责任对大学生同胞发出一声亲切的呼唤:请亲近我们的中国文学。

身为向世界译介中国文学和向国内出版外语读物的,具有双重责任的出版社,我们得知目前大学生往往仅注重外语的学习而偏废了母语的提高,以及忽视了中国文学的阅读,放弃了人文知识的训练。有统计表明,某理工院校 57% 的同学不曾读过《红楼梦》等四大名著,以致校园内外流行着“样子像研究生,说话像大学生,作文像中学生,写字像小学生”的幽默。还有一副这样的对联,说大学生的文章是“无错不成文,病句错句破残句,句句不堪入目;有误方为篇,别字错字自造字,字字触目惊心”,横批“斯文扫地”。作为未来社会中坚和整个社会发展关键力量的大学生,这种“文弃”现象的流行,势必导致一场人文精神危机的爆发。对照以科学与人文精神追求为主题的五四新文化运动,八十年的历程告诉我们,以上提醒绝非危言耸听。

我们已经迈入知识经济时代,在追求科学知识的同时,创新精神已成为关键;而创新的源泉其实有赖于多学科多领域知识的交融,依靠的是新型的复合型人才,所以,文学对于新一代

的大学生来说绝非装点,而是沟通自然科学与人文科学的桥梁,使我们在汲取知识的同时更能获得智慧,于创造物质的同时还进一步丰富和完善着精神;无怪乎爱因斯坦认为自己受影响最大的竟是陀思妥耶夫斯基。由此证明,一个真正的科学家应该拥有丰富的文学和文化知识以及完整的人格。十年前,七十五位诺贝尔奖得主聚会巴黎,当时他们所发表的宣言开篇就是,“如果人类要在 21 世纪生存下去,必须回首 2500 年去吸收孔子的智慧。”确实,十年的时间让我们有目共睹,现代经济科技的飞速发展何尝不是一柄双刃的剑?只有文化的力量才能抵消随之而来的负面后果。可见,知识的获取与技能的训练对于大学生来说固然重要,但文化与修养却尤需关切。正因为大学生代表着社会先知先觉的知识力量,置身当前的文化现实,就应有一分责任感与使命感,力求对知识技能以外许多带有根本性质的精神追求形成明确的意识,从而具备一种对生命意义进行探索与追问的精神,一种以人文精神为背景的生存勇气和人格力量。那么,能够引导我们探索前行的一盏明灯,不就是闪烁着理想光芒的不朽的文学名著吗?

一个人乃至一个民族,从其对文学的亲疏态度,可以衡量出其文化素质的程度。文学应是从人类文化中升华出的理想的结晶,她“使人的心灵变得高尚,使人的勇气、荣誉感、希望、尊严、同情心、怜悯心和牺牲精神复活起来”(威廉·福克纳);无疑,只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

“越是民族的,就越是世界的”,中国文学属于中国,也属于世界。和平是人类的共同愿望,交流与共享则是新世纪的潮流。

中国当代大学生的血液里流动着数千年的文化积淀,没有理由在让世界了解中国大学生聪明才智的同时,却无缘分享我们的骄傲——中国大学生不但能够读懂英语的莎士比亚,而且能让世界感动于中国文学的伟大。

这是我们作为出版者的理想。我们原有一个世纪礼物的构想,是同大学生一起做一个“读书计划”。这一次将中国文学的最新荟萃配设高水平的英语译文,是其中推荐给新世纪大学生的第一批读物。盼望着您——我们无数知音中的 5000 名先来者,给我们鼓励,也给我们意见和批评。

编者

一九九九年五月三十日

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只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

Lotus Creek

It was a summer night in the year 1940. The moon had risen and the little courtyard was delightfully fresh and clean. The rushes split during the day were damp and supple, just waiting to be woven into mats. A woman was sitting in the yard plaiting the long soft rushes with nimble fingers. The thin, fine strands leaped and twisted in her arms.

Baiyangdian lies in the middle of the province of Hebei and is known all over China for its reeds and rushes. I can't tell you the exact area grown with them nor the yearly output. All I know is that each year when the rush flowers blow in the breeze and the leaves turn yellow, the whole crop is cut and stacked in the squares round Baiyangdian like a Great Wall of reeds. The women plait mats in their threshing-fields or courtyards, vast quantities of silvery, snow-white mats. And in June, when the water in the creek is high, countless boats ship them away, until soon towns and villages in all parts of the country have these finely woven mats with their lovely designs.

"Baiyangdian mats are best," is quite an axiom.

The young woman in the yard was plaiting a mat, seated on the long stretch of it already accomplished where she seemed enthroned on virgin snow or on a fleecy cloud. From time to time she strained her eyes towards the creek, another world of silver white. Light,

荷花淀

——白洋淀纪事之一

月亮升起来，院子里凉爽得很，干净得很，白天破好的苇眉子潮润润的，正好编席。女人坐在小院当中，手指上缠绞着柔滑修长的苇眉子。苇眉子又薄又细，在她怀里跳跃着。

要问白洋淀有多少苇地？不知道。每年出多少苇子？不知道。只晓得，每年芦花飘飞苇叶黄的时候，全淀的芦苇收割，垛起垛来，在白洋淀周围的广场上，就成了一条苇子的长城。女人们，在场里院里编着席。编成了多少席？六月里，淀水涨满，有无数的船只，运输银白雪亮的席子出口，不久，各地的城市村庄，就全有了花纹又密，又精致的席子用了。大家争着买：

“好席子，白洋淀席！”

这女人编着席。不久在她的身子下面，就编成了一大片。她像坐在一片洁白的雪地上，也像坐在一片洁白的云彩上。她有时望望淀里，淀里也是一片银白世界。水面笼起一层薄

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translucent mist had risen over the water, and the breeze was laden with the scent of fresh lotus leaves.

The gate was still open — her husband wasn't home yet.

It was very late before her husband came home. He was twenty-five or twenty-six, a barefoot young fellow in a large straw hat, a spotless white shirt and black trousers rolled up over his knees. His name was Shuisheng and he was chief of the anti-Japanese guerrillas in Lesser Reed Village, as well as the leader of the Communist Party branch there. Today he had taken his men to the district town for a meeting. His wife looked up with a smile as he came in.

"What kept you so long today?"

She stood up to fetch him some food. Shuisheng sat on the steps.

"Never mind about that — I've eaten."

She sat down on the mat again. Her husband's face was rather flushed and he seemed out of breath.

"Where are the others?" she asked.

"Still in town. How's Dad?"

"Asleep."

"And Xiaohua?"

"He was out half the day with his grandad shrimping and went to bed hours ago. Why haven't the others come back?"

Shuisheng gave a forced laugh.

"What's wrong with you?"

"I'm joining the army tomorrow," he said softly.

His wife's hand twitched as if a reed had cut it, and she started

薄透明的雾，风吹过来，带着新鲜的荷叶荷花香。

但是大门还没关，丈夫还没回来。

很晚丈夫才回来了。这年轻人不过二十六岁，头戴一顶大草帽，上身穿一件洁白的小褂，黑单裤卷过了膝盖，光着脚。他叫水生，小苇庄的游击组长，党的负责人。今天领着游击组到区上开会去来。女人抬头笑着问：

“今天怎么回来的这么晚？”站起来要去端饭。水生坐在台阶上说：

“吃过饭了，你不要去拿。”

女人就又坐在席子上。她望着丈夫的脸，她看出他的脸有些红涨，说话也有些气喘。她问：

“他们几个哩？”

水生说：

“还在区上。爹哩？”

女人说：

“睡了。”

“小华哩？”

“和他爷爷去收了半天虾篓，早就睡了。他们几个为什么还不回来？”

水生笑了一下。女人看出他笑的不像平常。

“怎么了，你？”

水生水声说：

“明天我就到大部队上去了。”

女人的手指震动了一下，想是叫苇眉子划破了手，她把一个手指放在嘴里吮了一下。水

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sucking the finger.

"The district committee called this meeting today. Very soon now, they say, the Japanese devils are going to try to set up more bases. If they manage to get a base at Tongkou — which is only a few dozen *li* away — that will alter our position here completely. The meeting decided to form a district brigade to keep them out. I was the first to volunteer to go."

His wife lowered her head and muttered:

"Always a step ahead of the others, aren't you?"

"I'm chief of our village guerrillas and one of the cadres: of course I have to take the lead. The others volunteered too. They didn't dare come home, though, for fear their folk would try to hold them back. They chose me to come back and explain things for them to their families. Everyone felt you had more sense than most wives."

His wife digested this in silence.

"I won't try to stop you," she said presently. "But what about us?"

Shuisheng pointed to his father's room and told her to keep her voice down.

"You'll be taken care of, naturally. But our village is small and seven fellows are joining the army this time. That doesn't leave many young men at home. We can't look to others for everything: the main burden will fall on you. Dad's old and Xiaohua's too young to do much."

His wife felt a lump in her throat but held back the tears.

"So long as you know what we're up against, that's all."

生说：

“今天县委召集我们开会。假若敌人再在同口安上据点，那和端村就成了一条线，淀里的斗争形势就变了。会上决定成立一个地区队。我第一个举手报了名。”

女人低着头说：

“你总是很积极的。”

水生说：

“我是村里的游击组长，是干部，自然要站在头里，他们几个也报了名。他们不敢回来，怕家里的人拖尾巴。公推我代表，回来和家里人们说一说。他们全觉得你还开明一些。”

女人没有说话。过了一会，她才说：

“你走，我不拦你，家里怎么办？”

水生指着父亲的小房，叫她小声一些。说：

“家里，自然有别人照顾。可是咱的庄子小，这一次参军的就有七个。庄上青年人少了，也不能全靠别人，家里的事，你就多做些，爹老了，小华还不顶事。”

女人鼻子里有些酸，但她并没有哭。只说：

“你明白家里的难处就好了。”

水生想安慰她。因为要考虑准备的事情还

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Shuisheng wanted to comfort her but time was short. He still had many things to do before leaving.

"You shoulder the load while I'm away. When we've driven the Japs out and I come home, I'll make it up to you."

With this, Shuisheng set off for some neighbours' houses, promising to come back and explain matters to his father.

He didn't come back till cock-crow. His wife was still sitting like a statue in the yard, waiting.

"What instructions have you got for me?" she asked.

"Nothing really. Mind you go on making progress while I'm away. Work hard and learn to read and write."

"Uh-huh."

"Don't fall behind the others."

"Uh-huh. What else?"

"Don't let the Japanese devils or traitors take you alive. If you're caught, fight to the finish." This was the main thing he had to say, and his wife assented in tears.

When day broke she made a little bundle of a new cotton suit, a new towel, a new pair of cloth shoes. The other wives had similar bundles for Shuisheng to take. The whole family saw him off. His father, holding Xiaohua's hand, said:

"You're doing the right thing, Shuisheng, so I won't stop you. Go with an easy mind. I'll look after your wife and boy for you, don't worry."

The whole village, men and women, young and old, turned out to see him off. Shuisheng grinned at them all, stepped into a boat and rowed off.

太多,他只说了两句:

“千斤的担子你先担吧,打走了鬼子,我回来谢你。”

说罢,他就到别人家里去了,他说回来再和父亲谈。

鸡叫的时候,水生才回来。女人还是呆呆地坐在院子里等他,她说:

“你有什么话嘱咐我吧!”

“没有什么话了,我走了,你要不断进步,识字,生产。”

“嗯。”

“什么事也不要落在别人后面!”

“嗯,还有什么?”

“不要叫敌人汉奸捉活的。捉住了要和他拼命。”这才是那最重要的一句,女人流着眼泪答应了他。

第二天,女人给他打点好一个小小的包裹,里面包了一身新单衣,一条新毛巾,一双新鞋子。那几家也是这些东西,交水生带去。一家人送他出了门。父亲一手拉着小华,对他说:

“水生,你干的是光荣事情,我不拦你,你放心走吧。大人孩子我给你照顾,什么也不要惦记。”

全庄的男女老少也送他出来,水生对大家笑一笑,上船走了。

女人们到底有些藕断丝连。过了两天,四

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