

University Reader
大学生读书计划



阿城小说选



Selected Stories by A Cheng

English-Chinese · Gems of Chinese Literature · Contemporary

英汉对照 · 中国文学宝库 · 当代文学系列

阿城 著
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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。

The Chess Master

The station could not have been more chaotic. Thousands of people were all talking at once, and nobody was paying any attention to the temporary slogans mounted on scarlet cloth. They had probably been put up quite a few times already as the paper characters from which they were made were torn from being folded so often. The repeated playing of certain quotations that had been turned into songs over the loudspeakers made everyone feel even more frantic.

I had already seen several of my friends off to settle in the countryside, but now that it was my turn there was nobody to see me off. My parents were both dead and I was alone in the world, so I did not qualify for being allowed to stay in the city as an only son. My parents had collected some black marks while they were alive, and as soon as the movement began they had been overthrown and had died. As all the furniture in the flat carried the aluminium tags of public property it was all taken away, which was only right and proper. I had wandered around, as wild as a wolf, for over a year, but in the end I decided that I had to go. Where I was going the pay would be over twenty yuan a month, so I was keen to get there; I made a big effort to get the transfer and in the end it was approved. As the place I was going was very near a foreign country, which meant that the

棋 王

—

车站是乱得不能再乱，成千上万的人都在说话。谁也不去注意那条临时挂起来的大红布标语。这标语大约挂了不少次，字纸都折得有些坏。喇叭里放着一首又一首的语录歌儿，唱得大家心更慌。

我的几个朋友，都已被我送走插队，现在轮到我了，竟没有人来送。父母生前颇有些污点，运动一开始即被打翻死去。家具上都有机关的铝牌编号，于是统统收走，倒也名正言顺。我虽孤身一人，却算不得独子，不在留城政策之内。我野狼似的转悠一年多，终于还是决定要走。此去的地方按月有二十几元工资，我便很向往，争了要去，居然就批了。因为所去之地与别国相邻，斗争之中除了阶级，尚有国际，出身舜一

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struggles there were supposedly international as well as class ones, my dicey family background caused some worries to the organization people. Needless to say, I was delighted at having won enough of their confidence to be given this privilege. What was even more important was over twenty yuan a month, more than I could possibly get through by myself. The only fly in the ointment was having nobody to see me off, so I pushed my way into the carriage to find somewhere to sit down and let the thousands of people on the platform take their leave of each other.

The windows on the side of the carriage next to the platform were already crammed with young leavers from many different schools leaning outside, joking or crying. The windows on the other side faced south, so that the winter sunlight slanting in through them was shining coolly on the many bottoms on the northern side of the carriage. The luggage racks on both sides were alarmingly full. As I walked along, looking for my numbered seat, I noticed a thin and wiry student sitting by himself with his arms in his sleeves. He was gazing out of the window at an empty carriage on the southern side of the station.

As it happened, my place was in the same group of seats as him, facing but not directly opposite. I sat down and put my hands in my sleeves too. The student took a glance at me then his eyes suddenly lit up. "Would you like a game of chess?" he asked, giving me a start.

"I can't play," I replied with a quick gesture.

He looked at me with disbelief. "With long thin fingers like that you must be a chess player. I'm sure you can play. Come

些,组织上不太放心。我争得这个信任和权利,欢喜是不用说的,更重要的是,每月二十几元,一个人如何用得完?只是没人来送,就有些不耐烦,于是先钻进车厢,想找个地方坐下,任凭站台上千万人话别。

车厢里靠站台一面的窗子已经挤满各校的知青,都探出身去说笑哭泣。另一面的窗子朝南,冬日的阳光斜射进来,冷清清地照在北边儿众多的屁股上。两边儿行李架上塞满了东西。我走动着找我的座位号,却发现还有一个精瘦的学生孤坐着,手拢在袖管儿里,隔窗望着车站南边儿的空车皮。

我的座位恰与他在一个格儿里,是斜对面儿,于是就坐下了,也把手拢在袖里。那个学生瞄了我一下,眼里突然放出光来,问:“下棋吗?”倒吓了我一跳,急忙摆手说:“不会!”他不相信地看着我说:“这么细长的手指头,就是个捏棋子儿的,你肯定会。来一盘吧,我带着家伙呢。”

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on, let's have a game. I've got a set with me." As he spoke he sat up to take his satchel down from the hook by the window and started rummaging about in it.

"I only know the most basic moves," I replied. "Isn't there anyone here to see you off?"

By now he had his chess set out and had put it on the little table, which was too small for the plastic board. After a moment's thought he rearranged the board sideways on. "Doesn't matter. Play all the same. Come on, you go first. Would you like me to allow you a handicap?"

I burst out laughing. "Is there nobody seeing you off? How can we play chess in this chaos?"

"Why the hell should I need anyone to see me off?" he replied as he set the last piece in place. "I'm going where there's food to eat, so why all this crying and snivelling? Come on, you go first."

It all seemed very odd to me, but I still picked up one of my cannons and moved it to the centre line. Before I had the time to put it down he moved his knight, rapping the piece down on the board even faster than I could put mine down, so I deliberately moved my cannon past the centre line.

"And you tell me you don't know how to play!" he said, glaring at my chin. "That opening of taking your cannon one past the centre line I've only ever come across from a player in Zhengzhou, and he damn near beat me. Taking the cannon to the centre line is an old opening; it looks impressive and very safe too. Your move."

说着就抬身从窗钩上取下书包，往里掏着。我说：“我只会马走日，象走田。你没人送吗？”他已把棋盒拿出来，放在茶几上。塑料棋盘却搁不下，他想了想，就横摆了，说：“不碍事，一样下。来来来，你先走。”我笑起来，说：“你没人送吗？这么乱，下什么棋？”他一边码好最后一个棋子，一边说：“我他妈要谁送？去的是有饭吃的地方，闹得这么哭哭啼啼的。来，你先走。”我奇怪了，可还是拈起炮，往当头上一移。我的棋还没移到，他的马却“啪”的一声跳好，比我还快。我就故意将炮移过当头的地方停下。他很快地看了一眼我的下巴，说：“你还说不会？这炮二平六的开局，我在郑州遇见一个名手，就是这么走，险些输给他。炮二平五当头炮，是老开局，可有气势，而且是最稳的。嗯？你走。”

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I didn't know what move to make, so my hand hovered over the board. He surveyed the whole game without saying or showing anything then put his hands back in his sleeves.

At that very moment the carriage was thrown into chaos as a whole crowd of people pushed inside and waved through the windows to people outside. I stood up and looked out at the platform, where there was a seething, shouting mass of people. The train suddenly jolted, whereupon a groan went up from the crowd and there were sobs everywhere. I felt a shove in my back and looked round to see him shielding the paper board with his arm as he said, "That's no way to play. Get a move on." I hadn't any interest in playing chess, and was besides feeling rather miserable, so I took a tough line with him: "I'm stopping. This is no time for chess." He gave me a look of horror before he suddenly understood. His body relaxed again and he said no more.

The carriage calmed down again after the train had been going for a while, and when hot water was brought along everyone got out their mugs and asked for some. When my neighbour had filled his mug, he asked, "Whose chess set is that? Get it out of the way so we can put our mugs down." "Would you like a game?" the other asked pathetically. "I'm so bored I might just as well," the fellow who wanted to put his mug down replied. The chess player perked up and quickly set the pieces out. "What do you mean, setting the board sideways on like that? You can't see what's happening." "Make do," he replied. "When you watch a game you watch it sideways on. You can have first

我倒不知怎么走了，手在棋盘上游移着。他不声色地看着整个棋盘，又把手袖起来。

就在这时，车厢乱了起来。好多人拥进来，隔着玻璃往外招手。我就站起身，也隔着玻璃往北看月台上。站上的人都拥到车厢前，都在叫，乱成一片。车身忽地一动，人群“嗡”地一下，哭声四起。我的背被谁捅了一下，回头一看，他一手护着棋盘，说：“没你这么下棋的，走哇！”我实在没心思下棋，而且心里有些酸，就硬硬地说：“我不下了。这是什么时候！”他很惊愕地看着我，忽然像明白了，身子软下去，不再说话。

车开了一会儿，车厢开始平静下来。有水送过来，大家就掏出缸子要水。我旁边的人打了水，说：“谁的棋？收了放缸子。”他很可怜的样子，问：“下棋吗？”要放缸子的人说：“反正没意思，来一盘吧。”他就很高兴，连忙码好棋子。对手说：“这横着算怎么回事儿？没法儿看。”他搓着手说：“凑合了，平常看棋的时候，棋盘不等于是横着的？你先走。”对手很老练地拿起棋子

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