我的故事

The Story of My Life

(美) 凯勒 著



辽宁人民出版社



THE STORY OF MY LIFE by Helen Keller

Special Edition
With

Her Letters (1887-1901)

Supplementary Account of Her Education
Passages from the Reports and Letters of
her Teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan

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Helen Adams Keller

Helen Adams Keller (June 27, 1880-June 1, 1968) was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She was the first deafblind person to earn a bachelor of arts degree. The story of how Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, broke through the isolation imposed by a near complete lack of language, allowing the girl to blossom as she learned to communicate, has become widely known through the dramatic depictions of the play and film *The Miracle Worker*. Her birthplace in West Tuscumbia, Alabama is now a museum and sponsors an annual "Helen Keller Day". Her birthday on June 27 is commemorated as Helen Keller Day in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania and was authorized at the federal level by presidential proclamation by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, the 100th anniversary of her birth.

At age 22, Keller published her autobiography, *The Story of My Life* (1903), with help from Sullivan and Sullivan's husband, John Macy. It recounts the story of her life up to age 21 and was written during her time in college.

Is This Book for You?

黑暗中绽放的绚烂之花

——"最经典英语文库"第四辑之 《我的故事》导读

刘秀玉

在人类历史的长河中,流传着许多身残志坚的动人故事:贝多芬、爱迪生、霍金、司马迁、华罗庚、张海迪……这些传奇人物都有一个共性,那就是直面苦难,接受苦难,在苦难中书写生命的意志和人性的光辉。

美国著名女作家、教育家、慈善家和社会活动家海伦·凯勒便是这样一位身残志坚的传奇女性。海伦注定不是一个平凡的人,她一生取得的成就是无数正常人也不能企及的。在没有声音、没有光明的暗黑世界中,她用坚强、自信、博爱照亮内心,也照亮整个世界。

海伦·凯勒(1880-1968)的故乡在亚拉巴马州北部小镇塔斯喀姆比亚。一岁半时,海伦因患猩红热连续高烧,昏迷不醒。当她奇迹般地醒来时,家人难过地发现,海伦失去了视觉、听觉,也不会说话了。命运残忍地将海伦丢弃在一片黑暗和死寂中。在88年的漫长人生中,海伦有87年生活在无光、无声的世界里。

后来的故事几乎尽人皆知。1887年3月3日是海伦此为试读,需要完整PDF请访问:www.ertor

一生中非常重要的日子。这一天,安妮·沙利文老师来到海伦身边,为海伦带来了脱离黑暗世界的希望。经过刻苦学习,海伦开始识字、说话、写作,先后学会了英、法、德、拉丁和希腊五种语言。24岁时,她以优异的成绩从哈佛大学拉德克利夫女子学院毕业。此后,她从事写作,投身教育事业,建立慈善机构,毕生为残疾人谋福利。为了纪念她对残疾人事业做出的贡献,1959年,联合国发起"海伦·凯勒"运动。1964年,海伦获得美国公民最高荣誉"总统自由勋章"。1965年,她被美国《时代周刊》评选为"二十世纪美国十大英雄偶像"之一。

自传性作品《我的故事》出版时,海伦只有22岁。 本书是文学史上里程碑式的作品,讲述了海伦·凯勒克 服盲、聋、哑的身体残疾,最终获得精神独立的故事。 海伦的经历已经成为希望的象征,鼓舞着一代又一代青 少年。

当耳聪目明的我们面对知识的海洋心生厌倦时,想一想海伦·凯勒对知识的渴望和求知的艰辛吧: "水"(water)这样一个再简单不过的、充满生活质感的词,却给海伦带来巨大的认知障碍。当沙利文老师将她带到喷水池边,当海伦的小手感受到清凉的泉水时,沙利文老师在海伦手心写下"water"。这时海伦才知道水是怎样一种东西。求知的过程充满艰辛和挑战,"水"这个字唤醒了她的灵魂,知识带给她一生的光明、希望和快乐。

海伦·凯勒还是一位积极的社会主义者。她深切同情失聪、失明的儿童,认为贫困是造成此类悲剧的根源,而社会不平等又是贫困的罪魁祸首。海伦·凯勒后来参加了美国国家社会党和国际产业工人协会,致力于

社会改良运动。她到欧洲、亚洲各地发表演说,为残疾人筹集资金。二战期间,她还访问过多所医院,慰问伤残的战士。

海伦的成功也是教育史上的奇迹。麦格劳·希尔出版公司发行的一部教育片的结尾曾这样总结道:"海伦·凯勒和安妮·沙利文带给整个世界的礼物就是在断地告诫我们,周围的世界是多么奇妙,有那么多多人在教我们认识它;没有哪个人是不值得帮助他人发挥其真化的一个人对我们的最大益处就在于帮助他人发挥其真伦还会是现在的海伦吗?海伦和沙利文的故事生动诠释了师生关系的崇高与神圣,她们那种无私、忘我的彼此好入令人动容。是的,爱可以唤醒死亡谷中沉睡的花朵,并使其馥郁芬芳。

2015年,总部设在纽约的美国海伦·凯勒基金会迎来了她的100周年华诞。自1915年海伦亲自发起之日起,这个非营利性防盲组织秉承"把光明带给世界"的宗旨,帮助世界上不计其数的视力障碍人士恢复视力,重见光明。海伦·凯勒基金会中国项目早在2001年已经启动,救治了数以万计的视力残疾患者,培训了数千名基层医务工作者,推进了我国防盲事业发展。

作为21世纪的读者,我们该怎样面对海伦·凯勒 这样一位20世纪的世界级名人和她的经典故事?

我想,首先不要把海伦·凯勒抽象化、标签化。 实际上,海伦·凯勒从不曾远离。我们应该沉下心来, 聆听生命的坚忍与豁达,感悟缺憾铸就的极致与丰盈。 然后,身体力行,哪怕一点一滴,参与到海伦所从事过 的美好工作中,将她的精神衣钵传承下去。

也许, 这是我们向海伦·凯勒致敬的最好方式。

General Preface

Millions of Chinese are learning English to acquire knowledge and skills for communication in a world where English has become the primary language for international discourse. Yet not many learners have come to realize that the command of the English language also enables them to have an easy access to the world literary classics such as Shakespeare's plays, Shelley's poems, mark Twain's novels and Nietzsche's works which are an important part of liberal-arts education. The most important goals of universities are not vocational, that is, not merely the giving of knowledge and the training of skills.

In a broad sense, education aims at broadening young people's mental horizon, cultivating virtues and shaping their character. Lincoln, Mao Zedong and many other great leaders and personages of distinction declared how they drew immense inspiration and strength from literary works. As a matter of fact, many of them had aspired to become writers in their young age. Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) is said to take along with him two things, waking or sleeping: a book and a dagger, and the book is Iliad, a literary classic, by Homer. He would put these two much treasured things under his pillow when he went to bed.

Today, we face an unprecedented complex and changing world. To cope with this rapid changing world requires not only communication skills, but also adequate knowledge of cultures other than our own home culture. Among the most important developments in present-day global culture is the ever increasing cultural exchanges and understanding between different nations and peoples. And one of the best ways to know foreign cultures is to read their literary works, particularly their literary classics, the soul of a country's culture. They also give you the best language and the feeling of sublimity.

Liaoning People's Publishing House is to be congratulated for its foresight and courage in making a new series of world literary classics available to the reading public. It is hoped that people with an adequate command of the English language will read them, like them and keep them as their lifetime companions.

I am convinced that the series will make an important contribution to the literary education of the young people in china. At a time when the whole country is emphasizing "spiritual civilization", it is certainly a very timely venture to put out the series of literary classics for literary and cultural education.

Zhang Zhongzai Professor Beijing Foreign Studies University July, 2013 Beijing

总序

经典名著的语言无疑是最凝练、最优美、最有审美价值的。雪莱的那句"如冬已来临,春天还会远吗?"让多少陷于绝望的人重新燃起希望之火,鼓起勇气,迎接严冬过后的春天。徐志摩一句"悄悄的我走了,正如我悄悄的来;我挥一挥衣袖,不带走一片云彩"又让多少人陶醉。尼采的那句"上帝死了",又给多少人以振聋发聩的启迪作用。

读经典名著,尤其阅读原汁原味作品,可以怡情养性,增长知识,加添才干,丰富情感,开阔视野。所谓"经典",其实就是作者所属的那个民族的文化积淀,是那个民族的灵魂缩影。英国戏剧泰斗莎士比亚的《哈姆雷特》和《麦克白》等、"意大利语言之父"的但丁的《神曲》之《地狱篇》《炼狱篇》及《天堂篇》、爱尔兰世界一流作家詹姆斯·乔伊斯的《尤利西斯》及《一个艺术家的肖像》等、美国风趣而笔法是西斯》及《一个艺术家的肖像》等、美国风趣而笔法是西斯》及《一个艺术家的肖像》等、美国风趣而笔法是一次的著名小说家马克·吐温的《哈克历险记》以及《斯特拉如是说》及《快乐的科学》等等,都为塑造自民族的文化积淀,做出了永恒的贡献,也同时向世界展示了他们所属的民族的优美剪影。

很多著名领袖如林肯、毛泽东等伟大人物,也都曾从经典名著中汲取力量,甚至获得治国理念。耶鲁大学教授查尔斯·希尔曾在题为《经典与治国理念》的文章,阐述了读书与治国之间的绝妙关系。他这样写道: "在几乎所有经典名著中,都可以找到让人叹为观止、深藏其中的治国艺术原则。"

经典名著,不仅仅有治国理念,更具提升读者审美情趣的功能。世界上不同时代、不同地域的优秀经典作品,都存在一个共同属性:歌颂赞美人间的真善美,揭露抨击世间的假恶丑。

读欧美自但丁以来的经典名著,你会看到,西方 无论是在漫长的黑暗时期,抑或进入现代进程时期,总 有经典作品问世,对世间的负面,进行冷峻的批判。与 此同时,也有更多的大家作品问世,热情讴歌人间的真 诚与善良,使读者不由自主地沉浸于经典作品的审美情 感之中。

英语经典名著,显然是除了汉语经典名著以外,人类整个进程中至关重要的文化遗产的一部分。从历史上看,英语是全世界经典阅读作品中,使用得最广泛的国际性语言。这一事实,没有产生根本性变化。本世纪相当长一段时间,这一事实也似乎不会发生任何变化。而要更深入地了解并切身感受英语经典名著的风采,阅读原汁原味的英语经典作品的过程,显然是必不可少的。

辽宁人民出版社及时并隆重推出"最经典英语文 库"系列丛书,是具有远见与卓识的出版行为。我相信,这套既可供阅读,同时也具收藏价值的英语原版经

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典作品系列丛书,在帮助人们了解什么才是经典作品的 同时,也一定会成为广大英语爱好者、大中学生以及学 生家长们挚爱的"最经典英语文库"。

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I. THE STORY OF MY LIFE