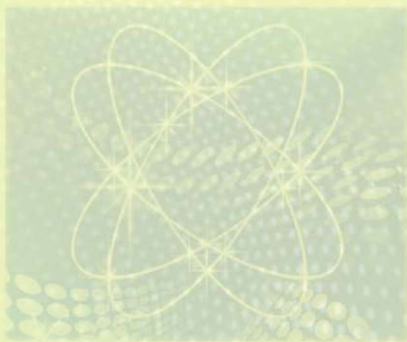


马丁·伊登

Martin Eden by Jack London

(美) 杰克·伦敦著



辽宁人民出版社



E CLASSIC • A BEDSIDE CLASSIC • A BEDSIDE CLASSIC • A BEDSIDE CLASSIC • A BEDSIDE CLASSIC •

MARTIN EDEN

by Jack London



Liaoning People's Publishing House, China

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Jack London

Jack London (12 January 1876-22 November 22, 1916) was an American author, journalist, and social activist. He was a pioneer in the then-burgeoning world of commercial magazine fiction and was one of the first fiction writers to obtain worldwide celebrity and a large fortune from his fiction alone. He is best remembered as the author of *The Call of the Wild and White Fang*, both set in the Klondike Gold Rush, as well as the short stories "To Build a Fire", "An Odyssey of the North", and "Love of Life". He also wrote of the South Pacific in such stories as "The Pearls of Parlay" and "The Heathen", and of the San Francisco Bay area in *The Sea Wolf*.

Martin Eden is a 1909 novel about a young proletarian autodidact struggling to become a writer. It was first serialized in the *Pacific Monthly* magazine from September 1908 to September 1909 and published in book form by Macmillan in September 1909.

Eden represents writers' frustration with publishers by speculating that when he mails off a manuscript, a "cunning arrangement of cogs" immediately puts it in a new envelope and returns it automatically with a rejection slip. The central theme of Eden's developing artistic sensibilities places the novel in the tradition of the *Künstlerroman*, in which is narrated the formation and development of an artist.

Is This Book for You?

学会在阅读中辩证地思考

——“最经典英语文库”第五辑之
《马丁·伊登》导读

王维强

早在2000多年以前，孔子就说过如果只学习、不善于思考就会迷惘。孟子也曾经说过，“尽信书，则不如无书。”意思是说，读书不能完全相信书里面说的内容，如果完全相信，还不如没有书。这句话里蕴含着朴素的辩证法思想。

书，其实也是一种理念。阅读杰克·伦敦的《马丁·伊登》，应该在阅读之余，更多地思考。

杰克·伦敦（1876—1916）出身于一个极为贫困的家庭。为了谋生，8岁就开始在街上卖报纸，十几岁就做了童工。后来，为了改变命运，他一边拼命干活，一边以惊人的毅力看书、写作。经历了无数次的退稿，他仍然顽强地坚持。终于在1899年，他的第一部小说集《狼的儿子》出版，奠定了他在美国文坛的地位。随后陆续出版了《荒野的呼唤》《海狼》《白牙》等作品。他的文学创作开始进入了黄金时期。可是到了1910年，他开始走下坡路，追求物质享受，挥金如土，甚至为了金钱去赶制质量粗糙的作品。后来在精神

忧郁和疾病、债务的缠绕中，服用了过量的吗啡死亡，终年仅40岁。

作为杰克·伦敦最重要的作品，《马丁·伊登》一直以来被认为是作者的半自传体小说。小说描写了年轻的水手马丁通过写作成功摆脱了贫穷，变得富有之后精神找不到归宿，最终投海自尽的故事。

按照本文开头的观点，笔者认为，在阅读本篇作品时，要在以下三个方面着力思辨小说的故事和隐含的思想。

第一，是要充分肯定积极努力、自强不息的奋斗精神。

人的出生由不得自己。当出生在贫困家庭里，为了生活和理想，就应当以自强不息作为人生的第一法则。马丁的境遇和作者本人极为相似，都是以惊人的毅力突破生活困境。这也是强调适者生存的自然主义思想和马丁超人哲学的体现，是值得赞许和褒扬的。因为每个人的进步，其间会创造巨大的社会价值，也是推动社会前进的动力。否则，如果走向另一个极端，不思进取、懒惰懈怠，则极可能是另一种卑微平淡的生活，继而造成精神的萎靡和麻木。

第二，是正确认识关于梦想和现实冲突时的思辨哲学，正确地认识“美国梦”，进而合理地调整自己的价值观。

“美国梦”是美国现实主义文学的重要主题之一。从广义上说，“美国梦”的实质，是指向一个自由、平等、民主的理想国度。狭义上说，“美国梦”指的是个人通过主观努力获得成功，过体面舒适的日子。这实质上是一种自信的信念和进步的愿望。要实现这个梦想，曾经是无数美国青年不屈不挠、勤奋努力

的动力源泉，这是有着巨大的积极意义的。但是对于梦想的认识，不能是狭隘和偏激的。美国建国之初通过志向和梦想获取名利和财富直至成功的“美国梦”，和工业革命之后极端物质主义的出现，与不顾公平正义畸形地攫取物质财富的“美国梦”是大相径庭的。就像作者和马丁的感受一样，生活缺乏信心，梦想便枯萎了。但是，社会的进步和人的思想进步一样，是螺旋式上升和前进的，单一地局限于资产阶级虚伪性、欺骗性和人与人之间存在的庸俗关系里，那么，社会对人的精神的毒害和腐蚀的结果，就是不可避免地产生精神毁灭的悲剧。这对我们清醒地认识当今社会极具现实意义。

第三，是充分认识到悲剧的成因并尽力避免的思维方式，如何学会在逆境和顺境都能健康快乐地生活。

哀莫大于心死。作者和马丁的悲剧，都是来源于精神追求的毁灭和死亡。社会阶级的分化是其中的一个重要原因。马丁和露丝的爱情其实是门不当、户不对的阶级鸿沟。即使后来马丁功成名就，中产阶层接纳的，只是他的金钱和名誉，而不是他本人。对于马丁本人而言，由于缺乏全面、客观、本质、动态的思辨问题能力，从而形成了悲剧的结局。他对社会发展和进步过程中形成的阶层现状，缺乏全面客观的认识，对当时美国社会的虚伪欺诈本性，缺乏本质的认识，对后来的美国社会可以通过体制和制度的健全逐渐进步，缺乏动态的认识。逆境的时候能够不屈不挠奋斗，顺境的时候则更应清醒地看待物欲横流和唯利是图的现状，对社会的阴暗和进步辩证地看待，学会认知和包容，才是正确的认识观。写过《热爱生命》的伟大作家，不应该对上流社会和出身于下阶层的兄弟们，都只看到其弱点，最后弄到自己连归属的地方都没有了，更不应该不热爱自己的

生命，年仅40岁就被物质世界吞噬。尊重生命，承担人生责任，保持积极的、乐观向上的心态和态度，才是生活的真谛。

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、美国风趣而笔法超一流的著名小说家马克·吐温的《哈克历险记》以及《汤姆索亚历险记》等，德国著名哲学家尼采的《查拉图斯特拉如是说》及《快乐的科学》等等，都为塑造自己民族的文化积淀，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秀剪影。

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

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的挚爱的“最经典英语文库”。

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