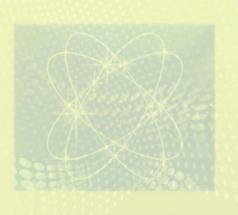
月亮与六便士

The Moon and Sixpence.

(英) W. 毛姆 著



辽宁人民出版社



THE MOON AND SIXPENCE

by W. Somerset Maugham



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William Somerset Maugham

William Somerset Maugham (25 January 1874-16 December 1965) was a British playwright, novelist and short story writer. He was among the most popular writers of his era and reputedly the highest paid author during the 1930s.

After losing both his parents by the age of 10, Maugham was raised by a paternal uncle who was emotionally cold. Not wanting to become a lawyer like other men in his family, Maugham eventually trained and qualified as a doctor. The first run of his first novel, Liza of Lambeth (1897), sold out so rapidly that Maugham gave up medicine to write full-time.

During the First World War, he served with the Red Cross and in the ambulance corps, before being recruited in 1916 into the British Secret Intelligence Service, for which he worked in Switzerland and Russia before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. During and after the war, he traveled in India and Southeast Asia; all of these experiences were reflected in later short stories and novels.

Is This Book for You?

毛姆引领我们走向一个神奇的心灵

——"最经典英语文库"第六辑之 《月亮与六便士》导读

李修利

W.毛姆(1874—1965)是19世纪的"七〇后"。他以剧作家、小说家而闻名于世。而其小说受欢迎程度,可以从出版商支付的版税里窥视得出来。他是20世纪30年代版税最高获得者。他的前半生,四处奔波。他参加过第一次世界大战,又在英国特工部门工作过若干年;目睹俄国十月革命给世界带来的巨大改变。他年轻时还学过医学,因此花过大量时间研究医药对人体的作用。作为一个欧洲人,他对印度和东南亚地区却有着独特的兴趣。他还亲自游历这些地方,并在后来的小说创作中,掺加了这些受读者欢迎的元素。

由于曾是学医的,所以,毛姆感觉自己可以通过 当医生的方式,接触到下层民众,并了解他们的真正生 活。他说,正是由于这一职业,使他有机会看到人们在 生死边缘的徘徊,在痛苦深渊中沉沦。并因此深深地懂 得,所谓"生命的希望"意味着什么。

毛姆是个很懂得读者需要什么作品的作家。他的作品最大的一个特点就是句式简单,不冗长,用词洗

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练,不拖泥带水。他曾被列入最受读者喜爱的作家和诗人行列。在那个行列里,有不少是我们所熟知的名字,如E.海明威、E.E.卡明斯。

毛姆最了不起的作品,已经被"最经典英语文库"第一辑所收入:《人性的枷锁》。写作这本书时,他马上就到40岁,用中国的古话说,就是到了"不惑之年"。《人性的枷锁》发表后,却遭到很多文学评论家的抨击。但是,是真金就不怕火炼。十分有影响力的美国大作家德莱塞先生(其《嘉莉妹妹》已经被收入"最经典英语文库"第一辑)力排众议,坚持认为,《人性的枷锁》是部好作品,甚至将其与贝多芬的某部交响曲作了比较。从此,这一作品就一直不断地被再版起来。

1919年,毛姆45岁时,发表了这部《月亮与六便士》。小说故事情节相对比较简单:某进入中年的英国券商,忽然决定抛妻弃子,跟随内心长久以来积压着的念头,立志要成为一个艺术家。这个故事的源头来自画家高更的生平故事。

这种行为并不为世俗社会所认可。本来作为一个 券商,手里有大把大把的钞票可以挥霍过活,为什么非 要当什么艺术家?为什么最后连生存都变成一个问题? 结果,这位想成为艺术家的券商后来连个住处都, 组,身体也患上了疾病,混到了没有钱买食物果腹, 不会懂。这位艺术家不仅没有被这种境地。也许, 无关髓。这位艺术家不仅没有被这种境地。所不会懂。这位艺术家不仅没有被这种境地。所不完, 加坚强地活了下去。而且,不顾身体上的疾病带来的创作 之中。在太平洋的一个叫作塔西提的的"杰作"。但此 了让人看一眼就会产生荡气回肠感觉的"杰作"。但 时,他已经溘然长逝。

那么,为什么叫"月亮与六便士"?其实,用毛姆自己的话说,这个书名的意义并没有在书里得到应有的展示,而是出自某评论家在评论上述《人性的枷锁》时所写的某句话。原话如下:《人性的枷锁》里的主人公菲利普·凯利(Philip Carey)被形容为一个太过执着找寻月亮的家伙,以至于他从来没发现过脚底下就有一块六便士。毛姆后来这样解释道:"假如你低头在地上不住地要找寻一块六便士硬币,头也不抬起来一下,那么,你就会丢掉月亮。"

作者在表述上感觉很神秘,其实,用中国老话说,大概就是塞翁失马的意思吧。

毛姆的书影响力很大。很多后来名噪一时的作家,都或多或少受到他的影响。比如英国著名女作家阿加西·克里斯蒂,比如美国恐怖小说作家史蒂芬·金,比如写出《在路上》的美国"垮掉的一代"作家杰克·克鲁亚克。

"最经典英语文库"在收入毛姆的《人性的枷锁》之后,再次将目光聚焦到毛姆身上,将其这部十分精美的小说《月亮与六便士》收录进来并原文原样出版,这是一件了不起的事情。中国读者可以在阅读毛姆作品的同时,感受伟大作家使用英语语言所显示出来的张力的魅力。

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 辦》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《扬 姆索亚历险记》等,德国著名哲学家尼采的《查拉自己民 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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CONTENTS

CH	AP	TEI	R	1	1	1

CHAPTER 2/7

CHAPTER 3 / 11

CHAPTER 4 / 14

CHAPTER 5 / 18

CHAPTER 6 / 21

CHAPTER 7/24

CHAPTER 8 / 26

CHAPTER 9/33

CHAPTER 10 / 36

CHAPTER 11 / 42

CHAPTER 12 / 47

CHAPTER 13 / 55

CHAPTER 14/58

CHAPTER 15 / 62

CHAPTER 16 / 69

CHAPTER 17 / 71

CHAPTER 18 / 73

CHAPTER 19 / 76

CHAPTER 20 / 83

CHAPTER 21 / 87

CHAPTER 22 / 94

CHAPTER 23 / 97

CHAPTER 24 / 101

CHAPTER 25 / 106

CHAPTER 26 / 111

CHAPTER 27 / 116

CHAPTER 28 / 118

CHAPTER 29 / 125

CHAPTER 30 / 129

CHAPTER 31 / 133

CHAPTER 32 / 137

CHAPTER 33 / 140

CHAPTER 34 / 143

CHAPTER 35 / 147

CHAPTER 36 / 150

CHAPTER 37 / 152

CHAPTER 38 / 154

CHAPTER 39 / 158

CHAPTER 40 / 165

CHAPTER 41 / 168

CHAPTER 42 / 176

CHAPTER 43 / 182

CHAPTER 44 / 188

CHAPTER 45 / 190

CHAPTER 46 / 193

CHAPTER 47 / 198

CHAPTER 48 / 208

CHAPTER 49 / 212

CHAPTER 50 / 216

CHAPTER 51 / 221

CHAPTER 52 / 226

CHAPTER 53 / 228

CHAPTER 54 / 233

CHAPTER 55 / 237

CHAPTER 56 / 246

CHAPTER 57 / 249

CHAPTER 58 / 255

CHAPTER 1

confess that when first I made acquaintance with Charles Strickland I never for a moment discerned that there was in him anything out of the ordinary. Yet now few will be found to deny his greatness. I do not speak of that greatness which is achieved by the fortunate politician or the successful soldier; that is a quality which belongs to the place he occupies rather than to the man; and a change of circumstances reduces it to very discreet proportions. The Prime Minister out of office is seen, too often, to have been but a pompous rhetorician, and the General without an army is but the tame hero of a market town. The greatness of Charles Strickland was authentic. It may be that you do not like his art, but at all events you can hardly refuse it the tribute of your interest. He disturbs and arrests. The time has passed when he was an object of ridicule, and it is no longer a mark of eccentricity to defend or of perversity to extol him. His faults are accepted as the necessary complement to his merits. It is still possible to discuss his place in art, and the adulation of his admirers is perhaps no less capricious than the disparagement of his detractors; but one thing can never be doubtful, and that is that he had genius. To my mind the most interesting thing in art is the personality of the artist; and if that is singular, I am willing to excuse a thousand faults. I suppose Velasquez was a better painter than El Greco, but custom stales one's admiration for him: the Cretan,

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