

英 華 對 照

史記選

司 馬 遷

〔下 冊〕

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Preface

The *Records of the Historian*, written two thousand years ago by Szuma Chien of the Han Dynasty, is the greatest historical work China has produced. Many parts of it are fine literature. Thanks to Szuma Chien's rich experience of life, his enlightened approach to history and his brilliance as a man of letters, he was able to make a discriminating selection of material and to write a new form of history. His monumental work provides a realistic picture of many different historical figures and aspects of Han society, in addition to much information about earlier times. The excellent organization of this work, and its method of presenting history from various angles, made it a model for later historians from the Han to the Ching Dynasties. In fact, this became the accepted way of recording official history. The rich contents of the *Records*, its remarkable character sketches and its vast panoramic view of complex social life induced later prose writers to imitate its style. In this way it has had a profound influence on Chinese literature.

Szuma Chien was born in 145 B.C. in Hsiayang County, Fengyi, in what is now the province of Shensi. When he was a child of about six his father, Szuma Tan, was appointed the grand historian and took his son with him to the capital Changan (present-day Sian). Szuma Chien began his studies there and by the time he was ten was able to read the classics. After he was twenty he travelled widely and, on his return to the capital, was made a palace attendant. This post afforded him further opportunities for travel, and he went on government missions, accompanying the emperor on his journeys, or touring

the country collecting material for his records. Indeed, he travelled so widely that there were few parts of the country he did not visit. He became especially familiar with the lower reaches of the Huai and Yangtse Rivers. This enabled him to make a close study of social conditions in those parts of China most thickly populated and richest in tradition, thus laying the foundation for the writing of the *Records*.

His father Szuma Tan died in 110 B.C., and three years later Szuma Chien, who was then thirty-eight, succeeded his father as grand historian and began to collect materials for his history. He edited and studied the historical documents in the imperial library, consulted many people, and verified facts, supplementing them by his own investigations. In 104 B.C., when he was forty-two, his preparations were complete and he started to write his history in a way which had never been attempted before.

Five years later when he was forty-seven, he offended the emperor by defending General Li Ling who had been defeated in battle and had surrendered to the Huns. For this he was punished by imprisonment and castration. Despite this cruel indignity, he continued his writing in gaol. In 96 B.C. he was pardoned and appointed palace secretary, a post slightly higher than that of grand historian but one usually held by eunuchs. Humiliated and distressed, he nevertheless went on writing the history and completed his work in 91 B.C. when he was fifty-five.

The *Records of the Historian* is divided into: Twelve Basic Annals, Ten Tables, Eight Treatises, Thirty Hereditary Houses and Seventy Lives. It contains one hundred and thirty sections in all, and more than half a million words. Apart from certain minor additions and changes he made later, he finished writing it when he was fifty-six, and we have no reliable information about his closing years. The date of his death is still uncertain.

There had been a great deal of historical writing in China before the time of Szuma Chien. Some of these works are lost, but those that remain include such chronicles as the *Spring*

and Autumn Annals, Anecdotes of the States, Records of the Warring States, political documents like those preserved in the *Shu Ching (Book of Documents)*, and critical accounts of different schools of thought in some of the writings of such philosophers as Chuang Tzu and Hsun Tzu. There was, however, no systematized and comprehensive history of China. Szuma Chien was able to assemble all the material needed for this great task, and to create a new form of historical writing.

The Twelve Basic Annals contain records of the twelve most important reigns from the legendary Yellow Emperor down to Szuma Chien's own sovereign. Important social changes were included here in chronological order. Historical events which could not be grouped under any definite year were incorporated in the Ten Tables, which clearly present the dynastic successions, the relations between different states, and the appointments of important officials. The Eight Treatises show the development of ceremony, music, law, calendar science, astronomy, sacrifice, water conservancy, and weights and measures. The Thirty Hereditary Houses deal with the most important nobles and princes during the Spring and Autumn Period, the time of the Warring States, and the Chin and early Han Dynasties. The Seventy Lives are biographies, though sometimes several men belonging to the same category are grouped together, even though they may have lived in different periods. There are also accounts of foreign countries and of the minority peoples within China, showing their relations with the Han people. These records usually end with the author's comments and give supplementary facts from Szuma Chien's personal investigations, or refute misconceptions. His comments are balanced and matter-of-fact, unlike those of some later historians who deliberately advanced startling conclusions.

Szuma Chien's outstanding ability is shown not only in his creation of a new historical form, but also in his attitude to his work. He travelled widely in search of the historical materials then available, made a selection from them to draft his basic records, and verified his facts by comparing different versions.

He made use of his travels to carry out investigations all over China, and often corrected mistakes he found in the records. In this way he was able to compile a remarkably accurate history. His aim was to tell the truth, and he fought all his life against falsehood and hypocrisy. The Twelve Basic Annals, for example, deal mainly with the rule of kings and emperors, but during the five years of fighting and confusion which followed the Chin Dynasty Hsiang Yu was the man who actually led the insurgent forces against Chin. Szuma Chien, therefore, put an account of Hsiang Yu between the records of the First Emperor of Chin and the First Emperor of Han. The First Emperor of Han was succeeded by his son, but because the actual authority was in the hands of the empress dowager, Szuma Chien wrote a record of Empress Dowager Lu. It was contrary to his principles to deny a defeated hero his place in history, or to consider women as less important than men. He made this penetrating comment: "Though the Empress Dowager ruled as a woman from within doors, the empire was at peace, there were few punishments and few criminals, the peasants tilled the land diligently, and there was an abundance of food and clothing."

Similarly, his strong sense of right and wrong made him write frankly about the ugly conduct of rulers. Thus he exposed Emperor Wu's superstition, greed and ambition, the obsequiousness and craftiness of certain ministers, their avarice, cruelty, scheming and backbiting, and the licentiousness of nobles like the Prince of Yen and Prince Li of Chi. He described these vices truthfully, and made his condemnation clear. This attitude offended the ruling class, and some of his contemporaries dubbed his work "a slanderous book". Szuma Chien's fighting spirit made him a champion of justice and a spokesman of the people. He did not discriminate against the different professions and trades of his day, but gave equally fair pictures of scholars, gallant citizens, peasants, merchants, physicians, fortune-tellers, astrologers and others. Those who deserved his sympathy could be sure of getting it, and he was not

sparing in his criticism either. His likes and dislikes were so strong that readers of later ages can almost see his characters in the flesh and share the historian's partisan view of them.

After this brief reference to Szuma Chien's achievements as a historian, his great influence on Chinese literature should be noted. His writing is highly realistic. He chooses typical characters and brings them to life, breaking with stultified literary conventions and using the colourful vernacular of his day. He boldly rewrites archaic passages from old books to make them more easily intelligible, interspersing them with colloquialisms and local figures of speech. He deliberately rejects the euphuistic parallelisms popular at the time in favour of a more natural prose, clear, concise and pleasing in style. All the people he describes are very much alive and have strong individuality. Their conversation is authentic and in character, subtly conveying the atmosphere of the occasion. In his choice of episode he shows himself a master of significant detail, one able to make history come alive.

The lively tales from the *Records of the Historian* have been favourites with Chinese in all walks of life throughout the centuries. Many Ming Dynasty prose romances, such as the *Romance of the Warring States* by Yu Shao-yu and the *Romance of the Early Han Dynasty* by Tseng Wei, took their material from Szuma Chien. Folk artists and story-tellers all over China are still performing or relating episodes from these romances. Chinese drama owes a great debt to Szuma Chien too, numerous Yuan and Ming dramas being based on stories from the *Records*. Eleven of the *Selected Yuan Plays* edited during the Ming Dynasty and the *Sixty Dramas* printed at the beginning of the Ching Dynasty owe their plot to Szuma Chien. The same is true of many popular Peking operas and local operas which are being performed today. The modern writer Kuo Mo-jo drew on Szuma Chien for his historical plays *Chu Yuan*, *The Tiger Tally* and *Cherry Blossom*. This testifies to the fact that, two thousand years after it was written, Szuma Chien's *Records of the Historian* still exercises a great influence on Chinese literature.

In this selection we include two of the Basic Annals, five of the Hereditary Houses, and twenty-four of the Lives rearranged in chronological order starting from the sixth century B.C., the time of Confucius, down to the first century B.C., Szuma Chien's own time.

前 言

史記是中國歷史上；最偉大的一部歷史記載和文學著作，也可以說這是不朽的文獻。史記是由二千多年以前，中國漢代司馬遷所撰作，他能夠寫下這部不朽巨著，實在包含了許多的因素，司馬遷出身官宦，其父司馬談；是漢武帝時的太史令，司馬遷十歲時，即跟隨父親到漢朝京城入學，廿歲時，受命為皇帝侍衛官；郎中，是時武帝喜好出巡，司馬遷亦隨駕遊歷大江南北，利用這些機會，他幾乎遍歷了當時漢朝疆域的每一個角落，他每到一地，就收集許多史料，攷證中國最初記載或傳說中的人物、史事，通過他本身的文學修養，把漢朝以往的片斷零碎史料，加以整理，同時亦把當時漢代初期的名人軼事，用公正謹嚴的態度記述下來，成為中國史學的典範，中國史學家研究的依據。

司馬遷生在紀元前一百四十五年，誕生於現今的陝西龍門，其父司馬談於紀元前一百一十年逝世，三年之後，司馬遷繼父職，為太史令，開始收集撰寫史記的有關資料。當時他任職祕府，做研究及編纂的工作，經常和研究史學的學者們討論漢代以前的史事，從許多次交談中，獲得許多珍貴的資料，加上他自己的攷證，終於在紀元前一百零四年，開始編寫這部空前的巨著。

紀元前九十九年，漢朝大將李陵，因征匈奴敗降，武帝大怒，禍及李氏家族，司馬遷在御前為李陵力辯，遭下獄並受腐刑，在獄中，司馬遷繼續撰著，紀元前九十六年獲赦，

旋復職中書省，紀元前九十一年，完成了史記。

史記全文約五十餘萬言，共分本紀十二，年表十，八書八，世家卅，列傳七十，合一百卅卷，司馬遷五十六歲時，再將史記重新整理，即為現今的史記。

漢代以前，中國即有許多歷史名著，部份已告散失，留傳下來的記載，如春秋、國語、戰國策等，政治文獻；如尚書等，各家思想；如儒、道、墨、法、莊、老等，這些史料雖然都很有價值，但都沒有像史記一般，將中國歷史作有系統的編列，亦不曾把各種社會形態，各階層人物，作廣泛的敘述，司馬遷獨具見解，創下史學上的新風格，尤具貢獻。

十二本紀是載述傳說中的黃帝，中間十二個朝代，直到漢代中葉。將社會重大變遷，依照年序編列下來。十卷年表是將史家無法明確的年代串連貫通，把當時君主世襲和各朝重要官職，作一比較，同時詳述相互間的關係。八卷八書是敘述禮儀、聲樂、律法、曆表、天文、祭祀、治水及度量衡等。卅世家中，陳說春秋、戰國、秦與漢初的諸侯王孫事跡。七十列傳將各朝代的類似人物，予以歸納，並把外邦異族與漢人發生關聯的史事，記述下來。司馬遷編述時，採取記述體方式，將歸集的資料，以自己的審慎觀察，加以抉擇，力求公正而真實。

司馬遷的才藝超羣，不僅僅是表現於創史學新風格，而且表現在對工作的嚴肅認真，編著之先，他先到中國各地廣泛遊歷，匯集史料，再將它們歸納、分類、選擇及評判，力

求尋出歷史的真象，他賦性耿直，罔顧權勢，尤其厭惡虛飾，以是在著作中坦率記載漢武帝的迷信，貪婪及野心，譴責當朝中諂媚、奸滑及附議唱和的宦臣，使為政者極度憤恨，因此當時有人稱此記載為「謗文」，而實在的，司馬遷道盡當時民間疾苦，成為庶民的言論喉舌。他不僅記述帝侯王孫事跡，而且把士、農、工、商、俠、醫、相、卜、諸業中的傑出人物，陳述後世，為當時史學記述之創舉，開後世史學記述方式之先河。

司馬遷筆鋒如刃，記載人物，尤其擅長用簡潔地語句，勾勒出人物的個性，使千百年後的讀者讀來，栩栩如生，他又一反當時文藝的風格，大胆採用地方性的俚語入文，審慎地反駁誇飾的詞藻，比當時流行的散文，更為流暢精鍊，他能享名千古，非屬無因。

在這本選集中，一共包含二卷本紀，五卷世家和廿四卷列傳，依照年代次序，從紀元前六世紀的孔子時代開始，直到紀元前一世紀司馬遷時期為止。編排的方式是採用漢英對照，同時亦把史記原文譯成語體文，對東南亞地區讀者，以及研究漢學的外國人士尤感方便，本書採取這種編排是希望讀者以各種方法，領畧內容的精義，如有遺誤，尚希指正。

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