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# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

by Charles Dickens



远大前程

[英] 查尔斯·狄更斯 著



Liaoning People's Publishing House, China

辽宁人民出版社



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## Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens (February 1812 - 9 June 1870) was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's most memorable fictional characters and is generally regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian period. During his life, his works enjoyed unprecedented fame, and by the twentieth century his literary genius was broadly acknowledged by critics and scholars. His novels and short stories continue to be widely popular.

His novels, most published in monthly or weekly instalments, pioneered the serial publication of narrative fiction, which became the dominant Victorian mode for novel publication. His most famous novels are *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *Bleak House* and *Great Expectations*.

Dickens was regarded as the literary colossus of his age. His 1843 novella, *A Christmas Carol*, is one of the most influential works ever written, and it remains popular and continues to inspire adaptations in every artistic genre. His creative genius has been praised by fellow writers—from Leo Tolstoy to G. K. Chesterton and George Orwell—for its realism, comedy, prose style, unique characterizations, and social criticism. On the other hand Oscar Wilde, Henry James and Virginia Woolf complained of a lack of psychological depth, loose writing, and a vein of saccharine sentimentalism.



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## Is this book for you?

### 远大前程灰飞烟灭，人性回归大势所趋

查尔斯·狄更斯（1812—1870），19世纪英国最伟大的批判现实主义作家之一。狄更斯是个多产小说家，作品多达几十部。他早期的小说气势宏伟、通俗流畅、幽默泼辣而又充满感伤情调，但其中对社会的揭露批判，一般只限于局部的制度或领域，如《雾都孤儿》、《尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝》、《老古玩店》、《马丁·朱述尔维特》、《圣诞欢歌》等。狄更斯的后期作品明显地反映出创作主题的不断深化、技艺方面的日趋成熟和多方面的综合探索。《远大前程》在探讨人生道路方面更有现实性和警世性，此部作品中作者早年的乐观态度明显减少。

狄更斯出生于英国维多利亚时期。其间，英国经历了第一次工业革命，整个社会发生了巨大变化：资本主义制度成为主导，资产阶级成为统治阶级，并全面控制了社会的各个领域。在工业化进程中，中产阶级的地位日益上升。赤裸裸的金钱关系，驱使社会各个阶层不惜一切代价去追求物质利益，拜金主义现象盛行。与此相反，过去相对纯真、朴素的社会关系，在不知不觉中淡出历史舞台。在这种状态下，金钱更能决定一个人的社会地位和婚姻前景，当然，金钱也带来诸多丑恶及不平等现象。随着人们的财富和社会地位的积累与提升，他们的道德观和价值观不免发生扭曲、腐化，原本的纯

真天性或消失殆尽，或受到极大挑战。

《远大前程》的主人公皮普是个孤儿，由姐姐抚养长大。皮普本打算学习铁匠手艺，跟善良的姐夫乔生活在一起。但一次偶遇，他深深地爱上了贵族郝薇香小姐的养女——美丽高傲的艾丝黛拉。为了俘获她的芳心，皮普下决心成为一名绅士，并跻身于上层社会。为了追求不切实际的“远大前程”，皮普颠覆了自己的人生观，从一个单纯善良的小孩，变成了高傲无情的势利小人。他辜负了乔的培养、教育和帮助，并不止一次背叛了他。后来皮普在经历了严酷的磨难后，才得知一切事实：他的资助者是一名他小时候冒险帮助过的流放犯；他深爱的艾丝黛拉，就是这个罪犯和另一个女杀人犯所生；他心目中的庇护人郝薇香小姐是个冷酷无情的报复狂——她收养艾丝黛拉的目的，是为了教唆她用美貌去折磨男人，对负心男人进行报复，以抚平心中积怨。而在整个过程中，自己仅是个报复对象的替身……直到此时，他才幡然醒悟。随着恩人被捕、艾丝黛拉另嫁他人，皮普的“远大前程”化为乌有。在追逐梦想以及梦幻破灭过程中，所有的经历让皮普渐渐清醒、成长、成熟，使他意识到，真正的远大前程，不在于财富和地位，而在于拥有一颗正直、善良的心灵和勤劳、智慧的双手。最后皮普重返乡村、重返自然。这次他失去的是虚荣，收获的却是心灵的升华和人性的回归。

狄更斯在小说中将道德层次进行了立体化处理，并巧妙地将其与整个故事发展糅合到一起。具体来说，狄更斯道德体系中最深层、最核心的部分，是“高雅、诚实、仁爱”，中间层次是“正直、勇敢、无私、懂事、自律、利他、温柔、厚道、忠诚、勤奋、感恩”

等，而表面的层次，则体现在人的教养、生活作风、处世态度中。在他的安排下，若违反上述准则便会受到惩罚，即在故事的情节中要受罪、遭殃，甚至死亡；而遵照这些准则为人处世的，都得到了作者的奖励，实现了好人好报的结局。

《远大前程》展示了狄更斯在文学创作中的极高造诣，他以现实主义的笔调和象征的写作手法赋予小说“真实的细节与诗意的气氛相结合，而且幽默、风趣与悲剧性的基本人生处境相结合，具体情节与深远的社会意义相结合”的艺术特色。有文学评论家曾高度赞扬《远大前程》，说它在“狄更斯所有作品中，结构和语言都堪称是最完美的”。在这部小说中，作家的潜意识得到流露和宣泄，使小说充满了自传色彩。在经历了生活的丑与恶的考验之后，狄更斯依然保持着对人性之美与善的向往，并对未来生活的幸福结局充满信心。

如果您是英文爱好者中的一员，希望您通过阅读英语原文，来欣赏这部作品，这无疑是一种无法替代的精神享受。

如果您是学生家长，建议您给上中学或大学的孩子准备一套“最经典英语文库”，放在书架上。它们是永远不会过时的精神食粮。

如果您是正在学习的大中学生，也建议您抽空读读这些经时间检验的人类精神食粮文库里最经典的精品。一时读不懂不要紧，先收藏起来，放进您的书架里，等您长大到某个时候，您会忽然发现，自己开始能读，而且读懂了作品的字里行间意义时，那种喜悦感，是无法言述的，也是无与伦比的。您可能也会因此对走过的人生，有更深刻的感悟与理解。

关于这套图书的装帧设计与性价比：完全按欧美

出版规则操作，从图书开本，到封面设计，从体例版式，到字体选取，但价钱却比欧美原版图书便宜三分之二，甚至更多。因此，从性价比看，它们也是最值得收藏的。

——马 爽

## 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

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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