

· 典藏版 ·

# 忏悔录

文思博要·英汉对照



The Confessions

【法】卢梭

编译：王 金 朱春发

追踪世界思想大师的人生之路  
记录思想史的珍贵文库  
品赏魅力永存的经典作品  
汇集最权威的文思信息

陕西人民出版社  
Shaanxi People's Publishing House



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talkersThe wise dog The two hermits  
giving and takingThe seven silver  
or The fox The wise king Ambition  
a new pleasureThe other languageThe  
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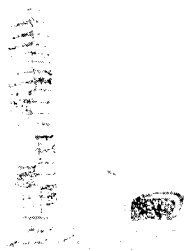
——编者的话

当我们离“粗茶半盏、藏书满架”的境界越来越远，当“采菊东篱下，悠然见南山”的自得永远定格成历史画面，当文化快餐、影视快餐成为生活的主流，你是不是也向往着那山高水远、风清云淡、从容品书的写意日子？

我们选编这套英汉对照丛书的初衷也正在于此。卢梭的《忏悔录》、培根的《论人生》、蒙田的《蒙田随笔》、梭罗的《瓦尔登湖》、纪伯伦的《沙与沫》、帕斯卡尔的《思想录》、华盛顿·欧文的《见闻札记》、乔治·吉辛的《四季随笔》、房龙的《人类的故事》、爱默生的《爱默生随笔选》这十种哲理散文，或浓墨重彩，或轻描淡写，无不饱含理性的思考，堪称世界名著中的经典之作，其中闪烁的智慧与美的光芒，足以跨越时空，打动一代又一代读者的心灵。

身处这个讲求速度和效率的世界，利益的驱动让人们无法忍受时间的考验，语言的学习人人都想找到速成的捷径。而在自然界的法则中，耐心潜伏的慢鱼可以吃掉莽撞的快鱼，一年长成的树木决不能做房屋的主梁，因此，积累变成永恒的主题。除少数天赋异禀的人外，我们并不相信某一种方法可以让人迅速地脱胎换骨。而读这些书，你可以悠着读，慢慢地读，细细地品，静静地想，体味中文与英文异曲同工的精致与流畅。悠着读的那种随心所欲，那种自然惬意，那种从容不迫，让你可以更深地思，更好地想。





我们愿这套书能给你的思绪插上翅膀，让它自由地翱翔，我们愿为你推开一扇门，打开一扇窗，让你看到另外一个世界的景象。

让·雅克·卢梭(Jean Jacques Rousseau, 1712—1778)法国启蒙思想家、哲学家、教育学家、文学家。在世界近代思想史上占有重要的席位。他的《论人类不平等的根源和基础》、《爱弥儿》、《忏悔录》、《社会契约论》等脍炙人口的著作，在哲学、文学、教育学、人类历史观等各个领域都产生了长久而深远的影响。尤其是《社会契约论》中的政治学说震撼了世界，为18世纪法国大革命奠定了坚实的思想基础，并在19世纪欧洲和世界各国的资产阶级革命中发挥了启蒙作用。《忏悔录》是卢梭晚年处于悲惨境地时的悲愤自省、呕心沥血之作。整个自传是在颠沛流离、四面受敌的逃亡生活中断断续续完成的。卢梭通过举世无双的自我忏悔，把他与众不同的人生经历、思想情感和行为举止都淋漓尽致地展现在世人眼前，并引导我们深入那一时代去认识、思考关于人和社会的许多奥秘和深层次问题。

卢梭从小酷爱书籍，那些历史和文学名著在他年幼的心灵里埋下了爱自由、爱共和的种子。后其父在一次诉讼中失败而被迫背井离乡，年幼的卢梭便开始了寄人篱下、辛酸耻辱的生活。他当过学徒、仆人、伙计、随从，像乞丐一样进过收容所，因生存所迫屈辱地接受改宗天主教，还做过种种难以启齿的错事，如偷窃、诬陷他人等等。在本书中他以十分诚恳、忠实的态度对这些错误做了坦白与忏悔。大家不禁要问：这么良好的家庭教育怎么会使他沦落到如此地步呢？这就得归罪于那污浊的社会环境。正是他所遭遇的不平等、不公平的待遇使他沾染了连自己都痛恨的恶习。卢梭把自己的缺点和过错赤裸裸地暴露出来，这种严酷无情的自我剖析同时导向了对那不平等的罪恶社会的谴责、控诉与严肃批判。

此书是作者晚年在种种迫害、污蔑之下所写的悲愤之作，当然以强烈的抗争和自我辩护为基调。他开篇就强调了这完全是真实、赤裸裸的自我揭示之作。他自信比那些所谓的正人君子要高尚而诚实得多。最后作者也以自己相当满意的诚实态度把自己一生的恶与善、丑陋与美丽、渺小与伟大都展示在世人面前，让世人去评论。很多读者为他这种敢于自我披露的精神和胆量所折服。狄德罗有一句名言：人是一种力量与软弱、光明与盲目、伟大与渺小的复合物，这并不是责难人，而是为人下定义。《忏悔录》其实记录的不仅是他一个人的过与失，而是每

一个人都具有的性格的两面性。《忏悔录》是一本为凡人创作的《忏悔录》——当你自负清高、自命不凡时，看看《忏悔录》，它会让你为自己的缺点和渺小而羞愧不已；当你自卑而无所适从时，看看《忏悔录》，它会让你挖掘出自己的“闪光”人性，从而为自己的优点和美德庆幸不已。

不可否认，卢梭在《忏悔录》中所描写和分析的内心世界已经是比较真实的了。然而，人们对世间万物都会有自身的看法，对卢梭这么一个有争议的人也难免会产生各种各样的看法。例如，有人就以批判的眼光提出质疑：卢梭是不是在假装诚实呢？他为一些小事，如小时候诬陷玛丽恩之事苦苦忏悔，那是因为他知道读者肯定会原谅他；而对有些事情，如抛弃所有孩子之事却轻描淡写，缺少真正的分析与自责，忏悔得还远远不够。在以人伦为中心的中国人看来，他的忏悔好多地方也不是很令人满意，比如他对性的问题和许多浪漫之事所流露的自我欣赏与辩解，在朋友关系上过于敏感，总是以有没有用处为评判标准等等。或许这与西方人以自由为中心的道德观有关。卢梭做到了像他自己所说的绝对真实了吗？这或许是仁者见仁、智者见智的问题，读者在阅读过程中可以不断地思考。

作为资产阶级革命的精神导师，他的思想与哲学当然不容忽视。他倡导个性自由与个性解放，反对宗教信条与封建道德法规的束缚，在《忏悔录》中宣扬以个人为中心、以个人兴趣爱好为出发点的人生态度，把自由、平等视为人的自然本性。因此这部自传同时也是一部个性解放的宣言书。这种资产阶级人道主义思想在当时即18世纪无疑有着非常革命的意义，它启迪着人们摧毁封建主义的意识形态，从而推动历史的前进。他所宣扬的自我意识和个性解放也成为了资产阶级文学特有的财产。当然，这种思想体系都是以一定的时间、地点、条件为转移的，它一方面表现了反封建反宗教的积极意义，同时也难免暴露出资产阶级意识形态的本质，有着浓厚的个人主义和感情放纵的味道。《忏悔录》所揭示的人和内心世界是属于18世纪的西方和法国的，阅读此书有助于我们更好地理解、吸收西方自由文化的长处和特点，同时结合我们自身文化作出比较，从而进一步认识自己、认识我们的社会。

## Book one

I am undertaking a task which is without precedent, whose accomplishment will have no imitator. I propose to set before my fellow-mortals a man in all the truth of nature; and this man shall be myself.

I have studied mankind and know my heart; I am not made like any one I have been acquainted with, perhaps like no one in existence; if not better, I at least claim originality, and whether Nature has acted rightly or wrongly in destroying the mold in which she cast me, can only be decided after I have been read.

I will present myself, whenever the last trumpet shall sound, before the Sovereign Judge with this book in my hand, and loudly proclaim, "Thus have I acted; these were my thoughts; such was I. Power Eternal! Assemble round your throne an innumerable throng of my fellow-mortals, let them listen to my confessions, and let each in his turn expose with equal sincerity the failings, the wanderings of his heart, and if he dare, aver, I was better than that man."

I was born at Geneva, in 1712, son of Isaac Rousseau and Susannah Bernard, citizens. My father's share of a moderate competency, which was divided among fifteen children, being very trivial, his business of a watchmaker (in which he had the reputation of great ingenuity) was his only dependence. My mother's circumstances were more affluent; she was daughter of a Mons. Bernard, minister, and possessed a considerable share of modesty and beauty. The affection they entertained for each other was almost as early as their existence. Still, my father found some difficulty in obtaining her hand.

Fortunately, my mother's brother, Gabriel Bernard, fell in love with one of my father's sisters; she had no objection to the match, but made the marriage of his sister with her brother an indispensable preliminary. Love soon removed every obstacle, and the two weddings were celebrated the same

## 第一章

我在从事一项前无古人、后无来者的艰巨工作。我要把一个人的真实面目赤裸裸地展现在世人面前。此人就是我。

只有我能这样做。我洞悉自己，也了解别人。我生来便有别于我所见到的任何一个人；我甚至敢担保自己与现在的任何人都不同。虽然谈不上比别人好，但我至少与众不同。大自然打碎了塑造我的模子，这究竟是对是错呢，大家只有读了此书后才可下结论。

不论末日审判的号角什么时候吹响，我都敢手拿此书站在至高无上的审判者面前大声宣布：“请看！这就是我所做过的，我所想过的，我当时就是那样的人。万能的上帝啊！请您把无数的众生叫到我跟前来！让他们听听我的忏悔，然后，让他们每个人也以同样的真诚在您的宝座前披露自己的内心，看看有谁敢对您说：我比那个人好！”

我于1712年生于日内瓦，父亲是公民伊萨克·卢梭，母亲是女公民苏萨娜·贝纳尔。祖上留下的一份薄产由十五个子女平分，父亲所得微乎其微。他只有靠当钟表匠来养家糊口。（我父亲在这一行里倒是个能工巧匠。）我母亲是贝纳尔牧师的女儿，家境比较富裕，而且她聪明美丽。他俩从小青梅竹马，不过我父亲还是煞费苦心才把她娶到手的。

幸运的是，我的舅舅嘉伯利·贝纳尔爱上了我一个姑母，可我姑母提出：只有他的姐姐肯嫁给她哥哥，她才同意嫁给他。结果，有情人终成眷属，同一天办了两桩喜事。这样，我



day: thus my uncle became the husband of my aunt, and their children were doubly my cousins. Before a year was expired, both had the happiness to become fathers, but were soon after obliged to submit to a separation.

My uncle Bernard, who was an engineer, went to serve in the empire and Hungary, under Prince Eugene, and distinguished himself both at the siege and battle of Belgrade. My father, after the birth of my only brother, set off, on recommendation, for Constantinople, and was appointed watchmaker to the Seraglio. During his absence, the beauty, wit, and accomplishments of my mother attracted a number of admirers. But my mother had a defense more powerful even than her virtue; she tenderly loved my father, and conjured him to return; his inclination seconding his request, he gave up every prospect of emolument, and hastened to Geneva. I was the unfortunate fruit of this return, being born ten months after, in a very weakly and infirm state; my birth cost my mother her life, and was the first of my misfortunes.

I am ignorant how my father bore his loss at that time, but I know he was inconsolable. In me he still thought he saw her, but could never forget that I had been the innocent cause of his misfortune. Whenever he embraced me, his sighs, the convulsive pressure of his arms, witnessed that a bitter regret mingled itself with his caresses. Forty years after this loss he expired in the arms of a second wife, but the name of the first still vibrated on his lips, still was her image engraved on his heart.

Such were the authors of my being: of all the gifts it had pleased Heaven to bestow on them, a feeling heart was the only one that descended to me; this had been the source of their felicity, it was the foundation of all my misfortunes.

I came into the world with so few signs of life, that they entertained but little hope of preserving me, with the seeds of a disorder that has gathered strength with years. I owed my preservation to one of my father's sisters, an amiable and virtuous girl, who took the tender care of me. Dear aunt! I freely forgive your having preserved my life, and only lament that it is not in my power to bestow on the decline of your days the tender solicitude and care you lavished on the first dawn of mine.

We suffer before we think; it is the common lot of humanity. I experienced more than my proportion of it. I have no knowledge of what passed prior to my fifth or sixth year; I recollect nothing of

的舅舅便也是我姑父，他们的孩子和我都是双重表兄弟了。一年后，两家各添了个孩子；后来因事两家便不得不分开了。

贝纳尔舅舅是一位工程师：他去效忠帝国了，在匈牙利欧仁亲王麾下供职。他后来在贝尔格莱德战役中功勋卓著。我父亲在我那唯一的哥哥出生之后，应聘去了君士坦丁堡当御用钟表师。父亲不在家期间，母亲的美丽、智慧和才华吸引了许多仰慕者。但我母亲忠贞不贰，不为人所惑，因为她深爱她的丈夫，催他赶紧回来。父亲就抛下一切回来了。我就是父亲归来的不幸之果。十个月后我这个体弱多病的孩子出世了。母亲因生我而付出了生命，我的出生也就是我无数不幸中的第一个不幸。

我不知道父亲是如何忍受这种丧偶的悲痛的，但我知道他的悲痛始终没有得到抚慰。他觉得在我身上重新看到了母亲，但他很清楚是我夺走了她的生命。每当他拥抱我的时候，我总能在他的叹息和那痉挛的紧紧拥抱中，感受到一种辛酸的遗憾夹杂在他的抚爱中。母亲去世四十年后，我父亲在我继母的怀抱里去世，但是嘴里却始终念叨着前妻的名字，心里深藏着前妻的音容笑貌。

这就是我的生身父母。在上苍赋予他们的种种品德中，唯一遗留给我的只是一颗多情的心。这颗多情的心是他们幸福的源泉，但却是我一生不幸的根源。

我生下来的时候气息奄奄，存活希望渺茫。我随身还带着一种病根，它随着年岁的增长而加重。我父亲有一个妹妹，她是个聪慧温柔的姑娘，经过她无微不至的悉心照料，我终于活了下来。亲爱的姑姑，我不怨您让我活下来，我只是很痛心，不能在您晚年时报答您在我出世时给予我的关怀与照顾。

我先有感觉后有思考，这是人类共同的命运。对此我比别人体会更深。我不知道五六岁以前的事，也不知道是怎样学会阅读的，我只记得我最初读过的书及其对我的影响：我就是

learning to read, I only remember what effect the first considerable exercise of it produced on my mind; and from that moment I date an uninterrupted knowledge of myself. Every night, after supper, we read some part of a small collection of romances which had been my mother's. We alternately read whole nights together, and could not bear to give over until at the conclusion of a volume. Sometimes, in a morning, on hearing the swallows at our window, my father, quite ashamed of this weakness, would cry, "Come, come, let us go to bed; I am more of a child than yourself." I soon acquired, by this dangerous custom, not only an extreme facility in reading and comprehending, but, for my age, a too intimate acquaintance with the passions.

My romance reading concluded with the summer of 1719. My mother's library being quite exhausted, we had recourse to that part of her father's which had devolved to us; here we happily found some valuable books, which was by no means extraordinary, having been selected by a minister that truly deserved that title, in whom learning (which was the rage of the times) was but a secondary commendation, his taste and good sense being most conspicuous. These interesting studies, seconded by the conversations they frequently occasioned with my father, produced that republican spirit and love of liberty, that haughty and invincible turn of mind, which rendered me impatient of restraint or servitude, and became the torment of my life, as I continually found myself in situations incompatible with these sentiments.

I had a brother seven years older than myself, who was brought up to my father's profession. The extraordinary affection they lavished on me might be the reason he was too much neglected; this certainly was a fault which cannot be justified. His education and morals suffered by this neglect, and he acquired the habits of a libertine before he arrived at an age to be really one. In the end, my brother's conduct became so bad that he disappeared altogether, thus I became an only son.

I was treated as a beloved, but never a spoiled child. I had the faults common to my age; I was a chatterbox, a glutton, and sometimes a liar. I had stolen fruits, bonbons, or eatables, but never took delight in mischievous waste, in accusing others, or tormenting harmless animals. I recollect, indeed, that one day, while Madam Clot, a neighbor of ours, was gone to church, I made water in her kettle; the remembrance even now makes me smile. Thus I have given a brief, but faithful, his-

从那时开始连续不断地记录下对自己的认识。我母亲留下了一些小说，晚饭后我就和父亲读这些小说。两个人轮着不停地读，通宵达旦，直到读完为止。有时父亲听到清晨燕子啁啾，就很难为情地说：“咱们去睡吧，我简直比你孩子气呢。”通过这种危险的方法，我很快有了娴熟的阅读和理解能力，而且获得了我这个年龄的人谁也没有的那种关于情欲方面的知识。

1719年夏天，那些小说都读完了。母亲的藏书看完了，我们就拿外祖父留给我们的图书来读。很幸运，里面有不少好书；这并不奇怪，因为这些书是一位牧师收藏的，就当时的风尚，牧师往往是博学之士，而他又是一个有见地、有品位的人。这些有趣的书以及我们父子俩就这些书的谈论造就了我爱自由、爱共和的思想。那种倔强高傲以及不肯受束缚和奴役的性格也形成了；在我一生之中，每逢这种性格受到压抑时，我便痛苦万分。

我有一个比我大七岁的哥哥。那时，他跟着父亲学手艺。大家对我过分疼爱，对他就有些冷落。这样厚此薄彼，我并不赞成。这种冷落影响了他的教养。还不到放荡的年龄，他就已放荡不羁了。后来他越变越坏，终于离家出走，一去不返。于是我就成了独子。

我是一个被人疼爱而不被人溺爱的孩子。我有我那个年龄所能有的一些缺点：话多，嘴馋，有时还撒谎。我偷吃过水果、糖果、零食，但我从来不坑人毁物、给人添乱、虐待可怜的小动物。不过记得有一次，我趁我的一位邻居克罗特太太上教堂去的时候，在她家的锅里撒了一泡尿。说真的，现在一想起这件事还觉得十分好笑。这就是我幼时种种坏事的简短而



tory of my childish offences.

How could I become cruel or vicious, when I had before my eyes only examples of mildness, and was surrounded by some of the best people in the world? My father, my aunt, my nurse, my relations, our friends, our neighbors, all I had any connections with, did not obey me, it is true, but loved me tenderly, and I returned their affection. Those hours that were not employed in reading or writing with my father, or walking with my governess, I spent with my aunt; and whether seeing her embroider, or hearing her sing, whether sitting or standing by her side, I was ever happy. The charms of her voice had such an affect on me, that not only several of her songs have ever since remained on my memory, but some I have not thought of from my infancy, as I grow old, return upon my mind with a charm altogether inexpressible.

Such were my affections on entering this life. But this course of education was interrupted by an accident, whose consequences influenced the rest of my life. My father had a quarrel with a captain in the French army and was wrongly accused. At last, father preferred a voluntary banishment for the remainder of his life, to giving up a point by which he must sacrifice his honor and liberty.

Then I remained under the tuition of my uncle Bernard. He had lost his eldest daughter, but had a son about my own age, and we were sent together to Bossey, to board with the Minister Lambercier. Here we were to learn Latin, with all the insignificant trash that has obtained the name of education.

Two years spent in this village softened, in some degree, my Roman fierceness, and again reduced me to a state of childhood. The simplicity of this rural life was of infinite advantage in opening my heart to the reception of true friendship. The characters of my cousin and me accorded so well, and the friendship that subsisted between us was so cordial, that during the five years at Bossey and Geneva we were inseparable. The manner in which I passed my time at Bossey was so agreeable to my disposition. Tender, affectionate and gentle feelings formed its foundation.

As Miss Lambercier had the affection of a mother for us, she sometimes exerted a mother's authority, even to inflicting on us, when we deserved it, the punishment of infants. However, this punishment increased my affection for the person who had inflicted it. All this affection, aided by my natural mildness, was scarcely sufficient to prevent my seeking, by fresh offenses, a return of the

真实的历史。

我所见到的人都是善良的榜样，我周围的人净是些最好的人，可我怎么就变坏了呢？我的父亲、姑姑、乳母、亲戚、朋友、邻居，总之所有跟我接近的人，并不都是一味地迁就我，而是爱我，我也同样爱他们。除了在父亲身边念书写字以及乳母带我去散步以外，我总是跟姑姑在一起，在她身边坐着或站着，看她刺绣，听她唱歌，心里挺开心。她的歌声对我有极大的吸引力，不仅她的一些歌一直留在我的记忆里，就连在我记忆不佳的今天，有些在我儿童时代就已完全忘却了的歌曲，又随着我的年迈，以一种难以表达的乐趣重新浮现在我的脑海中。

这就是我涉足人世的最初的情感。可一次意外的变故打断了这种教育，其后果影响了我的余生。我父亲跟一个法国陆军上尉发生了争吵，结果被诬告了。最后，父亲宁可离开日内瓦，一辈子流落他乡，也不愿让步，不然就会有损荣誉和自由。

之后，我的舅舅贝纳尔当了我的监护人。他的大女儿已死，但还有一个和我同岁的儿子。我们一起被送到包塞，寄宿在朗拜尔西埃牧师家里，学习拉丁文，学习冠之以教育美名的一些乱七八糟的东西。

在乡村生活了两年，我那罗马人的粗暴性格有所收敛，并恢复了童年的稚气。这种淳朴的农村生活有着不可估量的好处，它使我敞开心扉，懂得友情。我和表哥的性情是如此相投，我们之间的友谊是如此真诚，因而不不管是在包塞还是在日内瓦，五年多的时间我们几乎是形影不离。包塞的生活方式，对于我极其适合。温柔、亲切、恬静的情感构成了这一生活方式的基调。

朗拜尔西埃小姐对我们有着一种母爱，也有着母亲般的权威，当我们应该受罚的时候，她有时也采用惩罚子女的方法。然而，这种处罚使我更加热爱处罚我的那位朗拜尔西埃小姐。我发现在受处罚的疼痛以及耻辱之中还掺杂着一种快感，这使我更加盼望而非害怕再挨她那纤手的责打；只是我对她的真挚感情和善良天性阻止了我重犯应受相同处罚的过错的。的

same chastisement; for a degree of sensuality had mingled with the smart and shame, which left more desire than fear of a repetition. I was well convinced the same discipline from her brother would have produced a quite contradictory effect.

Who would believe this childish discipline, received at eight years old, from the hand of a woman of thirty, should influence my propensities, my desires, my passions, for the rest of my life, and that in quite a contrary sense from what might naturally have been expected? The very incident that inflamed my senses, gave my desires such an extraordinary turn that confined to what I had already experienced, I sought no further. Thus I passed the age of puberty, with a constitution extremely ardent, without knowing or even wishing for any other gratification of the passions than what Miss Lamercier had innocently given me an idea of; and when I became a man, that childish taste still remained.

In thus investigating the first traces of my sensible existence, I find elements, which, though seemingly incompatible, have united to produce a simple and uniform effect; while others, apparently the same, have, by the concurrence of certain circumstances, formed such different combinations, that it would never be imagined they had any affinity; who would believe, for example, that one of the most vigorous springs of my soul was tempered in the identical source from whence luxury and ease mingled with my constitution and circulated in my veins? Before I quit this subject, I will add a striking instance of the different effects they produced.

One day, while I was studying in a chamber contiguous to the kitchen, the maid set some of Miss Lamercier's combs to dry by the fire, and on coming to fetch them some time after, was surprised to find the teeth of one of them broken off. Who could be suspected of this mischief? No one but me had entered the room; I was questioned, but denied having any knowledge of it. M. and Miss Lamercier consult, exhort, threaten, but all to no purpose; I obstinately persist in the denial; and, though this was the first time I had been detected in a confirmed falsehood, appearances were so strong that they overthrew all my protestations. This affair was thought serious; the mischief, the lie, and the obstinacy, were considered equally deserving of punishment, which was not now to be administered by Miss Lamercier. My uncle Bernard was written to; he arrived; and my poor cousin being

确，这里边有点儿性早熟的本能，所以同样的责打若是来自她哥哥，我就感觉不到一丝快意。

谁能料到，这种由一个三十岁女子的手给予一个八岁儿童身上的体罚，竟然违背常理地决定了我以后一生的趣味、欲念、激情及我整个人呢？在我肉欲被激发的同时，我的欲望也发生了变化，它使我只局限于以往的感受，而不想再另有所寻了。因此，我以这种十分热情、早熟的气质度过了青春期，除了朗拜尔西埃小姐无意中使我认识到肉欲以外，我就从来不曾有过或想过任何其他肉感之乐；甚至到了成人以后，仍然如此。

这样追溯我情感生活的最初事迹时，我发觉有些因素有时似乎格格不入，但又连在一起，有力地产生出一个简单而又相同的效果；有些因素看似相同，在某些情况作用下却形成完全不同的组合，使人想象不出它们之间当初会有什么关系。譬如，谁能相信我灵魂中一种最坚强的力量，来自我柔弱与嗜欲并存的血液呢？下面的事情并没离题，人们却可从中得出完全不同的印象。

一天，我在厨房隔壁的一间屋子里独自学习。女仆把朗拜尔西埃小姐的几把梳子放在铁板上烤。当她来取的时候，发现有一把一边的齿全都断了。这是谁弄坏的呢？除了我，没人进过这房间。他们盘问我，我说我没碰过那梳子。朗拜尔西埃先生和朗拜尔西埃小姐一起来训诫我，逼问我，恫吓我。我死不承认。可他们认定是我弄坏的，我的一切抗议都是徒劳，尽管人们头次见我如此大胆撒谎。事情闹大了，应该严肃处理。毁坏东西、说谎、死不承认，似乎都应受罚。可这回不是朗拜尔西埃小姐来惩罚我。他们给我舅舅贝纳尔写了封信，



charged with a crime no less serious, we were conducted to the same execution, which was inflicted with great severity. If finding a remedy in the evil itself, they had sought ever to allay my depraved desires, they could not have chosen a shorter method to accomplish their designs, and, I can assure my readers, I was for a long time freed from the dominion of them.

As this severity could not draw from me the expected acknowledgment, which obstinacy brought on several repetitions, and reduced me to a deplorable situation, yet I was immovable, and resolutely determined to suffer death rather than submit. Force, at length, was obliged to yield to the diabolical infatuation of a child, for no better name was bestowed on my constancy, and I came out of this dreadful trial, torn, it is true, but triumphant.

Fifty years have expired since this adventure – the fear of punishment is no more. Well, then, I aver, in the face of Heaven, I was absolutely innocent; and, so far from breaking, or even touching the comb, never came near the fire. It will be asked, how did this mischief happen? I can form no conception of it; I only know my own innocence.

This occurrence terminated my infantine serenity; from that moment I ceased to enjoy a pure unadulterated happiness, and on a retrospection of the pleasures of my childhood, I yet feel they ended here. We continued at Bossey some months after this event, but were like our first parents in the Garden of Eden after they had lost their innocence; in appearance our situation was the same, in effect it was totally different. We were disgusted with our situation; our preceptors were weary of us. In the end, my uncle wrote for our return, and we left M. and Miss Lambercier without feeling any regret at the separation.

On my return to Geneva, I passed two or three years at my uncle's, expecting the determination of my friends respecting my future establishment. As my age did not render the choice very pressing, I remained with my uncle, passing my time with very little improvement, and paying pretty dear, though not unreasonably, for my board.

After deliberating a long time on the bent of my natural inclination, they resolved to dispose of me in a manner the most repugnant to them. I was sent to M. Masseron, the City Register, to learn (according to the expression of my uncle Bernard) the thriving occupation of a scraper. This nick-