

龍的傳說

英漢對照

林 珊 著



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● 林 珊 著

江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章

時代文藝出版社

(吉)新登字 05 号

龙的传说 LONGDECHUANSHUO

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责任编辑：胡卓识

装帧设计：章桂征

时代文艺出版社出版 850×1168 毫米 32 开本 16.25 印张 6 插页
(长春市斯大林大街副 136 号) 379000 字

长春市第十一印刷厂印刷 1992 年 1 月第 1 版 1992 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

吉林省新华书店发行 印数：2000 定价：8.95 元



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让历史当我们的镜子

上个星期的《联合早报》上，老忍君说，我国已经整整二十年没有教小学生读亚洲史或中国史了。

老忍君也说，目前大部分中四生和预科生在历史方面的知识除了自己国家之外对邻近国家的历史和文化背景都一无所知，这样下去以后会不会是个只注重数理科技而对文史毫无修养的人呢？这实在是值得大家关注的问题。

其实人类知识的源泉，都包含在历史里面。历史不但是文学，也是经济学、社会学、政治学、逻辑学、哲学之母，是包容各种学问的大海。

历史记载了人类战胜自然的经过、人类创造的文化和许多千奇百怪的人际关系。虽然时代不同，社会的面貌也不同，可是人性善恶的根源，人与人之间的应对，依然不变。我们可以从历史中，获得生活的智慧和生存的指针。我们研究了古人的思想、行为，就可以把他们的经验，变为自己的经验。以他们的成败，作为自己的借镜，从而可以清楚自己的历史位置，和面对的前景。

中国唐朝，是个国势强盛的朝代。唐朝太宗皇帝的时候，有个敢于冒死批评皇帝的宰相魏徵。贞观十七年的时候，魏徵死了。太宗伤心痛哭地说：

“以铜为镜，可以看见我的衣服、帽子是不是穿戴得合适；以历史为镜，可以知道国家兴盛、衰亡的原因；以人为镜，可以防范自己的过失。我常常保有这三面镜子，才能治理国家。现在魏徵死了，我少掉一面镜子了！”

唐太宗是个贤明的君主，他的年号是“贞观”，“贞观之治”是中国历史上著名的太平盛世。那时候的社会治安非常好，人们夜

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晚不必关门睡觉，在路上失落了东西，也不必担心会被别人拾了去。所以有“夜不闭户，路不拾遗”的美誉。

中国是世界上的文明古国之一，她的光辉灿烂的历史和文化，对东方、对世界，都有重大的影响。华人学习自己华族的历史，一方面有血缘上的认同感，一方面也可以继承和发扬华人传统的价值观。还可以运用前人的经验，拓展视野，使自己具有透视事理的智慧，了解这个时代的脉搏和人世间的面貌。也可以认识自己作为一个华人，有什么样的荣誉，什么样的责任和什么样的努力方向。

人生少不了要面对挫折、失意，在这种时刻，怎样能够作出又及时又正确的各种反应，就全在于自己有没有这一份智慧的心。

History Teaches Valuable Lessons

For two decades, primary school pupils in Singapore have not been taught Asian history, an article in Lianhe Zaobao last Wednesday lamented.

However, another letter cautioned: "Most of the secondary and pre-university students today know only the history of their country but nothing about the neighbouring states.

"If this trend continues, will the younger generation grow up to be an uncultured people who emphasise only science and technology?

"There is, indeed, cause for concern."

History is a source of human knowledge, providing a reservoir of information on literature, economics, sociology, politics, logic, philosophy and so on.

Man's conquest of nature, his creation of culture and human relations are noted down in history.

Society may always be changing with the times, but human nature remains the same. Consequently, history is very important in guiding us.

By studying men's thoughts and actions in the past, we can make their experiences our own. With the benefit of hindsight, we can learn from the success and failure of others and see our own place in history.

The Tang Dynasty marked a golden age in Chinese history when China enjoyed immense power and prosperity.

One of the Tang emperors, Tai Zong, was served by a courageous and outspoken prime minister, Wei Zheng. The emperor highly respected

him.

At Wei Zheng's death, Emperor Tai Zong said sadly:

"Through the bronze mirror, I see if my attire is proper; through the mirror of history, I learn of the reason behind my country's rise or fall; and through the mirror of man, I guard myself against doing wrong."

"I have always had these three mirrors when I governed. Now that Wei Zheng is dead, I have lost a mirror."

Emperor Tai Zong was a wise and capable ruler who brought peace and prosperity to China.

Social security was then strong. People slept with their doors unlocked. Those who lost their belongings could rest assured that nobody would "pocket" them.

Hence the Chinese idiom: "No one needs to lock his doors and none will pocket lost items found on the road." This reflects a high moral standard in society.

China is an ancient civilisation with a glorious history and culture whose influence is felt throughout the world.

A Chinese who studies Chinese history will gain a sense of identity from traditional values.

A knowledge of history equips one with the wisdom to perceive matters and understand trends. One also sees a purpose and direction in life.

With few exceptions, we encounter setbacks and disappointments in life.

The ability to make a timely and correct move at such crucial moments would then depend on the individual's wisdom.

华人姓氏的来源

中国人在三皇五帝以前（距今约五千年），就有了姓。那时是母族社会，只知有母，不知有父。所以“姓”是“女”和“生”组成，就说明最早的姓，是跟母亲的姓。夏、商、周的时候，人们有姓也有氏。“姓”是从居住的村落，或者所属的部族名称而来。“氏”是从君主所封的地、所赐的爵位、所任的官职，或死后按照功绩，追加的称号而来。所以贵族有姓，有名，也有氏；平民有姓，有名，没有氏。同“氏”的男女可以通婚，同“姓”的男女却不可以通婚。因为中国人很早就发现这条遗传规律：近亲通婚对后代不利。

唐太宗的时候——公元627年，有个吏部尚书高士廉，把民间的“姓”，记录下来，写成一本书《氏族志》，颁布天下，作为当时推举贤能做官，或撮合婚姻的依据。

中国旧时流行的《百家姓》，是北宋（公元960年）的时候写的，里面一共收集了单姓408个，复姓30个，一共438个。发展到后来，据说有4000到6000个，但是实际应用的，只有1000个左右。

世界各国都有“三大姓”的说法，英国是：**Smythe, Jones, Williams**；美国是：**Smith, Johnson, Carson**；法国是：**Martin, Bernard, Dupont**；德国是：**Schultz, Mueller, Shmildt**；苏联是：**Ivanov, Vassiliev, Peternov**；中国呢？有张、王、李、赵，四个大姓，历史悠久，分布广泛，而且都是皇帝赐姓。根据最新的统计，单是姓张的，就有一亿人，这恐怕是世界上最大的姓了吧。

1977年史学家李栋明，在《东方杂志》上发表过一篇有关“姓”的论文，文中指出：

华人最大的十个姓是：张、王、李、赵、陈、杨、吴、刘、黄、周。这十个姓占华人人口 40%，约四亿人。

第二大的十个姓是：徐、朱、林、孙、马、高、胡、郑、郭、萧。占华人人口 10% 以上。

第三大的十个姓是：谢、何、许、宋、沈、罗、韩、邓、梁、叶。占人口 10%。

接下来的 15 个大姓是：方、崔、程、潘、曹、冯、汪、蔡、袁、卢、唐、钱、杜、彭、陆。加起来也占总人口的 10%。

换句话说，在中国十亿人口中，有七亿人姓了这 45 个大姓。另外的三亿多人的姓，都是比较少见的，象：毛、江、白、文、关、廖、苗、池等等。

THE ORIGIN OF CHINESE SURNAMES

The Chinese have had surnames long before the period of the Three Emperors and Five Kings, that is, during the time when recognition was given only to one's mother and not one's father. Hence, the Chinese character for "surname" is made up of two individual characters: 女 (meaning woman) and 生 (meaning to give birth). That is to say, the surnames of the early Chinese followed the maternal line. Before the three dynasties of Xia, Shang and Zhou (2140—256BC), the people in China were already having surnames 姓 (Xing) and clan-names 氏 (Shi). The surname originated from the name of the village in which one lived or the family to which one belonged, while the clan-name derived from the name of the territory or the title granted, sometimes posthumously, by the emperor to a noble for an achievement. Hence, only nobles had surnames as well as clan-names.

A man and a woman of the same clan-name could marry each other but they could not if they were of the same surname.

This is because the Chinese had discovered, long ago, that marriages of close relatives would be detrimental to future generations.

In any solemn ceremony or important celebration, the Chinese have their clan-names written on lanterns which are hung high in a prominent place, such as the main entrance of the house.

As a clan-name indicates the ancestral home, it is also carved on a man's tombstone to indicate a hope that he will return there.

For example 西河林怀民 (Xihe Lin Huaimin) means that 林怀民 (Lin Huai Min) was from the 西河 (Xihe) clan of 潮阳 (Chaoyang)

county, 广东 (Guangdong) province, China, and that his generation name was (穗) (Huai).

This went on for 800 years until the rule of Emperor Tang Tai Zong (A. D. 627). Gao silian, a government official, made a survey and found that there were a total of 593 different surnames.

He then wrote and published a book called *Annal of Surnames* (氏族志) which became a reference for selecting qualified personnel as government officials and for arranging marriages.

The book, "Surnames of a hundred Families", which was popular in China during the old days, was written more than 1, 000 years ago during the Northern Song Dynasty (A. D. 960).

It records 438 surnames of which 408 are single-word surnames and 30 were double-word surnames.

According to the latest statistics from China, Chinese with the surname Zhang (张) alone number more than 100 million, making it probably the surname which the most number of the Chinese have.

Another set of statistics compiled in 1977 reveals that the number of the Chinese with the first 10 major surnames make up 40 per cent of the Chinese population, The 10 major Chinese surnames are:

Zhang (张), Wang (王), Li (李), Zhao (赵), Chen (陈), Yang (杨), Wu (吴), Liu (刘), Huang (黄) and Zhou (周).

Below are the next 10 major surnames. The Chinese with these surnames make up over 10 per cent of the Chinese population.

Xu (徐), Zhu (朱), Lin (林), Sun (孙), Ma (马), Gao (高), Hu (胡), Zheng (郑), Guo (郭) and Xiao (肖).

The number of the Chinese in the third category of 10 major surnames make up just about 10 per cent of the population:

Xie (谢), He (何), Xu (许), Song (宋), Shen (沈), Luo

(罗), Han (韩), Deng (邓), Liang (梁) and Ye (叶).

The following 15 surnames from the fourth largest group of the Chinese surnames are:

Fang (方), cui (崔), Cheng (程), Pan (潘), Cao (曹), Feng (冯), Wang (汪), Cai (蔡), Yuan (袁), Lu (卢), Tang (唐), Qian (钱), Du (杜), Peng (彭) and Lu (陆).

A total of 70 per cent of the Chinese population have one of the surnames above. The surnames of the remaining 30 per cent of the Chinese population are comparatively rare. Some of these surnames are:

Mao (毛), Jiang (江), Bai (白), Wen (文), Guan (关), Liao (廖), Miao (苗) and Chi (池)