

在各智慧故事

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诸子百家智慧 Wisdom of Ancient

WISDOM of ZHUANGZI **產子** 智慧故事

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2000 多年前的春秋战国时代,是中国各种思想流派百花齐放的时期,涌现了孔子、孟子、老子、庄子、墨子、荀子、孙子、韩非子等思想家、哲学家,他们开创了儒、道、墨、法等各具特色、影响深远的思想派别,后世称为"诸子百家"。"诸子百家智慧故事"是一套介绍先秦诸子经典的汉英对照系列丛书,将先秦诸子的生平事迹、哲学思想、格言警句、哲理寓言以及与他们有关的历史故事串联成启迪智慧的短小故事,既能满足中国读者的普及型阅读需求,又照顾到国外读者的文化特点,让大家在轻松愉快的阅读氛围中走近春秋战国时代"百家争鸣"的先哲们。

为了让世界更好地了解中国的经典文化,"诸子百家智慧故事"在编写上突出了以下三个特点:

轻松阅读——本系列每本书中文不过七八万字,每个故事就是一个相对独立的阅读单位,仅几百字的内容十分钟就能读完,在当今信息爆炸的快节奏时代,这种文本便于读者随时取出翻阅。

经济阅读——中国的文字特别是古文字常常是外国人阅读中国经典的障碍,本丛书采取汉英双语对照,中文是浅显易懂的白话体,配以通顺晓畅的英语译文,读者无须钻研艰深的典籍,就能了解先哲的智慧。

趣味阅读——本丛书通过一个个短小生动的故事以及古意盎然的插图,为读者深入浅出地解读诸子经典。

先秦诸子经典是中国的宝贵精神财富,至今在中国 乃至全世界都有广泛的影响。希望本丛书能够引起广大 中外读者对先秦诸子百家的兴趣,并能通过书中的故事 体会到博大精深的中国智慧。

Preface

Over two millennia ago, China experienced a boom of ideas and philosophies in the form of "100 Schools of Thought". Confucius, Mencius, Laozi, Zhuangzi, Mozi, Xunzi, Sun Tzu, Han Feizi ... These are the stellar names behind the philosophical schools like Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, Legalism, etc. in the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period (from 770 BC to 221 BC). The classics of these ancient sages contain great wisdom and have exerted profound influence on Chinese history and thought. While the classics themselves may seem difficult to understand today, you can find lucid and accessible explanations of the ancient philosophies in the books of Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages. With the help of a collection of short and interesting stories, you can get to know the lives and thoughts of the ancient sages, the axioms and allegories they employed to illustrate their ideas, and some facts about the historical era they lived in.

With the aim of presenting the ancient Chinese classics to the world audience, *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages* boasts three advantages:

Easiness — Each book in the series is comprised of only a few dozen stories, each of which has no more than 2,000 words and

can be glanced through in a 10-minute coffee break. Even in your busy life, you can always snatch some time to enjoy a story of wisdom and gain some spiritual nourishment.

Efficiency — The classics may seem a little obscure today since they are written in the ancient Chinese. In this Chinese-English version of *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages*, however, the classics are rendered in simple, everyday English. Without having to tax your brains, you can readily comprehend the profound wisdom of the ancient sages.

Attractiveness — With all the short but lively stories accompanied by beautiful illustrations, *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages* explains to you the ancient philosophical ideas in a friendly and agreeable way.

The ancient philosophical classics in the "100 Schools of Thought" are an important spiritual heritage of China and impose great cultural reverberations beyond the Chinese borders. We hope that the series may let the readers develop an interest in the ancient Chinese sages and their philosophies, and appreciate the quintessential Chinese wisdom that may prove useful in present day.

Editors

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庄子生平 The Life of Zhuangzi

是中国文化史上的一位伟大人物。他既是一位在学家,又是一位文学家,他以其巧妙讽喻的寓言故事、汪洋恣睢的丰富想像,给中国文化发展留下了浓墨重彩的一笔。有关庄子的历史记载现存不多,除了战国时期某些著作的零星记载和《庄子》中提供的一些相当分散的材料外,主要依据还是司马迁的《史记》。但即使在《史记》中,对庄子的叙述也没有单独成篇,而是作为"老庄申韩列传"中与老子、申不害、韩非并列的人物而出现的,全篇对庄子的介绍只用了280多个字。要想完整详细地了解庄子在目前看来是不可能的,就是以往对庄子的一些说法现在也受到人们的质疑。例如《史记》说庄子是宋国蒙人,但没有说蒙在什么地方。最新的说法有多种,有的说是山东的东明,有的说是山东的曹县,有的说是河南的商丘,有的说是山东的民权,也有的说是安徽的蒙城。尽管如此,我们还是可以介绍一些有关庄子生平的若干片段。

庄子姓庄,名周,具体生卒时间不详,大概属于战国的中后期,根据已有的研究成果可以认定公元前 328 年~前 295 年他在世。他曾做过"漆园吏",是管理漆园的小官,不过没有做多久就辞官隐居了。在先秦哲学家中,可能他算是最穷困了。根据他弟子的说法,生活窘迫的时候,他就靠打草鞋过日子,甚至出现吃了上顿没下顿、向别人借粮过日子的状况。有一次他去见魏王,穿的是补了又补的粗布衣服,草鞋上的带子也是断了再接的,但他并不为贫困所苦。所以当魏王问他为什么如此潦倒时,庄子马上说,"我是穷,不是潦倒,是生不逢时;如同落在荆棘丛里的猿猴,处势不利,被捆住了手脚,不能充分施展自己的才能。"《史记》中还说了这样一件事,楚威王听说庄子很有才干,就派两名使臣带重金聘他为相。庄子笑着

对使者说:"千金固然是重利,宰相也当然是高位,但你们不妨看看那祭祀的牛,虽然平时吃的是美味,披的是锦绣,但一旦成为大庙的祭品时,想做自由的小猪也不可能了。你们快走开,不要玷污我,我宁愿像条小鱼,在污浊泥水中自得其乐,也不愿受国君们的束缚。"在另一个故事中,庄子把自己喻为高洁的凤凰,而惠施所任的梁国宰相这一高位就像腐烂的老鼠不值一提。

和先秦其他有名的思想家不同,庄子终生不出仕,过着隐士生活。他也有学生,但为数不多,不像孔子有72个弟子;也不像孟子,虽然学生没有孔子那么多,但《孟子》中确切记载的就有几十人,史书说孟子去齐国的时候,随者数十乘,从者数百人。庄子的朋友也不多,在当时的学者名人中,与庄子经常往来的是惠施。《庄子》书中有不少他和惠施进行讨论、争辩的故事,所以惠施的死对他来说是少了一个可以互相启发、相互切磋的朋友。在先秦诸子的书中,只有荀子一人提到了庄子,看来庄子与当时思想家的联系不多。这或许可以说明这样一个现象:尽管孟子名气很大,喜欢辩说,尽管孟子与庄子生活年代相当接近,但在孟子的书中看不到庄子的影子,庄子在把儒家的仁义作为鞭挞对象时也未将孟子列在其中。

• is a great figure in Chinese cultural ZhuangZ1 history. As a philosopher and a litterateur, Zhuangzi made great contributions to the development of Chinese culture with his well-worded fables and brilliant imagination. However, not much information about Zhuangzi is available now. The most important records about Zhuangzi are found in Records of the Grand Historian written by Sima Qian (145-87 BC) besides some fragmentary materials provided by some writings in the Warring States Period and the book Zhuangzi. But even Records of the Grand Historian fails to provide a full chapter on Zhuangzi and only lists him in "Biographies of Laozi, Zhuangzi, Shen Buhai and Han Feizi", with only a few hundred words dedicated to Zhuangzi. As of today it is still impossible to make a detailed and complete introduction to Zhuangzi. Furthermore, even some of the widely accepted knowledge about Zhuangzi is now held under question. For example, Records of the Grand Historian says that he was a native of Meng in the State of Song, without mentioning the exact location of Meng. Today many people attempt to make out where Meng is located. Dongming in Shandong Province, Caoxian in Shandong Province, Shangqiu in Henan Province, Minguan in Shandong Province, or Mengcheng in Anhui Province? The latest claims have been quite a few. Nevertheless, we are able to gather a few facts about the life of Zhuangzi.

Zhuangzi's family name is Zhuang and his given name Zhou. The exact dates of his birth and death have remained unknown, possibly around the middle and late Warring States Period, and the research findings available have it that he was alive between 328 – 294 BC. He once held a position as superintendent (a watch-

man as a matter of fact) in a lacquer yard, and soon quit the job for a life as a recluse. He was probably the poorest among the philosophers of the 100 Schools of Thought before the Qin Dynasty. During the difficult times, according to his disciples, he had to earn his living by making straw sandals and even borrowed food from others when he did not know where his next meal would come from. Once he went to see the King of Wei in a patched dress of coarse cloth and a pair of straw sandals with broken strings, but he was not at all bothered about it. When the King of Wei asked him why he was so distressed, he immediately replied that he was not distressed, but just poor and born at the wrong time, just like a monkey finding itself among prickly thorns, trapped in an unfavorable situation, with its hands and feet tied. not being able to bring its abilities to full play. Here is another story in Records of the Grand Historian. Hearing that Zhuangzi was very talented, King Wei of Chu sent two envoys with a big reward to invite him to be the prime minister. Zhuangzi said to the envoys with a smile, "A thousand pieces of gold is indeed a large sum and the prime minister is of course a high position, but you might as well take a look at the ox serving as the sacrificial offering. It can usually enjoy good food and beautiful clothes. But once it becomes the sacrificial offering, it's no longer possible to live as carefree as a piglet. Please leave and do not try to corrupt me. I would rather be like a small fish having fun in the mud than being constrained by the lords." In another story, Zhuangzi compared himself to the noble phoenix, dismissing the high position of the prime minister held by his friend Hui Shi as a rotten rat.

Unlike other famous thinkers, Zhuangzi spent his entire life as a recluse, not willing to intervene in the outside world. He had