

伊索寓言
伊索



by Aesop

Aesop's Fables

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前 言

世界文学名著表现了作者描述的特定时代的文化。阅读这些名著可以领略著者流畅的文笔、逼真的描述、详细的刻画，让读者如同置身当时的历史文化之中。为此，我们将这套精心编辑的“名著典藏”奉献给广大读者。

我们找来了专门研究西方历史、西方文化的专家学者，请教了专业的翻译人员，精心挑选了这些可以代表西方文学的著作，并听取了一些国外专门研究文学的朋友的建议，不删节、不做任何人为改动，严格按照原著的风格，提供原汁原味的西方名著，让读者能享受纯正的英文名著。

随着阅读的展开，你会发现自己的英语水平无形中有了大幅提高，并且对西方历史文化的了解也日益深入广阔。

送您一套经典，让您受益永远！



序 言

古希腊的《伊索寓言》是一部在全世界范围内流传最广的寓言集。古希腊文化是欧洲文化的发源地，它在欧洲文化史上占有特殊的地位，古希腊寓言地位也是不凡。

相传《伊索寓言》是公元前 6 世纪一个名叫伊索的奴隶创作的。关于伊索的身世传说不一。一说伊索是公元前 6 世纪巴尔干半岛上色雷斯地区的一个奴隶。他相貌虽丑，但天性聪慧，为主人赏识而获得自由民的身份。公元 4~5 世纪编成的《伊索传》，载有他的许多佚事趣闻，但这并非信史。也有学者怀疑伊索的存在，认为并无此人。更多的意见则把他视为古希腊寓言讲述者和整理者的代表人物，所以后世的人们便把希腊寓言都归于伊索名下。

公元前 4~3 世纪之交，雅典哲学家德米特里厄斯（Demetrius Phalereus，公元前 345~公元前 283）编辑了第一部伊索寓言集《伊索故事集成》（Assemblies of Aesop's Tales），搜集了近 200 则寓言，此本今已失传。公元 1~2 世纪，费德鲁斯（Phaedrus）和巴布里乌斯（Babrius）又分别用拉丁文和希腊文写成两部诗体的伊索寓言，但这两个本子均流传不广。现在我们所说的《伊索寓言》，是后人根据 14 世纪初叶东罗马帝国的僧侣学者普拉努得斯搜集的寓言和陆续发现的古希腊寓言传抄本整理编辑而成。这个本子有 150 则寓言，1479 年首次印行。它成为后来《伊索寓言》刊印本的主要材料来源。

1484 年，威廉·卡克斯顿（William Caxton）出版了伊索寓言





的一个英文版本。罗杰·爱思琴奇爵士 (Sir Roger L'Estrange) 于 1692 年对卡克斯顿的版本进行了更新。乔治·法伊勒·汤森 (George Fyler Townsend, 1814~1900) 的译本则是最为流行的一个版本, 本书采用的英文即基于此。本·E·佩里 (Ben E. Perry) 把伊索寓言按类别做了一个索引, 这个索引对有兴趣研究伊索寓言的人来说是不可或缺的。这些版本根据的底稿不同, 收录的故事也不尽相同。本书收录汤森版本中的 312 个故事, 另外在综合比较的基础上, 删去内容有重复的故事, 从其他几个英译本中收录了与汤森选本不同的一些故事, 共收寓言故事 405 则。故事编排以寓言中出色的角色为线索, 把同类角色归纳在一处, 并以角色的英文译名的字母顺序先后排列, 便于读者查找。在每个故事下边, 有故事的出处和在佩里索引 (Perry Index) 中的编号, 便于读者比较研究。如第一则下的文字 (Townsend 304 = Perry 357) 表示该故事出自 George Fyler Townsend 的版本第 304 个故事, 在 Perry Index 中的序号为 357。书后的附录也给出了汤森和佩里两个版本的详细目录 (list), 便于读者对照。

《伊索寓言》故事短小精悍, 主人公虽然大多是狐狸、狮子、狼、小羊……却睿智地折射出了人间百态, 寓意深刻, 让人回味无穷。





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