

Hard Times 艰难时世

(简写本)

[英] 狄更斯原著



上海译文出版社

英汉对照世界文学丛书 第二辑

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[英]狄更斯 原著 朱惠祥 **裴兴斯** 译

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译者的话

秋更斯(1812—1870)是十九世纪英国批判现实主义作家的杰出代表,在世界文坛上久享盛誉。他一生著有长篇小说十多部,还有许多中篇和短篇,主要有《匹克威克外传 (The Pickwick Papers, 1836)》、《雾都孤儿 (Oliver Twist, 1839)》、《大卫·科波菲尔 (David Copperfield, 1850)》、《艰难时世 (Hard Times, 1854)》、《孤星血泪 (Great Expectation, 1861)》等。他孜孜不倦的一生,对文学创作作出了巨大的贡献。

秋更斯出生于一个贫苦的职员家庭。十岁时,因父亲负债入狱,不得不辍学谋生,到一家皮鞋油作坊当学徒。四年后,他在一家律师事务所当缮写员并开始创作。童年时代的苦难给他留下深刻的印象,因此他对劳动人民有深厚的感情,尤其熟悉到的贫民生活。他的作品多半描写被压追、被剥削的劳苦大众,对英国资产阶级的伪善、欺诈、贪婪和邪恶作了无情的揭露,对当年英国社会的黑暗和罪恶进行了深刻批判。

《艰难时世》是狄更斯后期的作品,其特点是对资产阶级批判的进一步深化。书中刻划了格雷因和庞得贝两个典型人物,叙述了他们家庭的遭遇,向冷酷无情、自私自利的资本家发出了愤怒的声讨,为受苦受难的工人群众鸣了不平。

今天,英国资产阶级剥削工人的手法已经改变, 英国工人阶级的生活状况较之十九世纪也有了明显 的改善;但是,只要资本主义制度存在,资产阶级 的本性就不会改变,工人阶级也仍然摆脱不了被剥削的地位,摆脱不了相对贫困化、有时甚至是绝对 贫困化的处境,这部名著也就仍然具有一定的现实 意义。

当然,作者不可能对工人运动有正确的理解, 作品对工人运动领袖作了漫画式的描述,作者只是 以人道主义的立场看待工人阶级的苦难。这是作者 受时代与阶级的局限所致,我们不必求全责备。

故事发生在十九世纪中叶英国西北部一个到处是机器和烟囱的工业城市——焦煤镇。焦煤镇的国会议员格雷因是个把人生看作"隔普柜的现金交易"的五金商人。他只信奉数字和"事实",禁感到近少,在他看来,丰富人们精神生活的情感数里和追引来一个的大大三十岁的老头子厂主庞得贝。

老奸巨猾的厂主兼银行家庞得贝极口赞赏工厂烟囱里冒出来的浓烟,说那是世上最有益于健康的东西。他当了老板以后,不让亲娘露面,谎称自己生下来就被亲娘抛弃,是"从阴沟里长大的"孤儿。他夸耀自己全靠勤劳节俭,爬到今日兼营纺织厂和银行的地位,而过去他是个"连一只鞋子都没有"的人。他宣扬自己白手起家,是为了要工人相信安分守己

1

就能飞黄腾达。工人们对福利方面有所要求,他就 火冒三丈,说他们想用"金汤匙"喝汤。

露意莎因精神无所寄托,在国会议员的弟弟赫德豪士的诱惑下,险些走向堕落的深渊。在一个狂风暴雨之夜,她猝然回到娘家,就多年来接受的那套教育,向父亲发出了强烈的抗议。她与庞得贝的婚姻关系,终于以分裂告终。

本书是《艰难时世》的简写本,系根据英国朗门公司 1977 年版译出。原书由罗兰·约翰 (Roland Jonh) 改写,文字浅显,行文流畅。翻译时尽量忠实原文,个别地方稍作灵活处理,常用词组作为脚注,词汇表附于书末,供初学英语的读者参考。

1982年5月

Contents

目 录

Chapter	l	第		章 3
Chapter	2	第		章11
Chapter	3	第	Ξ	章25
Chapter	4	第	四	章41
Chapter	5	第	五	章5
Chapter	6	第	六	章68
Chapter	7	第	七	章77
Chapter	8	第	八	章91
Chapter	9	第	九	章 107
Chapter	10	第	十	章113
Chapter	11	第 -	 	章127
Chapter	12	第 -	+=	章14
Chapter	13	第 -	十三	章 149
${\bf Chapter}$	14	第一	十四	章168
Chapter	15			章179
Chapter	16			章 195
Chapter	17	第一	十七	章
Chapter	18	第	十八	. 章 226
Chapter	19	第一	十九	,章239
Chapter	2 0			章 25
Chapter	21	第二	<u> </u>	章

Chapter 1

'I want Facts, 'Mr Gradgrind said. 'Teach these boys and girls only Facts, sir! I bring up¹ my own children on Facts, and I want you to bring up these children on Facts. Nothing else will ever help them.'

The schoolroom was a square, ugly place. Twenty children were sitting quietly at their desks while Mr Gradgrind was talking to the teacher. There was another gentleman there, too, but for the moment² he did not say anything. Mr Gradgrind owned the school. He had built it rather like himself — square. He had a square body, a square head and thick, square fingers. His eyes were square, dark holes in his head. He had lost most of his hair, and his yellow head seemed ready to burst. Perhaps it did not have enough room for all the facts inside it.

Thomas Gradgrind had no use for anything that was not a fact. If he could not count things, or measure them, he would not think of them. He refused to have them in his head.

'In this life,' Mr Gradgrind said, 'we only need Facts. Stand up, girl number twenty. I don't know that girl. Who is that girl?'

^{1.} bring up 教育 2. for the moment 暂时, 目前

第一章

"我要的是事实,"格雷因先生说。"请你只把事实教给这些男孩和女孩,先生!我以事实教导我自己的孩子们,我也要你以事实去教导这些孩子们。 任何其他东西对他们永远不会有什么用处。"

这间教室是个正方形的、外观丑陋的房间。格雷因先生在和那位教师说话的时候,二十个孩子静悄悄地坐在各自的课桌旁。当时还有另外一位绅士也在场,不过,他暂时什么也没有说。格雷因先生拥有这所学校。他把这所学校建造得颇似其人——四四方方的。他的形体是方的,脑袋是方的,手指也是粗而方的。他脑袋上两个四方形的深暗的窟窿便是眼睛。他的头发已掉去一大半,那颗腊黄的脑袋似乎快要胀裂了。也许这颗脑袋已没有足够的余地来容纳里头的全部事实了吧。

任何不是事实的东西,在托马斯·格雷因看来都是一无用处的。凡属他无法计数的或者无从度量的东西,他一概不予考虑。他拒绝把这种东西装进他的脑袋。

"今生今世,"格雷因先生说,"我们只需要事实。 起立,第二十号女孩。我不认识那个女孩。那女孩 是谁?" Girl number twenty blushed very red. She stood up and curtseyed to Mr Gradgrind. She was a pretty girl, with dark eyes and dark hair. 'Sissy Jupe, sir,' she said.

'Sissy is not a name,' said Mr Gradgrind. 'Your name is Cecilia.'

The girl, still blushing, curtseyed again. 'Father calls me Sissy, sir.'

'He's wrong, then. Tell him he mustn't do it. You are Cecilia Jupe. Tell me — what is your father's work?'

'He's in the circus, sir. He rides the horses.'

'In the circus? Oh dear! We don't want to know about that. He looks after horses when they're sick, doesn't he?'

'Yes, sir, he does that, too.'

'So, he's a doctor, then — a horse-doctor. Now, Cecilia Jupe, tell me: what is a horse?,

Sissy blushed deeply and looked down,2 She did not answer.

'Girl number twenty is stupid,' Mr Gradgrind said. 'She doesn't know the facts about a very ordinary animal. I'll ask a boy.' A square finger moved through the air and rested on Bitzer. Bitzer was a boy with light hair, light eyes and a white face. Everything about him was light or white.

'Now, Bitzer — what is a horse?' said Mr Gradgrind.

^{1.} look after 照料, 看管 2. look down 俯视

第二十号女孩涨红了脸。她站起来向格雷因先生行了个屈膝礼。她是个美貌的女孩,长着一对黑眼珠和一头黑发。"西丝·朱浦,先生,"她说。

"西丝不是一个名字,"格雷因先生说。"你的名字是塞西莉亚。"

这女孩依然红着脸,又行了个屈膝礼。"父亲把 我唤作西丝,先生。"

"那么,这是他叫错了。告诉他,不可以那样叫。你叫塞西莉亚·朱浦。告诉我:你父亲是干什么的?"

"他在马戏团里,先生。他是骑马的。"

"在马戏团里?哎呀,我的老天爷!我们不想知道马戏团的事。马儿生了病,他也能治病,是吗?" "是的,先生,他也能治。"

"如此说来,他是个医生。那么——是个马大夫 罗。好,塞西莉亚·朱浦,告诉我:马是什么东西?" 西丝满脸通红,垂下了目光。她答不上来。

"第二十号女生是个笨蛋,"格雷因先生说。"事关一种极为普通的动物,她却茫无所知。我来问问一个男生看。"方形的手指在空中划动了一下,指着毕周停住了。毕周这个孩子,他的头发是浅色的,眼珠是浅色的,脸色是苍白的。他周身上下要么是浅色的,要么是苍白的。

"嗯, 毕周, 马是什么东西?"格雷因先生问。

'Animal, sir. Four legs. Eats grass or grain, Forty teeth. Loses its hair in the spring. Needs iron shoes in wet countries. Age is known from marks in the mouth ...'

'Girl number twenty, did you hear that? Now you know the facts about a horse.'

Sissy's face could not be redder than it was. She curtseyed again and sat down. The second gentleman then moved forward. He was an officer of the government, and he too only dealt with facts.

'Boys and girls,' he said, 'we have just heard the facts about a horse. Now listen. If you wanted to make a room look beautiful, would you put pictures of horses on the walls?'

Half the children answered together, 'Yes, sir!' The gentleman threw up³ his head. The other half of the class cried, 'No, sir!'

'You wouldn't! Of course you wouldn't!' the gentleman said. 'Have you ever seen real horses walking up and down on a wall? Have you?'

A few voices said, 'Yes, sir.' But they were drowned in loud cries of 'No, sir!'

'You haven't, of course. Horses on walls are not facts!'

'True, very true,' Thomas Gradgrind said.
'So, you see,' the gentleman went on⁵, 'we

^{1.} move forward 前进 throw up 仰视; 抛上 5. go on 继续, 接下去

deal with 与……打交道
 up and down 上上下下; 到处

"是一种动物,先生。有四条腿。吃草或谷物。 长有四十颗牙齿,春天换毛。在沼泽地需要钉上铁 蹄。从嘴部特征上可以看出它的年令……"

"第二十号女生,你听到了没有?现在你总知道 有关马的那些事实了吧。"

西丝的脸色红得不能再红了。她又行了一个屈膝礼,然后坐了下去。这时,那第二位绅士便走上前来。他是个政府官员,也是一个只和事实打交道的人。

"诸位男女生们,"他说,"我们刚才已经听到了 关于马的事实。现在你们听好:倘若你们想美化一 间房间,你们是不是会把画着马儿的墙纸糊到墙上 去呢?"

半数的小孩齐声答道:"是的,先生!"绅士把头一抬,班上另一半学生喊道:"不,先生!"

"不会,你们当然不会这么做!"绅士说。"你们可曾看到过真的马儿在墙上来回走动吗?你们看到过吗?"

有几个说,"见过,先生。"但他们的声音被淹 没在一片大声喊叫中:"没有见过。先生!"

- "当然没有见过。墙上跑马不是事实!"
- "说得对,很对。"托马斯·格雷因说道。
- "所以,你们该明白了,"这绅士接着说,"凡属

mustn't have things that aren't facts. Now, if you wanted to buy a rug, what kind of rug would you buy? Would you buy one with pictures of flowers on it?'

By now, the class knew that 'No, sir' was always the right answer to this gentleman. But Sissy Jupe and two others answered, 'Yes, sir.'

'Girl number twenty, would you buy a rug with flowers on it?'

Sissy blushed red and curtseyed low. 'Yes, sir. I love flowers!

'People walk on rugs. Do you like heavy shoes on flowers?,

'Shoes don't hurt the flowers on a rug, sir. I like to fancy that a rug with flowers is a pretty garden.'

'Fancy!' the gentleman cried. 'What do you mean — fancy? You must not fancy!'

Mr Gradgrind interrupted firmly: 'Cecilia Jupe, I forbid you to fancy anything.'

'Fact, fact, fact!' the gentleman shouted. And 'Fact, fact, fact!' Mr Gradgrind repeated.

'In this school,' the gentleman said, 'you must forget the word fancy. When you draw, don't draw horses or flowers. On paper, those things are not facts! When you read or write, you must read or write only facts. Do you understand? Do you understand, girl number twenty?'

'Yes sir.' The girl curtseyed and sat down.

^{1.} by now 此刻

不是事实的东西,我们就不该接受。现在,假设你们要买一块地毯,你们要买哪一种?你们会不会买一块绣花的地毯呢?"

这时,全班学生心里都明白,用"不,先生"来回答这位绅士的问题是始终正确的。可是,西丝·朱浦和另外两个学生却回答说,"是的,先生。"

"第二十号女生, 你想买一块绣花的地毯吗?" 西丝红着脸, 深深行了个屈膝 礼。"是 的, 先 生。我喜欢花朵!"

"人在地毯上走动。难道你喜欢笨重的鞋子在花 朵上踩吗?"

"鞋子不会踩坏地毯上的花朵的,先生。我喜欢 把有花的地毯想像成一座玲珑可爱的花园。"

"想像!"这绅士大喝一声。"你所谓的想像是什么意思?你不应该作什么想像!"

格雷因断然插话道:"塞西莉亚·朱浦,我禁止你作任何想像。"

"事实,事实,事实!"那绅士尖声叫道。格雷因 先生也重复说:"事实,事实,事实!"

"置身于这所学校,"这绅士说,"你们必须忘掉想像这个词。你们画图的时候,不要画马儿或花儿之类的东西。这些画在纸上的东西,并非事实嘛!你们在阅读或写作时,应该只读事实、只写事实。你们懂了没有?你懂了没有,第二十号女生?"

"懂了, 先生。"这女生行了个屈膝礼, 坐了下

* 16 6 6 7 A

She was very young and pretty. She did not think the the hard world of facts was a very exciting place.

Chapter 2

Mr Gradgrind was feeling pleased when he walked home that evening. The children at the school would soon be as clever as his own younger children were! And certainly no one could have a better education than he provided for the five young Gradgrinds.

Of course, 1 Mr Gradgrind's home, Stone Lodge, had its own schoolroom. It was the children's prison. And as soon as 2 they could walk, their father made them walk to it. The children's oldest memory was — a blackboard. Little Gradgrinds did not know the story of the three bears. But they could repeat: 'Bear — animal, four legs, thick, rough fur ...' They never heard of the Man' in the Moon. Oh, no. 'The moon is a dry, airless desert of rock and dust.' The sun had never smiled on any of the Gradgrinds. How could it? It was only a quantity of hot gas!

Stone Lodge itself was a big, square house, a mile outside Coketown in north-west England.

^{1.} of course 当然 2. as soon as 一旦

来。她那么年轻,又那么可爱。她并不以为这个只 有事实存在的严酷的世界是一个非常令人振奋的地 方。

第二章

那天晚上,格雷因先生回家的时候,感到踌躇满志。学校里这些孩子们很快就会像他自己的小孩子们一般聪明懂事了! 自然罗,任何一个孩子所受的教育,都比不上他向五个小格雷因所提供的教育。

当然,石屋,这个格雷因先生的家,有它自己的教室。这是囚禁孩子们的牢房。一旦孩子会走路了,当父亲的便把他们往教室里赶。孩子们记忆中第一件东西是:一块黑板。小格雷因们虽然并不知道那个三头小熊的故事,但是他们能够复述:"熊——动物,四条腿,皮毛粗厚……"他们从来没听过月中人的传说,噢,从来没有,"月亮是个干燥而无空气、由岩石和尘埃构成的不毛之地。"太阳从来不曾向任何一个格雷因露过一丝笑脸。怎么会笑呢?它不过是一定数量的高温气体而已!

石屋本身,是一座正方形的大房子,它在英国 西北部焦煤镇的郊外一英里处。石屋的每一样东西,