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本书从中国近现代散文的浩瀚星空里采撷了三十多颗璀璨的明星缀集在这里。这些散文,可谓篇篇经典,它们包括了语言朴实、笔调清新的许地山《春的林野》,文辞活泼、形象生动的老舍《母鸡》,行笔如画、色彩斑斓的朱湘《江行的晨暮》,藻思优美、充满遐想的朱自清《荷塘月色》,诗情洋溢、画意盎然的徐志摩《翡冷翠山居闲话》与何其芳《雨前》,充满象征、深含寓意的鲁迅《秋夜》与郭沫若《路畔的蔷薇》,托物言志、畅抒情怀的茅盾《白杨礼赞》与朱国良《感悟春天》,以及文人雅趣、浪漫天成的郁达夫《故都的秋》与《江南的冬景》等等。阅读这些作品是一种享受,一种提高,一种升华。

然而,经典必须精译才能尽显其精髓!在英译这些作品时,我不 仅努力把原文所包含的意思、意图、话外音等尽量准确地、充分地用 译文表达出来,还努力把原文所载有的形象、意境、感染力、韵味等 尽量贴切地、饱满地融入译文里去。此外,我还努力使译文本身的遣 词造句、行文断点、句章衔接、节奏格调等等尽量浑然一体。这些是 我在翻译这些作品时的不懈追求。这些追求,或者说这些准则,简而 言之就是:准确,传神,浑然。

所谓准确,并非仅指对原文含义层面的如实表达,它还包括更为广阔的范畴,比如对原文词汇的分量、色彩、内涵等的对应,对原文句子的主次、口气、节奏等的呼应,等等。所谓传神,并非是说所有原文都必定文采斐然,译文也必须把这种斐然的文采翻译出来;而是说,原文都具有它自身的那种或者那些特质,有的也许遗词优美,有的也许造句铿锵,有的也许行文歪扭,有的也许只是烂文一篇,但不论它属于哪一种,或者综合了哪几种,译者都应该尽量把原文的那种

或者那些特质体现在译文中。这就是说,译文一方面会自然地显示出译者自己的翻译风格,同时也应该体现出原文的个性。而所谓浑然,则是指包括译入语在内的所有语言都具有自己的遗词方法、行文特点、结章规律、节奏韵律等等,译文必须符合它们的运作,自成一个有机体。

然而,通往准确、传神、浑然这三个准则的道路上常常潜伏着矛盾,稍有不慎就会顾此失彼。每遇此况,我的解决法宝就是中国传统哲学的精髓——中庸之道,也就是说,用辩证的方法,以准确为主,以传神和浑然为辅,去找出这三个追求之间最接近原文的平衡点。

当然,由于时间和能力所限,不足之处在所难免,敬请原谅!

徐英才

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暖国的雨,向来没有变过冰冷的坚硬的灿烂的雪花。博识的人们觉得他单调,他自己也以为不幸否耶? 江南的雪,可是滋润美艳之至了; 那是还在隐约着的青春的消息,是极壮健的处子的皮肤^①。雪野中有血红的宝珠山茶,白中隐青的单瓣梅花,深黄的磬口的蜡梅花; 雪下面还有冷绿的杂草。蝴蝶确乎没有; 蜜蜂是否来采山茶花和梅花的蜜, 我可记不真切了。但我的眼前仿佛看见冬花开在雪野中,有许多蜜蜂们忙碌地飞着,也听得他们嗡嗡地闹着。

孩子们呵着冻得通红,像紫芽姜一般的小手,七八个一齐来塑雪罗汉。因为不成功,谁的父亲也来帮忙了。罗汉就塑得比孩子们高得多^②,虽然不过是上小下大的一堆,终于分不清是壶卢还是罗汉^③;然而很洁白,很明艳^④,以自身的滋润相粘结,整个地闪闪地生光。孩子们用龙眼核给他做眼珠,又从谁的母亲的脂粉奁中偷得胭脂来涂在嘴唇上^⑤。这回确是一个大阿罗汉了。他也就目光灼灼地嘴唇通红地坐在雪地里。

第二天还有几个孩子来访问他,对了他拍手,点头,嘻笑[®]。但他终于独自坐着了。晴天又来消释他的皮肤,寒夜又使他结一层冰,化作不透明的水晶模样,连续的晴天又使他成为不知道算什

么,而嘴上的胭脂也褪尽了。

但是,朔方的雪花在纷飞之后,却永远如粉,如沙,他们决不 粘连,撤在屋上,地上,枯草上,就是这样。屋上的雪是早已就有 悄化了的,因为屋里居人的火的温热。别的,在晴天之下,旋风忽 来,便蓬勃地奋飞,在日光中灿灿地生光,如包藏火焰的大雾,旋 转而且升腾,弥漫太空,使太空旋转而且升腾地闪烁。

在无边的旷野上,在凛冽的天宇下,闪闪地旋转升腾着的是雨的精魂……

是的, 那是孤独的雪, 是死掉的雨, 是雨的精魂。

Snow

O Lu Xun

Tropical rain has never had a chance to turn into ice-cold, solid, and sparkling snowflakes. Erudite people consider this fact boring, and the rain itself takes this as a misfortune. In contrast, southern snow is the pinnacle of sleekness and beauty. It is simply a herald of emerging adolescence and the skin of the most vigorous and healthy virgin. In the snowy fields, there are scarlet Treasure Pearl camellias, white-colored and blue-green-tinged single-lobe plum flowers, and deep yellow Alms Bowl winter sweets. Underneath the snow are pale green weeds. There are indeed no butterflies, nor do I remember if bees have come to gather honey from the camellias or plum flowers, but I seem to have seen winter flowers blooming in the snow-covered fields, on which many bees are busy flying around, and I seem to have heard their buzzing clamor.

A group of children, seven or eight in total, have gathered to make a snow Arhat. Occasionally, they puff warm breaths on their little, frozen hands, red and purple like ginger sprouts. Because they have failed to make the Arhat right, someone's dad has come to help. As a result, the snow Arhat now looks much taller than the figure the kids have made previously. Although it is nothing but a tapering pile of snow — and looks as much like a gourd as it does an Arhat — it appears, on the other hand, very white and eye-catching as a big shiny mess, bound together with the power of its own gluey moistness. The kids use longans for its eyeballs and put on its lips some rouge snitched from a make-up case of someone's mother. Now it does look like a big Arhat, and it sits there on the snowy ground with its eyes glittering and its lips glowing.

Although a few children have come to visit it the following day and give it a round of applause, a few nods, and a chorus of laughter, in the end, it has to sit there alone. A sunny day has scraped off its skin, and a chilly night has covered it in a layer of ice, thus turning it into an opaque crystal, and several sunny days in a row have taken the rouge off its lips and made it completely unrecognizable.

On the contrary, like permanent powder or sand, northern snow-flakes, after they fall, remain non-sticky solids. When they are spread onto the roofs, onto the ground, or onto the withered grass, they remain the same shape as before. Of course, the snow on the roof has long since melted in the warmth of the fires lit by the residents of the houses, but in other places, the snow flies vigorously in the sudden whirling wind and shines brilliantly in the sunlight. It whirls up and fills the sky like a heavy fog with flame wrapped in it. Thus, it makes the sky flash in a spinning and soaring manner.

In the endless open fields and under the piercingly cold firmament, what is spinning and soaring is the spirit and soul of the rain ...

Yes, that is the solitary snow, or the rain in an afterlife — the spirit and soul of the rain.



- ① "那是还在隐约着的青春的消息,是极壮健的处子的皮肤"译作It is simply a herald of emerging adolescence and the skin of the most vigorous and healthy virgin。注意,本文没有把原文的前半段"那是还在隐约着的青春的消息"直译成It is the hidden news of adolescence,而译作It is simply a herald of emerging adolescence,因为这半段文字的意思其实是说"它隐隐约约地预示着青春将到"。Herald在这里作名词,是"预示"的意思,它还可以作动词,同样表示"预示"的意思。本文没有用它的动词形式把这段文字简练地译成It simply heralds emerging adolescence,而用它的名词形式把这段文字简练地译成It simply a herald of emerging adolescence,是为了使这半段的译文与下半段的译文and the skin of the most vigorous and healthy virgin保持平行。平行句(parallel sentence或者balanced sentence)是英语比较喜欢的一种行文方式。Herald作"预示"解的用法(包括名词和动词用法)如下:
 - a. The singing of the robin is a herald of the arrival of spring. 知更鸟的啼鸣预示着春天的到来。
 - b. The emerging land in the distance is a herald of hope for the sinking boat. 远方陆地的隐现对这艘快沉的船来说预示着一种希望。
 - c. The president's speech heralds a new era in the company. 总裁的讲话预示着该公司将会进入一个崭新的时代。
 - d. The rumbling of the thunder heralds the arrival of a storm. 隆隆的雷鸣声预示着一场暴雨的到来。
- ② "罗汉就塑得比孩子们高得多"这个句子的意思有点模棱两可,我们不知道它的意思究竟是"(父亲塑的)罗汉就塑得比孩子们(塑的要)高得多"还是"罗汉(本身)就塑得比孩子们(本身的身材要)高得多"?是的,译者有时会遇到这类情况,即一个句子既可以这样理解,也

可以那样理解。遇到这种情况,因为译者不是作者,他只能根据上下文、常识或者有关资料来判断,这是无可厚非的。当然,他的理解一定要有说服力。本文认为,把这段文字理解成"罗汉(本身)就塑得比孩子们(本身的身材要)高得多"所说明的没有把它理解成"(父亲塑的)罗汉就塑得比孩子们(塑的要)高得多"更有意义。孩子们当然希望把罗汉塑高,但他们身材矮小,受身材限制而塑不高,来了一位父亲,就使他们的愿望达成了。故本文把这个句子译作... the snow Arhat now looks much taller than the figure the kids have made previously。

- ③ "终于分不清是壶卢还是罗汉"译作... and looks as much like a gourd as it does an Arhat。注意原文与译文不同的逻辑思维方式。原文的意思是雪人"既不像壶卢也不像罗汉",而译文则用"既好像是壶卢又好像是罗汉"(looks as much like a gourd as it does an Arhat),来表示同样的概念。
 - ④ "然而很洁白,很明艳。"试比较下面两种译文:
 - (1) ... it appears very white and eye-catching on the other hand.
 - (2) ... it appears, on the other hand, very white and eye-catching.

本文采用第二种译法。注意译文里的on the other hand。这类结构叫作 sentential adverb,它插在句子中间,吸引读者注意它的前后部分。它之所 以能够吸引读者注意,是因为读者在读到它的前后要停顿一下。在这个句子里,appears 和very white and eye-catching因停顿而得到了加强。

⑤ "……又从谁的母亲的脂粉奁中偷得胭脂来涂在嘴唇上"译作 … and put on its lips some rouge snitched from a make-up case of someone's mother。注意,在翻译"偷"字时,我们没有用steal,而用了snitch。这是 因为,snitch通常指偷窃价值很小的东西,而steal则可指任何形式的偷窃。 孩子们从母亲的脂粉奁中拿些胭脂来做雪人,不应该被看作一种上升为犯罪的偷窃行为,故用snitch 比steal好。

- ⑥ "第二天还有几个孩子来访问他;对了他拍手,点头,嘻笑"译作Although a few children have come to visit it the following day and give it a round of applause, a few nods, and a chorus of laughter, in the end, it has to sit there alone。注意译文里的短语a round of (applause),a few (nods)和a chorus of (laughter)。加译这些量词,译文就带上了一些幽默的色彩,这就跟原文的语气接近了。A round of 是"一轮"、"一巡",a chorus of是"合唱"、"一致"的意思。比如:
 - a. They started to complain after a round of beer. 喝过一巡酒之后, 他们开始发牢骚。
 - b. After a round of handshaking, he stepped onto the platform. 跟大家握过手后,他走上了讲台。
 - c. They gave a chorus of approval to the proposal. 大家给予该建议一 致赞同。
 - d. The politician was greeted with a chorus of boos. 迎接这位政治家的是一片嘘声。

秋 夜

◎鲁迅

在我的后园,可以看见墙外有两株树,一株是枣树,还有一株 也是枣树。

这上面的夜的天空,奇怪而高,我生平没有见过这样奇怪而高的天空。他仿佛要离开人间而去^①,使人们仰面不再看见。然而现在却非常之蓝,闪闪地睒着几十个星星的眼,冷眼^②。他的口角上现出微笑,似乎自以为大有深意^③,而将繁霜洒在我的园里的野花草上。

我不知道那些花草真叫什么名字,人们叫他们什么名字[®]。我记得有一种开过极细小的粉红花,现在还开着,但是更极细小了,她在冷的夜气中,瑟缩地做梦,梦见春的到来,梦见秋的到来,梦见瘦的诗人将眼泪擦在她最末的花瓣上[®],告诉她秋虽然来,冬虽然来,而此后接着还是春,胡蝶乱飞,蜜蜂都唱起春词来了。她于是一笑,虽然颜色冻得红惨惨地,仍然瑟缩着。

枣树,他们简直落尽了叶子。先前,还有一两个孩子来打他们别人打剩的枣子,现在是一个也不剩了,连叶子也落尽了。他知道小粉红花的梦,秋后要有春;他也知道落叶的梦,春后还是秋。他简直落尽叶子,单剩干子,然而脱了当初满树是果实和叶子时候的