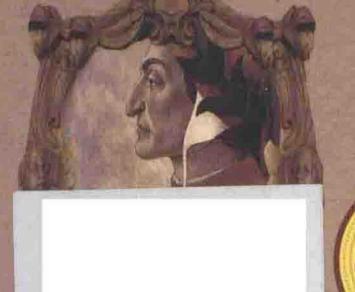
THE DIVINE COMEDY



Dance Mighieri

Translated H. W. Longfellow Illustrated Gustave Dore

神曲·地狱篇

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THE DIVINE COMEDY INFERNO

by Dante Alighieri
Translated by H. W. Longfellow
Illustrated by Gustave Dore



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Dante Alighieri

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) was a major Italian poet of the Middle Ages. His Divine Comedy, originally called *Commedia* and later called *Divina* by Boccaccio, is widely considered the greatest literary work composed in the Italian language and a masterpiece of world literature.

In Italy he is known as il Sommo Poeta ("the Supreme Poet") or just il Poeta. He, Petrarch and Boccaccio are also known as "the three fountains" or "the three crowns". Dante is also called the "Father of the Italian language".

More classics to be soon published are:

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General Preface

Millions of Chinese are learning English to acquire knowledge and skills for communication in a world where English has become the primary language for international discourse. Yet not many learners have come to realize that the command of the English language also enables them to have an easy access to the world literary classics such as Shakespeare's plays, Shelley's poems, mark Twain's novels and Nietzsche's works which are an important part of liberal-arts education. The most important goals of universities are not vocational, that is, not merely the giving of knowledge and the training of skills.

In a broad sense, education aims at broadening young people's mental horizon, cultivating virtues and shaping their character. Lincoln, Mao Zedong and many other great leaders and personages of distinction declared how they drew immense inspiration and strength from literary works. As a matter of fact, many of them had aspired to become writers in their young age. Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) is said to take along with him two things, waking or sleeping: a book and a dagger, and the book is Iliad, a literary classic, by Homer. He would put these two much treasured things under his pillow when he went to bed.

Today, we face an unprecedented complex and changing world. To cope with this rapid changing world requires not only communication skills, but also adequate knowledge of cultures other than our own home culture. Among the most important developments in present-day global culture is the ever increasing cultural exchanges and understanding between different nations and peoples. And one of the best ways to know foreign cultures is to read their literary works, particularly their literary classics, the soul of a country's culture. They also give you the best language and the feeling of sublimity.

Liaoning People's Publishing House is to be congratulated for its foresight and courage in making a new series of world literary classics available to the reading public. It is hoped that people with an adequate command of the English language will read them, like them and keep them as their lifetime companions.

I am convinced that the series will make an important contribution to the literary education of the young people in china. At a time when the whole country is emphasizing "spiritual civilization", it is certainly a very timely venture to put out the series of literary classics for literary and cultural education.

Zhang Zhongzai
Professor
Beijing Foreign Studies University
July, 2013 Beijing

总序

经典名著的语言无疑是最凝练、最优美、最有审美价值的。雪莱的那句"如冬已来临,春天还会远吗?"让多少陷于绝望的人重新燃起希望之火,鼓起勇气,迎接严冬过后的春天。徐志摩一句"悄悄的我走了,正如我悄悄的来;我挥一挥衣袖,不带走一片云彩"又让多少人陶醉。尼采的那句"上帝死了",又给多少人以振聋发聩的启迪作用。

很多著名领袖如林肯、毛泽东等伟大人物,也都曾从经典名著中汲取力量,甚至获得治国理念。耶鲁大学教授查尔斯·希尔曾在题为《经典与治国理念》的文章,阐述了读书与治国之间的绝妙关系。他这样写道: "在几乎所有经典名著中,都可以找到让人叹为观止、深藏其中的治国艺术原则。"

经典名著,不仅仅有治国理念,更具提升读者审 美情趣的功能。世界上不同时代、不同地域的优秀经典 作品,都存在一个共同属性:歌颂赞美人间的真善美, 揭露抨击世间的假恶丑。

读欧美自但丁以来的经典名著,你会看到,西方无论是在漫长的黑暗时期,抑或进入现代进程时期,总有经典作品问世,对世间的负面,进行冷峻的批判。与此同时,也有更多的大家作品问世,热情讴歌人间的真诚与善良,使读者不由自主地沉浸于经典作品的审美情感之中。

英语经典名著,显然是除了汉语经典名著以外, 人类整个进程中至关重要的文化遗产的一部分。从历 史上看,英语是全世界经典阅读作品中,使用得最广 泛的国际性语言。这一事实,没有产生根本性变化。 本世纪相当长一段时间,这一事实也似乎不会发生任何 变化。而要更深入地了解并切身感受英语经典名著的风 采,阅读原汁原味的英语经典作品的过程,显然是必不 可少的。

辽宁人民出版社及时并隆重推出"最经典英语文库"系列丛书,是具有远见与卓识的出版行为。我相信,这套既可供阅读,同时也具收藏价值的英语原版经

典作品系列丛书,在帮助人们了解什么才是经典作品的同时,也一定会成为广大英语爱好者、大中学生以及学生家长们挚爱的"最经典英语文库"。

北京外国语大学英语学院 北外公共外交研究中心 欧美文学研究中心主任 全国英国文学学会名誉会长

> 张中载 教授 2013年7月于北京

Is this book for you?

一个战士的梦幻现实巨著

14世纪初,意大利的威尼斯、佛罗伦萨、米兰等地的工商业经济日益繁荣。资本主义因素开始出现,但发展不平衡。强大的资产阶级,依靠人民的力量,推翻了封建统治,取得了自治权,建立了城邦共和国。罗马教皇和神圣罗马帝国皇帝,为了统治意大利,进行着长期的斗争。各个城市内部阶层的矛盾和斗争也异常尖锐。

但丁(1265-1321)就是站在中世纪与近代历史 交叉口的诗人。他出生于佛罗伦萨一个小贵族家庭,早 年拜师学拉丁文、诗学、修辞学、古典文学,对绘画、 舞蹈、哲学也颇有造诣,是当时最博学的人之一。早年 积极参加政治活动和反封建贵族的斗争,获胜后曾被选 为佛罗伦萨的行政官。后因其所属党派斗争失败被判处 终身流放,但期间一直同教皇作斗争,拒绝屈服,最终 客死他乡。

《神曲》,是但丁1307年至1321年被放逐期间写的一部长诗。全诗分为三部:《地狱篇》、《炼狱篇》和《天堂篇》。每部33首,最前面增加一首序诗,共100首,描绘了诗人但丁在维吉尔和贝阿特丽采的指引下,幻游地狱、炼狱、天堂三界的故事。

此次, "最经典英语文库"先出版的是最有名的 《地狱篇》。

《神曲》一直被认为是欧洲最伟大文学作品,也是

世界最重要的文学作品之一。从思想性和艺术性来说,《神曲》的确是一部划时代意义的巨著。俄国批评家别林斯基说它反映了"自己时代精神生活的全部深度"。

美国19世纪著名诗人朗费罗,早对《神曲》情有独钟,于是,他拿起手中的笔,通过精准的理解,将其翻译成英语。现在这部朗费罗英译本,已成为英语世界里的精品。人们通过阅读这部译本,来了解但丁,了解"地狱"、了解"炼狱"、了解"天堂"。现在,呈现给您的,就是这部翻译精准的英译本,但丁《神曲》里的第一篇《地狱篇》。

如果您是英文爱好者中的一员,希望您通过阅读 英语原文,来欣赏这部关于大自然的"神曲",这无疑 是种无法替代的精神享受。

如果您是学生家长,建议您给上中学或大学的孩子准备一套"最经典英语文库",放在书架上。它们是永远不会过时的精神食粮。

如果您是正在学习的大中学生,也建议您抽空读读这些经时间检验的人类精神食粮文库里最经典的精品。一时读不懂不要紧,先收藏起来,放进您的书架里,等您长大到某个时候,您会忽然发现,自己开始能读,而且读懂了作品的字里行间意义时,那种喜悦感,是无法言述的,也是无与伦比的。您可能也会因此对走过的人生,有更深刻的感悟与理解。

关于这套图书的装帧设计与性价比:完全按欧美出版规则操作,从图书开本,到封面设计,从体例版式,到字体选取,但价钱却比欧美原版图书便宜三分之二,甚至更多。因此,从性价比看,它们也是最值得收藏的。

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INFERNO

Inferno: Canto 1

Midway upon the journey of our life
I found myself within a forest dark,
For the straightforward pathway had been lost.

Ah me! how hard a thing it is to say
What was this forest savage, rough, and stern,
Which in the very thought renews the fear.

So bitter is it, death is little more; But of the good to treat, which there I found, Speak will I of the other things I saw there.

I cannot well repeat how there I entered, So full was I of slumber at the moment In which I had abandoned the true way.

But after I had reached a mountain's foot, At that point where the valley terminated, Which had with consternation pierced my heart,

Upward I looked, and I beheld its shoulders, Vested already with that planet's rays Which leadeth others right by every road.

Then was the fear a little quieted

That in my heart's lake had endured throughout

The night, which I had passed so piteously.

- And even as he, who, with distressful breath, Forth issued from the sea upon the shore, Turns to the water perilous and gazes;
- So did my soul, that still was fleeing onward, Turn itself back to re-behold the pass Which never yet a living person left.
- After my weary body I had rested,
 The way resumed I on the desert slope,
 So that the firm foot ever was the lower.
- And lo! almost where the ascent began,
 A panther light and swift exceedingly,
 Which with a spotted skin was covered o'er!
- And never moved she from before my face, Nay, rather did impede so much my way, That many times I to return had turned.
- The time was the beginning of the morning, And up the sun was mounting with those stars That with him were, what time the Love Divine
- At first in motion set those beauteous things; So were to me occasion of good hope, The variegated skin of that wild beast,
- The hour of time, and the delicious season; But not so much, that did not give me fear A lion's aspect which appeared to me.
- He seemed as if against me he were coming With head uplifted, and with ravenous hunger, So that it seemed the air was afraid of him;
- And a she-wolf, that with all hungerings Seemed to be laden in her meagreness,



Dante before the lion in the dark wood