# The Ancestor

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#### 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

祖先:汉英对照 / (英)保罗·穆尔顿 (Paul Muldoon)著;陈东飙译. — 南京:江苏凤凰文艺出版社,2018.1

(红狐丛书. 语言丛林的游戏) ISBN 978-7-5594-1382-6

I. ①祖··· Ⅱ. ①保··· ②陈··· Ⅲ. ①诗集-英国现代一汉、英 Ⅳ. ①I561.25

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2017)第 272899 号

#### 书 名 红狐丛书 · 语言丛林的游戏: 祖先

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出版发行 江苏凤凰文艺出版社

出版社地址 南京市中央路 165 号, 邮编: 210009

出版社网址 http://www.jswenyi.com

印 刷 江苏凤凰通达印刷有限公司

开 本 787×1092毫米 1/32

印 张 1.375

字 数 18千字

版 次 2018年1月第1版 2018年1月第1次印刷

标准书号 ISBN 978-7-5594-1382-6

定 价 60.00 元 (全十册)

(江苏凤凰文艺版图书凡印刷、装订错误可随时向承印厂调换)

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# Dancers at the Moy

This Italian square
And circling plain
Black once with mares
And their stallions,
The flat Blackwater
Turning its stones

Over hour after hour
As their hooves shone
And lifted together
Under the black rain,
One or other Greek war
Now coloured the town

Blacker than ever before With hungry stallions And their hungry mares Like hammocks of skin, The flat Blackwater Unable to contain

Itself as horses poured Over acres of grain In a black and gold river. No band of Athenians Arrived at the Moy fair To buy for their campaign,

Peace having been declared And a treaty signed. The black and gold river Ended as a trickle of brown Where those horses tore At briars and whins,

Ate the flesh of each other Like people in famine. The flat Blackwater Hobbled on its stones With a wild stagger And sag in its backbone,

The local people gathered Up the white skeletons. Horses buried for years Under the foundations Give their earthen floors The ease of trampolines.

# 莫伊城<sup>①</sup>的舞者

这座意大利广场 和环绕的平原 黑黑的曾有母马 和它们的种马, 低浅的黑水河 转动它的石头

经过一个又一个时辰 当它们的蹄被照亮 又被一块儿举起 在黑色的雨之下, 这场或那场希腊战争 现已把这镇子染得

比任何往日更黑 有饥饿的种马 和它们饥饿的母马 像皮的吊床, 低浅的黑水河<sup>©</sup> 无法克制

它自己当马匹奔涌 过无数英亩的谷子 在一条黑与金色的河里。 没有雅典人的团队 抵达莫伊市场 为他们的战役购买, 和平已经宣布 一份条约已经签订。 黑与金色的河 流尽如一滴褐色的水 此处那些马撕扯 石楠和荆豆,

互相吃对方的肉 像饥馑中的人一样。 低浅的黑水河 在它的石头上跛行 有一种野性的踉跄 与松弛在它的脊梁骨里,

当地人收集 白色的骨架。 埋葬多年的马匹 在喷泉之下 给它们的泥地 一份蹦床的舒适。

(陈东飙译)

### 译注:

- ① 莫伊城,北爱尔兰小镇。
- ② 黑水河,流经莫伊镇的河。

### Anseo

When the Master was calling the roll
At the primary school in Collegelands,
You were meant to call back Anseo
And raise your hand
As your name occurred.
Anseo, meaning here, here and now,
All present and correct,
Was the first word of Irish I spoke.
The last name on the ledger
Belonged to Joseph Mary Plunkett Ward
And was followed, as often as not,
By silence, knowing looks,
A nod and a wink, the Master's droll
"And where's our little Ward-of-court?"

I remember the first time he came back
The Master had sent him out
Along the hedges
To weigh up for himself and cut
A stick with which he would be beaten.
After a while, nothing was spoken;
He would arrive as a matter of course
With an ash-plant, a salley-rod.
Or, finally, the hazel-wand
He had whittled down to whip-lash.
Its twist of red and yellow lacquers
Sanded and polished,

And altogether so delicately wrought That he had engraved his initials on it.

I last met Joseph Mary Plunkett Ward
In a pub just over the Irish border.
He was living in the open,
In a secret camp
On the other side of the mountain.
He was fighting for Ireland,
Making things happen.
And he told me, Joe Ward,
Of how he had risen through the ranks
To Quartermaster, Commandant:
How every morning at parade
His volunteers would call back Anseo
And raise their hands
As their names occurred.

## Anseo

当校长点名时 在考里奇兰兹<sup>①</sup>的小学,你应该回叫Anseo 并且举手 在你的名字出现的时候。 Anseo,意思是这里,这里,现在,都在场并且正确, 是我会说的第一个爱尔兰词语。 清单上最后一个名字 属于裘瑟夫·马利·普朗凯特·沃德 而随之而来的,往往是, 沉默,会意的眼神, 点一下头或眨一下眼,校长的玩偶 "我们的小受监护人呢?"

我记得他第一次回来 校长让他出去 对着树篱 自己量尺寸并砍下 一根打人的棍子。 过了一会儿,什么话也没有; 他会自然而然地前来 拿着一根幼小的榉树枝,一枝柳条竿。 或者,最后,那根榛树棒 已经被他削成了一枝鞭条, 它红色的弯扭和黄色的树脂 被砂磨和抛光, 整个被加工得那么精致 还把他名字的缩写刻在上面。

我最近碰到裘瑟夫·马利·普朗凯特·沃德 是在刚过了爱尔兰边境的一个酒吧里。 他住在野外, 一个秘密营地里 在山的另一边。 他在为爱尔兰战斗, 冲锋陷阵。 他还告诉我,裘·沃德, 他如何一路攀升军阶 当到军需官,司令: 如何在每天早晨列队时 他的志愿兵都会回叫*Anseo* 并举起他们的手 当他们的名字出现之时。

(陈东飙译)

译注:

① 考里奇兰兹, 莫伊市路名。

# Why Brownlee Left

Why Brownlee left, and where he went, Is a mystery even now.
For if a man should have been content It was him; two acres of barley, One of potatoes, four bullocks, A milker, a slated farmhouse.
He was last seen going out to plough On a March morning, bright and early.

By noon Brownlee was famous; They had found all abandoned, with The last rig unbroken, his pair of black Horses, like man and wife, Shifting their weight from foot to Foot, and gazing into the future.

# 布朗李为什么走了

布朗李为什么走了,他去了哪里,即使现在都是个谜。 因为如果有哪个人应该满足 那就是他;两英亩大麦, 一英亩土豆,四头阉牛, 一头奶牛,一间石板瓦的房子。 最后一次看见他是出去犁地 在一个三月的早晨,又亮又早。

到中午布朗李就出名了; 他们发现一切都被抛弃了, 最后的器具都完好无损,他那对黑 马,像男人和妻子, 把自己的体重从一只脚换到 另一只脚,注目望向未来。

(陈东飙译)

## Lag

We were joined at the hip. We were joined at the hip like some latter-day Chang and Eng, though I lay in that dreadful kip in North Carolina while you preferred to hang

loose in London, in that selfsame "room in Bayswater." You wrapped yourself in a flag (the red flag, with a white elephant, of Siam) and contemplated the time lag.

It was Chang, I seem to recall, who tried to choke Eng when he'd had one over the eight. It was Chang whose breath was always so sickly-sour.

It was Chang who suffered a stroke.
Eng was forced to shoulder his weight.
It was Chang who died first. Eng lived on for five hours.

# 滞后

我们是在臀部连结的。我们是在臀部连结的像某一对当代的菖与英<sup>①</sup>, 尽管我躺在那可怕的脏地方 在北卡罗莱纳而你更喜欢静静

呆在伦敦,在那一模一样的 "贝斯沃特<sup>②</sup>的房间"里。你把自己裹进一面旗子 (暹罗的红旗,上面有一头白象) 沉思时间滞后。

是菖,我似乎记得,想要掐死 英在他喝多了的时候。 是菖的呼吸总是臭得那么恶心

是菖得了一次中风。 英被迫扛起他的重量。 是菖先死去的。英又活了五个小时。

(陈东飙译)

## 译注:

- ① 菖与英 ( Chang and Eng, 1811—1874 ),著名的泰国连体双 胞胎。
  - ② 贝斯沃特,伦敦西部一地区。