

房龙地理

VAN LOON'S GEOGRAPHY

中英对照全译本

[美] 房龙 著

Hendrik Willem van Loon

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译



YZLI 0890089140



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美国文学卷

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世界图书出版公司

上海·西安·北京·广州



YZLI 0890089140

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

房龙地理: 中英对照全译本/(美)房龙(Van loon, H. W.)著; 盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会译. —上海: 上海世界图书出版公司, 2010.7
ISBN 978-7-5100-2297-5

I. ①房… II. ①房… ②盛… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物
②社会地理学—世界—通俗读物 IV.H319.4: C

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2010)第 122406 号

房龙地理

[美]房龙 著

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译

上海世界图书出版公司 出版发行

上海市广中路 88 号

邮政编码 200083

北京兴鹏印刷有限公司印刷

如发现印刷质量问题, 请与印刷厂联系

(质检科电话: 010-84897777)

各地新华书店经销

开本: 880×1230 1/32 印张: 19.75 字数: 632 000

2010 年 7 月第 1 版 2010 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-5100-2297-5/H · 1022

定价: 29.80 元

<http://www.wpcsh.com.cn>

<http://www.wpcsh.com>

前言

通过阅读文学名著学语言，是掌握英语的绝佳方法。既可接触原汁原味的英语，又能享受文学之美，一举两得，何乐不为？

对于喜欢阅读名著的读者，这是一个最好的时代，因为有成千上万的书可以选择；这又是一个不好的时代，因为在浩繁的卷帙中，很难找到适合自己的好书。

然而，你手中的这套丛书，值得你来信赖。

这套精选的中英对照名著全译丛书，未改编改写、未删节削减，且配有权威注释、部分书中还添加了精美插图。

要学语言、读好书，当读名著原文。如习武者切磋交流，同高手过招方能渐明其间奥妙，若一味在低端徘徊，终难登堂入室。积年流传的名著，就是书中“高手”。然而这个“高手”，却有真假之分。初读书时，常遇到一些挂了名著名家之名改写改编的版本，虽有助于了解基本情节，然而所得只是皮毛，你何曾真的就读过了那名著呢？一边是窖藏了50年的女儿红，一边是贴了女儿红标签的薄酒，那滋味，怎能一样？“朝闻道，夕死可矣。”人生短如朝露，当努力追求真正的美。

本套丛书的英文版本，是根据外文原版书精心挑选而来；对应的中文译文以直译为主，以方便中英文对照学习，译文经反复推敲，对忠实理解原著极有助益；在涉及到重要文化习俗之处，添加了精当的注释，以解疑惑。

读过本套丛书的原文全译，相信你会得书之真意、语言之精髓。

送君“开卷有益”之书，愿成文采斐然之人。



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Chapter 1

第一章

AND THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

IT sounds incredible, but nevertheless it is true. If everybody in this world of ours were six feet tall and a foot and a half wide and a foot thick (and that is making people a little bigger than they usually are), then the whole of the human race (and according to the latest available statistics, there are now nearly 2,000,000,000 descendants of the original Homo sapiens and his wife) could be packed into a box measuring half a mile in each direction. That, as I just said, sounds incredible, but if you don't believe me figure it out for yourself and you will find it to be correct.

If we transported that box to the Grand Canyon of Arizona and balanced it neatly on the low stone wall that keeps people from breaking their necks when stunned by the incredible beauty of that silent witness of the forces of Eternity and then called little Noodle, the dachshund and told him (the tiny beast is very intelligent and loves

地球，我们共同的家园

我们不妨作这样一个听起来难以置信，然而正确的设想：如果每个生活在地球上的人都身高 6 英尺，肩宽 1.5 英尺，身躯厚 1 英尺（当然普通人的身材没这么高大），那么只要用一个长、宽、高各半英里的大箱子就能够把人类（根据最新统计数据，如今的总人口，即原始人的后代，有近 20 亿）全部装进去。正如我所说，这听起来难以置信，但是你只要亲自算算，就会知道这不是无稽之谈。

如果我们把这个大箱子运到亚利桑那州大峡谷，为了使人类在惊叹这由永恒力量的静默智慧创造出来的美景时，不至于因为目瞪口呆而扭断了脖子，我们还得巧妙地把这个大箱子平稳地放在较低的石崖边上。然后，让一条听话乖巧的德国小腊肠狗，用它那棕色的

to oblige) to give the unwieldy contraption a slight push with his soft brown nose, there would be a moment of crunching and ripping as the wooden planks loosened stones and shrubs and trees on their downward path and then a low and even softer bumpity-bumpity-bump and a sudden splash when the outer edges struck the banks of the Colorado River.

Then silence and oblivion.

The human sardines in their mortuary chest would soon be forgotten.

The Canyon would go on battling wind and air and sun and rain as it has done since it was created.

The world would continue to run its even course through the uncharted heavens.

The astronomers on distant and nearby planets would have noticed nothing out of the ordinary.

A century from now, a little mound, densely covered with vegetable matter, would perhaps indicate where humanity lay buried.

And that would be all.

I can well imagine that some of my readers will not quite like this story and will feel rather uncomfortable when they see their own proud race reduced to such proportions of sublime insignificance.

There is however a different angle to the problem—an angle which makes the very smallness of our numbers and the helplessness of our puny little bodies a matter of profound and sincere pride.

柔软的鼻子，朝这个笨重的大箱子轻轻地推一下。紧接着是一阵轰隆隆、咔嚓声，木板压垮了沿途的石头、灌木丛和树木，这装满人类的大箱子一路跌跌撞撞地沿着山崖朝谷底滚落，随着一声轰然巨响，箱子边缘撞上了科罗拉多河河岸。

一切又都归于沉寂，了无痕迹。

像沙丁鱼般被塞进停尸房般大箱子里的人类很快就会被彻底遗忘。

大峡谷依旧与风霜雪雨作着搏斗，一如起初。

地球也依旧沿着它既定的轨道，在这个神秘的宇宙间运行着。

而其他行星上的天文学家，无论远近，也都不会注意到地球上的任何变化。

也许100年之后，那个层层覆盖着绿色植被的小土堆，就是人类的葬身之所。

不过也仅此而已。

我知道一些读者可能会非常不喜欢这个故事，并且当看到自己一向引以为傲的物种被贬低得如此无足轻重时，也会觉得相当不舒服。

然而还有另外一种看问题的角度，从这个角度看，人类依然能够产生一种深刻而毫不矫饰的自豪，尽管我们的数量十分微小，身体更是羸弱不堪。

Here we are, a mere handful of weak and defenceless mammals. Ever since the dawn of the first day we have been surrounded on all sides by hordes and swarms of creatures infinitely better prepared for the struggle for existence. Some of them were a hundred feet long and weighed as much as a small locomotive, while others had teeth as sharp as the blade of a circular saw. Many varieties went about their daily affairs clad in the armour of a medieval knight. Others were invisible to the human eye but they multiplied at such a terrific rate that they would have owned the entire earth in less than a year's time if it had not been for certain enemies who were able to destroy them almost as fast as they were born. Whereas man could only exist under the most favourable circumstances and was forced to look for a habitat among the few small pieces of dry land located between the high mountains and the deep sea, these fellow-passengers of ours considered no summit too high and found no sea too deep for their ambitions. They were apparently made of the stuff that could survive regardless of its natural surroundings.

When we learn on eminent authority that certain varieties of insects are able to disport themselves merrily in petroleum (a substance we would hardly fancy as the main part of our daily diet) and that others manage to live through such changes in temperature as would kill all of us within a very few minutes, when we discover to our

是的,人类只不过是一群哺乳动物罢了,既瘦弱又无助。自从人类诞生的那天起,就被不计其数的其他物种包围着,而它们显然比人类更适合生存。它们中有些体形十分硕大,有 100 英尺长,有小型火车头那么重;还有些有着像圆锯的刀刃一样锋利的牙齿。很多生物在平时也披着如中世纪骑士铠甲般坚硬的外壳。尽管有些生物,人类无法凭肉眼看到,但它们的繁殖速度却非常惊人。如果不是它们的某种天敌,能够以几乎同样惊人的速度把它们消灭掉,那么要不了一年,这些生物就能霸占整个地球。人类只能在最适宜的环境中生存,所以不得不在高山与大海之间那些小块的干燥陆地上寻找栖身之所;而人类的其他同伴则雄心万丈,对巍峨的山峰和深邃的海洋毫无畏惧。显然,它们的身体构造使它们在任何自然环境下都能生存。

权威研究表明,有些昆虫可以在石油中舒适生活,而对人类来说,把石油当成食物是很难想象的;有些昆虫在极大的温差条件下也能存活,而同样情况下,人类在几分钟之内就会死掉。更有甚者,那些令人讨厌的棕色小甲虫(它们似乎很热爱文学,老是在我们的书

gruesome dismay that those little brown beetles, who seem so fond of literature that they are forever racing around in our bookcases, continue the even tenor of their restless days minus two or three or four legs, while we ourselves are disabled by a mere pin-prick on one of our toes, then we sometimes begin to realize against what sort of competitors we have been forced to hold our own, ever since we made our first appearance upon this whirling bit of rock, lost somewhere in the darkest outskirts of an indifferent universe.

What a side-splitting joke man we must have been to his pachydermatous contemporaries, who stood by and watched this pinkish sport of nature indulge in its first clumsy efforts to walk on its hind legs without the help of a convenient tree-trunk or branch!

But what has become of those proud owners of almost 200,000,000 square miles of land and water (not to mention the unfathomable oceans of air) who ruled so sublime by that right of eminent domain which was based upon brute force and sly cunning?

The greater part has disappeared from view except where as "Exhibits A" or "B" we have kindly given them a little parking space in one of our museums devoted to natural history. Others, in order to remain among those present, were forced to go into domestic service and today in exchange for a mere livelihood they favour us with their hides and their eggs and their

橱中跑个不停)少了2条、3条甚至4条腿,仍然能够活得好好的,而我们即使只是被一根小刺扎了脚趾头一下,都会行走困难。当我们发现这些时,就会意识到:人类自从诞生于这个遗失在冷漠世界的黑暗角落中旋转的岩石星球起,就必须同怎样的对手进行生存斗争。

那些行动迟缓的厚皮动物,看到与它们同时代的人类的祖先在没有树枝、手杖的帮助下,笨拙地努力学习用后肢走路的样子,这是多么可笑的一幅画面。

然而那些昔日的统治者,它们曾凭借着野蛮暴力和阴险狡诈对地球上两亿平方英里的陆地和海洋(更不用说广阔无边的天空)进行过至高无上的统治,如今它们的命运又怎样了呢?

它们中的大部分已经永远地从地球上消失了,只有在自然历史博物馆中,人类才好心地给它们留了一席之地,作为各种展品展出。还有一部分为了生存下来,不得不做了人类的家畜,要么给人类提供皮毛、蛋奶、牛肉,要么帮人们拖拉一些对懒散的人类来说过于沉重的东西,以此换得生存的权利。

milk and the beef that grows upon their flanks, or drag such loads as we consider a little too heavy for our own lazy efforts. Many more have betaken themselves to out-of-the-way places where we permit them to browse and graze and perpetuate their species, because, thus far, we have not thought it worth while to remove them from the scene and claim their territory for ourselves.

In short, during only a couple of thousand centuries (a mere second from the point of view of Eternity) the human race has made itself the undisputed ruler of every bit of land and at this present day it bids fair to add both air and sea to its domains. And all that, if you please, has been accomplished by a few hundred million creatures who enjoyed not one single advantage over their enemies except the divine gift of Reason.

Even there I am exaggerating. The gift of Reason in its more sublime form and the ability to think for oneself are restricted to a mere handful of men and women. They therefore become the masters who lead. The others, no matter how much they may resent the fact, can only follow. The result is a strange and halting procession, for, no matter how hard people may try, there are ten thousand stragglers for every true pioneer.

Whither the route of march will eventually lead us we do not know. But in the light of what has been achieved during the last four thousand years there is no

另外还有大量的物种，它们干脆自己流放到人类允许它们繁衍生息的偏远地方。而这也主要是因为人类认为那些地方现在还不值得一争，暂时让它们偏安一隅。

总之，人类只用了 200,000 年（在时间之河里，这只不过是沧海一粟），就使自己成为地球上每一块土地无可置疑的主人，而且目前天空和海洋又将被人类纳入自己的版图。所有这些丰功伟绩，仅凭几亿人类成员就创造出来了。但同其他竞争对手相比，除了天赋的理性之外，人类并不具备任何其他优势。

尽管我有点夸张，但以较崇高形式出现并能自主思考的理性天赋，仅被人类中的少数成员拥有。于是他们顺理成章地成为领导者。而大多数人，不论对此多么不满，只能屈从。这样就产生了一个奇怪而又步履蹒跚的队伍，那就是无论大家怎么努力，在成千上万的人群中，只有一个人能真正脱颖而出。

谁也无法预料人类前行的步伐会把我们带到何处。但鉴于过去 4,000 年来我们所取得的成就，人类还是能够创造出无限辉煌的未

limit to the sum total of our potential achievements-unless we are tempted away from the path of normal development by our strange inherent cruelty, which makes us treat other members of our own species as we would never have treated a cow or a dog or even a tree.

The earth and the fullness thereof have been placed at the disposal of Man. Where they have not been placed at his disposal, he has taken possession by right of his superior brain and by the strength of his foresight and his shot-guns.

This home of ours is a good home. It grows food enough for all of us. It has abundant quarries and clay beds and forests from which all of us can be provided with more than ample shelter. The patient sheep of our pastures and the waving flax fields with their myriad of blue flowers, not to forget the industrious silk-worm of China's mulberry trees, all contribute to shelter our bodies against the cold of winter and protect them against the scorching heat of summer. This home of ours is a good home. It produces all these benefits in so abundant measure that every man, woman and child could have his or her share with a little extra supply thrown in for the inevitable days of rest.

But Nature has her own code of laws. They are just, these laws, but they are inexorable and there is no court of appeal.

Nature will give unto us and she will give without stint, but in return she demands that we study her precepts and

来。除非人类从祖先那儿继承下来的一种奇怪的野性，使人类的发展偏离了正常的轨迹。这种野性让人类在对待同类时，甚至比对待一头牛、一只狗甚至一棵树更加残暴。

人类的足迹几乎遍及了地球上的每一个角落，人类几乎掌握了地球上的所有资源。纵然还有足迹未到之处，但凭借着聪明的头脑、丰富的见识和手中的枪炮，人类也会攻城略地。

人类的家园是个美丽的家园。她能提供丰富的食物，让所有成员吃喝享用。她有丰富的土石和森林，让人类安居乐业。那牧场上的羊群、兰花盛开的亚麻田，还有中国的桑蚕编织物，都能帮助人类抵挡严冬酷暑。人类的家园是一个美好的家园。她的物产是如此丰富，以至于无论男人、女人，还是孩童，他们只需要有些微的投入，在大多数的时间里都能坐享其成。

然而，大自然也遵循着它自身的法则。这法则既十分公正，又毫不容情，绝无半点讨价还价的余地。

大自然毫不吝啬地向人类奉献着，但同时，她也要求人类必须

abide by her dictates.

A hundred cows in a meadow meant for only fifty spell disaster—a bit of wisdom with which every farmer is thoroughly familiar. A million people gathered in one spot where there should be only a hundred thousand cause congestion, poverty and unnecessary suffering, a fact which apparently has been overlooked by those who are supposed to guide our destinies.

That, however, is not the most serious of our manifold errors. There is another way in which we offend our generous foster-mother. Man is the only living organism that is hostile to its own kind. Dog does not eat dog—tiger does not eat tiger—yea, even the loathsome hyena lives at peace with the members of his own species. But Man hates Man, Man kills Man and in the world of today the prime concern of every nation is to prepare itself for the coming slaughter of some more of its neighbours.

This open violation of Article I of the Great Code of Creation, which insists upon peace and goodwill among the members of the same species has carried us to a point where soon the human race may be faced with the possibility of complete annihilation. For our enemies are ever on the alert. If *Homo sapiens* (the all-too-flattering name given to our race by a cynical scientist to denote our intellectual superiority over the rest of the animal world) if *Homo Sapiens* is unable or un-willing to assert himself as the master

研究她的规则，遵从她的指令。

如果在一块只能容纳 50 头牛牧的场上，放养 100 头牛，就会出现一场灾难，这是每个牧场主都熟知的常识。在一片只能生活 10 万人的土地上，却聚集了 100 万人，必然会带来拥挤、贫穷和毫无必要的痛苦，而那些主宰人类命运的领袖，却忽视了这显而易见的事实。

不过，在人类犯下的众多错误中，这还不是最为严重的，人类还在以其他方式冒犯着我们慷慨的母亲。在所有现存的物种中，人类是唯一仇视同类的生灵。狗、老虎都不会吃同类，甚至最凶残的鬣狗也能与同类相安无事。但是，人类却互相仇恨，互相杀戮。今日世界，每个国家的头等大事，就是时刻做好屠杀邻国的准备。

同类之间的和平共处，友善相待是宇宙万物的首要法则。人类对这个法则却公然违背，为此我们不得不担心，也许人类很快就会面临种族灭绝的噩运。我们的敌人们时刻在严阵以待。假如人类不能或者不愿意继续主宰这个世界（“人类”这一充满阿谀奉承意味的称呼本身，就是由一位愤世嫉俗的科学家用来表明我们的智力优于其他动物的），那么将有成千上万的候选者愿意承担这一职责。也许对地球来说，由猫、狗、大象或者其他什

of all the surveys, there are thousands of other candidates for the job and it oftentimes seems as if a world dominated by cats or dogs or elephants or some of the more highly organized insects (and how they watch their opportunity!) might offer very decided advantages over a planet top-heavy with battleships and siege-guns.

What is the answer and what is the way out of this hideous and shameful state of affairs?

In a humble way this little book hopes to point to the one and only way out of that lugubrious and disastrous blind-alley into which we have strayed through the clumsy ignorance of our ancestors.

It will take time, it will take hundreds of years of slow and painful education to enable us to find the true road of salvation. But that road leads towards the consciousness that we are all of us fellow-passengers on one and the same planet. Once we have got hold of this absolute verity -once we have realized and grasped the fact that for better or for worse this is our common home-that we have never known another place of abode-that we shall never be able to move from the spot in space upon which we happened to be born-that it therefore behooves us to behave as we would if we found ourselves on board a train or a steamer bound for an unknown destination-we shall have taken the first but most important step towards the solution of that terrible problem which is at the root of all our difficulties.

么高度组织化的昆虫统治(它们对这个机会是多么虎视眈眈!), 也被人类重重布满战舰和重炮来得更好些。

答案是什么呢? 人类又该怎么摆脱这个可怕又可耻的境地呢?

希望这本小书能够用微薄之力, 为人类探寻出一条能够摆脱这种困境的道路, 指出唯一避免我们因祖先的愚蠢和高傲而误入歧途的方法。

这需要时间, 需要数百年漫长而痛苦的教育, 才能寻到真正的自我救赎之路。这条路终将使人类醒悟: 我们大家是同一个星球上的同伴。一旦我们知晓了这则绝对真理, 一旦我们明白, 无论是好是坏, 地球是人类共同的家园, 除此之外, 再无其他栖身之地, 我们永远无法脱离这块我们生长的土地, 我们就会发现, 我们都是坐在同一列火车或者同一艘轮船的乘客, 而对旅途的目的地我们一无所知。对于我们来说, 当务之急也是最重要的, 就是着手解决可怕的问题, 而这也正是我们困境的根本。

We are all of us fellow-passengers on the same planet and the weal and woe of everybody else means the weal and woe of ourselves!

Call me a dreamer and call me a fool-call me a visionary or call for the police or the ambulance to remove me to a spot where I can no longer proclaim such unwelcome heresies. But mark my words and remember them on that fatal day when the human race shall be requested to pack up its little toys and surrender the keys of happiness to a more worthy successor.

The only hope for survival lies in that one sentence:

We are all of us fellow-passengers on the same planet and we are all of us equally responsible for the happiness and well-being of the world in which we happen to live.

我们都是同一个地球上的乘客，我们应该荣辱与共，同舟共济。

可以称我为梦想家、白痴，可以叫我幻想家或者叫警察或救护车把我关起来或拉走，让我不再能散布这不受欢迎的异端邪说。但是在人类最后的大毁灭到来之时，请谨记我的话。到那时，人类将不得不收起那些发动战争的玩意儿，把开启幸福的钥匙拱手交给更称职的继任者。

人类获救的唯一希望就是下面这句话：

我们每个人都是同一个星球的乘客。对于我们生存的世界，人人有同样的责任使之更加美好、幸福、安康。