



WISDOM *of* MENCIUS

孟子

智慧故事



诸子百家智慧故事
Wisdom of
Ancient Chinese Sages

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2 000 多年前的春秋战国时代，是中国各种思想流派百花齐放的时期，涌现了孔子、孟子、老子、庄子、墨子、荀子、孙子、韩非子等思想家、哲学家，他们开创了儒、道、墨、法等各具特色、影响深远的思想派别，后世称为“诸子百家”。“诸子百家智慧故事”是一套介绍先秦诸子经典的汉英对照系列丛书，将先秦诸子的生平事迹、哲学思想、格言警句、哲理寓言以及与他们有关的历史故事串联成启迪智慧的短小故事，既能满足中国读者的普及型阅读需求，又照顾到国外读者的文化特点，让大家在轻松愉快的阅读氛围中走近春秋战国时代“百家争鸣”的先哲们。

为了让世界更好地了解中国的经典文化，“诸子百家智慧故事”在编写上突出了以下三个特点：

轻松阅读——本系列每本书中文不过七八万字，每个故事就是一个相对独立的阅读单位，仅几百字的内容十分钟就能读完，在当今信息爆炸的快节奏时代，这种文本便于读者随时取出翻阅。

经济阅读——中国的文字特别是古文字常常是外国人阅读中国经典的障碍，本丛书采取汉英双语对照，中文是浅显易懂的白话体，配以通顺晓畅的英语译文，读者无须钻研艰深的典籍，就能了解先哲的智慧。

趣味阅读——本丛书通过一个个短小生动的故事以及古意盎然的插图，为读者深入浅出地解读诸子经典。

先秦诸子经典是中国的宝贵精神财富，至今在中国乃至全世界都有广泛的影响。希望本丛书能够引起广大中外读者对先秦诸子百家的兴趣，并能通过书中的故事体会到博大精深的中国智慧。

编者

2009年9月

Preface

Over two millennia ago, China experienced a boom of ideas and philosophies in the form of “100 Schools of Thought”. Confucius, Mencius, Laozi, Zhuangzi, Mozi, Xunzi, Han Feizi, Sun Tzu ... These are the stellar names behind the philosophical schools like Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, Legalism, etc. in the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period (from 770 BC to 221 BC). The classics of these ancient sages contain great wisdom and have exerted profound influence on Chinese history and thought. While the classics themselves may seem difficult to understand today, you can find lucid and accessible explanations of the ancient philosophies in the books of *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages*. With the help of a collection of short and interesting stories, you can get to know the lives and thoughts of the ancient sages, the axioms and allegories they employed to illustrate their ideas, and some facts about the historical era they lived in.

With the aim of presenting the ancient Chinese classics to the world audience, *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages* boasts three advantages:

Easiness — Each book in the series is comprised of only a few dozen stories, each of which has no more than 2,000 words

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and can be glanced through in a 10-minute coffee break. Even in your busy life, you can always snatch some time to enjoy a story of wisdom and gain some spiritual nourishment.

Efficiency — The classics may seem a little obscure today since they are written in the ancient Chinese. In this Chinese-English version of *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages*, however, the classics are rendered in simple, everyday English. Without having to tax your brains, you can readily comprehend the profound wisdom of the ancient sages.

Attractiveness — With all the short but lively stories accompanied by beautiful illustrations, *Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Sages* explains (to you) the ancient philosophical ideas in a friendly and agreeable way.

The ancient philosophical classics in the “100 Schools of Thought” are an important spiritual heritage of China and impose great cultural reverberations beyond the Chinese borders. We hope that the series may let the readers develop an interest in the ancient Chinese sages and their philosophies, and appreciate the quintessential Chinese wisdom that may prove useful in present day.

Editors

September 2009

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孟子生平

The Life of Mencius

孟子，名轲，字子舆，邹国(今山东邹县)人。关于孟子的生卒年有很多不同的说法。

一般认为他生于周烈王四年(公元前372年)，死于周赧王二十六年(公元前289年)的说法比较合理。孟子一生活动的年代大约处于战国中期。

孟子是我国古代伟大的思想家、政治家、教育家，年轻时曾师从孔子的孙子子思的门人学习。孔子的学说、思想和人生态度，给孟轲以极大的影响。他悉心钻研孔子思想，是孔子思想和政治主张的继承者、发扬者，也是孔子之后儒家学派的大师和代表人物。

为了推行自己的政治主张，孟子曾经游说齐国、宋国、滕国、魏国等国家，但他的主张始终没有被采纳。于是他回到故国，聚众讲学、著书立说，与万章、公孙丑等门徒为《诗》、《书》等经书作序，传达孔子的思想，并完成了《孟子》七章。

1083年，孟子被宋神宗封为“邹国公”。1331年，又被元文宗加封为“邹国亚圣公”。孟子至今仍被世人尊称为“亚圣”。

公元前372年左右，孟子诞生在邹，因为生在马车里，所以父母为他取名为轲。孟家是鲁国贵族孟孙氏的后代，但到了孟子家这一脉系时早已经没落了，所以他们迁居到了邹国。孟子的父亲孟激在孟子三岁的时候离开了人世，孟子的母亲仉氏是位贤淑明理、颇有远见的女性，因此孟子的成长与她有着很大的关系。在中国，“孟母三迁”、“孟母断机杼”的故事可谓家喻户晓。

“孟母三迁”说的是，孟轲从小就聪明异常，也十分顽皮。仉氏贫穷，只能租便宜的房屋居住，所以居处环境往往不好。最初，他们居住的地方靠近墓地，小孟轲经常带领一群邻家孩子在墓地玩耍，学着大人做挖穴

筑墓、葬礼扫墓一类的事。仇氏见了忧心如焚，对孟轲说：“这里不是你应该住的地方，我们换个地方住吧！”他们搬家了，这次住在靠近集市的地方。集市上做买卖的人，你来我往，讨价还价，大声吆喝，弄虚作假。小孟轲整天到集市上玩耍，也学起了大人做买卖的游戏，还流露出一副世故的神态。仇氏见了，又是忧心不已，商人追求利益，在当时是很被人瞧不起的。长此下去，仇氏担心孩子的品格培养不好，于是对孟轲说：“我们还得搬家，这里也不能住了。”经过慎重考虑和选择，他们搬到了一所学校的附近。这学校正是从前子思和他的弟子们经常教书讲学、演练礼仪的地方，那里整天乐音隐隐，书声琅琅，进进出出的读书人都是彬彬有礼的样子，张口说话也都是孔子的那一套学说。一到春秋两季的重要节日，还会举行隆重的典礼。小孟轲看得入迷，觉得很有意思，也跟着儒者们学习作揖打躬、礼仪祭祀，模仿学生们吟诵的样子。仇氏见了，终于放心了，对孩子说：“这里才是你应该住的地方。”于是母子俩就定居下来，靠织布为生。

后来孟轲上学了，因为儒家的那套礼仪艰深繁琐，过了一段时间，小孟轲就有点厌倦了，常常逃学，一个人溜到外面去玩耍。仇氏知道了，又生气又难过地问他：“干什么去了？”孟轲不敢隐瞒：“自己玩去了。”仇氏满面悲伤，突然举起刀，狠狠地将织机上的经线全砍断了。小孟轲吓了一跳。不明白母亲什么意思。母亲说：“你不学习，就和我砍断机线一样。线断了织不成布，变成了废物，你学习半途而废，就不能成人，更成不了仁人君子！”那个时候的布是用梭子一点一点织出来的，好不容易织成的布匹被一刀割断是非常可惜的。但孟母就是要用这个例子来说明坚持的重要性。孟子果然受到