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APPRECIATION OF BRITISH POETRY

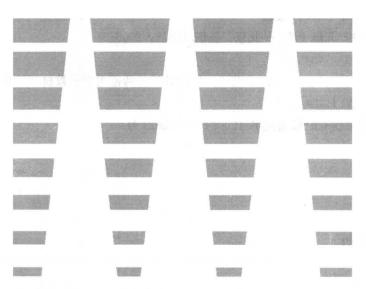
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诗歌赏析

主编 苏煜



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# 新编全国师范大学英语教学丛书 编 委 会

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# 前 言

本书根据当前师范院校外语专业大学生的状况,着重解决部分学生重语言、轻文化的问题,使学生能够在较短的时间内了解英国 诗歌的概况。

本书采取删繁就简的原则,诗选范围,上起文艺复兴的代表莎士比亚,下迄现代主义先驱托马斯·艾略特,基本包括英国诗坛上的主要诗人和他们的代表诗作。所选诗歌,以短篇为主,其间有玄学派、骑士派,古典主义、浪漫主义、现实主义等;诗体上包括商额体、颂体、哀体、自由体和无韵诗等,尽可能反映出不同时期各种诗歌流派的特点,勾勒出英国诗歌的发展脉络。

编著体例分五部分: 诗人简介 (英文)、诗歌原文、注释 (中英文)、评析 (中文) 和思考题 (英文)。诗人简介尽量简明,注释和评析力求详尽,包括背景知识、阅读难点、诗歌内容、技巧等。思考题主要根据诗歌中的思想内容、语言特点、写作技巧等方面提出,目的在于启发读者对诗歌的理解和欣赏。为了突出本教材的特色,区别于同类书籍或读物,本书力求融观赏性、知识性和学术性于一体,从而体现出自己的特色。在语言、内容、技巧等方面点评的同时,强调人文、社会、哲学、宗教等学科的知识,即在注释和评析过程中尽可能多地灌输这方面的内容,使本书不仅能给读者提供一种简捷便利的读本,同时也能为研究英诗的读者提供有价值的参考

资料。

本教材的另一显著特点在于除了作为教材使用外,本书也可用作教辅材料,或闲暇时的读物。通过该书的学习或阅读,读者可以"尝一脔而知全味",也可以此书为"敲门砖",登堂入室,在英诗的殿堂里寻宝。

在本书的编写过程中,得到了北京师范大学外国语学院院长刘 象愚教授的鼓励和支持。是他首先肯定了我的样稿并提出了宝贵的 建议,在此表达诚挚的感谢。

> 苏 煜 2006 年 1 月于徐州师范大学

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# William Shakespeare

威廉・莎士比亚(1564-1616)

#### About the poet

Two outward influences were powerful in developing the genius of Shakespeare, the little village of Stratford, center of the most beautiful and romantic district in rural England, and the great city London, the center of the world's political activity. In one he learned to know the natural man in his natural environment; in the other, the social, the artificial man in the most unnatural of surroundings. Shakespeare was baptized in the little parish church at Stratfordon-Avon on the 26th of April, 1564, three days after his birth. His father, John Shakespeare, was a farmer's son from the neighboring village, who came to Stratford about 1511, and began to prosper as a trader in corn, meat, leather, and other agricultural products. Shakespeare probably attended for a few years the endowed grammar school at Stratford, where he picked up the "small Latin and less Greek" to which his learned friend Ben Jonson refers. When Shakespeare was about fourteen years old his father lost his little property and fell into debt, and the boy probably left school to help support the family of younger children. In 1582, Shakespeare was married to Anne Hathaway, the daughter of a peasant family, who was eight years older than her boy husband. From numerous sarcastic references to marriage made by the characters in his plays, and

from the fact that he soon left his wife and family and went to London, it is generally alleged that the marriage was a hasty and unhappy one.

Of his life in London from 1587 to 1611, the period of his greatest literary activity, many of his plays were popular and quite a number of them were published in his life time. After his death a collection of his plays, 37 in all, were published in folio form by two of his friends in 1623. After his enormous success in London, he retired to his native town to live quietly with his wife and daughters. He died on the probable anniversary of his birth, April 23, 1616.

It is generally asserted that, if Shakespeare had written no plays, his poem alone would have given him a commanding place in the Elizabethan Age. His sonnets, 154 in number, are the only direct expression of the poet's own feelings, they were published together in 1609.

## Sonnet 29

When, in disgrace<sup>1</sup> with Fortune and men's eyes, I all alone beweep<sup>2</sup> my outcast state<sup>3</sup>,

And trouble deaf heav'n with my bootless<sup>4</sup> cries

And look upon myself<sup>5</sup>, and curse my fate,

Wishing me like to<sup>6</sup> one more rich in hope,

Featured like him<sup>7</sup>, like him with friends possessed<sup>8</sup>,

Desiring this man's art<sup>9</sup> and that man's scope<sup>10</sup>,

With what I most enjoy contented least<sup>11</sup>.

Yet<sup>12</sup>, in these thoughts<sup>13</sup> myself almost despising<sup>14</sup>,

Heply<sup>15</sup>I think on thee, and then my state<sup>16</sup>,

Like to the lark at break of day arising,

From sullen earth<sup>17</sup>, sings hymns at heaven's gate,

For thy sweet love remembered<sup>18</sup> such wealth brings

That then I scorn to change<sup>19</sup> my state with kings<sup>20</sup>.

## 注 释

- 1. in disgrace: disfavor, out of favour 失宠, 遭白眼
- 2. beweep: weep over, lament 啜泣
- 3. outcast state: condition of being outcast, rejected 孤独的境况
- 4. bootless: hopeless, useless, without remedy 徒劳
- 5. look upon myself: engage in self-contemplation 自怜
- 6. like to: like
- 7. featured like him: beautiful like his 像那个人一样英俊
- 8. with friends possessed: possessed with friends (with a set of friends) 广交朋友
- 9. art: skill of any kind (involving skill, craft, learning, literary achievement)
  才华
- 10. **scope**: range of accomplishment, plentiful opportunities, intellectual range 禀赋
- 11. **contented least**: (least satisfied) with the things of which I have most 对…… 深致不满
- 12. yet: still, even than
- 13. thoughts: considerations
- 14. myself almost despising: 几乎作践自己
- 15. heply: by chance; with a suggestion also of "happily" 幸好
- 16. state: mental or emotional mood
- 17. sullen earth: dark, shadowy earth, with some connotations of melancholy 阴 沉的大地
- 18. **thy sweet love remembered**: the recollection of your sweet love for me; or the recollection of your sweet self, whom I love 想到你对我的恩爱; 想到我所心爱的你
- 19. scorn to change: wouldn't consider changing 拿……来交换也不屑一顾

20. kings: plural; or plural possessive, "kings'" or singular possessive, "king' s" = that of a king

## 评 论

十四行诗也称"商额体"(sonnet),作为一种诗歌形式,大约起源于十三世纪的意大利。到了十四世纪,意大利诗人皮特拉奇(Petrarch)使之完善定型,成为一种约定俗成的诗歌文体,一直延续至今。英国诗人托马斯·怀特(Thomas Wyatt 1503—1542)把意大利十四行诗引进到英国,并发表了三十几首他自己模仿的十四行诗,使得十四行诗逐渐在英国普及起来。后来,意大利体的十四行诗被一些英国诗人作了一些改变,特别是莎士比亚发表了他的十四行诗后,英国体的十四行诗才最终得以确定,并以"莎士比亚体十四行诗"(Shakespearian Sonnet)作为英国体十四行诗的名称来区别于"皮特拉奇十四行诗"(Petrachan Sonnet)。

虽然两种十四行诗的节奏都是抑扬格五音步(iambic pentameter),但是两者的区别是明显的。首先皮特拉奇十四行诗的韵律一般是 abbaabba cdecde,而莎士比亚体的十四行诗的韵律是 ababcdcdefefgg。从韵律上可以看出两种十四行诗在结构的划分上也截然不同:皮特拉奇体十四行诗分为前八行(octave),和后六行(sestet)两部分。前八行一般陈述一件描述,提出一项主张或问题,后六行往往是对前面描述的概括或评论,接受提出的主张或解决所提出的问题。莎士比亚十四行诗分为四部分,即三个四行(quatrain)和一个偶句(couplet),每一个四行分别阐述一件事的不同的方面,最后一个偶句一般是对前三个四行所描述事情的总结或评论,有时给全诗一个警句式的结尾。

莎士比亚在完成绝大部分戏剧创作后,于 1609 年发表了 154 首十四行诗,为英国诗坛增添了一笔丰厚的文化遗产。大多数研究者认为莎士比亚的十四行诗可以分为前后两部分,即:写给一位青年男子的前 126 首诗和写给一位黑肤女郎的后 26 首。可以看出,莎士比亚的十四行诗比他的戏剧更具有个人色彩,这对于了解莎士比亚的思想观点和他的人生追求无疑提供了许多宝贵的信息和资料。

这首诗记述了那位青年男子在诗人心目中的地位。当诗人感到孤独和遭受 冷落时,他非常羡慕别人的才华和富足,然而一想起那位青年朋友,他就一切 都满足了,感到像云雀一样唱起欢乐之歌来。

诗歌的第一行诗人述说了他的痛苦的心情,因为他"失宠于命运又遭受旁人的白眼"。开首词"when"(当……时候)限定了整首诗歌,似乎诗人眼下并不是处在命运不济的困境中。然而,接下来几行所表达的强烈情感,说明孤独和绝望之情是经常伴随着他的。第二行描写诗人为自己被世人抛弃的境况而独自哭泣。这一行的"state"一词有两重含义,其一表示社会地位(an estate or a person's status),其二表达了诗人的思想状况(a state of mind)。另外,"outcast"(被抛弃的)带有被逐出伊甸园(outcast from Eden)的宗教色彩。在第三、四两行中,诗人的仰天长泣未能打动聋聩的苍天,在愤怒和孤独中,他只能求助于尖刻的嘲讽和诅咒,他在"麻烦"(trouble)苍天,"诅咒命运的多舛"(cursed my fate)。

诗人在第二个四行(the second quatrain)里表达了要改变自己状况的愿望。他希望自己能够像某些人那样前程似锦(like to one more rich in hope);在六、七两行,诗人继续列举那些他所羡慕的人,"像他那样仪容出众,广结良缘"(Featured like him, like him with friends possessed),"有那人的天赋和才华"(Desiring this man's art and that man's scope)。这里,诗人继续使用一些模糊或多意的描述,如"featured"既有外表英俊(handsome)的含义也有地位显著(having a prominent position)的意思;"art"可以指知识、能力或技能;"scope"或许是指机遇的广泛(plentiful opportunities),或者是人的多才多艺(range of accomplishment)也可能意味着人的智力范围(mental stamina)。羡慕之心是如此之强烈以至于连自己所拥有的特长也感到不满意了(With what I most enjoy contented least)。显而易见,诗人使用这样的矛盾叙述法(paradox),加强了感情的力度,使读者更加清晰地明白诗人与他人在这些方面的显著差距,为接下来的陈述作了有力的陪衬。

正当诗人处于最痛苦的自暴自弃,"几乎把自己鄙弃"(Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising)的心态时,随着韵律的改变,一个令人意想不到的观点出现了。诗人感受到霎那间的超越,心境顿时发生了巨大的变化,

因为他猛然想到了他所爱的那位青年。此时此刻,他的精神"犹如一只云雀在拂晓时腾上云空"(Like to the lark at break of day arising),引吭高歌。云雀的升空是这首诗中惟一的比喻,它代表了新的一天的开始,诗人精神的重振,或许也象征地位的提高。云雀的歌声划破了沉寂的天空,为原先诗歌中晦暗、压抑的基调注入了欢快与生命。值得注意的是,诗人把大地描绘成"阴郁的"(sullen),除了因为大地的土壤颜色呈一种晦暗的色调,更主要的是因为大地上的那些众多忧郁的居民。他们的心情和超越大地的阴霾,腾空而去的人(比如云雀或诗人)的心情决不会一样。云雀冲向天堂,唱起赞美歌(sings hymns at heaven's gate),暗示诗人颂扬自己在尘世的升华。

在最后的偶句里,诗人的语气已经完全变了,那种怨天尤人的哀叹已经消失得无影无踪,代之而起的是一种满足和自豪。请看口气是多么的狂傲:"想到你的恩爱,我顿成富翁,即便是帝王的王位,我也不屑与之交换"(For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings/ That I scorn to change my state with kings.)。诗人所用的 wealth 一词绝非指金钱方面的财富,而是在第二个四行(5 行-8 行)里所羡慕的拥有众多的朋友、才华、机遇等。诗人失宠的命运被那位青年友人所拯救而不是耶稣,因而他宁愿笼罩在对他友人的记忆里也不愿做任何天国里的君主。诗人的心境(state)从痛苦的绝望一下子奇迹般地转变成一种振奋和鼓舞。这样一个突变并不是把诗歌结束在高潮上,而是将高潮推向更深的感情层次,于是,留给读者去回味的艺术空间也就更深广了。

## Questions

- 1. What sort of sentiments does the poet want to convey? How does he convey such sentiments?
- 2. Why does the poet compare himself to the lark after he remembers his beloved?
- 3. State the central idea of the sonnet.
- 4. Analyze the relation between the form division and the thought division of the sonnet.

(苏 煜)