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# MUHAMMAD ALI

英 汉 对 照 Arlene Schulman

## 拳王阿里



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严 华 译注



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*In memory of my father, Alan Schulman, who shared a birthday with  
Muhammad Ali*

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# Biography 外教社 人物 传记 丛书

## 出版前言

曾经有人做了一项调查,拥有最多读者的书籍是传记。阅读一本优秀的人物传记,往往可以使人振作精神,奋发图强,尤其对于青少年,阅读传记更可以使他们建立起正确的人生坐标,从而开拓美好的未来。

上海外语教育出版社从美国乐勒出版集团引进的“外教社人物传记丛书”就是这样一套奉献给广大青少年朋友的优秀传记丛书。全套书共13册,人物包括美国开国元勋本杰明·富兰克林,著名黑人民权运动领袖马丁·路德·金,文豪莎士比亚,意大利文艺复兴巨匠达·芬奇,极具个人魅力的体育明星泰格·伍兹、穆罕默德·阿里、魔术师约翰逊,影视音乐界的巨星卓别林、史蒂文·斯皮尔伯格、玛丽莲·梦露、甲壳虫乐队,商界奇才比尔·盖茨,以及深受世人爱戴的戴安娜王妃等。阅读这些著名人物的传奇人生,可以帮助青少年朋友们了解西方不同时代的社会历史背景,更能够激励他们树立远大理想,以积极的态度直面人生的风雨。

这套传记丛书均由专门从事青少年文学创作的美国资深作家撰写,语言生动活泼,故事性强,引人入胜。外教社特邀一批在翻译方面颇有建树的年轻学者对丛书进行翻译和注释,希望英汉对照加注这一形式能更好地帮助读者学习英语,享受阅读。

这套丛书特别适合高中生和大学一二年级的学生阅读。我们相信它必将成为青少年朋友们学习英语、探求人生真谛的好伙伴!

上海外语教育出版社

2005年6月

# 拳王阿里

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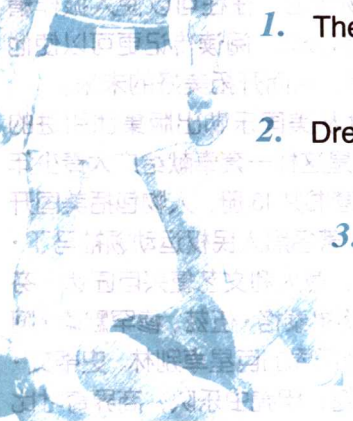
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# MUHAMMAD ALI

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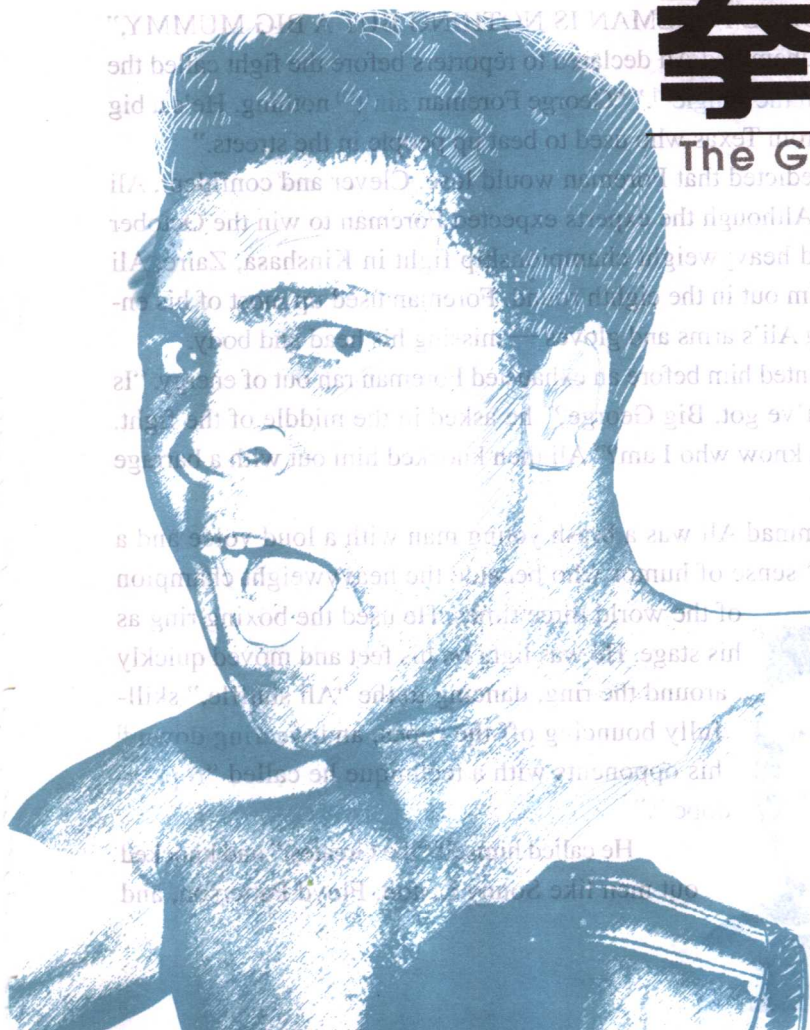
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# *CHAPTER ONE*



# 拳王

# The Greatest



U.S. CUSTOMER SERVICE



## 1. The Greatest

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee  
His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see  
Now you see me, now you don't  
George thinks he will, but I know he won't.

**G**EORGE FOREMAN IS NOTHING BUT A BIG MUMMY," Muhammad Ali declared to reporters before the fight called the "Rumble in the Jungle<sup>[1]</sup>." "George Foreman ain't<sup>[2]</sup> nothing. He's a big old bully from Texas who used to beat up people in the streets."

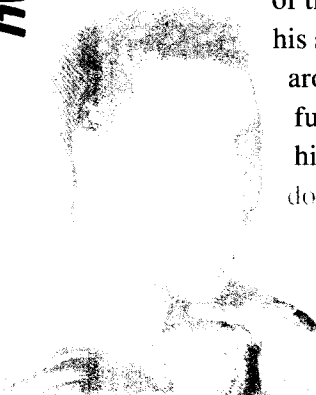
Ali predicted that Foreman would lose. Clever and confident, Ali was right. Although the experts expected Foreman to win the October 1974 world heavyweight championship fight in Kinshasa, Zaire, Ali knocked him out in the eighth round. Foreman used up most of his energy hitting Ali's arms and gloves — missing his head and body.

Ali taunted him before an exhausted Foreman ran out of energy. "Is that all you've got, Big George?" he asked in the middle of the fight. "Don't you know who I am?" Ali then knocked him out with a barrage of punches.

Muhammad Ali was a brash young man with a loud voice and a disarming<sup>[3]</sup> sense of humor who became the heavyweight champion of the world three times. He used the boxing ring as his stage. He was light on his feet and moved quickly around the ring, dancing to the "Ali shuffle," skillfully bouncing off the ropes, and wearing down<sup>[4]</sup> his opponents with a technique he called "rope-a-dope."

He called himself "the Greatest" and knocked out men like Sonny Liston, Floyd Patterson, and

MUHAMMAD ALI





George Foreman to prove it. He wrote a high line of verse to describe his opponent and predicted the rounds in which they would fall, and then

像蝴蝶一样翩跹跃动，像蜜蜂一样灵活出击他的手可以击中任何他的眼睛能看到的任何地方

你不可能时时刻刻捕捉到我的身影  
乔治认为他会赢，但我知道这不可能

“乔治·福尔曼只是一个大木乃伊，”穆罕默德·阿里在那场被称为是“生死之战”的比赛前对记者说，“乔治·福尔曼不算什么。他是一个来自得克萨斯州的老打手，经常在街上打人。”

阿里预言福尔曼会输。聪明而自信的阿里是正确的。虽然专家预料福尔曼将赢得1974年10月在扎伊尔金沙萨举办的世界重量级拳王争霸赛，但阿里还是在第八回合击倒了福尔曼。福尔曼竭尽全力攻击阿里的胳膊和手套但却没打中对方的头部和身体。

在比赛中，当福尔曼筋疲力尽、体力不支时，阿里奚落他说：“大乔治，这是你所有的本事？”阿里还问道：“难道你不知道我是谁吗？”然后他就用一阵拳头击倒了乔治。

穆罕默德·阿里是一个傲慢的年轻人。他嗓门洪亮，但充满幽默感，这就消除了人们对他的反感。他三次赢得世界重量级冠军。他把拳击场作为自己的舞台。他步履轻松，沿着拳击场快速移动，用他标志性的“滑步”，巧妙地借助围绳反弹，再使用他所谓的“示敌以弱，拖垮对手”的技术，击倒对方。

他称自己是“最伟大的”，并且通过打败索尼·利斯顿，弗洛伊德·帕特森，乔治·福尔曼等人证明了

[1] "Rumble in the Jungle" 阿里和福尔曼在1974年举行的一场拳王争霸赛被人们称为

"Rumble in the Jungle", 意为“生死之战”。

[2] ain't 〈方〉 = is not 不是

[3] disarming 使人消除敌意（或怀疑、怒气等）的

[4] wearing down 使疲劳

[5] rope-a-dope 假装被逼到了场边，在防守中消耗对方的体力

George Foreman to prove it. He wrote witty lines of verse to describe his opponents, predicted the rounds in which they would fall, and then knocked them out.

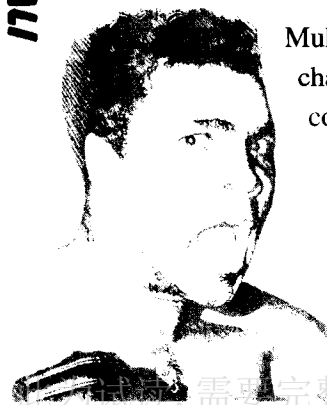
His early backdrop was the turbulent 1960s — the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement, and protests against the Vietnam War. Ali opposed the war on religious grounds, refused to be inducted into the United States Army, and lectured about his political and religious beliefs at college campuses from Harvard to Howard.

He became a Muslim just after he won his first heavyweight title, changing his name from Cassius Clay to Muhammad Ali—a move that many said would hurt his career, but he did so anyway. Afterward, if an opponent called him Cassius Clay, he retaliated by hitting him even harder in the ring.

Ali captivated television viewers and sports reporters with his wit and charm. He was charismatic and outspoken — unusual for a black man in the 1960s and rare for a boxer—and people listened. He became a folk hero, a symbol of racial pride, and he was praised as a man who stood up for<sup>[1]</sup> his beliefs.

He met presidents and heads of state, athletes and entertainers, but he always belonged to the public. Traveling around the world, from Africa to Indonesia to the Soviet Union, Ali was — and still is — recognized everywhere.

“I’ve seen a lot of fighters who want to be Muhammad Ali,” said Eddie Futch, trainer of several champions. “But there’s never been anyone who even comes close<sup>[2]</sup>.”



**MUHAMMAD ALI**



这点。他写诙谐的诗句来描述他的对手，预测他们将在第几回合被打倒，然后真的把他们击倒。

他的青少年时期适逢 20 世纪 60 年代各种社会运动风起云涌之际——民权运动、女权运动和反(越)战思潮。基于宗教信仰，阿里反对战争，拒绝参加美国军队，他还在从哈佛大学到霍华德学院的各个大学校园里演讲，宣传自己的政治和宗教信仰。

在他第一次赢得了重量级冠军之后，他加入了穆斯林，由卡西厄斯·克莱更名为穆罕默德·阿里——许多人说这会毁了他的职业生涯，但是无论如何他还是这样做了。后来，如果他的对手叫他卡西厄斯·克莱，他会在拳击场上用更猛烈的击打来报复。

阿里以他的智慧和魅力迷住了电视观众和体育记者。阿里具有超凡的魅力，并且坦率直言——这在 60 年代的黑人或拳手身上都是不常见的——而且人们都还乐意听他的。他变成了民族英雄，种族自豪的象征，他被称赞是一个能坚持自己信念的人。

他同总统和州领导、运动员、演艺人员会面，但他是属于公众的。阿里到世界各地旅行，从非洲到印尼到前苏联，各地的人们都很赏识他。

“我见过的许多拳击手都想成为穆罕默德·阿里，但是没有任何人能接近他的水平。”曾经培养出几个冠军的拳击教练埃迪·法奇如此说道。

[1] stood up for

坚持

[2] comes close

水平相近

## *CHAPTER TWO*







THEY WOULD SIT AT NIGHT, AND HE WOULD TELL HER that he was going to be the champion of the world. In their ramshackle<sup>11</sup> house in Louisville, Kentucky, when the sun had set and the lights were out, 12-year-old Cassius Clay told his mother of his dream. He would knock out opponents one by one, raise his hands in victory as the ring announcer introduced him as the new world champion, and become rich and famous.

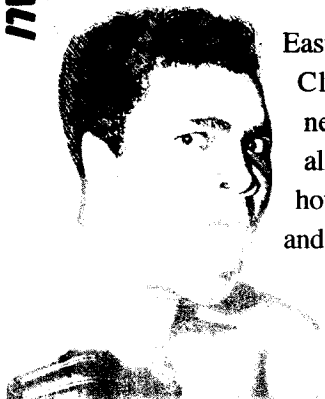
"One night I heard [heavyweight champion] Rocky Marciano fighting on the radio," he said. "It sounded so big and powerful and exciting."

Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. was born on January 17, 1942, in Louisville. The first of two sons born to Odessa Clay and Cassius Clay Sr., Cassius Jr. demonstrated his fondness for attention even at an early age. Mrs. Clay, exhausted from a difficult delivery, could hear her young son cry and scream and wake up the other babies in the hospital.

"Gee-gee, gee-gee," were Cassius's first words, his mother said. He later claimed that he was trying to say "Golden Gloves," the name of a prestigious national boxing tournament that he won twice as a teenager. "When he was a child, he never sat still," his mother recalled. "He walked and talked before his time."

Black Louisville was divided into three sections—East End, the California area, and West End, where the Clays lived. Like most of the families in the neighborhood, they were poor. The family car was always at least 10 years old with worn-out tires. The house always needed painting. The front porch sagged, and during rainy weather, water leaked through the roof and walls. Many of the children's clothes were

MUHAMMAD ALI





[1] ramshackle 摇摇欲坠的

晚上的时候，他们一家人会坐在一起，他会告诉母亲他将成为世界冠军。夕阳西下，熄灯之后，在他们位于肯塔基州路易斯维尔摇摇欲坠的房子里，12岁的卡西厄斯·克莱把他的梦想告诉了母亲。他将一个接一个地击倒对手，当拳击报幕员宣布他是新的世界冠军时，他将以胜利者的姿态举起双手。他将变得富有而出名。

他说：“一天晚上，我从收音机中听到（重量级冠军）罗基·马西亚诺正在比赛。那场面听起来如此盛大，令人激动。”

1942年1月17日，小卡西厄斯·马塞勒斯·克莱生于路易斯维尔。奥德萨·克莱和老卡西厄斯·克莱共有两个儿子，他是他们的长子。小卡西厄斯在很小的时候就表现出他喜欢成为众人关注的焦点。

克莱夫人用尽全力才得以分娩，她听到儿子高声哭闹，吵醒了医院的其他孩子。

他母亲说，卡西厄斯说的第一个字是“唧、唧”。他后来声称，他是尽力去说“金手套”——一个知名度很高的国家拳击锦标赛的名字，他少年时候赢得过两次这个比赛的冠军。“当他还小的时候，他从不安安静静地坐着。”他母亲回忆道，“他很早就学会了走路和说话。”

黑人居民占多数的路易斯维尔被分成三部分——东区、加利福尼亚地区和西区。克莱就住在西区。和那个社区大多数家庭一样，他们很贫困。家里的汽车至少开了有10年之久，用的是磨旧的轮胎。房子一直需要上漆。前门门廊下陷，遇到下雨的天气，雨水沿着屋顶和墙壁渗漏下来。孩子们的衣服多数是旧的二

secondhand. Once in a while, the Clays were able to afford a new shirt or a new pair of pants for Cassius and his younger brother, Rudy—but not often.

Odessa Grady Clay worked as a domestic when her sons were young, cleaning houses and caring for the children of well-to-do<sup>[1]</sup> white families who lived on the other side of town. She earned four dollars a day. Odessa was a religious woman, and on Sundays, she and her two sons attended Mount Zion Baptist Church, where Cassius sang in the choir. She loved to talk, and she instilled in Cassius the values that he still follows—always treat people with kindness and never hate or be prejudiced.

His father, Cassius Marcellus Clay Sr., was a stern disciplinarian, and Cassius both loved and feared him. Cassius Sr. painted billboards and signs for a living. Almost every Baptist church in Louisville owned one of his murals, showing religious scenes. He taught Cassius and Rudy how to paint signs. But he never wanted his sons to follow in his footsteps. He wanted them to become doctors or lawyers. There wasn't much future for a black sign painter in Louisville in the 1940s and 1950s.

Like his wife Odessa, Cassius Sr. loved to talk and he was also a bit of a showman, bragging to friends, relatives, and strangers about his son's talents as a boxer, even before Cassius Jr. had his first fight. Cassius Sr. always told his son that he was "pretty as a picture," a phrase that Cassius later used to describe himself.

The Clays were a close-knit<sup>[2]</sup> family but there was also a troubled side. Cassius Clay Sr. was arrested four times for reckless driving<sup>[3]</sup>, twice for disorderly conduct<sup>[4]</sup>, and twice for assault and battery. When he had too much to drink he became violent. Odessa Clay called the police several times seeking protection from her husband.

