多田子根你的

AN IMAGINATIVE WOMAN

by THOMAS HARDY

富於想像的婦人

顧仲藥譯

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前 言

有人說:愛不是散文的,愛是詩的,尤其是坡(Edgar Allan Poe)之所謂詩的——『世上原無長的詩;詩的價值在給與與奮,篇幅一長,與奮消散,所以長詩不是詩。』

前

换言之,坡的短詩式的愛成了 人生普遍的嘗試。在社會監視下; 仍然少不了奸夫淫婦者,也不過是 為着詩 與之暴發耳。所以,永持的 愛想來當如一首長詩,用散交隔斷 了愛的若干濃液。然而,若不是因 為疾病和意外,人生總是悠長的, 而僅僅爲了雙方年齒的衰老或容顏 的凝整,於是乎通常都只有青年的 詩人,沒有中年或暮年的詩人了。 哈代所作想像的婦人在嫁後的 中年還癡戀屈先生。她背了丈夫執 着爱的苦杯,她是對不起丈夫的了 ;然而屈先生的自殺果眞是為了她

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對他的情熱,那末她好像也辜負了 屈先生。

前

仲蘇兄譯完這篇小說告訴我說 :『富於想像的婦人是最足代表哈 代的靈魂。』我深信這句話,因為 稱為詩人或小說家者,對於短詩般 的生命,無不尊崇愛情的!

一九三三,八,三〇,

蠡甫寫於昏然欲睡之晨。

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富於想像的婦人

When William Marchmill had finished his inquiries for lodgings at the well-known watering-place of Solentsea in Upper Wessex, he returned to the hotel to find his wife. She, with the children, had rambled along the shore, and Marchmill followed in the direction indicated by the military-looking hall-porter.

'By Jove, how far you've gone! I am quite out of breath,' Marchmill said, rather impatiently, when he came up with his wife, who was reading as she walked, the three children being considerably further ahead with the nurse.

Mrs. Marchmill started out of the reverie into which the book had thrown her. 'Yes,' she said, 'you've been such a long time. I was tired of staying in that dreary hotel. But I am sorry if you have wanted me, Will?'

'Well, I have had trouble to suit myself. When you see the airy and comfortable rooms heard of, you find they are stuffy and uncomfortable. Will you come and see if what I've fixed on will do? There is not much room, I am afraid; but I can light on nothing better. The town is rather full.'

馬啓密·威廉在威塞克斯上部有名的蘇郎海濱找 房子;事完之後, 巴到旅館去看他的妻子。她那時正 帶着孩子在海邊上散步, 馬啓密得了那個像兵士的茶 房的指點, 便追着躍跡前去。

「天呀,你跑得怎麼遠!我追得氣都喘不過來,」 馬啓密走近妻子身邊的時候這樣說,心裏着實有點不 耐煩;他妻子那時一面走着,一面還在看書,那三個 孩子和保姆却遠遠的在她前面。

馬夫人這繼從書中的幻夢裏驚覺過來。「是的,」 她說,「你去了很久了。住在這可怕的旅館裏,真是 厭倦極了。不過,威廉,你要找我麼?」

「呀 , 麻煩到了極點。就是我們聽說的那幾間, 又通氣,又舒服的房子,其實也問塞極了。你來看看 我調度得怎樣?我恐怕地方不夠,不過要再好的又沒 有。這村上的人簡直住滿了。」

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The pair left the children and nurse to continue their ramble, and went back together.

In age well-balanced, in personal appearance fairly matched, and in domestic requirements conformable, in temper this couple differed, though ever here they did not often clash, he being equable, if not lymphatic, and she decidedly nervous and sanguine. It was to their tastes and fancies, those smallest, greatest particulars, that no common denominator could be applied. Marchmill considered his wife's likes and inclinations somewhat silly; she considered his sordid and material. The husband's business was that of a gunmaker in a thriving city northwards, and his soul was in that business always; the lady was best characterized by that superannuated phrase of elegance "a votary of the muse." An impressionable, palpitating creature was Ella, shrinking humanely from detailed knowledge of her husband's trade whenever she reflected that everything he manufactured had for its purpose the destruction of life. She could only recover her equanimity by assuring herself that some, at least, of his weapons were sooner or later used for the extermination of horrid vermin and animals almost as cruel to their inferiors in species as human beings were to theirs.

She had never antecedently regarded this occupation of his as any objection to having him for a husband. Indeed, the necessity of getting 夫婦倆仍讓保姆和孩子們向前玩去,**自**己却離了 海邊囘到旅館裏來。

他們倆年貌很相配,家境也相髣髴,不過性格上的差異太大;他性情很平和,並也不常和她衝突,可是她的確血氣太盛,神經也是過敏。對於欣賞幻想一類最小也是最大的瑣事,他們倆總不能一致。馬啓密以為他妻子的嗜好愛悅有點傻;而她以為丈夫的嗜好太鄙陋太物質化。她丈夫的職業是在北部的大城裏製造槍械;他的靈魂就在他職業裏;而馬夫人可以簡括的說是[詩神的崇拜者]。她是位柔弱而多情的女子,每次想到她丈夫所製造的是殺人的利器,便戰慄的不敢想下去。有時她使自己相信有幾件武器遲早總要用來殺猛獸毒物的;牠們對於微弱生命的殘忍,和人類對於牠們一樣;但是這究竟不能使她得到電靜。

她從前並不曾因他的職業拒絕嫁給他做妻子。婚 嫁的絕對順從是好女子的第一件美德:她受過這番教 訓,所以直到嫁了過去,度過了蜜月,總囘想到這一 life-leased at all cost, a cardinal virtue which all good mothers teach, kept her from thinking of it at all till she had closed with William, had passed the honeymoon, and reached the reflecting stage. Then, like a person who has stumbled upon some object in the dark, she wondered what she had got; mentally walked round it, estimated it; whether it were rare or common; contained gold, silver, or lead; were a clog or a pedestal, everything to her or nothing.

She came to some vague conclusions, and since then had kept her heart alive by pitying her proprietor's obtuseness and want of refinement, pitying herself, and letting off her delicate and ethereal emotions in imaginative occupations, daydreams, and night-sighs, which perhaps would not much have disturbed William if he had known of them.

Her figure was small, clegant, and slight in build, tripping, or rather bounding, in movement. She was darkeyed, and had that marvellously bright and liquid sparkle in each pupil which characterizes persons of Ella's cast of soul, and is too often a cause of heartache to the possessor's male friends, ultimately sometimes to herself. Her husband was a tall, long-featured man, with a brown beard; he had a pondering regard; and was, it must be added, usually kind and tolerant to her. He spoke in squarely shaped sentences, and was supremely satisfied with a condition of sublunary things which made weapons a necessity.

Husband and wife walked till they had reached

層。於是,好像一個人在黑暗裏給石頭絆倒,她纔驚 駭起來,繞過這石頭去,仔細估計牠的價值;牠究竟 是希罕的還是普通的呢;是金的銀的還是鉛的呢;是 阻礙物還是輔助物呢;是生命還是敗絮呢。

她得到了幾點很浮泛的結論;從此以後她心裏便 很可憐她丈夫的愚鈍和粗俗,却同時又可憐自己,讓 那精美超絕的情感在幻想和感慨裏發洩,這樣即使她 丈夫知道了,也不致十分惱怒。

她的身軀纖弱,容貌端麗,行動的時候更是輕步 姗姗。眼珠兒色黑有光,水波盈盈,以至於神彩煥發 的眉宇,都極能代表她的靈魂,不知使多少她丈夫的 朋友見了害着心痛病;有時竟使她自己也如此。她丈 夫却身材高大,頷下有棕色的鬍髭;態度沈默;對她 特別的仁慈寬恕。他說話是四方的,有規律的;對於 世間的情况非常滿足 , 因此他承認製造槍械是必須 的。

夫婦兩人一直走到他剛纔找定的房子跟前。那房

the house they were in search of, which stood in a terrace facing the sea, and was fronted by a small garden of wind-proof and salt-proof evergreens, stone steps leading up to the porch. It had its number in the row, but, being rather larger than the rest, was in addition sedulously distinguished as Coburg House by its landlady, though everybody else called it "Thirteen, New Parade." The spot was bright and lively now; but in winter it became necessary to place sandbags against the door, and to stuff up the keyhole against the wind and rain, which had worn the paint so thin that the priming and knotting showed through.

The householder, who had been watching for the gentleman's return, met them in the passage, and showed the rooms. She informed them that she was a professional man's widow, left in needy circumstances by the rather sudden death of her husband, and she spoke anxiously of the conveniences of the establishment.

Mrs. Marchmill said that she liked the situation and the house; but, it being small, there would not be accommodation enough, unless she could have all the rooms.

The landlady mused with an air of disappointment. She wanted the visitors to be her tenants very badly, she said, with obvious honesty. But 子是在里巷當中,面朝着海,屋前有一方小花園,裏面種着擋風阻水的常青樹;還有一條石階引上廊廳。 里巷內的房子都有門牌,不過這所房子比別的高大些,所以房東娘娘自稱為可伴別墅,可是一般的人都只認地為新柏里十三號。這新柏里在夏天很舒暢很熱鬧;不過一到冬天,各家都得用沙包堆住門,把鑰匙眼兒也塞住,纔能阻止風雨;牆上刷的白粉經過了一個冬天,洗剝得連磚灰都會露出來。

房東娘娘正站在走廊上候着,見他們來了,便連 忙帶進去觀看。她說她是個商人的妻子,丈夫過世之 後,境況很壞;她又怨切的告訴他們,說這房子怎樣 的便利。

馬夫人說她很喜歡這個地點和這所房子;不過太 一 小了,不夠用,最好能把所有的房間都租給她。

房東娘娘失望的緘默了半晌。她很老實的說她極 需要他們賃租這房子,但是不幸其餘的兩間已永久租 給一位單身漢子。他給的租金雖然不及租短期的那麼

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