

TRANSLATION EXERCISES

Book I

FROM CHINESE TO ENGLISH

Commercial Press, Ltd.

A Manual of Translation

華英繙譯捷訣

By W. W. Yen, Dr. Litt.

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This book, consisting of one hundred lessons, has been carefully compiled from class-room exercises. They have, therefore, been practically tested and their difficult points noted and adequately expounded.

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BOOK I (from Chinese to English)

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華英繙譯金針
Translation Exercises

BOOK I

From Chinese to English

PART I

第一課 地球

袁生見地球儀。怪之。
問於師曰。吾人所居
之地。其形果如球乎。
師曰然。袁生曰。地形
圓。則居球下者。何以
不虞墜落。師曰。地心
有吸力。能吸地面之
物。故無墜落之患。

袁生 A young man, by the name of Yuan. 地球儀 A terrestrial globe. 怪之 He wonders at it. 吾人所居之地 the earth on which we live. 果 really. 地形圓 If the earth is round; Take it for granted that the earth is round. 居地下者 those living on the lower side of the earth. 不虞 do not run the risk of. 墜落 to fall off; falling off. 地心 the centre of the earth. 吸力 attraction; gravity. 物 objects. 地面 on the surface of the earth. 患 danger.

第二課 續

也 猶磁石之吸鐵 曰地球之吸物 落乃指而告之 之鐵屑終不墜 撒其上顛之倒 石一枚以鐵屑 謂吸力師取磁 袁生又問曰何

何謂 What is. 磁石 Magnet. 一枚 One piece. 以鐵屑撒 其上 to scatter iron dust over it. 顛之倒之 He turns it over now in one way and then the other. 吸 to hold by attraction. 乃指而 告之曰 Pointing at this, he tells him, saying,..... 猶 as; in the same way that.

第三課

鷸蚌相爭

蚌方出曝。鷸啄其肉。 蚌合而箝其喙。鷸曰 今日不雨。明日不雨。 卽有死蚌。蚌亦語鷸 曰今日不出。明日不 出。卽有死鷸。兩者不 肯相舍。漁夫見而并 擒之。

蚌 Clam. 鷸 Snipe. 相爭 The struggle between. 方出曝 When coming out of its shell, to sun itself. 啄 to peck up. 蚌合而 箝其喙 the clam, on closing its shell, seized him by the bill. 今日 不雨 "Let it rain not to-day." 兩者不肯相舍 Neither one would release the other. 而并擒之 and captured both of them.

第四課 麥

凡穀之類。皆春生。而秋熟。惟麥不然。其種也以季秋。收穫也以仲夏。性喜燥。我國西北諸省產麥最多。三四月之交。南風拂拂。麥苗方秀。閒行隴畝間。但見一碧無際。蕩漾如波浪。眞足觀也。

凡穀之類 All kinds of grains. 惟麥不然 but wheat is an exception. 種 to sow; to plant. 季秋 the ninth moon. 穫 to harvest. 仲夏 the 5th moon. 三四月之交 about the 3rd or 4th moon. 南風拂拂 With the coming of the gentle south wind. 麥苗 the blades of wheat. 方秀 begin to look beautiful. 閒行隴畝間 to take a walk in the fields. 一碧無際 an endless expanse of a greenish blue. 如波浪 like waves. 眞足觀也 a sight worth seeing, indeed; a grand sight, indeed.

第五課 酒

里中有娶婦者。沈兒往賀。及夕。設筵。享客。主賓既坐。酒數巡。沈兒獨不舉杯。主人屢勸之。兒曰。吾父常言。酒能傷腦。於兒童尤甚。故不敢飲。衆皆稱善。

里中 In the village. 娶婦者 a wedding. 沈兒 Hsing, a boy. 往賀 called to offer his congratulations. 設筵享客 a feast was given for the entertainment of the guests. 酒數巡 the wine had gone round several times. 沈兒獨不舉杯 He, alone, refused to touch the glass. 勸 to ask one to drink. 吾父常言 my father has repeatedly told me that. 酒能傷腦 wine will affect the brain; wine is harmful to the brain. 於兒童 in the case of children. 尤甚 It is worse. 衆 All those present. 稱善 approved of what he said.

第六課

煙

潘兒戲吸煙喜甚
 既而煙氣觸喉咳
 嗽不已涕泗交流
 母怪問之兒具以
 告母曰煙有毒能
 阻身體之發育非
 童子所宜也兒其
 戒之

戲吸煙 to play at smoking. 既而 In a little while. 觸喉 to force its way down the throat. 咳嗽不已 to cough incessantly. 涕泗交流 Both tears and snivel ran down the face. 具以告 to tell the whole truth. 煙有毒 tobacco contains poison. 阻 to hinder; to retard. 身體之發育 the development of a healthy body. 非 by no means. 所宜 good for. 戒 to abstain from.

第七課

繡花枕

董生性不嗜學日事
 修飾見他人衣服有
 勝己者輒歸求諸母
 必得之而後已入學
 數年業無所進同學
 皆非笑之號爲繡花
 枕喻其外觀雖美而
 中實茅塞也

繡花 embroidered. 性不嗜學 is not fond of learning. 日事 to engage oneself day by day. 修飾 to dress elaborately. 輒 used to. 必得之而後已 would not be satisfied until he obtained what he wanted. 業無所進 no progress has been made in his studies. 非笑 to ridicule; to laugh at. 號爲繡花枕 They nicknamed him "Embroidered Pillow." 喻 The idea is. 而中 while its contents. 實 are composed of. 茅塞 grass.

第八課 鐵

父問兒曰金屬之中孰
 爲貴孰爲賤兒曰金最
 貴銀次之鐵爲下父曰
 金銀雖貴僅用爲錢幣
 及妝飾耳鐵價廉而用
 廣家居之什物農工之
 器具需鐵最多故無金
 銀爲害猶小無鐵則百
 業皆廢矣

金屬之中 Of all metals. 貴 the most valuable. 賤 the least valuable. 銀次之 silver comes next. 雖 while. 貴 highly prized. 僅用 its use is confined to. 錢幣 coins. 妝飾 ornaments. 鐵價廉而用廣 iron is less prized but its use is more varied. 家居 household. 什物 utensils. 器具 implements and tools 百業 all industries. 廢 to abandon; to bring to a standstill.

第九課 兵器

強國之道以兵爲
 本用兵之道以器
 爲先今日製造精
 巧戰鬪用槍礮猛
 烈無比陸有礮臺
 海有戰艦攻守之
 具日益堅利古之
 城郭弓矢至今日
 皆無用矣

兵器 Weapons. 強國之道 the strength of a nation. 用兵之道 the efficiency of an army. 今日製造精巧 with the advance that has been made in manufacture. 槍礮 guns. 猛烈無比 which in point of destructiveness have no equal. 礮臺 fortresses; forts. 戰艦 battle-ships; men-of-war. 攻守之具 offensive and defensive weapons. 堅利 effective. 城郭 walled cities. 弓矢 bows and arrows. 至今日皆無用矣 to be rendered out of date; to become things of the past; to lose all their usefulness.

第十課 蟆

二蟆同居小池天
久不雨池涸議他
徙路過一井其一
悅之將躍入其一
曰井水固佳苟有
他故不適吾意又
焉能出故但顧目
前而不圖其後者
取禍之道也

蟆 frogs. 同居 to live together. 池涸 the pool is dried up.
議 he after due consideration, they have decided to remove some-
where else. 過 to pass by. 悅之 to be pleased with. 將 is about to;
is on the point of. 固佳 Undoubtedly good. 苟有 he故 Should
something unusual ever happen; in case of an emergency. 顧 to
consider. 目前 the present. 而不圖 without regard for. 其後
the future. 取禍 to court misfortune.

第十一課 勤動

吳普問衛生之術於華
佗佗曰人體當使勞動
則食物易消血脈流通
病自不生戶樞不蠹流
水不腐以其常動故也
吾體偶有不適則爲禽
獸舞蹈之戲以祛疾普
從其言身體日健年至
九十餘

衛生之術 How to preserve one's health. 問於 to enquire of.
勞動 exercises. 則食物易消 to make digestion easy. 流通 to
circulate. 病 sickness; disease. 戶樞不蠹 the axis of a door never
becomes rotten. 流水不腐 the running stream never becomes un-
wholesome. 以其 it is entirely due. 不適 not well. 則爲禽獸舞
蹈之戲 I would dance about like birds or beasts. 祛 to get rid of.
從其言 to take his advices. 年至 to reach the age of.

第十二課 鴉

羣鳥議立君以美
者任之鴉自知其
醜乃往深林之中
徧覓孔雀落羽聚
飾其身以爲美莫
己若也羣鳥知其
詐爭啄去之傷其
皮流血被體舊毛
盡落

議 To call an assembly. 立君 to elect a King. 以美者任之 and the office was to be filled by the prettiest of them. 鴉 crow. 自知 being sensible of. 醜 ugliness. 往深林 to go into a forest. 徧覓 to look round for. 孔雀落羽 plumes that have fallen from the peacock. 詐 shrewdness. 以爲美莫己若也 thinking that no one is as pretty as himself. 爭 eagerly. 傷 to wound. 被 to cover with. 舊毛 his own feathers. 落 to come off.

第十三課 疫

鄉中大疫死亡相繼
姚生問於師曰防疫
有道乎師曰疫之生
由於不潔今街衢污
穢水流溷濁皆足致
疫又有蚊蠅蚤蟲爲
傳染之媒此疫之所
以盛也故欲防疫必
以清潔爲本

大疫 A pestilence; an epidemic. 死亡相繼 persons died in rapid succession. 防疫 to stamp out an epidemic. 有道乎 is there any possible way? 疫之生由於不潔 an epidemic is the result of insanitation. 蚊 mosquitoes. 蠅 flies. 蚤 fleas. 蟲 bugs. 傳染之媒 agents of infection. 清潔 sanitary condition.

第十四課 紙

古時無紙書籍用竹簡或以
 縑帛簡重帛貴得書甚難學
 者苦之漢蔡倫始造紙至今
 稱便
 樹皮稻藁敝布之類皆可製
 紙然常用者多以竹爲之福
 建浙江等省產竹最盛故出
 紙亦最多

古時 Ancient times. 無 there was not; was not in
 existence. 書籍 books and records. 竹簡 bamboo
 slips. 縑帛 silks. 學者苦之 it was a great handicap
 to students. 漢蔡倫 Chai Lung of the Han Dynasty.
 始 for the first time. 樹皮 barks. 稻藁 grain stalks.
 敝布 waste cloth. 之類 and the like. 然常用者 the
 commonest kinds in use, however. 多以竹爲之 are,
 for the most part, made from bamboo. 產 to produce.
 故 for this reason; hence; therefore. 出 to supply.

第十五課 家書

汪生在學堂暇輒以書寓其友酬復爲戲一日得父書卽把筆作復既畢以錢二十買郵票一黏之封面投於路旁郵政箱明日父得書喜曰吾兒入學不及二年卽能作家書可喜也

母親大人膝下敬稟者昨由郵局寄到

手諭敬知

福體康強弟妹等亦安好甚爲喜慰男在學堂一切自知謹慎仰乞

大人勿勞聖念現在國文教科書第三冊已經讀畢頗能領悟暑假在卽明日考試且看考後名列何等再行稟告謹覆敬請

福安男○○謹稟

○○月○○日

暇 At leisure. 寓 to send to. 酬復爲戲 to amuse himself by keeping up his correspondence; his chief amusement was to keep up his correspondence. 卽把筆作復 He at once penciled an answer. 既畢 having done so. 郵票 a stamp. 黏 to paste on; to stick to. 投於 to throw into. 郵政箱 a letter box. 明日 the next day. 不及二年 less than two years. 卽能 and he is already able.

父母親大人膝下 Dear parents: 敬稟者 I would respectfully submit that. 由郵局 through the post. 勿勞聖念 please take no concern about me. 讀畢 have finished. 頗能領悟 and am able to understand the lessons therein contained. 暑假在卽 the summer vacation is on hand. 考試 examinations. 名列何等 as to how I stand in my class. 再行稟告 I shall report again.

敬請福安 with love. (此等語呆譯則慎因中西俗尙不同故也).

第十六課

樂正子春

齊伐魯索讒鼎魯
以其贗往齊人曰
贗也魯人曰真也
齊人曰使樂正子
春來言則吾將信
之魯君請於樂正
子春樂正子春曰
胡不以其真往也
君曰我愛之答曰
臣亦愛臣之信乃
辭不行

伐 To attack; to punish; to invade. 索 to demand; to make one give up. 讒鼎 the famous tripod of Yu (the tripod was made at Kan Chan hence its name). 魯以其贗往 Lu sent an imitation. 真 genuine, 使樂正子春來言 let your Yok Chen Tze Chung come and declare its genuineness to us. 信 to believe; to take one's words for it. 我愛之 I am fond of it; I am unwilling to part with it. 乃辭不行 with this, he refused point-blank to make the trip as requested.

第十七課

貧富

姜彭二生同學姜
生家貧冠履多敝
彭生衣華服過而
炫之姜生不顧旦
夕勤學每試輒高
列卒業後爲講師
家亦漸裕彭生廢
學歷久無成貲盡
而困歎曰乃今知
富之不足恃矣

二生 Two young men. 同學 attended the same school; were school-mates. 冠履多敝 his hats and shoes were old and worn out. 衣華服 was clad in rich clothes. 過而炫之 and was very presumptuous whenever he met his friend. 不顧 to pay no attention to. 旦夕 all his time. 每試 each examination. 輒高列 to stand high. 卒業 after his graduation. 講師 a lecturer. 裕 well-off. 廢學 having neglected his studies. 歷久無成 and was far from successful. 貲盡 his wealth at last was gone. 而困 and he began to feel the financial stress. 歎曰 with a sigh, he said. 乃今知 I now know. 恃 to rely upon.

原
书
缺
页

原
书
缺
页

不	帆	不	掉	其	名	所	來	父	
順	帆	槳	水	後	爲	以	父	攜	第
故	受	而	使	有	槳	行	指	兒	二
用	風	行	舟	物	拍	乎	謂	至	十
槳	則	何	轉	如	水	兩	兒	江	二
	舟	也	也	尾	使	旁	曰	畔	課
	進	父	兒	名	舟	有	汝	有	
	來	曰	曰	爲	進	物	知	舟	舟
	舟	彼	去	舵	也	如	舟	迎	
	風	有	舟	舵		翼	之	面	

父攜兒至江畔 A father took his son to the bank of a river. 迎面來 coming towards them. 汝知舟之所以行乎 do you know why the boat moves? 兩旁 on each side of the boat. 如翼 like the wings of a bird. 槳拍水 the oar cuts the water. 如尾 like the tail of a fish. 舵掉水 the helm swings in the water. 去舟 the boat that is sailing away from us. 帆受風 the sail is driven forward by the wind; the sail receive the force of the wind. 風不順 it is against the wind.

第二十三課

愛弟

余生性友愛每放假歸必與弟妹共遊玩一日還家適
 其弟病臥牀不能起余生憂之常於牀前爲講故事唱
 歌曲以悅其意明日入學又屢作書問之及病愈乃已
 二弟手足昨回家值吾弟臥病不得同遊甚爲悵
 悵今日病狀如何服藥後能稍瘥否不勝懸念明晚
 課畢擬請假回家一視弟疾但學堂相距太遠未
 知先生能否允許惟望吾弟格外謹慎俾得早
 日痊愈也此訊

痊安

兄○○手白

月 日

愛弟 Love your younger brother. 每放假歸 whenever he came home from school on holidays. 臥床不能起 in bed. 講故事 to tell a story. 又屢作書問之 he made many inquiries after his brother's health. 病愈 to recover from illness. 今日病狀如何 how are you getting on to-day. 服藥 to take medicine. 不勝懸念 my thoughts are with you always. 課畢 after school. 允許 to consent. 格外 special. 請假 to ask for leave of absence.

第二十四課

勿謾語

司馬光幼時與其姊
共弄胡桃欲脫其皮
不得姊去婢以湯脫
之光大喜持往告姊
曰吾能脫之矣父呵
曰小子何得謾語光
自是改過終身無謾
語

幼時 When a little boy. 弄 to play with. 胡桃 walnut.
欲去其皮 he wished to pull off its skin; to peel it. 以湯 by means
of hot water. 呵 to blame. 小子何得謾語 don't you tell a lie!
改過 repentant; to reform. 婢 a maid-servant; a slave girl.

第二十五課

纏足之害

人有四肢缺之則廢
傷之則病病廢之人
世之所憫也故有戕
人之肢體者衆必斥
之法必刑之惡其不
仁耳
父母愛子無所不至
乃以纏足之虐施於
女子使之終身病廢
豈不愛其女哉亦蔽
於世俗之見耳

害 The evil. 缺之 to deprive of. 廢 maimed. 病 invalid. 病廢
之人世之所憫也 to an invalid goes our sympathy; an invalid is a
subject of pity. 戕 to injure; to chop off. 斥 to condemn. 衆 the
people at large. 法必刑之 the law will punish him. 父母愛
子, 無所不至 a parent's love knows no bounds. 乃 still; however;
but. 纏足之虐 the torture of foot-binding. 施 inflict. 豈不愛其
女哉, 亦蔽於世俗之見耳 is it because they do not love their
daughter? The fact is they have been blinded by a long-standing
custom.