

THE WORLD CLASSIC ENGLISH



世界经典英语美文读本

世界经典英语书信

主编 卢忱

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浏览古今中外人类文明,上下几千年,纵横几万里。但大浪淘沙,经典的语言和有价值的思想只有少数留存延续,这些语言和思想的思考角度不同、呈现方式各异,因而便有了语言的多样性和丰富多彩的文化。脱离文化情境的"纯"语言并不存在,学好语言的关键(这也是学习语言的成功人士的经验之谈),是在语言、思想和文化之间建立流畅的对应,学习外语尤为如此。

作为英语学习者,我们可能在背诵了海量的单词之后,依然时时感觉自己表达能力不够,而钦佩那些大家们能够用精妙的词语编织出优雅的长文。我们的问题包含三个方面:一是英语语言的表达方式不到位;二是对英语文化的了解和理解不到位;三是我们思考的方法、思考的广度和深度可能还有欠缺。对于非英语母语的人来讲,这些能力只有通过阅读大量经典的语料才可以快速提升。

因此我们编写了这套经典的英语阅读丛书——"世界经典英语美文读本",目的在于展示世界各大文明对于一些人类最基本问题的思考,以及这些思考如何通过英语这门语言得到了最恰当的表达。在这里,君权神授让位给了民主的宪章,殖民暴政接受了天赋的人权,弱势群体呼吁平等,家人、朋友亲密交流;激扬的情感浩浩荡荡,温情的呢喃涓涓流淌。

这套丛书分为四种,分别是"政论"、"演讲"、"书信"和"散文",读者面主要是大学生、所有英语学习者和英语爱好者。选篇涵盖了古今中外各种英文或被译成英文的经典文章,选择时遵循"经典性、思想性、可读性和趣味性"这四大原则。除一些政论类选文略显严肃、严谨但却典雅庄重之外,每一个选篇都是跨越时空限



制、至今都让每位读者反复咀嚼而更添其味的妙文。丛书分为两类,一类关乎主题,如政治经典;另一类关乎体裁,包括演讲、散文、书信。选材不限国别,但遵循时间顺序,力求比较完整地展示不同时代、不同背景下的历史、思想和文化,同时领略和学习英语的魅力。

每一篇章都包括作者介绍和篇章鉴赏——目的是将文篇写作的背景语境展现给读者,为读者提供参照标准,这是学习和理解英语的基础。我们对每篇文章中闪光的思想或者优美的句子加以特别标注,强调它们在文化和语言中的独特性。英文正文后配有中文译文,以便读者准确理解文章的意蕴并比较中英文表达方式的异同。同时,为保证阅读的乐趣不为生词所扰,我们配有生词释义,且将生词按照考试大纲分级。单词右上角的"4"、"6"表示其分别属于大学英语四、六级的范围,"8"表示该词属于英语专业八级的范围;鉴于英语专业四级难度大致与大学英语六级相当,本丛书不加特别区分。

经典作品是人类思想星空中永恒的坐标,是通往知识天堂的永恒阶梯。我们希望这些经典英文能为读者们所接受和认可,并对读者们有所助益。

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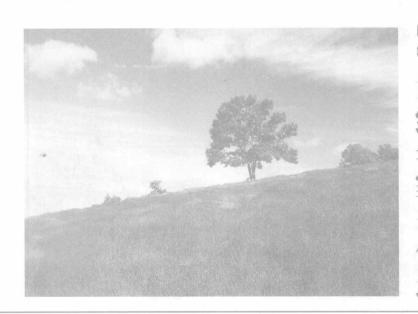
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18世纪名家书信选

乔纳森·斯威夫特致

凯瑟琳・理查森小姐



Jonathan Swift to Miss Katharine Richardson

乔纳森·斯威夫特 (Jonathan Swift)

名人档案

乔纳森·斯威夫特(1667—1745),18世纪爱尔兰杰出的政论家、小说家,以游记体讽刺小说《格列佛游记》闻名于世。中国翻译家、英美文学研究专家王佐良曾经高度概括了《格列佛游记》不同侧面的深度,他说:"这部书打动了各类读者,儿童们喜欢头两部故事,历史学家看出了当时英国朝政的侧



影,思想家据以研究作者对文化和科学的态度,左派文论家摘取其中反战反殖民主义的词句,甚至先锋派理论家把它看作黑色幽默的前驱,而广大的普通读者则欣赏其情节的奇幻有趣、其讽刺的广泛深刻。这部书是游记、神话、寓言、理想国的蓝图,又是试验性的小说。"这番评价也是对斯威夫特文学创作的精彩解析。

简小与鉴赏

在致凯瑟琳·理查森小姐的信中,斯威夫特列举了理查森小姐及其伯父的种种恶行。有心的读者在阅读了几句之后不难发现,这满篇的责备和抱怨恰恰是斯威夫特用以表达感激之情的手段。斯威夫特的信明贬实衰,以这种别致的角度向理查森小姐及其伯父的爱心致以深深的感谢。

作为讽刺文学大师, 斯威夫特擅用反讽和夸张技巧, 这些在这封日常通信中表现得淋漓尽致, 丝毫不逊于其在《格列佛游记》中对英国现实的辛辣批判, 只不过在这封信中, 反讽和夸张被用来传递人性中彼此取暖的善意。

通过对这封信的深入细读,语言学习者不仅可以欣赏和学习斯威夫特那独特的写作和修辞技巧,也可以一窥以"尖刻、辛辣"著称的讽刺大师的温情一面。



Madam,

I must begin my correspondence by letting you know that your uncle is the most unreasonable person I was ever acquainted with; and next to him, you are the second, although I think impartially that you are worse than he. I never had the honor and happiness of seeing you, nor can ever expect it, unless you make the first advance by coming up to town, where I am confined by want of health; and my traveling days are over. I find you follow your uncle's steps, by maliciously bribing a useless man, who can never have it in his power to serve or divert you. I have indeed continued a very long friendship with Alderman Barber, who is governor of the London society about your parts, whereupon Mr. Richardson came to the Deanery, although it was writing to the Alderman. However, your uncle came to me several times; and, I believe after several invitations, dined with me once or twice. This was all the provocation[®] I ever gave him; but he had revenge in his breast, and you shall hear how he gratified it. First, he was told, that my ill stomach, and a giddiness 9 I was subject to, forced me, in some of those fits, to take a spoonful of usquebaugh[®]: He discovered where I bought it, and sent me a dozen bottles, which cost him three pounds. He next was told, that as I never drank malt-liquors, so I was not able to drink Dublin claret without mixing it with a little sweet Spanish wine: He found out the merchant with whom I deal, by the treachery 10 of my butler, and sent me twelve dozen pints of that wine, for which he paid six pounds. But what can I say of a man, who, some years before I ever saw him, was loading me every season

(单词/词组

- ① correspondence⁶ n. 通信; 一致; 相当
- ② acquainted⁴ adj. 熟识的
- ③ impartially adv. 公平地,公正地, 不偏不倚地
- ④ confine⁶ v. 限制
- ⑤ want⁶ n. 需要; 缺
- ⑥ maliciously⁸ adv. 恶意地
- ⑦ divert⁶ vt. 使…… 转向; 娱乐
- ® provocation⁶ n. 挑 衅;挑拨
- ⑨ giddiness⁶ n. 头
- ⑩ usquebaugh n. 威士忌
- ① treachery⁶ n. 背叛;变节



单词/词组

- ① surfeit⁸ vt. 使饮食 过度; 使厌腻; 使过度沉溺于
- ③ malice⁶ n. 恶意; 怨恨
- ④ proceeding⁶ n. 进 行:行动
- ⑤ partaker⁸ n. 参与者
- ⑥ expostulate⁸ vi. 劝 诫,告诫
- ① swear⁴ v. 宣誓
- 18 adorn4 vt. 装饰
- ⑨ prudence⁶ n. 审慎
- 20 folly⁶ n. 愚行

. 经典语句。

with salmons, that surfeited myself and all my visitors? Thereby it is plain that his malice[®] reached to my friends as well as myself. At last, to complete his ill design, he must needs force his niece into the plot; because it can be proved that you are his prime minister, and so ready to encourage him in his bad proceedings[®], that you have been his partaker[®] and second in mischief, by sending me half a dozen of shirts, although I never once gave you the least cause of displeasure. And, what is yet worse, the few ladies that come to the Deanery assure me, they never see so fine linen, or better were not stockings, for then you would have known the length of my foot. Upon the whole, Madam, I must deal so plain as to repeat, that you are more cruel even than your uncle; to such a degree, that if my health and a good summer can put it in my power to travel to Summer-Seat, I must take that journey on purpose to expostulate with you for all the unprovoked injuries you have done me. I have seen some persons who live in your neighborhood, from whom I have inquired into your character; but I found you had bribed them all, by never sending them any such dangerous presents; for they swore to me, that you were a lady adorned with all perfections, such as virtue, prudence[®], wit, humor, excellent conversation, and even good housewifery; which last is seldom the talent of ladies in this kingdom. But I take so ill your manner of treating me, that I shall not believe one syllable of what they said, until I have it by letter under your own hand. Our common run of ladies here dare not read before a man, and much less dare to write, for fear (as their expression is) of being exposed. So that when I see any of your sex, if they be worth mending, I beat them all, call them names, until they leave off their follies[®],

and ask pardon. And therefore, because princes are said to have long hands. I wish I were a prince with hands long enough to beat you at this distance, for all your faults, particularly your ill treatment of me. However, I will conclude with charity. May you never give me cause to change, in any single article, the opinion and idea I have of your person and qualities. May you very long continue the delight of your uncle and your neighbours round, who deserve your goodwill, and of all who have merit enough to distinguish vou.

I am, with great respect and the highest esteem,

Madam, Your most obedient and most obliged humble servant, Jonathan Swift



小姐,

我必须在信的开头就让您知道,在我结识的人当中您的伯父是最不可理喻的一 而您是继他之后第二位这样的人, 虽然公道地说, 我认为您比他有过之而无不 及。我从未有幸见过您,也决不存在奢望,除非劳您大驾光顾这座城市,因为健康 缘故, 我现在足不出户, 我的旅行时代也随之告终。 我发觉您在步您伯父的后尘, 蓄意贿赂一个不中用的老人,他再也无力为您效劳或让您开心。诚然我与市政官巴 伯长期保持着友好关系, 他是伦敦会会长, 主管您那个区; 因此理查森先生亲临寒 舍,然而我无法为他帮上一点忙,只能写信给市政官大人。可是您的伯父找我数 次;我相信经过数次邀请之后他才与我吃过一两次饭。这是我曾经激怒他的唯一原 因;可是他心存报复,您将会听到他是如何付诸实施的。首先,他听说我有胃病及 头晕症,有时发作时,我不得不喝一勺爱尔兰甜酒。他找到我买此酒的地方后,就 买了12瓶给我送来,花去3英镑。其次,他听说我从不喝麦芽酒,所以在喝都柏 林红酒时总是要兑一些西班牙甜葡萄酒;由于我管家的出卖,他找到卖给我此酒 的商人,买了一罗品脱给我送来,为此他支付了6英镑。而几年前我还不认识他, 他每个季节给我送来的鲑鱼总能让我和所有的客人吃个够,对这样一个人我还能说 什么?由此可见,他的魔掌不仅伸向了我而且也伸向了我的朋友。最后,为了使他 的预谋得逞,他非要他的侄女参与;送我的那半打衬衫便可证明,您是他的宰相,



随时都会怂恿他做坏事,因此在这场恶作剧中您一直是他的同谋和帮凶,虽然我从 未做讨让您不开心的事。更有甚者,几位光临寒舍的夫人向我宣称:她们从未看到 如此漂亮的亚麻布衬衫,做工如此考究,如此得体合身。所幸的是它们不是袜子, 因此那样的话您就会知道我的足长了。总之, 小姐, 我必须十分坦率地重申, 您甚 至比您的伯父更残酷, 您残酷到了如此地步, 如果我的健康状况允许我在一个官人 的夏季旅行到撒摩西特的话,那么我一定要成行,为的是当面控诉您对我的一切无 缘无故的伤害。您的左邻右舍我见过一些,从他们那儿我打听了您的品行,然而我 发现您贿赂了他们每一个人,您从不把这些危险礼品送给他们,因为他们向我发誓, 您是一位尽善尽美的小姐, 诸如贞洁、谨慎、机智、幽默、善谈, 甚至擅长于家务; 这最后一点是这个国度的女士们难以做到的。可我对您待我的方式十分恼火,故他 们所说的我只字不信,除非我从您的亲笔信中得之。我们这儿的普通女士们不敢在 男士面前读书, 更不敢提笔写信, 害怕(按照她们的说法)抛头露面。因此只要我 见到你们中的任何一位女士、倘若她们还值得改造、我会把她们每个人痛打一顿、 谩骂一通,直至她们别再做出傻事,直至她们向我求饶。因此,由于王子的手据说 很长, 所以我希望我是一位王子, 手伸出去能够打着远方的您, 因为您有这么多的 讨错,特别是对我的虐待。不讨我愿意以仁慈为怀来结束此信。但愿您千万别再让 我改变(哪怕是任何一条)我对您的人品业已形成的观点和看法。但愿您使您的伯 父和左邻右舍(您的好意他们受之无愧)快乐长久,同时让所有抬举您的好人永远 快乐。

小姐, 我向您致以最崇高的敬意。

您的最恭顺、谦卑的仆人 乔纳森·斯威夫特

[P] 托马斯·格雷致母亲



Thomas Gray to His Mother

托马斯·格雷 (Thomas Gray)

る人档案

托马斯·格雷 (1716—1771),英国著名诗人,受感伤主义和浪漫主义的影响,其诗歌作品以失落和死亡为通常主题。1750年,格雷发表长诗《墓畔哀歌》,声名鹊起,成为"墓园派"的代表诗人。其作品还包括《诗的历程》和《吟游诗人》等。



简介与鉴赏

格雷尽管出生于一个相对富庶的家庭,但童年时代孱弱的体质与父亲的粗暴给他留下了阴影,使其一生都在忧郁中度过,其作品也难免沾染上伤感的色彩。幸运的是,格雷有一位爱他、呵护他的母亲。他与母亲的关系很好,这封信就是他在意大利旅行期间写给母亲的。在信中他详细、生动地给母亲介绍了意大利的风土人情。

这封信近似于游记,以描写为主,这也是作为墓畔诗人的格雷最擅长的。 信中对意大利植被的准确描述,对自然风光和城市景象的生动再现,都给人以 身临其境之感。

通过对这封信的学习,读者可以初步体会到,在描写性文章中,敏锐的洞察力、对形容词和动词的大量掌握以及独特的视角,都是必不可少的。



Naples, June 17, 1740.

Our journey hither was through the most beautiful part of the finest country in the



经典语句.

单词/词组

- ① hitherto⁶ adv. 迄 今;至今
- ② uncultivated⁶ adj. [农]未经耕作的
- ③ till⁶ vt. 耕种; 犁
- ④ intermix⁶ vt. 使 混杂; 使混合
- ⑤ festoon⁸ n.花彩; [建] 花彩装饰物
- ⑥ in full bloom⁴ phr. 盛开
- ⑦ conceive4 vi. 设想;想象
- 8 behold⁴ vt. 看; 注视
- ⑨ outdo⁴ vt. 超过; 胜过
- ⑩ populace⁴ n. 大 众; 人口
- ① industrious⁴ adj. 勤勉的
- ① lute4 n. 鲁特琴
- ① fresco8 n. 壁画

world; and every spot of it on some account or other, famous for these three thousand years past. The season has hitherto been just as warm as one would wish it; no unwholesome airs, or violent heats, yet heard of: The people call it a backward year, and are in pain about their corn, wine, and oil; but we, who are neither corn, wine, nor oil, find it very agreeable. Our road was through Velletri, Cisterna, Terracina, Capua, and Aversa, and so to Naples. The minute one leaves his Holiness's dominions, the face of things begins to change from wide uncultivated plains to olive groves and well tilled 3 fields of corn, intermixed 4 with ranks of elms, every one of which has its vine twining about it, and hanging in festoons between the rows from one tree to another. The great old fig trees, the oranges in full bloom⁶, and myrtles in every hedge, make one of the delightfullest scenes you can conceive¹; besides that, the roads are wide, well kept, and full of passengers, a sight I have not beheld® this long time. My wonder still increased upon entering the city, which I think for number of people, outdoes both Paris and London. The streets are one continued market, and thronged with populace on much that a coach can hardly pass. The common sort are a jolly lively kind of animals, more industrious than Italians usually are; they work till evening; then take their lute[®] or guitar (for they all play) and walk about the city, or upon the sea shore with it, to enjoy the fresco[®]. One sees their little brown children jumping about stark naked, and the bigger ones dancing with castanets, while others play on the cymbal to them. Your maps will show you the situation of Naples; it is on the most lovely bay in the world, and one of the calmest seas: it has many other beauties besides those of nature. We have spent two