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# Gulliver's Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World

by Jonathan Swift

格列佛游记

[英] 乔纳森·斯威夫特 著



Liaoning People's Publishing House, China

辽宁人民出版社





*Gulliver's Travels* has been the recipient of several designations: from Menippean satire to a children's story, from proto-science fiction to a forerunner of the modern novel.



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## Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift (30 November 1667 - 19 October 1745) was an Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for the Whigs, then for the Tories), poet and cleric who became Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Swift is remembered for works such as *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), and *A Modest Proposal* (1729). He is regarded by the *Encyclopedia Britannica* as the foremost prose satirist in the English language, and is less well known for his poetry. He originally published all of his works under pseudonyms – such as *Lemuel Gulliver*, *Isaac Bickerstaff*, *M. B. Drapier*– or anonymously. He was a master of two styles of satire, the *Horatian* and *Juvenalian* styles.

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## General Preface

Millions of Chinese are learning English to acquire knowledge and skills for communication in a world where English has become the primary language for international discourse. Yet not many learners have come to realize that the command of the English language also enables them to have an easy access to the world literary classics such as Shakespeare's plays, Shelley's poems, Mark Twain's novels and Nietzsche's works which are an important part of liberal-arts education. The most important goals of universities are not vocational, that is, not merely the giving of knowledge and the training of skills.

In a broad sense, education aims at broadening young people's mental horizon, cultivating virtues and shaping their character. Lincoln, Mao Zedong and many other great leaders and personages of distinction declared how they drew immense inspiration and strength from literary works. As a matter of fact, many of them had aspired to become writers in their young age. Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) is said to take along with him two things, waking or sleeping: a book and a dagger, and the book is *Iliad*, a literary classic, by Homer. He would put these two much treasured things under his pillow when he went to bed.



Today, we face an unprecedented complex and changing world. To cope with this rapid changing world requires not only communication skills, but also adequate knowledge of cultures other than our own home culture. Among the most important developments in present-day global culture is the ever increasing cultural exchanges and understanding between different nations and peoples. And one of the best ways to know foreign cultures is to read their literary works, particularly their literary classics, the soul of a country's culture. They also give you the best language and the feeling of sublimity.

Liaoning People's Publishing House is to be congratulated for its foresight and courage in making a new series of world literary classics ( Bedside Classics) available to the reading public. It is hoped that people with an adequate command of the English language will read them, like them and keep them as their lifetime companions.

I am convinced that the series will make an important contribution to the literary education of the young people in China. At a time when the whole country is emphasizing "spiritual civilization", it is certainly a very timely venture to put out the series of literary classics for literary and cultural education.

Zhang Zhongzai

Professor

Beijing Foreign Studies University

July, 2013 Beijing

## 总 序

经典名著的语言无疑是最凝练、最优美、最有审美价值的。雪莱的那句“如冬已来临，春天还会远吗？”让多少陷于绝望的人重新燃起希望之火，鼓起勇气，迎接严冬过后的春天。徐志摩一句“悄悄的我走了，正如我悄悄的来；我挥一挥衣袖，不带走一片云彩”又让多少人陶醉。尼采的那句“上帝死了”，又给多少人以振聋发聩的启迪作用。

读经典名著，尤其阅读原汁原味作品，可以怡情养性，增长知识，加添才干，丰富情感，开阔视野。所谓“经典”，其实就是作者所属的那个民族的文化积淀，是那个民族的灵魂缩影。英国戏剧泰斗莎士比亚的《哈姆雷特》和《麦克白》等、“意大利语言之父”的但丁的《神曲》之《地狱篇》《炼狱篇》及《天堂篇》、爱尔兰世界一流作家詹姆斯·乔伊斯的《尤利西斯》及《一个艺术家的肖像》等、美国风趣而笔法超一流的著名小说家马克·吐温的《哈克历险记》以及《汤姆索亚历险记》等，德国著名哲学家尼采的《查拉图斯特拉如是说》及《快乐的科学》等等，都为塑造自己民族的文化积淀，做出了永恒的贡献，也同时向世界展示了他们所属的民族的优美剪影。

很多著名领袖如林肯、毛泽东等伟大人物，也都曾从经典名著中汲取力量，甚至获得治国理念。耶鲁大学教授查尔斯·希尔曾在题为《经典与治国理念》的文章，阐述了读书与治国之间的绝妙关系。他这样写道：

“在几乎所有经典名著中，都可以找到让人叹为观止、深藏其中的治国艺术原则。”

经典名著，不仅仅有治国理念，更具提升读者审美情趣的功能。世界上不同时代、不同地域的优秀经典作品，都存在一个共同属性：歌颂赞美人间的真善美，揭露抨击世间的假恶丑。

读欧美自但丁以来的经典名著，你会看到，西方无论是在漫长的黑暗时期，抑或进入现代进程时期，总有经典作品问世，对世间的负面，进行冷峻的批判。与此同时，也有更多的大家作品问世，热情讴歌人间的真诚与善良，使读者不由自主地沉浸于经典作品的审美情感之中。

英语经典名著，显然是除了汉语经典名著以外，人类整个进程中至关重要的文化遗产的一部分。从历史上看，英语是全世界经典阅读作品中，使用得最广泛的国际性语言。这一事实，没有产生根本性变化。本世纪相当长一段时间，这一事实也似乎不会发生任何变化。而要更深入地了解并切身感受英语经典名著的风采，阅读原汁原味的英语经典作品的过程，显然是必不可少的。

辽宁人民出版社及时并隆重推出“最经典英语文库”系列丛书，是具有远见与卓识的出版行为。我相信，这套既可供阅读，同时也具收藏价值的英语原版经



典作品系列丛书，在帮助人们了解什么才是经典作品的同时，也一定会成为广大英语爱好者、大中学生以及学生家长们的挚爱的“最经典英语文库”。

北京外国语大学英语学院  
北外公共外交研究中心  
欧美文学研究中心主任  
全国英国文学学会名誉会长

张中载 教授  
2013年7月于北京

# Is This Book for You?

## “大小人国”里真热闹

### ——“最经典英语文库”第九辑之 《格列佛游记》导读

高云平

乔纳森·斯威夫特（Jonathan Swift, 1667—1745），经典讽刺小说《格列佛游记》的作者。《格列佛游记》被公认为是人类文学史上最重要的最具有影响力的小说之一。

小说1726年发表，分为四个部分，重点描写了一个人在奇怪陌生的国度里游历的故事。小说不但抨击了当时的社会现状，还在更深层面上，审视和讽刺了人性本身的堕落，对伪科学也进行了强烈批评。《格列佛游记》的创作，始于斯威夫特曾任保守党辩论家时，他因参与创办涂鸦社声名鹊起，这个涂鸦社由一群保守派作家组成，成员包括亚历山大·蒲柏、约翰·盖伊等当时名噪一时的人物。大家一起创作讽刺诗和讽刺小说。这部《格列佛游记》就将其中一些极具讽刺意味的虚构的旅行者所见所闻的故事串联成书。《格列佛游记》出版后迅速走红。不过有趣的是，斯威夫特并未署上自己的真名出版。但即便未署其名，细心的读者还是很快就猜出小说作者就是乔纳

森·斯威夫特。

严格说来，《格列佛游记》算幻想游记小说。小说以格列佛船长的口气，叙述了他周游列国的离奇经历。格列佛船长原本是名英国外科医生，却因无法为家人提供足够的经济收入，被迫跑到船上当起了“驻船”医生，后来成了船长。当这艘船开至南太平洋时，它遭遇到第一个险境。当然，作为主人公的格列佛船长必然死里逃过一劫。不过，他却只身漂浮到一个叫“利立普特”的地方，根据小说情节，我们给翻译成“小人国”。小人国的居民都只有六英尺高。其实作者是用“矮小的身材”影射小人物也贪图权力。格列佛则被矮人们称为“巨人山”，他帮小人国国王击溃了邻近小人国（布莱夫斯库）的入侵。虽然对于格列佛而言，这是一场毫无意义的战争。很快，格列佛就从小人国脱身，回到了英国。

在家短暂停歇一段时间后，不安于平静生活的格列佛，又开始了自己的第二段行程。这次，他来到了一个叫“布罗卜丁奈格”的地方，发现自己进入了一个“巨人国”。在这里，格列佛发现自己虽然个子也够高，但与六十英尺高的巨人国里的人们比，自己才是真正的“小人”也。而且，他马上本能地意识到，即便对面跑过来一只小老鼠，或迎面走来一个蹒跚学步的小婴孩，都对格列佛构成巨大的生命威胁。他知道自己必须倚靠外力的保护才行。

有趣的是，格列佛居然受巨人们邀请，听他发表演讲。不过，他有些大嘴巴，现场就夸夸其谈起来，有点炫耀地说，英国是欧洲文明的典范，赞许英国政治现状。这遭到了巨人国国王的蔑视。巨人国的民众也接二连三对其发起质问。显然，他的观点令其陷入



危险境地。

后面，当他在一个小箱子里睡觉时，有只大鹰把箱子叼了起来，随后，将箱子丢入大海。就这样，格列佛离开了巨人国。

并不消停的格列佛，又很快开始了一段新的行程。这次，他要去拉普塔岛。这是一块神秘的土地，其中居住着科学家、魔术师和巫师。只不过，这些所谓的科学家、魔术师和巫师们，其所研究的对象，听上去都是些荒诞不经的玩意儿，他们所根据的计算公式都很荒唐。进一步说，这些所谓的科学家、魔术师和巫师们所进行的都是莫名其妙的研究。格列佛首先登岛所至的这个地方，聚集了一帮魔法师，听他们自己说，他们能召回亡者的灵魂，能与亚里士多德、尤里乌斯·凯撒这些死去的大人物进行交谈……

格列佛船长几乎一生都在四处行走。不过，有点“叶落归根”的意味的是，格列佛最后还是回到了那块生他养他的英国故土，他却像是“一夜间顿悟”，发现自己已经很难适应故土上的平淡生活，他甚至讨厌它，却只能在愤怒而又无奈中度过自己的余生。

其实，作者通过自己所谓的离奇经历，目的旨在揭露与批判人类的愚蠢行为。他利用小人国经历，对18世纪前半期英国政治制度和道德标准进行无情的鞭笞，讽刺小人物对财富和权力的贪欲。与邻近小人国的那场战争，暗指英法之间的毫无意义的对抗。在巨人国里，格列佛则使用自己的矮小形象提醒人们，视角和观点的不同，可以改变一个人的眼界。拉普塔岛的奇特经历，更使斯威夫特借题发挥，对16和17世纪伪科学进行了严厉抨击。



## THE PUBLISHER TO THE READER

*(As given in the original edition)*

**T**he author of these Travels, Mr. Lemuel Gulliver, is my ancient and intimate friend; there is likewise some relation between us on the mother's side. About three years ago, Mr. Gulliver growing weary of the concourse of curious people coming to him at his house in Redriff, made a small purchase of land, with a convenient house, near Newark, in Nottinghamshire, his native country; where he now lives retired, yet in good esteem among his neighbours.

Although Mr. Gulliver was born in Nottinghamshire, where his father dwelt, yet I have heard him say his family came from Oxfordshire; to confirm which, I have observed in the churchyard at Banbury in that county, several tombs and monuments of the Gullivers.

Before he quitted Redriff, he left the custody of the following papers in my hands, with the liberty to dispose of them as I should think fit. I have carefully perused them three times. The style is very plain and simple; and the only fault I find is, that the author, after the manner of travellers, is a little too circumstantial. There is an air of truth apparent through the whole; and indeed the author was so distinguished for his veracity, that it became a sort of proverb among his neighbours at Redriff, when any one affirmed a thing, to say, it was as true as if Mr. Gulliver had spoken it.

By the advice of several worthy persons, to whom, with the author's permission, I communicated these papers, I now venture to send them into the world, hoping they may be, at least for some time, a better entertainment to our young noblemen, than the common scribbles of politics and party.

This volume would have been at least twice as large, if I had not made bold to strike out innumerable passages relating to the winds and tides, as well as to the variations and bearings in the several voyages, together with the minute descriptions of the management of the ship in storms, in the style of sailors; likewise the account of longitudes and latitudes; wherein I have reason to apprehend, that Mr. Gulliver may be a little dissatisfied. But I was resolved to fit the work as much as possible to the general capacity of readers. However, if my own ignorance in sea affairs shall have led me to commit some mistakes, I alone am answerable for them. And if any traveller hath a curiosity to see the whole work at large, as it came from the hands of the author, I will be ready to gratify him.

As for any further particulars relating to the author, the reader will receive satisfaction from the first pages of the book.

RICHARD SYMPSON.