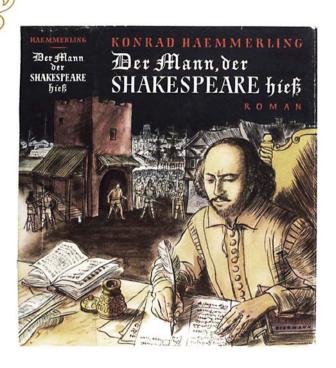


莎士比亞簡介

陳敬旻

威廉·莎士比亞(William Shakespeare)出生於英國的史特拉福(Stratford-upon-Avon)。莎士比亞的父親曾任地方議員,母親是地主的女兒。莎士比亞對婦女在廚房或起居室裡勞動的描繪不少,這大概是經由觀察母親所得。他本人也懂得園藝,故作品中的植草種樹表現鮮活。

1571年,莎士比亞進入公立學校就讀,校內教學多採拉丁文,因此在其作品中到處可見到羅馬詩人奧維德(Ovid)的影子。當時代古典文學的英譯日漸普遍,有學者認為莎士比亞只懂得英語,但這種說法有可議之處。舉例來說,在高登的譯本裡,森林女神只用 Diana這個名字,而莎士比亞卻在《仲夏夜之夢》一劇中用奧維德原作中的 Titania 一名來稱呼仙后。和莎士比亞有私交的文學家班·強生(Ben Jonson)則曾說,莎翁「懂得一點拉丁文,和一點點希臘文」。



莎士比亞的劇本亦常引用聖經典故,顯示他對新舊約也頗為熟悉。 在伊麗莎白女王時期,通俗英語中已有很多聖經詞語。此外,莎士 比亞應該很了解當時年輕人所流行的遊戲娛樂,那時也應該有巡迴 劇團不時前來史特拉福演出。 1575 年,伊麗莎白女王來到郡上時, 當地人以化裝遊行、假面戲劇、煙火來款待女王,《仲夏夜之夢》裡 就有這種盛會的描繪。

1582 年,莎士比亞與安·海瑟威(Anne Hathaway)結婚,但這場婚姻顯得草率,連莎士比亞的雙親都因不知情而沒有出席婚禮。 1586 年,他們在倫敦定居下來。 1586 年的倫敦已是英國首都,年輕人無不想在此大展抱負。史特拉福與倫敦之間的交通頻仍,但對身無長物的人而言,步行仍是最平常的旅行方式。伊麗莎白時期的文學家喜好步行, 1618 年,班·強生就曾在倫敦與愛丁堡之間徒步來回。

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姐姐瑪麗(Mary Lamb)生於 1764年,弟弟查爾斯(Charles Lamb)於 1775年也在倫敦呱呱落地。因為家境不夠寬裕,瑪麗沒有接受過完整的教育。她從小就做針線活,幫忙持家,照顧母親。查爾斯在學生時代結識了詩人柯立芝(Samuel Taylor Coleridge),兩人成為終生的朋友。查爾斯後來因家中經濟困難而輟學, 1792年轉而就職於東印度公司(East India House),這是他謀生的終身職業。

查爾斯在二十歲時一度精神崩潰,瑪麗則因為長年工作過量,在 1796年突然精神病發,持刀攻擊父母,母親不幸傷重身亡。這件人 倫悲劇發生後,瑪麗被判為精神異常,送往精神病院。查爾斯為此 放棄自己原本期待的婚姻,以便全心照顧姐姐,使她免於在精神病 院終老。

十九世紀的英國教育重視莎翁作品,一般的中產階級家庭也希望孩子早點接觸莎劇。1806年,文學家兼編輯高德溫(William Godwin)邀請查爾斯協助「少年圖書館」的出版計畫,請他將莎翁的劇本改寫為適合兒童閱讀的故事。

查爾斯接受這項工作後就與瑪麗合作,他負責六齣悲劇,瑪麗負責 十四齣喜劇並撰寫前言。瑪麗在後來曾描述説,他們兩人「就坐在 同一張桌子上改寫,看起來就好像《仲夏夜之夢》裡的荷米雅與海 蓮娜一樣。」就這樣,姐弟兩人合力完成了這一系列的莎士比亞故 事。《莎士比亞故事集》在 1807 年出版後便大受好評,建立了查爾 斯的文學聲譽。 

1823 年,查爾斯和瑪麗領養了一個孤兒愛瑪。兩年後,查爾斯自東印度公司退休,獲得豐厚的退休金。查爾斯的健康情形和瑪麗的精神狀況卻每況愈下。 1833 年,愛瑪嫁給出版商後,又只剩下姐弟兩人。 1834 年 7 月,由於幼年時代的好友柯立芝去世,查爾斯的精神一蹶不振,沉湎酒精。此年秋天,查爾斯在散步時不慎跌倒,傷及顏面,後來傷口竟惡化至不可收拾的地步,而於年底過世。

查爾斯善與人交,他和同時期的許多文人都保持良好情誼,又因他一生對姐姐的照顧不餘遺力,所以也廣受敬佩。查爾斯和瑪麗兩人都終生未婚,查爾斯曾在一篇伊利亞小品中,將他們的狀況形容為「雙重單身」(double singleness)。查爾斯去世後,瑪麗的心理狀態雖然漸趨惡化,但仍繼續活了十三年之久。

女性拯救者

在民間故事裡,常可見出身低微卻擁有無比勇氣、智慧或能力的青年,在圓滿完成如屠龍、解謎、治病等最艱難的任務後,國王或公爵就會把美麗的公主許配給他。《終成眷屬》的內容與此類似,只是智勇雙全的主角變成了女性,最終的獎賞則變成了男性。

這種性別替換並非是莎士比亞自創的想法,而是源自於潘特(William Painter)於 1566-67 年間出版(1575 年修訂)的英譯故事集《愉悦的殿堂》(The Palace of Pleasure)。此書收錄了薄伽丘(Boccaccio)《十日談》(Decameron)裡第三天的第九個故事,描述女主人翁治癒國王,並兩度贏得夫婿而終成眷屬的故事。

在本劇裡,女主角海倫娜(Helena)以神奇藥方治好國王的痼疾,從而得以與暗戀已久的心上人貝特漢(Bertram)成婚。但貝特漢不滿這樁婚姻,忿而離開家園,遠赴義大利從軍,並在當地愛上一位名為黛安娜(Diana)的女子。







Bertram 具特漢 盧西昂伯爵貝,恃

才傲物

Helena 海倫娜 名醫之女,愛慕貝

特漢

the countess 伯爵夫人 貝特漢之母

King of 法王 為海倫娜賜婚,許

France 配給貝特漢

Lafeu 拉福 法國宮廷的老臣

the widow 寡婦 一個殷勤好客的寡

婦

Diana 黛安娜 寡婦之女,為貝特

漢所著迷



Bertram, Count of Rousillon, had newly come to that title and estate, by the death of his father. The King of France loved the father of Bertram, and when he heard of his death, he sent for his son to come immediately to his royal court in Paris, intending, for the friendship he bore the late count, to grace young Bertram with his especial favor and protection.

Bertram was living with his mother, the widowed countess, when Lafeu, an old lord of the French court; came to conduct him to the king. The King of France was an absolute monarch¹ and the invitation to court was in the form of a royal mandate², or positive command, which no subject, of what high dignity soever, might disobey; therefore though the countess, in parting with this dear son, seemed a second time to bury her husband, whose loss she had so lately mourned, yet she dared not to keep him a single day, but gave instant orders for his departure.

¹ monarch ['moɪnərk] (n.) 君主(國王、女王、皇帝、女皇)

² mandate ['mændeɪt] (n.) 命令;訓令

2 Lafeu, who came to fetch him, tried to comfort the countess for the loss of her late lord. and her son's sudden absence; and he said, in a courtier's flattering manner, that the king was so kind a prince, she would find in his majesty a husband, and that he would be a father to her son; meaning only, that the good king would befriend the fortunes of Bertram.



Lafeu told the countess that the king had fallen into a sad malady⁴, which was pronounced by his physicians to be incurable. The lady expressed great sorrow on hearing this account of the king's ill health, and said, she wished the father of Helena (a young gentlewoman who was present in attendance upon her) were living, for that she doubted not he could have cured his majesty of his disease.

³ courtier ['kɔːrtɪr] (n.) 朝臣 (朝廷中的侍臣)

⁴ malady ['mælədi] (n.) 疾病

And she told Lafeu something of the history of Helena, saying she was the only daughter of the famous physician Gerard de Narbon, and that he had recommended his daughter to her care when he was dying, so that since his death she had taken Helena under her protection; then the countess praised the virtuous disposition⁵ and excellent qualities of Helena, saying she inherited these virtues from her worthy father.

While she was speaking, Helena wept in sad and mournful silence, which made the countess gently reprove 6 her for too much grieving for her father's death.

Bertram now bade his mother farewell. The countess parted with this dear son with tears and many blessings, and commended him to the care of Lafeu, saying, "Good my lord, advise him, for he is an unseasoned courtier."

⁵ disposition [ˌdɪspə'zɪʃən] (n.) 性情;氣質

⁶ reprove [rɪ'pruxv] (v.) 責罵;譴責

⁷ commend [kə'mend] (v.) 將某事物託付給……; 託……保管

⁸ unseasoned [An'si zənd] (a.) (指木材)未長成的;(指食物)沒有 調味的