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仲夏夜之夢

《仲夏夜之夢》導讀

《仲夏夜之夢》是莎劇中最常被搬演改編也是最受歡迎的喜劇之一，有不少人都還是透過《仲夏夜之夢》開始接觸到莎翁作品。近幾十年來，此劇因為含有夢的成分，因此受到不少心理分析大師的青睞。又因內容提及父親意圖掌握女兒、仙王想要控制仙后的橋段，因此也有人引用女性主義來探討此劇。

本劇敘述雅典城內的一對戀人荷米雅和萊桑德，荷米雅的父親反對他們在一起，他要求公爵下令，如果荷米雅不肯嫁給德米崔斯，就要判她死罪。於是這對戀人決定逃出雅典，而喜歡荷米雅的德米崔斯，以及迷戀德米崔斯的海蓮娜，也跟隨這對戀人逃進森林。

林子裡的仙王歐伯龍為幫助海蓮娜，就命令帕克趁德米崔斯睡著時，把神奇的情水滴在他的眼皮上，待他醒來，就會愛上睜眼後第一個看到的人。未料陰錯陽差，帕克搞錯對象，把情水滴在萊桑德的眼上，使萊桑德愛上海蓮娜。

歐伯龍得知後，趕緊把情水滴在德米崔斯的眼睛裡，讓他也愛上海蓮娜，然後再把解藥倒進萊桑德的眼睛裡解除魔法。荷米雅的父親發現荷米雅和德米崔斯各有意中人後，也就答應了兩人的婚事。最後，這兩對戀人就雙雙在同一天舉行婚禮。



真實與夢幻

整場戲就情節推演而言，可分三個部分：首先是一條地位崇高卻荒謬無比的律法；其次，劇中男女人物逃往林子後，精靈的介入使彼此愛戀的對象混淆，因而產生誤解與衝突；最後，一陣混亂之後，終於恢復理智和諧。本故事發生在仲夏夜晚，故事的主人翁們一度失去自我，事實上在西方文化中，有所謂的「仲夏瘋」（midsummer madness）和「月暈」（moonstruck），象徵著黎明之時，混亂才能回復秩序，疑惑衝突才會得到解決。

此劇兩兩對比的元素，如幾何圖形般對稱，故事發生於城市與森林、清醒與睡眠、真實與夢幻之間。底修斯掌管現實的雅典城，歐伯龍則是夢幻的森林之王，分別象徵理智和潛意識。

森林代表激情、焦慮、混亂、不受管束，隱藏著許多不可預測的因素，甚至有身分錯置的危機，彷彿是一場紛擾的夢境，時空與真實世界截然不同。雅典城代表社會機制和社會運作的秩序，足以化解所有的衝突。

鄉巴佬和帕克這兩個角色，正可以當作真實世界與夢幻世界的代表人物。庸俗也好，質樸也罷，許多評論家特別中意鄉巴佬這個角色，認為他腳踏實地，對仙后的地位和法力不為所動，只關心找到路回家、覓食、搔癢、睡覺。帕克則是抱持遊戲人間的態度，他捉弄村民，對自己找錯對象、滴錯情水不但不以為意，還覺得很有趣，代表了對脫序狀態的偏好。

另一個對稱的安排是兩兩成雙的戀人，萊桑德和德米崔斯，荷米雅和海蓮娜，他們之間的角色互換，撲朔迷離。

原創性的劇情

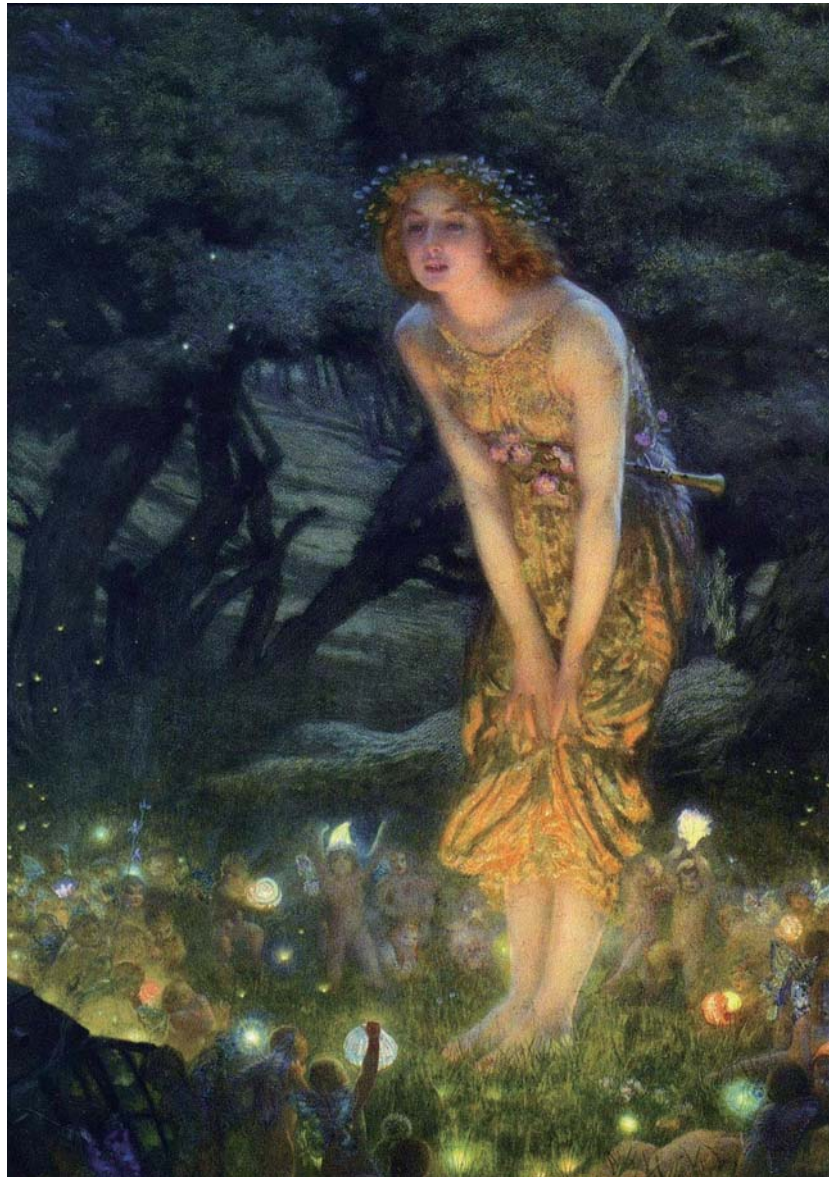
本劇看似簡單，實則具有不凡的文學與戲劇價值。另外，在莎翁眾多的劇本當中，《仲夏夜之夢》也是少數極具原創性的劇本，不像其他大部分的劇本，取材其他作品而加以融合改編。

此劇約於 1595–1596 年間完成，雖然可能只是為一般大眾而寫的通俗劇，但也有部分學者認為是因應某節慶或某貴族婚禮而寫，所以充滿希望和歡娛氣氛。現代曆法的仲夏指的是六月二十四日，但劇中提及五月節慶，所以故事發生的時間可能在五月。在早期，只有夏秋冬三個季節，夏天包含春天，所以仲夏便落在五月初，但莎士比亞並沒有明白點出確切的時間背景。



莎士比亞在當時期似乎特別偏好「夢」，在同時期的作品《理查二世》和《羅密歐與茱麗葉》中，「夢」字的出現也特別頻繁，而「夢」在這三個劇本中出現的次數，就占了他所有劇作的三分之一。夢境光怪陸離，醒來之後，雖知其不可思議，卻不會令人無法接受，這就是夢的特質。潛意識藉由我們可感知的方式，在夢裡呈現出來。夢處理不同於理性的情緒，透露我們的真正想法、感覺、欲望或恐懼等等，揭露隱而不見的潛意識。夢也帶有預示作用，預示未來的可能變化。

據此，仲夏夜之「夢」屬於預示的夢，夢醒後，戀情圓滿成雙，好友重修舊好，死罪撤銷。但仲夏夜之「夢」又不是真正的夢，夢醒後之所以圓滿，乃是因為精靈從中介入，所以劇終




《仲夏夜之夢》人物表

Oberon	歐伯龍	精靈國的仙王
Titania	泰坦妮	精靈國的仙后
Puck	帕克	精靈，歐伯龍的差使
Hermia	荷米雅	因父親將她許配給德米崔斯，準備和情人萊桑德私奔
Lysander	萊桑德	和荷米雅是一對戀人
Helena	海蓮娜	荷米雅的好友，喜歡德米崔斯
Demetrius	德米崔斯	一位貴族青年



A Midsummer Night's Dream

 There was a law in the city of Athens which gave to its citizens the power of compelling¹ their daughters to marry whomsoever they pleased; for upon a daughter's refusing to marry the man her father had chosen to be her husband, the father was empowered by this law to cause her to be put to death; but as fathers do not often desire the death of their own daughters, even though they do happen to prove a little refractory², this law was seldom or never put in execution³, though perhaps the young ladies of that city were not unfrequently threatened by their parents with the terrors of it.

There was one instance, however, of an old man, whose name was Egeus, who actually did come before Theseus (at that time the reigning duke of Athens), to complain that his daughter Hermia, whom he had commanded to marry Demetrius, a young man of a

noble Athenian family, refused to obey him, because she loved another young Athenian, named Lysander. Egeus demanded justice of Theseus, and desired that this cruel law might be put in force against his daughter.

Hermia pleaded⁴ in excuse for her disobedience, that Demetrius had formerly professed love for her dear friend Helena, and that Helena loved Demetrius to distraction⁵; but this honorable reason, which Hermia gave for not obeying her father's command, moved not the stern Egeus.


Theseus, though a great and merciful prince, had no power to alter the laws of his country; therefore he could only give Hermia four days to consider of it and at the end of that time, if she still refused to marry Demetrius, she was to be put to death.

- 1 compel [kəm'pel] (v.) 強迫
- 2 refractory [ri'fræktəri] (a.) 執拗的
- 3 execution [,eksɪ'kju:ʃən] (n.) 執行；實行
- 4 plead [pli:d] (v.) 抗辯
- 5 distraction [di'strækʃən] (n.) 發狂



BYAM SHAW

BUT I WILL WED THEE IN
ANOTHER KEY ACT I SCENE I

 2 When Hermia was dismissed from the presence of the duke, she went to her lover Lysander, and told him the peril⁶ she was in, and that she must either give him up and marry Demetrius, or lose her life in four days.

Lysander was in great affliction⁷ at hearing these evil tidings⁸; but recollecting that he had an aunt who lived at some distance from Athens, and that at the place where she lived the cruel law could not be put in force against Hermia (this law not extending beyond the boundaries of the city), he proposed to Hermia that she should steal out of her father's house that night, and go with him to his aunt's house, where he would marry her.


“I will meet you,” said Lysander, “in the wood a few miles without the city; in that delightful wood where we have so often walked with Helena in the pleasant month of May.”

6 peril ['perəl] (n.) 危險

7 affliction [ə'flɪkʃən] (n.) 痛苦；苦難

8 tidings ['tɪdɪŋz] (n.) [古代用法][複數形] 消息；音信



 To this proposal Hermia joyfully agreed; and she told no one of her intended flight⁹ but her friend Helena. Helena (as maidens will do foolish things for love) very ungenerously resolved¹⁰ to go and tell this to Demetrius, though she could hope no benefit from betraying her friend's secret, but the poor pleasure of following her faithless lover to the wood; for she well knew that Demetrius would go thither¹¹ in pursuit of Hermia.

The wood in which Lysander and Hermia proposed to meet, was the favorite haunt of those little beings known by the name of *Fairies*.

Oberon the king, and Titania the queen of the Fairies, with all their tiny train¹² of followers, in this wood held their midnight revels¹³.

⁹ flight [flaɪt] (n.) 逃亡；逃走

¹⁰ resolve [rɪ'zɒlv] (v.) 決定；決心

¹¹ thither ['θɪðər] (adv.) [舊時用法] 到彼處

¹² train [treɪn] (n.) 成縱隊行進的若干人、車輛等隊伍

¹³ revel ['revəl] (n.) 作樂；狂歡享樂