

<<武则天传>>

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前言

One morning in 1905 . or the 31th year of the reign of Emperor Guangxu of Qing Dynasty , tWO brothers set Out by boat from their hometown Boa-ah , amountain hamlet in Fujian Province on the southern coast of China , for theDort city of Xiamen , some sixty miles away . The boys were full of excitementand chatted especia~ly the younger one . Yutang was ten years old , and today , hewas taking leave of his hometown and going with his brother to study in Xiamen . They were sons of Pastor Lin Zhicheng , who was born in the poor village ofWulisha . Pastor Lin was sending his sons tO free missionary schools in Xiamen . The Pastor was not a follower of convention , SO the boys did not wear queues . Yutang was a little guy , deeply tanned , with a prominent forehead'a pair of sparkling eyes , and a narrow chin . Six miles later,when the skiff camet0 Xiaoxi . the boys changed tO a five . sail junk , and sailed toward Zhangzhou on West River . There were paddy fields and farmhouses on either side ofthe river . and tall mountains stood behind them , clad in grey-purplish hues . Yutang thought it inexpressibly beautiful . After a day's journey , the junk was tied up against the bank under some bamboo trees . Yutang was told tO lie down , cover himself with a blanket and go tO sleep . But sleep was the last thing on the boy's mind . The boatman sitting at the iunk , s stern was sucking at his pipe , and between gulps of bitter tea , telling stories about the Empress Dowager Cixi , who ruled the court today , having put the Emperor Guangxu under house arrest for supporting the reformers at the palace . Another junk was tied up on the opposite bank , brightly lit by lanterns . A soft breeze wafted sounds of merrymaking and music from a lute across the water .

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内容概要

《武则天传》讲述了武则天一生那一段传奇瑰丽的历史。

有人评价她是“鬼神之所不容，臣民之所共怨”，但又不能否认她对社会的贡献：奖励农桑、减免赋敛、止息干戈、知人善任、发展科举等。

林语堂先生虽并没有给予我们一个明确的结论，而是以邠王守礼（高宗与武则天之子章怀太子贤的儿子）的口吻回忆其祖母——中国历史上的唯一的女皇武则天的过往诸事。

经历了生活磨难的她决心要做一个有史以来最有威权最伟大的女人。

她有着可与太宗比肩的才略机智，让人震撼的冷酷残忍，以及超乎常人的冷静理智。

从“武才人”、“武昭仪”、“武宸妃”到权倾一时的“武皇后”，直到成为君临天下的“圣神皇帝”。

在这条通往权力顶峰的道路上，充满了血腥和屠杀，她步履维艰却没有放弃。

她从来没有怀疑过自己的能力，但是在生命即将走向终点的时候，她却疑惑了……

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作者简介

林语堂，1895年10月10日生于福建漳州，乳名和乐，名玉堂，后改语堂。

22岁获上海圣约翰大学学士学位，27岁获美国哈佛大学比较文学硕士学位，29岁获德国莱比锡大学语言学博士学位，同年回国，先后执教于北京大学。

北京师范大学，厦门大学和上海东吴大学，1936年后居住美国，此后主要用英文写作，1966年定居台湾，1967年受聘为香港中文大学研究教授。

1975年荣任国际笔会副会长。

1976年3月26日病逝于香港。

葬于台北阳明山故居。

林语堂用英文创作和翻译的一系列经典作品影响深远，奠定了他在国际文坛上的重要地位。

代表作有小说《京华烟云》、《啼笑皆非》，散文杂文《吾国与吾民》、《生活的艺术》、传记《苏东坡传》、《武则天传》，译著《老子的智慧》、《浮生六记》等。

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WORKS IN ENGLISH BY LIN YUTANG

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章节摘录

Astute , with an intuitive political skill , she planned her moves , marked her victims and bided her time . This much must be said for her : she knew her men . When her new Jou Dynasty was established , all her executioners were killed within a year after having served their purpose during the terror ; she remembered all the good men she had banished , and recalled them to power . She was able to rule the country in peace for fifteen years . There were no longer frame-ups ; one heard no more of alarms of conspiracies and rebellions . Toward the end of her reign , law and justice recovered their ancient dignity . Ironically , it was in this very period of outspoken ministers and honest , courageous judges that the seeds of her ruin were sown . How does one write of one's grandmother if she was a whore and a murderess? This question came up the other day when my Cousin Chiu , Duke of Ying , and I had a hunting dinner at the Tsuiwei Palace and I told him that I was starting these memoirs . Chiu is the son of Uncle Prince Suchiay ; my father was Prince Shien , at one time Co-regent . Both of us are among the fortunate survivors of Grandmother ' S bloodbaths . He lost his father as I lost mine in the same wave of persecution . He is a good man and has helped many of the orphans of the Royal House . Many of the princes and dukes today owe him his help . He , too , was left an orphan and knew fear, hunger and the utter loneliness of a child wandering in the jungles of subtropical Hainan in the South China Sea , feeling like a convict ' S son , with a taint on his name . His mother and nine of his brothers were murdered on the same day, while he and two of his youngest brothers were exiled . He and I often sit over a cup of wine and exchange notes about the person responsible for it all , our grandmother . He is as doggedly proud of his father as I am of mine . Both of them were real scholars . What difference does it make? His father was hanged and my father was forced to hang himself . But he and I often enjoy these talks , like sailors recounting their escape from a disaster at sea .

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媒体关注与评论

读林先生的书使人得到很大启发。
我非常感激他，因为他的书使我大开眼界。
只有一位优秀的中国人才能这样坦诚、信实而又毫不偏颇地论述他的同胞。
——《纽约时报》星期日书评

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编辑推荐

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名人推荐

虽然他讲的是数十年前中国的精彩，但他的话，即使在今天，对我们每一个美国人都很受用。
——美国总统布什

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