

<<老子的智慧>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<老子的智慧>>

13位ISBN编号：9787560081403

10位ISBN编号：7560081401

出版时间：2009-3

出版时间：外语教研

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页数：270

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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 especily 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

《老子的智慧》是林语堂向西方介绍道家乃至整个中国古代哲学思想的一部重要著作。全书阐释了老子思想的独特性、道家哲学与儒家哲学的不同、并强调要结合庄子研究老子。道家思想是中国文化的重要组成部分，而老子是道家的开山鼻祖，影响深远。老子具有异于常人的智慧，凭借一双犀利之眼看穿了人世间的的是是非非……

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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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PROLEGOMENA

BOOK OF TAO

(The chapter headings indicate the text of Laotse; section headings indicate selections from Chuangtse.)

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章节摘录

As sociates with men . Because he has not human passions the questions of right and wrong do not touch him . Infinitesimal indeed is that which belongs to the human ; infinitely great is that which is completed in God . (2 : 3)22 . 3 . TWO USELESS TREES . A certain carpenter Shih was traveling to the Ch'i State . On reaching Shady Circle , he saw a sacred li tree in the temple to the God of Earth . It was so large that its shade could cover a herd of several thousand cattle . It was a hundred spans in girth , towering up eighty feet over the hilltop , before it branched out . A dozen boats could be cut out of it . Crowds stood gazing at it , but the carpenter took no notice , and went on his way without even casting a look behind . His apprentice , however , took a good look at it , and when he caught up with his master , said , “ Ever since I have handled an adze in your service , I have never seen such a splendid piece of timber . How was it that you , Master , did not care to stop and look at it ? ” “ Forget about it . It ' s not worth talking about . ” replied his master . “ It ' s good for nothing . Made into a boat , it would sink ; into a coffin , it would rot ; into furniture , it would break easily ; into a door , it would sweat ; into a pillar , it would be worm-eaten . It is wood of no quality and of no use . That is why it has attained its present age . ”

When the carpenter reached home , he dreamed that the spirit of the tree appeared to him in his sleep and spoke to him as follows : “ What is it you intend to compare me with ? Is it with fine-grained wood ? Look at the cherry apple , the pear , the orange , the pumelo , and other fruit bearers . As soon as their fruit ripens they are stripped and treated with indignity . The great boughs are snapped off , the small ones scattered abroad . Thus do these trees by their own value injure their own lives . They cannot fulfil their allotted span of years . but perish prematurely because they destroy themselves for the (admiration of) the world . Thus it is with all things . Moreover , I tried for a long period to be useless . Many times I was in danger of being cut down , but at length I have succeeded , and so have become exceedingly useful to myself . Had I indeed been of use , I should not be able to grow to this height . ”

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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

《老子的智慧》作者林语堂用美妙的英文向世界介绍中国人和中国历史文化，但是，囿于所处时代、社会环境和个人经历，他的思想认识不免带有历史的局限。

20世纪30年代至50年代正是中国国内动荡变迁、破旧立新的时期，特定的创作背景无疑也给他的作品留下印痕。

显而易见地，比如当时对朝代称谓与历史纪元的划定不统一（如称清朝为ManchuDynasty）；且时无汉语拼音方案，专有名词均使用威妥玛拼音音译等。

此外，也能发现作者在解读文化历史和社会生活现象时的不足，如反映在民族关系的表述上，称少数民族为foreignblood、foreignrace，乃至以Chinese特指HanChinese等。

诸如此类，为不妨碍我们对文学和语言的鉴赏，在我们最大程度地保留作品原貌的同时，敬期读者明辨。

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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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