## 熟悉《圣经》利于翻译

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[摘要]《圣经》用语,西人引用甚广;要做好文学乃至社科方面的翻译工作,不可不谙《圣经》;熟悉《圣经》在翻译中可扫除不少障碍,助益良多。

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《圣经》堪称西方文化宝库中不可多得的璀璨明珠。它不仅在宗教生活中被西人奉为宝典,且其文学价值较之世界名著也毫无逊色。常见西方人士在口、笔头的语言、文字表达中每每引用《圣经》语录,信手拈来,恰到好处。作为受众,听到或看到这样的表达,首先要能"慧眼识珠",知其出自《圣经》,其次,对其在《圣经》中的原义要了然于胸。唯其如此,方可保证准确理解其借用的喻义,也才能真正确保翻译的"信、达、雅",免除"误译"、"误导"之虞。下面拟藉实例以证鄙见。

例 1. Ora's new car was the apple of his eye. He was always polishing it.

句中"the apple of his eye"出自《圣经》。《旧约·诗篇》第 17 章中有"keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of the wing.保护我如同保护眼中的瞳仁,将我隐藏在你翅膀的荫下。"之语。瞳仁似苹果,是眼中最珍贵部分。后人遂以眼中的苹果比喻掌上明珠或珍贵之物。

据此,例1句可译为:奥拉的新车是他珍爱之物,他总是把它擦得一尘不染。

例 2. The protestors said this military establishment is working on a number of new nukes. One of the posters they carried was "All who take the sword will perish by the sword".

句中标语牌上的话语出自《圣经》。据《旧约·马太福音》第 26 章记载,有跟随耶稣的人拔刀砍掉了大祭司的仆人一个耳朵。于是,耶稣对他说: Put up again the sword into his place: for all they that take sword shall perish with the sword. ("收刀入鞘吧!凡动刀的,必死在刀下。")后人以此警告那些炫耀武力的人:别搬起石头砸了自己的脚。此语可喻指:玩火者

必自焚。

据此可将例2句译成:抗议者说这家军工厂正在研制一批新的核武器,他们手中拿着的一块标语牌上写着:玩火者必自焚。

例3. Kelmar, if he was unconscious of the beam in his own eye, was at least silent in the matter of others' mote.

句中"the beam in his own eye"出自《圣经》。《新约·马太福音》第7章中,耶稣说:Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; … And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (不要论断人,免得被人论断。因为你们怎样论断人,也必须怎样被论断;……为什么只看见你兄弟眼中有刺,却不想自己眼中有根梁木呢?)"自己眼中有梁木"用来比喻自身的大问题,大过失或严重缺点。

因此可将例句3作如下汉译:如果说凯尔玛并 未意识到自己的许多缺点,但至少他对别人的小毛 病是从不说三道四的。

例 4. The two countries ceased fire yesterday and agreed to seek a way for beating the sword into plowshares.

一句中"beating the sword into plowshares"出自《圣经》。据《旧约·以赛亚书》第2章记载,以赛亚得到默示,预言将来人们要"将刀打成犁头,把枪打成镰刀;这国不举刀攻击那国,他们也不再学习战事(and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more)"。以后,"铸剑为犁"比喻停止战争或敌对行动,或喻指

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争取和平的愿望。

据此,可将原句译成:两国自昨日起实施停火,双方同意共同寻求一条化干戈为玉帛的和平之路。

例 5. I won't waste good advice on John any more because he never listens to it. I won't cast pearls before swine.

句中"cast pearls before swine"出自《圣经》。据《新约·马太福音》第7章记载,耶稣率门徒布道传经,影响越来越大,慕名而来的人也越来越多。于是耶稣登山对众多追随者说:Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.(不要把圣物给狗,也不要把你们的珍珠丢在猪前,因为猪会把珍珠践踏糟蹋,狗则会转过头来,向你们狂吠。)"珍珠丢在猪面前"一语常用于否定句,比喻对牛弹琴或劳而无功。

原例句可译:我不再浪费精力劝约翰了,他根本听不进去,再劝他无异于对牛弹琴。

例 6. Mark my words! You'll hear about this and be chastised with scorpions.

句中"chastised with scorpions"出自《圣经》。据《旧约·列王记上》第12章记载,以色列国王罗波安与殿前大臣商议如何回复百姓。年轻官员教他这么说:我父亲用鞭子责打你们,我要用蝎尾鞭抽打你们(My father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions)。scorpions 系旧时刑具,上有铁刺。"用蝎尾鞭抽打"比喻酷刑或严惩。

据此,例6句可译为:记住! 你将为此受到人们的责备和严厉的惩罚。

7. The boss was a daughter of the horseleech with a smart mouth.

"daughter of the horseleech"出自《圣经》。据《旧约·箴言》第 30 章第 14 节记载: The horseleech hath two daughters, crying, give, give.(蚂蝗有两个女儿,常说"给呀给呀"。)此语后以单数形式出现,"蚂蝗女儿"喻指吸血鬼或贪得无厌之徒。

原句宜译:那个老板是个口蜜腹剑的吸血鬼。

例 8. Seniors must gird up their loins for the battle of life.

句中"gird up their loins"出自《圣经》。《旧约·约伯记》第38章第3节中有"Gird up now thy loins like a man. (你要像勇士束好腰带。)"一语,表示振作精神、准备行动或下定决心、全力以赴。

据此,原例句可译成:毕业班的学生要做好准备,为人生奋斗。

例 9. He seems to have given up the ghost on this job; he just isn't trying any more.

"give up the ghost"出自《圣经》。《旧约·约伯记》 第 14 章第 10 节说: Man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? (人若死亡,便灰飞烟灭;人若气绝,便无处可寻。)这里 ghost 指灵魂(spirit)。"放弃灵魂"指停止呼吸或放弃努力。

故此,原句可译:看来他已经不愿意对这项工作 再作努力了,他甚至连试也不愿再试了。

例 10. Although he often spoke ill of his classmates behind them, they heaped coals of fire on his head by sending him Christmas cards.

何中"heaped coals of fire on his head"出自《圣经》。在《旧约·箴言》第 25 章第 21 至 22 节中有一段话:你的仇敌若饿了,就给他面包吃;若渴了,就给他水喝;因为,你这样做就是把炭火堆在他的头上。(If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink; for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.)"将炭火堆在某人头上"是一个比喻性的说法,指用仁慈来融化对方的敌意,以德报怨而使对方为自己的行为感到羞愧甚至痛苦。

据此将以上例句译为:虽然他常常在背后说同班同学的坏话,但同学们还是给他寄送了圣诞卡,这使他对自己的行为感到无地自容。

从上可见,西人说话、写文章引用《圣经》语言比比皆是。因此,要做好翻译工作,尤其是文学乃至社科方面的英汉(大而言之,所有从西方语言到汉语的)翻译,不可不谙《圣经》。若能熟悉《圣经》原文,相信在翻译中当可扫除不少障碍,助益多多。

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## 本刊将举办第三期全国暑期翻译研习班

在成功举办二期研习班(2002,2005)的基础上,本刊将联合上海市科技翻译学会教学委员会在上海举办第三期翻译研习班。研习内容包括探讨应用翻译理论、总结翻译实践经验、研究翻译教学、讲析翻译研究方法和规范等。办班方式以著名教授讲授为主、辅以教学互动、学员成果研讨和心得交流。办班时间在七八月间。具体内容将在本刊下期详告。