

<<京华烟云>>

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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 theport city of Xiamen , some sixty miles away. The boys were full of excitementand chatter , especially 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 wearqueues. Yutang was a little guy , deeply tanned , with a prominent forehead , apair of sparkling eyes , and a narrow chin. Six miles later , when the skiff cameto Xiaoxi , the boys changed to a five-sail junk , and sailed toward Zhangzhouon West River. There were paddy fields and farmhouses on either side ofthe river , and tall mountains stood behind them , clad in grey-purplishhues. Yutang thought it inexpressibly beautiful. After a days journey , the junkwas tied up against the bank under some bamboo trees. Yutang was told to liedown , cover himself with a blanket and go to sleep. But sleep was the last thing on the boys mind. The boatman sitting at thejunks stern was sucking at his pipe , and between gulps of bitter tea , tellingstories about the Empress Dowager Cixi , who ruled the court today , havingput the Emperor Guangxu under house arrest for supporting the reformersat the palace. Another junk was tied up on the opposite bank , brightly lit bylanterns. A soft breeze wafted sounds of merrymaking and music from a luteacross the water. Oh , what a beautiful scene !

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内容概要

《京华烟云》讲述了北平曾、姚、牛三大家族从1901年义和团运动到抗日战争30多年间的悲欢离合和恩怨情仇，并在其中安插了袁世凯篡国、张勋复辟、直奉大战、军阀割据、五四运动、三一八惨案、“语丝派”与“现代评论派”笔战、青年“左倾”、二战爆发，全景式展现了现代中国社会风云变幻的历史风貌。

《京华烟云》自1939年底在美国出版后的短短半年内即行销5万多册，美国《时代》周刊称其“极有可能成为关于现代中国社会现实的经典作品”。

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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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When Feng came in and told of the arrangements, Mrs. Yao said the price was unheard-of, but there was nothing else to do. The children were excited to learn that there were five carts to go in, and began to talk of how they were going to pair off. Tijen wanted to ride with Silverscreen, the maid, while both Mulan and Mochow claimed Coral. For the children it was all fun and excitement; and for Mulan and Mochow it was their first journey either in carts or in canal boats, and they yearned to see Hangchow, about which they had heard their mother and Coral speak so much. Feng went to call on the Imperial Physician, who was a great friend of the Yao family, and the Imperial Physician promised to bring him the safe conduct and whatever escort he could obtain. An order from Prince Tuan would be protection for them against both soldiers and Boxers on the way. The business of packing seemed so much lighter after Mr. Yao said they were to take only the summer clothing, but there was enough to keep the entire household busy the whole day, except Tijen, who continued to play in the eastern garden with his hawk, interrupting Silverscreen at her other duties. That evening there was a brilliant sunset, promising a hot day for the morrow. After supper the family sat in council and decided how they were going to divide up for the riding in the different carts. To each one Mrs. Yao explained clearly that they were going to Tehchow to take a boat, and gave the address of their home at Hangchow—just in case any-one should get lost. Then all were told to go to bed early as they were to get up at dawn.

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