

<<马克.吐温自传>>

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作者：马克·吐温

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前言

In this Autobiography I shall keep in mind the fact that I am speaking from the grave. I am literally speaking from the grave, because I shall be dead when the book issues from the press. I speak from the grave rather than with my living tongue for a good reason: I can speak thence freely. When a man is writing a book dealing with the privacies of his life——a book which is to be read while he is still alive——he shrinks from speaking his whole frank mind; all his attempts to do it fail; he recognizes that he is trying to do a thing which is wholly impossible to a human being. The frankest and freest and privatest product of the human mind and heart is a love letter; the writer gets his limitless freedom of statement and expression from his sense that no stranger is going to see what he is writing. Sometimes there is a breach-of-promise ease by and by; and when he sees his letter in print it makes him cruelly uncomfortable and he perceives that he never would have unbosomed himself to that large and honest degree if he had known that he was writing for the public. He cannot find anything in the letter that was not true, honest and respectable; but no matter, he would have been very much more reserved if he had known he was writing for print. It has seemed to me that I could be as frank and free and unembarrassed as a love letter if I knew that what I was writing could be exposed to no eye until I was dead, and unaware and indifferent.

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内容概要

《马克·吐温自传》讲述了马克·吐温——世界著名短篇小说大师，美国批判现实主义文学的奠基人——经历了美国从“自由”资本主义到帝国主义的转变，他的思想和作品风格也呈现出从轻快调笑，到辛辣讽刺，再到悲观厌世的改变。

马克·吐温不受欧洲传统的束缚，以新大陆人的眼光看待事物，提倡并开辟了“运用口语进行创作”的独特文体，他因此被誉为“美国文学史上的林肯”，为欧美文学的发展做出了巨大的贡献。

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作者简介

作者：（美国）马克·吐温（Mark Twain）

马克·吐温（Mark

Twain），生于美国密苏里州一个贫穷的拓荒者家庭。

幼年在密西西比河边过着无拘无束的生活。

13岁时做过印刷所的学徒，此后从事过水手和领港员等多种工作。

这些丰富的阅历对他日后的文学创作产生了很大的影响。

他因创作处女作《加利维拉县有名的跳蛙》(1865)而声名鹊起。

此后，陆续发表了《汤姆·索亚历险记》(1876)、《密西西比河上的生活》(1883)和《哈克贝恩·费恩历险记》(1885)等作品，成为美国文学的代表性作家。

马克·吐温的文笔犀利幽默，文字清新有力，角度自然独特，被誉为“美国文学领域的林肯”。

马克·吐温一改往日承袭欧洲文风的做法，转而描述美国人眼中的一切。

他娴熟地运用俚语，自成一派风格，在美国现代文学方面做出了不可磨灭的贡献。

章节摘录

I have not come across a better man than he was. I was his guest for two or three months every year, from the fourth year after we removed to Hannibal till I was eleven or twelve years old. I have never consciously used him or his wife in a book but his farm has come very handy to me in literature once or twice. In Huck Finn and in Tom Sawyer, Detective I moved it down to Arkansas. It was all of six hundred miles but it was no trouble; it was not a very large farm—five hundred acres, perhaps—but I could have done it if it had been twice as large. And as for the morality of it, I cared nothing for that; I would move a state if the exigencies of literature required it. It was a heavenly place for a boy, that farm of my uncle John's. The house was a double log one, with a spacious floor (roofed in) connecting it with the kitchen. In the summer the table was set in the middle of that shady and breezy floor, and the sumptuous meals—well, it makes me cry to think of them. Fried chicken, roast pig; wild and tame turkeys, ducks and geese; venison just killed; squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, prairie-chickens; biscuits, hot batter cakes, hot buckwheat cakes, hot wheat bread, hot rolls, hot corn pone; fresh corn boiled on the ear, succotash, butter-beans, string-beans, tomatoes, peas, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes; buttermilk, sweet milk, "clabber"; watermelons, muskmelons, cantaloupes—all fresh from the garden; apple pie, peach pie, pumpkin pie, apple dumplings, peach cobbler—I can't remember the rest. The way that the things were cooked was perhaps the main splendor—particularly a certain few of the dishes. For instance. . . .

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编辑推荐

《马克·吐温自传》是世界文学史上的精品。

古往今来，一个著名作家在创作过程中，一开始便宣布不准在生前发表其自传，只准在死后发表，以保证自传中的千言万语，句句说的是真话，这在文学史上还无先例。

不少自传与传记，津津乐道于显要人物，独独对平头老百姓的生活与命运没有多大兴趣，这和幽默大师马克·吐温的平民意识与民主意识形成了极大反差。

马克·吐温为《自传》选材的原则就是挑选平头百姓生活中颇具生命力的事情，仿佛可笑、甚至怪诞，而又含有深意、值得玩味，这也就是具有马克·吐温式幽默情趣的东西。

这样的幽默，曾使世界上很多读者为之向往。

《大师经典文库》系列包括世界著名的思想家、哲学家、历史学家和心理学家经典学术专著，以及我国古代哲学典籍的权威英译本，为广大英语学习者提供了高质量的阅读文本，也是各类社会科学研究工作者必备的学术资料。

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