

Interpretation of the text of "Two Foreign Poems"

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Abstract: Both "If Life Deceives You" and "The Road Not Chosen" have special backgrounds, the former written during the author's exile, the latter due to the author's friend's regretful experience after his choice. The former is a sage advice to people in trouble, while the latter expresses his thoughts on the path of life through the path of nature. The former expresses his thoughts without any imagery, while the latter uses a series of imagery to express his philosophy.

Keywords: foreign poetry, Pushkin, textual interpretation

1. Introduction

"Two Foreign Poems" includes "If Life Deceives You" and "The Road Not Chosen". "If Life Deceives You" is from "Pushkin's Poems" (Beijing Publishing House, 1987), a modern poem by Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin (1799-1837), the "father of Russian literature", written during his exile from the Tsar. 1837), a modern poem written during his exile from the Tsar. In such a situation, the poet did not give up hope, but told people and himself to be hopeful and to love life with a calm mind and a gentle tone. "The Road Not Chosen" is from "Selected Philosophical Poems from China and Abroad" (Zhejiang Literature and Art Publishing House, 1987), written by the American poet Frost (1874-1963), inspired by his friend Edward Thomas, who always regretted after making a choice and felt sorry for not choosing another road. He regretted that he had not chosen another path. Frost felt that there was no need for this, that the unchosen was in fact a choice, and that since the choice was made, one should be firm in one's choice[1]. Both poems are related to the philosophy of life, but the difference lies in the way they express their feelings.

2. Background of writing

Both "If Life Deceives You" and "The Road Not Chosen" are written in a particular context, paradoxically, with different reception by readers, and even the textbook elaboration is characterized by lack of detail and ambiguity.

Many readers know that "If Life Deceives You" was written during Pushkin's exile, but they do not know exactly which period of exile and the specific reasons for writing this poem. Although Pushkin came from an aristocratic landowning family, his class interests should be the same as those of the ruler, but because of the French Enlightenment during his high school studies and his acquaintance with the Decembrists who advocated the overthrow of the Tsarist dictatorship, he developed his liberal ideas of pursuing light and attacking darkness. In 1820, he wrote *Ruslan and Ludmila*, a political lyric poem that had a great impact and caused uneasiness among the Tsarist government. Pushkin was then exiled to the south of Russia.

Because southern Russia was the stronghold of the Southern Society of the Decembrists, Pushkin interacted more frequently with the Decembrists during his exile, and his poetry reached a climax. During the latter part of his exile, Pushkin's relations with the local governor deteriorated, and in 1824, the authorities intercepted one of Pushkin's personal letters and banished him twice to the village of Mikhailovsk in Pskov province on the grounds that he had preached atheistic ideas in his letters. It was during this exile that Pushkin created "If Life Deceives You".

Mikhailovsk village is located in a remote area, exiled Pushkin was very lonely, only the old nanny to accompany. The picturesque village of Sansan, the owner of the estate of Sansan, was so hospitable that Pushkin often rode his horse to this village when he was bored. Up to this point, the reader's acceptance is relatively consistent, but then about Osipova's second daughter and the "if life deceives you" the original intention of the writing of a variety of views. Some believe that Osipova's second

daughter Kina has a lively and lovely character, and sometimes chooses to find Pushkin to confide in her when she encounters something unpleasant, in which case Pushkin people are like older brothers to persuade and enlighten her." [2] This poem was later inscribed in Kina's memorial book. This statement has some credibility, but at the same time we also need to pay attention to the fact that Pushkin wrote this poem to himself at the same time, and even to people who suffered and were in a similar situation as himself. It is also believed that Pushkin was touched by Kina's innocence and loveliness, and that Pushkin wrote this classic poem because he was in deep loneliness. [3] Although the author then mentions that it is a consolation to Kina and an encouragement to himself, it is obvious that such a statement is not self-explanatory, because he does not say why Pushkin had to console Kina. What is even more outrageous is the idea that the poem inscribed in the memorial book was addressed to his girlfriend as a token of Pushkin's "longing for love". [4] This argument is obviously even more unfounded. The poem was written during Pushkin's second exile and was inscribed in a memorial book for a little girl as a message of comfort to the girl as well as an exhortation to himself and others in the same situation.

As for "The Road Not Chosen," many people do not pay attention to it because the background of the writing is not mentioned in the teaching book for teachers published by the People's Education Press. In fact, the poem was not inspired by the poet himself, but by his friend.

Frost had a friend who, whenever he faced a choice of road, always fell into regret after choosing it, and held a grudge against the road he had not chosen. It was this reason that prompted Frost to write this poem, and he wanted to tell this friend, and he also wanted to take this opportunity to tell his readers: not choosing is actually a choice, and since you have chosen a certain road, you should go on with no regrets and steadfastness. Only with a full understanding of the context in which the two poems were written can we more accurately grasp their content and themes.

3. The content theme

Both "If Life Deceives You" and "The Road Not Chosen" are about the author's thoughts on life. The former is a sage advice to people in trouble, while the latter expresses his thoughts on the road of life through the road of nature.

"If Life Deceives You" is similar to the classic Chinese poem "Sending the North by Night Rain," in that the author uses his bright thoughts about the future to relieve his present misery. In "Sending the North by Night Rain", the author, Li Shangyin, has a bad career, and is in a detention, which is blocked by the autumn rain, so he is lonely and desolate inside. At the same time, he received a letter from his family in the north, which added to his sorrow. "Instead of being caught in the sorrowful mood, Li Shangyin sets aside his present unhappiness and freely thinks of a future day when he and his family will talk together by candlelight at night. What will the conversation be about? The loneliness of the autumn rainy nights and the pain of missing relatives that we experienced in Pashu. What was the atmosphere like? A family gathering with warm candlelight, which must have been very warm. How was the mood of the conversation? He must have been very happy to have his family members with him, and the bitterness must be gone. It can be said that Li Shangyin used his imaginary future to comfort himself, and the future moment is already far away from the bitterness of this moment, so the lengthening of time naturally dissolves the degree of pain, and more unhappiness will dissipate with the beautiful imagination. This is Li Shangyin's spiritual triumph, and Pushkin is no different.

Pushkin was in a situation of exile and house arrest, and like Li Shangyin, he was not free in his actions and was extremely miserable in his heart. Although the action is not free, but the thought is completely free, Pushkin constantly give themselves psychological suggestion: as long as the heart to the future, now all the troubles will eventually pass, happy days will eventually come, until the moment of happiness to look back on the melancholy time, and then the sad experience will become affectionate nostalgia, this is also through the imagination of a better future to temporarily forget the present bitterness of the spirit of Victory method.

"The Road Not Chosen" shows the author's complex psychology of contradiction, entanglement, expectation and regret, etc. From the whole process of the author's choice, we can not only feel the image of the poet, but also evoke a continuous reflection on the choices faced by life. At the beginning, the author is torn, the bifurcated two roads destined to the author can only step on one of them, there is no second choice, choose one is the same as giving up the other, so before the choice of the author infinite melancholy; but the author finally made a choice, he chose a less crowded one, it can be seen that he is a person who is willing to challenge; after the choice, the author seems to be proud on the surface, but more inwardly, is the regret for the road not chosen. At this point, if we link the background and replace

the reader with the author's friend Edward Thomas, we can feel the full irony, which is a satire of his friend's difficulty in choosing; obviously the road is not yet finished, but the author has already reviewed for his future self: the initial choice to choose the one less traveled, did not go well, and because of this, it is not the one that did not go. But there is only one choice, and no matter what the result is, we must learn to bear it. At the beginning, the author writes about the path of nature, but at the end, he changes it to the path of life, which shows that the author uses the choice of the path of nature to think about the choice of the path of life.

4. Lyrical style

The theme of this unit is very clear, that is, "to express one's will through things". The articles selected for this unit, "Wisteria Falls", "A Small Peach Tree" and "The Road Not Chosen", all express the author's thoughts and feelings through the imagery of specific things. The five ancient poems express the poet's unique understanding of life through the Youzhou Terrace, Mount Tai, Feilai Peak, Shanxi Village and the falling flowers.

In addition to learning about the technique of "to speak of things", this unit also focuses on comparative reading, which requires students to analyze the similarities and differences between works in order to deepen their understanding of them. Professor Sun Shaozhen of Fujian Normal University mentions in his article "Deep Assimilation and Regulation of Reader Subjects and Text Subjects" that comparing different texts can reveal differences and find entry points for analysis.

Although the two poems share a common theme, they are very different in terms of their lyrical approach. The author uses a lot of words of advice, which seems to be a major taboo in poetry writing. However, the author's status is equal to that of the reader, and the tone used is unflinching, sincere and frank, thus giving people comfort and encouragement, which has touched countless people in the past two centuries.

"The road not chosen" is a series of imagery, coupled with the author's contradictory actions and psychology, to show the inner tangle of the main character, with the description of the road to metaphorically describe the complexity of the road of life, the imagery appearing in the poem, such as woods, roads, barren grass, fallen leaves, etc., are worthy of our careful appreciation, and the description of the main character and the road is worthy of our careful understanding. The only way to understand the philosophy that the author wants to express is to explore it carefully. The difference in lyrical style is the main focus of these two poems.

References

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