

诗是特殊的综合艺术

Poetry is a comprehensive art in a special form

文 / 西渡

Text / Xi Du

诗是什么，大概没有人能做出一个定义式的回答。大致说来，对诗的理解有广狭之分。狭义的诗是用语言写成的文学作品，是文体的一种；广义的诗则可以泛指打动我们身心、令我们心醉神迷的任何东西。这个心醉神迷是身心俱在的，单纯物质性的享受、肉欲的沉迷，是难以称为诗的。广义的诗当然是从狭义的诗中引申出来的。诗的性质最为纷繁。这大概是导致诗无法定义的主要原因。因此，西方的缪斯女神有九位，而不是独尊的一位。

一般来说，我们把电影、戏剧、歌曲等艺术门类称为综合的艺术，诗则被视为单纯的语言艺术。实际上，诗作为语言的最高艺术，综合了时间和空间、身体（视觉、听觉）和头脑的多重特性，是一种特殊的综合艺术。一方面，诗和音乐一样是时间的艺术，它是在时间中进行的，具有时间的长度，是一种持续的动作和过程；另一方面，诗又具有空间的特征，它以语言为手段，营造出一个特殊的、诗意的文学空间。诗是视觉的，以生动丰富的形象作用于我们的视觉，所谓“诗中有画”；诗又是听觉的，以富有魅力的声音形式作用于我们的听觉，诗歌就是诗中有歌。瓦莱里说，“诗歌艺术是一门比纯音乐艺术更复杂、更富于变化的艺术，因为它要求人们同时驾驭相互完全独立的各个部分，要求人们在取悦于听觉和激发才思二者之间建立并保持微妙而精巧的平衡”。

诗以其对人生、对生命的真切领悟，传授我们生命的智慧，诗承担着伦理。诗中还有思。人们长期存在一种偏见，认为诗人依赖灵感写作，不是一个有力的思考者，诗歌排斥思维或思想。很多人想象诗人总是在灵感状态下写作。实际上，灵感只能在一首诗的开端发挥某些作用。在诗人的劳作中，同样需要大量的思考、决定、选择和组织，这就是诗人运思的过程。所以，瓦莱里说，任何真正的诗人远比人们一般所认为的更加擅长正确推理和抽象思维。当然，诗的思想并不在于它提出了多少抽象的概念，论证了多么高妙的哲学命题，而在诗情、诗思推进过程中思考行为本身的运用。归根结底，诗的思想是和我们生命自身的深度和强度相一致的。它直接进入我们的生命。这是诗的一种常态。陈子昂《登幽州台歌》，似乎是纯粹的抒情，但触及了对宇宙、对时间和空间问题的最深沉的思索，只不过这种“思”是和生命的痛感、生命的领悟直接相连的，是一种身体和头脑的共思。也正因为如此，这种“思”比哲学的“思”更打动人心。张若虚《春江

What is poetry? Probably no one can give a definitive answer. Roughly divided, poetry can be interpreted in a broad sense and a narrow sense. Poetry in the narrow sense is a literary work written with language, and can be categorized as a literary genre; whereas in the broad sense, poetry can refer to anything that touches our bodies and souls and makes us fascinated. This kind of fascination is both physical and psychological, while the purely material enjoyment and sensual addiction are difficult to be considered poetry. Of course, the broad sense of poetry is derived from the narrow sense of poetry. The nature of poetry is the most diversified. This is probably the main reason why poetry cannot be defined. Therefore, there are nine, but not just one, Muses in Western culture.

Generally speaking, we refer to art categories such as movies, dramas, and songs as comprehensive arts, while poetry is regarded as a pure art of language. In fact, poetry, as a highest form of lingual art, combines the multiple characteristics of time and space, body (visual, auditory) and mind, as a comprehensive art in a special form. On the one hand, poetry, like music, is the art of time that is carried out in time. With the measurement in time, it is a continuous movement and process. On the other hand, poetry has the characteristics of space as well. It uses language as a means to create a special and poetic space of literature. Poetry is visual. Called a “painting in poetry”, a poem enhances our vision with a vivid and rich image. Poetry is also auditory. It acts on our hearing in the form of glamorous sounds. A poem is a “song in poetry”. Valery once said, “The art of poetry is an artistic form more complex and varied than pure music, for it requires us to simultaneously establish and maintain a delicate balance between satisfying our hearing pleasure and stimulating our inspiration.”

Poetry teaches us the wisdom of life with its true understanding of the outlook on life and life itself, and poetry bears ethics. There are also thought that goes into every poem. There has been a long-standing prejudice that poets rely only on inspiration to write, — that a poet is not a powerful thinker, because poetry rejects thinking or thought. Many people imagine that poets always write on inspiration. In fact, inspiration can only play a role in the beginning stage of writing a poem. In the work of the poet, during the thinking process, a lot of thoughts, decisions, choices and organization are also required. Therefore, Valery once said that any true poet is far better at correct reasoning and abstract thinking than what people generally regarding them as. Of course, the idea of poetry does not lie in how many abstract concepts it proposes, or how philosophical propositions are demonstrated, but rather how the thinking process is used in the push for poetic imagination and poetry. It can be concluded that the idea of poetry is consistent with the depth and intensity of our lives. It goes directly into our lives. And this is a normal state for poetry. Chen Zi-ang's poem “On Climbing Youzhou Tower” seems to be purely lyrical, but it touches on the deepest thoughts about the universe, time and space, and this “thinking” is directly connected with the pain and the understanding of life. It is a simultaneous thinking process between the body and the mind. And because of this reason, this kind of “thinking” is more touching than the “thinking” of philosophy. And this holds true for Zhang Ruoxu's

花月夜》也是如此。闻一多指出这首诗里有一种夔绝的宇宙意识。我以为，这首诗最出色地表现了汉民族的文化心灵和文化精神，我们这个民族对宇宙的理解，对自然的态度，对生命、情爱的态度，伦理的态度、审美的态度全在这浑融圆成的一篇之中了。新诗写作的语言从文言变为白话，形式上从五七言解放出来，引入西式的语法，为诗与思的结合准备了条件。冯至、穆旦的诗都有鲜明的思的特征。

诗人依赖语言而创作。王尔德：“音乐家或画家所使用的材料，与词语相比都是贫乏的，词中不仅有音乐，柔和得如中音或诗琴的音乐，也不仅仅有俘虏我们的，威尼斯或西班牙人画布上生动而精美的色彩，以及如大理石和青铜器上雕出的清晰而细腻的花纹般优美和谐的形式，它还拥有思想、激情，充满着崇高精神。”作为诗歌材料的词语本身不仅有声音、有颜色，而且包含思想和激情。可以说，词语本身已然包含内容和意味。一门语言实际上包含了使用这门语言的民族全部文化和文明的进化史。诗人的写作并不仅仅依靠诗人个体的经验和智慧，他所仰仗的是语言在其全部进化中所积累的经验 and 智慧。显然，语言知道的总是比作为个体的诗人更多、更深、更广。所以，诗人能够说出诗人所不知道的东西。这样一个优势是完全依靠纯粹物质性的声音、颜色、石料或木料进行创作的音乐家、画家、雕塑家所不具备的。这也显示了诗歌作为一种特殊的综合艺术的优势。

poem “A Night of Flowers and Moonlight by the Spring River”. Mr. Wen Yiduo once pointed out that there’s a kind of cosmic consciousness in this poem. Personally, I think that this poem best expresses the cultural and spiritual spirit of the Han nationality. Our national understanding of the universe, our attitude towards nature, attitude towards life and affection, even ethical attitude, and aesthetic attitude are all here, combined into the one poem which blends it all together so well. The language of writing new poetry changed from classical Chinese to vernacular, formally liberated from the traditional five- and seven-character poems, introduced western grammar, and paved the conditions for the combination of poetry and thought. Mr. Feng Zhi’s and Mr. Mu Dan’s poems have distinct characteristics of “thinking”.

Poets rely on words of a language to create poems. Oscar Wilde said: “The materials used by musicians or painters are poor compared to words. Words not only have music, the music like mid-range or harmonious hymns, they not only give us the Venetians or Spaniards, who use vivid and exquisite color of the canvas, as well as the beautiful and harmonious form of clear and delicate patterns carved on marble and bronze to captivate us, they also have thoughts, passions and full of lofty spirit.” Words as poetical materials are not only sound, color, but also contain thoughts and passions. It can be said that the words themselves already contain content and meaning. A language actually contains the evolutionary history of all cultures and civilizations of the nation that use this language. A poet’s writing does not rely solely on the experience and wisdom of the individual poet, but rather, he can rely on the experience and wisdom accumulated by the language in its entire evolution. That’s because for obvious reasons, language knows more, deeper, and broader than a poet as an individual. Therefore, a poet can tell what he does not actually know. Such an advantage is not available to musicians, painters, and sculptors who rely solely on pure material of sounds, colors, stones, or wood. This also highlights the advantages of poetry as a comprehensive art in a special form.

Translator by Dai Yan / 戴岩译

For writer’s profile, please see page 89.

