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**Shakespeare the Historian 史学家的莎士比亚**

**Insert**

*This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle.*

*Swits and spurs, swits and spurs; or I'll cry a match.*

*There is nothing good or bad but thinking makes it so.*

Li: 大家好，我是杨莉。欢迎收听莎士比亚特别系列节目 **William Shakespeare**。我今天的搭档也叫 **William**，他是 **William Kremer**。Hi **William**。

William: Hello Li. So today our programme is called Shakespeare the Historian. And we're going to be talking about Shakespeare's history plays – all the plays he wrote about old kings of England.

Li: 是的。The Bard 写了 11 部历史剧，时间的跨度是 12 世纪到莎士比亚出生之前的 16 世纪中叶。

William: And one of the greatest of Shakespeare's history plays is Richard II. So in today's programme we're going to talk a bit about that play and what it tells us about Shakespeare's approach to history.

Li: 今天我们荣幸地请到了权威的历史学家和著名电视节目主持人，**Michael Wood**。我和柯·威廉将同 **Michael** 一起谈谈 **Richard II** 理查二世这部历史剧。如果你有听不懂的地方，不用着急，因为节目的后半部，我们将重播并解释访谈中的关键录音节选。同时我们把节目的文字稿也挂到了网上供大家参考。

Hi Michael, thanks very much for coming along today.

Michael: Hi. It's nice to be here.

Li: **Michael**，为了更好地理解理查二世这部剧目，我们需要了解一下莎士比亚时代的英格兰是怎样的，所以请您描述一下 16 和 17 世纪的英国历史和社会背景并且同中国做一个横向比较。

Michael: OK. Well, compared with China, Shakespeare's England was a very very small place Li, a very small place. You know if Ming Dynasty China maybe had one hundred million people, England had three million people. So we are talking about a very small place but at this moment in the history of England, very great energies of history were coming out and above all, this

was caused by the changes in education, where grammar school education was possible for much more people in the population than any time before in history anywhere in the world. So Shakespeare, first of all, is product of this revolution in education. Second, Shakespeare is born at a time of great psychological change. For a thousand years before his time, England had been a Christian Catholic country owing allegiance to the Pope in Rome. But, in the time of Shakespeare's father, the old religion was swept away and a new religion of Protestantism was put in. So Shakespeare is born, just, as we say, on the cusp, on this moment of change and this will condition the way he looks at history.

**Li:** **On the cusp of change** 变革之际。理查二世这部剧的时代背景是莎士比亚出生前的200年，写的是英国国王因为战争集资没收贵族土地，招致贵族圈儿内的反对并被废除王位的故事。继位者是他的表兄 **Henry Bolingbroke** 博林布鲁克，也就是后来的亨利四世 **Henry IV**。在剧的末尾被关在牢里的 **Richard** 被人暗杀，暗杀者以为那是新国王 **Henry** 四世的意思，其实那是误会，因为新国王根本没有杀老国王的意图。

**Now Michael**, 你觉得这出历史剧理查二世和史实相符吗?

**Michael:** This is a difficult question. These are plays, not history. But the central story is true; this is exactly what happened and the main characters in it are all real people. And of course these issues in history were very very important and difficult issues in Elizabethan England because many people had described Queen Elizabeth as being like Richard II. She had no heir, she had no children. People criticised her for having friends and favourites and not being impartial and just towards the people at large. So this was a very dangerous subject to take.

**William:** Shakespeare portrays Richard II as an unwise king, but he is a very sympathetic character isn't he? We see this very painful process of Richard getting used to not being king, just being an ordinary person. And, at the end of the play, we feel uneasy. We know he was a bad king but we do feel sorry for him. Shakespeare doesn't just tell us to hate this man, does he?

**Michael:** Yeah. You know, the great Hollywood film director Billy Wilder, he had these rules about how to make a great cinema film. And he said one of the important rules is "Don't tell the audience what to think". Now Shakespeare never tells people what to think; you make up your mind, he lets you decide.

**Li:** **Now, Richard II** 是一部很美，很富有诗意的历史剧，不过整个台词中竟没有一句白话文。现在我们选一段著名的台词听一听。**John of Gaunt** 在表示英国是如何美丽，可遗憾的是，它正在消失。

### Insert

**Gaunt:** *This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,  
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,  
This other Eden, demi-paradise,  
This fortress built by Nature for herself  
Against infection and the hand of war,  
This happy breed of men, this little world,  
This precious stone set in the silver sea,*

*Which serves it in the office of a wall,  
Or as a moat defensive to a house,  
Against the envy of less happier lands,  
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England*

Li: 大家可以上网收听这段台词，网址是 [bbcukchina.com](http://bbcukchina.com).

这段台词表述了诗情画意的英国以及作为一名英国人和讲英语都意味着什么 **Michael Wood**，你觉得这样的语言表达了莎士比亚对英格兰的一种什么样的个人情怀？

Michael: That speech is one of the most famous speeches of Shakespeare. The interesting thing about the speech of course is that although it has the wonderful build up in its description of England as a scepter'd isle and its people being a happy breed of men, a precious stone set in a silver sea, the blessed plot, this England, of course the speech ends by saying "is leased out". It's finished. So there's a wonderful twist at the end. Now, this tells you some fascinating things about Shakespeare. His obsession with history in part is a nostalgia for the old world of his parents.

Li: Now Michael 我们对每一个专家都会问的一个问题就是，你最喜欢的莎翁名言是什么？

Michael: Wow, that's a difficult one. The Shakespeare phrase and saying that I use most often I used to use with my children, is one from Hamlet: "There is nothing (either) good or bad, but thinking makes it so".

Li: Great, yes!

William: Well Michael, thanks so much for joining us today. It's been a pleasure to have you on the programme and it's been a real eye-opener too.

Li: Yes, thank you very much indeed for joining our programme today. 非常感谢 Michael.

Michael: Thank you so much.

Li: 一会儿和 William 将把访谈的重点段落和词语进行解释和翻译。下面请听莎翁名言 **s words**，今天是什么？

### **S Words: Wild Goose Chase**

Man: *Oi! Come here! Come here!*

Presenter: 你有没有试过抓野鹅？可能没有吧。但是如果从没有想试试这件事儿的想法，那么短语 **wild goose chase** 可能会对你有所帮助。

### **Insert**

Romeo: *Swits and spurs, swits and spurs; or I'll cry a match.*

Mercutio: *Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have done; for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five: was I with you there for the goose?*

**Romeo:** *Thou wast never with me for anything when thou wast not there for the goose.*

**Mercutio:** *I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.*

**Romeo:** *Nay, good goose, bite not.*

**Presenter:** 你听懂了多少？一点儿都没有吗？别担心！这是 **Romeo and Juliet** 剧中 **Romeo** 和他的好朋友 **Mercutio** 之间的一段喜剧对话。**Shakespeare** 喜剧文章非常滑稽但对于英语学习者来说会有些难度，因为里面有很多古语表达还有双关语。里面尤其让我们摸不着头脑的短语就是徒劳无益 **wild goose chase**。

### Insert

**Mercutio:** *Nay, if thy wits run the wild-geese chase, I have done; for thou hast more of the wild-geese in one of thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five.*

**Presenter:** **Mercutio** 想用 **wild goose chase** 表达的意思可能更多的和马有关，而不是和鹅有关。

在 **Shakespeare** 年代 **a wild goose chase** 更像是当今的赛马会，**Mercutio** 在这儿是说他和 **Romeo** 比赛讲笑话，就像赛马比赛里的骑马师。

但是 **wild goose chase** 最初的意思已经被世人忘记。现在大家说 **a wild goose chase** 通常表示徒劳的举动，就像试着去抓野鹅一样。下面我们一起来听这个短语在现代表达中的使用方法：

### Insert

**Woman:** *Barry asked for this DVD for Christmas. But I can't find a copy anywhere! I've just been on a wild goose chase all over London looking for it.*

**Man:** *My professor told me to go to the library for the book so I went there. But then the librarian told me that the book was on loan to another library in Sussex. So I phoned them up and they said that according to their records my professor currently has the book. I've wasted the whole morning on a ridiculous wild goose chase!*

**Presenter:** 这就是我们今天学习的短语 **a wild goose chase**。欢迎下周继续收听 **S words**，我们会讲解更多 **Shakespeare** 对英语语言贡献的经典名句。下次再会。

**Man:** *Come here! Come here!*

**William:** Now let's now listen again to some clips from our interview with Michael Wood.

**Li:** **Michael** 说，莎士比亚是出于英国两个大变革时期的人物，你听清了没有？这两个变革是什么？

### Insert

**Michael:** *So Shakespeare, first of all, is product of this revolution in education. Second, Shakespeare was born at a time of great psychological change.*



**Li:** 莎士比亚是教育和心理变革两个重大时期的产物 **at a time of great psychological change.**

**William:** **Now, why was Richard II a very controversial play for Shakespeare? Let's listen again.**

**Insert**

**Michael:** *And of course these issues in history were very very important and difficult issues in Elizabethan England because many people had described Queen Elizabeth as being like Richard II.*

**William:** **It was a controversial play because many people described Shakespeare's queen, Elizabeth, as being similar to Richard II.**

**Li:** 最后，我们来看看 **John of Gaunt's** 的著名台词反映了莎士比亚什么样的历史观？莎士比亚迷恋历史 **obsession with history**. **Michael** 使用了一个特别的英语单词来形容这一特点。这是什么词呢？

**Insert**

**Michael:** *This tells you some fascinating things about Shakespeare. His obsession with history in part is a nostalgia for the old world of his parents.*

**Li:** 莎士比亚有一种怀旧感 **a nostalgia** 对往事的眷恋，对他父母生活时代的怀恋。

**William:** **Well, I do hope that you have enjoyed this look at a great history play, Richard II.**

**Li:** 下周我们将探讨莎士比亚的喜剧，同特约嘉宾，著名的喜剧导演 **Greg Doran** 探讨第十二夜这出最搞笑的喜剧。

**William:** **Till then, bye!**