



Under the Cambridge Sun

I bought a postcard in England five years ago. It shows two pictures with the same element: a sheep standing in the rain. The captions read ‘Summer in Britain’ and ‘Winter in Britain’ respectively.

Rain seems to be an inseparable part of life in Britain, regardless of the season. Preoccupied with my reminiscences of an inerasable grey sky and non-stop drizzle, I dared not leave my umbrella and raincoat behind when I went to Cambridge last summer. Surprisingly, I was greeted by streams of golden sunlight and a bright blue sky when I got off the bus at Cambridge. Hardly had I expected that the blue sky and sunny days would be with me throughout my two-week stay.

To me a sunny day is a day that smiles. Just like a smile that changes the face of a man, the sun works miracles in transforming the appearance of a place. The buildings and streets of Cambridge, most of them a few hundred years

old, had seemed obscure and aloof when I first met them under a veil of rain five years ago. This time, under the warm summer sun, they looked like wise old men who were strong in mind and young at heart, ready to share with visitors the



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bygone days they had witnessed. Reading under the trees and walking on the green, I could almost hear the leaves and grass singing about the joy of sunbathing. Exploring the cobbled lanes that weave through the town, I was distracted by the rich colours of flowers on both sides of the lanes. Such richness could only be possible under an azure sky.

The River Cam had a different look under the perfect blue sky as well. From one point on the bank, you could see the clear reflection of the historical buildings. Another point would give you a view of the lush underwater world. Despite all the hustle and bustle of tourists attracted by her world-wide fame, the river remained calm and quiet. This reminded me of the image of a learned and cultured scholar. Embraced by the August sun and the breeze on the Backs*, I felt that I was getting closer to the reason why Mr Xu Zhimo (徐志摩) had called the River Cam the essence of Cambridge and why the river had inspired generations of brilliant minds.

* ‘The Backs’ is the name given to the stretch of riverbank running behind the colleges in central Cambridge.

Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky.

Kahlil Gibran



夫人貴姓

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“夫人”一詞，有古今義。《禮記·曲禮下》：“天子之妃曰‘后’，諸侯曰‘夫人’，大夫曰‘孺人’，士曰‘婦人’，庶人曰‘妻’”。

古時“夫人”是天子授予受賞婦女的封號，作為某一種身分的代稱。稱為“夫人”的女士可能是皇帝的妃子，例如漢武帝的衛夫人、李夫人，也可能是王侯的妻室，例如劉備的甘夫人、糜夫人、孫夫人。冠於“夫人”前面的，都是她們本人的姓氏。衛夫人本名衛子夫，李夫人是樂官李延年之妹，孫夫人是孫權之妹孫尚香。“夫人”這個身分代稱，就好比“貴妃”，像楊貴妃，猶如官場上的“大人”，像包大人。不過，“夫人”有時可能只是一個名號，例如“花蕊夫人”*、“拳夫人”**。



太”同義，但含有較重的尊敬意味（其實是尊重她的丈夫）。

冠於“夫人”前面的姓氏，也可以是夫姓，古代和現代都常見常用，例如尤德夫人、何東夫人等。金庸《神鵰俠侶》第四十回《華山之巔》：“黃藥師道：‘楊夫人小龍女是古墓派唯一傳人，玉女素心劍法出神入化，縱然是重陽真人，見了她也忌憚三分’”。“楊夫人”者，楊過的妻子，即“楊太太”也。

有一點必須注意，就是“夫人”前面不應加上女士本人的名字。舉例來說，“吳范△△夫人”是錯誤的用法，應稱呼“吳夫人”或“吳范△△女士”才對。

現代漢語仍保留“夫人”、“妻子”兩詞。“夫人”是對已婚婦女的尊稱，可以稱自己或他人的妻子。今天“夫人”多用於指稱國家領導人及有名望男士的妻子，與“太

* 五代前蜀高祖王建妃，徐姓，稱“小徐妃”，又號“花蕊夫人”。

** 傳說漢朝時有女名趙婕妤，天生兩手緊握如拳形，後遇武帝，將其手指分開，並得武帝寵幸，稱“拳夫人”。