

第12-14課 Goldsmith, Oliver 〈荒村〉

（譯註：這首膾炙人口的名詩，不是譯者禿筆可以優雅譯出，只能翻譯大意，希望讀者能夠感受到作者嘆惜農莊荒廢那份悲天憫人的心意。）

「甜蜜的奧本，平原上最可愛的村莊，
“Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the plain,
以前那裏健康和富裕鼓舞著勞動的青年…
Where health and plenty cheered the laboring swain, …

甜蜜帶笑的村莊，最可愛的草坪，
Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,
現在健兒都跑了，不再見到他們的魅力；
Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn;
涼亭處，只見暴君的手，
Amidst thy bowers the tyrant's hand is seen,
而綠蔭盡見荒蕪：
And desolation saddens all thy green:
只有主人抓緊領地
One only master grasps the whole domain,
耕地半數緊縮不再微笑；
And half a tillage stints thy smiling plain;
小溪不再反照天空，
No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,
水道受莎草阻塞，從雜草中流過；
But choked with sedges, works its weedy way;
林間空地，只有一個孤客，
Along thy glades a solitary guest,
麻鴉守著鳥巢空空地叫；
The hollow-sounding bittern guards its nest;
阡陌無人，唯見田鳧低飛，
Amidst thy desert walks the lapwingflies,
一成不變的喊叫顯得疲憊。
And tires their echoes with unvaried cries.
涼亭已變成廢跡，
Sunk are thy bowers, in shapeless ruin all,

長長的野草遮蓋著敗瓦，
And the long grass o'ertops the moldering wall,
要遠離破壞者的魔手，
And trembling, shrinking from the spoiler's hand,
兒童震顫著，瑟縮著離開家園。

Far, far away thy children leave the land.

土地悲慘的遭遇，加速了它的犧牲

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey
當財富積累時，人就腐化；

Where wealth accumulates, and men decay;

皇族貴族可能意氣風發，或凋謝消萎；

Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;

一呼氣可呼雲喚雨，就是這一呼氣；

A breath can make them, as a breath has made;

但美麗的農村，原野的驕傲，

But a bold peasantry, their country's pride.

一旦被摧毀，就一去不復返。

When once destroyed, can never be supplied.

曾幾何時，英格蘭的不幸開始，

A time there was, ere England's griefs began,
當每寸土地已用於養育她的子民…

When every rood of ground maintained its man..."