後記

其無完《母語的邊界》之後,再看到「母語」二字, 我想起一件往事。一位長輩晚年時患上了阿爾茲海 默症,家人看著她的記憶一點一點地喪失,都只把苦 埋在心裏。某天,她突然說著大家都聽不懂的語言。母 位遠房親戚告訴我們,她是在說一種方言,也是她們出生的地方。親戚的話讓我們恍然 說的方言,來自她們出生的地方。親戚的話讓我們恍然 大悟,同時又讓我們惆悵。她一生習得了好幾門語言 方言,她最後記得的,或者說她最後忘記的,是她的母語。

在一生中最後的時光裏,身邊的人卻不知道自己在說甚麼,不懂自己的母語。對她而言,母語的邊界,可是甚麼呢?她的每一次言說都是在嘗試跨越這個邊界,可是每一次都以失敗告終,因為這個邊界之外已經沒有第二門語言可以讓她抵達了。在母語的邊界,每一次言說都預言著沉默,想必是一個無比孤獨的心境和時空吧。這件往事讓我傷心,同時也讓我認識到翻譯是多麼可貴!

香港國際詩歌之夜是詩人在現實和抽象兩個層面進行交流的時空。對任何國際詩歌節或者文學節語言和翻文流的時空。對任何國際詩歌節或者文灣除語言和文化隔閡,它無疑製造了一條橋,為交流創造了機會。不香港國際詩歌之夜,詩人通過翻譯跨越自己母語的邊界,走進抽象的詩境、詩人的共同體,一同在有限的時時之經濟,翻譯而這個隱秘的詩境大關一道縫隙,讓讀者看見並進一步自行探索和發現詩的秘密。

The Margins of the Mother Tongue is an anthology of poems by the seventeen participating poets, with each poem presented in both English and Chinese, translated directly from the original text. We did not wish to constrain the theme; thus, we chose the prologue of Bei Dao's long poem Sidetracks as the preface for this anthology. Inevitably, we encountered difficulties during the editing and translation process. Whenever these moments arose, we communicated with the poets and translators to explore mutually acceptable translation methods. The Life of Tu Fu by Eliot Weinberger, inspired by Song-dynasty poet Wen Tianxiang's Du Fu's Poems Compiled, extracts and adapts ideas, images, and allusions from Du Fu's poems to create a fictional autobiography of Du Fu, a work that has astounded the global poetry community. Eliot and I discussed via email how to translate this work, deciding to present it in modern Chinese rather than pasting together verses from Du Fu's poems. This method, akin to back translation but not identical to it, is the result of our discussions.

Bei Dao once said, "Literary translation lies within the margins of the mother tongue; it is a part of the mother tongue." From the mother tongue, through multiple layers of translation, and back to the mother tongue. Time passes, the mother tongue evolves, and its margins shift, as if Du Fu were to descend upon the IPNHK...

Chris Song
July 1, 2024

Written in Hong Kong and Toronto

北島先生說:「文學翻譯處在母語的邊界之內,它就是母語的一部分。」從母語出發,經過重重翻譯,又回到母語。時間流逝,母語變遷,邊界游動,彷彿詩聖杜甫降臨香港國際詩歌之夜……

宋子江 2024年7月1日 寫於香港及多倫多