

AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Friday 1 June 2018 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper C17

Modern Chinese literature

Answer all questions in sections 1 and 2 and two questions from section 3.

Write your number <u>not</u> your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer booklet Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Xiandai hanyu cidian dictionary

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.

1. Answer both parts of the question (total of **20 marks**):

a) Translate into English (15 marks):

我数着从头等车里下来的乘客。为什么不数三等车里下来的呢?这里并没有故意的挑选,头等座在车的前部,下来的乘客刚在我面前,所以我可以看得很清楚。第一个,穿着红皮雨衣的俄罗斯人,第二个是中年的日本妇人,她急急地下了车,撑开了手里提着的东洋粗柄雨伞,缩着头鼠窜似地绕过车前,转进文监师路去了。我认识她,她是一家果子店的女店主。第三,第四,是像宁波人似的我国商人,他们都穿着绿色的橡皮华式雨衣。第五个下来的乘客,也即是末一个了,是一位姑娘。她手里没有伞,身上也没有穿雨衣,好像是在雨停止了之后上电车的,而不幸在到目的地的时候却下着这样的大雨。我猜想她一定是从很远的地方上车的,至少应当在卡德路以上的几站罢。

她走下车来,缩着瘦削的,但并不露骨的双肩,窘迫地走上人行路的时候,我开始注意着她的美丽了。美丽有许多方面,容颜的姣好固然是一重要素,但风仪的温雅,肢体的停匀,甚至谈吐的不俗,至少是不惹厌,这些也有着份儿,而这个雨中的少女,我事后觉得她是全适合这几端的。

她向路的两边看了一看,又走到转角上看着文监师路。我晓得她是急于要招呼一辆人力车。但我看,跟着她的眼光,大路上清寂地没一辆车子徘徊着,而雨还尽量地落下来。她旋即回了转来,躲避在一家木器店的屋檐下,露着烦恼的眼色,并且蹙着细淡的修眉。

我也便退进在屋檐下,虽则电车已开出,路上空空地,我照理可以穿过去了。但 我何以不即穿过去,走上了归家的路呢?为了对于这少女有什么依恋么?并不, 绝没有这种依恋的意识。但这也决不是为了我家里有着等候我回去在灯下一同吃 晚饭的妻,当时是连我已有妻的思想都不曾有,面前有着一个美的对象,而又是 在一重困难之中,孤寂地只身呆立着望这永远地、永远地垂下来的梅雨,只为了这些缘故,我不自觉地移动了脚步站在她旁边了。

Accessed at https://www.douban.com/group/topic/10149168/

b) Please identify the source text and comment briefly on the significance of the young woman who appears here (in English). (5 marks).

2. Translate into English (20 marks):

从宏大叙事到个体立场

在20世纪中国通俗小说的发展中,以金庸、古龙为代表作家的传统武侠小说无疑是传播极广、影响力极强的小说类型。无论是金庸小说的"侠之大者,为国为民",还是梁羽生小说中的名士型侠客,抑或是古龙小说中的浪子型侠客,传统武侠传奇对侠义精神的探讨以及对侠士形象的塑造,普遍凸显"国家民族利益为先"的价值取向和立场情怀,聚焦对人性"美"与"善"的追求与肯定、对"丑"与"恶"的抨击与批判。因此,传统武侠小说虽然属于通俗小说范畴,却是对"诗言志"传统和宏大叙事的承继,是作者以精英立场改造古典小说叙事的创造性转化。

网络小说中承继武侠文学传统的最为典型的修真小说,基于网络小说的民间性特质,它的基本话语立场已经从精英立场转变为民间立场,从而更加关注个体价值与情感体验,导致了基于精英立场的宏大叙事的解构和对个体立场的强调与关注。这就使得修真小说的叙事更偏向书写个体在成长与追求成功路途中的生命体验。这种叙事对于人性中的善恶美丑的价值评判不再立场分明,而是带有"亲

(TURN OVER)

我主义"的价值倾向,即个人的善恶行为选择完全取决于行为对象与个体本身的亲疏关系,不再是传统武侠小说中的民族大义、侠义为先等标准。

Passage excerpted from LI Yuping, "Wangluo xiaoshuo de jiazhi liubian ji huigui—yi xiuzhen xiaoshuo wei li."

Accessed at http://www.chinawriter.com.cn/n1/2018/0124/c404027-29784162.html

- **3.** Please answer **TWO** of the following essay questions in English. Each question is worth **30 marks**.
 - a) Of all the works of Chinese-language literature you read this year, which one text do you think could be considered the most Realist and why?
 - b) "Socialism has only ever had a detrimental effect on the development of modern Chinese literature." Discuss.
 - c) Explore how the use of different media has helped shape the contents of and discourses surrounding modern Chinese literature.
 - d) To what extent is "popularisation" a useful concept for understanding some of the major changes in the writing of modern Chinese literature over the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries?
 - e) What effects might the construction of a global or world literature have for representations of the "local" in Chinese-language (or Sinophone) literature?
 - f) Choose any "ism" (*zhuyi*) that has been applied to the writing or criticism of modern Chinese literature and make an argument for why it either distorts or illuminates our appreciation of a selection of relevant literary texts.

END OF PAPER