

皇帝的金斧头

The Emperor's Ax



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It sometimes seems that the Bible has not given much information about Heaven and Hell. Being the curious creatures that we are, we sometimes want to find out more than what we are told. But that is tough because we can only project our little human experiences into imaginations of these places. These can be problematic sometimes. For instance, people have thought that it would be somewhat boring to live in heaven, with angels playing harps all the time. Do they even play Chinese music for instance? Would it be better to party with Satan in Hell?

No, my friends, you wouldn't enjoy such parties. That is unless you enjoy being burned. But once again, what is going on in Heaven? Such questions can only be answered in the future, provided that we have given our lives to Christ. I don't know about the type of music that is going to be played, but I can be sure that the heavenly grandeur is probably not going to be contained by our little minds.

There was a story about two woodcutters in China in the ancient times. When they were having a little rest from their hard work, one of them started to complain about his ax, which was very blunt. "I wonder what the Emperor cuts wood with! Will he cut it with a golden ax, or a silver one?"

"You fool," the other woodcutter laughed. "You think that the emperor would cut wood? In such bitter weather, he is bound to be eating hot potatoes at a bonfire!"

We know no more about the beauty of Heaven than the woodcutters know about the luxuries of the emperor. My friend Roy once described a childhood experience when he went to a town to see a water fountain. He kept imagining what it was going to be like on his way there. But when he finally got there, he found it was a sight far greater than anything he had known or imagined. That is transformational.

Roy said that is how he thought about Heaven! One day, you too will be struck speechless by its unspeakable beauty.

圣经中提到人死后或上天堂，或下地狱，但是关于天堂和地狱的具体情况，圣经并未有详细描述。人却总是充满好奇，有时候我们希望能对这些地方有更进一步的了解。不过，这很难做到，因为我们受到我们人类自身的限制，只能用自己的经验去想象。这有时候会出现问题。比如，有时候人们会说，天堂里是不是太孤独太无聊呢？是不是只有天使成天在那里弹竖琴呢？他们弹奏的有没有中国音乐呢？是不是和撒旦在地狱里欢宴更有趣呢？

不，朋友们，你不会喜欢这种魔鬼的宴会的，除非你喜欢被火烧。但是话说回来，天堂里究竟是什么样的光景呢？这样的问题，我们只有等我们有朝一日真上了天堂了才能得到解答，当然，此前我们得把生命交托给耶稣基督。从目前来看，我根本无法知道天堂里弹奏的是什么音乐，但是我肯定天堂里的荣美或许用我们目前有限的大脑根本无法去探测。

中国古代有个故事，说有两个樵夫砍柴中间休息，其中一人抱怨自己的斧头很钝，砍不动东西。他说：“不知道皇帝砍柴都用的是什么斧头，是金斧头还是银斧头？”

另外一个樵夫笑曰：“你这笨蛋，你想皇帝会砍柴吗？这种天气他还不在火堆边上烤红薯吃！”

正如樵夫无法想象到理解皇帝过的生活，我们也无法了解天国的美丽光景。我的朋友罗伊曾也说过一个类似的故事。他说小时候，他头一回去看音乐喷泉，他边走边想这喷泉是什么样子，结果一到那里的时候，展现在他面前的喷泉的壮美让他目瞪口呆，这景象远超过了他所有的想象。这简直是使他成了一个不同的人。

他说，他对天国的理解，也正是这样。有一天，我们会为它的荣美而震撼。