

成事在天

God Disposes



一七九三年，法王路易十六被自己参与设计的断头台处死。
In 1793, Louis XVI was killed at the guillotine of his own invention

作者：方柏林

By Berlin Fang

皇帝多为世袭，并非出自选择。很多本应操持其他行当的人，却投生于帝王家。擅写“瘦金体”的宋徽宗做个书法家更为合适，生为一国之君，则致生灵涂炭。南唐后主李煜，才华横溢，却只能在国破家亡之后，吟唱一江春水般的千古哀愁。叹则叹其生不逢时，要是遇到仙人指路的“生涯规划顾问”徐小平，他会说这些人做皇帝“过立废”，干脆别做皇帝好了。只是小术求诸人，大道则由天。生涯可以规划，生命岂可筹谋？

说到这里，不由又想起一个宿命错位的皇帝，法国国王路易十六。据说他爱制锁甚于做皇帝，在朝执政的时候也无心问政，好钻研制造锁具工艺，还发明了很多好锁。法国大革命后，他被抓囚禁，收押于巴黎杜伊勒里宫。即便到了这种时候，他还不忘制锁，他偷偷在墙板后藏了一口保险箱，装上了一把自认为世界上最难打开的锁，里面装了很多对他不利的机密文件。结果锁被他当初高薪聘请来的一个锁匠打开，里面的文件成为他叛国的证据，他被送上断头台。那个断头台的铡刀，正是他自己的设计。

圣经《以斯贴记》中说过也一个类似的故事，奸臣哈曼在亚哈随鲁国王手下权重一时，众大臣见他均下拜，唯末低改一人不拜。哈曼十分恼火，阴谋加害末低改，甚至要灭其所有族人。哈曼甚至为末低改设计了一个绞架，阴谋将末低改吊死在这架上。孰料聪明而勇敢的王后以斯贴是末低改侄女，她把哈曼的阴谋戳穿，结果哈曼死在他自己布置的绞架上。

《红楼梦》中有句话说王熙凤“机关算尽太聪明，反误了卿卿生命。”这话用在路易十六身上、哈曼身上都非常合适。才智和权谋本无错，但在这个将其奉若神明的时代，我们有时候真应后退几步，想想它们给自己到底带来了什么。人是聪明的动物，人的才智和权谋或许会无限接近生命的奥秘，但永远无法达到。“霍拉朔，这天地之间尚有诸多事物，是你的哲学无法梦想到的呢”（《哈姆雷特》）。

A person is often not bred to be an emperor, but born so. Otherwise, they could have made some other career choices. Song Huizong of the Song Dynasty is a master of calligraphy, and he created a distinct style that has been admired by generations to follow. Yet as a king, he led his country to absolute disaster. Likewise, Li Yu, the last king of the South Tang Dynasty, is one of the best poets that China ever had. Yet his best piece is written after he lost his kingdom and was taken captive. Once again, he was a disaster of a king. Career consultants might say that being talented as they were, they were way overqualified to be a king. But what can career planning do anyway when it comes to our destiny?

A French counterpart to these Chinese emperors is Louis XVI. It is said that he loved locks more than his throne. Even when he was a king, he spent much time inventing, making, and collecting all sorts of locks. Even today some of his exquisite inventions surprise people. When the French Revolution broke out, he was arrested and imprisoned. Even at this time, he did not forget about his locks. He kept a safe that he believed that even the best locksmith cannot open. In this safe, he kept his confidential documents. Sure enough, one of the locksmiths he used to employ was sent to open this safe. These documents were uncovered and became unfavorable evidence against him that eventually led to his execution. Ironically, he was beheaded on the guillotine he invented himself. The irony of talent!

The book of Esther tells a similar story. Haman was a very important person under King Ahasuerus. He was so powerful that other officials knelt before him when they met—all except Mordecai. Haman therefore became quite mad at Mordecai, and he started to plot against him. He wanted to kill Mordecai as well as all the other Jews. He even had a gallows made for this purpose. Fortunately Mordecai's niece, Esther, was the queen. She discovered the plot and told the king about it. As punishment, the king hanged Haman on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

The classic novel “Dream of Red Mansions” describes a very shrewd woman who met with a tragic end. “Your shrewdness is your undoing,” thus wrote the author. The same thing probably can also be said about Louis XVI. And Haman. This is an age when people idolize talents and strategies. There is nothing wrong with these things in themselves, but sometimes we have to step back and think: what have our talents and strategies actually brought us? Are they so important that we need to worship them? No. We may use our intelligence to find more and more about the world, but we can never find all the secrets behind our lives. This is the human condition. Let's just face it. “There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy” (in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*).