

以柏克的〈雄渾〉(sublime) 概念閱讀拜倫的詩作《黑暗》

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摘要

本文主旨是介紹詩人愛德蒙柏克的〈雄渾〉(sublime) 概念，並用其中心思維來分析拜倫的詩作《黑暗》。〈雄渾〉是個幾世紀以來一直讓文學界著迷的美學概念，尤其在浪漫時期達到巔峰。當拜倫達到他創作生涯的高峰之時，不少關於〈雄渾〉的理論已經發展出來，可用以辨明哪些經驗可以歸屬於〈雄渾〉的範疇，其中又以柏克發展的〈雄渾〉理論最具代表性。

柏克是十八世紀領銜的政治家，他修正早期的理論並且把經驗主義的基礎應用於〈雄渾〉的論述，對〈雄渾〉論述的貢獻良多。他於 1757 年出版的著作《論雄渾與美麗概念起源的哲學探究》對於文學界影響深遠，因該書提供易懂且實證的方法，用以分辨文學作品有哪些是雄渾，又有哪些只是美麗。柏克在書中詳盡說明產生〈雄渾〉的概念和經驗，包括：浩瀚、黑暗、孤獨等等。

和柏克大致同時期的拜倫，於 1816 年寫下詩作《黑暗》之時，因遭受婚姻破裂的打擊，而永遠離開英國。1816 這一年，因為火山爆發導致持續的寒冷和不見天日的氣候，所以又稱為〈沒有夏天的一年〉。拜倫的《黑暗》是首末世詩篇，結合聖經裡的意象和當時的事件，進而創造出雄渾的經驗。拜倫在這首詩充分發揮柏克雄渾概念的重要思維，是以本文以柏克的雄渾理論分析拜倫的詩作《黑暗》，以闡明柏克〈雄渾〉的理論概念以及拜倫對雄渾的美學具現。

關鍵詞：《黑暗》、愛德蒙柏克、拜倫、雄渾

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*本文作者感謝匿名審查者們提供寶貴的修正建議，使本文臻至完善。

Burke's Sublime and Lord Byron's *Darkness*

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Abstract

It is the goal of this paper to introduce Burke's concept of the sublime and utilize those guidelines as a theoretical framework in order to analyze Byron's poem *Darkness*.

The sublime is an aesthetic concept which fascinated the literary community for centuries; reaching its height during the Romantic period. By the time Lord Byron had reached maturity as a writer, several theories had already been developed for determining which experiences were evocative of the sublime and which experiences were not. One of the most important systems for uncovering the sublime was developed by Edmund Burke.

Burke was a leading statesman and contributed a great deal to the discourse of the sublime by building upon earlier theories and applying an empirical theoretical underpinning to the task of ascertaining the sublime. His 1757 book, *A Philosophical Enquiry into our Understanding the of the Sublime and Beautiful* was an influential piece of literature in that it provided an accessible and empirical method for determining which pieces of literature were sublime and which were simply beautiful. In his book, Burke goes into detail about which concepts and experiences will produce the sublime. These experiences and concepts include vastness, darkness, solitude, and many others.

A near contemporary of Burke, Lord Byron wrote his poem *Darkness*, in the year 1816. That year was the year which Byron left England permanently on the heels of the dissolution of his disastrous marriage. The year 1816 was also known as "The Year Without a Summer" due to unseasonably cold and dark weather caused by the eruption of a volcano. *Darkness* is an apocalyptic poem which mixes Biblical imagery and current

events to create a sublime experience for the reader. Byron's poem capitalizes on almost every criterion for creating the Burkean sublime.

Keywords: Darkness, Edmund Burke, Lord Byron, the sublime

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*The writer would like to thank the anonymous reviewers who gave invaluable feedback and guidance in helping him make the improvements necessary to make this paper as good as possible.