

散文·非中文組

佳作

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哥倫比亞籍醫師，二〇〇五年首次來臺，成為臺灣女婿。於二〇〇七年決定與妻子回臺定居。目前服務於新北市的生醫公司。

Passing Tamsui Rivier

Mangroves are a kind of peculiar "viviparous" plants, nursed and grow up in mother tree. One day, when they travel with the waves, they can drift in the sea for several months. I cannot imagine the hard journey of the seeds floating on the sea. The salty waves wander with them until the currents decide their final direction. Tides rise and fall, send them to the new land. The new land provided shelter as God's Promised Land. They quietly root, thrive and multiply into a new forest.

Looking out through the window of my 28-floors office, there is a lush mangrove forest. The woods nestled in the freshwater river altogether with the rolling hills on the left bank of the river. This spiritual but spectacular beauty mountain is the Guanyin Mountain. Guanyin is a female deity equivalent to the Virgin Mary in the Christian tradition. When time past I fell amaze and relax to look thorough the MRT several times before the clues on the side. It turned out that it was a Guanyin Bodhisattva lying quietly on the bank of the river. Deeply impressed to the naming person's inspiration, successfully combined the religious sense of solemnity, the goddess' grace, and the mountain's spirituality to show all its beauty.

Spaniards have been here. Built in the estuary highlands of Santo Domingo, black cannons gaze at the estuary, and besides, the Dominicans priests holding the cross and the Bible. The legend

secretly whispers the mission of finding the Golden River. In the sunset, the golden river and the reddish sea met at the setting sun. The Spaniards left and entered my homeland, the South American continent, from Cartagena at the northern end of the continent. Cartagena, the gate of greedy predators. In legends, some of the blood-stained gold and the raised sails still sank on the bottom of the sea. Fortunately, the gold here is only a legend. Gazing, the sea in the fresh water still brighten as gold.

Looking on the river's side, sipping a cup of lightly roasted coffee, sipping the tranquility of the sun before it is hidden. The fruity aroma on the tip of the tongue suddenly turned back, seemingly reminding me that coffee came from my homeland. Nostalgia, there seems to be no power in the city. On the old streets of Tamsui, as the food stalls in small parcels, early evening when lanterns are first lit, people wander where they are. Like a circus juggling skill, the Turkish ice cream hawker, the bright red Korean rice cake, the rotating huge meat block called Shawurma, the colorful doughnuts, the scary ice cream. I guess, perhaps because of this, foreigners who come here rarely have serious homesickness. The soft tofu filled with chewy noodles made of green beans. It is a kind of food called "A-ge", which is said to be on the street food since the Japanese ruled time. Evidence of a multicultural collision.

At the mouth of the estuary, a group of unknown white birds returned to the nest just right for the red sunset. Seasons change, migratory birds should have migrated to distant places. But some of them may become local permanent residents because of the

pleasant climate and comfortable environment. At the end of the 19th century, Dr. Mackay, came to Formosa. He probably is one of the earliest new immigrants with an intercultural marriage. Falling in love with a Taiwanese woman, realizing the soul of the doctor's dedication and mission, Instead, he and his family's cemetery peacefully lie in the campus of Tamkang senior high School. His poetry "My Final Resting Place" seems reverberating in the forest.

How dear is Formosa to my heart!
On that island, I have spent the best of my years.
I love look up to its lofty peaks,
down into its yawning chasms,
and away out on its surging seas.
How willing I am to gaze upon these forever!
I should like to find a final resting place
within sound of its surf and
under the shade of its waving bamboo.

Huwei Mackay Hospital is said to be the first Western medical clinic in Taiwan. Now it displays the cultural relics and photos of Dr. Mackay. I am also a doctor and a believer. If time and space can be reversed, can I have the courage to travel across the sea to the unknown land as him? And vowed to live and die together in this place? The red brick-coloured Gothic-style building is dyed with a touch of melancholy gray under the hood of the night. In contrast, the bustling crowds in the old streets of Danshui old street in the distance are a bit surreal. The simulated antique ship on the river has also lit up with shining lights, which makes people feel a kind of gorgeous desolation, eager to know

more stories of this town.

As night falls, the streets of Tamsui are full of crowds and laughter. My wife takes my hand, my palm heat up and recalled my thoughts from one hundred years ago. In the light of the night, I saw it, Guanyin smiled.

紅樹林的「水筆仔」是種很奇妙的胎生植物，它依附在「母樹」下長大，吸取足夠的養分後，便落在河上漂浮，找到適合的地方安居樂命，這過程可能長達數月之久。我無法想像，這是多麼艱難的旅程，它們的目的地與未來等等的一切，都是交給那鹹鹹的、閒閒的海浪決策。漲潮、退潮，將它們送往新的土地。新的家鄉成了庇護所，像是上帝的應許之地。它們落地生根，欣欣向榮，打造一片新的森林。

試著從二十八樓辦公室看出去吧，下頭是座茂密的紅樹林，樹林依偎著淡水河，隨著連綿起伏的丘陵，安靜地躺在河的左岸。觀音山壯麗又美麗，觀音是臺灣的女性神祇，地位好比基督教的聖母瑪利亞。我在這兒的時間越來越長，這樣的景觀依然屢屢震撼了我，當我朝著捷運的方向望去，觀世音菩薩靜靜地躺在那兒，不禁佩服當初起名的人，是怎麼樣的靈感，讓這名稱與宗教的莊嚴、女神的優雅、山林的精神完美地融合在一起。

西班牙人來過淡水，並在地處建造了聖多明哥城（紅毛城），黝黑的大砲凝視著河口，祭司手握十字架與聖經，

這樣的傳說耳語著尋找金色水岸的任務。夕陽西下，金河跟紅海在遠處交織，西班牙人離開了，進駐了我的家鄉南美洲，卡塔赫納。卡塔赫納是貪婪侵略者的大門，傳說中，血染的黃金還深深地沉在海底，幸運地，黃金在這裡只是傳奇，但凝視著大海的水面倒是像極了黃金般閃亮。

朝著河邊望，喝著嘴邊輕度烘焙的咖啡，啜飲著日光消逝前的寧靜，果香味在舌尖蔓延開來，彷彿提醒著我，來自老家的咖啡。思鄉之情吧，這座城市似乎沒沒什麼能量。傍晚的淡水老街上，小吃攤一個個將燈籠掛起，人們隨意地閒晃，像是馬戲團裡那名為「散步」的表演。土耳其冰淇淋的小販，韓式辣炒年糕的攤子，噢，還有那旋轉著、龐大的肉塊，他們叫它「沙威瑪」，彩色的甜甜圈、奇特的冰淇淋。我猜想，或許就是因為如此，遠道而來的外國人很少思鄉的，我是說想到發病的那種想。軟軟的豆腐，裏頭塞滿有嚼勁的冬粉，他們管他叫「阿給」，那是打從日治時期就被發明的街邊小吃，那也是多元文化的一種證明。

在河口的出口，一群不曉得叫什麼的鳥兒正朝著夕陽歸巢，季節正在變遷，遷徙的候鳥該移居了吧。我在想，會不會有誰為了這宜人的天氣、舒服的環境，永遠住下來呢。十九世紀末，馬偕醫師來到了這美麗的福爾摩沙，他應該是這裡最早的一批移民者吧。他愛上了臺灣的女子，一位能夠理解醫師的任務以及奉獻精神的女子，讓他為愛落地生根。

如今，他與他的家人的墓碑，靜靜地躺在淡江高中一隅，他的詩〈最後的住家〉彷彿在叢林中迴盪。

我全心熱愛的福爾摩沙！

在那座島嶼上，我貢獻了生命的巔峰。

我熱愛仰望這兒高聳的山峰，熱愛俯視這兒深不可測的深洞，以及洶湧的大海，我願意永遠看顧著它們。

我該找尋一片棲身之地，聽著浪花拍打，並躲藏在微風輕拂的竹林之下。

滬尾偕醫館被認為是臺灣第一間西式醫院，現在負責展示文化遺產，以及馬偕醫師的紀念照片。我本身也是個醫生，與虔誠教徒，換作是我，我有沒有足夠的勇氣跟他一樣，橫跨大海，來到一片未知的土地？甚至立下誓言，與它生死與共？紅磚色的哥德式建築，在夜晚的渲染下成了淡淡的憂鬱灰色。比較起來，淡水老街熙攘的人們看起來有些超現實，一艘仿古的船隻在河流中央亮起了明燈，華麗中帶著一絲淒涼，讓人不禁更想知道關於這座城鎮的一切。

夜色沉了，淡水街道上充滿著人群，與笑聲，我的牽手牽著我的手，我的手掌心微微發熱，將我從百年前召回，在夜晚的燈光之中，我看到了，觀音的微笑。

評審評語

「新住民」不全是低端勞工或外傭看護，這位作者自稱醫生，家鄉南美洲。讀這篇作品，會誤以為是用中文寫作，甚至會認為是一位擅長書寫的作家。開頭和結尾，都有極好的隱喻象徵和如詩的幸福感的表現。對於馬偕與淡水的關係，也相當精準掌握了史實，和引用馬偕詩句，有極好的融合。

得獎感言

It has been a long journey to express my appreciation to the land that has gave me the treasures of my life. This prize is another sample of what common people doing their lives have found in this beautiful island since centuries ago. Made we warm welcome.

這個島嶼所饋贈給我生命中的禮物，我的致謝是一趟很遠的旅程。這個獎項再度證明，過著一般日子的平凡人，在幾個世紀前找到這個美麗的島嶼。讓我感受到溫暖。