

Chinese Traditional

其他書籍

約納先知書

前言

《約納先知書》非常簡短，且容易使人產生誤解，但是卻又非常出名。很多人都把它作為歷史書來閱讀，當然他們最終會發現這部書中有很多讓人難以置信的記述，甚至有些描述荒謬之極。

另有一些人把約納作為一位真實的歷史人物，而將這部書歸到先知書的行列。

其實，這部書只是一部充滿冒險和傳奇色彩的小說，完全是虛構的，但是它卻帶有鮮明的宗教資訊，那就是表現天主的美善，因為祂關心每個人的生命。天主在懲罰人之前，特別告知人類，為的是不懲罰任何人。約納是祂的代言人，儘管約納不太稱職，但是天主就是用他來傳佈這資訊，使人們瞭解並體驗天主的寬恕。

1 雅威對阿米泰的兒子約納說：

2 “你去那氣派的尼尼微城，在那兒宣道訓誨，因為他們已罪惡滔天。”

3 但約納決定躲開雅威，就動身去塔爾史士。他來到約培，找到去塔爾史士的船，買票上船後，就與大家同向塔爾史士出發。他以為這樣就可以遠遠地躲開雅威。

4 雅威卻令海上起了風暴，海上風浪怒吼，船眼看就要沈沒了。

5 水手們個個驚惶失措，紛紛向自己的神明哭喊求救，為了減輕船的重量，他們又把貨物拋進海裏。

6 這時約納已在船中睡熟了，船長來到他身邊，說：

“你怎麼還能睡得著？快起來求求你的神明吧！那神或許會可憐我們，使我們免於一死！”

7 水手們彼此商議說：

“來，抽籤吧，看是誰惹下了大禍！”

English

OTHER BOOKS

JONAH

Introduction

The book of Jonah is so brief, so well known and so misunderstood; and it has given rise to many false interpretations. Some, naively, read it as history, and of course they find it unbelievable and even ridiculous.

Others include it among the Prophets as if dealing with a personage that really existed.

The book of Jonah is a novel about adventures, completely fictitious, with a religious, moralizing intention: its thesis is to show God's goodness, who is worried about each person's life. It is a God that threatens and announces his punishments with the aim of not having to punish anybody. Jonah is his speaker, a person who is not worthy of that mission, neither, in his mediocrity, capable of understanding the forgiving heart of God.

1¹The word of Yahweh came to Jonah, son of Amittai:

2—Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach against it, because I have known its wickedness.

3But Jonah decided to flee from Yahweh and go to Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, found a ship bound for Tarshish, and paid the fare. Then he boarded it and went into the hold of the ship, journeying with them to Tarshish, far away from Yahweh.

4Yahweh stirred up a storm wind on the sea, so there was a sea tempest, which threatened to destroy the ship.

5The sailors took fright, and each cried out to his own god. To lighten the ship, they threw its cargo into the sea.

6Meanwhile Jonah had gone into the hold of the ship, where he lay fast asleep. The captain came upon him and said:

—How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god. Perhaps he will be mindful of us and will not allow us to die here.

7The sailors said to each other:

—Let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this disaster.

大家就抽籤，結果約納抽中了。

8 衆人就問約納：“原來是你招來這場大禍！你從哪里來？是哪個國家的？屬哪個民族？”

9 約納告訴大家說：“我是希伯來人，我敬畏的神叫雅威，他是大地與海洋的創造者，是天上之主。”

10 後來大家瞭解到約納是在躲避雅威，水手們都驚恐萬狀，對約納說：

“你怎麼能做這種事？

11 現在我們該怎樣處置你，大海才會平靜下來呢？”

這時海裏的風浪更洶湧了。

12 約納說：

“把我擡起來，扔進海中，大海就會平靜。因為我知道，這場風暴是因我而來的。”

13 但是衆水手仍盡力搖櫓，想把船搖回岸邊，可是因為這時的大海已波濤翻滾，他們怎麼做也做不到，14 只好呼求雅威說：

“雅威，求你不要因這人的性命而毀了我們，不要讓我們承擔無辜人的血債。雅威，這是你想做的，我們按你的意願做了。”

15 他們把約納投入海中，怒吼的海立即平靜了。16 看了這景象，大家都對雅威極生敬畏之心，他們向雅威祭獻，並許下誓言。

2 1 雅威命一條大魚把約納吞了下去，約納在魚腹中躲避了三天三夜。

2 約納在魚腹中，向他的天主雅威祈禱：

3 “我在憂患中向雅威哭求，
他就應答我。

在地府深處，我呼喊求救，
你聽到了我的呼叫。

4 是你把我拋入深海中，
到了海心深處，
海洋的潛流包圍著我，
你的波濤和巨浪淹沒了我。

5 我就想：

你把我拋到遠方，
我將不能再仰望你的聖殿。

6 大水已淹沒了我，

So they did, and the lot fell on Jonah.

8 They questioned him:

—So you are responsible for this evil that has come upon us? Tell us where you are from. What is your country, your nationality?

9 And Jonah told them his story:

—I am a Hebrew and I worship Yahweh, God of heaven who made the sea and the land.

10 As they knew that he was fleeing from Yahweh, the sailors were seized with great fear and said to him:

—What a terrible thing have you done!

11 —What shall we do with you now to make the sea calm down?

The sea was growing more and more agitated.

12 He said to them:

—Pick me up and throw me into the sea. It will quiet down, for I know it is because of me that this storm has come.

13 The sailors, however, still did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea had grown much rougher than before. 14 Then they called on Yahweh:

—O Yahweh, do not let us perish for taking this man's life. Do not hold us guilty of shedding innocent blood. For you, Yahweh, have done this as you have thought right.

15 They took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm again. 16 At this the men were seized with great fear of Yahweh. They offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows to him.

2 1 Yahweh provided a large fish which swallowed Jonah. He remained in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

2 From the belly of the fish Jonah prayed to Yahweh, his God:

3 —In my distress I cried to Yahweh,
and he answered me;

from the belly of the netherworld
you heard my voice when I called.

4 You cast me into the abyss,
into the very heart of the sea,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your breakers and your billows
passed over engulfing me.

5 Then I thought:

I have been cast out from your presence,
but I keep on looking to your holy Temple.

6 The waters engulfed me up to my throat;
all around me was the abyss;

我眼前漆黑一片，
海草纏住我的腦袋，
7 我下沈直到礁石的最底層，
地府的門門在我上面關閉，
我的主，雅威，是你把我救出深淵。
8 我氣息奄奄時，
記起了你雅威，
我的祈禱上升到你的聖殿。
9 凡拜無用的偶像的人，
會失去你的恩寵。
10 至於我，我要以讚歌向你作祭獻，
凡我許下的誓願，
我必盡力實現。
真正的救贖來自天主，雅威。”
11 雅威命大魚把約納吐到岸上。

3 1 雅威再次傳話給約納：

2 “你應去氣派的尼尼微城，在那裏宣講我啓示你的話。”

3 約納這次順從了雅威的指示，動身去了尼尼微。尼尼微城氣勢宏偉，
用三天時間才能穿越整座城池。4 約納走了一整天，開始訓誨城中居民：
“還有四十天，尼尼微就要毀滅了。”

尼尼微的皈依

5 城中人信了天主，立即宣佈禁食，城中不論大小都身披苦衣。

6 尼尼微王也聽說了這事，立即走下寶座，脫去皇服，披上苦衣，坐到
灰土裏。7 他又在尼尼微城傳達聖旨：

“以國王與王族的名義，命城中人、畜及牛羊，不可吃任何東西，無論是
食物還是水。8 讓人與牲畜都披上苦衣。人們要高聲呼求天主，改棄自己
的邪惡，停止暴力。9 誰知道呢？天主或許會回心轉意，收回烈怒，饒
過我們的性命。”

10 天主看見他們的行動，又見他們棄絕了邪路，就心發慈悲沒有按原
計劃毀滅尼尼微城。

主愛廣博

wrapped about my head were seaweeds.

7 I went down to the roots of the mountains,
the bars of the netherworld closed upon me,
but you brought my life up from the pit,
Yahweh, my God.

8 When my soul was fainting within me,
I remembered Yahweh,
and before you rose my prayer
up to your holy Temple.

9 Those who worship worthless idols
lose your grace

10 but I, with songs of praise,
will offer to you sacrifices.

What I have vowed, I will make good—
deliverance comes from Yahweh, my God.

11 Then Yahweh gave his command to the fish,
and it belched out Jonah onto dry land.

3 1 The word of Yahweh came to Jonah a second time:

2—Go to Nineveh, the great city, and announce to them the message I give you.

3 In obedience to the word of Yahweh, Jonah went to Nineveh. It was a very
large city, and it took three days just to cross it. 4 So Jonah walked a single day's
journey and began proclaiming:

—Forty days more and Nineveh will be destroyed.

5 The people of the city believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them,
from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

6 Upon hearing the news, the king of Nineveh got up from his throne, took off
his royal robe, put on sackcloth and sat down in ashes. 7 He issued a proclamation
throughout Nineveh:

—By the decree of the king and his nobles, no people or beasts, herd or flock,
will taste anything; neither will they eat nor drink. 8 But let people and beasts be
covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call aloud to God, turn from his evil ways
and violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent, turn from his fierce anger and
spare us.

10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he
had compassion and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened upon
them.

4 1 可是約納見此卻很高興，心中十分怨恨。2 他向雅威祈禱，說：

“哎，雅威，我還在自己的國家時不就說過這話嗎？爲此我逃往塔爾史士，因爲我知道你慈悲寬仁，不輕易動怒，滿心慈愛，不願降災禍。3 雅威，現在我求你拿走我的性命，我活著倒不如死了好。”

4 可是雅威回答說：

“你有什麼理由生氣呢？”

5 約納就出了城，來到東面，在那裏爲自己搭了個棚子，他坐在棚下，想看看尼尼微到底會出什麼事。6 雅威讓一株蓖麻長過約納的頭頂，爲他遮陽，減輕他的煩惱。約納十分喜歡這株蓖麻。

7 但是第二天天剛亮，天主派了一條蟲來咬這植物，蓖麻就枯萎了。8 太陽升起後，主又安排了酷熱的東風，太陽熱辣辣地直照約納的頭，他開始暈眩，就又求主讓他快點兒死去，說：

“我覺著死更舒服些。”

9 雅威問約納：

“你覺得有理由爲這株蓖麻生氣嗎？”

約納回答道：

“我有足夠的理由生氣求死。”

10 雅威說：

“對於這株你從未付諸辛勞的蓖麻，你尚且如此關心，它不過是朝生暮死的植物罷了！11 尼尼微城中有十二萬稀裏糊塗、不分青紅皂白的居民，他們還有許多牲畜，難道我不該憐憫這樣一座大城嗎？”

4 1But Jonah was greatly displeased at this, and he was indignant. 2He prayed to Yahweh and said:

—O Yahweh, is this not what I said when I was yet in my own country? This is why I fled to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and full of love, and you relent from imposing terrible punishment. 3I beseech you now, Yahweh, to take my life, for now it is better for me to die than to live.

4But Yahweh replied:

—What right have you to be angry?

5Jonah then left the city. He went to a place east of it, built himself a shelter and sat under its shade to wait and see what would happen to Nineveh. 6Then Yahweh God provided a castor—oil plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade over his head and to ease his discomfort. Jonah was very happy about the plant.

7But the next day, at dawn, God sent a worm which attacked the plant and made it wither. 8When the sun rose, God sent a scorching east wind; the sun blazed down upon Jonah's head, and he grew faint. His death wish returned and he said:

—It is better for me to die than to live.

9Then God asked Jonah:

—Do you have a right to be angry about the castor oil plant?

Jonah answered:

—I am right to be angry enough to wish to die.

10Yahweh said:

—You are concerned about a plant which cost you no labor to make it grow. Overnight it sprang up, and overnight it perished. 11But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish right from left and they have many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned for such a great city?