

Chinese Traditional

故事書

《盧德傳》

前言

《盧德傳》是猶太敘事文學作品中一顆璀璨的明珠。摩阿布的外邦女子盧德嫁給了伯利恒的波阿次，後來她成為達味聖王的祖母。在這個故事之外，我們還可以發現它的歷史淵源，因為盧德是人們信賴天主的模範。天主是美善和信實的上主，他的仁愛也普及到外邦人的身上。

外邦女子

1 1 在民長執政時期，國內鬧饑荒。2 有個名叫厄裏默肋客的人，帶著他的妻子納敖米和兩個兒子瑪赫隆及基肋雍，從猶大白冷城遷居到了摩阿布。3 沒多久，厄裏默肋客就死了，留下了他的妻子和兩個兒子。4 後來，瑪赫隆和基肋雍分別娶了當地的摩阿布女子敖爾帕和盧德為妻。

他們在那兒住了十幾年，5 瑪赫隆和基肋雍也相繼去世了。失去丈夫和兒子的納敖米 6-8 便打算和兩個兒媳回白冷城，因為她聽說天主垂憐城內的老百姓，賜給他們糧食。

8 在她們回猶大的路上，納敖米對她的兒媳們說：

“你們走吧，回自己的娘家去吧！願主恩待你們，就像你們對待死者和我一樣，9 讓他保佑你們各自在新夫家中，過上平安的日子。”

說完就與她們親吻道別，敖爾帕和盧德哭著，10 對婆婆說：

“不，我們要跟您回到您的族人那裏去！”

11 納敖米回答道：

“我的女兒，你們回家去吧！跟著我有什麼好處呢？”

English

STORIES

RUTH

Introduction

The book of Ruth is a jewel of Hebrew narrative. Ruth, the Moabite foreigner, will be the great-grandmother of King David, through her wedding to Boaz, a rich farmer from Bethlehem. Out of this story, that probably has a historical root, a beautiful model to trust on God is made; God's piety extends even to a foreigner, because of his goodness and fidelity.

The foreigner girl

1 ¹There was a famine in the land during the time of the Judges, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah departed with his wife and two sons to sojourn in the country of Moab. ²The man was Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and his two sons Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. A little later, after they had settled in Moab. ³Naomi's husband Elimelech died. She was left with her two sons, ⁴who married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth.

After living in Moab for about ten years, ⁵Mahlon and Chilion also died and Naomi was left bereft of husband and two sons. ⁶Having heard that Yahweh had come to help his people by giving them food, Naomi prepared to return home. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law, she took the road back to Judah.

⁸It was then that Naomi said to her daughters-in-law:

—Go back, each of you, to your mother's house. And may Yahweh be kind to you, as you have been to your dead and to me. ⁹May he also grant each of you rest in the home of another husband.

She kissed them goodbye. But they wept aloud ¹⁰and said to her:

—No, we will go back with you to your people.

¹¹Naomi said:

—Return home, my daughters. Why should you come with me?

難道我還能懷孕生子給你們做丈夫嗎？ 12 孩子們，走吧！我老了，不能再嫁人了，就算我今晚嫁得出去，馬上懷孕生子，13 你們還能一直不嫁等他們長大成人嗎？別傻了，孩子們，跟著我，反而增加我的苦處，雅威已出手懲罰了我。”

14 她們於是又哭了起來。最後敖爾帕起身吻別她的婆婆，便回自己的家鄉去了。但是盧德仍然留下來陪著婆婆。

15 納敖米對她說：

“你怎麼不跟著你嫂嫂，回自己的家鄉和自己的神明那裏去呢？”

16 盧德回答：

“求您別逼我離開。您到哪里我就跟到哪里，您住哪里我就住哪里；您的家鄉就是我的家鄉；您的天主就是我的天主；17 您死在哪里，我就死在哪里並葬在那裏；要不是死才讓我離開您的話，就讓雅威重重地罰我！”

18 納敖米見她執意要跟著自己，也就不再勸她離開了。

19 於是兩個人結伴到了白冷城。城裏的人們一見她們來了，都很驚訝。婦女們驚奇地問道：“這不是納敖米嗎？”

富裕的波阿次

2 1 納敖米丈夫的家族中有個有錢有勢的親戚叫波阿次。2 有一天，盧德對她婆婆說：

“讓我到田裏去，我蒙誰的恩，就跟在誰的後面拾些麥穗。” 她的婆婆回答她說：

“女兒，你去吧！”

3 她就到田裏去，跟在收割工人們的後面撿麥穗。正巧，她去的那裏，就是厄裏默肋客家族人波阿次的田地。

4 這天，波阿次也從白冷來到田裏。他問候那些工人們：

“願主與你們同在！”

他們也回禮說：

“願主賜福給你！”

5 波阿次問監督收割的僕人：

“這是誰家的女子？”

6 監工回答：

14 Again they sobbed and wept. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

15 Naomi said:

—Look, your sister-in-law returns to her people and her gods. You too must return. Go after her.

16 Ruth replied:

—Don't ask me to leave you. For I will go where you go and stay where you stay. Your people will be my people and your god, my God. 17 Where you die, there will I die and be buried. May Yahweh deal with me severely if anything except death separates us.

18 Realizing that Ruth was determined to go with her, Naomi stopped urging her.

19 So the two went on till they reached Bethlehem. Their arrival set the town astir. Women asked:

—Can this be Naomi?

The rich man from town

2 1 Naomi had a well-to-do kinsman, Boaz, from the clan of her husband Elimelech. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi:

—Let me go to pick up the left-over grain in the field whose owner will allow me that favor.

Naomi said:

—Go ahead, my daughter.

3 So she went to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. It happened that the field she entered belonged to Boaz of the clan of Elimelech.

4 When Boaz came from Bethlehem, he greeted the harvesters:

—Yahweh be with you.

They returned the greeting:

—Yahweh bless you.

5 Noticing Ruth, Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters:

—To whom does that young woman belong?

6 The foreman replied:

“就是那個才跟納敖米從摩阿布回來的摩阿布女子，7 她清早來時請求過我，讓她跟在工人們的身後撿麥穗，一直幹到現在還沒休息過呢！”

8 波阿次於是對盧德說：

“我的孩子！你不必去別人的田裏撿麥穗了，就留在我這裏吧，要常同我的侍女們在一起。9 你看僕人們在哪里收割，你就跟在他們後面，我已吩咐他們不要為難你，要是口渴了，就到水罐裏喝僕人們打來的水。” 10 盧德聽了，就向波阿次俯首跪拜說：

“我怎能蒙你如此地善待？”

11 波阿次答道：

“因為我聽說你自守寡後，非常孝敬你婆婆。爲了她，甚至離開自己的父老鄉親，來到這個對你完全陌生的民族中；這一切事，大家都一一告訴了我。12 願雅威報答你的功德，願你投奔其翼下的雅威、以色列的天主，賜給你的報償是豐厚的！”

13 盧德答說：

“我主！我連你的一個婢女都不如，竟蒙您如此好意安慰我，對您的婢女說出這麼令人感動的話！”

14 到了吃飯的時候，波阿次叫她：

“你上前來，把餅浸在酸酒裏吃。” 她就坐在收割的人旁邊，波阿次遞給她烘烤過的麥餅。盧德吃飽了，還有些剩下的。

15 就馬上又起身去拾麥穗了。波阿次於是吩咐他的工人們說：

“她就是在麥捆裏拾麥穗，你們也要讓她去，不要難爲她。16 而且要從麥捆中抽出些來，丟在地上讓她撿，不可責罵她。”

17 盧德在田裏撿了一天的麥子，晚上將所拾的麥穗打了約有一“厄法”重的大麥。18 她就背著麥子回城了，拿回家給婆婆看，並且把中午吃剩下的食物，拿出來給婆婆。

19 婆婆問她：

“你今天在哪里撿的麥穗？在哪里工作？願那照顧你的人蒙受祝福！”

盧德便把自己在田裏工作的事告訴了婆婆，

並且說：

“我今天在一個名叫波阿次的人的田裏工作。”

—She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷She came this morning and asked leave to glean behind the harvesters. Since then she has been working without a moment's rest.

⁸Boaz said to Ruth:

—Listen, my daughter. Don't go away from here to glean in anyone else's field. Stay here with my women servants. ⁹See where the harvesters are and follow behind. I have ordered the men not to molest you. They have filled some jars with water. Go there and drink when you are thirsty. ¹⁰Bowing down with her face to the ground, she exclaimed:

—Why have I, a foreigner, found such favor in your eyes?

¹¹Boaz answered:

—I have been told all about you: what you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband's death, how you have gone with her, leaving your own father and mother and homeland, to live with a people you knew nothing about before you came here. ¹²May Yahweh reward you for this! May you receive full recompense from Yahweh, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!

¹³Ruth said:

—May I prove worthy of your favor, my lord. You have consoled your servant with your kind words, though I am not the equal of your maidservants.

¹⁴Boaz called her at mealtime:

—Come over, have some bread and dip it in the wine.

As she sat among the reapers, he handed her some roasted grain. She ate her fill and had some left over.

¹⁵When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his men:

—Let her glean even among the sheaves and do not scold her. ¹⁶And pull some stalks from the bundles; leave them scattered for her to glean.

¹⁷She worked until evening and when she threshed what she had gleaned it amounted to about an ephah. ¹⁸Ruth carried back to town the threshed barley, which she showed to her mother-in-law. She also gave her what she had left over from lunch.

¹⁹Naomi asked her daughter-in-law:

—Where did you glean today? Where did you work? May the man who took notice of you be blessed.

Ruth told her mother-in-law about the owner of the field where she had worked.

Ruth said:

—His name is Boaz.

20 婆婆對兒媳說：

“如果真是波阿次的話，願那眷顧生者和死者的雅威祝福他！這人是我們的親戚，而且是位對我們有至親義務的人。”

21 盧德接著說：

“他還叫我常和他的收割僕人在一起，直到收割結束。”

22 納敖米便對盧德說：

“這樣更好，我的女兒，你就常和他的仆女在一處幹活，如此，免得你去別人的田裏遭欺負。”

23 於是，盧德就緊跟著波阿次的婢女們一起拾麥穗，一直到大麥和小麥的收割結束。盧德繼續和婆婆住在一起。

打穀場的夜晚

3 8 到了半夜，波阿次醒來，驚見一位女子睡在腳旁，忙轉身問道：

9 “你是誰？”

她回答說：

“我是你的僕人盧德。現在請你掀開你的衣襟蓋上我吧，因為你有義務幫助我的。”

10 “願雅威祝福你！我的孩子！”

他答道：

“你現在行這樣的善德，遠勝於以前所做的，因為村裏的青年，不論貧富，你都沒有選擇！11 我的孩子，儘管放心，你所要求的，我一定都做到。全村的人都知道你是個賢德的女人。12 不錯，我的確是你的至親，但是還有一個親戚比我更近。13 今晚你就暫時睡在這裏，明早且看那位至親是否願意對你盡義務，如果他不願意，那麼，奉天主之名，我必定負責照顧你。你安心地睡吧！”

14 天還未亮，在人們尚未看清前，盧德便起身了。波阿次心想：可別讓人知道盧德昨晚在這裏過了夜。

15 然後對盧德說：

“攤開你的披肩，拿好。”就往盧德的披肩裏倒了六鬥大麥，放在盧德肩上，她就背著回城去了。

16 回到家，婆婆問她：

“事情辦得怎麼樣了？”

20 Naomi exclaimed:

—May Yahweh bless him! God indeed is merciful both to the living and the dead. This man is a close relative, one with a right of redemption over us.

21 Ruth continued:

—He even told me to stay with his servants until they finish harvesting the grain.

22 Naomi said:

—It will be better for you, my daughter, to go out with his maidservants than to go working in some other field where harm might come to you.

23 Ruth, therefore, stayed close to the maidservants of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the wheat and barley harvests. And she continued living with her mother-in-law.

The night on the threshing floor

3 9 Boaz asked:

—Who are you?

The answer came:

—I am Ruth, your servant. Spread the corner of your cloak over me for you are a kinsman who has right of redemption over me.

10 Boaz said:

—May Yahweh bless you, my daughter! This kindness of yours now is even greater than that which you have shown earlier, for you have not gone after young men, rich or poor. 11 Have no fear, my daughter; I will do for you all that you ask, since all my townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. 12 It is true that I am a close relative, but there is another still closer. 13 Stay here for the night. In the morning, if he wants to claim you—good! But if not—as surely as Yahweh lives—I will claim you myself. Lie here till morning.

15 Then turning to Ruth, Boaz said:

—Hold out the mantle you are wearing.

She did so and he poured into it six measures of barley. He helped her lift the bundle, then went back to town.

16 Ruth returned home to her mother-in-law, who asked:

—How did you fare, my daughter?

她便將事情的經過：

17 他為她做了什麼，他給她這些大麥以免空手回家見婆婆等等，一五一十全告訴了婆婆。

18 納敖米聽了之後對她說：

“我女，你等著吧！我相信他今天若不料理此事，必不會心安。”

婚宴

4 1 波阿次就到城門口去，坐在那裏等那個他對盧德提起過的親戚。那人一經過，波阿次便叫住他，邀他一起坐下，

2 波阿次又找來了城中十位長老，要他們一起來同席。3 一切準備就緒，波阿次便對那位親屬說：

“咱們的親戚厄裏默肋客已經過世了，納敖米是他的妻子，剛從摩阿布回來。她想把厄裏默肋客留下的田地賣掉。4 我想我應該在諸位長老面前把整件事告訴你。如果你願意盡義務，那最好，若是不願意，那麼也告訴我一聲，因為在你之後，該負責的就是我了。” 這位親戚答道
“好的，我願意盡這義務！”

5 波阿次繼續剛才的話：

“如果你願意從納敖米手中買下這塊地，就該同時娶咱們親戚在摩阿布留下的遺孀盧德為妻，這樣他的子孫才能繼承其祖先的產業。”

6 “這麼說來，我便不能答應了，免得我自己子孫的權益受害。就由你擔負這個責任吧！” 那親戚對他說。

7 以色列當時有個習俗，即雙方進行一項買賣或交易時，其中一方必須把自己的鞋子脫下來，交給另一方，如同契約一般，以確定雙方達成協定。

8 於是，那位至親便把鞋子脫下來，對波阿次說：

“就由你買下吧！”

9 波阿次見此，便對長老及所有在場的人說道：

“今天我從納敖米手中買下她丈夫厄裏默肋客和她兒子所有的產業，

She told her everything ¹⁷and added:

—He gave me these six measures of barley because, as he said, he did not want me to go back to my mother-in-law empty-handed.

¹⁸Naomi said:

—Wait, my daughter, till you learn what happens, for he will not rest until it is settled today.

The wedding

4 ¹Meanwhile Boaz went to the town gate and sat there waiting for the closer relative about whom he had spoken to Ruth. When he saw him coming, he called him by name and said:

—Come here and sit down.

And so he did.

²Boaz picked out ten from the city elders and asked them to sit with them, which they did. ³Then he said to the other man who also had right of redemption:

—Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. ⁴I thought of bringing this matter to you before our elders here, because as the closer kin you have more right to lay claim to it. But if you have no wish to redeem it, let me know because I am next to you in line.

The man replied:

—I am willing to put in my claim. I will redeem it. ⁵Boaz continued:

—If you buy the land from Naomi, you will also have to take the Moabite Ruth, widow of the late heir, and her sons will inherit the name and the land of the dead.

⁶The man said:

—Then I cannot redeem it, because I might endanger my own estate. Redeem it yourself.

⁷It used to be the custom in Israel that for a contract of redemption or exchange to become binding, one party had to take off his sandal and give it to the other. This act legalized transactions.

⁸So the man took off his sandal and said to Boaz:

—Buy it yourself.

⁹Boaz turned to the elders and all those present.

—This day you are witnesses that I buy from Naomi all the holdings

各位就是我的見證人。10 同時，我也娶瑪赫隆的遺孀即摩阿布女子盧德為妻，好讓死者在嗣業上留名，免得他的名字在兄弟門戶間失傳。”

11 在場的民衆及長老都說：

“我們願爲此作見證。願雅威使你的妻子像那兩位建立了以色列家族的辣黑耳和肋阿一樣，願你在厄弗辣大強大，名揚白冷城！ 12 願你的家族因雅威應允的少婦給你所生的後裔，如同塔瑪爾給猶大所生的兒子培勒茲的家族一般，得享盛名。”

達味族譜

13 於是，波阿次就娶了盧德，蒙主恩賜，盧德懷孕並且生了一個兒子。

14 婦女們向納敖米道賀說：

“讚美主！他沒讓你家斷了子嗣。願他在以色列得享聖名。15 這個孩子是你心靈的安慰，你年老的依靠。因爲這個孩子是敬愛你的兒媳所生。你有盧德這樣的兒媳，實勝過有七個兒子。”

16 納敖米把嬰兒接過來抱在懷裏，做了他的保母。17 街坊領居的婦女們都說：

“納敖米得了個兒子。”

她們給他取名叫敖貝得。敖貝得就是葉瑟的父親，達味的祖父。

of Elimelech, Chilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰I also take Mahlon's widow, Ruth the Moabite, as my wife to raise up a family for her late husband, so that the name of the dead will be restored to his inheritance and be present among his brothers when they gather at the gate of his town. Do you witness this today?

¹¹The elders and all those at the gate answered:

—We witness. May Yahweh make the woman coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you prosper in Ephrathah and be of good standing in Bethlehem. ¹²And through the offspring Yahweh will give you by this woman, may your house become like that of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah.

¹³So Ruth was taken by Boaz and became his wife. Yahweh made her conceive and give birth to a son.

¹⁴The women said to Naomi:

—Blessed be Yahweh who has provided you today with an heir. May he become famous in Israel! ¹⁵He will be your comfort and stay in your old age, for he is born of a daughter-in-law who loves you and is worth more than seven sons.

¹⁶Naomi took the child as her own and became his nurse. ¹⁷And the women of the neighborhood gave him his name, saying:

—A son has been born for Naomi.

They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, who was David's father.