

The Selfish Giant

自私的巨人

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)



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- **Oscar Wilde** (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish writer and poet. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. Wilde's father was a doctor and his mother was poet. they exerted an imperceptible influence on his inspiration in literature and arts.

- From 1871 to 1874, Oscar Wilde was educated at Trinity College (圣三一学院), Dublin, and later at Oxford(1874-1878). Although he won numerous academic prizes, he avoided the normal pursuits of academic life.
- While at Oxford, he fell under the influence of the doctrine of "art for art's sake".

Aestheticism

- Aestheticism is a Victorian literary movement that was begun in the late 19th century.
- Followers of the movement **believed that art should not be mixed with social, political, or moral teaching.**
- Walter Pater's statement **"the love of art for its own sake"** is a good summary of aestheticism.
- The movement had its roots in France, but it gained widespread importance in England in the last half of the nineteenth century, where it helped change the Victorian practice of including moral lessons in literature.
- Oscar Wilde is one of the best-known "aesthetes" of the late nineteenth century.

Aestheticism

- Devoted to a school of thought and a mode of sensibility known as **aestheticism**, Wilde believed that art possesses an intrinsic value—that it is beautiful and therefore has worth and does not need to serve any other purpose, be it moral or political.
- The purpose of art was to guide life, and to do this it must concern itself only with the pursuit of beauty.

Aestheticism

- This attitude was revolutionary in Victorian England, where popular belief held that art was not only a function of morality but also a means of enforcing it.
- Wilde believed that the artist should hold forth higher ideals, and that pleasure and beauty would replace utilitarian ethics.

Main works

■ Novels

The Picture of Dorian Gray(道林·格雷的画像)

■ Fairy tales

The happy prince (快乐王子)

The nightingale and the rose (夜莺与蔷薇)

The selfish Giant (自私的巨人)

The fisherman and his soul (渔人和他的灵魂)

The star-child (星孩)

■ Poems

Poems(诗集)

Sphinx(斯芬克斯)

The Ballad of Reading Gaol(瑞丁监狱之歌)

■ Dramas

Vera(薇拉)

Lady Windermere`s Fan(少奶奶的扇子)

The Duchess of Padua帕都瓦公爵夫人

Salomé (莎乐美)

A Woman of No Importance (无足轻重的女人)

The Importance of Being Earnest(认真的重要性)

An Ideal Husband(理想的丈夫)

■ Essays

The Soul of Man Under Socialism(社会主义下人的灵魂)

■ Letters

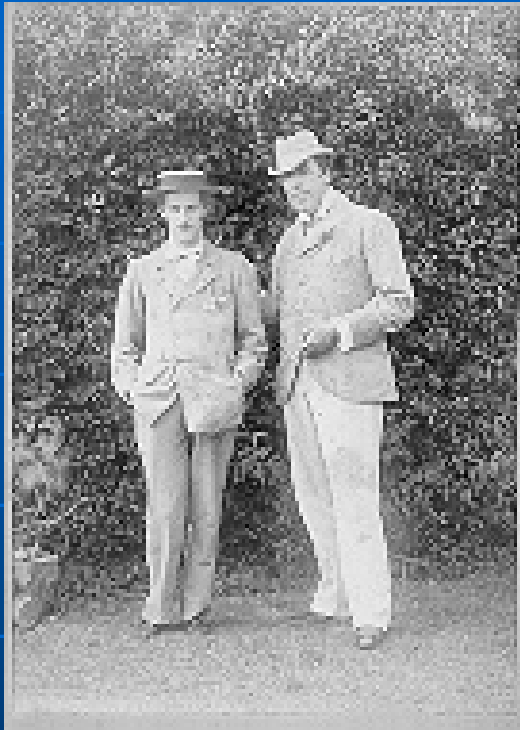
De Profundis(深渊书简)



Sexuality

- Wilde's sexual orientation has variously been considered bisexual or gay. He had significant sexual relationships with Frank Miles, Constance Lloyd (Wilde's wife), Robbie Ross, and Lord Alfred Douglas (known as "Bosie"). Wilde also had numerous sexual encounters with young working-class men, who were often male prostitutes.

*Photographs of Oscar Wilde
& Lord Alfred Douglas*



Date: probably



Place: Oxford
Date: summer 1893



Place: Oxford
Date: summer 1893



- In 1895, Wilde was arrested for "gross indecency" (严重猥亵). He was then imprisoned for two-year hard labor and he received daily visits from Lord Alfred Douglas.

- To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.
- 活着是世上最珍贵，大多数人只是存在，仅此而已。
- there are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.
- 生活里有两个悲剧：一个是没有得到我们想要的，另外一个得到了。

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