



Root of the Matter 事之根 / 巢圣 CHAO 著

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DEDICATION

*To the Author and the Perceptor
of my life and faith*

To Fen and our only son

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Root of the Matter is a bilingual masterpiece meticulously crafted by poet Chao over several years. Through the lens of biblical wisdom—a global spiritual heritage—it profoundly explores the essential states of human existence and their underlying roots. The collection features verses brimming with linguistic tension, refreshingly novel imagery, highly condensed symbolic expressions and surreal artistic imagination, collectively constructing a multidimensional poetic space that bridges the ephemeral and the eternal, the earthly and the spiritual, the mundane and the divine.

With extraordinary talent, Chao achieves a perfect unity between the original and translated poems, as well as between content and form, making each page a visually harmonious aesthetic experience and a transcendent journey through time and space. This unique artistic accomplishment rightfully establishes the collection as a gem of contemporary Chinese poetry.

Reading this collection is akin to an epiphanic voyage of life. In the breath and rhythm of its verses, readers are invited to re-examine the essence of existence; immersed in its poetic cadence, they unconsciously seek the mysteries of eternity; and through its cross-cultural lyrical dialogue, they attain a deep resonance with universal human emotions. More than a bilingual poetry collection, it is a key that unlocks the enigma of life.

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序诗
Prelude

你的沉思默想

在人类的深处
精子卵子般
自由碰撞
自由组合

孕育了
一个
又一个
有骨有肉
地上 天上的国

Your Meditative Thoughts

Deep within humanity
Like sperm and egg
Freely colliding
Freely merging

They conceive
One after another
Flesh and bones
Forming kingdoms on earth
And in celestial spheres

致月亮

你是解谜语的琴声
忘了尘世的语言

你

潜入河中

照亮
树林的根

To the Moon

You are the harp
That deciphers riddles
Having unlearnt the tongue of mortals

You

Dive
Into the river
Illuminating the roots of the grove

第一部分 沉默的出生 Part One Birth in Silence