圣经叙事的讲述和显示

Telling and Showing in the Biblical Narrative

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[英文提要]

"Telling" and "showing" are significant terms in contemporary narrative aesthetics. This paper starts with a revision of related theories from Plato, Henry James to W. C. Booth, by observing their origin, evolution, and manifestation in the Bible. It continues to discuss how biblical narrators tell about character, sentiments, mentalities, knowledge, desires, appearances and clothing of the figures, and how they show the characters through description of their speeches, dialogues and behaviors including habitual behaviors, one-time action, no-action and obscure actions.

一、"讲述"和"显示"

在一批现代文论家看来, "讲述" (telling) 和 "显示" (showing) 体现了古今小说在叙事技巧方面的根本区别。他们声称, 古代故事是"讲述"出来的。以荷马为例, 他热衷于向读者提供深刻而精确的"内部信息", 其中渗透了作者的是非评价, 如谓希腊人是具有"强大灵魂"的"英雄们"; "万军之主"阿伽