

think that these lifted sentences, in their new contexts, are almost the purest and most beautiful parts of the transmission of scholarship.”(A. S. Byatt)

7) To quote and to be quoted: “It is generally supposed that where there is no quotation, there will be found most originality. Our writers usually furnish their pages rapidly with the productions of their own soil: they run up a quickset hedge, or plant a poplar, and get trees and hedges of this fashion much faster than the former landlords procured their timber. The greater part of our writers, in consequence, have become so original, that no one cares to imitate them; and those who never quote, in return are seldom quoted!” (Isaac D’Israeli)

II. What Are the Major Categories of Allusions?

1. Historical-Religious / Mythological-Literary Allusions

In terms of the **sources of allusions**, they can be classified into the following categories:

1) **Historical allusions**, which refer to figures, events and places in history

Examples in Chinese: 冯唐易老、李广难封、卧薪尝胆、胯下之辱、华佗在世、诸葛亮、西施、鸿门宴、三顾茅庐、精忠报国、不为五斗米折腰

Examples in English: Meet one’s Waterloo, Crusade, the Fifth Column, cross one’s Rubicon, leave no stones unturned, Bruce and Spider, Mayflower, D-Day, Gold Rush, Pearl Harbor, Dunkirk

2) **Religious classics, mythological stories, legends and fables**

Examples in Chinese: 聚沙成塔、三生有幸、六根清静、醍醐灌顶、愚公移山、自相矛盾、杞人忧天、高山流水遇知音、三过家门而不入、牛郎织女、田螺姑娘、五福临门

Examples in English: the last supper, Judas, Helen, Prometheus, Cupid, the emperor’s new clothes, Midas’ touch, sour grapes, make bricks with no straw, Magi’s gift, the last straw, birds of a feather, to cry crocodile’s tears, a Baker’s dozen, honeymoon, down and out, take a French leave, have burning ears, a bird of ill omen, a chip on one’s shoulder

3) **Literary allusions**, which refer to characters, plots, places, quotes, etc. in literary works

Examples in Chinese: 晓风残月、大江东去、桃花源、杏花村、窈窕淑女、祥林嫂、陈世美、武大郎开店、阿Q精神、弄璋弄瓦

Examples in English: A pound of flesh, tilt at windmills, Catch-22, Uncle Tom, Utopia, Holmes, Man Friday, the Artful Dodger

