

Beginnings



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著者:Edward W. Said

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A "beginning," especially as embodied in much modern thought, is its own method, Edward Said argues in this classic treatise on the role of the intellectual and the goal of criticism. Distinguishing between "origin," which is divine, mythical, and privileged, and "beginning," which is secular and humanly produced, Said traces the ramifications and diverse understandings of the concept of beginning through history. A beginning is a first step in the intentional production of meaning and the production of difference from preexisting traditions. It authorizes subsequent texts -- it both enables them and limits what is acceptable. Drawing on the insights of Vico, Valery, Nietzsche, Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Husserl, and Foucault, Said recognizes the novel as the major attempt in Western literary culture to give beginnings an authorizing function in experience, art, and knowledge. Scholarship should see itself as a beginning -- as a uniting of theory and practice. Said's insistence on a criticism that is humane and socially responsible is what makes *Beginnings* a book about much more than writing: it is about imagination and action as well as the constraints on freedom and invention that come from human intention and the method of its fulfillment.

作者介绍:

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标签

萨义德

Edward.W.Said

文学批评

文学理论

薩義德

文学理论/批评/研究

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评论

精彩，虽然并不确定有没有能理解到一半的内涵。刚开始读的时候以为会是克默德的counterpart，现在看来萨义德全书的关注面要铺得开的多。中间三章几乎可以看做是关于如何开始写作的现象学，然末两章讨论福柯、结构/解构、Origin的缺失还有维科可能才是重心所在？可参看艾柯在《开放的诗学》中对Serialism VS Structuralism的讨论。|Cf. 知识考古学 Part IV。

Edward Said's early style works, seeing the textual thinking earlier than orientalism, are

the earliest thinking for his mature works and show the academic depth of a literary critic.

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书评

写作，为了一种创世的权威 云也退
阿摩司·奥兹有本演讲集，题目叫“故事开始了”。他写道：“如果我们想写一个故事，开头一句是：‘吉尔伯特出生于盖代拉。她出生的前一天，一场暴风雨把苦楝树连根拔起，并且毁掉了篱笆墙。’我们可能还得讲讲那棵苦楝树是怎么倒的，甚或...

原文：The problem of beginnings is one of those problems that, if allowed to, will confront one with equal intensity on a practical level and a theoretical level. 中译：关于开端的问题，人们在实践和理论层面都会碰到。请问：这样的...

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