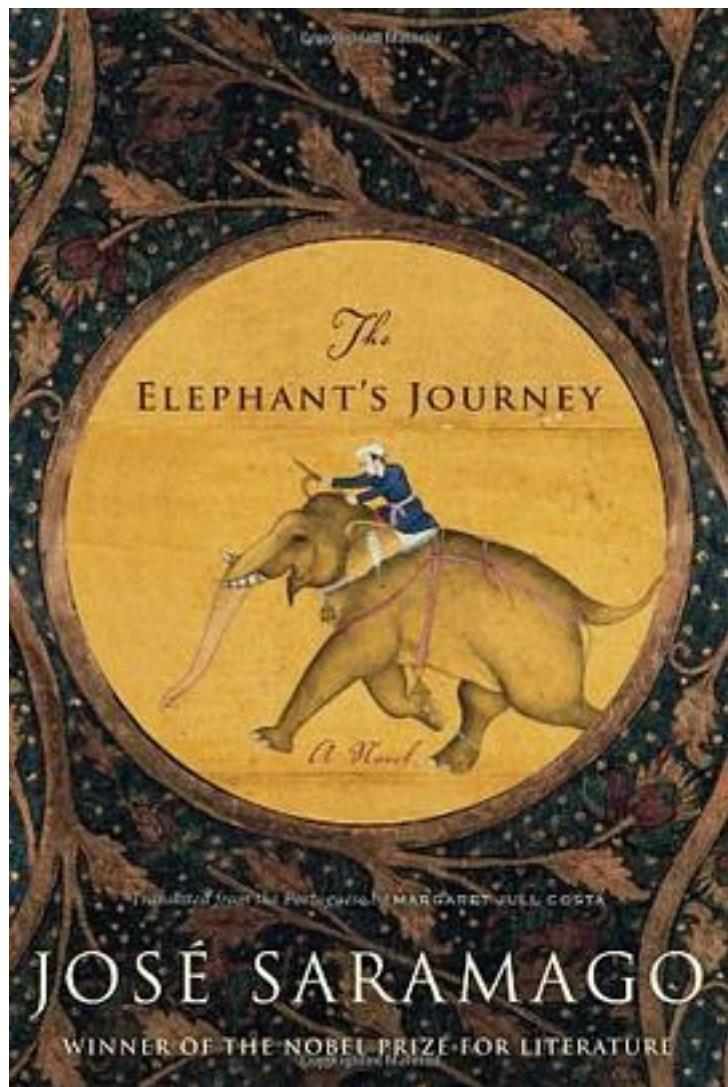


The Elephant's Journey



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著者:Jose Saramago

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In 1551, King João III of Portugal gave Archduke Maximilian an unusual wedding present: an elephant named Solomon. The elephant’s journey from Lisbon to Vienna was witnessed and remarked upon by scholars, historians, and ordinary people. Out of this material, José Saramago has spun a novel already heralded as a triumph of language, imagination, and humor” (El País). Solomon and his keeper, Subhro, begin in dismal conditions, forgotten in a corner of the palace grounds. When it occurs to the king and queen that an elephant would be an appropriate wedding gift, everyone rushes to get them ready: Subhro is given two new suits of clothes and Solomon a long overdue scrub. Accompanied by the Archduke, his new wife, and the royal guard, our unlikely heroes traverse a continent driven by the Reformation and civil wars. They make their way through the storied cities of northern Italy: Genoa, Piacenza, Mantua, Verona, Venice, and Trento, where the Council of Trent is in session. They brave the Alps and the terrifying Isarco and Brenner Passes; they sail across the Mediterranean Sea and up the Inn River (elephants, it turns out, are natural sailors). At last they make their grand entry into the imperial city. The Elephant’s Journey is a delightful, witty tale of friendship and adventure.

作者介绍:

若泽·萨拉马戈 (José Saramago, 1922-2010)

葡萄牙作家。1947年出版首部小说《罪孽之地》，1995年获葡萄牙语文学最高奖项卡蒙斯文学奖。1998年，因其“充满想象、同情和讽喻的寓言故事，不断地使我们对虚幻的现实加深理解”，被授予诺贝尔文学奖。

萨拉马戈的作品风格独特，内涵深刻，作品主题大多关心的是人类的命运与世界的前途。写作手法上，他创立了一种充满想象、隐喻和讽刺的小说类型，赢得了无数读者的赞誉。

他一生创作了数十部小说和其他文学作品，已经被翻译成30多种语言，总销售超过350万册，主要作品包括《修道院纪事》、《洞穴》、《双生》、《石筏》等。

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书评

根据作者的描述，我在 Google Maps 上找了大象沿途经过的主要城市，如下图：因为作者的描述有详有略，我们所得到的地图也是有详有略。从 Roses 到 Genoa 是海上航行；大公去了 Venice，大象沒有去，而是留在了 Padua (Subhru 卖象毛的地方)；翻过 Alps，从 Innsbruck ...

一头来自印度的亚洲象被葡萄牙宫廷作为礼物送往维也纳。一路上，象夫与士兵护送着大象，经历了种种荒诞离奇的遭遇，最终历尽艰辛抵达目的地。小说根据真实事件改编，作者借大象之旅的见闻，从多个角度对社会进行了批判：权力的专横，教会的荒唐，民众的愚昧等都是作者关注的重...

JOSÉ SARAMAGO (1922–2010) was the author of many novels, among them *Blindness*, *All the Names*, *Baltasar and Blimunda*, and *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis*. In 1998 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Margaret Jull Costa won both the 2008...

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