

Unit 7  
Reading B

Farewell My Lady 《别了，我的夫人》 《霸王别姬》

1 The Chu army under Xiang Yu's leadership was one of the principal armed forces made up of peasant rebels to war as the end of the Qin Dynasty. At the Battle of Julu, his troops defeated over three hundred thousand of the Qin troops, which eventually led to the downfall of the Qin Dynasty. Though young, Xiang Yu was a brave man of enormous strength and outstanding talents. On the battlefield, he always rode on his warhorse named Wuzhui, and carried a spear of one zhang and eight cun. Having no fear of death, he put all to rout wherever he went. After Qin's fall, he boasted about his achievement, and thought highly of himself, proclaiming himself the Hegemon of Western Chu. "He divided the empire that had been unified under the Qin Dynasty into eight kingdoms and granted each into account his own personal preference instead of that person's battle achievement or military power, which annoyed the vassal kings. Liu Bang, who was the most powerful among them, was given the title "King of Han" and given to rule the domains of Ba, Shu and Hanzhong, which had been the area where the Qin Dynasty had exiled criminals. As a result, Liu Bang hated Xiang Yu very much. He was a subtle and ingenious person. He adopted the strategies devised by his advisors, conserved his army's strength and energy, and waited for good opportunities. He attacked Xiang Yu's territory many times when Xiang Yu was busy assaulting other Kingdoms. Xiang Yu fell into a rage at this, and started a war with Liu Bang relying on his military superiority. The war lasted for five years, exhausting both sides' soldiers and logistic support.

项羽领导下的楚军是秦朝末年农民起义军的主要武装力量之一。在巨鹿之战中，他的部队击败了三十多万秦军，最终导致了秦朝的灭亡。虽然年轻，但项羽是一个勇敢且拥有巨大力量和杰出才能的人。在战场上，他总是骑着名为乌骓的战马，手持一丈八寸长的长矛。他毫不畏惧死亡，所到之处皆能将敌人击溃。秦朝灭亡后，他夸耀自己的成就，自视甚高，自称西楚霸王。他将秦朝统一的帝国划分为八个王国，并根据自己的个人喜好而不是根据那个人的战功或军事实力进行分封，这激怒了诸侯王。其中最强大的刘邦被封为“汉王”，被赋予统治巴、蜀和汉中地区的权力，这里曾是秦朝流放罪犯的地方。因此，刘邦非常痛恨项羽。他是一个机智巧妙的人。他采纳谋士的策略，保存军队的实力和精力，等待良机。当项羽忙于攻打其他王国时，他多次攻击项羽的领土。项羽对此勃然大怒，凭借自己的军事优势与刘邦开战。这场战争持续了五年，耗尽了双方的士兵和后勤补给。

2 Xiang Yu was heroically brave and his subordinates were all valiant and good at fighting. Han Xin, Liu Bang's chief general, spied out the land in person together with his advisors and finally decided to set up a coordinated ambush from the sides at Mount Jiuli. Meanwhile, he sent his eloquent advisor Li Zuoche to feign surrender to Xiang Yu and win his trust so as to lead him into the trap. But Xiang Yu fought with his spear in hand and defeated lots of Han troops. At the crucial and extremely dangerous moment, Xiang Yu's subordinates gave up their own lives to help him break out of the encirclement.

项羽英勇无畏，他的部下都很勇猛善战。刘邦的大将韩信与他的谋士亲自勘察地形，最终决定在九里山设下两侧协同的埋伏。同时，他派遣能言善辩的谋士李左车假装向项羽投降并赢得他的信任，以便将他引入陷阱。但是项羽手持长矛作战，击败了许多汉军。在关键时刻和

极度危险的时刻，项羽的部下舍弃自己的生命帮助他突破包围。

3 Having suffered a crushing defeat, Xiang Yu returned to his barracks with a livid face. His lady Yuji was sad and pained, for she had never seen her husband defeated before. However, she put her emotions under control and tried her best to comfort Xiang Yu. They believed that as long as they firmly defended their camp and launched no more attacks, the Han army would retreat when they ran out of the provisions. Unfortunately, it didn't occur to them that their own grain depot had been burnt down by the Han army and their supply lines cut off. Hence the soldiers of the Chu army began to complain and their morale was low.

遭受了惨败后，项羽脸色铁青地回到了自己的军营。他的夫人虞姬伤心痛苦，因为她以前从未见过自己的丈夫被打败。然而，她控制住自己的情绪，尽力安慰项羽。他们认为只要他们坚守营地，不再发动进攻，汉军在耗尽粮草后就会撤退。不幸的是，他们没有想到自己的粮仓已经被汉军烧毁，补给线也被切断了。因此，楚军士兵开始抱怨，士气低落。

4 In his tent, Xiang Yu was at a loss, unable to see any way out of the dire situation. Yuji set out wine for him to cheer him up a bit. Gusts of wind shuddered the barracks and blew through the branches of the trees, sounding like the cries of many ghosts. Xiang Yu couldn't help sighing, saying that it was Heaven's will that Chu's reign be toppled. As it got dark, Yuji suggested to him that he have a rest. She felt upset at Xiang Yu's words and so made an inspection tour around the camp.

在帐篷里，项羽不知所措，看不到摆脱这可怕困境的任何办法。虞姬为他摆上酒，想让他振作一点。阵阵狂风使军营颤抖，吹过树枝，听起来像许多鬼魂的哭声。项羽不禁叹息，说这是天意要推翻楚国的统治。天黑了，虞姬建议他休息一下。她为项羽的话感到难过，于是在营地周围巡视。

5 The moon was bright and it was quiet during the late night. The wind seemed to be carrying a faint sound of familiar songs. The sounds were coming from the Han army's camp—but strange!—the sounds were of folk songs from the Chu region. This was a scheme devised by Han Xin to depress the Chu army's morale. He had ordered his Han soldiers and captured Chu soldiers to learn and sing the folk songs of the Chu region. The sound of these songs reminded the soldiers of Chu army of their parents, wives, children, and their hometowns and created a false impression that their native land had been conquered by Liu Bang's army. Thinking of how they were trapped at Gaixia without provisions of reinforcements, and hearing the touching songs of their hometown, the Chu soldiers lost their will to fight, and they began to desert the army in droves.

月亮明亮，深夜十分安静。风似乎带着一种微弱的熟悉歌声。声音来自汉军营地——但奇怪的是！——这些声音是楚地的民歌。这是韩信设计的一个削弱楚军士气的计谋。他命令他的汉军士兵和被俘的楚军士兵学习并演唱楚地的民歌。这些歌曲的声音让楚军士兵想起了他们的父母、妻子、孩子和他们的家乡，并制造了一种他们的故土已被刘邦军队占领的假象。想到他们被困在垓下，没有粮草和援兵，又听到家乡动人的歌声，楚军士兵失去了战斗的意志，他们开始成群结队地逃离军队。

6 Having heard the disturbing sounds being carried over the wind during her inspection tour, Yuji immediately woke up Xiang Yu to listen for himself. On hearing the Chu songs he sank into dismay, convinced that the Han army had already conquered the that maybe the two of them

would never meet again after that day. Yuji cried her heart out at his words.

虞姬在巡营时听到随风传来的令人不安的声音，立刻叫醒项羽让他亲自听听。项羽一听到楚歌，便陷入沮丧之中，确信汉军已经占领了楚地，觉得也许从那天起他们两人就再也无法相见了。虞姬听了他的话，悲痛欲绝。

7 The warhorse Wuzhui whinnied a sorrowful neigh outside the barracks. Xiang Yu went to it and affectionately stroked it, the loyal animal being a beloved companion to him on the battlefield. The horse looked at now the her husband. She led Xiang Yu back into his tent and served him with wine. After drinking for a while, he chanted in a heroic but mournful tone: I could pull down mountains with might and main; But my good fortune wanes, and my steed won't fight; Whether my steed will fight or not, I no longer care; What can be done about it, my lady fair!

战马乌骓在营外发出悲伤的嘶鸣。项羽走到它身边，深情地抚摸着它，这匹忠诚的动物是他在战场上心爱的伙伴。虞姬看着自己的丈夫。她领着项羽回到帐篷，为他斟上酒。喝了一会儿酒，他以豪迈而又哀伤的语调吟唱道：“力拔山兮气盖世，时不利兮骓不逝。骓不逝兮可奈何，虞兮虞兮奈若何！”

8 Yuji had never heard such sad singing from her husband before during her company with him for many years. She realized that she did not have much time any more to be with him. Consequently, she dressed herself up and took a sword in hand, singing and dancing for him.

虞姬在多年陪伴丈夫的日子里从未听过他如此悲伤的吟唱。她意识到自己和他在一起的时间不多了。于是，她精心打扮自己，手持宝剑，为他唱歌跳舞。

9 Xiang Yu was drinking down his sorrows when a scout reported that the Han army had launched a converging attack. Xiang Yu put on his armor at once and urged Yuji to equip herself so as to be able to fight her way out with him. Yuji did not want to be a burden on her husband, however. She took out Xiang Yu's sword when he was not noticing and then and there committed suicide with it. Xiang Yu was overwhelmed with grief.

项羽借酒浇愁之时，一名探子来报说汉军发动了合围攻击。项羽立刻披上铠甲，并催促虞姬武装起来，以便能和他一起杀出重围。然而，虞姬不想成为丈夫的负担。趁项羽没注意，她拿出项羽的剑，当场用剑自刎。项羽悲痛欲绝。