

# On The Town 都市掠影

## The House of Lords

### 英国上议院



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**Helen:** Neil, are you interested in government buildings?

**Neil:** Well, it depends on which ones. Why are you asking, Helen?

**Helen:** I was invited to tea at the House of Lords last week. 我上周去参观了英国上议院。

**Neil:** Really, the House of Lords, now that's impressive. Who invited you?

**Helen:** A lord of course. Lord Wei. 英国上议院的韦鸣恩勋爵请我喝了杯茶。

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*Actually, I am the third Chinese lord. There's two others, one Baroness Dunn who doesn't work at the House of Lords, but she's still around. And then there's Michael Chan, who was the first Chinese peer. I am the only active one now and also the youngest.*

**Helen:** 原来历史上在英国上议院里有 3 位华裔上议员，不过现在只有 Lord Wei 韦勋爵还在参加议会讨论。He's the only active Chinese lord.

**Neil:** So what can Lord Wei tell us about the House of Lords then?

**Helen:** 他告诉我议会大厦建造时间并不太久，不过装潢非常华丽，ornate.

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*The parliamentary state has been here for about 1,000 years, so it's very old indeed. But the more recent buildings, House of Commons, the House of Lords were built in the mid nineteenth century. So it's about 160, 170 years old. It's a very beautiful ornate building. Lots of rooms, a thousand or so rooms. And it's just amazing working here.*

**Neil:** A thousand rooms in the Houses of Parliament. That's great place for playing hide and seek, don't you think?

**Helen:** Hide and seek 就是捉迷藏。议会大厦有 1000 多个房间，那简直就是捉迷藏的好地方。

**Neil:** The actual parliament buildings, the House of Commons, the House of Lords were built in the mid nineteenth century.

**Helen:** 上议院我们知道是 **the House of Lords**, 那么下议院是 **the House of Commons**. 议会大楼是 19 世纪中修建的。是伦敦的地标性建筑。

**Neil:** I wonder what's it like to work in this building. There must be lots of protocols or rules to follow.

**Helen:** 规则 **protocols**, 那当然。在英国最高政府大楼里工作, 肯定免不了很多规矩。

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*There's a lot of tradition, and a lot of protocols and rules you have to follow. Many of which have been developed over hundreds and hundreds of years. But on the whole, a lot of them are very wise, a lot of them have rich meaning and wisdom about them.*

**Neil:** Lord Wei says that there are lots of traditions, protocols and rules people need to follow.

**Helen:** **Protocols, traditions, rules** 都有传统, 规则的意思。韦勋爵说这些规矩都是几百年传下来的。不过他认为都很有道理 **have rich meanings**, 还含有智慧 **have wisdom about them**.

**Neil:** Actually, I am also very interested to know how people become lords. Did you ask Lord Wei, Helen?

**Helen:** Yes, I did.

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*How do people become lords?*

*To become a lord, you are generally appointed. That means either the Prime Minister or one of the leaders of the various parties, puts you forward to be chosen as a nominee. Then there's a process where the Queen and others officially grant that peerage.*

**Helen:** 韦勋爵告诉我现在的勋爵和上议员多数是被任命的 **appointed**. 首先由首相推荐作为勋爵候选人, **a nominee**.

**Neil:** And these nominees then go through a process where they are officially granted a peerage by the Queen.

**Helen:** **Peerage** 就是贵族头衔。如果被选中, 还要经过英国女王正式的授勋, 才能成为正式的终身贵族和上议会议员。

**Neil:** Appointment is one way to become a lord, but I think there are still a small number of a hereditary lords.

**Helen:** Hereditary 遗传的，世袭的。还是有一小部分的上议员是世袭贵族，他们的爵位是祖传下来的。

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*And there are still a small number of people who are actually able to come in because of their parentage. Because historically they were part of the aristocracy of Britain. When one dies, they get to chose between them who should replace them.*

**Helen:** Aristocracy 也是贵族，而且是家族历史悠久的世袭贵族。

**Neil:** There are still a number of aristocrats in the UK, but very few of them are in the House of Lords.

So did Lord Wei have any thoughts for our listeners in China?

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*Well, I think the time has come really for young Chinese to stretch their wings and to really pursue all kinds of different passions. I am excited to see young Chinese becoming fashion designers, artists, entering politics, entering public life in some form. And I think that's to be encouraged to get a diversity of Chinese all throughout society.*

**Helen:** 能够伸展我们年轻人的翅膀 to stretch our wings. 开阔眼界，努力追求梦想 pursue all kinds of passions.

**Neil:** So what dreams and passion have you got?

**Helen:** Well, maybe I could be the next Chinese baroness in the House of Lords? I'd love to have tea there every day.

**Neil:** Baroness Hu? You'd better start working hard then.

**Helen:** 谢谢你的忠告。我会为我的梦想努力的。好，我们今天的节目就到这里，下次再会。

**Neil:** Bye.