

Bilingual Chinese Classics

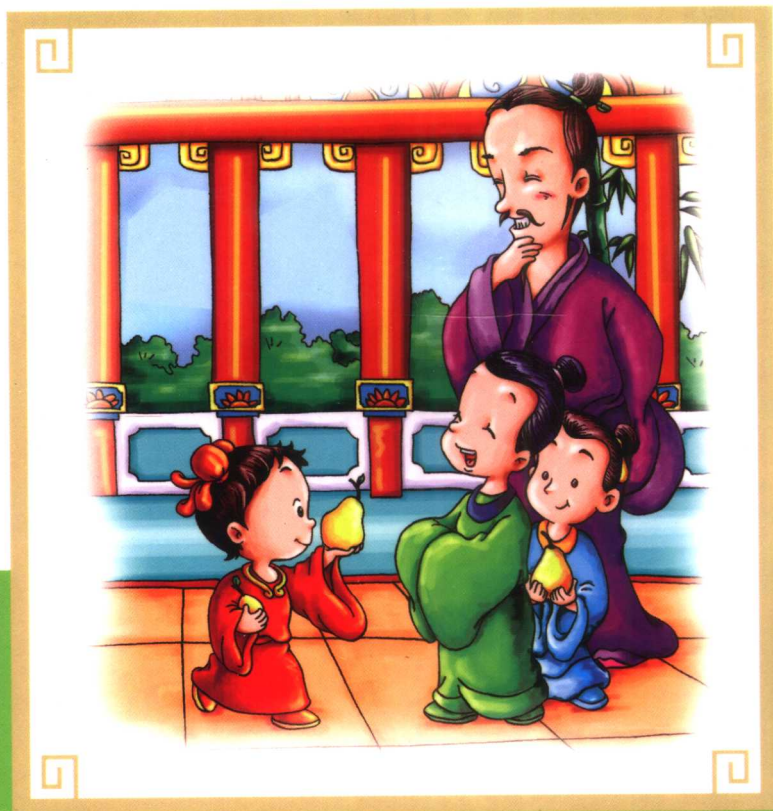
中英文对照

三字经

—Three Character Primer—

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Three Character Primer



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感谢中文编写者孜孜不倦，数易其稿，使本书十分符合青少年的阅读习惯，精心挑选的故事内容紧贴原文，情节启人心智。

感谢英文译者在翻译本书时查阅大量资料，并严格按照中小学英语教学大纲的要求，由浅入深地搭配词汇、语法和注释。

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开中国蒙学经典教学英译之先河
在快乐的故事中学习英语
首次使英语学习闪耀着民族文化的光芒

资深少儿英语教师倾力翻译
加拿大籍资深英语专家 Jayne Rutledge 女士严格审校

这是一部伴随过无数中国人成长、能够影响读者一生的蒙学经典

rén zhī chū xìng běn shàn xìng xiāng jìn xí xiāng yuǎn
 人 之 初^①，性^②本 善。性 相 近，习^③相 远。
 gōu bù jiào xìng nǎi qiān jiào zhī dào guì yǐ zhuān^⑥
 苟^④不 教，性 乃 迁^⑤。教 之 道，贵 以 专^⑥。
 xī mèng mǔ zé lín chǔ zǐ bù xué duàn jī zhù^⑨
 昔^⑦孟 母，择^⑧邻 处。子 不 学，断 机 杼^⑨。
 dòu yān shān yǒu yì fāng jiào wǔ zǐ míng jù yáng^⑩
 窦 燕 山，有 义^⑩方。教 五 子，名 俱 扬。

【译文】

人刚出生的时候本性都是善良的，在成长过程中由于生活和学习的环境不同性情也就有了好与坏的差别。

如果在儿时得不到良好的教育，善良的本性就会变坏，教育孩子最重要的是要专心致志。

古时候，孟子的母亲为了使孟子有一个良好的学习环境搬了三次家。一次孟子逃学，孟母就割断了正在纺织的纱线，以此来教育孟子。

五代时燕山人窦禹均教育儿子很有方法，他的五个儿子都很有成就，名扬四海。

【注释】

①初：出生。

②性：人的天性，性情。

③习：学习，模仿。

④苟：如果。

⑤迁：改变。

⑥专：专心，专一。

⑦昔：过去。

⑧择：选择。

⑨机杼：织布的纱线。

⑩义：好的，优秀的。

People are very good when they are first born. They are very much alike^①. Then when they grow up in different living and learning environments^②, their characters become very different too.

They will be bad if they don't have good education when they are very young. The most important^③ thing is to concentrate on^④ educating them.

A long time ago Meng Zi's mother moved her home three times^⑤. She only wanted to get a good learning environment for Meng Zi. Once when Meng Zi cut class, his mother cut the cloth off the loom and began to^⑥ educate him.

In the Wu Dynasty, Dou Yu Jun who lived in Yan Shan had a good way to teach his son. His five sons made great achievements and were famous in the world.

Notes

- ① alike: 相像
- ② environment: 环境
- ③ the most important: 最重要的
- ④ concentrate on: 集中精力做某事
- ⑤ three times: 三次
- ⑥ began to: 开始做某事 (began 是 begin 的过去式)

孟母三迁

孟子是我国著名的思想家和教育家。他三岁丧父由母亲抚养长大。孟母很有教养,非常重视对孟子的教育。

孟家住在坟地附近,孟子在游戏时常模仿别人上坟,孟母认为在这里居住不适合教育儿子,便把家迁到了城里集市附近。

可是他家处于闹市中,打铁声、杀猪声、叫卖声终日不断,小孟子就又玩起了做买卖的游戏,孟母觉得这个地方也不适合孟子学习,便再次把家搬迁到城东的学校对面居住。学校那里的环境很好,书声琅琅,读书的氛围很浓。孟子回到家里就模仿学校的人,谦让有礼并喜欢学习,孟母终于放心地带着孟子在这里居住下来。

后来孟子成为中国历史上的圣贤,“孟母三迁”教子的故事也流传至今。



Meng Zi's Mother Moved her Home three Times

Meng Zi was a great thinker and educator in China. His father died when he was three years old. He grew up^① with his mother. His mother was very cultured^②. She attached importance to educating Meng Zi.

There was a cemetery near Meng Zi's home. Meng Zi often imitated funerals. She didn't think it was beneficial to^③ his study, so she moved to the city near the market.

However his home was in the noisy market. The sounds of black-smithing, pig slaughtering and crying never stopped. Little Meng Zi played the game of doing business^④. Meng Zi's mother thought it was really hard to concentrate on^⑤ studying, so she moved to the east of the city. Her home was opposite^⑥ a school. The environment there was very good. Students read loudly all the time. People were in a great learning atmosphere. Soon Meng Zi concentrated on learning. When he was at home, he began to imitate the environment and became very polite. He liked studying, so his mother lived here with him finally.

The story of Meng Zi's mother moving her home three times spread now. Later Meng Zi became a great sage in China's history.

Notes

- ① grew up: 长大, 成长 (grew 是 grow 的过去式)
- ② cultured: 有教养的
- ③ be beneficial to: 对...有利, 有利于
- ④ do business: 做生意
- ⑤ concentrate on: 集中精力
- ⑥ opposite: 在...对面

Questions

1. Who was Meng Zi?
A great thinker and educator in China.
2. Who moved home three times?
His mother.

yǎng bú jiào fù zhī guò jiào bù yán shī zhī duò
 养^①不教，父之过^②。教不严^③，师之惰^④。
 zǐ bù xué fēi suǒ yí yòu bù xué lǎo hé wéi
 子不学，非所宜^⑤。幼不学，老何为？
 yù bù zhuó bù chéng qì rén bù xué bù zhī yì
 玉不琢^⑥，不成器。人不学，不知义^⑦。
 wéi rén zǐ fāng shǎo shí qīn shī yǒu xí lǐ yí
 为人子，方^⑧少时。亲师友，习礼仪。

【译文】

生养儿女却不给予良好的教育，是父亲的过错。教育学生而不严格要求，是做老师的失职。

小孩子不好好学习是不应该的。年少的时候不读书学习，到老的时候就不会有什么作为了。

璞(pú)玉如果不经过打磨，就不会成为精美的器物。人如果不努力学习，就不会懂得知识和道理。

为人子弟，从小应该亲近良师益友，学习礼节之事。

【注释】

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| ① 养：养育。 | ⑤ 宜：应该，适当。 |
| ② 过：过错。 | ⑥ 琢：琢磨。 |
| ③ 严：严格。 | ⑦ 义：道理。 |
| ④ 惰：懒惰。 | ⑧ 方：正当，刚刚。 |

It's the fault of the father if they don't educate children well and only feed them; and it is the teacher's dereliction of duty that they don't make strict demands on children.

Children are supposed to^① work hard. If a man doesn't work hard when he is young, he will not have any knowledge in his old age. A jade can't be a useful object if it's not ground^② and carved first. If a person doesn't study hard, he will not have the knowledge and the right way^③.

To be a daughter or son, you'd better approach^④ good teachers and friends in your childhood and learn etiquette^⑤ from them.

Notes

- ① be supposed to: 应该
- ② ground: 打磨 (ground 是 grind 的过去分词)
- ③ he will not have the knowledge and the right way. 人如果不努力学习, 就不会懂得知识和道理。
- ④ approach: 接近
- ⑤ etiquette: 礼节

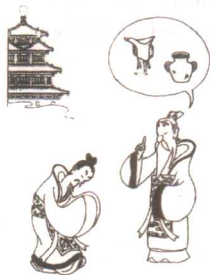
玉器和瓦罐

韩昭侯平时说话不注意,经常无意间泄露机密,大家对此很伤脑筋,却又不好直言相劝。

有一位聪明人堂谿(xī)公到韩昭侯那里对昭侯说:“假如有一只价值千金的玉制酒器,中间是空的,但没有底,它能盛水吗?”韩昭侯说:“不能盛水。”堂谿公又说:“有一只不值钱的瓦罐子,但它不漏,您说它能盛酒吗?”韩昭侯说:“当然可以。”

堂谿公因势利导地说:“瓦罐子虽然值不了几文钱,但因为它不漏,却可以用来装酒;而一个玉制酒器尽管它十分贵重,却由于它空而无底,连水都不能装。人也是一样,作为一国国君如果经常泄露国家机密,那么即使再有才干也将无法很好地施展。”

这一番话说得韩昭侯恍然大悟,从此以后,凡是要采取的重要措施韩昭侯都小心对待,以免耽误了国家大事。



Jade Objects and Earthen Jars

Han Zhaozhou talked carelessly most of the time, so he let out^① secrets sometimes. Everybody thought he was troublesome, but did not dare to^② tell him directly.

A man named Tang Xigong was very clever, so he went to Han Zhaozhou and said, "If there's a jade object^③ that is very expensive, but it's hollow in the middle^④ and it has no bottom, can it hold any water?" Han Zhaozhou said. "No, it can't." Then Tang Xigong said, "There's an earthen jar, very cheap, but it doesn't leak. Can it hold any wine?" Han Zhaozhou said, "Yes, it can."

So Tang Xigong went on saying^⑤, "That's right. Though an earthen jar is cheap, it can be used to hold wine because it doesn't leak; but because the expensive jade object is hollow in the middle and has no bottom, it can't hold even water. It's the same to people. If a person as a king often lets out state secrets, he'd be like a bottomless^⑥ jade object. No matter how talented he is, he can't display his ability or strategy if his secrets are let out often. He couldn't carry out his plans"

His words made Han Zhaozhou understand the truth. From then on Han Zhaozhou was very careful when he took important actions. He didn't want to endanger state affairs.

Notes

- ① let out: 泄漏
- ② dare to: 敢于
- ③ jade object: 玉器
- ④ in the middle: 在中间
- ⑤ went on saying: 继续说 (went 是 go 的过去式)
- ⑥ bottomless: 没底的

Questions

1. Who went to talk to Han Zhaozhou?
Tang Xigong.
2. Did Han Zhaozhou become a good man later?
Yes, he did.

xiāng jiǔ líng néng wēn xī xiào yú qīn suǒ dāng zhí
 香^①九龄，能温^②席。孝^③于亲，所当执^④。
 róng sì suì néng ràng lí tì yú zhǎng yí xiān zhī^⑦
 融^⑤四岁，能让梨。弟^⑥于长，宜先知^⑦。
 shǒu xiào tì cì jiàn wén zhī mǒu shù shí mǒu wén
 首^⑧孝悌^⑨，次见闻。知某^⑩数，识某文。
 yī ér shí shí ér bǎi bǎi ér qiān qiān ér wàn
 一而十，十而百。百而千，千而万。

【译文】

东汉黄香九岁时就知道在冬天用自己的身体为父亲温暖被窝，孝顺父母是所有儿女应尽职责。

东汉孔融四岁时就懂得把大梨让给哥哥吃，做弟弟的要尊敬兄长，这个道理应尽早知道。

一个人首先要孝敬父母、尊敬兄长。接下来要多见识天下事理，学会基本的算术，认识文字，阅读文学。

一到十是基本数字、十个十是一百，十个百是一千，十个千是一万，依次类推。

【注释】

①香：黄香。

②温：温暖。

③孝：孝顺。

④执：学习。

⑤融：孔融。

⑥弟：即悌。

⑦知：知道。

⑧首：首先。

⑨悌：尊重哥哥。

⑩某：基本的意义。

When Huang Xiang in the Eastern Han Dynasty was only nine, he used his own body to warm his father's quilt in winter. Filial piety^① was the responsibility of all children.

Another man lived in the Eastern Han Dynasty named Kong Rong. He offered^② the big pear to his older brother^③ at the age of four. Younger brothers should respect their older brothers. This virtue^④ of modesty should be known from our childhood.

A man should first show filial obedience to his parents, respect his brothers and then know the things of the world. He should learn basic mathematics, recognize words and read literature.

The basic numbers are from 1 to 10. Ten tens will be one hundred, and ten hundreds will be one thousand. Ten thousands will be ten thousand and so on.

Notes

① filial piety: 孝顺

② offered: 主动给予, 提供; 让 (offer 的过去式)

③ older brother: 哥哥

④ virtue: 美德