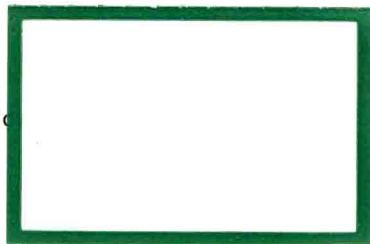


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小时候喜欢蹲在地上看蚂蚁。总是能从蚂蚁的生活中发现许多乐趣。大了以后不再看蚂蚁，而只顾及自己，蚂蚁从我的世界远去。偶尔从“动物世界”中再看到蚂蚁，带着一种人的宽容与自以为是，总感觉蚂蚁很像人。它们和人一样觅食、繁衍、结群、打架，甚至像人一样知道埋葬同伴的尸体。某一天又蹲下来仔细地看蚂蚁，才发现原来不是蚂蚁像人，而是人才真正像蚂蚁。高高在上时，人看不见蚂蚁，以为人可以主宰小小蚂蚁的生命，蹲下来时，才发现人和蚂蚁一样值得怜悯，人在宇宙之中脆弱如蚂蚁。只有放低自己，蹲下来看世界才会发现世界的真谛。人和蚂蚁，本是同类。

When I was a little child, I was fond of squatting down to watch ants. Their lives were so amusing and interesting to me. But when I have grown up, I rarely watched them any more. I spent all my time on my own concerns, and ants fade away from my world. Once in a while, when I watched a special TV program "Animal World" with human being's tolerance and arrogance, I found that ants were similar to human beings. They seek for food, reproduce, form groups, fight, and even bury their companions' bodies as we do. But one day, when I squatted down to see the ants again, I realized that it is not ants that look like human, but human that are like ants. From our high perspective, we can't see ants clearly. We believe that the little ants are under our control. But when we get close to them, we could realize that human beings are as pitiable as ants, because when we are in the vast universe, we are as fragile as ants. The only way to find the truth of the world is to squat down to watch the world carefully by placing ourselves in a lower position. In essence, human beings and ants are the same.

· 2 · 3 · 我是一只蚂蚁，你看不见我，并非我的世界一片黑暗，只是因为我小得难以进入你的视线。

I am an ant. You can't see me. It is not because my world is too dark, but because I am too little to enter your sight.

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· 4 · 5 · 第一次来到这个世界，迎接我的是正午的阳光。阳光很亮，无边无际地铺在地上，我被独自晾在了中央，孤单得有点害怕。

The first time I came into the world, I was welcomed by the sunshine of high noon. The sunshine shone down on everything with infinite brightness. I was lost in the vastness of it, lonely and afraid.

· 6 · 7 · 孤独的时候，有人喜欢和影子作伴，低头一看，才发现我的影子竟然小得可以忽略不计。我没有影子，于是，影子就成了我的一个梦想。

Lonely people often think of taking their own shadow as their companion. But when I looked down to find my own shadow, it turned out that my shadow was too little to be called a real shadow. I had no shadow. So finding a shadow of my own became one of my dreams.





· 8 · 9 · 蜗牛说，他也害怕无边无际的阳光，我劝他和我一起去找影子。他说不用，他的影子就背在背上，他可以随时随地缩进他的影子里躲避阳光，可我的影子在哪？

The snail said he was afraid of the boundless sunshine, too. I persuaded him that we should go to look for our shadows together. He said no. His shadow was on his back. Whenever and wherever he wanted to avoid the sunshine, he could withdraw into his little shadow. But where was my shadow?



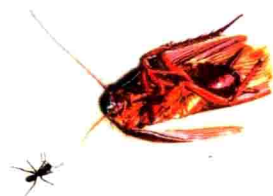
· 10 · 11 · 终于，我找到了第一片影子，在无数的车轮下面。我激动得想奔过去，可它飘忽不定，我忽然感到一阵眩晕。

At last, I found a small piece of shadow, under innumerable wheels. I was so excited that I wanted to rush over to it, but it drifted from place to place. Suddenly I felt a little dizzy.



· 12 · 13 · 醒来之后，眼前出现的是一只被轧破肚皮的蟑螂，也许他也曾经像我一样渴望影子，想在影子下躲避阳光，却为了影子被车轮碾去了生命。

When I recovered a bit, I found a cockroach that had been squished by those wheels in front of me. Maybe like me, he had been longing for the shadow in order to avoid the sunshine, but his life was crushed to pieces by those wheels.





· 14 · 15 · 于是我决定不再去找影子，终日小心翼翼地看护着自己的性命。初次遭遇强敌，我在心里拼命地抱怨自己太小，小得不足以保卫自己。

Then I decided not to search for my shadow anymore and to try my best to always guard myself from danger. The first time I came across a formidable foe, I desperately bemoaned my tiny stature. I was too puny to protect myself.

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