英语谚语选

重庆出版社

Selected English Proverbs

英 语 谚 语 选

(英汉对照)

董吉清 编译 金 丁 审校

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董吉·精编译 金 丁审校

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前 言

谚语,是广大群众在长年累月的社会实践中对各种事物的经验和体会的总结。各国的谚语,都是在群众中广为流行的固定语句。它用简单通俗的话反映了深刻的哲理。掌握了大量的谚语,有助于我们更深刻地认识世界上的各种事物和生活中的复杂现象。为此,我们把多年来从很多英文书刊和辞典中收集到的谚语选了两千条(少数是格言和成语),分类编译成册,奉献给广大读者。

这些英语谚语,反映了使用英语的国民,从各个不同角度对不同事物的看法。大多言简意赅、发人深省、值得借鉴。读者从中还可以了解到西方的一些风俗人情。尽管有些内容不大合符我国的生活习惯,但是,"他山之石,可以攻玉"。我们只要本量批判吸收的原则,是可以做到"洋为中用"的。

同时,我们还想通过英汉对照的方式(直译加意译), 来帮助广大英语爱好者熟悉一些名言警句,掌握一些好的句型、掌握同一内容的几种表达方式、记住大量的单词,从而提高对英语的阅读和理解能力。

在编译过程中,我们得到了 王冠华 等许多同志的大力

支持, 在此一并表示感谢。

由于编译者水平有限,在某些译文的准确性上,尤其是归类编排的条理性上,都存在一些问题,敬请读者批评指正。

一九八三年三月

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真 理 篇

真 理 与 谎 言

Truth is the daughter of time. 真理是时间的女儿。

There is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous.

从伟大到可笑只差一步; 真理跟谬误之间仅差一步。

Sooner or later, the truth comes to light.

真相迟早会大白。

The greater the truth, the greater the libel.

真理越明, 诽谤越凶。

Truth will prevail.

真理必胜。

Truth and roses have thorns about them.

真理和玫瑰, 身旁都有刺。

Truth hath a good face, but ill clothes.

真理面目善良, 但衣衫褴褛。

Truth and oil are ever above.

真理犹如油总是在水面上; 真理总会战胜谎言。

Truth needs no colour.

真理不需用花言巧语装饰。

Time is the father of truth.

时间是真理之父。

Time tries truth.

时间检验真理。

Time tries all things.

时间是检验真理的尺度; 时间考验一切。

Truth's best ornament is nakedness.

不加掩饰乃是真理的最好装饰。

Craft must have clothes, but truth loves to go naked.

诡计需要伪装, 真理喜欢阳光。

An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told.

诚实的故事, 哪怕是平淡地讲, 也传得最快。

True praise roots and spreads.

赞词真实才能生根和传播。

Much water runs by the mill that the miller knows not of.

眼前发生许多事,有些我们并不知。

There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.

事情往往会功亏一篑; 凡事都难以十拿十稳。

If the wishes were horses, beggars might ride.

要是愿望等于事实, 乞丐也早就发财了。

Don't put the cart before the horse.

不要本末倒置。

Of nothing, comes nothing.

- =Nothing comes from (或 of) nothing.
- =Nothing will come of nothing.

无中不能生有。

Nothing comes out of the sack but what was in it,

袋子里装什么才能倒出什么, 无中不能生有。

There is no smoke without fire.

=No smoke without (some) fire.

无火不起烟; 无风不起浪。

Every shoe fits not every foot.

每只鞋不能合于所有人的脚,不可用一种尺度衡量一切。

One swallow does not make a summer.

一燕不能成夏天**,**一花独放不是春**,**不可仅凭一种现象 而遽作判断。

One cloud is enough to eclipse all the sun.

片云足以遮全日,一叶障目不识泰山。

He is eloquent enough for whom truth speaks.

事实本身就是雄辩。

Seek the truth from the facts.

实事求是。

Facts are stubborn things.

事实是最顽强的东西。

Things unreasonable are never durable.

不合理的事情不会长久。

Time tries all.

时间检验一切。

The end tries all.

结果检验一切。

All is well that ends well,

结果好,就一切都好,收场好,万事好。

A good archer is not known by his arrows, but his aim.

好的射手不是因为他的箭而出名,而是他射中了目标。 · An empty sack cannot stand upright.

空袋难直立:有理走遍天下, 无理寸步难行。

In books are embalmed the greatest thoughts of all ages.

伟大思想古今有, 载入书中成不朽。

The wish is father to the thought.

愿望为思想之父; 所望之事, 每易信之为真。

The truths we least like to hear are those which it is most to our advantage to know.

我们最不愿听到的事实,往往是**我们知道了**会大有好处的事实。

It is certain because it is impossible.

办不到的事就是办不到。

We soon believe (what) we desire.

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对于自己所希望的事情我们最容易相信。

That which is easily done is soon believed. 容易做的事相信得快。

He that trusts in a lie shall perish in truth. 相信谎言的人一定会在真理面前灭亡。

Never try to prove what nobody doubts.

无人怀疑的事无须证实。

Show me a liar, and I will show you a thief. 说谎是偷窃的开始。

The moon does not heed the barking of dogs. 月亮不怕狗吠。

Dreams go by contraries.

幻梦不真。

They say so, is half a lie.

传闻多失实。

One eyewitness is better than two hear-so's.

一个目睹者胜过两个道听途说的人; 耳听为虚, 眼见为实。

Believe not all that you see nor half what you hear. 眼见不足为信,道听途说更不为信。

Common fame is a liar.

传闻往往不真实,大家相信的传闻往往是假的。

One has lived too near a wood to be frightened by owls.

住在森林里的人不怕猫头鹰; 深知事情真相就不会大惊

小怪,见惯不惊。

None so blind as those who won't see.

瞎子不算瞎,不愿看者才算瞎。

There is many a fair thing full of false.

说得好听的东西却有许多是错误的。

Though malice may darken truth, it cannot put it out.

恶意(阴谋)可以诽谤真理,但无法消灭真理。

Truth may be blamed, but shall never be shamed.

真理可能会被责难, 但绝不会受羞辱。

A great talker is a great liar.

最会夸夸其谈的人也最会说谎。

Though a lie be well drest, it is ever overcome.

谎言再装扮得不错, 到头都会被揭露。

A false tongue will hardly speak truth.

谎嘴难说真话, 狗嘴吐不出象牙。

The greatest liars talk most of themselves.

最爱自吹自擂的人是最大的说谎者。

A good heart cannot lie.

好心人不说谎言。

Falsehood like a nettle stings those who meddle with it.

谎言似荨麻, 玩弄会刺手。

Lying is the first step to the gallows.

说谎是上断头台的第一步。

He that will lie will steal.

会说谎的人也就会偷窃。

Gossiping and lying go together.

流言常和谎话并行。

Lying rides upon debt's back.

负债的人谎话多。

A lie begets a lie till they come to generations.

谎言生谎言, 谎言世代传。

Equivocation is first cousin to a lie.

含糊其词是谎话的近亲。

False with one can be false with two.

对一个人虚假, 也会对两个人虚假。

Two blacks do not make a white.

两黑不等于一白; 两个错误不等于一个正确。

Two wrongs don't make a right.

两个错误加不出一个正确来。

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

一环薄弱,全链必松,一个破绽便使整 个 论 点 站不住 脚,麻绳专在细处断。

Lookers-on see most of the game.

旁观者清。

Everything hath an end.

万物必有终。

A good anvil does not fear the hammer.

好砧不怕锤打。

Every why has a (或 its) wherefore. 凡事均有因。

智慧与经验

Learn wisdom by the follies of others.

从别人的愚行中学到智慧。

Brevity is the soul of wit.

简洁为智慧之灵魂; 言以简为贵。

From hearing comes wisdom, from speaking repentance.

多听出智慧, 多说引懊悔。

No wisdom like silence.

聪明莫过沉默。

Years bring wisdom.

年岁年岁, 增长智慧。

Pen and ink is wit's plough.

笔墨是才智之犁。

Learning makes a good man better and ill man worse.

学识能使好人更好, 坏人更坏。

Knowledge advances by steps and not by leaps.

知识只能循序渐进,不能跃进。

Knowledge is power.

知识就是力量。

wisdom is better than gold or silver.

知识胜过金银。

Wisdom is to the mind what health is to the body.

知识之于精神, 一如健康之于肉体。

Wisdom is a good purchase though we pay dear for it.

为了求知识, 代价虽高也值得。

Zeal without knowledge is a runaway horse.

没有知识的热情犹如脱缰之马。

Wisdom is more to be envied than riches.

知识可羡, 胜于财富。

Wisdom in the mind is better than money in the hand.

胸中有知识,胜于手中有钱。

Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.

没有知识的热心,犹如有火而无光。

It is not the beard that makes the philosopher.

学问多不在于年纪大,年纪大不等于**学问多**;有志不在年高,无志空长百岁。

Knowledge makes humble, ignorance makes proud. 知识使人谦虚,无知令人骄傲。

The years teach much which the days never know. 学问积年而成,而每日不自知也。

There is no royal road to learning.

在学习上无平坦大道可走; 学问无捷径(坦途)。

Learning, is the eye of the mind.

学问是心灵的慧眼。

Wit without learning is like a tree without fruit. 没有学识的机智、犹如没有果实的树。

He knows how many beans make five.

他精明机敏, 有判断力。

Knowledge without practice makes but half an artist.

没有实践的知识毫无价值。

Knowledge is a treasure, but practice is the key to it.

知识是一座宝库,而实践就是开启宝库的钥匙。

A little learning is a dangerous thing.

浅薄的学识是一件危险的事情。

He who is ashamed of asking is ashamed of learning.

畏问之人耻于学。

A man becomes learned by asking questions.

要长学问,就得多问,多问则业精。

Who learns young forgets not when he is old.

年轻时学的东西年老时也不会忘。

What is learned in the cradle lasts till the grave.

婴孩时期学到的东西, 老死不会忘记。

Learn young, learn fair.

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