

English Proverbs

# 英语精学本

汪福祥 董娜 编著

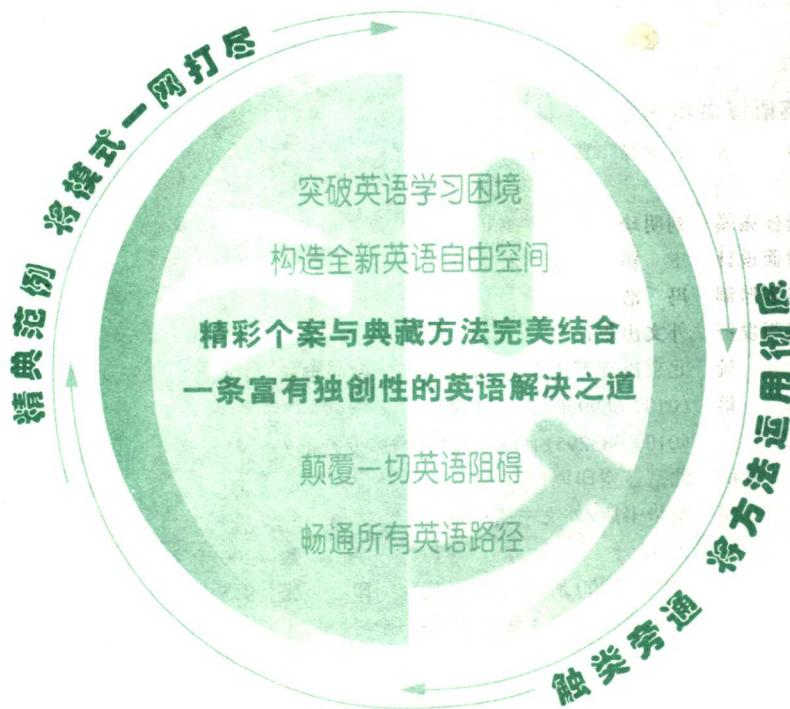


外文出版社

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语谚语精学本/汪福祥,董娜编著.——北京:外文出版社,2004  
ISBN 7-119-03692-0

I. 英... II. ①汪...②董... III. 英语—谚语—自学参考资料  
IV. H313.3

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 030177 号

外文出版社网址:

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

外文出版社电子信箱:

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## 英语谚语精学本

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印刷监制 冯 浩

出版发行 外文出版社

社 址 北京市百万庄大街 24 号 邮政编码 100037

电 话 (010) 68996075(编辑部)  
(010) 68329514/68327211(推广发行部)

印 刷 北京蓝空印刷厂

经 销 新华书店/外文书店

开 本 大 32 开 字 数 200 千字

印 数 0001—8000 册 印 张 9.5

版 次 2004 年 7 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷

装 别 平 装

书 号 ISBN 7-119-03692-0/H·1605

定 价 18.00 元

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## 致读者

就各种语言的谚语而言,其内容的丰富程度和语言自身的质量均为其它语言现象望尘莫及。仅就英语而言,其谚语不但是英美历史和社会发展的踪迹,也是对英美文化和英美人思维习惯与模式的真实写照。在蕴藏着极为丰富社会信息和思想内涵的英语谚语之中,我们既可以从中获得经过千锤百炼的精美句式及语法结构,也能从中汲取意味深长、铭刻人心、回味无穷、倍受启发的思想和精华,还能从中习得众多语用方面的“神秘武器”。出于对谚语如此之多“闪光点”的珍视和对学生提高英语水平需要的考虑,我们决定将谚语的精学纳入本套丛书的编写之中,使之成为《精学本》中一个不可缺少的、带有“锦上添花”之意味的重要组成部分。

就大、中学生的英语学习而言,语言基本功的建造不仅需要有最基本的语言内容,而且也需要一些具有导航作用的“尖端”成分,而谚语就是这样的一种成分。打个比方说,如果我们将英语的语法及句法比作一个建筑物的“结构”的话,那么单词、短语和固定搭配就是那个结构的“砖瓦”,而谚语就好比是支撑起那个建筑物总体精神的“门面”了。由此可见,学好、掌握好、用好英语谚语并逐步培养良好的谚语意识,对提高一个人的总体语言水平是至关重要的。

那么,如何才能学好、用好和掌握好英语谚语呢?首先,学习者必须和谚语有相当频率的接触,必须对谚语的构造和旨意有个感性上的认识和熟悉。第二,学习者要想掌握好谚语还必须在使用 and 实践中不断摸索规律,把握谚语的内涵,当然,这一切均源于大量的语用实践。第三,在掌握并用好谚语的基础上,

学习者还要善于领悟和求索，这对培养谚语意识无疑是最关键的。为使读者能在这些方面得到切实可行的帮助，我们对此书内容的编排基本上是以上述三个方面为依据的。下面我们就简单扼要地将使用此书的方法向大家作个介绍。

本书每条谚语均配有相应的汉译文，其后是一个带有情景意味的例句，其目的是使读者对该谚语的语用范围有个初步接触。在此之后，我们根据每条谚语编写了一个短文或对话。通过阅读，读者可以加深对每条谚语精神的把握。这也可被视为是每条谚语的“语用场”。短文或对话之后，我们还为当前的谚语作了“提示”说明。这对学生掌握每条谚语的用场是个重要的铺垫和参考。更值得一提的是，我们在每条谚语的最后还提供了“练习”。这不仅可以强化学生的记忆，而且对培养谚语的使用能力和意识都具有一定的主导作用。除此之外，学生不仅可以通过练习强化语言的记忆，而且还能从自己的译文和本书所提供的译文的比较之间获得相当数量的“新知”，这是本书为有效提高学生的语言质量特别提供的一种新的练习方式和技巧。

还需要指出的是，由于谚语是语言的精华，因此，虽然在学习阶段学生反复地使用谚语对语言记忆是有帮助的，但在实际语用时，谚语的使用切勿过于频繁。有道是“好钢要用在刀刃上”。

最后，愿本书为大家提供的 200 条谚语有如一座灯塔，照亮你学海中的各个航道，为你远航于未来的征程提供一个你心目中的路标。但愿大家能在这座灯塔的指引下乘风破浪，驶向那英语学海中更加灿烂、辉煌的彼岸。

## 目 录

- [001] A bad workman always blames his tools. 蹩脚的工匠总责怪工具不好。
- [002] A beggar's purse is bottomless. 乞丐钱包没有底。
- [003] A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 双鸟在林,不如一鸟在手。
- [004] A cat may look at a king. 猫也可以看国王。
- [005] A closed mouth catches no flies. 闭上的嘴不招苍蝇。
- [006] A fool's bell is soon rung. 傻瓜的铃铛响得快。
- [007] A full belly makes a dull brain. 肚子大,脑袋笨。
- [008] A good name lost is hard to regain. 名誉一失难复得。
- [009] A leopard cannot change his spots. 本性难改。
- [010] A light purse makes a heavy heart. 钱袋轻,心事重。
- [011] A man is known by the company he keeps. 观其交友,知其为人。
- [012] A man without distant care must have near sorrow. 人无远虑,必有近忧。
- [013] A new broom sweeps clean. 新扫帚扫得净。
- [014] A rolling stone gathers no moss. 滚石不生苔。
- [015] A small leak will sink a great ship. 小漏不堵也会沉大船。
- [016] A still tongue makes a wise head. 舌头不动,大脑聪明。
- [017] A stitch in time saves nine. 一针及时省九针。
- [018] Absence makes the heart grow fonder. 久别情更深。
- [019] Actions speak louder than words. 行动比语言更响亮。
- [020] Admiration is the daughter of ignorance. 羡慕出于无知。
- [021] Adversity is a great school-master. 逆境使人生智。
- [022] Affection blinds reason. 感情会蒙蔽理智。
- [023] After death, the doctor. 人死医生来。
- [024] All covet, all lose. 事事都想要,凡事得不到。
- [025] All happiness is in the mind. 心里认为是幸福的就是幸福。
- [026] All is not gold that glitters. 发光的未必都是金。
- [027] All is well that ends well. 结局好,万事好。
- [028] All roads lead to Rome. 条条大道通罗马。

- [029] All sweets are not wholesome.  
好吃的东西不一定都有益。
- [030] All things come to him who waits. 一切都属于能耐心等待的人。
- [031] All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. 只干活而无娱乐的人会变呆。
- [032] An apple a day keeps the doctor away. 一天吃一个苹果,不用看医生。
- [033] An idle youth, a needy age. 少时懒,老来穷。
- [034] Appetite comes with eating. 胃口越吃越大。
- [035] As the master is, so is his dog. 什么样的主人养什么样的狗。
- [036] As you brew, so must you drink. 自己酿的苦酒只能自己喝。
- [037] Asking costs nothing. 提问无需代价。
- [038] Bad news travels fast. 坏消息传得快。
- [039] Barking dogs do not bite. 吠犬不咬人。
- [040] Be swift to hear, slow to speak. 听要机警,话要谨慎。
- [041] Beat the dog before the lion. 杀鸡给猴看。
- [042] Beauty is but skin-deep. 美貌只是表面的。
- [043] Beggars can't be choosers. 要饭的不能挑三拣四。
- [044] Better a neighbor that is near than a brother far off. 远亲不如邻。
- [045] Better an open enemy than a false friend. 宁要公开的敌人,不要虚伪的朋友。
- [046] Better late than never. 迟到总比不到强。
- [047] Better wit than wealth. 有财不如有才。
- [048] Bite off more than one can chew. 贪多嚼不烂。
- [049] Blood is thicker than water. 血浓于水。
- [050] Brevity is the soul of wit. 言以简洁为贵。
- [051] Business before pleasure. 先工作,后娱乐。
- [052] By doing nothing we learn to do ill. 无所事事的人就会学着干坏事。
- [053] Calamity is often a friend in disguise. 灾难往往是不露面的朋友。
- [054] Care and diligence bring luck. 好运来自谨慎和勤奋。
- [055] Cast pearls before swine. 把珍珠拿给蠢猪看。
- [056] Catch your bear before you sell its skin. 熊不到手,莫先卖皮。
- [057] Caution is the parent of safety. 谨慎为安全之本。
- [058] Charity begins at home. 施舍先及亲友。

- [059] Children are poor men's riches. 子女是穷人的财富。
- [060] Clothes make the man. 人靠衣装。
- [061] Comparisons are odious. 人比人,气死人。
- [062] Constant dropping wears the stone. 滴水可以穿石。
- [063] Death keeps no calendar. 黄土埋人没老少。
- [064] Diet cures more than pills. 注意饮食,胜服良药。
- [065] Do not teach your grandmother to suck eggs. 不要教你祖母咂鸡蛋。
- [066] Don't change horses in mid-stream. 行到河中不换马。
- [067] Don't measure other people's corn by your own bushel. 莫要以己度人。
- [068] Don't paint the lily. 不要画蛇添足。
- [069] Doubt is the key of knowledge. 疑惑是求知的钥匙。
- [070] Drink as you have brewed. 自己酿的酒自己喝。
- [071] Eagles catch no flies. 雄鹰不抓苍蝇。
- [072] Easier said than done. 说起来容易,做起来难。
- [073] East or west, home is the best. 东奔西跑,都不如在家里好。
- [074] Easy come easy go. 来得容易去得快。
- [075] Empty hands no hawks allure. 双手空空,引不来老鹰。
- [076] Enough words, little wisdom. 言多智慧少。
- [077] Every bean has its black. 是豆就有黑嘴。
- [078] Every cook praises his own soup. 厨师都夸自己做的汤。
- [079] Every dark cloud has a silver lining. 乌云背后总有一线光芒。
- [080] Every dog has his day. 凡人皆有得意日。
- [081] Every flow must have its ebb. 潮水有涨就有落。
- [082] Every heart has its own ache. 人人都有伤心事。
- [083] Every man has a fool in his sleeve. 人人都有糊涂的时候。
- [084] Every man has his faults. 人人都有缺点。
- [085] Every rose has its thorn. 朵朵玫瑰都有刺。
- [086] First come, first served. 先到的先招待。
- [087] Flattery is the food of fools. 傻瓜把奉承当饭吃。
- [088] Forbidden fruit is sweet. 禁果最甜。
- [089] Fortune helps them that help themselves. 天助自助者。
- [090] Frugality is the mother of all the virtues. 节俭是百善之母。
- [091] Gifts blind the eyes of the wise. 礼物可以蒙蔽智者。



- [092] Give him an inch and he'll take a mile. 得寸进尺。
- [093] Glory is a poison, good to be taken in small doses. 荣誉有如一剂毒药, 服量宜小不宜大。
- [094] Grasp all, lose all. 什么都想要, 什么也得不到。
- [095] Harm set, harm get. 害人反害己。
- [096] He is not rich who is not satisfied. 人不知足, 虽富犹贫。
- [097] He that talks much lies much. 说话多的人谎话也多。
- [098] He who punishes one threatens a hundred. 惩一可以儆百。
- [099] Hot love is soon cold. 爱得热, 凉得快。
- [100] Humble hearts have humble desire. 殷实者无奢望。
- [101] I was not born yesterday. 我不是昨天才出生的。
- [102] Idleness is the root of all evil. 懒惰是万恶之源。
- [103] Ill got, ill spent. 悖人悖出。
- [104] In prosperity think of adversity. 身处顺境, 不忘逆境。
- [105] Innocence is bold. 清白的人无所畏惧。
- [106] It is a virtue to hate vice. 憎恶便是美德。
- [107] It is good to buy with other men's cost. 最好用别人的钱买智慧。
- [108] It is never too late to mend.

改过永远不嫌晚。

- [109] It is no use crying over spilt milk. 覆水难收。
- [110] It takes three generations to make a gentleman. 培养一良才, 需要三代人。
- [111] It takes two to make a quarrel. 吵架需要两个人。
- [112] Jack of all trades and master of none. 事事都会干, 事事干不好。
- [113] Joys shared with others are more enjoyed. 与人同乐, 其乐无穷。
- [114] Justice has long arms. 法网恢恢。
- [115] Kill two birds with one stone. 一石击双鸟。
- [116] Knowledge comes from experience alone. 智慧源于经验。
- [117] Knowledge is power. 知识就是力量。
- [118] Let bygones be bygones. 过去的事就让它过去吧。
- [119] Let sleeping dogs lie. 莫惹是非。
- [120] Life is lifeless without health. 没有健康就没有生命。
- [121] Life is not all beer and skittles. 人生不都是吃喝玩乐。
- [122] Long hair, little brains. 头发长, 见识短。
- [123] Love is blind. 爱情是盲目的。
- [124] Love me, love my dog. 爱我

就要爱我的狗(爱屋及乌)。

- [125] Lying pays no tax. 说谎不用上税。
- [126] Make hay while the sun shines. 晒草要趁阳光好。
- [127] Man proposes, God disposes. 谋事在人,成事在天。
- [128] Many hands make light work. 人多好干活。
- [129] Many men, many minds. 人多意见多。
- [130] Money begets money. 钱能生钱。
- [131] Money doesn't grow on trees. 钱不长在树上。
- [132] Money is a good servant, but a bad master. 钱可为奴,不可为主。
- [133] Never hit a man below the belt. 不要暗箭伤人。
- [134] Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you. 麻烦不找你,莫去找麻烦。
- [135] No cross, no crown. 不吃苦中苦,就没有甜上甜。
- [136] No man is infallible. 没有不犯错误的人。
- [137] No news is good news. 没有消息就是好消息。
- [138] No sooner said than done. 说到做到;说干就干。
- [139] Nothing succeeds like success. 一事成功万事顺。
- [140] Nothing venture, nothing have.

不冒险就无收获。

- [141] Once bitten, twice shy. 一次被咬,下次胆小。
- [142] One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters. 一父胜过百师。
- [143] One man's meat is another man's poison. 对甲是块肉,对乙是毒药。
- [144] Opportunity seldom knocks twice. 机会很少再敲门。
- [145] Other times, other manners. 时代不同,习俗各异。
- [146] Out of sight, out of mind. 眼不见,心不想。
- [147] Penny wise and pound foolish. 小事聪明,大事糊涂。
- [148] Poverty is the mother of health. 贫穷是健康之母。
- [149] Practice makes perfect. 熟能生巧。
- [150] Pride goes before a fall. 骄傲在先,失败随后。
- [151] Reprove others but correct yourself. 责人先正己。
- [152] Rome was not built in a day. 罗马非一日建成。
- [153] Saving is getting. 省钱就等于挣钱。
- [154] Seeing is believing. 百闻不如一见。
- [155] Set a cow to catch hare. 让牛去追捕兔子。
- [156] Set a thief to catch a thief.

- 让贼去捉贼。
- [157] Short pleasure, long lament.  
欢乐一时,悲伤一世。
- [158] Small men imitate, and great  
men originate. 小人模仿,伟人  
独创。
- [159] So got, so gone. 怎么得来,  
怎么失去。
- [160] So many countries, and so  
many customs. 有多少国家,  
就有多少习俗。
- [161] Sorrow is laughter's daughter.  
乐极生悲。
- [162] Spare the rod and spoil the  
child. 省了棍子,惯坏了孩子。
- [163] Speech is silver, silence is  
golden. 讲话是银,沉默是金。
- [164] Still waters run deep. 深水静  
流。
- [165] Strike while the iron is hot. 趁  
热打铁。
- [166] Sweep before your own door.  
先把自己的门前打扫干净。
- [167] Talk of an angel and you'll  
hear his wings. 说到天使,天  
使就到。
- [168] Tears in the eyes have sorrow  
in the heart. 眼中有泪,心中有  
悲。
- [169] The absent are always in the  
wrong. 不在场的人总有错。
- [170] The best friend must part. 好  
朋友总有一别。
- [171] The best mirror is an old

- friend. 老朋友是一面最好的  
镜子。
- [172] The bread of charity is bitter.  
讨来的面包味道苦。
- [173] The burden is light on the  
shoulders of another. 别人肩  
上的担子轻。
- [174] The child is father of the man.  
儿童是成人之父。
- [175] The darkest hour comes be-  
fore dawn. 黎明之前天最黑。
- [176] The devil takes the hindmost.  
谁落后,谁倒霉。
- [177] The early bird catches the  
worm. 早起的鸟才能捉到虫。
- [178] The hand that gives gathers.  
有舍必有获。
- [179] The love of money is the root  
of all evil. 贪财是万恶之源。
- [180] The more haste, the less  
speed. 越是着急,速度越慢。
- [181] The pen is mightier than the  
sword. 笔比剑更有威力。
- [182] The sick soul must cure itself.  
心灵创伤需自治。
- [183] The spirit is willing, but the  
flesh is weak. 心有余而力不足。
- [184] The tailor makes the man. 人  
靠衣装。
- [185] There are black sheep in ev-  
ery flock. 每个羊群都有黑绵羊。
- [186] There is a road from heart to  
heart. 两心之间有路通。
- [187] There is no place like home.

没有比家更好的地方了。

[188] There is nothing new under the sun. 天底下没有什么全新的事。

[189] There's no vice like avarice. 万事贪为首。

[190] They that know nothing fear nothing. 无知则无畏。

[191] Time and tide wait for no man. 岁月不等人。

[192] Too many cooks spoil the broth. 厨子多了烧坏汤。

[193] Trade follows the flag. 贸易随旗走。

[194] Two heads are better than

one. 两人的智慧胜一人。

[195] Walls have ears. 隔墙有耳。

[196] What is done by night appears by day. 夜间干的事白天显。

[197] When a man is going downhill, everyone will give him a push. 人走下坡众人推。

[198] When the cat's away, the mice will play. 猫儿不在,老鼠翻天。

[199] Where there is a will, there is a way. 有志者事竟成。

[200] Wit once bought is worth twice taught. 亲身的体验胜过老师的教导。



## A bad workman always blames his tools.

蹩脚的工匠总责怪工具不好。

**例句** A bad workman always blames his tools, and in fact you need more skills.

二把刀的工匠总是怪工具不好使，其实你需要更多的技巧。

### 短文

Very few of the animals are able to find excuse for their inabilities, but many men are. A driver, for instance, may blame his car if he is terrible at driving. A student may like to blame his pen for poor handwritings, and a teacher, too, may blame his students if he or she can't teach well. Of course, a bad workman always blames his tools. This is because, only human beings are able to use tools, and if they can use other things, they may have more ways to excuse themselves. Thank God that they can only use a limited number of tools.

#### 提示

A bad workman always blames his tools. 是一条常用的谚语，意指“蹩脚的工匠总责怪工具不好”，与汉语“自己不行，愣说工具不好使”的意味近似。此语常用来讽刺那些自己无能却总是为自己的无能找理由的人。

### 练习

A: 他为什么说他的钢笔不好用呢？我觉得他的钢笔挺好用的。

B: 自己不行总是责怪工具不好用。啥也不是，他是在给自己找借口。

A: Why does he blame his pen? I find it easy and good to use.

B: A bad workman always blames his tools. He is trying to find an excuse, that all.

- 例句** You can provide them with food for a day, but you can't prevent them from suffering from hunger all their lives. A beggar's purse is bottomless, you know.  
 你可以保障他们一天有饭吃，但你不能保证他们一辈子都不挨饿。你知道，乞丐的钱包是个无底洞呀。

## 短文

One day when I was walking with a friend of mine in a Beijing street, we ran into a line of ten years old children who were apparently begging for money. As we were approaching the Beijing Friendship Store, two filthy and sloppy kids stopped us and aggressively asked us to "save their lives" by giving them some money. I instantly felt in the pocket and gave each of them ten yuan. Seeing that, my friend shrugged, apparently showing a sort of disagreement, that I should not do that. When I asked him why, he said: "A beggar's purse is bottomless." Besides, he said, most of these beggars are only doing that as a means of making money.

## 提示

A beggar's purse is bottomless. 可直译为“乞丐的钱包没有底”或“穷人的钱包填不满”，与汉语“救急救不了穷”的意思近似。此语常用在拒绝“救穷”的谈话场合。

## 练习

A: 你为什么不让我给他点儿吃的呢？他看起来很可怜。

B: 乞丐的腰包是填不满的。我们无法可怜这样的人。

A: Why did you prevent me from giving him some food? He looks sad and miserable.

B: A beggar's purse is bottomless. We can't take pity on beggars.

**例句** You'd better get down to what you can do now. You can't dream of many things that are beyond your reach. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, I'd say.

你最好做你现在能够做的事。你不能梦想要做一些你粘不着边儿的事。还是那句话:双鸟在林,不如一鸟在手。

### 短文

Around me, there are two kinds of people: the one who is too ambitious, and the one who is down to earth. The first kind of people aim high, sometimes too high. They dream of becoming a millionaire overnight, or they want to have a big name. However, their fate is not that good. The thing they get is no more than disappointment. For the second kind of people, there is no daydream. They are down to earth, doing everything practical. They aim at what they can do, and they do what they are capable of doing. They believe that an bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, so they get down to the thing that can bring them benefit. All in all, the first kind of people get disappointment whereas the second get enjoyment.

### 提示

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 是一条极为常用的谚语,其字面意思是“双鸟在林,不如一鸟在手”,多用来告诫人们“要珍视已有的东西”。此语常用来告诫那些好高务远的人不要不注重现实。

### 练习

A: 你为什么不像其他学生那样背很多的单词呢?

B: 双鸟在林,不如一鸟在手。我喜欢背一个就练一个,练一个就用一个。

A: Why do you refuse to memorize many new words like most other students do?

B: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. I like to memorize one word before I practice using it.



**例句** You can't think light of him, nor can you deprive him of the right. Even a cat may look at a king.

你不能不把他当回事,也不能剥夺他的权力。一只猫还可以看看国王呢。

## 短文

If you happen to be a big shot in your community, have you ever looked down your nose at those who are obviously in an inferior position? Well, you can't be more mistaken if you did, for your sun will not always be shining on you. And if you happen to be a leader in a community, have you ever deprived the fellow citizens of some of their rights? If you did, you should mind your steps, for you will not stay in that position all your life. Throughout human history, there are always lucky ones and unlucky ones. And it is important for the lucky ones to remember that luck is not always on the side of the same person. The unlucky ones may also have their day, as the proverb goes: "A cat may look at a king." Of course, the cat, compared with other creatures, is indeed much a smaller creature. But, however small it is, it may still enjoy some rights. And as a human being, one should always keep in mind the fact that everyone has his own rights. So, no matter how big you are, you should never deprive the unlucky ones of their rights. And if you do, they may do the same to you when your sun is setting. You don't want to have a taste of that, do you?

### 提示

A cat may look at a king. 的字面意思是“猫也可以看国王”,引申意指“小人物也应该有某些特别的权力”。此语常用在劝人不要小看他人或轻视他人的场合。