

仲 恬 江 河 编译
INTERMEDIATE STEPS
TO UNDERSTANDING

英语趣味小品

第五册



中南工业大学出版社

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1 A Humorous Story



A man went to see his doctor one day because he was suffering from pains in his stomach. After the doctor had examined him carefully, he said to him, "Well, there's nothing really wrong with you, I'm glad to say. Your only trouble is that you worry too much. Do you know, I had a man with the same trouble as you in here a few weeks ago, and I gave him the same advice as I'm going to give you. He was worried because he couldn't pay his tailor's bills. I told him not to worry his head about the bills any more. He followed my advice, and when he came to see me again two days

ago, he told me that he now felt quite all right again. ”

“Yes, I know all about that,” answered the patient sadly.
“You see, I’m that man’s tailor. ”

[参考译文]

幽默的故事

一天,有一个人因为胃难受去看医生,医生替他仔细检查后,对他说:“我很高兴地告诉你,其实你根本没什么病,你唯一的毛病就是你太担忧了。知道吗,几星期前,我这里来了一位与你同样毛病的人,和你一样,我给了他同样的忠告。他担忧是因为他付不起裁缝的帐,我告诉他不必再为那些帐单伤脑筋,他接受了我的忠告。前两天来看我时,他告诉我,他现在感觉很好。”

“你说的那些我都知道,”这个病人悲哀地说:“你瞧,我就是那个裁缝。”

2 But the Chinese did!



One day Mr. Tom said to one of his friends, "I'm going to have a holiday in Beijing. But I don't speak Chinese, so I'll go to evening classes and have Chinese lessons for a month before I go."

He studied very hard for a month, and then his holidays began and he went to China.

When he came back a few weeks later his friend said to him, "Did you have any trouble with your Chinese when you were in Beijing, Tom?"

“No, I didn't have any trouble with it,”^① answered Mr Tom.
“But the Chinese did!”

[参考译文]

倒是中国人碰到了麻烦

一天,汤姆先生对朋友说,“我要去北京度假,但我不会汉语,我准备去之前上夜校学一个月的汉语课程。”

他努力学了一个月,然后到中国度假去了。

几星期后他回来了,朋友问他,“汤姆,在北京时,你的汉语碰到了麻烦吗?”

“没有,我的汉语一点麻烦也没有,”汤姆先生说,“倒是中国人碰到了麻烦!”

① have trouble with... 同...闹纠纷,在... (方面)碰到麻烦

3 Talking on the Telephone



Each Sunday the minister called the children to the front of the church while he told them a story. Once he brought a telephone to better illustrate the idea of prayer.

"You talk to people on the telephone and don't see them on the other end of the line, right?" he began. The children nodded yes. "Well, talking to God is like talking on the telephone. He's on the other end, but you can't see him. He is listening, though."

Just then a little boy piped up^① and asked, “What’s his number?”

[参考译文]

打电话

每个星期天,牧师都把孩子们叫到教堂前面给他们讲一个故事。一次,为了更好地说明祈祷的意义,他把电话拿来了。

“你们在电话里与人交谈,但是看不到电话线另一端的那些人,对吗?”牧师开始讲道。孩子们点头称是。

“那好,跟上帝交谈也就象在电话里跟人交谈一样,上帝在另一端,虽然他在听着,但是你们却看不到他。”

这时,一个孩子大声叫着问道:“他的电话号码是多少?”

① pipe up 尖声地说

4 The Milkmaid



A country maid was walking to the town to sell some milk, which she carried in a pitcher on her head. As she went along, she said to herself, "I have already fifty eggs at home; with the money which I get for my milk I will buy fifty more. These hundred eggs cannot fail to bring me at least eighty chickens. The chickens will be ready for market just when poultry is dearest, so that they will sell for a good sum. With the money I will get me a new gown, and when I wear it at the fair the young fellows will want to dance with me, but I will turn from each with a toss of the head." As she

said these words, she could not help giving her head a toss, ① when down fell pitcher, milk, eggs, poultry, gown, sweethearts, and all. Count not your chickens before they are hatched.

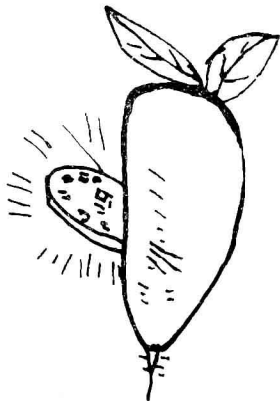
[参考译文]

牛奶姑娘

一位乡村姑娘到城里去卖牛奶。她头顶奶壶，独自行走，并自言自语地说：“我家里已经有五十个鸡蛋，我拿卖牛奶得到的钱可再去买五十个鸡蛋，这一百个鸡蛋至少会给我带来八十只小鸡。那些小鸡待行情较好的时候出售，便可以得到一大笔钱。用这笔钱，我可以买一件新的长大衣，当我穿了它去集市时，那些青年男子便会来邀我去跳舞，但我会对他们每个人昂首而去。”当她说这句话时禁不住真的将头一仰，于是，她的壶，牛奶，鸡蛋，小鸡，长大衣，情人等等，都随她的头一仰而完蛋了。因此，没有成为事实的事是不可太乐观的。

① cannot (can't) help doing sth. 不禁要(做某事)；情不自禁地(做某事)

5 A Precious Turnip



Before Louis the Eleventh became king, he used to visit^① a peasant whose garden produced excellent fruit. After his accession, the peasant brought him as a present a very large turnip which had grown in his garden. The king, remembering the pleasant hours that he had spent under the old man's roof, gave him a thousand crowns.

① used to (do sth) (过去)常常, 惯常(做)...

The lord of the village, hearing of this, thought that if one who gave a paltry turnip received so large a reward, one who gave a really valuable present would receive a still larger reward. He, therefore, offered a splendid horse. The king accepted it and calling for the big turnip, said, "This cost me a thousand crowns; I give it to you in return for your horse."①

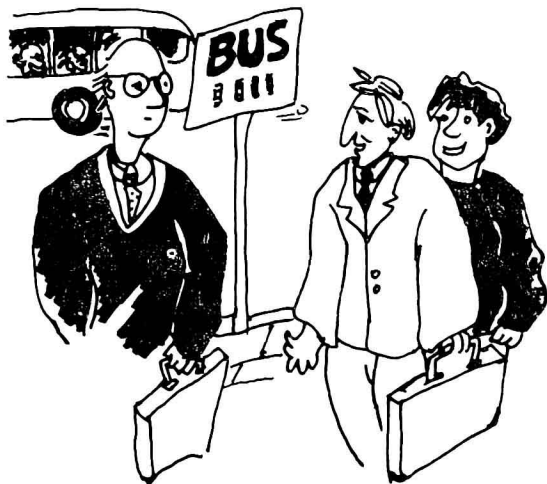
[参考译文]

珍贵的萝卜

在路易十一世还没做皇帝之前,他常去拜访一位农夫,那农夫有个花园,园里种着很多优质水果。当他即位后,那农夫送给他一个在自己园里种出来的大萝卜作为礼物。皇帝回忆起以前消磨在这位老人家中的快乐时光,赏了老人一千个金币。

一位乡绅听说了这件事,他想:送一些没价值的萝卜给皇帝,便可以获得大量的赏赐,要是有人送一些真正有价值的礼物给皇帝,那么,得到的赏赐不是会更多吗?于是他便献给皇帝一匹名种马,皇帝接受了他的礼物,并叫人拿出大萝卜,对乡绅说:“这个大萝卜是用一千个金币换来的,就把它送给你,作为对你的名种马的回敬。”

① in return for...作为...的交换,作为...的报答



There were three professors at the railway station. They were deep in conversation. ① The train had just arrived, but they did not notice it. Then the guard shouted, "Take your seats, please!"

The professors heard the guard and rushed for the train. Two of them got on the train before it moved. The third one was left behind. It was Professor Egghead. He looked sad.

One of the professor's students at the station. He tried to com-

① be deep in 埋头于, 深陷于

fort the professor. "It wasn't really bad, sir," said the student. "Two out of three caught the train. That's quite good, you know."

"I know," the professor said. "But it was my train. My friends only came to say goodbye."^①

[参考译文]

心不在焉的教授们

火车站有三位教授，他们专心致志地交谈着。火车已经到了，但是他们都没有注意到。后来，火车上的乘务员喊道：“请坐到车上去！”教授们听到了乘务员的喊声，匆匆忙忙地奔向火车。他们中的两个在火车开动前上了车，而第三个却被扔下了。他是艾格赫德教授。他显得很沮丧。

教授的一个学生也在火车站，他尽力安慰着教授：“这也不是太糟，先生”学生说，“三个人中有两个上了车，您看，那已经很不错了。”

“我知道，”教授说，“但是，该上火车的是我，我的朋友们只是来送行的。”

① say good-bye to...向...告别