



走向21世纪

——中国日报“21世纪杯”全国英语演讲比赛
优秀演讲词暨征文选

中国日报社《21世纪报》编辑部



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内 容 提 要

本书收录了 1996 年中国日报社主办的“21 世纪杯”全国英语演讲比赛获奖演讲词 22 篇(附评委点评),以及由此选拔而出的中国选手在伦敦国际英语演讲比赛中的优秀演讲词 4 篇;此外,本书还从“21 世纪与我”全国英语征文大赛的近千篇应征稿件中,精选出 15 篇作品以飨读者。

本书有助于广大英语爱好者和学习者练习提高口语和社交场合中的英文表达能力,同时也是英语写作的良好范本。

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前 言

由中国日报社主办的首届“21 世纪杯”全国英语演讲比赛终于落下帷幕了,但这并不意味着结束。

此项赛事得到国际英语联合会(the English-Speaking Union)、英国航空公司(British Airways)、英国驻华商会(the British Chamber of Commerce in China)、英国文化委员会(the British Council)等赞助,是目前国内规格最高的一项英语演讲赛事。获奖的前四名选手应邀赴伦敦参加了国际英语演讲比赛并载誉归来。

本次比赛自 1995 年 10 月开始筹划,直至 1996 年 3 月暂告结束。历时半年,其反响自始至终都很好。3 月 22 日在北京凯莱大酒店举行的正式比赛取得了空前的成功,在场的评委和观众无不为之动容。比赛中,来自全国各地 22 所重点大学和外语院校的选手们紧紧围绕“15 年的岁月——一个跨世纪历程的开始”的演讲主题,或慷慨激昂,直抒胸臆;或深思熟虑,娓娓而谈。尽管他们同属一个年龄层次,但每个人都从不同的思考角度讲出了不同的思想感受,并以丰富多采的演讲风格展现了当代大学生的风采。

赛前便有不少听众询问是否有演讲词可供一览,以助欣赏;赛后更是有不少热心听众索要演讲词,以备日后细细品味。当时为保证比赛的公正性和尊重演讲者的权益未能满足

听众。比赛结束之后,中国教育电视台将比赛实况做成了 10 集系列片多次播放,但许多观众仍反应因没有书面的演讲词而不能完全得其精髓。至此,在本书问世之际,这些遗憾终可以一一弥补了。

本次比赛评委会主任由中国日报社常务副总编黄庆担任,其他评委分别是:王式仁(北京大学教授),程慕胜(清华大学教授),钱青(北京外国语大学教授),Lady Appleyard (wife of the British Ambassador to China), Peter Batey (Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in China), George Beasley (minister-Counsellor for Public Affairs at the United-States Embassy)。本次比赛采用百分制,其中演讲内容占 40 分,语言质量 40 分,总体印象 20 分。

此外,本书还从中国日报社《21 世纪报》举办的“21 世纪与我”英语征文大赛的近千篇应征稿件中,精选了十多篇文笔流畅、内容精悍的获奖征文。这些作品紧紧围绕“21 世纪与我”这一主题,以个人的亲身经历和社会变迁为主线,反思自己在学习、工作、恋爱、婚姻、家庭、交友等不同方面的人生历程,用生动具体的事实和感受,阐述了自己对人生和社会的认识,表达了自己跨世纪的理想和追求。

编者深信,这些优秀的演讲词和征文将为广大英语爱好者开阔视野和提高英语水平提供有益的帮助。

中国日报社《21 世纪报》编辑部主任聂黎生等对编辑此书给予了指导,中国日报社的澳大利亚专家 Tracy Driscoll 对本书进行了审校;大赛组委会委员任小萍(外交学院教授)和刘黛琳(中央广播电视大学副教授)等,以及中国日报社办公室副主任王晓红同志、《21 世纪报》编辑部副主任李文莎等

为大赛的成功举办做了大量工作,在此,编者一并致以诚挚的谢意。

由于编者水平有限,在本书中一定会有不少不妥之处,欢迎批评指正。

编者:陈光明

1996年10月

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第一部分

演讲词

THE MIRROR AND I

I like to look into the mirror. I remember when I was a little girl, I often stood on my toes, trying to find my face in the mirror of the dressing table which was nearly as high as I was. Now I still like to look into the mirror. Only now, the dressing table is too low for me. As I bend down, I see the face of a young woman, glowing with maturity, confident in her future and fascinated with her own reflection.

The fact that I like to look into the mirror has to do with my granny with whom I spent most of my childhood. I remember clearly that one night I heard her murmuring, "Women can't be seen. Women can't be seen." I was so confused as to look into the mirror the next morning to check if I could indeed see myself. Only now as a young woman myself, can I understand that it was not physical visibility that granny had on her mind.

Granny spent all her life taking care of the family, day in and day out. She cooked for her husband and 10 children. But whenever guests came, she and other female family members had to eat by the stove in the small kitchen. At family discus-

sions, she was never asked for her opinion. After grandpa passed away, she had to listen to my uncle, her eldest son, who became master of the house. Through years of toil, she fulfilled her duty as daughter, wife, and mother; yet as a person, she remained little noticed. Even though she could see herself in the mirror of the dressing table, she was never visible in the mirror of society.

I have been living a different life. At home, I make decisions together with the rest of the family. In school, I often take charge of various activities the same as other boys and girls. Not only that, I can see something granny could not have dreamed of—making decisions for my own future. My life has been a series of decisions. I could choose from several universities as I came out of high school. At university, I could choose from a range of subjects from English literature to business law. And now upon graduation, I am again faced with decisions—to further my study or to go to work; to stay in China or to go abroad; to get married right away or to remain single for a bit longer.

It does not matter whether or not I will become famous or rich, but I will treasure the chance to demonstrate my potential and to help other women demonstrate theirs as full members of society, fully visible in the mirror of history. I will treasure it because the abundance of choice that I enjoy came only after

decades of efforts made by my granny, my mum, and millions of other Chinese women.

However, the choices to be made by me and others of my generation are a great challenge. The misconception that men are superior to women is still dominating many people's minds. While men are encouraged to compete and to assert themselves, we are expected to be quiet, loyal and obedient. This is not very different from what is expected of us as good wives and good mothers. The challenge we face calls for a higher level of our personal development and self-determination.

The story of my grandmother and myself mirrors the lives of millions of other women in China and perhaps in the world. Many of them still lead the life of my grandmother. Their worth is not yet recognized. It is the responsibility of a young person like me to work hard and struggle hard so that they too will see themselves and will be seen in the mirror of society.

This is my dream. This dream, I believe, is not only shared by our grandmother, mothers and sisters, but also by our fathers, brothers, husbands and male colleagues.

It will not come true until everyone fully realizes that women can contribute to society and should be guaranteed the

right to do so. Women hold up half the sky.

演讲者:刘欣(南京大学)。1996年5月17日在伦敦国际英语演讲比赛
中荣获唯一的一等奖(此项赛事的最高荣誉)。

A FEW KIND WORDS FOR IDLENESS

As you probably have gathered from my topic, this is not going to be an entertaining or informative speech. Not only so, but you may even think that I am being offensively classy by promoting such an outmoded, pastoral, aristocratic value as idleness. But, ladies and gentlemen, I am talking about a situation in my country that is beginning to look rather serious.

People in China have always been proud of their collectivism, and this collectivism has never flourished as much as it does today. Have you heard of the saying that out of a billion Chinese 900 million are doing business? Everything goes businesses, what remains that is not business?

Meanwhile, "success fever" has us more and more in its clutches. With booming business, there have emerged the newly rich, people who are so often talked of as exemplary citizens, and who consider themselves to be very modern, very civilized, and very responsible. Once I said to a successful businesswoman, "Why don't you just sit back and relax a little?" She answered, "Hey, girl, it's all very well for you to say so. But my weekly schedule is too tight to squeeze in another

item" —— whether it is idleness or something else. You see, ladies and gentlemen, idleness is at most an odd piece in that woman's business jigsaw.

Other more puritan-minded people think even worse of idleness. Idleness is a social stigma. Idlers are good-for-nothings; they do nothing or have nothing to do. We firmly choose to be busy. We are plagued by an anxiety for personal success and personal fulfillment. We are, in other words, so goal-obsessed that many of us have degenerated into the state of driven animals. It is in the face of this danger to our dignity as human beings that I want to put in a word for idleness.

First, let's recall and think how idleness can give us scope for imagination and creativity. Sir Isaac Newton made the discovery of universal gravitation when he was whiling time away in the shade of an apple tree. Archimedes discovered the law of buoyancy when he was having a bath. Emily Dickinson wrote most of her poetry in leisurely solitude. Of course all of us cannot become scientists and poets. But all of us can enjoy the fun of being idly imaginative and idly curious. "If we cannot free ourselves, we can at least free our visions." In idleness, we are able to see through the hustle and bustle of life and enjoy "that undisturbed silence of the heart which alone is perfect eloquence." In idleness our minds are doing things even when our hands are not.