


英 汉 对 照 分 类
美 国 谚 语 词 典

DICTIONARY OF CLASSIFIED
AMERICAN PROVERBS WITH
CHINESE TRANSLATION

〔美〕戴维·金 编著



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DICTIONARY OF CLASSIFIED AMERICAN PROVERBS WITH CHINESE TRANSLATION

编 著 [美]戴维·金

编 译

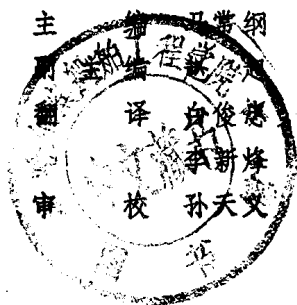
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前 言

本词典是根据美国出版的《美国谚语词典》“Dictionary of American Proverbs”一书编译而成的。这部词典是迄今为止国内翻译出版的专收美国谚语的工具书，内容较全，编排体系科学合理。全书收入了在美国民间流行的谚语约六千条，按原书分类体系排列，书后附有汉语条目分类索引，按汉语内容和关键词分为一千五百余类，依照汉语拼音次序排列，以便于读者查阅或引用美国谚语或相应的汉语译文时参考。

谚语是群众的经验和智慧的结晶。就其本质和主流来说，谚语是群众的语言财富，但其本身又具有一定的社会性和历史局限性，相信读者在理解和使用中会作出判断和选择。

由于我们水平有限，缺点错误一定不少，希望广大读者批评指正。

编译者

一九八九年十二月二十四日

原 书 序

人们给谚语下的定义是：众人的智慧，一人的妙语。这个定义是恰当的，因为它在两个方面使人相信，而这两方面是应当得到相信的。如果一条谚语不表达所有的人都相信的东西，或者至少是人们易于理解的东西，那么这条谚语就没有价值；但是，如果这条谚语不是由一个人把它提炼到极其简洁的程度，从而使之此后得以如其真实一样，令人难以忘怀，那么，它同样也是没有价值的。某条别的谚语可能似乎跟这条谚语一样真实，即使是与之完全相反；但是，二者都必须象时间不能拔出的倒刺一样，有力量扎在一般人的思想上。一条好谚语并不会变为陈词烂调，因为它并不依赖于民众信念中的任何时尚；它所表示的总是人们的一致认识——生活的梗概似乎就是如此——这种一致认识将继续下去，直到经验把它完全变成别的东西为止，如果竟然会如此的话。

显而易见，金先生的《美国谚语词典》收入了比美国这个名字早几个世纪、有时早千年的谚语。这是编者明智的决定，因为美国人正象任何其他民族一样，并不在乎智慧来自何处，只要它来得快，击中靶心，或者接近靶心就行了。谚语正象智慧本身的性质那样，既有倒刺，那自然也就有其不妥当的一面。谚语从来都不感情用事；仅以对婚姻的观点为例，谚语的要求是讥讽的。但是，没有人希望它是迥然不同的。正象金的这本有趣的书所再次

表明的那样，众人的智慧、一人的妙语涉及了人类经验的共同特性，而我们可能想到的例外却与此无关。我们每个人都知道，三天之后的客人并不是个害人虫，但是谚语的意向对那位客人是不感兴趣的。也不应当感兴趣，他值得写一卷书，而谚语却必须是单个的句子，切中要害，一语破的。

马克·范·多琳

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A

ABILITY 能力

Wisdom is not attained with year,
but by ability.

智慧不在于年龄而在于能力。

Most men don't lack the will but the
ability.

大多数人缺乏的不是意志而是能力。

When the tree falls the kid can climb
it.

树倒了，小孩子也能爬上去。

Unable to fly, in vain the bird flaps
his wings.

鸟儿不能飞，振翅也徒劳。

Little dogs start the hare, but great
ones catch it.

小狗惊兔，大狗捕捉。

Many can pack the cards that cannot
play.

很多人手里有好牌，但却不会打。

ABSENCE 缺席

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

不见心更想，离别情更深。

Honesty in our age has become
conspicuous by its absence.

在我们的时代，诚实因其缺乏而受人注目。

We praise a friend in his presence
and damn him in his absence.

人们对朋友往往当面捧，背后骂。

When the devil is absent, he leaves a

flirt behind to raise hell for him.

魔鬼不在的时候，常在身后留下一个兴风作浪的人替他大吵大闹。

Long absent, soon forgotten.

别久情疏。

ABSENT 不在、缺少

The eye is blind if the mind is absent.

心不在焉，有眼亦盲。

ABSTINENCE 禁欲、节制

Abstinence is the best medicine.

禁欲是最好的药物。

If you accept favors from crooked
men, you sell yourself down the
river.

接受不正当的人的礼物就是对自己的出卖。

If you accept nothing you have nothing to return.

无所收受则无所报还；一介不取，一介不予。

ABSURD 荒谬

Don't try to draw water with a sieve.

不要用筛子打水。

He gives straw to his dog and bones
to his horse.

以草喂狗却以骨喂马。

Don't throw pearls before swine.

勿明珠暗投。

You can't make a rope of sand.

砂子搓不成绳。

You can't put out a fire with oil.

灭火不能用油。

Don't appoint a crooked politician to investigate graft.

不要派狡诈的政客去调查贪污。

You can't build a bridge over the ocean.

海洋上架不成桥。

ABSURDITY 荒谬

Even absurdity has a champion to defend it, for error is always talkative.

荒谬也有拥护者为其辩护，因为错误总是多嘴的。

ABUNDANCE 富裕

Abundance, like want, ruins many.

富裕和匮乏一样毁坏了很多人。

One can never have too much of a good thing.

好东西永远不嫌多。

Plenty breeds pride.

富生骄。

ABUSE 凌辱

If you abuse others you can't squawk if you are given a taste of your own medicine.

如凌辱他人，就不要报怨人家以牙还牙。

ACCIDENTS 事故、偶然事件

The greatest events often arise from accidents.

最伟大的事件往往是由偶然事件引起的。

Accidents will happen in the best regulated families.

家规再严，丑事难免。

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

杯已到口，尚有失手。

ACCOMPLICE 同谋

The accomplice is as bad as the thief.

帮凶坏同窃贼。

ACCOMPLISHMENT 成就

Two heads are better than one.

一人不及二人智；集思胜独断。

If you would have a thing well done, do it yourself.

要得事办好，亲自动手搞。

That which is well done is first done.

最先做的做得好。

Make haste slowly.

忙中要慢。

The end justifies the means.

只要目的正确，可以不择手段。

ACCUSATION 控告

When foxes pack the jury box, the chicken is always found guilty as accused.

狐狸笼络陪审团，总是小鸡遭罪衍。

Accusation is proof when Malice and Force sit on the bench.

邪恶和暴力当法官，指控成证据。

ACHIEVEMENT 成就

The greatest things are done by the aid of small ones.

最伟大的事情是在小事情的帮助下完成的。

He who would have a hare for breakfast must hunt overnight.

要想早餐吃兔，就得前夜狩猎。

ACORNS 橡子

Acorns were good till bread was found.

没有找到面包，橡子也是好的；饥不择食。

ACQUIRING 获得

What we acquire without sweat we give away without regret.

得之不费力，弃之不可惜。

ACQUISITION 获得

It's easy to get, but hard to keep what you get.

得之容易，守之难。

ACRE 英亩

The best friend is an acre of land.
最好的朋友就是一英亩地。

ACTION 行动

Actions speak louder than words.

行动比语言更响亮。

Suit the action to the word.

要言行一致。

By united action we stand, by divided action we fall.

联合行动则存，分裂行动则垮。

It's the intention that makes an action good or bad.

行为的善恶在于意图。

Good actions speak for themselves; they need no tin horn.

善行不说自明，不需要吹嘘。

Don't judge a man's actions at first sight; give them a second look.

乍看难评人，再看认得清。

Good actions are founded on intelligence, though a fool may blunder into proper conduct.

善行基于智慧，纵然愚者冒然中可能出现正行。

Your one good action excuses a dozen bad ones.

一善宥十恶。

A bad action leaves a worse hangover.

坏的行为留下来的是更坏的后果。

We are remembered by our good actions, not by our good intentions.

人们想起我们的是我们的善行而不是善意。

Bad actions lead to worse reactions.

坏的行为导致更坏的后果反应，恶恶相长。

The used key is always bright.

常用的钥匙总发亮。

Saying and doing are two different things.

说与做是迥然不同的两回事。

ADAPT 适应

Adapt yourself to the times.

要适应时代。

ADDITION 增加

Addition is the miser's sum of happiness.

守财奴聚财，越多越高兴。

An addition to a family is often a subtraction.

家中多一口，享用减一分。

ADMIRATION 羡慕、赞美

Admiration is the daughter of ignorance.

羡慕是愚昧的女儿，羡慕出于无知。

ADULTERY 不贞

The chain of wedlock is so heavy that it takes three to carry it.

婚姻锁链的沉重要三个人才抬得起来。

A faithless wife is the shipwreck of a home.

不忠的妻子是家庭的灾难。

If the wife sins, the husband is equally guilty.

妻子犯罪，丈夫同样有过。

ADVANCING 前进

Life never stands still: if you don't advance you recede.

生活从来不是静止的：不进则退。

ADVERSITY 逆境

Sweet are the uses of adversity.

苦难尽头幸福来；苦尽甘来。

Adversity makes men, prosperity monsters.

逆境使人成材，顺境使人变坏。

Adversity tries virtue—and finds it guilty.

品德往往经不起逆境的考验。

Adversity has no friends.

逆境之中无朋友。

Adversity makes us wise—until the next misfortune comes.

逆境使人聪明——直到另一不幸来临。

We can bear adversity but not self-contempt.

我们能够忍受逆境，但不能忍受自卑。

The philosopher coins adversity into spiritual riches.

哲学家视逆境为精神财富。

Be patient in adversity and cautious in prosperity.

逆境中要忍耐，顺境中要谨慎。

You must take the fat with the lean.

既能享福，也能吃苦。

Nothing down, nothing up.

无下则无上。

Every path hath a puddle.

条条道路有水坑。

ADVERTISEMENT 广告

Blow your own horn—even if you don't sell a clam.

既使你不卖蛤肉，也要吹起你的号角。

ADVICE 劝告

A lawyer's advice is expensive, but it'll cost you more if you consult yourself.

律师的劝告代价大，但自己作主代价更大。

Advice after mischief is like medicine after death.

事后劝告犹如人死用药。

People give nothing so willingly as advice.

人们最乐意给予别人的莫过于劝告。

There's no advice like father's—even if you don't take it.

父亲劝告最好——即使你不采纳。

We may give advice but we can't give conduct.

我们可以给予忠告，但不能越俎代庖。

The advice of fools is worthless.

傻子的劝告不足取。

Advisers get away with it: they never

pay the penalty of their advice.

这种忠告不可用：他们从不承担因他们的劝告而产生的恶果。

We treat advisers as we treat doctors:
we do as we damned please as soon
as their backs are turned.

对忠告者如同对待医生一样：他们一转身我们就我行我素

Never advise a man to go to the halter
or to the altar.

不劝人犯法也不劝人结婚。

The worst men are often the best
advisers.

最坏的人往往是最好的忠告者。

If you can't take advice, you can't
be helped.

不听劝告，无法可想。

What the poor need is less advice
and more helping hands.

穷人需要的是较少的劝告，更多的帮助。

Give neither counsel nor salt till you
are asked for it.

忠告和盐巴，人家不要莫给他。

Advice is something the wise don't
need and fools won't take.

智者不需要劝告，愚者不接受劝告。

He that will not be counselled, can-
not be helped.

不听劝告，无法可想。

When a thing is done advice comes
too late.

事后建议显得太晚。

ADVOCATE 辩护者

Truth is the best advocate.

真理是最好的辩护士。

AFFLICTION 磨难

The good man piles up woe, the bad
man piles up dough.

好人磨难成堆，坏人金钱成山。

Afflictions are the good man's trea-
sure — but he'd rather bury it than
bear it.

磨难是好人的财富——但他宁愿埋掉它而不愿承受它。

The afflicted person was once thought
sacred but now he's considered a
fool.

受磨难的人曾一度被认为是神圣的，但现在被人看成傻子。

AFFLICTS 折磨

God afflicts those whom He loves.

上帝折磨他所爱的人。

AFRAID 畏惧

Nobody would be afraid if he could
help it.

要是能够办得到，谁也不会害怕。

AFTERLIFE 来世

Neither above nor below the ground
can Paradise or hell be found.

天上既找不到天堂，地下也找不到地狱。

AGE 年龄

You can be as old as Methuselah and
still be a fool.

即使你活得象麦修撒拉（圣经中寿命高达969岁的长寿人）一样大，你仍然是个傻子。

A woman is as old as she admits.

女人年纪在自家，自认多大就多大。

The young may die, the old must die.

年轻人可能死去，老人必定死亡。

Old age is an incurable disease.

老年是无法医治的疾病。

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

老狗学不了新把戏，老人很难适应新事物。

The bad flourish; the good die young.

坏人活千年，好人命不长。

At 20 years of age the will reigns; at 30 the wit; at 40 the judgment.

二十意志支配，三十智慧作主，四十判断当家。

Many foxes grow gray, but few grow old.

狐狸变成灰色的很多，但变老的很少。

One is as old as one's heart.

心有多老，人有多老。

Move an old tree and it will wither to death.

移老树树必死。

Age breeds aches.

年老生疼痛。

Old age is itself a disease.

老年本身就是一种疾病。

AGREE 同意、一致

No two on earth in all things can agree.

世上没有事事都一致两个人。

They agree like cats and dogs.

相处如猫狗，难以安宁。

Two dogs over one bone seldom agree.

两狗争一骨，相处难和好。

If there were no fools or scoundrels in the world, all people would

agree on everything.

如果世界上没有傻子和恶棍，人们凡事都会意见一致的。

AID 帮助

Water afar does not quench a fire at home.

远水不济近火。

ALARMISTS 危言耸听者

Alarmists usually regard the rising generation as a falling one.

大惊小怪的人，常把新兴的一代看作衰败的一代。

ALMOST 差不多

"Almost-made-it" never made the grade.

“差不多成功”绝不等于成功。

"Almost" never killed a fly.

“差不多”从来没有打死过一只苍蝇。

ALMS 施舍

Alms are the golden key that opens the gates of heaven.

施舍是打开天堂之门的金钥匙。

Don't steal a chicken and give chicken giblets to the poor.

不要偷了鸡而把鸡杂送给穷人，不要作大恶而施小惠于穷人。

Alms are the salt of riches—but don't rub the salt into the poor man's wounds.

施舍是财富的盐——但不要用盐去擦穷人的伤口。

No one becomes poor through giving alms.

没有人因施舍而变穷。

AMBA'SADOR 大使

An ambassador is a good man sent abroad to lie for the good of his country.

大使是委派到国外为本国利益撒谎的好人。

AMBITION 野心

Ambition is the last infirmity of noble minds.

野心是高尚之人的最后的弱点。

The ambitious bullfrog puffed and puffed until he burst.

野心的牛蛙要吹破肚皮才罢休。

By jumping at the moon you may fall in the mud.

跳向月亮，你会掉进泥淖。

There is no eel so small but it hopes to become a whale.

即使小鳗鱼也希望变成鲸。

Fling away ambition: by that sin fell the angels.

抛弃野心，天使有了野心也堕落。

There is nothing humbler than ambition when it is about to climb.

向上爬时，野心最谦卑。

The higher they rise, the steeper they fall.

爬得越高，跌得越重。

AMERICANS 美国人

The Indians are the only Americans who did not come here as exiles and refugees.

印第安人是唯一没有作为放逐者和难民而来到这里的美国人。

Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute.

为防务花费百万，为贡品不花一文。

Equal rights for all, special privileges for none.

人人平等，无人享受特权。

Don't give up the ship.

不要抛弃船只。

ANCESTORS 祖先

The sinner boasts of his ancestors, the good man falls back upon his own virtue.

无赖夸耀自己的祖先，好人依靠自己的德性。

Remember the roots of your family tree, but you are known by your fruit, not by your root.

要记住你家族的根，但人家知道的是你的果实而不是你的根。

ANGELS 天使

Even the devil was an angel in the beginning.

甚至魔鬼起初也是天使。

Man was created a little lower than the angels, and he's been getting a little lower ever since.

人被造得比天使略低一筹，从那以后就更加低下了。

Write on the devil's horns "good angel," and many will believe it.

在魔鬼的号角上写上“好天使”，许多人就会信以为真。

ANGER 愤怒

Dread the anger of the cornered sheep.

提防走投无路的羊的恼怒。

What-e'er is begun in anger, ends in shame.

以愤怒开始，必以耻辱告终。

Anger's final resting-place is the bosom of fools.

愚者胸中是愤怒的最后安息处。

Anger is a brief madness but it can do damage that lasts forever.

愤怒是短时的疯狂，但它能造成永久的损失。

Anger begins with folly and ends with prayer.

愤怒始于愚蠢，以后悔告终。

When angry count ten; when very angry, a hundred.

发怒数十下，盛怒数一百。

To be angry is to punish yourself for another's sins.

发怒是为别人的罪过而处罚自己。

Anger is a stone cast at a wasp's nest.

发怒是投向马蜂窝的石头。

If you look at your brother's faults you get angry; if you overlook them you get the grace of Heaven. 看到你兄弟的过失你愤怒，如果你原谅其过失，你就会得到上帝的恩宠。

The angry beggar get a stone instead of a handout.

愤怒的乞丐得到的是石头，而不是施舍。

The angry man opens his mouth and shuts his eyes.

发怒的人是张开嘴巴闭着眼睛

Who spits against heaven, it falls in his face.

对天吐唾沫，落下来掉在自己脸上。

When the pot boils over it cools itself.

壶水开过自己凉。

Anger is never without a reason, but

seldom with a good one.

发怒总有一个理由，但很少有象样的理由。

Anger is the fever and frenzy of the soul.

发怒是头脑发热和灵魂的狂乱。

ANIMALS 动物

Human beings have two feet less than other animals—that's the best that can be said about them.

人比动物少两条腿——这是关于人的最好表述。

Man is the only animal that can be skinned more than once.

人是唯一能剥一次以上皮的动物。

ANNOYANCES 烦恼

Put up with small annoyances to gain great results.

为了取得伟大的成就应隐忍小的烦恼；忍小愤而就大谋。

ANSWER 回答

A soft answer turneth away wrath.

婉言可以释怒。

Silence is the best answer to a fool.

沉默是对蠢人的最好的回答。

The best answer is to roll up your sleeves and do the job yourself.

最好的回答是卷起袖子自己干。

ANTIQUITY 古代

To admire the antique is not to admire the old but the natural.

赞美古物并非赞美古代而是赞美自然。

Antiquity is not always the mark of verity.

古物未必尽真品。

To look back to antiquity is one thing, to go back to it, another.

回首古代是一回事，要回到古代却是另一回事。

Antiquity surrenders, defeated by new things.

新事物必然战胜旧事物。

The earliest and oldest and longest has still the mastery of us.

束缚着人们的仍然是那些最早、最古老、最长久的东西。

Those we call the ancients were really new in everything.

我们称为古人的那些人其实在各方面都是崭新的。

ANTS 蚂蚁

No one preaches better than the ant, and it says nothing.

谁都不如蚂蚁说的好，而它什么也不说。

An ant may work its heart out, but it can't make honey.

蚂蚁可以竭力而为，但它造不出蜜来。

ANVIL 铁砧

Some men are born anvils, others are born hammers.

一些人生就是铁砧，而另一些人则生就是铁锤。

If you're an anvil be patient; if you're a hammer, strike hard.

是砧就得忍受，是锤就得猛打。

The anvil lasts longer than the hammer.

铁砧比铁锤更持久。

ANXIETY 忧虑

Don't get so anxious that you kill

yourself.

勿过忧而伤身。

Hopes delayed hang the heart upon tenterhooks.

希望迟延，使人不安。

Every change makes the favorite of fortune anxious.

每一次变化都会使幸运儿感到不安。

APE 猿

The ape clasps her young so long that at last she kills them.

猿拍孩子时间过长以致杀死他们；过于溺爱害了孩子。

APES 猿、摹仿

The pious are the apes of God.

虔诚的人是生来的傻子。

Every ape swears he has the handsomest children.

每个猿都发誓说他的孩子最漂亮；孩子是自己的好。

A bad man becomes worse when he apes a saint.

坏人摹仿圣人就会变得更坏。

Pride often apes humility.

骄傲常常摹仿谦逊。

APPEARANCE 外貌

Merit in appearance is more often rewarded than merit itself.

表面的功绩往往比功绩本身更受奖赏。

Don't judge by appearances.

不要以貌取人。

You can't know a girl by her looks or a man by his books.

识女不能凭其容貌，识男不能凭其著作。

Be what you appear to be.

要表里如一。

Don't trust the weak appearance of the wolf or the disappearance of the cat: they'll both make a come-back.

不要相信狼的虚弱的外表或者猫的消失，它们都会卷土重来的。

Compliment an old hag on her lovely appearance and she'll take you at your word.

称赞老女巫可爱的外表，她就会用你的话来骗你。

The face of an eagle, the heart of a chicken.

鹰的面孔，鸡的心肠，面恶心善。

Appearance is deceiving.

外表不可靠。

All that glitters is not gold.

发光的并不都是金子。

You can't judge of the horse by the harness.

看马莫凭马具。

APPETITE 胃口、食欲

New dishes beget new appetite.

新菜产生新胃口。

Where reason rules appetite obeys.

理智当家，胃口服从。

The more the glutton eats the greater his appetite.

贪食者越吃胃口越大。

The poor man seeks food, the rich man appetite.

穷人寻求食物，富人寻求食欲。

Appetite comes with eating.

胃口越吃越开。

A growing boy can never eat his fill;

there's always room for more.

成长中的孩子总是吃不饱。

The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

关心男人的吃喝，会得到男人的欢心。

APPLAUSE 喝彩

We stone our redeemers and applaud our destroyers.

对拯救我们的人投之以石，对破坏我们的人却报以掌声。

Wise men seek instruction, fools fall for applause.

智者寻求教益，愚者恋慕掌声。

APPLE 苹果

The best apple is taken by the pig.

最好的苹果被猪吃了。

The apples on the other side of the wall are the sweetest.

隔墙苹果最香甜。

What's the good of a fair apple, if it has a worm in its heart?

如果里面有虫，好看的苹果有什么用？

One rotten apple spoils the barrel.

一个坏苹果弄坏一满筐。

APPRECIATION 感激

You never miss the water till the well runs dry.

井干才惦念井水。

A thin bush is better than no shelter.

丛林再稀也比没有掩蔽好。

APPROPRIATENESS 适当

Being on sea, sail; being on land, settle.

海上扬帆，陆上安家。