

思考篇

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The Best from The 21st Century
— Thought-Provoking Topics

何兆熊 选编

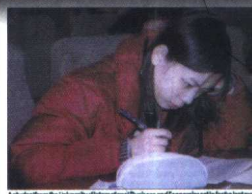
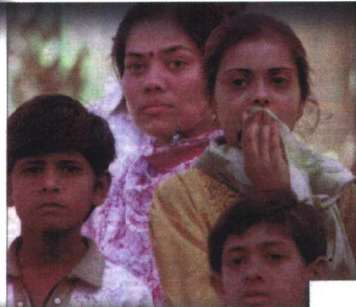
上海外语教育出版社 外教社

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外教社

No runs an Internet company. His business is worldwide. He trades millions a day. And he is only 12 years old. Page 10

他是网络公司老板，他的生意遍及世界各地，他日进斗金，而他不过只有12岁。



A graduate of the University of International Business and Economics said for the last time January 15, never use voice

"As a graduate of Benji (Peking University), I know that to law programme is tough in the country. Although the study will take away almost all my spare time in the next three years, I think it's worth the sacrifice." says Zhang.

"If I pass the bar exam graduation in three years, I can get a job and start a legal career." says Law business administrator.

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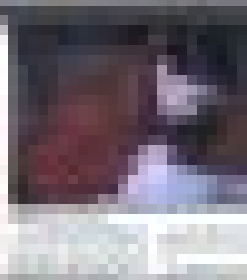
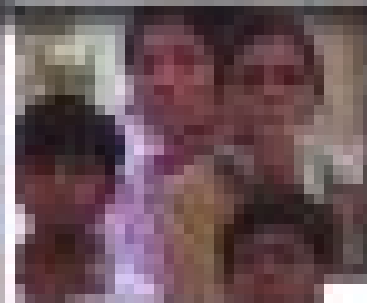
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何北衡 主编

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The Best from The 21st Century
— Thought-Provoking Topics

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编者前言

《21 世纪报》是由国内最大的英文报系中国日报主办,深受广大读者,尤其是青少年读者欢迎的一份国内出版的英文报纸。这份报纸之所以能拥有较大的读者群,无疑是因为它具有较高的可读性。所谓可读性体现在内容和文字两个方面。就内容而言,除了重大的国内外时事新闻外,这份报纸刊登的许多文章的内容都是广大青少年读者感兴趣的,和他们的生活十分贴近的;就文字而言,这份报纸的英语比较浅近,具有高中以上英语水平的人大体都能阅读。

尽快、尽好地掌握英语,是广大青少年的迫切愿望。大量阅读是学习外语的一种重要方法。但总的来说,目前适合青少年阅读的英语出版物还不够多。于是我们便萌发了从《21 世纪报》中挑选一些精粹文章汇编成册,以飨读者的想法。我们翻阅了 1995 年以来的《21 世纪报》,根据内容分别汇编成《文化篇》、《语言篇》、《科技篇》和《思考篇》四种,为减少阅读过程中的阻力,我们对文集中的部分生词、难点和难句作了一些注释。这样的读物具有很强的知识性和趣味性。读者不仅能获得大量有关世界各国的社会文化知识、有关英语语言的知识、最新的科技发展信息,学会不少做人的道理,同时也必将提高自己的英语水平。可以说是“轻轻松松学英语”的一种好方式。

我们相信我们所做的这项工作是有意义的,广大读者一定能从这套读物中获益。对《21 世纪报》编辑部给予的支持,我们在此表示感谢。

2000 年 5 月

Success is not a destination

Do people stop once they have achieved something? No! In life, we are always trying to do things better or having more of the same success.

I met a successful Australian creative director at an advertising congress in 1989. This was before he became a best-selling author. He is Bryce Courtenay. His first novel, *The Power of One*, was about his childhood days in South Africa. It has been sold over 1 million copies worldwide.

Spurred on by his success^①, Courtenay wrote *Tandia*, a continuation to *The Power of One*, in 1991. Again, this has been a bestseller.

Now he is writing his third book entitled *April Fool's Day*. It is the touching story of how his young son, Damon, died of AIDS on April 1, 1991.

Director Oliver Stone also goes from one success to another. He won Academy Awards^② for his screenplay adaptation of *Midnight Express* in 1978, *Platoon* in 1986 and *Born on the Fourth of July* in 1989.

① spurred on by his success 在成功的驱使下

② Academy Awards 学院奖, 即奥斯卡奖

Now he is back with another film set in Viet Nam called Heaven and Earth.

Jane Fonda moved from being an Academy Award actress to a successful business-woman. Her aerobics workout videos^① have been sold around the world.

Golfer Greg Norman has his ups and downs in golf tournaments. Still, he has won millions of dollars. He has tournaments named after him, such as the Shark Shootout and the Greg Norman Holden Classic. Now he has launched the Shark range of sportswear.

Steffi Graf wants to keep on winning tennis grand slam^②. Jansher Khan drives himself to beat his opponents without losing too many games or points in squash tournaments (a game played by two people in an indoor court with their hands and a ball).

Athletes are constantly striving to lower time for races; increase heights or distances.

The world of medicine has had its series of successes too. Christian Barnard performed several successful heart transplants. Other medical experts have achieved organ transplants. Throughout the ages, mankind has found treatment and cures for tuberculosis, cancer, and other diseases. A cure of AIDS might soon be discovered.

Age does not seem to slow down achievers. Tina Turner at 54 is still singing with abundant energy and attracting sell-out crowds^③ wherever she goes.

Comedian George Burns, in his 90s, wants to perform at Caesar's Palace when he turns 100.

Success does not belong only to the rich and famous. It

① aerobics workout videos 健身操录像带

② grand slam 大满贯赛事

③ attracting sell-out crowds 吸引了听众,每场演出均座无虚席

should be the goal of everyone. Many successful people have had humble beginnings.

Would you believe that actress Michelle Pfeifer of Cat-woman fame was a supermarket checkout girl?

At work, we strive for achievements too. Success may mean organizing a conference more effectively and efficiently each year. Sometimes, it is not a pat on the back or the promotion that makes it worthwhile.

Often, it is the inner thrill and satisfaction of achievement, no matter how small it may be.

Aiming for success doesn't mean you are greedy or dissatisfied. It is all part of gaining new experiences and dimensions in life. It ultimately makes you a more interesting and useful person in society.

The journey to success has its road blocks, discouragement and distractions. It takes great resourcefulness and achievement to overcome obstacles and setbacks to move on successfully.

by Peter Ling

第2篇

Self-motivation for success

Do you wait for people to motivate you or do you take the initiative^① to motivate yourself?

If you wait for people to motivate you, it may take a long time to come or it may not happen at all. If you motivate yourself, the frequency and intensity are all within your own control.

W. Mitchell, author of "The Man Who Would Not Be Defeated", motivated himself to success. He suffered burns^② to over 65 per cent of his body in an accident and was paralyzed^③ a few years later.

Did he give up hope? Initially, yes. Later, he armed himself with a new attitude to push aside obstacles blocking his way to the many goals and dreams in his life^④. He took control of, and responsibility for his own life. He put himself in charge of his new, painful and challenging situation.

① take the initiative 采取主动

② burns 烧伤

③ paralyze 瘫痪

④ to push aside obstacles blocking his way to the many goals and dreams in his life 排除妨碍他实现生活中许多目标和梦想的障碍

He co-founded a multi-million dollar business and became a respected environmentalist, a mayor, a pilot and an active sportsman. He is an internationally-sought after speaker. He has appeared on the TV programmes, "Today" and "Good Morning America". He was featured in Time and Parade magazines, USA Today and The New York Times.

His remarkable story of courage and self-motivation has uplifted millions of people around the world.

"It is not what happens to you — it is what you do about it," he said.

When something in your life changes, Mitchell asks: "Is it a setback or a starting point?"

To Mitchell, most limitations are self-imposed. Of course, some obstacles are put in your path, but overcoming them depends totally on your attitude and character.

Anthony Robbins, author of "Unlimited Power", said this of Mitchell: "Mitchell has refused to be overcome by two life-threatening and life-changing accidents-disastrous events which, if given the power, could have ruled his life to its end.

Instead, he decided to make the tragedies which befell him a starting point^①.

"I have been inspired by Mitchell myself, because I believe that Mitchell embodies those traits that are required for us to rise above whatever life hands us; those traits that can enable us to be joyful, fulfilled, and whole human beings, created and always being created in the image of god."

While Mitchell rose like a phoenix from his sufferings, Australian skier Janine Shepherd also bounced back with self-motivation.

① make the tragedies which befell him a starting point 把降临到他头上的种种不幸变成起点

Shepherd was training for the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics when a truck hit her. She had a broken neck, back and massive internal injuries. It was a miracle that she lived. She was told she would never walk or ski again.

“Never” was a word Shepherd could not accept. She resisted any negative thought or feeling. She fought back, even when further setbacks occurred — a potentially fatal blood clot^① was discovered in her lungs.

She motivated herself to live with pain. She did not want to be robbed of her aims in life. Every time she heard planes flying, she boosted her fighting spirit to a higher level.

“If I can not walk, I am going to fly,” she decided.

Shepherd learned to fly even with one leg unable to operate a pedal. She also became a flying instructor and overcame another “impossibility.” She was told that she could not have children but went on to have two daughters.

“Never Tell Me Never” is the title of her recently-published book. Shepherd now gives motivational speeches, encouraging people not to let go of life^②.

Did Mitchell and Shepherd wait to be motivated? Probably some people around them encouraged and urged them to fight on. Probably some people were negative and suggested that they abandon their dreams or limit their goals.

Mitchell and Shepherd could have succumbed to^③ their sufferings, their initial negative moods and the “discouragers” who are present around us. But no, they did not want to give in so easily. They did not want to lose or be defeated without even trying in their new circumstances.

① a potentially fatal blood clot 可能致命的血栓

② encouraging people not to let go of life 鼓励人们不要放弃生活

③ succumb to 屈从

It must have taken a great deal of self-motivation to push themselves on each minute, hour, day, week, month and year. It must have taken a lot of self-talk to refocus on their aspirations, to plan their strategies, to activate or vitalize their plans, to make adjustments and to succeed — not once but several times.

Self-motivation is the best power to drive you towards your goals. Take charge of your life. Do not wait to be motivated by others.

by Peter Ling

Dealing with your mistakes

“Jury, have you reached a verdict?”

“Yes, your Honour. We have.”

“What is your verdict?”

“We find the accused guilty of ...”

More and more people nowadays are being found guilty of driving recklessly under the influence of alcohol^①, causing the death of another person. How do these people cope mentally with this major mistake in their life? How would you cope with it?

There are three ways you may handle such a situation. One way is not to feel guilty at all, even though there is an official “guilty” verdict. Although you say you are sorry for killing an innocent victim, you convince yourself that it was all an unfortunate accident.

Perhaps drinking to excess^② was an accident too. You were at a party, you were coaxed^③ into drinking, you left

① driving recklessly under the influence of alcohol 酒后莽撞开车

② drinking to excess 喝酒过度

③ coax 诱骗

the party pretty sober^①, you became drowsy as you drove the long distance home (a side-effect of the liquor), you lost control of your car and it crashed into another motorist.

So you don't lose any sleep thinking of the accident. In fact, you don't think of the incident at all. People may say that you have no feelings at all.

On the other hand, you could feel guilty and waste away your life in a depressed state over what happened. You feel overwhelming remorse^② for killing someone. You feel like an idiot for allowing yourself to drive when you were drunk.

You worry about the mess you have created for yourself and your family. You destroy your career because of this tragic incident. You feel even more guilty when you discover that the dead person was the sole bread-winner for a large family.

You blame yourself and you blame your colleagues for persuading you to drink that fateful night. You blame the devil for taking away your self-control.

All this guilt weighs so heavily on your mind that it affects you mentally and you end up in a mental asylum^③.

A third way to handle the situation is to be mature about it. Accept the fact that you lacked self-control, which led you to drink, drive and kill someone accidentally.

Serve out your sentence^④ and pay for your sin. Write a letter to the dead person's family, apologizing for your action. Set down some principles to guide your life so that you will be a law-abiding person in the future.

Don't let the accident control your mind. Guilty thoughts will come naturally and uninvited into your

① left the party pretty sober 离开聚会时很清醒

② overwhelming remorse 极度的悔恨

③ mental asylum 精神病院

④ serve out your sentence 老老实实地服刑

mind — you can't control these thoughts but you can control whether you dwell on them.^①

You can dismiss the negative thoughts from your mind by thinking of something more positive.

Everyone has a feeling of guilt at some time in their lives. Peter McWilliams describes guilt in his book “Do it!”: “Guilt is the anger we feel toward ourselves when we do something ‘wrong’.”

Guilt is the remorse we feel when we do something “bad” or “different”. When you do something dishonest, you feel guilty. When something bothers your conscience like this, you want to rectify^② it immediately.

But once you have done all you can to make amends^③, you can't feel guilty all the time. If you don't make amends, then the guilt will haunt you forever and cloud the way you think and feel.

If you are sincerely sorry and have made amends to the best of your ability, then you should get on with your life.

Even if the dead person's family doesn't leave you in peace after you have tried your best to make amends, you can't let the guilt control your life.

It's up to you how you want to live your life. But no matter whether you allow the guilt to control you or you are in control of the guilt and carry on living, always be conscious not to make the same mistakes again.

by Peter Ling

① You can't control these thoughts but you can control whether you dwell on them. 你无法控制这些想法,但你可以控制是否要沉溺在这些想法之中。

② rectify 纠正

③ make amends 赔罪,赔偿

Gates: Education does count

Hundreds of students send me e-mail each year asking for advice about education. They want to know what to study, or whether it's OK to drop out of college^① since that's what I did.

A smaller number of parents send messages, often poignant^②, seeking guidance for their son or daughter. "How can we steer our child toward success?^③" they ask.

My basic advice is simple and heartfelt. "Get the best education you can. Take advantage of high school and college. Learn how to learn."

It's true that I dropped out of college to start Microsoft, but I was at Harvard for three years before dropping out — and I'd love to have the time to go back. As I've said before, nobody should drop out of college unless they believe they face the opportunity of a lifetime. And even then they should reconsider.

① drop out of college 从大学退学

② poignant 辛酸的, 强烈的

③ How can we steer our child toward success? 我们怎样才能把孩子引上成功之路呢?

Kathy Cridland, a sixth grade teacher in Ohio, wrote to say, "Several of my students claim that you never finished high school. Since you are a success, my students perceive that as a reason not to care much about getting a good education."

I finished high school!

The computer industry has lots of people who didn't finish college, but I'm not aware of any success stories that began with somebody dropping out of high school. I actually don't know any high school dropouts, let alone any successful ones.

In my company's early years, we had a bright part-time programmer who threatened to drop out of high school to work full-time. We told him no.

Quite a few of our people didn't finish college, but we discourage dropping out.

Having a diploma certainly helps somebody who is looking to us for a job.

College isn't the only place where information exists. You can learn in a library. But somebody handing you a book doesn't automatically foster learning. You want to learn with other people, ask questions, try out ideas and have a way to test your ability. It usually takes more than just a book.

Education should be broad, although it's fine to have deep interests, too.

In high school there were periods when I was highly focused on writing software, but for most of my high school years I had wide-ranging academic interests^①. My parents encouraged this, and I'm grateful that they did.

Although I attended a lot of different kinds of classes in

① wide-ranging academic interests 广泛的学术兴趣