



(英汉对照)

ALL THAT IS BEAUTIFUL
Sanity of true genius

最美丽的英文

天才未必真癫狂



培根等 著 武晔岚 编 段鸿欣等 译



陕西师范大学出版社



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感 谢



许多美好的东西，都需要等待。

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《最美丽的英文》，由武晔岚编辑，那是四年前的冬天，所有的作者介绍及简析都由她来编写。在编辑整理中，有些译者未能联系上，敬请谅解。我们期待您的联系。

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希望您的每一天，都有美丽文章相伴。

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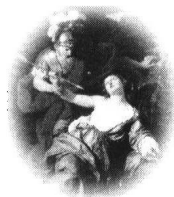
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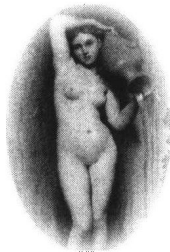
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第一篇

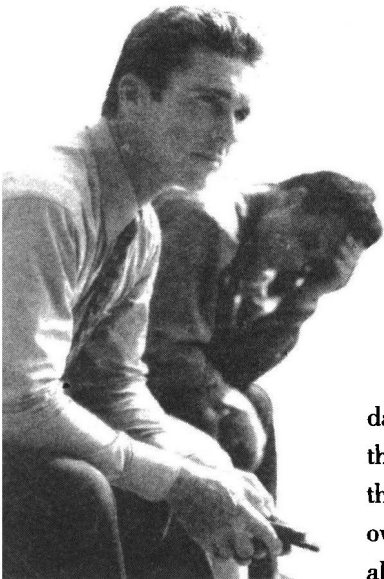


岁月悠悠



我们不是在休息,我们是在一次旅途中。我们的生活是一种运动,一种趋势,是向一个看不见的目标稳定而不停地前进。每一天,我们都会赢得某些东西,或者会失去某些东西……





Too Dear For The Whistle

When I was a child of seven years old, my friends, on a holiday, filled my pocket with coppers. I went at once to a shop where they sold toys for children. Being charmed with the sound of a whistle that I had seen by the way, in the hands of another boy, I handed over all my money for one. I then came home, and went whistling all over the house, much pleased with my whistle, but disturbing all the family. My brothers and sisters and cousins, when I told of the bargain I had made, said I had given four times as much as the whistle was worth. They put me in mind of what good things I might have bought with the rest of the money, and laughed at me so much for my folly that I cried with vexation. Thinking about the matter gave me more chagrin than the whistle gave me pleasure.

This, however, was afterwards of use to me, for the impression continued on my mind, so that often, when I was tempted to buy something I did not need, I said to myself, "Don't give too much for the whistle," and I saved my money. As I grew up, came into the world, and observed the actions of men, I thought I met with many, very many, who "gave too much for the whistle." When I saw some men too eager for court favour, wasting his time at court gatherings, giving up his rest, his liberty, his virtue, and perhaps his friends, for royal favour, I said to myself—"This man gives too much for the whistle." When I saw another fond of popularity, constantly taking part in political affairs, neglecting his own business, and ruining it by neglect, "He pays, indeed," said I, "too dear for his whistle."

If I knew a miser who gave up every kind of comfortable living, all the pleasure of doing good to others, all the esteem of his fellow citizens and the joys of friendship, for the sake of gathering and keeping wealth—"Poor man," said I, "yon pay too dear for your whistle." When I met a man of pleasure, who did not try to improve his mind or



作者：本杰明·富兰克林 (Benjamin Franklin, 1706—1790)

简析：作者以童年时代一件天真但是却愚蠢的小事为例，说明了很多人在生活中“为一只哨子花费过多”，也就是为了一些毫无价值的东西而放弃了美好事物的做法，在作者眼中都是一些得不偿失的愚蠢行为。作者在本文中运用“以小见大”的手法，使读者在轻松愉悦的气氛中领会到作者在价值观上的深意。看罢此文，也许每一位读者都会扪心默想，我们曾做过多少得不偿失的事情呢？

得不偿失

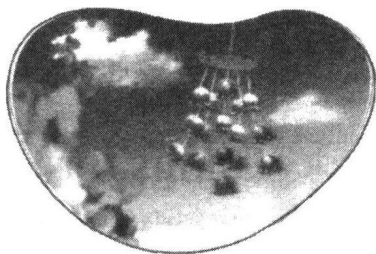
当我还是个七岁孩子的时候，有一个假日，我的朋友们在我衣袋里塞满了铜币。我立刻到一家卖儿童玩具的店铺去。我在路上看到一个男孩手里的哨子，那哨音真迷人，我就拿出所有的钱买了一只。然后我回到家里，走到哪里吹到哪里，对哨子非常满意，却吵得全家不得安宁。我的亲兄弟姐妹和堂表兄弟姐妹听我讲起这笔交易，都说我买这只哨子付了四倍的钱。他们提醒我，说那多付的钱本来还可以买些什么好东西，又笑我做了傻瓜，笑得我十分烦恼，不禁哭了起来。我一想到这件事就懊恼，甚于那哨子给我的乐趣。

不过，这件事后来倒于我有益。因为我一直记着，所以每当我一心想买什么其实并不需要的东西时，我就对自己说，“别为那只哨子花费过多，”这就把钱省下了。到我长太成人，走向社会，观察人们的所作所为，我觉得我碰到许许多多“为一只哨子花费过多”的人。我看到有些人一心想讨好朝廷，在宫廷聚会上浪费时间，放弃了休息，牺牲了自由、美德、甚至自己的朋友，惟求朝廷恩泽，我就对自己说，“这人为一只哨子花费过多了。”我看到有人爱出风头，经常参与政治活动，荒疏了自己的业务，以致失败，一事无成，我就说，“他为他那只哨子真是花了过高的代价。”

如果我认识一个吝啬鬼，他放弃种种生活上的舒适，宁肯不要享受为别人做好事的愉快，宁肯不要别人的敬重和友谊的欢乐，一心敛财和守财——“可怜的家伙，”我要



his fortune but merely devoted himself to having a good time, perhaps neglecting his health, "Mistaken man," said I, "you are providing pain for yourself, instead of pleasure; you are paying too dear for your whistle." If I saw someone fond of appearance who had fine clothes, fine houses, fine furniture, fine earrings, all above his fortune, and for which he had run into debt, "Alas," said I, he has paid dear, very dear, for his whistle." In short the miseries of mankind are largely due to their putting a false value on things—to giving "too much for their whistles" .



说，“你为你的哨子付的代价太大了”。当我碰到一个浪荡子，既不思增长才智，也不想增加财富，一味寻欢作乐，甚至损害健康，“迷途的人，”我要说，“你不是找乐趣，而是在自讨苦吃。你为你的哨子花费过多了。”如果我看到有人讲究外表，穿的是漂亮衣服，住的是漂亮房子，用的是漂亮家具，戴的是漂亮耳环，而这一切都超过了他的财力，因而债台高筑，“唉”，我说，“他为他的哨子花费得太多、太多了！”总而言之，人类的不幸大都由于对事物作了错误的估价——换句话说，“为他们的哨子花的代价过于昂贵了。”

An Important Aspect of College Life

大学生活的一个重要方面

It is perfectly possible to organize the life of our colleges in such a way that students and teachers alike will take part in it; in such a way that a perfectly natural daily intercourse will be established between them; and it is only by such an organization that they can be given real vitality as places of serious training, be made communities in which youngsters will come fully to realize how interesting intellectual work is, how vital, how important, how closely associated with all modern achievement—only by such an organization that study can be made to seem part of life itself. Lectures often seem very formal and empty things; recitations generally prove very dull and unrewarding. It is in conversation and natural intercourse with scholars chiefly that you find how lively knowledge is, how it ties into everything that is interesting and important, how intimate a part it is of everything that is interesting and important, how intimate a part it is of everything that is “practical” and connected with the world. Men are not always made thoughtful by books; but they are generally made thoughtful by association with men who think.





作者：伍德罗·威尔逊 (Woodrow Wilson, 1856—1924)，美国第二十八任总统。他毕业于普林斯顿大学，1890 年任该大学法学及政治经济学教授，1902 年至 1910 年任该校校长。在大学里提倡社会改革和教育改革，包括实行小班“导师制”。其著作有五卷《美国人民的历史》、《新自由》等。

简析：在这篇文章中，伍德罗提倡在大学学习过程中，应该重视师生之间的交流和讨论，这样才能激发学生真正的学习积极性和乐趣，让他们了解到知识是最生气勃勃的东西，而不是枯燥无味的讲解和背诵。通过学生和老师之间无拘无束的讨论和谈话，学生才会明白知识是与这个世界的一切事物都紧密联系在一起的，并且与爱好思考善于思考的前辈交往，会“近朱者赤”，也成为一个好学的人。

大学生活的一个重要方面

完全有可能把我们大学的生活组织得使学生和教师都参加在其中，使师生之间产生完全自然的日常交流；只有通过这样的组织，才能使大学这种严格地培养人才的地方真正充满朝气，才能使他们成为共同生活的团体，年轻人在其中会充分认识到脑力劳动是多么有趣味，多么充满活力，多么重要，并且与一切现代成就有着多么紧密的联系——只有通过这样的组织，才能使学习似乎成为生活本身的组成部分。课堂讲授常常显得很一本正经而空洞无物；背诵往往非常枯燥而收效甚微。只有在与学者们的谈话和自然的交往中，你才能懂得知识是多么生气蓬勃，知识与一切有趣和重要的事物是多么紧密相连，它是这些事物不可分割的一部分，是一切“实用的”以及与当今世界有关的事物密切相连的一部分。读书并不一定能使人变得善于思考；但是，一般说来，与善于思考的人们交往，就能使人好学善思。

(徐越庭 译)



The Lost Childhood

Perhaps it is only in childhood that books have any deep influence on our lives. In later life we admire, we are entertained, we may modify some views we already hold, but we are more likely to find in books merely a confirmation of what is in our minds already: as in a love affair it is our own features that we see reflected flatteringly back.

But in childhood all books are books of divination, telling us about the future, and like the fortune teller who sees a long journey in the cards or death by water they influence the future. I suppose that is why books excited us so much. What do we ever get nowadays from reading to equal the excitement and the revelation in those first four-teen years? Of course I should be interested to hear that a new novel by Mr.E.M. Forster^① was going to appear this spring, but I could never compare that mild expectation of civilized pleasure with the missed heartbeat, the appalled glee I felt when I found on a library shelf a novel by Rider Haggard, Percy Westerman, Captain Brereton or Stanley Weyman^② which I had not read before. No, it is in those early years that I would look for the crisis, the moment when life took a new slant in its journey towards death.

I remember distinctly the suddenness with which a key turned in a lock and I found I could read—not just the sentences in a reading book with the syllables coupled like railway carriages, but a real book. It was paper-covered with the picture of a boy, bound and gagged, dangling at the end of a rope inside a well with the water rising above the waist—an adventure of Dixon Brett, detective. All a long summer holiday I kept my secret, as I believed: I did not want anybody to know that I could read. I suppose I half consciously realised even then that this was the dangerous moment. I was safe so long as I could not read—the wheels had not begun to turn, but now the future stood around on bookshelves everywhere waiting for the child to choose—the life of a chartered accountant perhaps, a colonial civil servant, a planter in China, a steady job in a bank, happiness and misery, eventually one particular form of death, for surely we choose our death much as we choose our job. It grows out of our acts and our



作者：格·格林（Graham Greene，1904—1991）英国作家，曾将自己的作品划分为“消遣性作品”和“严肃的小说”两类；“消遣”类的代表作有《斯坦布尔的列车》、《人的因素》、《密使》、《荣誉领事》等，“严肃”类的代表作有《权力与荣耀》、《问题的核心》、《沉静美国人》、《勾销的病案》等。

简析：本文选自格林的散文集《失去的童年》，讲述书籍在他童年生活中的作用，以及书籍如何引导他走上写作道路的童年历程。本文结构严谨，首尾呼应，文字简练明确，含蓄深刻地说明了书籍与人生道路之间的微妙关系，以及用书籍来感悟灵魂和用生活来解读书籍的道理。

迷惘的童年

也许只是在童年，书才对我们的生活产生深刻的影响。在后来的生活中，我们赞美书本，拿它来消遣，也可能用它来修正一下我们原来持有的某些观点，不过更多的是用它来证实一下我们已经有的想法。正好比在谈恋爱时，我们见到的自己的相貌是经过阿谀奉承后反映的相貌。

但是在童年，所有的书都是占卜书，预卜未来。它们像能在纸牌里看到漫长的旅程，或预见溺水身死的算命先生一样，可以左右人的未来，我想这就是为什么书本使我们如此激动。现在我们读书，从中得到的东西能跟十四岁前读书时所感受的兴奋和获得的启示相提并论吗？听说小说家E·M·福斯特的一本新著今春要问世了，我当然很感兴趣，怀着喜悦和谦恭的心情企盼着它的出版。可是，在童年时，一旦在图书馆书架上找到一本自己尚未读过的，比如说拉德·哈格德、普西·威斯特曼、勃莱顿船长或斯坦利·韦曼等人写的小说，我立刻会激动万分，喜形于色。这样的两种心情是无可比较的。正是在那个童年时代，我寻觅危机，寻觅生命旅程中歪斜向死亡的瞬间。

我清晰地记得初次把钥匙插在锁里轻轻一转，锁突然开启的那种感觉，同样我突然发现自己能够阅读了，仿佛茅塞顿开。当然，不是只能读课本里由像火车车厢般一个个