



[羊皮卷]

The most beautiful English

最美丽的英文

每个人都要善于用敏锐的双眼在前行的路上寻找良机。当机会来到你身边时，要从容地接受它，并继续稳步前行。

机会就在你身边

Opportunity Is Right at Your Door

励志名篇·双语阅读

[美]阿尔伯特·哈伯德等 著 鸿鸣 编译

北方文艺出版社



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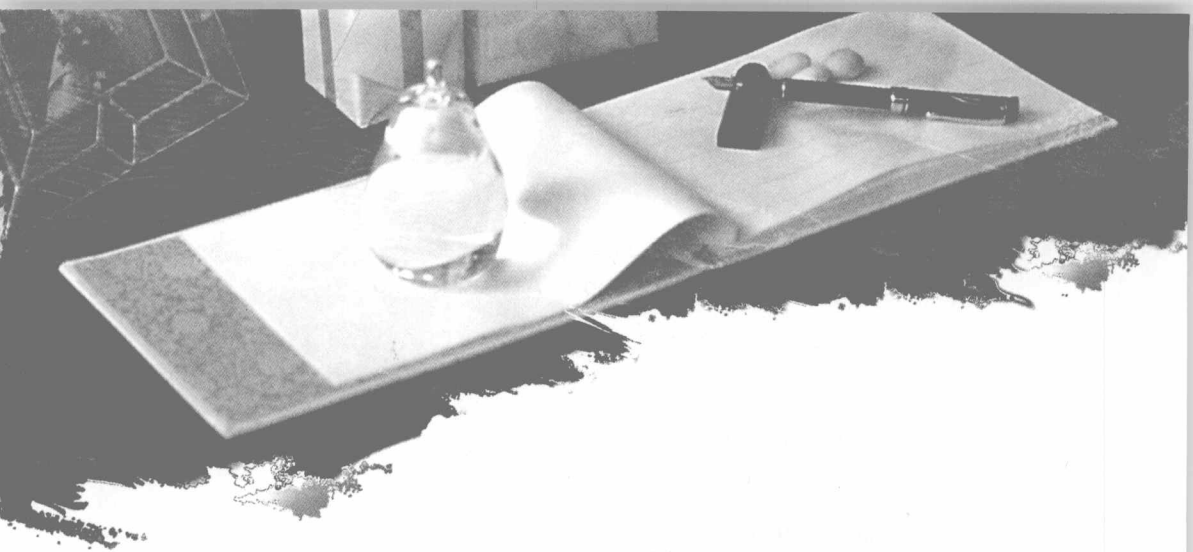
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富兰克林自传

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

[美]本杰明·富兰克林
By Benjamin Franklin

本杰明·富兰克林(1706—1790),美国杰出的政治家、科学家、作家。富兰克林早年辍学,当过印刷学徒,后通过不懈努力,精通各科知识,并在诸多领域取得了令人瞩目的成就。作为政治家,他是美国的创始者、美国独立运动的领导者、民主精神的缔造者、《独立宣言》的起草者;作为科学家,他揭开了雷电之谜,并发明了避雷针等多项科技成果;作为作家,《富兰克林自传》开创了美国传记文学的先河;作为人类道德与理性的最佳诠释者,一个令人难以置信的全才,富兰克林曾被康德誉为“从天上偷窃火种的第二个普罗米修斯”。

作为一部影响了几代美国人、历经两百年而不衰的励志奇书,《富兰克林自传》包含了人生奋斗与成功的真知灼见,以及诸种善与美的道德真谛,被公认为是改变了无数人命运的美国精神读本。文中,富兰克林以朴实晓畅的文字,真诚坦率的态度,叙述了自己具有传奇色彩的一生;娓娓道出了自己成功的经验和失败的教训,阐释了自己对人性与自由、科学与进步的无限崇尚与追求,并谆谆告诫读者不要抛却日常生活所应具备的美德。整部自传既无哗众取宠,又不盛气凌人,在平易亲切的叙述中,不时闪现出睿智的火花,充分显示了作者乐观向上的进步精神与高尚的人道主义思想。阅读本书,犹如与一个伟大心灵对话,收获一份人生修养的智慧,完成一次实现美国梦的奋斗历程和完美道德的精神之旅。



迄今为止 我始终一帆风顺

人生是一张白纸,每个人都应该在上面写下自己的历史。

——洛威尔

亲爱的儿子：

我曾把搜集祖先的奇闻轶事当作一种乐趣。也许你还记得与我在英国度过的那些日子。当时,为了实现心中的梦想,我曾长途跋涉,遍访我们家族中的老者。现在我正在乡村度假,大概会有一个星期的赋闲时间,我想你一定非常想知道我一生之中的诸多经历——有许多事情我还没有告诉过你。因此,我决定把这一切写给你。当然,我这样做还有其他目的,我出身贫苦,身份低微,但却凭着自己的努力成为了颇具影响的人物,甚至享誉全世界,而且迄今为止,我始终一帆风顺。感谢上帝赐福,使我获得如此巨大的成就。也许我的子孙愿意了解我的立身之道——我所遇到的事情他们也有可能会遇到,因此,我希望他们可以拿来借鉴。

当我回顾这一生的坦途之时,我不禁要这样说:如果让我重新活一

次,我会毫不犹豫地从头开始。我要像作家那样,不断地找出自己作品中的缺陷,然后进行再版。如果可能的话,我还想将一生之中的不幸遭遇扭转过来。当然,即使那些不幸是命中注定的,我也会欣然接受。我当然知道这是不可能的事情,近来思绪中不断重演的一幕幕就是回忆了。为了使我的回忆能够保持得久远一些,我愿意把它们记下来。

因此,我愿以一个老人的视角重新审视自己和自己的过去。我想,这种方式最好不过了,我不会烦劳他人必须听我述说自己的一生——当然,人们从尊敬老人的角度出发,一定会坐下来倾听。不过,一旦我把一切都写在纸上,听与不听就可以由后人自行决定了。最后——我想我还是承认为好——即使我极力否认,也无济于事——写自传可以大大满足我的虚荣心。事实上,我曾多次听说或看到这样的字句:“我可以毫不夸张地说……”可是,一番开场白过后,接下来便开始长篇大论,尽说些自吹自擂的话。我相信,无论他成就了怎样的事业,大多数人都不喜欢听这种虚夸。不过,当我面对这种情况时,总会多一份宽容,在我看来,这种自负的心理无论是对自己还是对他人都有好处。所以,在多数情况下,一个人如果把这种自负当作上帝赋予他的一种慰藉而心存感激,也不能算荒谬。

感悟...

“人生如书”,这话一点也不假,只是不同的人有着不同的命运,人生之书的内容也便不尽相同。若能够将人生旅途中所经历的一切全部记录下来,也不失为明智之举——既可以让自己重温旧梦,也可以让后人拿来借鉴。



So Far Through Life with a Considerable Share of Felicity



● 导读词

*Pleasure — Anecdotes — Inquiries — Undertook — Uninterrupted —
Inducements — Obscurity — Affluence — Imitated — Felicity — Favorable
— Writing — Indulge — Inclination — Gratify — Comforts*

Dear son:

I have ever had pleasure in obtaining any little **anecdotes**¹ of my ancestors. You may remember the inquiries I made among the remains of my relations when you were with me in England, and the journey I undertook for that purpose. Imagining it may be equally agreeable to you to know the circumstances of my life, many of which you are yet unacquainted with, and expecting the enjoyment of a week's uninterrupted leisure in my present country retirement, I sit down to write them for you. To which I have besides some other **inducements**². Having emerged from the poverty and obscurity in which I was born and bred, to a state of affluence and some degree of reputation in the world, and having gone so far through life with a considerable share of **felicity**³, the conducting means I made use of, which with the blessing of God so well succeeded, my posterity may like to know, as they may find some of them suitable to their own situations, and therefore fit to be imitated.

That felicity, when I reflected on it, has induced me sometimes to say, that were it offered to my choice, I should have no objection to a repetition of the same life from its beginning, only asking the advantages authors have in a

second edition to correct some faults of the first. So I might, besides correcting the faults, change some **sinister**⁴ accidents and events of it for others more favorable. But though this was denied, I should still accept the offer. Since such a **repetition**⁵ is not to be expected, the next thing most like living one's life over again seems to be a recollection of that life, and to make that recollection as durable as possible by putting it down in writing.

Hereby⁶, too, I shall **indulge**⁷ the **inclination**⁸ so natural in old men, to be talking of themselves and their own past actions; and I shall indulge it without being tiresome to others, who, through respect to age, might conceive themselves obliged to give me a hearing, since this may be read or not as any one pleases. And, lastly (I may as well confess it, since my denial of it will be believed by nobody), perhaps I shall a good deal gratify my own vanity. Indeed, I scarce ever heard or saw the introductory words, "Without vanity I may say," but some vain thing immediately followed. Most people dislike vanity in others, whatever share they have of it themselves; but I give it fair quarter wherever I meet with it, being persuaded that it is often productive of good to the possessor, and to others that are within his sphere of action; and therefore, in many cases, it would not be altogether absurd if a man were to thank God for his vanity among the other comforts of life.



热词空间

1. anecdote ['ænikdəʊt] *n.* 轶事, 趣闻
2. inducement [in'dju:smənt] *n.* 引诱, 诱因
3. felicity [fi'lisiti] *n.* 幸福, 幸运
4. sinister ['sinistə] *adj.* 邪恶的
5. repetition [,repɪ'tɪʃən] *n.* 重复, 循环
6. hereby ['hiə'bai] *n.* 因此, 据此
7. indulge [in'dʌldʒ] *vt.* 纵容; 沉溺于
8. inclination [,inkli'neɪʃən] *n.* 倾斜; 爱好



卑微的家族

逆境对于一个人来说是痛苦的。在经受逆境磨炼的
一百个人中,只有一个人能在顺境中把握住自己。

——卡莱尔

我们原本卑微的家族很早便参加了宗教改革运动,并在玛丽女王统治时期信仰新教。当时,由于他们以过激的行为反对天主教会,曾一度陷入被迫害的危险之中。他们手中有一本英文版的《圣经》,为了能够妥善保管,他们用细绳把打开的书绑在一个小折椅的下面。

我的父亲约瑟夫很早就成了家,并在1682年左右与妻子带着三个孩子来到了英格兰。当时,非国教教徒集会是被禁止的,而且时常受到外界干扰。因此,我父亲结交的一些有声望的朋友便想办法离开那个地方,我父亲答应陪同他们前往美洲。他们希望在新大陆可以享有宗教信仰自由。我的母亲是父亲的第二任妻子,名叫阿拜亚·福求,是彼得·福求的女儿。我是他们最小的儿子,我还有两个妹妹。我的祖父是新英格兰初期移民者中的一员。科顿·马太在他的《美洲都会史》中曾对祖父加以表扬,称他是“一个虔诚而有学识的人”。如果我没记错的话,我曾听说他能够即兴赋诗。

我的哥哥分别在各个行业拜师学艺。我则在八岁的时候被父亲送去一个语法学校——父亲想让我将来为教会服务。我年幼时十分聪颖——我一定很早就识字了,因为在我的记忆中没有不识字的印象。父亲的朋友们都说我将来会成就大事业,正因如此,父亲才把我送到学校读书。我的伯父本杰明也赞成我去读书,并想把他传道时所用的速记本赠予

我——我猜测他是想让我将来能够像他一样。可是，我在语法学校只学习了不到一年的时间。虽然我凭借着自己的努力很快从中等生升至优生，而且我可以顺利升入二年级，然后是三年级……然而，父亲迫于家里孩子太多，无法负担学费，加之他看到许多受过大学教育的人依然过着穷困潦倒的生活——这是父亲当着我的面与他的朋友们讲的。他改变了最初的主张，让我离开语法学校，而把我送到一所学习写字和算术的学校去了。这所学校是当时著名的乔治·布朗先生开办的，他在教学方面非常有经验，而且为人随和，常以鼓励为主。因此，在他的教导之下，我很快便学得了一手好字，但我的算术却常不及格，而且丝毫没有进步的迹象。在我十岁时，父亲把我接回家，让我帮他经营生意——蜡烛、肥皂制造业。这不是他的本行，但是到了英格兰，他发现印染生意冷淡，无法维持一家人的生计，于是才改了行。而我，则依照父亲的“指示”开始学习剪烛芯、灌烛模、看店铺，以及出差等工作。

我不喜欢做生意，而想去航海，但父亲极力反对。不过，由于我们住在海边，因此我经常到海边去，我很早就学会了游泳和划船。当我和其他一些小孩儿在船上或独木舟上时，他们常听我的命令，特别是身处困境的时候。在其他场合我也是“孩子王”。

感悟...

许多杰出人物都出身在贫苦家庭，然而，正是这种艰苦的环境造就了他们坚定不移的意志，他们不会为一时的失败而气馁，也不会为一时的成功而忘乎所以。他们只会从小开始，一步一个脚印，为自己的人生之路打下坚实的根基。



This Obscure Family



● 导读词

Obscure family — Reformation — In danger — Against popery — Conceal and secure — Father — Married young — Considerable — Religion — Freedom — Occasional — Different trades — Devote — Grammar-school — Could not — afford — Encouraging methods — Soon — Failed in — No progress — Business — Errands — Inclination — Leader

This obscure family of ours was early in the Reformation, and continued Protestants through the reign of Queen Mary, when they were sometimes in danger of trouble on account of their zeal against popery. They had got an English *Bible*, and to conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint-stool.

Josiah, my father, married young, and carried his wife with three children into New England, about 1682. The conventicles having been forbidden by law, and frequently disturbed, induced some considerable men of his acquaintance to remove to that country, and he was prevailed with to accompany them thither, where they expected to enjoy their mode of religion with freedom. I was the youngest son, and the youngest child but two, and was born in Boston, New England. My mother, the second wife, was Abiah Folger, daughter of Peter Folger, one of the first settlers of New England, of whom honorable mention is made by Cotton Mather in his church history of that country, entitled *Magnalia Christi Americana*, as “a godly, learned Englishman,” if I remember the words rightly. I have heard that he wrote sundry small occasional pieces.