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英语 谚语 选译

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说 明

1. 本书系根据英国伦敦J.M.Dent & Son LTD所出版的Everyman's Dictionary of Quotations and Proverbs一书中谚语部分加以选译，并由其他书刊中收集一部分增补。

2. 每条谚语的译注力求简明并保持原文风格。遇到我国有相似或对等的谚语、格言，等均列举比较，以“≈”符号引出；凡意义曲折，不引申难于理解其真实含义者，以括号内文字注释之。

3. 各条谚语均按英语字母顺序排列以便查阅。

✓ A bad bush is better than the open field.
一簇疏落的灌木丛，也比旷野强（聊胜于无）。

✓ A bad beginning makes a bad ending.

恶始必恶终（不善始者不善终）。

A bad workman quarrels with his tools.

笨拙的工人只会抱怨工具；≈不会撑船怨河弯，不会写字怨笔秃。

A baker's wife may bite of a bun.

A brewer's wife may drink of a tun.

面包师的妻子，吃面包；

酿酒人的妻子，喝美酒；≈近水楼台先得月。

A bargain is a bargain.

买卖一言为定（既经达成协议，就必须遵守）。

A barley-corn is better than a diamond to a cock.
大麦粒对公鸡来说，比一颗钻石有用。

A beggar can never be bankrupt.
乞丐什么时候也不会破产。

A beggar's purse is bottomless.
乞丐的钱袋没有底。

✓ A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
双鸟在林，不如一鸟在手。

A bird may be known by its song.
闻声知鸟，闻言知人（言为心声）。

A bit in the morning is better than nothing all day.

早上吃一点，总比整日饿肚强。

A black hen lays a white egg.

黑色母鸡也能生白蛋。

✓ A black (=dark) man is a jewel (or pearl) in a fair woman's eye.

美人如有情，黑男成俊郎；

≈ 情人眼里出西施。

A black plum is as sweet as a white.

黑梅白梅一样甜。

A blate (=shy) cat makes a proud mouse.

猫儿胆小，老鼠猖狂。

A blind man cannot judge colours.

盲人不能辨别颜色。

A blind man will not thank you for a looking-glass.
送镜子给瞎子，得不到一声谢。

A blustering night, a fair day.
夜间刮风，白天晴。（农谚）

✓ A boaster and a liar are all one.
吹牛者与撒谎者是一丘之貉。

A bonny bride is soon buskit (=dressed).
俊俏新娘好打扮。

✓ A book that is shut is but a block.
合着的书，等于一块木头。

✓ A bow long bent grows weak.

长拉满弓，弓力弱。

A bribe will enter without knocking.

贿赂悄悄进了屋，鱼儿上钩难摆脱。

✓ A broken friendship may be soldered, but will never be sound.

破裂的友谊，可以和解，但永远不能再好（破镜难重圆）。

A bully is always a coward.

残暴者最懦怯。

A burden of one's choice is not felt.

爱挑的担子不嫌重。

A burned child dreads the fire.

烧伤的孩子怕见火；≈一朝被蛇咬，十年怕井绳。

A bushel of March dust is worth a king's ransom.
一斗三月土，价值万两金。

✓ A carper will cavil at anything.

爱挑剔的人，喜欢吹毛求疵。

A carrion kite will never be a good hawk.
吃腐肉的鸢，永远不会变成鹰。

A cat in gloves catches no mice.
戴手套的猫，抓不住老鼠。

A cat may look at a king.
猫也可以瞧瞧国王；（地位虽低，人权平等）。

A city that parleys is half gotten.
与敌人谈判的城市，等于一半被占。

✓ A civil denial is better than a rude grant.

宁愿被婉言^{ts'iv(t)}谢绝，也不受粗暴恩赐。

A cock is crouse on his ain midden. (or bold on his own dunghill) (or A cock is raliant on its own dung-hill.)

公鸡总是在自己的粪堆上称雄；≈狗是百步王，只在门前狂。

✓ A clear conscience laughs at false accusations.

只要问心无愧，别人的指责，可以一笑置之；≈心中无冷病，笑着吃西瓜。

A cold May and a windy makes a full baia and a findy (=solid) .

五月风凉爽，米谷堆满仓。(农谚)

✓ A clean hand wants no washing.

干净手，无需洗；≈脚正不怕鞋歪，身正不怕影斜。

A collier's cow and an alewife's sow are always well fed.

烧炭人的牛，酿酒人的猪，总是喂得不错。

A constant quest is never welcome.

贪得无厌，遭人弃嫌。

✓ A covetous man is good to none, but worst to himself.

贪婪的人害人更害己。

A cracked bell can never sound well.

破铃摇不出好声音；≈烂铁铸不成好铁钉。

A crafty knave needs no broker.

狡猾的无赖，不需要中间人。

A creaking gate (or door) hangs long.

吱吱作响的门，掉不下来。(常年多病的人一下子死不了)

A curst cow has short horns.

爱斗的牛角短。

✓ A danger foreseen is half avoided.

预见到的危险，可以避免一半。

A dear ship stands long in the haven.

索价高昂的船，在港内停留的时间长（价钱太高，顾客不到）。

A dog will not howl if you beat him with a bone.

用骨头打狗狗不叫。

A drowning man will catch at a straw.
溺水抓稻草，绝处只求生。

A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm.
冬季的晴天，孕育着未来的风暴。

A fair face may hide a foul heart.
漂亮的面孔后面，可能藏着一颗齷齪的心；
≈ 马粪皮面光，里面一包糠。

A fat house-keeper makes lean executors.
胖了管家，瘦了办事人。
✓ A fault confessed is half redressed.

承认错误，等于改正了一半。

A fool always rushes to the fore.

蠢人总喜强出头；≈射虎充好汉。

A fool and his money are soon parted.

傻瓜的钱花得快（傻瓜容易被人捉弄）。

A fool may ask more questions in an hour than a wise man can answer in seven years.

傻瓜一年问，七年答不完。

✓ A fool may give a wise man counsel.

愚者千虑，必有一得。

A fool may sometimes speak to the purpose.

傻子的话，有时也能说到点上；≈愚者千虑，必有一得。

A fool's bolt is soon shot.

蠢人射箭，总是一下子把它射完（傻子不善于弯弓待发）。

A forced kindness deserves no thanks.

勉强的好意，得不到感谢。

✓ A foul morn may turn to a fair day.

天有不测风云，人有旦夕祸福。

A fox is not taken twice in the same snare.

狐狸不会在同一个罗网中被套两次；

≈ 一回被蛇咬，二回不钻草。

A fox may grow grey, but never good.

狐狸可变老，但秉性永远不会变好。

A friend in court is better than a penny in purse.

宫廷里有个朋友，胜过囊中有钱。≈ 朝中有人好作官。

✓ A friend in need is a friend indeed.

患难之交，才是真正的朋友；≈疾风知劲草，患难见真情。

✓ A friend is never known till needed.

朋友在迫切需要时方能真正了解他；≈路遥知马力，日久见人心。

A friend to all is a friend to none.

A friend to everybody is a friend to nobody.

滥交者无友（座上客常满，知交无一人）。

✓ A friend's frown is better than a fool's smile.

好友的皱眉，胜似小丑的笑脸。

A full belly neither fights nor flies well.

脑满肠肥，既不能斗，也不能飞。

A gift long waited for is sold, not given.