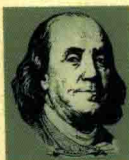


励志经典
中英对照

名家名句
002

富兰克林 的智慧

Bite-Size Franklin



美国近代最具影响力的政治家与发明家
富含人生哲理与幽默感的思想宝库

[美] 约翰·霍姆斯 凯伦·巴杰 编著 陈霞 译

华夏出版社

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本杰明·富兰克林

PREFACE



Though I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, but fell far short of it, yet I was, by the endeavor, a better and a happier man than I otherwise should have been if I had not attempted it.

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



序



我虽然从未达到我所企盼的完美，并且远为不足，但我还是因为这段努力过程而变得更好、更快乐。我若不曾有过这段经历，就不可能有这些收获。

——本杰明·富兰克林



FRANKLIN ON FRANKLIN

【Epitaph for himself composed in 1728, at age twenty-two】

The Body of

Benjamin Franklin

Printer

(Like the cover of an old book,

Its contents torn out

And stripped of its lettering and gilding)

Lies here, food for worms.

But the work shall not be lost

For it will (as he believed) appear once more

In a new and more elegant edition

Revised and Corrected

By

The Author.



富兰克林谈富兰克林

【1728年，富兰克林22岁时为自己所写的墓志铭】

印刷师

本杰明·富兰克林的遗体

(如同一本旧书的封面，内页早已脱落，装饰字母与
页边镀金也不复存在)

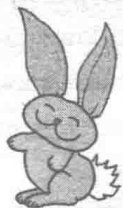
长卧于此，沦为蛆虫腹中物

不过，他的作品内容必不会佚失

而会（如他心中坚信）以较为高雅的新版本再度重现
世间

经由原创作者

修订



I grew tired of meekness when I saw it without effect. Of late therefore I have been saucy, and in two papers, *Rules for Reducing a Great Empire to a Small One*; and, *An Edict of the King of Prussia*, I have held up a looking glass in which some ministers may see their ugly faces, and their nation its injustice. Those papers have been much taken notice of, many are pleased with them and a few very angry, who I am told will wake me feel their Resentment which I must bear as well as I can, and shall bear the better if any public good is done.

【Writing from Paris】 I know you wish you could see me; but, as you can't, I will describe myself to you. Figure me in your mind as (jolly) as formerly, and as strong and (hearty), only a few years older; very plainly dressed, wearing my thin grey straight hair, that peeps out under my only coiffure, a fine fur cap, which comes down my forehead almost to my spectacles. Think how this must appear among the powdered heads of Paris!

I am very happy in being at home, where I am allowed to know when I have eat enough, and drink enough, am warm enough, and sit in a place that I like and nobody pretends to know what I feel better than I do myself.



我发现温驯谦逊毫无所用之后，对之即甚感厌烦。因此，我近来颇为大胆，分别在《搞垮大帝国行动指南》，以及《普鲁士国王敕令》两篇文章里举起一面镜子，以供官僚政客看清自己丑陋的面孔，以及他们治下的国家社会中所存在的不公正。这两篇文章已广受瞩目，有很多人喜欢，也有少数人很感生气。据说这些人会让我感受到他们的愤恨。我一定会尽量和顺地承受，而如此若有助于公益的话，我必然会更加欣然接受。

【富兰克林在巴黎所写的信件】 我知道你希望见我一面，不过，既然见不到，就让我向你描述我自己吧！让你想像一下我目前的模样：我和先前一样开朗，身体也一样健壮，只不过长了几岁而已；衣着非常简朴，灰色的直发从我惟一的“头饰”——一顶品质极佳的毛帽——底下稀稀疏疏地冒出来。我的帽子通常戴得很低，遮住整个额头，帽缘几乎快碰到眼镜。想想看，我这副模样出现在所有人都光鲜亮丽的巴黎当中，该是怎样一个景象！

我很乐于待在家里，可以自己决定我是否已吃饱喝足、是否穿得够暖，而且可以坐在我喜欢的地方，不会有人假装他们比我更了解我自己的感受。



You desire me to send you all the political pieces I have been the author of. I have never kept them. They were most of them written occasionally for transient purposes, and having done their business, they die and are forgotten. I could as easily make a collection for you of all the past parings of my nails.

I have now been upwards of 50 years employed in public offices. When I informed your good friend that I was ordered to France, being then 70 years old, and observed that the public, having as it were eaten my flesh, seemed now resolved to pick my bones, he replied that he approved their taste, for that the nearer the bone the sweeter the meat.

And now I speak of thanking God, I desire with all humility to acknowledge, that I own the mentioned happiness of my past life to his kind providence, which led me to the means I used and gave them success.



你要我把我写过的所有政治性文章都寄给你。我从来没有把那些文章保存下来。它们大都是针对时事而写的，发表过之后，也就丧失时效而不再有价值了。我还不如把我过去剪的指甲全都收集起来给你。

我担任公职至今已逾50年。我告诉你的好朋友说我在70岁时奉命前往法国，并且提到大众吃了我的肉之后，现在似乎更坚决要啃我的骨头。他回答说认同他们的口味，因为越接近骨头的肉越味美。

现在，我要谈谈对上帝的感恩。我愿以最谦卑的心承认我这一生的幸福皆是他的慈悲所赐，令我得以拥有这些能力，并能加以运用而获致成功。



ON AGING

By my rambling digressions I perceive myself to be grown old.

All would live long, but none would be old.

At twenty years of age the will reigns; at thirty the wit; at forty the judgment.

Hot things, sharp things, sweet things, cold things
All rot the teeth, and make them look like old things.

Wish not so much to live long as to live well.

Many foxes grow grey, but few grow good.

An old young man will be a young old man.

Old boys have their playthings as well as young ones; the difference is only in the price.

