

美国青少年 必读经典

中英对照

Grant Thornton's
Ambition

萨顿的愿望

上

[美] 霍瑞修·爱尔杰 著 冯雁 译

中国书籍出版社

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GRANT THORNTON'S
A. M. BITION



CHAPTER I

THE MINISTER'S SON

"I wish we were not so terribly poor, Grant," said Mrs. Thornton, in a discouraged tone.

"Is there anything new that makes you say so, mother?" answered the boy of fifteen, whom she addressed.

"Nothing new, only the same old trouble. Here is a note from Mr. Tudor, the storekeeper."

"Let me see it, mother."

Grant took a yellow envelope from his mother's hand, and drew out the inclosure, a half sheet of coarse letter paper, which contained the following lines:

"July 7, 1857.

REV. JOHN THORNTON:

DEAR SIR: Inclosed you will find a bill for groceries and other goods furnished to you in the last six months, amounting to sixty-seven dollars and thirty-four cents (\$67.34). It ought to have been paid before. How you, a minister of the Gospel, can justify yourself in using goods which you don't pay for, I can't understand. If I remember rightly, the Bible says: 'Owe no man anything.' As I suppose you recognize the Bible as an authority, I expect you to

第 1 章

牧师的儿子

“要是我们不这么穷就好了，格兰特。”萨顿太太沮丧地说道。

“是发生了什么新的事情才让您这么说的吗，妈妈？”一个十五岁的孩子回答道，刚才萨顿太太就是在跟他讲话。

“没有什么新的事情，还是以前的老问题。这是店主都德先生写给我们的字条。”

“让我看看，妈妈。”

格兰特从母亲手里接过一个黄色的信封，打开信封，从里面拿出半张看起来很粗糙的信纸，只见上面写道：

“1857年7月7日。

里夫·约翰·萨顿：

亲爱的先生：以上是前六个月内您所有蔬果和其他物品的账单，一共是六十七美元三十四美分。这笔账本应已经支付。我简直无法理解，您，作为一名教会的牧师，怎么能在不支付账单的情况下使用这些物品呢？如果我记得没错的话，《圣经》上有这么一句：‘不可欠人物品。’据我理解，您应



GRANT TUDOR'S AMBITION

pay up promptly, and oblige,

Yours respectfully, THOMAS TUDOR."

Grant looked vexed and indignant. "I think that is an impudent letter, mother," he said.

"It is right that the man should have his money, Grant."

"That is true, but he might have asked for it civilly, without taunting my poor father with his inability to pay. He would pay if he could."

"Heaven knows he would, Grant," said his mother, sighing.

"I would like to give Mr. Tudor a piece of my mind." "I would rather pay his bill. No, Grant, though he is neither kind nor considerate, we must admit that his claim is a just one. If I only knew where to turn for money!"

"Have you shown the bill to father?" asked Grant.

"No, you know how impractical your father is. It would only annoy and make him anxious, and he would not know what to do. Your poor father has no business faculty."

"He is a very learned man," said Grant, proudly.

"Yes, he graduated very high at college, and is widely respected by his fellow ministers, but he has no aptitude for business."

"You have, mother. If you had been a man, you would have done better than he. Without your good management we should have been a good deal worse off than we are. It is the only thing that has kept our heads above water."



该很尊重《圣经》的权威性，所以我希望您能尽快支付。

您尊敬的托马斯·都德。”

格兰特立刻变得气愤起来。“我觉得这封信太无礼了，妈妈。”他说道。

“每个人都应该有自己的钱，这说得是对的，格兰特。”

“是的，可他完全可以更加礼貌一些，不用拿我那没钱付账的可怜的爸爸开心啊！要是有钱的话，爸爸一定会付账的。”

“上帝知道他会付的，格兰特。”他母亲叹着气说道。

“我会给都德先生一个交待的。我宁愿付给他钱。”

“不，格兰特，虽然他这人既不善良也不会为别人着想，不过他的要求是合理的。要是我知道该去哪里弄钱就好了！”

“您把账单给爸爸看了吗？”格兰特问道。

“没有，你知道你父亲是一个特别不讲实际的人。这只会让他着急，他也不知道该怎么办。你可怜的父亲没有一点儿商业头脑。”

“他是个很有学问的人。”格兰特自豪地说道。

“是的，他从大学毕业的时候成绩很好，而且他的同行们也都很尊敬他，不过他确实没有任何商业天赋。”

“您有，妈妈。如果您是个男人的话，您一定比他做得好。要不是您管这个家，我们的情况肯定比现在糟糕得多。全靠您，我们才能继续维持下去。”

GRANT THORNTON'S AMBITION

"I am glad you think so, Grant. I have done the best I could, but no management will pay bills without money."

It was quite true that the minister's wife was a woman of excellent practical sense, who had known how to make his small salary go very far. In this respect she differed widely from her learned husband, who in matters of business was scarcely more than a child. But, as she intimated with truth, there was something better than management, and that was ready cash.

"To support a family on six hundred dollars a year is very hard, Grant, when there are three children," resumed his mother.

"I can't understand why a man like father can't command a better salary," said Grant. "There's Rev. Mr. Stentor, in Waverley, gets fifteen hundred dollars salary, and I am sure he can't compare with father in ability."

"True, Grant, but your father is modest, and not given to blowing his own trumpet, while Mr. Stentor, from all I can hear, has a very high opinion of himself."

"He has a loud voice, and thrashes round in his pulpit, as if he were a--prophet," said Grant, not quite knowing how to finish his sentence.

"Your father never was a man to push himself forward. He is very modest."

"I suppose that is not the only bill that we owe," said Grant.

"No; our unpaid bills must amount to at least two hundred dollars more," answered his mother.

“我很高兴你能这么想，格兰特。我已经尽力了，可要是没有钱的话，再会管家也付不了账啊。”

确实，牧师的妻子是一个非常实际的人，她知道如何打理牧师那为数不多的收入。在这方面，她跟自己那博学的丈夫截然不同，后者对于商业的了解简直就像个孩子一样。可她非常清楚地知道，有一样东西比管家的本事更加重要，那就是立时可取的现金。

“要想每年靠六百美元来维持一个家庭是一件很难的事情，格兰特，而且我们家还有三个孩子。”他母亲接着说道。

“我不明白为什么像爸爸这样的人不能多赚一些钱。”格兰特说道，“威弗利的斯坦多先生每年可以挣一千五百美元，可我不敢肯定他的能力跟爸爸没法比。”

“确实如此，格兰特，可你爸爸非常谦虚，他不会自吹自擂，而据我所知，斯坦多先生是一个自视甚高的人。”

“他嗓门很大，很多人去听他的布道，好像他是个预言家一样……”格兰特好像也不知道该如何说完这句话。

“你爸爸从来不会推销自己。他是一个很谦虚的人。”

“我想我们欠下的账单不止这一张。”格兰特说道。

“是的，我们没有付的账单至少还有两百美元。”母亲回答道。

GRANT THORNTON'S AMBITION

Grant whistled.

Two hundred and sixty-seven dollars seemed to him an immense sum, and so it was, to a poor minister with a family of three children and a salary of only six hundred dollars. Where to obtain so large a sum neither Grant nor his mother could possibly imagine. Even if there were anyone to borrow it from, there seemed no chance to pay back so considerable a sum.

Mother and son looked at each other in perplexity. Finally, Grant broke the silence.

"Mother," he said, "one thing seems pretty clear. I must go to work. I am fifteen, well and strong, and I ought to be earning my own living."

"But your father has set his heart upon your going to college, Grant."

"And I should like to go, too; but if I did it would be years before I could be anything but an expense and a burden, and that would make me unhappy."

"You are almost ready for college, Grant, are you not?"

"Very nearly. I could get ready for the September examination. I have only to review Homer, and brush up my Latin."

"And your uncle Godfrey is ready to help you through."

"That gives me an idea, mother. It would cost Uncle Godfrey as much as nine hundred dollars a year over and above all the help I could get from the college funds, and perhaps from teaching

格兰特吹了一声口哨。

两百六十七美元对他来说是个巨大的数字，对于一个要养活三个孩子，一年只挣六百美元的穷牧师来说，这个数字确实不小。无论是格兰特还是他母亲都无法想像该到哪里弄这么大一笔钱。即使可以找到人借钱，他们似乎也很难还上这笔债。

母亲和儿子焦虑地对望了一下。最后，格兰特打破了沉默。

“妈妈，”他说道，“有一件事情可以确定。我必须去工作。我已经十五岁了，健康又强壮，所以我应该自食其力了。”

“可你父亲决心把你送去读大学啊，格兰特。”

“我也想去读大学，可要是那样的话，恐怕在很多年的时间里，我会一直成为家里的负担，那样我也不会感到快乐的。”

“你基本上已经准备好去读大学了，格兰特，不是吗？”

“是的，我已经为九月份的考试做好了准备。只需要复习一下荷马和拉丁文就可以了。”

“而且你叔叔古德菲也准备帮助你。”

“这让我想到一件事情，妈妈。除了我能够从学校基金会申请一些钱，或者是今年冬天去教书赚钱之外，古德菲叔