

# 每天读点 Enjoy a Bit of English Everyday 英文萬言

盛丹丹\编译

中英双语 全新完美呈现

荡涤心灵的精神SPA 第一品牌美文

# 每天读点

Enjoy a Bit of English Everyday

# 英文寓言

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#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

每天读点英文寓言:英汉对照/盛丹丹编译.一

大连:大连理工大学出版社,2011.11 ISBN 978-7-5611-6592-8

Ⅰ. ①每… Ⅱ. ①感… Ⅲ. ①英语—汉语—对照读物 ②寓言—作品集—世界 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2011)第 214933 号

#### 大连理工大学出版社出版

地址:大连市软件园路80号 邮政编码:116023

发行:0411-84708842

邮购:0411-84703636

传真:0411-84701466

E-mail:dutp@dutp.cn

URL:http://www.dutp.cn

辽宁星海彩色印刷有限公司印刷 大连理工大学出版社发行

幅面尺寸:160mm×235mm

印张:17

字数:295千字

印数:1~5000

2011年11月第1版

2011年11月第1次印刷

责任编辑:张 钰

责任校对: 丛倩倩

封面设计:王付青

ISBN 978-7-5611-6592-8

定价:26.00元

#### 写在前面的话

#### Previous Remark



喧嚣的都市,交织的人来人往,浮躁的车水马龙,令人无法喘息的压力…… 华灯初上,一切归于平静。楼群中,大大小小的窗格子有一处是你的栖息港湾,床 头灯光柔柔地撒下,静静地坐下来,享受久违的那一份沉寂,或感悟或顿足,或惊 叹或沉淀,或开怀或深思……翻开那智慧的篇章,徜徉于那优美的文字,任由一段 段文章轻轻触碰你的心灵,在对人生的感悟和思考中,在释怀与淡定中任睡意袭 来……这就是我们的《每天读点英文》系列。我们是一套最如水、最宁静、最素雅、 最智慧、最品质、最快乐、最轻松、最营养、最简单的休闲文字,字字玑珠。

寓言是一种古老的文学形式,它用有所隐含的语言,带有讽刺或劝诫的情节,用假托的故事或拟人手法说明某个深刻的道理或教训。许多经典的寓言因为构思奇特,结构巧妙,简洁明了能够流传几千年而依然上口。《每天读点英文寓言》采撷了几十篇古今中外被广为流传的寓言故事,分为处世哲学、生存之道、智慧箴言、生活睿语四个章节。我们经典在于:更注意故事鲜明的教育性、强烈的讽刺性、语言的精炼性、用词的巧譬善喻、表意的严谨得当、结构的紧凑性,以及行文中比喻、夸张、象征等多种写作手法并用的交汇性。希望这本老少皆宜的好书能带给你智慧和提升。

编 者 2011年10月

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## 第一章

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## 处世哲学 Do Things Reasonably







# The Father and His Quarreling Sons 父亲与争吵的儿子们

A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves. When he failed to heal their disputes<sup>[1]</sup> by his exhortations, he was determined to give them a practical illustration<sup>[2]</sup> of the evil of disunion. And for this purpose one day he told them to bring him a bundle<sup>[3]</sup> of sticks. When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it into pieces. They tried with all their strength, but they were not able to do it.

He next loosed the faggot, took the sticks separately<sup>[4]</sup>, one by one, and again put them into his sons' hands, upon which they broke them easily. He then addressed them in these words, "My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be like this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

一位父亲有几个孩子,这些孩子时常发生口角。他丝毫没有办法来劝阻他们,只好让他们看看不合群所带来害处的例子。为了达到这个目的,有一天他叫他们替他拿一捆细柴来。当他们把柴带来时,他便先后将那捆柴放在每一个孩子的手中,吩咐他们弄断这捆柴。他们一个个尽力去试,总是不能成功。

然后他解开那捆柴,一根根地放在他们手里,如此一来,他们便毫不费力地 折断了。于是他就告诉他们说:"孩子们!如果你们大家团结一致,互相帮助,你 们就像这捆柴一样,不能被你们的敌人折断;但如果你们自行分裂,你们就将和这 些散柴一般,不堪一折了。"

are no

[1] dispute n. 争论

[3] bundle n. 捆,束

[2] illustration n. 例证,说明

[4] separately adv. 分别地



#### The Ass and His Purchaser<sup>[1]</sup> 驴和买驴的人

A man wanted to buy an ass. He went to the market, and found a likely one. But he wanted to test him first.

So he took the ass home, and put him into the stable<sup>[2]</sup> with the other asses. The new ass looked around, and immediately went to a place next to the laziest ass in the stable. When the man saw this, he put a halter on the ass at once, and gave him back to his owner.

The owner felt quite surprised. He asked the man, "Why are you back so soon? Have you tested him already?" "I don't want to test him any more," replied the man, "From the companion he chose for himself, I could see what sort of animal he is."

一个人想到市场上去买头驴子,他看中一头外表不错的驴,但是他想要先试验 一下。

他把驴牵回家,放在圈里的其他驴子间。这头新来的驴四处看了看,立即走向圈里一头最好吃懒做的驴旁边。于是,买驴的人立刻给那头驴套上辔头,牵回去还给了卖驴的人。

卖驴的人感到很奇怪,于是问道:"你怎么这么快就回来了?你已经试好了吗?"买主说:"不必再试了,从他所选择什么样的朋友来看,我已经知道他是什么样了。"

in one



# A Mouse Trap

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package. What food might it contain? He was curious, He was aghast<sup>[1]</sup> to discover that it was a mouse trap!

Retreating<sup>[2]</sup> to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning, "There is a mouse trap in the house! There is a mouse trap in the house!" The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell you this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mouse trap in the house!" "I am so sorry, Mr. Mouse," sympathized the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray; be assured that you are in my prayers." The mouse turned to the cow, who replied, "Like wow, Mr. Mouse, a mouse trap! Am I in grave danger? Haha." With his head down, the mouse was dejected to face the farmer's mouse trap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like a sound of the mouse trap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever. Hearing that fresh chicken soup could cure the fever, the farmer took his hatchet<sup>[3]</sup> to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. His wife's sickness continued so that friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well, in fact, she died, and so many people came to her funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered<sup>[4]</sup> to provide meat for all of them to eat.

<sup>[1]</sup> aghast adj. 吃惊的,吓呆的

<sup>[2]</sup> retreat v. 撤退,退却

<sup>[3]</sup> hatchet n. 短柄小斧

#### 一只鼠夹

一只老鼠从墙上的缝隙里向屋里窥视,发现农夫和妻子正在打开一个包裹。包里是什么好吃的呢? 老鼠很好奇。结果他惊恐地发现里面竟是个鼠夹!

他赶忙溜了出来,来到院子里宣布这个可怕的消息。"屋里有只鼠夹!屋里有只鼠夹!"母鸡听到后咯咯大笑,她一边用爪子挠着地面,一边高昂着头说道:"老鼠先生,我可以告诉你,它对你来说是个性命攸关的问题,但是对于我又有什么关系呢?我可不会被它影响的。"老鼠转向猪说:"屋里有个鼠夹!""对此我深表遗憾,老鼠先生,"猪同情地说,"但是除了祈祷我也没有其他的办法,希望我的祈祷能保佑你。"老鼠又向奶牛诉说了这个消息。奶牛回答道:"什么?一个鼠夹!老鼠先生,难道对我是什么致命的威胁吗?哈哈。"老鼠只好垂头丧气地回到屋里,沮丧地独自面对这个可怕的东西——鼠夹。

就在那天晚上,屋里传来了响声,听起来像是鼠夹捕获了猎物。农夫的妻子冲到那里去看什么被逮住了。黑暗中,她没看清夹子夹住了一条毒蛇的尾巴。这时,毒蛇狠狠地咬了她一口。农夫赶忙把妻子送到医院,回来后她就一直高烧不退。听说新鲜的鸡汤能治病,于是农夫拿着斧子来到院子里杀了母鸡。但是妻子的病情仍未见好转,周围的邻居和朋友们都来看望她。为了招待他们,农夫又杀了猪。后来,妻子的病不治而亡。许多人来参加她的葬礼,农夫只好又让人宰了奶牛来招待他们。



# Chopsticks

A woman who had worked all her life to bring about good was granted one wish: "Before I die, let me visit both hell and heaven."

Her wish was granted.

She was whisked off to a great banqueting hall. The tables were piled high with delicious food and drink. Around the tables, sat miserable, starving<sup>[1]</sup> people as wretched<sup>[2]</sup> as could be. "Why are they like this?" she asked the angle who accompanied her. "Look at their arms." the angel replied. She looked and saw that attached to the people's arms were long chopsticks secured above the elbows<sup>[3]</sup>. Unable to bend their elbows, the people aimed the chopsticks at the food, but missed every time and sat hungry, frustrated<sup>[4]</sup> and miserable. "Is this indeed hell? Take me away from here!"

She was then whisked off to heaven. Again she found herself in a great banqueting hall with delicious food piled high on the tables. Around the tables sat people laughing, contented, and joyful. "No chopsticks here, I suppose." she said.

"Oh, yes. There are. Look, just as in hell they are long and attached above the elbows, but look... here people have learnt to feed one another."

Service.

[1] starve v. 挨饿

[2] wretched adj. 可怜的,不幸的

[3] elbow n. 肘

[4] frustrated adj. 失意的, 泄气的

#### 筷子

一个终生勤苦行善的女人被允许实现一个愿望:"在我死之前,让我参观一下天堂和地狱。"

终于她如愿以偿。

她被带到一间宴会大厅。桌子上堆满了可口的饭菜和饮品。一群人围桌而坐,痛苦不堪,饥饿至极,看上去十分可怜。"他们为什么会这样?"她问同她一起来的天使。"你看他们的胳膊。"天使回答道。她看过之后才明白,他们的胳膊肘部以上都被筷子固定住了。由于肘部不能弯曲,虽然他们的筷子都朝着饭菜伸去却每次都以失败告终,只能饿着肚子沮丧而又痛苦地坐在这里。"这难道就是地狱?请带我离开这儿吧。"

然后她被带到了天堂。在那儿,她也看见了一间宴会大厅,里面有盛满丰盛饭菜的餐桌。围桌而坐的人们却是笑声朗朗,显得高兴而且满足。"我猜这儿没有筷子了吧?"她说。

"哦,不,这儿也有。看,就像地狱中的人们一样,也有筷子绑在他们的胳膊 肘上,但是再看……这儿的人们学会了如何去给别人喂饭。"