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英语世界

The World of English

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A Message for New Year

Greetings and Best Wishes for a prosperous New Year to *The World of English* and its readers.

As a supplier of original English articles to *The World of English*, we are proud to be associated with this distinguished magazine which brings news and views of the world in English to its readers and the people of China.

The co-operation between The Commercial Press and *The World of English* and the Wilson & Horton group in New Zealand is a long and happy one, and we hope it will continue for many years. The Wilson & Horton group is now part of APN and Independent News & Media, a multi-national network of newspapers and magazines.

Students and readers of *The World of English* already know how important English is in world communications, trade and education. The same words of advice which we Western people follow in learning a foreign language such as French, Italian or *putonghua* should equally be helpful for Asian students learning English.

Firstly, have a clear motivation for learning the language, which will help you through difficult times. Be diligent in the study of vocabulary and grammar. Practise, practise, practise, especially reading out loud and conversing with others. Ask questions, even if it means being slightly embarrassed. Listen to native English-speakers and the way they use today.

English idioms-tapes, movies and radio programmes are a help. Mix with those whose first language is English and speak to them in English.

Do not be afraid to try out your English with these visitors, however you think you may sound. In general, Western English-speakers will be helpful to someone who tries hard to speak English. We admire your enthusiasm for the language of Shakespeare, Dickens and David Beckham.

Good luck.

Terry Snow
Managing Editor

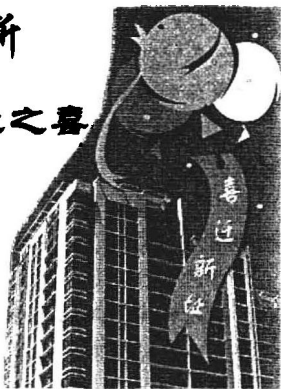
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层楼更上气象新

——贺《英语世界》乔迁之喜



金圣华*



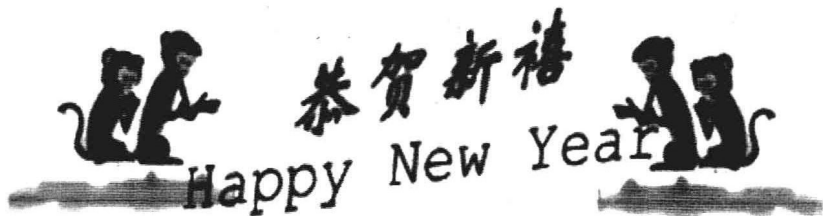
2003年9月下旬,正值金秋季节,因公干来到北京,有幸应邀参观了《英语世界》杂志社位于中央商业区的新址,特此略作介绍,以贺该社乔迁之喜。

《英语世界》杂志社原址是幢百年老楼,坐落在北京站对面的顶银胡同深处,办公室设于阁楼,面积狭窄,光线暗淡;新址却位于有中国未来曼哈顿之称的朝阳门 CBD 区内,巍巍高楼,地处外交部与文化部之间,面积宽敞,光线充足。新与旧的对比,先进与落后的差距,在在表现出中国现代化的发展何其迅速,而经济起飞又何其令人刮目相看。

杂志社的新址由两套办公室套房组成。一出大厦十楼的电梯,就赫然见到《英语世界》的招牌,绿底白字,典雅素净。进入门口,立即受到室内陈设的吸引,老式办公室的陈旧刻板,由现代化设备的明朗活泼取代。每一位工作人员,都有舒适宽敞的私人空间,以及先进便捷的通讯器材。办公室中更置有小厨房及沐浴间,务使雇员在工作之余,可以安心休憩,纾解疲劳,从而保持心情愉快,提高工作效率。

杂志社中最令人印象深刻的有两处地方:一是气派不凡的会议厅,一是年长同事的办公室。会议厅中设有大屏幕等离子电视,附有两万首点歌台,墙上另有可以自动升降的屏幕,此处既可作为开会、研讨、培训、教学之用,亦可供同事业余娱乐、休闲,其多功能的特色,令人耳目一新。至于年长同事的办公室,则设在新址视野最广、景观最佳的角落,室内置有特殊的照明设备,务使年老同事在阅稿之余,目力不致受损。整个新办公地点,比起任何国际商务中心,不论是设备

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或器材,均毫不逊色,甚至还有过人之处,那就是处处透现出来的关怀体贴,以及浓浓的人情味。听说新址从购置到设计、装修、安排,都是由年轻干练、朝气蓬勃的孟繁六副社长一力承担、悉心筹划的。

《英语世界》原来隶属商务印书馆,自2000年7月才开始成为单独注册、独立核算的杂志社。该社在商务印书馆总经理杨德炎先生鼎力支持之下,由社长徐式谷先生及副社长孟繁六先生不断锐意创新,以配合改革开放的大气候,一方面借鉴国外期刊先进科学的管理经验,使公司发展企业化,以积累经济实力,一方面则善用人力资源,使同仁之间充分发挥出整体团队互相合作、彼此激励的精神。短短数年之间,本固枝荣,在前人扎实的基础上,已积极创造出发展的空间及努力建立起优良的品牌。《英语世界》2000年获新闻出版署授予“全国百种重点社科期刊”荣誉称号,2002年又再次荣膺第二届国家期刊奖百种重点期刊称号。

《英语世界》杂志社新址的落成与启用,正好象征了该社层楼更上的境界,骏业弘开的前景,在此谨祝杂志社不断进步,再创高峰。 □

双 语 图 片



辛 言 集

"On the way in the door no one asked me who I was wearing."

“在我走过门口的时候,没人问我穿的是谁设计的服装。”

美国影星西恩·潘(见图)回答记者有关威尼斯电影节与美国奥斯卡奖的区别时说。西恩·潘凭借其在影片《21克》中的精湛演技夺得第60届威尼斯电影节最佳男演员奖。



"The attitude of every person—the restaurateur, the cab driver, the policeman, the volunteer, all of us—creates the conditions for every athlete, reporter, escort, spectator to advertise or defame our country."

“每个人,包括餐馆老板、出租车司机、警察、志愿者和我们所有人的态度,都会给每个运动员、记者、护卫人员和观众创造宣传或诋毁我国的条件。”

雅典奥运会组委会主席安耶洛普洛斯·扎斯卡拉基斯(见图)说。

Broken Promises 食言



文苑



By Lorraine M. Gregoire

王勇 译注

陈德民 校

“**S**heesh! Give me a few points for self control!” I snapped¹ at my cranky² husband. I wanted to stop at a sporting goods store “Going Out of Business” sale we passed in the mall. “There’s nothing we need,” his usual grumpy³ male comment. “It’s all overpriced junk. If they had anything good they wouldn’t be going out of business.”

[2] “But, it’s sporting goods,” I wheedled⁴. “Could be some good deals for the grandkids. And, you like boats and fishing stuff. I’ve put up with that photo of your ‘dream-canoe’ stuck on the bathroom mirror for years now. Maybe you’d enjoy just looking around?”

[3] “Are you crazy?” his eyes got funny and he said something like. “The boat I want is the Supremo Numero-Uno blah-blah. Soon as I finish saving up 6,000 bucks for that baby I’m going to order right from the manufacturer. Custom. In silver. Yesiree. This loser store wouldn’t carry

“**去** 你的! 我凭什么要约束自己!” 我不耐烦地对脾气有点怪的丈夫说。在商业街上路过一家挂着“歇业大甩卖”牌子的体育用品店时,我想进去看一下。他却用往常那种男性特有的不快腔调说:“没有我们用得着的东西,都是些标价过高的旧货。他们要是有什么好东西,就不会倒闭了。”

[2] “不过,那是体育用品啊,”我哄着他,“说不定有什么好东西给孙儿们。还有,你喜欢船和渔具。浴室镜子上你那张‘梦之舟’照片我已经看了这么些年了。你就不想进去转转?”

[3] 他的眼神变得有点怪,说了句“你疯了吗”之类的话。“我想要的是头等品质的船。一攒够买这宝贝儿需要的 6000 美元,我就立即向生产商订货。要定制做的。银灰色的那种。哼! 这种亏本店才不会有那样的货

Notes 注释:

1. snap(不耐烦或愤怒时)快速地说。

2. 胡思乱想的;疯狂的;古

怪的;易发脾气的。

3. 脾气坏的,性情乖戾的,

脾气暴躁的。

4. wheedle 哄骗;用甜言蜜语引诱、骗取。

something like THAT. And I'm sure not going near those sucker crowds."

[4] "You're so darn negative and boring!" I retorted. "I happen to like crowds. They make me feel like I'm part of something. I promise I won't buy anything but I'm going to look around for fun anyway. You go for coffee and I'll meet you back here in half an hour."

[5] "Don't make promises you can't keep, old girl." He chuckled in that self-satisfied "I'll believe it when I see it" way that always gets me riled⁵. "I know you're going to come out of there with useless junk. You always do."

[6] His words made me mad. How dare he accuse me of being frivolous⁶! I prided myself on being a wise shopper. I had a darn good nose for bargains and stretched our old age pensions *like nobody's business⁷. Now I had a mad on, that's for sure. "Boy, I'll show him." I promised myself I would not buy a darn thing, no matter what. Ha! I wouldn't give Mr. Know-It-All smarty-pants reason to gloat.

[7] I squared my chin and marched into the crowded store. Aisles and aisles of hockey equipment, basketballs, golf clubs, exercise equipment, fishing gear, boy toys galore were strung with huge blaring signs. CLOSING OUT SALE—UP TO 80% OFF. NO REFUNDS.

呢。况且，我绝不跟那些傻家伙凑在一起。”

[4]“你这人真没劲、真烦人！”我回嘴说。“我就喜欢人多。挤在人堆里，我觉得自己是其中一分子。我保证什么都不买，只是进去看看逛逛。你去喝咖啡吧，过半个小时咱们在这里碰头。”

[5]“做不到就别保证，老婆子。”他咯咯地笑了，一副“亲眼看见我才信”的得意模样，他这样子总让我上火。“我敢肯定，不买点无用的东西你是不会出来的。这是常事。”



[6]他的话让我恼火。他怎么敢指责我乱花钱呢！我一直为自己会买东西自豪。我很会讨价还价，把我们的养老金安排得井井有条。现在我有火气了，真的。“这老头儿，我要让他看看。”我决定什么都不买，绝不。哼！我不会让这位“万事通”先生有理由幸灾乐祸的。

[7]我抬了抬下巴，昂头快步走进拥挤的商店。过道里堆满了曲棍球具、篮球、高尔夫球杆、健身器材、渔具、儿童玩具，上面都拴着显眼的标签——“抛售价—最低二折。不退款。”

5. rile[口]激怒；使急躁。

6. 浪费的；乱花钱的。

7. 不寻常地，非常好地。

[8] Up and down the aisles I strolled, humming to myself and enjoying the frenetic energy and excitement of a sale.

[9] All of a sudden, there, at the back of the store, in gleaming silver, full of lifejackets, paddles and fishing stuff, sat the exact canoe of my husband's picture. I gasped and blinked three times. Yup. It was still there. My heart beat wildly. I elbowed my way through the crowds, scrambled over junk in the aisles and darned near fell into the canoe looking for the price tag.

[10] There it was—a little tattered, with the manufacturer's suggested retail price at \$6,750 plus tax crossed out and a handwritten TO CLEAR \$750 AS IS. NO RETURNS. Must be a mistake. \$6,000 off? Salesman. I had to talk to a salesman.

[11] I spotted a young fellow with a "Hi. I'm Mathew" tag trying to hide out from the mob of *bargain hunters⁸. I clutched his sleeve. "Mathew. Tell me about this canoe. What's wrong with it? Why is it only \$750?"

[12] "Oh. There's nothing wrong with it. It's brand new. We're closing the store is all. It's on clearance like everything else. I think that includes lifejackets, paddles and a bunch of fishing gear, too. I'll go check."

[13] A few minutes later he came back and said, "I'm sorry, ma'am. Someone made a mistake on the sale tag. It's supposed to be

[8]我在过道里转来转去,嘴里哼着小曲,享受着减价销售给人带来的冲动和兴奋。

[9]突然间,我看到商店后面,银光闪闪的救生衣、船桨和渔具一应俱全,放着的正是我丈夫照片上的那条船。我屏住呼吸,连眨了三次眼睛。没错。它还在那儿。我的心怦怦跳起来。我用肘推开人群挤了过去,跨过道里堆的东西去找价格标签,差点儿掉到船里面去。

[10]就在那儿——标签有点破损,制造商建议的含税价 6750 美元被划掉了,手写着“清仓价 750 美元。不退货。”一定是弄错了。6000 美元的折扣?售货员。我得问问售货员。

[11]我看到一个小伙子,他身上别着“您好,我是马修”的牌子,正想避开成群拣便宜货的人。我拉住了他的衣袖,“马修,来跟我说说这条船。它有什么问题?为什么只卖 750 美元啊?”

[12]“噢,船没什么问题,是全新的。因为我们要把这家店关了。和别的东西一样,清仓价。我看这价格还包括救生衣、桨和一套渔具。我去查一下。”

[13]几分钟后他回来说:“对不起,夫人,不知是谁把价格写错了。这一揽子应该是 4750

8. bargain hunter 买便宜货的人。

\$4,750 for the whole package. I just talked to my dad who is running the close-out⁹. He said it was worth more than \$8,000 regular price so it's still a real good deal."

[14] I felt tears well up in my eyes. "Oh well," I said sadly. "Of course, it was too good to be true. This is exactly like my husband's dreamboat. I guess I started to dream myself when I saw that price tag. He's going to be 62 years old Friday. Had to retire early for his health. It's been hard on just the pension but the stubborn old fool has been saving \$10 every week for years to buy one just like this. Just an old man's silly dream, you know. Always said he wanted to spend his retirement out fishing in a canoe," my voice trailed off and I turned and walked away.

[15] I was already at the mall door when Mathew caught up with me. "Do you have \$750 plus \$25 for delivery and a bit more for tax, ma'am?" I gasped. "Yes. Yes. That's about all I have," I said as I thought fleetingly about the cataract¹⁰ surgery I was saving up for.

[16] "Well then, you just have your husband sitting on the front porch on Friday morning around 10 o'clock so he can be there when my dad and I come to unload his new boat. We'll even put a bow on it for his birthday."

[17] I started to cry. My old hand

美元。我刚刚问了问爸爸,他负责清仓销售。他说正常价应该是8000多美元,所以还是很便宜的。"

[14]我感到泪水在眼里打转。“啊,是么,”我伤心地说,“当然啦,哪有这么好的事。这就是我丈夫向往的那种船。恐怕看到价格标签时我自己都开始做梦了。到星期五他就62岁了。因为身体原因,他提早退了休。凭那点退休金就够难为他了,可这倔强的老傻瓜这些年每礼拜都要存下10美元,就为了买这样一条船。你知道,不过是老头儿一个荒唐的梦想。他老说要坐在船上钓鱼来打发退休后的日子。”我的声音低了下来,转身往外走去。

[15]我走到商业街出口时,马修追了上来。“夫人,您有没有750美元、再加25美元运费和一点税钱?”我倒抽了一口气。“有,有的,我恐怕就这么点钱了。”我答道,脑海中闪过了我省下钱来要去的白内障手术。

[16]“那么这样吧,星期五早上10点左右,您就让您丈夫坐在前阳台上,这样我和父亲把新船送去时他就在那儿了。为他的生日,我们再送一支桨。”

[17]我流下了泪水。手哆

10. [医]白内障。

9. 大拍卖,清理存货,所有的方式售出。
存货通常都以大幅降价处理

shook and I had to squint as I wrote out my cheque. Mathew swallowed hard.

[18] "Ma'am. There's something you should know. This store was my grandpa's. He ran it for more than 30 years. He always promised to retire one day. Said he wanted to spend time relaxing and out fishing in a canoe. He ordered this one, custom, for himself last year but, well, just never took the time off to use it."

[19] He swallowed even harder. "My grandpa died, sudden-like, just last week. He was only 68 years old. I think he'd be mighty happy that your husband will get this here canoe. My dad thinks so too. You just have to make sure he uses it a lot, okay? Promise?"

[20] I handed Mathew a Kleenex and we stood there together, quietly lost in our own thoughts for a moment.

[21] "I promise," I said as I dashed off to look for my dear sweet husband. ■

嗦着,写支票时我不得不眯起眼。马修唏嘘着。

[18]“夫人,有件事应该告诉您。这店是我爷爷开的。他经营了30多年。他一直说有一天要退休。说要坐船放松放松、钓钓鱼。他去年向厂家定做的这条船,却没能抽出时间来划一下。”

[19]他哽咽得更厉害了。“就在上周,爷爷突然去世了。他才68岁。我想他要是知道您的丈夫得到这条船会很高兴的。我爸爸也这么想。不过您可一定要让他多划划这条船啊!答应了?”

[20]我递给马修一张面巾纸,我们站在那里默默地沉思了一会儿。

[21]“我答应,”我边说边冲了出去,去找我那亲爱的老伴儿。 □



双 语 图 片

辛言 集

"Saddam, he's the big one. If we can get him, we can go home."

“萨达姆,他才是主要目标。我们抓到他就可以回家了。”

美军中士格兰特在伊拉克北部城市摩苏尔说。美军在摩苏尔击毙萨达姆的儿子乌代和库赛,但萨达姆仍然下落不明。图为一名美军士兵在乌代和库赛毙命的地点留影。



The Swallows of San Juan Capistrano

圣胡安·卡皮斯特拉诺的雀群

Like angels winging over the chapel, they carried her prayers to heaven

它们,犹如一群天使飞越教堂上空,把她的祈祷带到天堂



By Eileen Connelly

戴茜 译注

文力 校

★ A flashing light on my phone¹ greeted me when I got home from my nursing shift at the hospital. *Probably a friend wishing me a happy new year*, I figured. In two days it would be 1999. I was looking forward to the holiday break, but I had no big plans for New Year's Eve, maybe a microwave dinner in front of the TV. I had no plans for the coming year, either. My life seemed settled, with nothing new on the horizon. My children were grown with families of their own, and I was getting accustomed to living alone. None of this was bad, necessarily. It's just that the time for surprises had long passed.

我是医院的一名护士,下班回家,一进门就看见电话机上的指示灯不停闪亮。我猜想,很可能是一个朋友向我祝贺新年。再过两天就是1999年了。我盼着过年放假,不过除夕没什么大不了的安排,也许就是一面看电视一面吃用微波炉烹制的年夜饭吧。对新的一年我也没什么打算。我的生活似乎是一成不变了,看不到会有什么新变化。孩子们都已长大成人,另立门户,我也习惯于独自生活了。这也未必就不好。只是充满惊喜的时代早已过去了。

[2] I pressed * the message button² and heard the familiar voice of the woman who lived above my dad's former business. "Someone called here trying to get in touch with you," she said. "Someone from Cali-

[2]我按下听留言键,听到一个熟悉的女人声音。她曾经住在我父亲先前开的商店的楼上。“有人往这儿打电话想与你取得联系,”她说,“是加利福尼亚的一个人。”我屏住呼吸。会

Notes 注释:

1. 录音电话设有录音装置,主人离开现场时,按下留言键,录音装置启动;当有来电

时,自动录音。当机内存有电话录音时指示灯闪亮。

2. 当按下听留言键时,自动放出存录的电话。

fornia." I caught my breath. *Who can it be?* I wondered. I had no ties in California ... except one.

[3] In my mind I went back to a sunny California day. I walked through the gate of the eighteenth-century mission³ of San Juan Capistrano. Fiery red bougainvillea⁴ spilled over the walls of the old stone church, and swallows flitted around the bells in the tower. It was *Saint Joseph's Day⁵, March 19, 1957. According to legend, the swallows return to the mission every spring on this day. A song tells the story and I'd played the record so often I knew the words. When the swallows come back, the song says, "all the mission bells will ring ... and the happiness you'll bring will live in my memory." I believed if God were anywhere, he would be in this beautiful place. I lit a candle in the chapel and dropped to my knees. For hundreds of years God had heard prayers in this chapel. In spite of what I'd done, I believed he would listen to mine. "Love my baby," I whispered. "Please take care of my baby⁶."

[4] I lived with my parents in a small

是谁呢?我很惊讶。我在加利福尼亚没有亲戚啊……除了一个。

[3]我的思绪回到了加利福尼亚一个阳光明媚的日子。我信步跨入圣胡安·卡皮斯特拉诺的大门,这是一座18世纪的教堂。在这座石砌的古老教堂院内,满墙遍是火红的九重葛花,麻雀围绕钟楼振翅飞翔。那天是1957年3月19日,圣约瑟节。根据传说,每年春季的这一天,麻雀会成群地飞回这座教堂。有一首歌讲述了这个故事,我曾经反复听过这张唱片,歌词已熟记在心。歌词大意是这样的,每当麻雀飞回,“教堂钟声就会齐鸣……你们带来的快乐将永远留在我的心中。”我相信,如果上帝无处不在,他也会来到这块美丽的地方。我点亮了小教堂里的一支蜡烛,虔诚地跪下。几百年来,上帝曾在这座教堂里静听人们祷告。无论我做错了什么,我相信他还是会听我祈祷的。“爱我的孩子吧,”我轻声祈求。“请照顾我的小宝宝。”

[4]我曾经随父母住在匹兹

3. 传教团体设立的机构或房舍,可指教堂或教堂的院落等。

4. [bʊɡˈvɪli]南美攀缘灌木,开鲜艳紫红色小花,常作装饰用。

5. 约瑟是圣母玛利亚之夫,耶稣之父。按圣经新约记

载,约瑟正直、忠诚,是所有信徒的榜样。此节日起始自中世纪意大利西西里的一个大旱灾之年,人们备餐祭奉约瑟。后来,在美国有些地方,尤其是有意大利裔人群的地方,仍沿袭此习俗。时至今日,在新泽西州的卡姆

登,仍有意大利裔家庭在这一天准备意大利饭菜招待来客,以表示对约瑟施恩的感谢。

6. 不仅表示婴孩,也用于表示喜爱之人、物,如姑娘、宝贝儿等。



town near Pittsburgh⁷, working as a nurse at the hospital. I had a brief relationship. When I learned I was pregnant, I wanted to die. I'd brought shame to my family. Somehow I was able to hide my pregnancy, but in my seventh month, I made plans to go to California. I had decided to have my baby there and arrange for an adoption. I knew I couldn't keep my child.

[5] Early on the morning after my visit to the mission, my daughter was born. I imagined the swallows winging over the chapel, like angels carrying my prayers to heaven, and I felt some peace. God would look after my baby—I had to believe that. My daughter would have the kind of life I couldn't provide. No one would ever know. But it wasn't as simple as that. I saw my baby after she was born. It was only for a few minutes, but she was forever in my heart.

[6] I went home, and returned to nursing. Eventually I got married and raised three sons and two daughters. Still, I never forgot my first child. I longed for the peace of knowing she was happy. But as the years passed, I grew convinced this was something I'd never know. Sometimes I'd find myself transfixed by a bird flying overhead in the clear blue sky, and I'd remember the swallows at San Juan Capistrano, imagining them carrying my prayers to

堡附近的一个小镇,在医院当一名护士。我与某人有过一段短暂的浪漫关系。当我得知自己怀孕时,真想一死了之。我使我的家人蒙羞。我想方设法没让人看出我的身孕,但怀孕到7个月时,我准备去加利福尼亚。我决定在那里生产,并打算找人领养生下的孩子。我知道我是没有能力养育这个孩子的。

[5]就在我去教堂后的那个清晨,我的女儿诞生了。我想象着雀群正振翅飞过教堂的上空,像天使一样把我的祈祷带到天堂,我感到了几分平静。上帝会照管我的宝宝的——我只能这么想了。我的女儿将过上我无法提供的那种生活。无人会知晓这一切。但是事情并不像所想的那么简单。我的宝贝出生后我看到了她,虽然只是短短的几分钟,但是她永远留在了我的心中。

[6]我回到了家里,重操护士旧业。后来我结婚了,并生育了3个儿子和2个女儿。但是,我从未忘记我的第一个孩子。我多么想知道她幸福,这可以使我的内心得到安宁。但随着岁月的流逝,我越发相信这是我永远不会知道的事了。有时候,我发现自己会久久仰望空旷蓝天上的一只飞鸟,呆若木鸡;我会想起圣胡安·卡皮斯特拉诺的雀

7. 美国宾夕法尼亚州西南部城市,美国的钢铁中心。

heaven. The secret stayed hidden in my heart for 42 years. Nothing could have prepared me for the call from California on New Year's Eve, 1998.

[7] "My name is Shelley," the woman said. "I'm your daughter." The sound of her voice resonated over the distance like my memory of the mission bells. "I hope that I'm not intruding. We searched out the records, and I wanted to call."

[8] We talked for a long time. Shelley wanted me to know she was well and happy. I was surprised to learn that she and her husband had six children. "It's entirely your decision," she said, "but we'd all like to get to know you."

[9] Before our good-byes, Shelley startled me. "I called because I wanted to thank you," she said, "for my life." Her words lifted the sorrow and regrets I'd kept to myself for so many years.

[10] After Shelley's call, I could think of nothing else. On New Year's Day one of my daughters and I had dinner at my brother's house. I could barely get through the meal, and left with a quick apology. Soon my daughter was knocking at my door. "Are you ill?" she asked. We made small talk for an hour before I was able to tell her the truth. "Mom!" she said. "I have another sister?" She was so excited. I just felt incredible relief. For the first time in 42

群,想象它们把我的祈祷带入天堂。这个秘密深深埋在我的心底长达42年之久。我怎么也想不到,在1998年末的除夕夜会从加利福尼亚打来这样一个电话。

[7]"我叫谢莉,"一个女人的声音。"我是您的女儿。"她的声音穿越漫漫长空,像记忆中教堂的钟声一样,在千里银线上回荡。"希望我没有打扰您。我们找到了有关记录,所以我就想打电话。"

[8]我们谈了好长时间。谢莉想告诉我她过得很好,很幸福。我惊喜地得知她们夫妇有6个孩子。"那完全是您个人的选择,"她说,"不过我们都愿意结识您。"

[9]在我们最后道别前,谢莉说了一句话让我惊诧不已。她说:"我之所以给您打电话是因为我要感谢您给了我生命。"她的话使多年来困扰我的哀痛和愧疚一下子烟消云散了。

[10]谢莉来电话后,我整天脑子里想的都是这件事。元旦,我和一个女儿到我兄弟家吃饭。没等大家吃完饭,我就抱歉地匆匆离桌。女儿很快就来敲门。"您是不是病了?"她问道。我们闲聊了一个钟头后我才道出了实情。"妈!"她说,"我还有一个姐姐?"她好激动。我只是感到如释重负。42年以来,我头一回

years, I'd told someone about my baby. Eventually I worked up the courage to tell the rest of my family and friends.

[11] Soon I received a note from Shelley. She sent family ^{*} pictures on Christmas cards⁸ and a photo of each child. I was fascinated to see them all, but Shelley really held my attention. Seeing her face left no doubt I was her mother. We exchanged several letters and phone calls and got to know each other a little bit. We were eager for a reunion.

[12] "Why don't I come to California in March," I said. "We can celebrate your birthday together. How's that?"

[13] The three months in between seemed to last forever. But finally, I was on the plane to California, and then hurrying down the corridor of the airport. In spite of the crowd in the waiting area, I saw Shelley right away. There she was with her family, all of them blond and beautiful. I would have recognized her anywhere. She walked toward me, a woman who looked even more like me than I'd realized from her pictures. *This is my daughter. This is my baby.* We reached out for each other and embraced.

[14] I spent five days with Shelley and her family. We visited her adoptive parents. We went to the home where I'd given birth and where she'd found my records.

向人提起我的这个姑娘。最后，我终于鼓足勇气告诉了家里的其他人和朋友们。

[11]不久我收到谢莉的一封信。她寄来了带有全家合影的圣诞贺卡，以及孩子们的单独小照。这些照片真教人喜爱着迷，但真正吸引我的还是谢莉。一看她的脸准知道我是她妈。我们相互间写了好几封信，通了几次电话，彼此有了些了解。我们急切地盼望着团聚的一天。

[12]“我干嘛不在3月份去加利福尼亚呢，”我说，“我们可以一起庆祝你的生日。怎么样？”

[13]等待中的3个月冗长难熬，像似遥遥无期。终于，我登上了去加利福尼亚的飞机，然后从机场的通道匆匆出来。尽管候机大厅人山人海，我一眼就看到了谢莉。她就在那儿，和她的家人一起，一水儿的金发白肤，真是漂亮。无论到哪儿我都能认出她来。她向我走过来，比照片上我看到的模样更像我。这就是我的女儿。她是我的心肝宝贝。我们伸出双臂，互相拥抱。

[14]我与谢莉一家共聚了5天。我们拜访了她的养父母。

8. 印制或粘贴在贺卡上的 照片。