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All You Remember

All you remember about your child being an infant is the incredible awe you felt about the precious miracle you created. You remember having plenty of time to bestow all your $\underline{\text{wisdom}}^{\oplus}$ and knowledge. You thought your child would take all of your advice and make fewer mistakes, and be much smarter than you were. You wished for your child hurry to grow up.

All you remember about your child being two is never using the restroom alone or getting to watch a movie without talking animals. You remember worrying about the bag of M&M's melting in your pocket and ruining your good dress. You wished for your child to be more independent.

All you remember about your child being seven is the carpool² schedule. You learned to apply makeup in two



minutes and brush your teeth in the rearview mirror because the only time you had for yourself was when you were stopped at red lights. You considered painting your car yellow and posting a "taxi" sign on the lawn next to the garage door. You remember people staring at you the few times you were out of the car, because you kept flexing your foot and making acceleration noises. You wished for the day your child would learn how to drive.

All you remember about your child being ten is managing the school fund-raisers. You sold wrapping paper for paint, T-shirts for new furniture, and magazine subscriptions for shade trees in the school playground. You remember storing a hundred cases of candy bars in the garage to sell so the school band could get new uniforms, and how they melted together on an unseasonably warm spring afternoon. You wished your child would grow out of playing an instrument.

All you remember about your child being fourteen is being asked not to stop the car in front of the school in the morning. You had to drive two blocks further and unlock the doors without coming to a complete stop. You remember not getting to kiss your child goodbye or talking to him in front of his friends. You wished your child would be more mature.

All you remember about your child being eighteen is the day they were born and having all the time in the world.

And, as you walk through your quiet house, you wonder where they went and you wish your child hadn't grown up so

fast.

① wisdom 智慧;学问 ② carpool 合伙使用汽车



你所记得的一切

当你的孩子是个婴儿时,你所记得的,是你对自己创造出的珍贵奇迹,感到不可思议的敬畏。你记得你有大量的时间去传授你所有的智慧和知识。你认为你的孩子将会接受你所有的忠告而少犯错误,将会比孩提时代的你聪明许多。你多希望你的孩子快快长大。

孩子两岁时,你所记得的,是他从不能独自使用卫生间,从不看一部与动物无关的电影。你记得你担心那袋 M&M 巧克力糖会在你的衣兜里融化,毁了你体面的衣服。你多希望你的孩子更独立些。

孩子七岁时,你所记得的,是安排合伙用车的时间。你学会了在两分钟内化完妆,照着汽车后视镜刷牙,因为你能给自己找出的时间就只有汽车停在红灯前的那一小段。你想过

把你的车子漆成黄色,并在车库门旁的草坪上立一个"出租 车"的标志牌。你记得有几次你下车后,人们盯着你,因为 你不断用脚踩油门加速,制造噪音。你多希望孩子有一天能 学会开车。

孩子10岁时, 你所记得的, 是怎么应付学校的募捐者。 你们为重新粉刷学校兜售包装纸,为购置新家具兜售 T 恤衫, 为在学校操场上种植遮阳树劝人订阅各种杂志。你记得你在 车库里存放了上百盒糖果等待出售,得到钱后学校的乐队就 可以购置新制服,可是那些糖果竟在春天一个暖和得过头的 下午全都融化在一起了。你多希望孩子长大,不再演奏什么 乐器了。

孩子14岁时,你所记得的,是他不让你早晨把汽车停在 校门口。你不得不开过两个街区,车还没停稳就赶紧打开车 门。你记得没能在他的朋友面前跟他吻别或说话。你多希望 孩子能更成熟些。

孩子18岁时,你所记得的,是他们出生的那一天。从此 之后, 你和他 (她) 拥有了天长地久的爱。

当你在静静的房子里走来走去时, 你纳闷他们去哪里 了——你多希望孩子别这么快就长大了。



Growing Roots

When I was growing up, I had an old neighbor named Dr. Haggard. He didn't look like any doctor I'd ever known. He never yelled at us for playing in his yard. I remember him as someone who was a lot nicer than circumstances warranted.

When Dr. Haggard wasn't saving lives, he was planting trees. His house sat on ten acres, and his life's goal was to make it a forest.

The good doctor had some interesting theories concerning plant husbandry. He came from the "No pain, no gain" school of horticulture. He never watered his new trees, which flew in the face of conventional wisdom. Once I asked why. He said that watering plants spoiled them, and that if you water them, each successive tree generation will grow weaker and weaker. So you have to make things rough for them and weed

out the weenie trees early on.

He talked about how watering trees made for shallow roots, and how trees that weren't watered had to grow deep roots in search of moisture. I took him to mean that deep roots were to be treasured.

So he never watered his trees. He'd plant an oak and, instead of watering it every morning, he'd beat it with a rolled-up newspaper. Smack! Slap! Pow! I asked him why he did that, and he said it was to get the tree's attention.

Dr. Haggard went to glory a couple of years after I left home. Every now and again, I walked by his house and looked at the trees that I'd watched him plant some twenty-five years ago. They're granite strong now. Big and robust. Those trees wake up in the morning and beat their chests and drink their black coffee.

I planted a couple of trees a few years back. Carried water to them for a solid summer. Sprayed them. Prayed over them. The whole nine yards. Two years of coddling has resulted in trees that expect to be waited on hand and foot. Whenever a cold wind blows in, they tremble and chatter their branches. Sissy trees.

Funny things about those trees of Dr. Haggard's.

Adversity and deprivation seemed to benefit them in ways comfort and ease never could.

Every night before I go to bed, I check on my two sons. I stand over them and watch their little bodies, the rising and



falling of life within. I often pray for them. Mostly I pray that their lives will be easy. But lately I've been thinking that it's time to change my prayer.

This change has to do with the inevitability of cold winds that hit us at the core. I know my children are going to encounter hardship, and I'm praying they won't be <u>naive</u>[®]. There are always hailstones hitting somewhere.

So I'm changing my prayer. Because life is tough, whether we want it to be or not. Too many times we pray for ease, but that's a prayer seldom met. What we need to do is pray for roots that reach deep into the Eternal, so when the rains fall and the winds blow, we won't be swept <u>asunder</u>.

- ① husbandry 耕种;务农
- ② weenie 微小的,细小的
- ③ naive 幼稚的;轻信的;天真的
- ④ asunder 分离;化为碎片

植根

在我还是小孩子的时候,我有一个老邻居叫哈格德医生。 他不像我所认识的其他任何一个医生。我们在他的院子里玩 耍,他从不对我们大喊大叫。我记得他是一个非常和蔼的人。

哈格德医生不给人治病的时候就去种树。他的住所占地 10 英亩,他的人生目标就是将它变成一片森林。

这个好医生对于如何耕作有一番有趣的理论。他坚信"不劳无获"的园艺种植理念。他从不浇灌他新种的树,这显然与常理相悖。有一次我问为什么,他说浇水会毁了这些树,如果浇水,每一棵成活的树的后代会变得越来越娇弱。所以你得把它们的生长环境变得艰苦些,尽早淘汰那些弱不禁风的树。

他还告诉我用水浇灌的树的根是如何的浅,而那些没有



浇水的树的根必须钻入深深的泥土获得水分。我将他的话理解为:深根是十分宝贵的。

所以他从不给他的树浇水。他种了一棵橡树,每天早上,他不是给它浇水,而是用一张卷起的报纸抽打它。"啪!噼!砰!"我问他为什么这样做,他说是为了引起树的注意。

在我离家两年后,哈格德医生就去世了。我常常经过他的房子,看着那些25年前我曾看着他种下的那些树。如今它们已是像石头般硬朗了。枝繁叶茂、生气勃勃。这些树在早晨醒过来,拍打着胸脯,啜饮着苦难的汁水。

几年前我也种下两三棵树。整整一个夏天我都坚持为它们浇水。为它们喷杀虫剂,为它们祈祷。整整9平方码大的地方。两年的悉心呵护,结果两棵树弱不禁风。每当寒风吹起,它们就颤抖起来,枝叶直打战。娇里娇气的两棵树。

哈格德医生的树真是有趣。逆境和折磨带给它们的益处 似乎是舒适和安逸永远无法给予的。

每天晚上睡觉前,我都要看看两个儿子。我俯视着他们那幼小的身体,生命就在其中起落沉浮。我总是为他们祈祷,总是祈祷他们的生活能一帆风顺。但后来我想该是改变我的祈祷词的时候了。

这改变是因为将吹在我们要害的不可避免的寒风。我知 道我的孩子们总要遇到困难,我祈祷他们不会幼稚而脆弱。

]

在某些地方总会有寒风吹过。

所以我改变了我的祈祷词。因为不管我们愿不愿意,生活总是艰难的。我们已祈祷了太多的安逸,但却少有实现。我们所需要做的是祈祷深植我们的信念之根,这样我们就不会被雨打风吹所伤害。



On Motes and Beams

It is curious that our own offenses should seem so much less heinous[®] than the offenses of others. I suppose the reason is that we know all the circumstances that have occasioned them and so manage to excuse in ourselves what we cannot excuse in others. We turn our attention away from our own defects, and when we are forced by untoward events to consider them, find it easy to condone[®] them. For all I know we are right to do this; they are part of us and we must accept the good and bad in ourselves together.

But when we come to judge others, it is not by ourselves as we really are that we judge them, but by an image that we have formed of ourselves from which we have left out everything that offends our vanity or would discredit us in the eyes of the world. To take a trivial instance: how scornful we