

励志经典双语悦读馆

富兰克林自传

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

【美】本杰明·富兰克林 著



中英对照

Benjamin Franklin

节制、沉默、秩序、决断、节俭、勤奋、诚实、正直、
中庸、清洁、宁静、贞节、谦逊，这是我希望，而且也是必须做到的。

北京燕山出版社

励志经典双语悦读馆

富兰克林自传

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

【美】本杰明·富兰克林 著



北京燕山出版社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

富兰克林传：英汉对照/吕冬青主编. —北京：北京燕山出版社，2009.11

(励志经典双语悦读馆)

ISBN 978 - 7 - 5402 - 2076 - 1

I. 富… II. 吕… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物②富兰克林，
B. (1706 ~ 1790) —传记 IV. H319. 4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2009) 第 141871 号

励志经典双语悦读馆·富兰克林传

主 编：吕冬青

责任编辑：亦 耕

封面设计：若 尘

出版发行：北京燕山出版社

社 址：北京市灯市口大街 100 号 100006

电 话：86 - 10 - 65240236 (发行部)
86 - 10 - 65240430 (总编室)

经 销：各地新华书店

印 刷：北京朝阳新艺印刷有限公司

开 本：1000 × 720 毫米 1/16 开本

印 张：130

字 数：1250 千字

版 次：2009 年 11 月第 1 版

2009 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

书 号：ISBN 978 - 7 - 5402 - 2076 - 1

定 价：298. 00

目 录

富兰克林自传 The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklins

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Book 1 | 1 |
| 第一部 | |
| Book 2 | 73 |
| 第二部 | |
| Book 3 | 105 |
| 第三部 | |
| Book 4 | 197 |
| 第四部 | |

book 1

第一部



后来我渐渐地确信，在人与人之间的交往中，真实、诚恳和正直是至关重要的。我把终生都要践诺这些品德的决心落笔于纸，至今仍保留在我的日记本内，而“启示”本身则对我无足轻重。

Twyford, at the Bishop of St. Asaph's, 1771.

DEAR SON,

I have ever had pleasure in obtaining any little anecdotes of my ancestors. You may remember the inquiries I made among the remains of my relations when you were with me in England, and the journey I undertook for that purpose. Imagining it may be equally agreeable to you to know the circumstances of my life, many of which you are yet unacquainted with, and expecting the enjoyment of a week's uninterrupted leisure in my present country retirement, I sit down to write them for you.

That felicity, when I reflected on it, has induced me sometimes to say, that were it offered to my choice, I should have no objection to a repetition of the same life from its beginning, only asking the advantages authors have in a second edition to correct some faults of the first. So I might, besides correcting the faults, change some sinister accidents and events of it for others more favorable. But though this were denied, I should still accept the offer. Since such a repetition is not to be expected, the next thing most like living one's life over again seems to be a recollection of that life, and to make that recollection as durable as possible by putting it down in writing.

Hereby, too, I shall indulge the inclination so natural in old men, to be talking of themselves and their own past actions; and I shall indulge it without being tiresome to others, who, through respect to age, might conceive themselves obliged to give me a hearing, since this may be read or not as any one pleases. And, lastly (I may as well confess it, since my denial of it will be believed by nobody), perhaps I shall a good deal gratify my own vanity. Indeed, I scarce ever heard or saw the introductory words, "Without vanity I may say," etc., but some vain thing immediately followed. Most people dislike vanity in others, whatever share they have of it themselves; but I give it fair quarter wherever I meet with it, being persuaded that it is often productive of good to the possessor, and to others that are within his sphere of action; and therefore, in many cases, it would not be altogether

1771年，写于特怀福德镇，圣阿萨夫教堂主教家

亲爱的儿子：

我一向把能够得到祖上任何点滴细微的轶闻引以为乐。也许你还能记得，你和我逗留英国之际，我遍访家族中的老人，并为此跋山涉水的情景。想到你会同样乐于了解我许多尚不为你熟悉的生活经历，并且预期隐居乡下期间能有一周安闲，我于是临几而坐，动手写下这些东西。

我常常回想起自己这一生的成功。有时不禁会说要是听凭我自己选择的话，我可不反对再这样从头活上一辈子；而我企求的仅仅是作者拥有的在第二版中更正第一版讹误的便利。除了改正错误之外，我还希望将这辈子里发生的某些事更换成更为顺心如意的。即使这个条件被否决，我还是愿意重新过一遍今世的日子。不过，这样的重复根本无可期盼，因而，全面地回顾一下我这辈子的桩桩件件，倒也极像是重新活了一遍。为使记忆中的事久远地保留下来，我决定把它们写下来。

所以，我将和一般老人们一样来讲述自己过去的所作所为。我这样做是为了不使听者感到厌倦，即便是那些因为尊敬老人才来听我的话的人。因为我自己已经写了出来，看不看就是他们的事情了。并且我还得承认，（即使我否认，人们也不会相信的），写自传还能够大大满足我的虚荣心。老实说，我时常听见或者读到人们说“我完全可以毫不夸张地说……”这样的话之后，接下来就开始了长篇大论的自吹自擂。不论他们自己是多么自以为是，大多数人还是不喜欢别人的自我吹嘘。但是，我对这种虚荣心总是很宽容的，无论在什么地方。这是由于我相信这种自我表现对他们和周围的人都很有好处。所以，如果一个人把虚荣心当做他生活的慰藉，在大多数情况下，这是不足为怪的。

我的一位伯父（他也和我一样具有收集家族轶事的好奇心）。一次，他

absurd if a man were to thank God for his vanity among the other comforts of life.

The notes one of my uncles (who had the same kind of curiosity in collecting family anecdotes) once put into my hands, furnished me with several particulars relating to our ancestors. From these notes I learned that the family had lived in the same village, Ecton, in Northamptonshire, for three hundred years, and how much longer he knew not (perhaps from the time when the name of Franklin, that before was the name of an order of people, was assumed by them as a surname when others took surnames all over the kingdom), on a freehold of about thirty acres, aided by the smith's business, which had continued in the family till his time, the eldest son being always bred to that business; a custom which he and my father followed as to their eldest sons. When I searched the registers at Ecton, I found an account of their births, marriages and burials from the year 1555 only, there being no registers kept in that parish at any time preceding.

By that register I perceived that I was the youngest son of the youngest son for five generations back. My grandfather Thomas, who was born in 1598, lived at Ecton till he grew too old to follow business longer, when he went to live with his son John, a dyer at Banbury, in Oxfordshire, with whom my father served an apprenticeship. There my grandfather died and lies buried. We saw his gravestone in 1758. His eldest son Thomas lived in the house at Ecton, and left it with the land to his only child, a daughter, who, with her husband, one Fisher, of Wellingborough, sold it to Mr. Isted, now lord of the manor there. My grandfather had four sons that grew up, viz.: Thomas, John, Benjamin and Josiah.

Thomas was bred a smith under his father; but, being ingenious, and encouraged in learning (as all my brothers were) by an Esquire Palmer, then the principal gentleman in that parish, he qualified himself for the business of scrivener; became a considerable man in the county; was a chief mover of all public-spirited undertakings for the county or town of Northampton, and his

交给我一些关于我们祖先事迹的笔记，我从这些笔记中得知，这个家族在北安普敦郡的埃克顿村一直居住了三百年。再往前，在那块大约30英亩的永久地产上住了多久，他就不清楚了(也许是从“富兰克林”被确定为姓氏之前开始的。在那之前，它是一个阶层的人的名称，后来全英国其他阶层都在确定姓氏)。这个家族在永久地产居住时，靠铁匠生意补贴家族开支，这一手艺一直传到伯父那一代，家族里的大儿子均被培养为铁匠。那位伯父和我父亲的大儿子也都承袭了这门手艺。我查阅埃克顿村的居民登记簿时，只发现了他们1555年以后的出生、婚配及丧葬记录，那以前的记录该教区没有保存。

通过登记簿我了解到，我是第五代的小儿子的小儿子。我的祖父托马斯生于1598年。他一直住在埃克顿，直到老得做不成手艺，才搬到牛津郡的班伯里同做染匠的儿子约翰一起生活。我父亲给约翰做学徒。后来，我祖父死在那里，葬在那里。1758年我们看见过他的墓碑。他的大儿子托马斯住在埃克顿的房子里，后来，连房子带土地都留给了他唯一的孩子即他的女儿。这个女儿的丈夫是一个威灵堡人，名叫费雪。她们后来又把房子卖给了伊斯提德先生。伊斯提德先生如今是那里的庄园主。我的祖父养大了四个儿子，即托马斯、约翰、本杰明和乔赛亚。

托马斯随祖父学艺，成了一名铁匠，但他生来聪颖过人，帕尔默先生鼓励他钻研学问(我们兄弟都受到他的鼓励)。帕尔默先生是当时所在教区的绅士首领。托马斯获得了从事公证人业务的资格，成了该郡的头面人物，而且是北安普敦郡或镇以及他自己村庄公益事业的主要倡导者，那里的许多公益事业都和他有关。他得到那时的罗德·哈里法克斯勋爵的注目和赏识，他在1702年1月6日死去，离我出生正好相差四年。

约翰被训练成一名染工，我相信是染羊毛织物的。本杰明学的是丝绸

own village, of which many instances were related of him; and much taken notice of and patronized by the then Lord Halifax. He died in 1702, January 6, old style, just four years to a day before I was born.

John was bred a dyer, I believe of woolens. Benjamin was bred a silk dyer, serving an apprenticeship at London. He was an ingenious man. I remember him well, for when I was a boy he came over to my father in Boston, and lived in the house with us some years. He lived to a great age. His grandson, Samuel Franklin, now lives in Boston. He left behind him two quarto volumes, MS., of his own poetry, consisting of little occasional pieces addressed to his friends and relations, of which the following, sent to me, is a specimen. He had formed a short-hand of his own, which he taught me, but, never practising it, I have now forgot it. I was named after this uncle, there being a particular affection between him and my father. He was very pious, a great attender of sermons of the best preachers, which he took down in his short-hand, and had with him many volumes of them. He was also much of a politician; too much, perhaps, for his station. There fell lately into my hands, in London, a collection he had made of all the principal pamphlets, relating to public affairs, from 1641 to 1717; many of the volumes are wanting as appears by the numbering, but there still remain eight volumes in folio, and twenty-four in quarto and in octavo. A dealer in old books met with them, and knowing me by my sometimes buying of him, he brought them to me. It seems my uncle must have left them here, when he went to America, which was about fifty years since. There are many of his notes in the margins.

This obscure family of ours was early in the Reformation, and continued Protestants through the reign of Queen Mary, when they were sometimes in danger of trouble on account of their zeal against popery. They had got an English *Bible*, and to conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my great-great-grandfather read it to his family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon its feet, when the

染工，在伦敦当学徒，他为人机灵聪慧，我对他的印象很深，因为当我还是个孩子时，他来到波士顿我父亲处同我们住了几年，他活到了高寿。他的孙子萨缪尔·富兰克林，现住在波士顿。他去世后留下两卷四开本的诗稿，里面有几篇是写给他的朋友和亲戚的，他寄给我作为我写作的范本。他自己创造了一种速记法并教会了我，但我从未使用过，现在已忘了。我就是仿照这个叔父而命的名，因为他和我父亲有着特别深厚的感情。他很虔诚，修养高深的传教士来布道时他必参加，并且用他的速记法将布道词记录下来，他有好多这样的记录本。他同样是个不错的政治家，从他的状况来讲，他也许有些过分热衷于政治了。最近，我在伦敦得到了他1641年至1717年收集的与公众事务有关的政治小册子。根据小册子的编号来看，不少已遗失了，但仍留有八卷对开本，二十四卷四开本和八开本。一个从事旧书买卖的商人获得了这些小册子，他认识我是因为我有时到他店里买书，他就将这些小册子带给我。看样子是五十年前我伯父在离开这里前往美洲的时候把这些东西留下的，书页边的空白处还有他的许多笔记。

我们这个微贱的家族很早就参加了宗教改革运动，而在玛丽女王统治时期一直是新教徒。当时，因为他们热烈反对天主教会制度，他们有时是处在会惹出灾难的危险之中。他们曾得到一本英文的《圣经》，要隐藏和保全它，就把它用绳子绑在一个折凳的面子底下。当我的高祖向家人诵读时，他便把折凳翻转过来倒放在膝上，翻读绳子下边的那些书页。一个小孩子站在门口，如果他看见宗教法庭的命令送达吏走来，就立刻报告。在这种情况下，就把折凳再翻转过去正放在那里，那时《圣经》仍像以前一样隐藏在折凳下面。

乔赛亚，我的父亲，他结婚很早，大约是在1682年，他带着妻子和3个孩子移居到了新英格兰。因为他所信仰的秘密宗教不仅被法律禁止，而且还常常受到骚扰，因此，父亲的许多熟人都移居到了新大陆。他们希望

Bible remained concealed under it as before.

Josiah, my father, married young, and carried his wife with three children into New England, about 1682. The conventicles having been forbidden by law, and frequently disturbed, induced some considerable men of his acquaintance to remove to that country, and he was prevailed with to accompany them thither, where they expected to enjoy their mode of religion with freedom.

By the same wife he had four children more born here, and by a second wife ten more, in all seventeen; of which I remember thirteen sitting at one time at his table, who all grew up to be men and women, and married.

My elder brothers were all put apprentices to different trades. I was put to the grammar-school at eight years of age, my father intending to devote me, as the tithe of his sons, to the service of the Church. My early readiness in learning to read (which must have been very early, as I do not remember when I could not read), and the opinion of all his friends, that I should certainly make a good scholar, encouraged him in this purpose of his. My uncle Benjamin, too, approved of it, and proposed to give me all his short-hand volumes of sermons, I suppose as a stock to set up with, if I would learn his character. I continued, however, at the grammar-school not quite one year, though in that time I had risen gradually from the middle of the class of that year to be the head of it, and farther was removed into the next class above it, in order to go with that into the third at the end of the year.

But my father, in the meantime, from a view of the expense of a college education, which having so large a family he could not well afford, and the mean living many so educated were afterwards able to obtain—reasons that he gave to his friends in my hearing—altered his first intention, took me from the grammar-school, and sent me to a school for writing and arithmetic, kept by a then famous man, Mr. George Brownell, very successful in his profession generally, and that by mild, encouraging methods. Under him I acquired fair writing pretty soon, but I failed in the arithmetic, and made no progress in it.

At ten years old I was taken home to assist my father in his business,

在那里可以享有宗教信仰的自由。我父亲也同意随他们前往美洲。

在那里，父亲的前妻又生了4个孩子，后来第二个妻子又为他生了10个。这样，我父亲一生共有17个孩子。我还记得有一次，13个孩子都围坐在他的桌旁，这13个孩子后来都长大成人，各自成家立业了。

我的哥哥们都选了各不相同的行业。我8岁那年开始上小学。作为最小的儿子，父亲准备让我到教会供职，我很小就学会了阅读(那时我一定还非常小，因为我不记得何时还不会阅读)。他的朋友们都说我肯定会成为一名杰出的学者，这更坚定了他的这个决心。伯父本杰明也赞成这个主意，主动提出把他速记下来的所有布道词卷本都送给我。如果要学得他的性格，我想这倒是开始时的资本储备。我在文法学校读了还不到一年，尽管我那时已经从班级的中等水平跻身前茅，而且还跳了一级，可指望年底进入三年级。

可是我父亲考虑到上大学受教育的费用，还考虑到要支撑这么个大家庭，对他来讲，确实不是很容易负担得起的。受过高等教育的人大多以后生活拮据——他当着我的面向朋友们叙述了这些理由——于是改变了主意，将我从文法学校退了学，送进了一家专教写作和算术的学校。这所学校由当时的一位名人乔治·布劳内尔先生开办，办学成绩卓著，教学采取的是宽容和鼓励的方法。在他的教导下，我很快学会写一手好字，但算术却不行，没有进步。

10岁那年，我回家辅助父亲的蜡烛和煮皂生意。他从小并不学这一行当，而是到了新英格兰以后才发觉他的染色行业需求不大，难以维持全家的生计，于是才操持起现在的行当。我就帮父亲剪切烛芯、注模制烛、照料店面、跑腿当差，等等。

我当时不喜欢这一行当，非常向往去航海，但是父亲反对。我生长在

which was that of a tallow-chandler and sope-boiler; a business he was not bred to, but had assumed on his arrival in New England, and on finding his dying trade would not maintain his family, being in little request. Accordingly, I was employed in cutting wick for the candles, filling the dipping mold and the molds for cast candles, attending the shop, going of errands, etc.

I disliked the trade, and had a strong inclination for the sea, but my father declared against it; however, living near the water, I was much in and about it, learnt early to swim well, and to manage boats; and when in a boat or canoe with other boys, I was commonly allowed to govern, especially in any case of difficulty; and upon other occasions I was generally a leader among the boys, and sometimes led them into scrapes, of which I will mention one instance, as it shows an early projecting public spirit, tho' not then justly conducted.

I think you may like to know something of his person and character. He had an excellent constitution of body, was of middle stature, but well set, and very strong; he was ingenious, could draw prettily, was skilled a little in music, and had a clear pleasing voice, so that when he played psalm tunes on his violin and sung withal, as he sometimes did in an evening after the business of the day was over, it was extremely agreeable to hear. He had a mechanical genius too, and, on occasion, was very handy in the use of other tradesmen's tools; but his great excellence lay in a sound understanding and solid judgment in prudential matters, both in private and public affairs. In the latter, indeed, he was never employed, the numerous family he had to educate and the straitness of his circumstances keeping him close to his trade; but I remember well his being frequently visited by leading people, who consulted him for his opinion in affairs of the town or of the church he belonged to, and showed a good deal of respect for his judgment and advice: he was also much consulted by private persons about their affairs when any difficulty occurred, and frequently chosen an arbitrator between contending parties.

My mother had likewise an excellent constitution: she suckled all her

海边，常与水打交道，很早就学会了游泳，而且还学会了驾船。当与其他孩子们在大船或小舢板上时，他们通常都服从我，尤其在处境危险时更是如此。在其他场合，我基本上是孩子王，有时也会使小伙伴们陷入窘境。在此我举一个例子，尽管当时我做得并不公正，但也显示了我早年热心公益的精神。

我想，你也许愿意对父亲这个人和他的性格有更多的了解。他身体强健，身材中等匀称，体格强壮。他生性聪敏，擅长绘画，略懂音乐，声音悦耳动听。因此，有时当他做完一天的事情后，晚上会拉起提琴，歌声和着奏出的赞美歌的曲调，听起来是相当不错的。他在机械方面也具有天才，有时用起其他行业工匠的器械也很熟练。但是，他最杰出的地方在于运用其深刻的理解力和准确的判断力处理重大事情，无论是公事还是私事。他后来并没有担任过任何公职，因为他有一大群孩子需要教育，家境窘迫使他不能离开谋生的行业。但是我清楚地记得，常有一些重要人物来拜访他，请教他对镇上或是他所属教会事务的意见，他们很重视和尊敬父亲的判断与建议。有的人在生活上遇到麻烦时也常来向父亲请教，他常常被选作争议双方的仲裁人。

我的母亲体质同样很好。她用乳汁养育了她的10个孩子。父母因病而死，不过他们生前，我不记得生过何种疾病。父亲死时89岁，母亲85岁，他们合葬在波士顿。

还是言归正传吧：我在我父亲店中连续干了两年，也就是一直干到我12岁。我的哥哥约翰，本来是学习这一行业的，却离开了父亲，结了婚，自己跑到罗得岛去住了。显然，我是注定了顶他的缺而成为油烛制造商，但是我仍旧不喜欢这个行业。我父亲深深考虑到如果他不为找到更合适的工作，我一定会像他的儿子乔赛亚所干的一样，逃到海上去作水手，使

ten children. I never knew either my father or mother to have any sickness but that of which they dy'd, he at 89, and she at 85 years of age. They lie buried together at Boston.

To return: I continued thus employed in my father's business for two years, that is, till I was twelve years old; and my brother John, who was bred to that business, having left my father, married, and set up for himself at Rhode Island, there was all appearance that I was destined to supply his place, and become a tallow-chandler. But my dislike to the trade continuing, my father was under apprehensions that if he did not find one for me more agreeable, I should break away and get to sea, as his son Josiah had done, to his great vexation. He therefore sometimes took me to walk with him, and see joiners, bricklayers, turners, braziers, etc., at their work, that he might observe my inclination, and endeavor to fix it on some trade or other on land.

It has ever since been a pleasure to me to see good workmen handle their tools; and it has been useful to me, having learnt so much by it as to be able to do little jobs myself in my house when a workman could not readily be got, and to construct little machines for my experiments, while the intention of making the experiment was fresh and warm in my mind. My father at last fixed upon the cutler's trade, and my uncle Benjamin's son Samuel, who was bred to that business in London, being about that time established in Boston, I was sent to be with him some time on liking. But his expectations of a fee with me displeasing my father, I was taken home again.

From a child I was fond of reading, and all the little money that came into my hands was ever laid out in books. Pleased with the *Pilgrim's Progress*, my first collection was of John Bunyan's works in separate little volumes. I afterward sold them to enable me to buy R. Burton's *Historical Collections*; they were small chapmen's books, and cheap, 40 or 50 in all. My father's little library consisted chiefly of books in polemic divinity, most of which I read, and have since often regretted that, at a time when I had such a thirst for knowledge, more proper books had not fallen in my way since it was now resolved I should not be a clergyman. Plutarch's *Lives* there was in which I read abundantly, and I still think that time spent to great advantage.

他大为伤心。所以，他有时带我出去散步，并去拜访小木匠、泥水匠、车匠、铜匠等，看他们做活，他就可以观察我的爱好，并力图把我的爱好吸引到某些手艺或别的在陆地上的行业上。

因为经常去看好工匠使用他们的机械工具，使我很喜欢，而且对我很有用。常看我也就学会了一点，当不能雇到工人时，我自己也能够在家中做些零活，并曾为了实验做了一些小机械，当做些机械实验的意向在我心里是新鲜而热烈的时候，我父亲终于决定了让我跟我的伯父本杰明的儿子萨缪尔学制刀业，他是在伦敦学过这个行业的，大约那时正在波士顿开业，我跟他实习了一些时候。但是他想向我收取学费，这使我父亲很恼火，所以父亲又把我领回了家。

我从小就喜欢读书，手里有几个零花钱全都用来买书。那个时候，我非常喜欢《天路历程》，我的第一批藏书就是分成若干小开本的约翰·班扬的著作。后来，我又卖掉了那部书，购买了罗伯特·伯顿的《历史文集》。那是小商贩们的书，很便宜，总共40或50便士。父亲的小书房里主要是辩论神学之类的书，其中大部分我都读过，而且至今我还时常感到遗憾，在我如此强烈地渴求知识的时候，既然我决心不当牧师，手头却没有更合适的书。父亲的小书房里的普鲁塔克的著作，我读了很多遍，而且我至今认为，所耗费的那些时间使我受益匪浅。

那里还有一本笛福的书，叫作《计划论述》，一本马瑟博士的《行善论》。这两本书使我的思想发生了转变，而且这一转变对后来我人生中的一些大事产生过影响。

正是由于这种对书籍的爱好，使得父亲最后决定让我从事印刷业，虽然，他的另一个儿子——我的哥哥詹姆士已经学了这一行业。