

SELECTED ESSAYS

英语背诵文选

· 英 漢 對 照 ·

錢 仁 編 譯



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英 語 背 誦 文 選

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Selected Essays For Recitation

With Chinese Translations

Compiled and Translated by

CHIEN JEN

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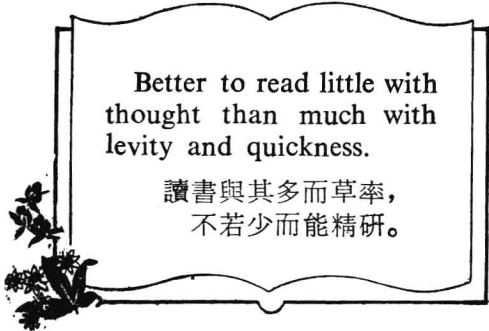
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Better to read little with
thought than much with
levity and quickness.

讀書與其多而草率，
不若少而能精研。

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STORIES

1. A PRECIOUS TURNIP

Before Louis the Eleventh became king, he used to visit a peasant whose garden produced excellent fruit. After his accession, the peasant brought him as a present a very large turnip which had grown in his garden. The king, remembering the pleasant hours that he had spent under the old man's roof, gave him a thousand crowns.

The lord of the village, hearing of this, thought that if one who gave a paltry turnip received so large a reward, one who gave a really valuable present would receive a still larger reward. He, therefore, offered a splendid horse. The king accepted it and calling for the big turnip, said, "This cost me a thousand crowns; I give it to you in return for your horse."

故 事

1. 珍 貴 的 蘿 蔔

在路易十一還未做皇帝之前，他常常去探訪一個農夫。那農夫有一個花園，裏面種着很多美好的水果。當他登位後，那農夫送他一個在自己園裏種出來的大蘿蔔作為禮物。皇帝回憶起以前消磨在這位老人家中的快樂時光，賞了老人一千個金幣。

一個鄉紳聽聞這件事，他想：送一些下賤的蘿蔔給皇帝，便可以獲得大量的賞賜，要是有人送一些真正有價值的禮物給皇帝，那末得回的賞賜不是會更大嗎？於是他便獻給皇帝一匹名種馬，皇帝接受了他的禮物，並叫人把日前收到的大蘿蔔捧出來。皇帝對鄉紳說：“這個大蘿蔔是用一千個金幣換來的，就把它送給你，作為對你的名種馬的回敬吧！”

2. THE MILKMAID

A country maid was walking to the town to sell some milk, which she carried in a pitcher on her head. As she went along, she said to herself, "I have already fifty eggs at home; with the money which I get for my milk I will buy fifty more. These hundred eggs cannot fail to bring me at least eighty chickens. The chickens will be ready for market just when poultry is dearest, so that they will sell for a good sum. With the money I will get me a new gown, and when I wear it at the fair the young fellows will want to dance with me, but I will turn from each with a toss of the head." As she said these words, she could not help giving her head a toss, when down fell pitcher, milk, eggs, poultry, gown, sweethearts, and all. Count not your chickens before they are hatched.

2. 牛 奶 姑 娘

一個鄉村姑娘，携了一些牛奶到城裏去賣。她頭上頂着盛奶的壺，獨自步行，自言自語地說：“我家裏有五十隻鷄蛋，我賣了牛奶的錢可以再買五十隻鷄蛋。這一百隻鷄蛋斷不會給我帶來少過八十隻小鷄。那些小鷄待市況較好的時候在市場上出售，便可以獲得一大筆錢。用這筆錢，我便可以得到一件新的長上衣，當我穿了它去出席賽會時，那些青年男子便會來邀我跳舞，但我將對他們逐個把頭一仰（以示驕傲之意）。”當她說這句話時，不禁將頭一仰，這樣，她的壺，牛奶，鷄蛋，小鷄，長上衣，甜蜜的心等等，都隨她的頭一仰而完蛋了。所以，未成事實之事是不可太樂觀的*。

*原文是引用成語：“不要計算尚未孵生的小鷄。”

3. THE TREES AND THE WOOD-CUTTER

A wood-cutter once went into the woods and asked the trees to give a handle for his axe.

"Very well," said the trees; "you shall have it. The slender young ash which stands on the hill-side will serve you."

As soon as the man had made the new handle for his axe, he began to use it. Day after day his strokes could be heard, and soon all the great trees in the woods were laid low.

"Ah," said an old oak, as he fell crashing to the ground, "it is all our own fault that we are thus lost. If we had taken the part of the young ash tree and not given up its rights, we might have stood here safe from harm for many years yet."

"Very true," said a tall pine that was lying close by. "When those who are strong fail to take the part of those who are weak, they are sure to be the losers for it."

3. 樹 和 樵 夫

有一次，一個樵夫跑進森林裏，懇求那些樹給他一段木，以作斧頭柄之用。

“很好，”那些樹說：“你將會得到木柄的，那長在山邊的纖弱的小槐樹可以爲你服務。”

當那樵夫把斧頭做好時，他便開始使用它了。每日都可以聽到他伐木的聲音，不久，森林裏所有的大樹都被砍了下來。

“呀！”當那老橡樹被砍下地時說：“這全是我們的錯，因而招致損失。假如我們起先設身處地替槐樹着想，我們現在仍然可以安全地在這兒生長許多年呢！”

“真的，”那被砍下躺在它旁邊的高松樹說：“當那些強者在欺負弱小的當兒，他們自己也因此而種下了失敗的禍根。”

4. A STORY ABOUT GLASS

Once upon a time, hundreds of years ago, a strange-looking ship was sailing slowly on the great sea. The ship was heavily laden with soda, and had been out a long time.

The sailors were tired of the tossing of the great sea, and longed for the quiet land.

Suddenly across the waves, a speck was seen. Surely, that must be land!

A moment later, the cry "It is land" was heard from every sailor.

Soon they landed and went to collect sticks for a fire. All were anxious to cook a dinner on land.

The fire was started and the kettle brought. But they could find nothing with which to prop it. No stones were to be found.

What were they to do? Give it up? No, a thousand times no!

"Bring some of the lumps of soda," called the captain. Soon the dinner was cooking

4. 玻璃的故事

幾百年以前，有一艘外貌奇特的船在大海上緩緩地行駛着。船上載滿着蘇打，已經航行了很久了。

水手們被海洋上的顛簸累得要命，他們渴望抵達安靜的陸地。

突然地，船在跨過了幾個巨浪之後，水手們看見了遠方的斑點。當然，那必定是陸地了！

過了一會兒，每個水手都聽到“那是陸地”的叫聲。

不久，他們登陸了。他們去搜集一些樹枝用來生火，大家都渴望在陸地弄一頓餐充飢。

火生了起來，鍋也有了，但沒有石頭可以做支柱。

怎麼辦呢？放棄煮食嗎？不，千萬不能這樣！

“把那些一塊一塊的蘇打拿來！”船長說。於是那些蘇打使用作磚頭的代替物，很快便能架上鍋子煮東西。但不久就停止了，發生了什麼麻煩

nicely; but stop, what was the trouble?

The fire had melted the soda and sand together. This was the first glass ever made.

5. SOCRATES AND HIS HOUSE

There once lived in Greece a very wise man whose name was Socrates. Young men from all parts of the land went to him to learn wisdom from him; and he said so many pleasant things, and said them in so delightful a way, that no one ever grew tired of listening to him.

One summer he built himself a house, but it was so small that his neighbours wondered how he could be content with it.

"What is the reason," said they, "that you, who are so great a man, should build such a little box as this for your dwelling house?"

"Indeed, there may be little reason," said he, "but, small as the place is, I shall think myself happy if I can fill even it with true friends."