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语名家诵读

菁华

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徐广联 陆道夫 编著
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• 新世纪英语丛书 •

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主 编 徐广联 陆道夫

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前 言

英语语言底蕴深厚,名家大师辈出。他们的思想精华,经妙笔点化,遂成精湛的美文、瑰丽的诗篇。这些名篇,蕴藏着大师们卓越的见识、睿智的思考、伟大的抱负、高尚的情操;这些名篇,承载着大师们对人类的希冀,对大自然的关爱,对良知的呼唤,对邪恶的鞭挞;这些名篇,有对童年乐园的怀念,对已故亲人的追忆,对往昔恋情的梦回,对千古失足的惋惜。这些名篇,它们是人类的一笔宝贵精神财富。

本书中的选段,近170篇,是经过剔除糟粕,去芜存菁,最终确定的,均为英美名篇中的精华。它们文风各异,或热烈奔放,或含蓄隽永,或古雅雄辩,或清新流畅,语言地道规范,闪耀着大师们璀璨的智慧之光,体现了大师们高超的语言技巧。

诵读本书,你既能得到审美的愉悦,提高英语语言的领悟力,又能学习英语写作技巧,掌握丰富多彩的表达方式,提高英语写作能力。同时,它还是道德修养、为人处世的好读本,能提升你的文化品味,使你从原文中了解人生百态,世事苍桑,帮你找到人生的坐标,助你走向理性与辉煌。

徐广联

记于南京四知斋

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◆ 第一部分 ◆

人生百态

To say that man is made
up of strength and weak-
ness, of insight and blind-
ness, of pettiness and gran-
deur.

Denis Diderot

可以说人类既强大又虚
弱，既卑琐又崇高，既能洞
察入微又常常视而不见。

狄德罗

A Gentleman (绅士)

It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pain. This description is both refined and, as far as it goes, accurate. He is mainly occupied in merely removing the obstacles which hinder the free and unembarrassed action of those about him; and he concurs with their movements rather than takes the initiative himself. The true gentleman in like manner carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast; — all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; his great concern being to make every one at their ease and at home. He has his eyes on all his company: he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absurd; he can recollect to whom he is speaking; he guards against unseasonable allusions, or topics which may irritate; he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome.

He makes light of favours while he does them, and seems to be receiving when he is conferring. He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort, he has no ears for slander or gossip, is scrupulous in imputing motives to those who interfere with him, and interprets every thing for the best. He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out. From a long-sighted prudence, he observes the maxim of the ancient sage, that we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend. He has too much good sense to be af-

fronted at insults, he is too well employed to remember injuries, and too indolent to bear malice. He is patient, forbearing, and resigned, on philosophical principles; he submits to pain, because it is inevitable, to bereavement, because it is irreparable, and to death, because it is his destiny. If he engages in controversy of any kind, his disciplined intellect preserves him from the blunder.

by John Henry Newman

Notes

concur [kən'kə] (言行)步调一致

nature ['neɪtʃə] (个人的)身体需要

animal heat 体温

bashful [ˈbæʃfʊl] 害羞的,拘束的

distant [ˈdɪstənt] 冷淡的,矜持的

unseasonable [ˌʌn'si:zənəbl] 不合时宜的

A Philistine (世俗人)

A philistine is a full-grown person whose interests are of a material and commonplace nature, and whose mentality is formed of the stock ideas and conventional ideals of his or her group and time. A philistine is not likely to exist in a very primitive society although no doubt rudiments of philistinism may be found even there. We may imagine, for instance, a cannibal who would prefer the human head he eats to be artistically colored, just as the American philistine prefers his oranges to be painted orange, his salmon pink, and his whisky yellow. But generally speaking philistinism presupposes a certain advanced state of civilization where throughout the ages certain traditions have accumulated in a heap and have started to stink. . . . The philistine in his passionate urge to conform, to belong, to join, is torn between two longings: to act as everybody does, to admire, to use this or that thing because millions of people do; or else he craves to belong to an exclusive set, to an organization, to a club, to a hotel patronage or an ocean liner community (with the captain in white and wonderful food), and to delight in the knowledge that there is the head of a corporation or a European count sitting next to him. The philistine is often a snob. He is thrilled by riches and rank — “Darling, I’ve actually talked to a duchess!”

By Vladimir Nabokov

Notes

rudiment [ˈruːdɪmənt] 雏形, 萌芽

cannibal [ˈkænɪbəl] 吃人的人

salmon [ˈsælmən] 大麻哈鱼

crave [kreiv] 渴望

an exclusive set 归属排外的一群人物,人以群分

is thrilled 为之激动,为之欢欣鼓舞