

世界名家格言作品精选



休闲英语

ENGLISH ENTERTAINMENT

[美] 富兰克林 著

施茵 编译

英汉对照

BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN

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世界图书出版公司

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施茵 编译

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前 言

本杰明·富兰克林(Benjamin Franklin 1706—1790)是美国18世纪名列华盛顿后的最著名的人物。他不仅是位杰出的政治家——参加起草了美国的独立宣言和美国的宪法、杰出的科学家——进行了有名的电实验并发明了建筑物防护用的避雷针,而且是卓有成效的印刷商、热心的社会活动家。富兰克林在政治、科学、社会活动的同时,给后人留下了许多精彩的文字作品,其中最负盛名的是《自传》和《穷理查年鉴》中的许多脍炙人口的警句和格言。

富兰克林的格言主要包括3个方面:国事与政治、宗教与道德、处世与人生。其中尤以处世与人生这一部分的格言以其深思熟虑,言简意赅的魅力而**为后来广泛流传**。如:“时间就是金钱”,“你珍惜生命吗?~~那么就请不要浪费时间~~”,因为这是组成生命的材料”,这样一些大家所熟悉的警句皆出自富兰克林笔下。

本书选编和翻译了富兰克林的格言约400条。主要分为“国事与政治”、“宗教与道德”,“处世与人生”3个方面;由于在“处世与人生”这一部分中,有不少是集中关于勤劳与节俭、学习与知识、爱情与友谊的,为方便读者阅读,专门列开。

作为一个18世纪的人物,富兰克林的有些观点由于历史的局限性或者民族、国情、风格等等差异,可能难以为我们所接受,只能作为了解作者思想全貌的一个方面。

本书采用中英文对照的形式,希望在给人以精神启迪的同时,也能对英语学习者有所帮助。由于富兰克林的文字写于18世纪,一些语法与现代英语略有不同。另外,富兰克林的文笔简朴而不华丽,不少内容读来纯粹是朴素实用的生活

经验。在翻译过程中,笔者力求保持原文风格,但同时深感自身才疏学浅,虽然尽了最大努力,仍难免存在不少疏漏,甚至错误,恳请读者予以批评指正。

编者

1996.8

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Benjamin Franklin

If to be venerated for benevolence, if to be admired for talents, if to be esteemed for patriotism, if to be beloved for philanthropy, can gratify the human mind, you must have the pleasing consolation to know that you have not lived in vain. And I flatter myself that it will not be ranked among the least grateful occurrences of your life to be assured that so long as I retain my memory, you will be thought on with respect, veneration, and affection by your sincere friend.

(George Washington (1732—99),
U. S. general, president, Letter,
23 Sept. 1789, to Benjamin Franklin).

本杰明·富兰克林

倘若说为善行而受到崇敬,为才能而受到钦佩,为爱国而受到尊重,为仁慈而受到爱戴,能使人心得到满足的话,那么,你必定会欣慰地感到:你的一生没有虚度。同时我以为你可将这样一个信念当作你人生最大的快乐之一:只要我的记忆尚在,你将永远被你真诚的朋友以尊重、敬仰和热爱的心情所怀念。

乔治·华盛顿(1732—1799)
第一届美国总统、将军
1789年9月23日致富兰克林的信

Printer, philosopher, scientist, author and patriot, impeccable husband and citizen, why isn't he an archetype? Pioneers, Oh Pioneers! Benjamin was one of the greatest pioneers of the United States.

(D. H. Lawrence (1885—1930),
British author, *Studies in Classic
American Literature*, ch. 2(1923).)

出版家, 哲学家, 科学家, 作家和爱国者, 无懈可击的丈夫和公民, 他何故不能是个典型? 先驱者, 哦, 先驱者! 本杰明是美国最伟大的先驱者之一。

D · H · 劳伦斯(1885—1930)
英国作家
《美国古典文学研究 · 第二章》(1923)

Franklin may... be considered one of the founding fathers of American democracy, since no democratic government can last long without conciliation and compromise.

The Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin (1961)

富兰克林可以……被认为是美国民主的缔造者之一, 因为任何得以持久存在的民主政府都离不开调和与妥协。

《富兰克林的智慧》(1961)

The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer (like

the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding), lies here, food for worms, but the work shall not be lost, for it will (as he believed) appear once more in a new and more elegant edition, revised and corrected by Author.

Epitaph on Himself

(composed in 1728)

印刷商本杰明·富兰克林的躯体(像一本撕掉了目录,抽空了文字,剥去了镀金,只剩下封面的旧书)躺在此地,成为蠕虫的食物,但是,其作品将不会失去,因为(正如他所深信不疑的那样)它将通过作者的修改与订正,以一种崭新的、更为优雅的版本问世。

自题的墓志铭(1728)

* Nothing gives an author so much pleasure as to find his works respectfully quoted by other learned authors.

给作者带来最大快乐的莫过于见到其他博学的作者恭敬地引用自己的作品。

One of the greatest Pleasures an Author can have, is certainly the Hearing his Works applaud-

* 没有注明出处的均转摘自 *Instant Quotation Dictionary*

ed.

The Busy-Body—No. 8(1729)

作者所能有的最大的快乐之一当然是耳闻其作品受到读者的热烈欢迎。

《爱管闲事的人·第8篇》(1729)

Man is a tool-making animal.

Life of Johnson (1778)

人类是一种会制作工具的动物。

《约翰逊的一生》(1778)

Praise to the underserving is severe satire.

From the David & Charles
Book of Quotations

对受之有愧者的赞扬其实是最尖刻的讽刺。

摘自《戴维和查尔斯引语集》

An Ounce of Prevention is worth a Pound of
Cure.

The Writings of Benjamin
Franklin Vol I (1722—1750)
Protection of Town from Fire

与其用一磅力气治疗,不如花一两力气预防。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集第二卷
(1722-1750)·保护城镇免遭火灾》

Let others communicate their thoughts as freely as I have done mine, and perhaps something useful may be drawn from the Whole.

The Writings of Benjamin

Franklin Vol I (1722-1750)

Protection of Town from Fire

让别人像我那样畅所欲言,那么集思广益,或许能引出些有用的东西。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集第二卷
(1722-1750)·保护城镇免遭火灾》

If you'd have my advice, I'll give it to you in short, for a word to the wise is enough, and many words won't fill a Bushel.*

The Way to Wealth (1758)

倘若你要听我的建议,我将简短地告诉你,因为对聪明人,一句话便足已,长篇大话也填不满一蒲式耳*。

《致富之路》(1758)

Drive thy Business, let not that drive thee.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

* 蒲式耳——计量各物等的容量单位,在英国等于 36.368 升,在美国等于 35.238 升。

驾御好你的事业，而莫让事业驾御了你。

《致富之路》(1758)

Constant dropping wears away stones.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

滴水穿石。

《致富之路》(1758)

By Diligence and Patience the Mouse ate in
two the Cable.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

老鼠将钢绳咬断靠的是用功与耐心。

《致富之路》(1758)

Fly pleasures, and they'll follow you.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

给快乐装上翅膀，它们将伴你飞翔。

《致富之路》(1758)

If you would have a faithful servant, and one
that you like, serve yourself.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

如果你想拥有一个忠实的仆人，一个你所满意的
的仆人，那就自己侍候自己吧！

《致富之路》(1758)

The artificial wants of Mankind become more numerous than the natural.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

人类对人为所需已超过了自然所需。

《致富之路》(1758)

• A ploughman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

蹲着的农夫比跪着的绅士高大。

《致富之路》(1758)

• A child and a fool, imagine twenty shillings and twenty years can never be spent.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

傻瓜就像孩子一样,以为 20 年光阴同 20 先令一样不会用完。

《致富之路》(1758)

Great Estates may venture more, But little boats should keep near shore.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

万贯家产可掷千金投机,轻轻小舟不宜离岸远行。

《致富之路》(1758)

、Pride that dines on Vanity, sups on Contempt.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

“傲慢”的三餐以“虚荣”开始,以“轻蔑”告终。

《致富之路》(1758)

Pride cannot promote Health, or ease Pain; it makes no Increase of Merit in the person, it creates Envy, it hastens Misfortune.

The Way to Wealth (1758)

傲慢不利于健康,也不会减轻痛苦;傲慢不会增加人的优点,反而促成嫉妒,加速不幸。

《致富之路》(1758)

Really, Sir the World is grown too incredulous. It is like the Pendulum ever swinging from one extreme to another. Formerly everything printed was believed, because it was in print. Now things seem to be disbelieved for just the very same Reason.

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin Vol IV

To the Editor of a Newspaper (1765)

真的,先生,这世界已变得太多疑。这就像钟摆,一刻不停地从一个极端摆到另一个极端。原先相信

一切印刷的东西,因为它们印在了纸上。现在似乎不再相信这些东西,也是因为它们印在了纸上。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集
第四卷·致报刊编辑》(1765)

There are still those in the world who can see a mote in their brother's eye, while they do not discern a beam in their own.

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin Vol V
On Smuggling(1767)

现在世上依然有那样一些人,他们能见得其兄弟眼中的微疵,且看不到自己的大错。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集
第五卷·关于走私(1767)》

Necessaries of life, that are not food, and all other conveniences, have their values established by the proportion of food consumed while we are employed in procuring them.

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin Vol V
Positions to Be Examined,
Concerning National Wealth (1769)

那些非食用的生活必需品,以及其他各种便利设施的价值是根据我们受雇获得这些东西时所消耗的那部分食品的价值所决定的。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集
第五卷·关于国民财产所需
考虑的立场》(1769)

Where the labour and expense of producing both commodities are known to both parties, bargains will generally be fair and equal. Where they are known to one party only, bargains will often be unequal, knowledge taking its advantage of ignorance.

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin Vol. V
Positions to Be Examined,
Concerning National Wealth(1769)

当生产各自商品的劳动力和费用为双方所知时,交易一般来说是公平合理的。而当这些情况仅为一方所知时,便时常会出现不平等的交易。此时,有知识的一方利用了对方的无知。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集
第五卷·关于国民财产所需
考虑的立场》(1769)

There are two sorts of people in the world, who with equal degrees of health, and wealth, and the other comforts of life, become, the one happy, and the other miserable. This arises very much from the different views in which they consider things, persons, and events; and the effect of

those different views upon their own minds.

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin Vol. VIII
The Handsome and Deformed Leg (1780)

世界上有这样两种人：他们一样健康，一样富有，一样可享受其他优越的生活条件。但是，一种人感到幸福，而另一种人却感到痛苦。这主要是因为他们对物，对人，对事情的看法极不相同，而这些相反的观点又对他们各自的心理产生了不同的结果。

《本杰明·富兰克林作品集》
第八卷·漂亮的和畸形的腿》(1780)

When the body is uneasy, the mind will be disturbed by it.

The Art of Procuring Pleasant Dreams(1786)

当身体有所不适，心情也将受到打扰。
《做好梦的艺术》(1786)

Now I have a sheep and a cow, everybody bids me good Morrow.

The Way to Wealth(1758)

现在我有羊又有牛，人人见我道早安。
《致富之路》(1758)

'tis easier to build two chimnies, than to Keep