

智慧卷

天天读点好英文
Everyday English Notes

那些改变命运的大智慧

达子 编译

英语十分钟阅读



黑龙江科学技术出版社
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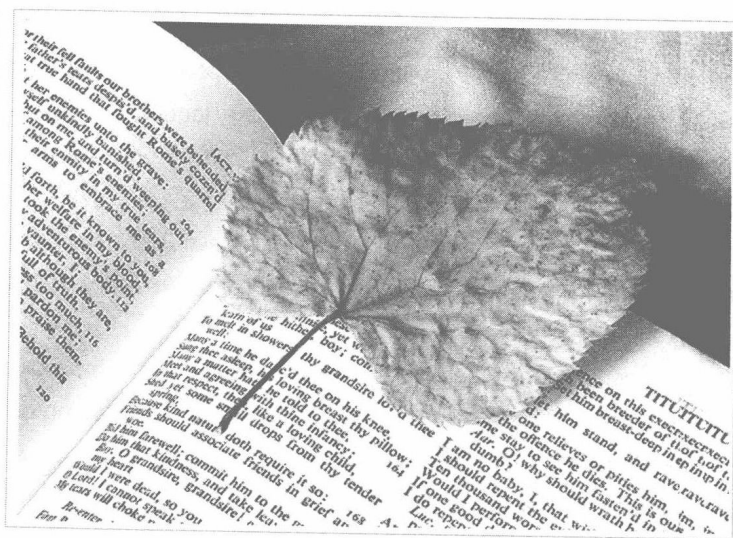
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品读真情的 Reading Sagacious 智言 Mottos of Sensation





四瓣的花朵

The Four-Petaled Flower

► 米斯特拉尔 / *Gabriela Mistral*

My soul was once a great tree, on which a million fruits **ripened**¹. Then, the mere sight of me offered a fullness; to hear a hundred birds sing beneath my branches was a **rapture**²!

Later my soul was a shrub, a gnarled shrub with few branches, but it could still produce scented resin.

Now it is only a flower, a little **four-petaled**³ flower. One is called Beauty, and another Love, and they are close together; another is called Sorrow, and the last one Mercy. Thus, one by one, the petals opened, and the flower will have no more.

The petals have a drop of blood at their base, because beauty was sorrowful to me, because my love was pure tribulation, and my mercy, too, was born of a wound.

You who knew me when I was a great tree and who come looking for me so late, at twilight, perhaps you pass by without recognizing me.

From the dust I will watch you in silence, and I will know, by your face, whether you can be satisfied with a simple flower, as brief as a tear. If I see ambition in your eyes, I will let you go on toward the others, who are great trees reddened with fruit.

Because the one whom I can accept beside me in the dust today must be so humble that he can be resigned to this brief radiance, must be so indifferent to ambition that he can stay for eternity with his cheek against my dust, forgotten by the world, touching his lips to me!



我的灵魂曾是一棵大树，上面结有无数成熟的果实。那时，人们一看到我，就会感到无比满足；当他们听到上百只鸟在我的枝叶间鸣唱，就会感到喜不自禁！

后来，我的灵魂变成了一株枝条稀疏而弯曲的灌木，但仍然能够分泌出芬芳的树脂。

现在，它只是一朵花，一朵四瓣的小花。一片花瓣叫美，另一片叫爱，它们紧挨在一起；第三片花瓣叫悲哀，最后一瓣叫仁慈。这几片花瓣就这样先后绽放，而这朵花再没有长出其他的花瓣。

每个花瓣的底部都有一滴血，因为美令我感到痛苦，因为我的爱完全是一种折磨，而我的仁慈与悲哀也都来自创伤。

在我是一棵大树的时候，你我就曾相识，但你却姗姗来迟，直到黄昏的时候才来找我，也许你根本没有认出我，便漫不经心地从我身边走过。

我在泥土中默默地看着你，从你脸上的神情我就可以判断出，一朵泪珠般简单的小花能否令你满意。如果我在你的眼中看到你另有他图，我会让你继续前行，朝着其他果实累累的大树走去。

因为，今天我所能接受的与我一起待在泥土中的人，必须是一个谦卑的人，他能够满足于微弱的光辉而别无所求，他可以永远将面颊贴在我的泥土上，亲吻着我，将整个世界都忘却。



人生真正的伴侣是能够发现你的优点、爱着你的缺点，并接受完整的你的人。

热词盘点

1. ripen ['raɪpən] v. 成熟

例 His love for her had ripened over the years.

这些年来,他对她的爱情已成熟了。

2. rapture ['ræptʊ(r)] n. 着迷,痴迷

例 In rapture some little boys were listening to an interesting story.

一些男孩正非常高兴地听一个有趣的故事。

3. petal ['petəl] n. 花瓣

例 The last withered petal dropped.

芙蓉的最后一篇花瓣凋落了。

佳句欣赏

1. My soul was once a great tree, on which a million fruits ripened.

我的灵魂曾是一棵大树,上面结有无数成熟的果实。

2. You who knew me when I was a great tree and who come looking for me so late, at twilight, perhaps you pass by without recognizing me.

在我是一棵大树的时候,你我就曾相识,但你却姗姗来迟,直到黄昏的时候才来找我,也许你根本没有认出我,便漫不经心地从我身边走过。

短语攻略

1. a drop of 一滴,一点儿

一滴污水中藏有各种难以计数的微生物。

译 _____

2. look for 寻找

信息是否都在顾客可能找到的地方?

译 _____



受教终身的一堂课

A Lesson Learned

► 琳恩·伦伯德 / Lynn Lombard

I stood there listening to the **stern**¹ words of my father.

He had gathered us into our enclosed patio and had the look on his face that told us all that one of us did something wrong.

“Which one of you did this?” he asked with a **sharp**² voice.

We all stared down at the floor containing the art of a child’s handwriting in chalk. I suppose that had been a no-no for us, though I can’t say I quite remember that part when I was committing this horrible crime.

I stood there, trembling on the inside and had hoped that no one else could see it. Will he know it was me? I secretly wondered. Scared, the only words that came from my mouth were, “Not me, dad.”

The others denied it as well. Of course, we knew that one of us must have done it. But I, being the youngest and smallest of the three, just couldn’t find the courage to tell the truth. It wasn’t that I was a bad kid. Lying was not normal for me. But the look on my dad’s face that evening sent a chill up and down my spine and somehow I couldn’t bring myself to tell him.

He had a way about him when I was a child that made me afraid

of him. But I loved him for it too, because it gave me my limits, my boundaries of what I could and could not do. I wanted to please him, of course. Maybe that's why I held back the truth that day. I was afraid of displeasing the one man I looked up to.

Without saying a word, he disappeared for only minutes and came back with a piece of paper and a pencil. He was so determined to find the **culprit**!

"I want each of you to write exactly what you see on the step." I was not a stupid kid, though and when my turn came, I deliberately wrote the words differently. So when my dad compared the handwriting, he still couldn't tell which one of us did it.

Frustrated, he stood a step above us and looked down at his three small kids.

"I'm going to give you one more chance to confess."

He continued to stand there for a few moments, but to me it only seemed like a second. Not surprisingly, neither my brother nor my sister spoke up. Why should they? I was the one who did it. Should I say something? Is it too late? He'll be mad! So again, frightened, I held my tongue.

"Well, if someone would have come forward when I asked, there would have been no punishment." Oh, no! I've lost my chance! "But now it's too late." Stupid, stupid, stupid! I should have confessed! Now I'm gonna get it!

He took us all in the house as tears welled up in my eyes.

"Since none of you seemed to have done it, then you all get a spanking." What?! Still, I stood there and said nothing. The last thing I wanted was a spanking!

"I did it," someone said and I was pretty sure it wasn't me.

I looked around to see my sister come forward. Huh? She did it? No, she didn't because I did. Why was she was taking the blame for

something I did? Feeling guilty, yet still scared to fess up, I stood there knowing my sister was going to get spanked for something I did. And I let it happen. I didn't speak up.

We didn't talk about that day for many years. Not until we were all older and I knew it was safe to finally tell my dad it was really me. By that time, I had already figured out why my sister took the rap for it. She had become my protector, my worry-wort, my best friend. And because of that, she would have rather taken the pain herself than see me suffer.

We joke about it now — all of us, including my sister. And as I always felt guilty because of it, that was the last time I let anyone take the blame for me.



我站在那里，听着父亲严厉的问候。

他把我们都叫到院子里，脸上的表情告诉我们，一定是我们中有人做了错事。

“这是你们之中谁做的？”他以刺耳的声音问道。

我们都看着地面，那上面有一些孩子用粉笔写的字。我猜那是不允许我们做的事，尽管当我犯下这个可怕的错误时，并不记得有这个规定。

我站在那里，心中禁不住在颤抖，只希望别人没有看见。他会知道是我做的吗？我私下里这样想着。由于害怕，我不由自主地说道：“不是我，爸爸。”

其他人也都予以否认。当然，我们都知道一定是我们之中的某个人做的，但作为三个孩子中最小的一个，我没有勇气说实话。那并不能说明我是一个坏孩子。我不经常说谎，但那天晚上父亲脸上的表情令我不寒而栗，不知何故，我没能对他讲出实话。

在我的童年时代，父亲有时候做事的方式令我感到害怕。但我也因

此而爱他，因为他的这种行事方式给了我限制，使我知道什么能做，什么不能做。我当然很想让他高兴，或许这就是我那天隐瞒实情的原因吧。我怕让这个我所尊敬的人不愉快。

他一言不发地离开了几分钟，回来的时候，他拿了一张纸和一支铅笔。他已经决定要把犯错误的人找出来！

“我要你们每个人把在台阶上看到的写下来。”我并不是一个笨孩子，当轮到我写的时候，我故意把字写得完全不一样。因此，当父亲对比过字迹之后，他仍然无法断定这件事是我们之中的哪一个做的。

失望之余，他站到了高我们一级的台阶上，向下看着他的三个孩子。

“我再给你们一次坦白的机会。”

他又在台阶上站了一会儿，但对我来说，那就像是一秒钟一样。不出所料，我的哥哥和姐姐都没有讲话。他们为什么要讲话呢？是我做的啊。我应该说实话吗？是不是已经太晚了呢？他会发火的！因此，由于害怕，我再一次闷声不响。

“刚才我问你们的时候，如果有人走上前来，我本可以不惩罚他的。”哦，不！我已经失去机会了！“但现在已经太晚了。”笨蛋，笨蛋，笨蛋！我本该承认错误的！那现在就没事了！

父亲眼中含着泪，把我们带进了屋。

“既然你们之中似乎没有人做过这件事，那么，所有的人都得打屁股。”什么？！我仍然站在那里，一句话也说不出来。我最后等来的竟仍然是一顿打屁股！

“是我做的，”突然有人说道，但我确定说话的人不是我。

我环顾左右，发现姐姐站了出来。啊？是她做的？不，不是她，因为是我做的。为什么她要为我犯的错误承担责任呢？虽然心里有负罪感，但由于害怕，我还是没有说出实话；我知道姐姐将会为我所犯的错误受罚，但我只是呆呆地站在那里，眼睁睁地看着这一切发生，仍然没有讲出实情。

有许多年，我们都不曾说起过那天的事。直到我们都已经长大了，我确认已经安全了，才告诉爸爸那件事其实是我做的。而那时，我已经明白



姐姐为什么要代我受过了。她已经成为了我的保护者、我的倾诉对象，以及我最好的朋友。正因如此，她宁愿自己承担痛苦，也不愿意看到我受罪。

我们现在常常拿这件事来开玩笑——我们所有人，包括我姐姐。我一直因为这件事而感到问心有愧，那也是最后一次我让别人代我受过。



我们可能会从谎言中获得一时的利益和短暂的轻松，但却注定要为此承受一生的悔恨，甚至会给亲人和朋友造成难以弥补的伤害。或许每个人都难免说谎，但希望其后果能让你远离谎言。

热词盘点

1. stern [stɜ:n] adj. 严厉的, 严格的

例 Our teacher does not as stern as theirs.
我们的教师没有他们的严厉。

2. sharp [ʃa:p] adj. 严厉的, 尖刻的

例 Don't be so sharp with the child!
对孩子别那么严厉。

3. culprit ['kʌlprɪt] n. 罪犯, 犯错误的人

例 Someone broke a cup: who was the culprit?
有人把杯子打碎了, 是谁干的?

佳句欣赏

1. He had a way about him when I was a child that made me afraid of him. But I loved him for it too, because it gave me my limits, my boundaries of what I could and could not do.

在我的童年时代, 父亲有时候做事的方式令我感到害怕。但我也因此而爱他, 因为他的这种行事方式给了我限制, 使我知道什么能做, 什么不能做。

2. she would have rather taken the pain herself than see me suffer.
她宁愿自己承担痛苦, 也不愿意看到我受罪。

短语攻略

1. as well 同样地, 也
其他技术同样可以, 或者更好。

译 _____

2. hold back 隐瞒, 踌躇
这就是他所隐瞒的事实真相。

译 _____