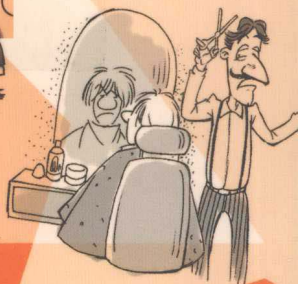
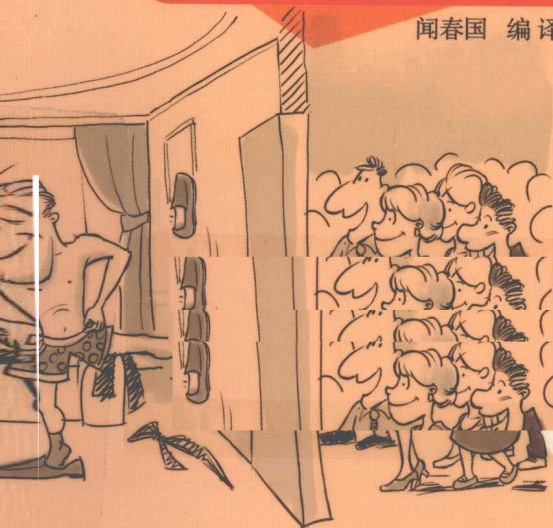


Humorous Mini-Stories in English and Chinese

英汉对照

幽默微型小说

闻春国 编译



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英汉对照幽默微型小说 / 闻春国编译. —上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2011

ISBN 978-7-5446-1969-1

I. ①英… II. ①闻… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物
②笑话—作品集—世界

IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2010) 第 224849 号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-85425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 梁瀚杰

印 刷: 同济大学印刷厂

开 本: 787×965 1/32 印张 9.625 字数 245 千字

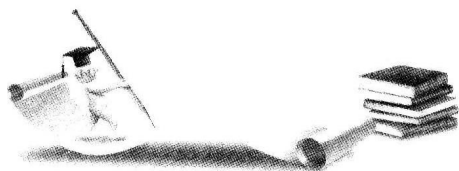
版 次: 2011 年 3 月第 1 版 2011 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

印 数: 3 000 册

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5446-1969-1 / I · 0155

定 价: 20.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换



序

凌鼎年

我是哪一年开始与闻春国有联系的，我记不得了，也许五六年，也许七八年，但这不重要，重要的是我喜欢他翻译的作品，我对他选择作品的独到眼光颇为欣赏；尤其其他多年来致力于微型小说的翻译，更是拉近了我们的距离。我由衷地为他所取得的成绩叫好。

我是一个微型小说作家，故我平时特别留意微型小说作品。我阅读微型小说的量非常大，只要读到与众不同、有特色有个性的微型小说，我往往会由作品而留意其作者。也就是在多年前，我注意到了一位叫闻春国的翻译家，他翻译了一篇又一篇外国微型小说作品，且无不风趣调侃，轻松诙谐；或冷幽默，或黑色幽默，或大智若愚，或举重若轻，或如金针入穴，或如当头棒喝，往往鞭辟入里，入木三分，使人或有思有悟，或警醒警觉，或触及灵魂，或醍醐灌顶。于是，我记住了这个陌生的名字，并与他开始了联系。

2008年9月，我被聘为《文学报·微型小说选报》的执行主编，我们定了以发幽默、真情、哲理的作品为主的基调，并开始了试刊。试刊后，我们不断听取读者与方方面面的反馈意见，综合多方面的信息，发现大多数读者对幽默作品的接受度最高，于是，我们有意识地选发幽默类的作品。结果，闻春国翻译的作品屡屡被选中，读者对他翻译的作品也极为喜欢。

我认为所有的人都需要笑，都需要幽默，需要轻松。记得有一句外国谚语，“一个小丑进城，胜过一打医生”。笑，发自内心的笑，实在是良药良医。而我敢打赌，再严

肃的人，读了闻春国翻译的这些幽默微型小说作品，必会笑，或哑然失笑，或会心一笑，或开怀大笑，或笑得喷饭，或笑得捧腹，但千万别笑掉大牙，笑疼肚皮，笑岔了气。还要指出的是，闻春国的大部分作品并非是一笑了之的小噱头、小滑稽，而是在搞笑之余，能令人回味，让人咀嚼，促人反思，发人深省。总之，读这样的作品，既有轻松一刻的审美愉悦，又有故事以外的种种联想，保证有双重的收获。

翻译家就像一位优秀的导游，把游人带到令人神往的景点，然后通过他绘声绘色的介绍，让游人领略自然之美与人文之美。一个优秀的导游，一定要熟悉景点，要了解当地的历史、现状。那么，一个好的翻译，其选稿的眼光就至关重要了，我注意到闻春国翻译的作品，除了美国、英国为大宗外，还有来自印度、以色列、斯里兰卡、墨西哥、瑞士、爱尔兰、巴基斯坦、奥地利、越南、西班牙、加拿大、荷兰等十几个国家的作品，可见闻春国的阅读面还是很宽泛的。只有沙里淘金般做前期工作，才能真正把金子找出来，把优秀作品推介给读者。我想我们应该真心地感谢闻春国。

2009年10月3日于太仓先飞斋



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The Definition of Intelligence

Author Unknown

Two men were digging a ditch on a very hot day. One said to the other, "Why are we down in this hole digging a ditch when our boss is standing up there in the shade of a tree?"

"I don't know," responded the other.

"I'll ask him." So he climbed out of the hole and went to his boss. "Why are we digging in the hot sun while you're standing in the shade?"

"Intelligence," the boss said.

"What do you mean?"

The boss said, "Well, I'll show you. I'll put my hand on this tree and I want you to hit it with your fist as hard as you can."

The ditch digger took a mighty swing and tried to hit the boss' hand. The boss removed his hand and the ditch digger hit the tree, immediately clutching his hand in agony (/ 'æɡəni / n. 痛苦). The boss said, "That's intelligence!"

The ditch digger went back to his hole, still in pain. His friend asked, "What did he say?"

"He said we are down here because of intelligence."

"What's intelligence?" said the friend.

The ditch digger put his hand on his face and said,

“Take your shovel and hit my hand.”

智慧的定义

佚名

非常炎热的一天，两个工人正在汗流浹背地挖着一条沟渠。

其中一个工人问另一个工友，“为什么我们在这个臭气熏天的洞里玩命似的挖着沟渠，而我们的老板却站在树阴下对我们指手画脚呢？”

“我不知道。”另一个回答道。

“我要去问问他。”

于是，他从那沟渠的涵洞里爬了出来，朝他的老板走去。

“为什么我们在这大太阳底下挖沟，你却站在这树阴下袖手旁观呢？”

“智慧！”这位老板答道。

“你这话是什么意思？”

“那好，我来给你示范一下。”老板说道。“我把手放到这棵树上，你用拳头砸我的手，有多大劲就使多大劲。”

于是，这个工人挥了挥自己的拳头，用尽力气朝老板的手狠狠砸去。老板迅速将手收回，工人的一记重拳砸在了树干上，疼得他龇牙咧嘴，叫苦连天。

“这就是智慧！”老板解释道。

这个工人心情沮丧地回到了工地，他的手还在隐隐作痛。

“他都说了些什么？”另一个工友问。

“他说，我们在这下面挖沟就是因为智慧。”

“什么叫智慧？”工友问。

这个工人将他的手放在自己的脸上，然后对工友说道，

“用你的铁铲使劲地朝我的手上砸砸看。”



Prepare Three Envelopes

Author Unknown

A fellow had just been hired as the new CEO of a large high-tech corporation. The CEO who was stepping down met with him privately and presented him with three numbered envelopes. “Open these if you run up against a problem you don’t think you can solve,” he said.

Well, things went along pretty smoothly, but six months later, sales took a downturn and he was really catching a lot of heat. About at his wit’s end, he remembered the envelopes. He went to his drawer and took out the first envelope. The message read, “Blame your predecessor (/ 'predisesə / n. 前任, 前辈).”

The new CEO called a press conference and tactfully laid the blame at the feet of the previous CEO. Satisfied with his comments, the press — and Wall Street — responded positively. Sales began to pick up and the problem was soon behind him.

About a year later, the company was again experiencing a slight dip in sales, combined with serious product problems. Having learned from his previous experience, the CEO quickly opened the second envelope. The message read, “Reorganize.” This he did, and the company quickly rebounded.

After several consecutive (/ kən'sekjʊtɪv / *adj.* 连续的) profitable quarters, the company once again fell on difficult times. The CEO went to his office, closed the door and opened the third envelope.

The message said, "Prepare three envelopes."



锦囊妙计

佚名

一个人刚刚被聘为一家大型高科技公司的 CEO。准备离职的前任 CEO 私下约见了 他，将三个编了号的信封交给了他，“如果在工作中遇到什么无法解决的问题，你就打开这些信封。”

上任伊始，一切进展得非常顺利。但是六个月之后，销售出现滑坡，来自各方面的压力接踵而至。无可奈何之下，新任 CEO 记起了那些信封。他打开抽屉，取出第一个信封，里面写道，“让你的前任背黑锅。”

于是，新任 CEO 召开了一次记者招待会，将目前出现的问题一揽子归罪到了前任 CEO 身上。对于他的分析人

们感到比较满意，新闻媒体、华尔街金融界做出了积极的回应。销售开始回升，这一问题很快便解决了。

大约一年之后，销售再一次出现了小幅滑坡，并且还有严重的产品问题。有了上一次的经验之后，这位 CEO 很快打开了第二个信封，里面写道，“机构重组。”他依计行事，公司销售很快便出现了反弹。

在连续几个季度的赢利之后，公司再一次步入了艰难时期。CEO 走进他的办公室，关上门，打开了第三个信封。

上面写道，“准备三个信封。”



The Garden

Ken G.

An old Italian man lived alone in the country. It was spring and he wanted to dig his tomato garden, as he had done every year, but it was very hard work for the aging man as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was currently in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If only you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son:

Dear Dad,

Not for nothing, but don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love Vinnie

At 4 a. m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived at the old man's house and dug up the entire area. However, they didn't find any bodies, so they apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love Vinnie

儿子的妙计

【美】肯·G

一位意大利裔老人独自居住在偏僻的乡下。春天来了,他想给自己的番茄园翻翻土,这事他每年都做;可这项繁重的体力活他已经力不从心了,因为这菜园的土壤非常坚硬,以前挖地翻土的事一般都由他的独子文森特来做。如今,文森特已经身陷囹圄,老人失去了唯一的依靠。于是,这位老人给儿子写了一封信,向他倾诉自己眼下所面临的困境。

亲爱的文森特,

近日来,我的心情简直糟透了。看来,这番茄我今年无法去种了。我老了,那块菜园我已经没有力气去挖了。要

是你在这里那就好了，我也不必为这事操心了。我知道，只要你在家，你就会替我去耕作这块菜园。

爱你的爸爸

几天后，老人收到了儿子的来信。

亲爱的爸爸，

番茄无法种也没什么，可你千万别去挖那菜园。那些尸体我就是埋在那里。

你的儿子文森特

第二天凌晨四点，美国联邦调查局和当地警方便派人火速赶赴文森特的家里。他们将他家的菜园彻底翻了个遍，可就是没有发现任何尸体。他们对老人说了一番道歉的话之后便匆匆地离开了。

而就在这同一天，老人收到了儿子寄来的另一封信。

亲爱的爸爸，

现在，你可以继续种番茄了！这是眼下我所能做到的最好方式。

你的儿子文森特



A Lawyer, a Blonde and a Bet on a Plane

Author Unknown

A lawyer and a blonde woman are sitting next to each other on a long flight from L. A. to New York. The lawyer leans over to her and asks if she would like to play a fun game. The blonde is tired and just wants to take a

nap, so she politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists (persist / pə'sist / *v.* 执意, 持续) and explains how the game works, "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me, and vice versa."

Again, she politely declines and tries to get some sleep. The chauvinistic (/ ʃəʊvɪ'nɪstɪk / *adj.* 沙文主义的, 自大的) lawyer figures he will easily win the match since his opponent is a blonde, so he makes another offer, "Okay, how about this. If you don't know the answer you pay me only \$5, but if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$50."

This catches the blonde's attention and, figuring that there will be no end to this torment (/ 'tɔːmənt / *n.* 痛苦, 折磨) unless she plays, she agrees to play the game. The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?"

The blonde doesn't say a word, reaches into her purse, pulls out a five-dollar bill and hands it to the lawyer. Now it's the blonde's turn. She asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

The lawyer looks at her with a puzzled look. He takes out his laptop computer and searches all his references. He taps into the air-phone with his modem and searches the internet, from wikipedia to the Library of Congress. Frustrated, he sends e-mails to everyone he knows, with no success. After over an hour of searching for the answer, he finally gives up. He wakes the blonde and hands her \$50. The blonde politely takes the \$50 and turns away to get back to sleep.

The lawyer, who is more than a little frustrated, wakes