

• 英汉对照

幽默的艺术





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●幽默是魔法棒

可以化解悲伤,冷却狂喜,点醒愚钝

●幽默是智慧

教你从另一个角度看待生活和人性

1. 大千世界

What a Wonderful World!



メ 当 默的艺术 (1)

The raw Irishman was told by the farmer for whom he worked that the pumpkins in the corn patch were mule's eggs, which only needed someone to sit on them to hatch. He was ambitious to own a mule, and, selecting a large pumpkin, he sat on it industriously every moment he could steal from his work. Came a day when he grew impatient, and determined to hasten the hatching. He stamped on the pumpkin. As it broke open, a startled rabbit broke from its cover in an adjacent corn shock and scurried across the field. Pat chased it, shouting:

"Hi, thou! Stop! Don't you know your own father?"

有一个新来乍到的爱尔兰人,去给一个农场 主打工。农场主告诉他玉米地里的南瓜是骡子蛋, 只要有人坐在上面,就可以孵出小骡子来。爱尔兰 人很想要一头骡子,于是,就挑了一个大个儿南 瓜,一有空闲,就坐在上面孵。终于有一天,他有点儿不耐烦了,决定加快孵化的进程。他用力踩了一下南瓜,结果,玉米地一阵颤动,南瓜裂开了,一只受了惊吓的兔子从藏着的地方跳了出来,一蹦一跳地穿过玉米地,跑远了。帕特在后面,一边追,一边喊:

"喂,你!站住!你连自己的爸爸都不认了?"

(2)

The clergyman drew near to the baptismal font, and directed that the candidates for baptism should now be presented. A woman in the congregation gave a gasp of dismay and turned to her husband, whom she addressed in a strenuous whisper:

"There! I just knew we'd forget something. John, you run right home as fast as you can, and fetch the baby."

牧师走到洗礼盘前,说可以把即将接受洗礼的孩子带过来了。人群中的一位妇女惊呼了一声,转身焦急地低声对丈夫说:"糟了!我刚才就觉得我们好像忘了什么。约翰,赶紧回去,越快越好,把孩子抱来。"



The raw recruit was on sentry duty. He had a piece of pie, which he had brought from the canteen, and proceeded to enjoy it. Just then, the colonel happened along, and scowled at the sentry, who paid no attention to him whatever.

"Do you know who I am?" the officer demanded.

The sentry shook his head. "Maybe, the veterinarian, or the barber, or mebby the colonel himself." The sentry laughed loudly at his own wit. But he withered as the officer sternly declared his identity.

"Oh good land!" the recruit cried out in consternation. "Please, hold this pie while I present arms."

新入伍的士兵在站岗,手里拿着从餐厅带出 来的馅儿饼。正当他打算好好享用的时候,上校碰 巧路过,他看着哨兵皱起了眉头,可是哨兵对此却 毫无察觉。

"你知道我是谁吗?"上校问道。

哨兵摇摇头。"可能是兽医,或者是理发师,也 许是上校。"

哨兵觉得自己的回答很机智,不由得笑出了 声。可是,当上校报出自己的真实身份时,哨兵立 刻惊慌失措。

"我的妈呀,请帮我拿着馅儿饼,我好向您致 举枪礼。"



Specialist (to patient suffering from insomnia): "And did you try my plan of counting sheep coming through a gate?"

Patient: "Well, I counted up to a hundred and twenty thousand and thirty—nine, and then it was time to get up."

医生(对患失眠症的病人)说:"我不是让你数羊了吗?你数了没有?"

病人:"我数了,可是等我数到十二万零三十九只羊的时候,就该起床了。"

(5)

"I'm so glad to see you. And how did you enjoy your visit to the South?"

"Oh, not very much! There wasn't a soul where I was staying except intimate friends."

"很高兴见到你。你在南方过得愉快吧?" "噢,不太愉快!我待的那个地方,除了熟人, 还是熟人。"



"They say that she was his stenographer before marriage."

"She has evidently reversed the order of things."

"How so?"

"She does the dictating now."

"听说结婚前她是他的速记员。"

"那么,很显然,她现在是反其道而行之了。"

"怎么回事?"

"因为她现在只做口述。"

(7)

Ability to look on two sides of a question is usually a virtue, but it may degenerate into a vice. Thus, a visitor found his bachelor friend glumly studying an evening waistcoat. When inquiry was made, this explanation was forthcoming:

"It's quite too soiled to wear, but really, it's not dirty enough to go to the laundry. I can't make up my mind just what I should do about it."

能够一分为二地看待问题通常是一种美德。但同时,也可以沦落为一个人的缺陷。一位客人发

现他的单身汉朋友正在对着一件晚礼服发愁。在他的再三询问下,朋友才作了如下的解释:

"这件衣服脏得不能穿了,可是,还没有脏到要拿去洗的地步。我不知道拿它怎么办。"

(8)

The highly efficient housewife bragged that she always rose early, and had every bed in the house made before anybody else in the house was up.

一位做事效率很高的家庭主妇自夸说,她起 床总是很早,而且总是在家人起床之前,就整理完 了所有的床铺。

(9)

The optimist fell from the top story of a skyscraper. As he passed the fourth story, he was overheard muttering:

"So far, so good!"

有个乐天派从摩天大楼的顶层掉了下来。到



第四层的时候,人们还听到他自言自语: "到目前为止,还不错!"

(10)

The lady who had some culture, but not too much, was describing the adventure of her husband, who had been in Messina at the time of the earthquake.

"It was awful," she declared, in tense tones. "When Jim went to bed, everything was perfectly quiet. And then, when he woke up, all of a sudden, there beside him was a yawning abbess!"

一个有点儿文化,但是水平并不高的女人这 样描述其丈夫在墨西拿地震中遇险的情形。

"太可怕了,"她语气中充满了惊恐。"吉姆上 床睡觉的时候,一切都安静极了,可是,醒来的时候,突然发现,身旁躺着一个修女,而且还在打哈 欠。" The young mother asked the man who supplied her with milk if he kept any calves, and smiled pleasedly when he said that he did.

"Then," she continued brightly, "bring me a pint of calf's milk every day. I think cow's milk is too strong for baby."

年轻的母亲问给她送牛奶的人家里有没有小牛犊。听送奶人说有,年轻的母亲不禁喜上眉梢,欢快地说:

"那你以后每天都给我送一品脱小牛犊的奶吧。我觉得母牛的奶婴儿喝着太浓了。"

(12)

The Japanese are remarkably tidy in the matter of floors. They even remove their shoes at the doorway. A Japanese student in New York was continually distressed by the dirty hallways of the building in which he lived. In the autumn, the janitor placed a notice at the entrance, which read:

"Please wipe your feet."

The Japanese wrote beneath in pencil:

"On going out."



日本人非常重视地板的洁净,他们甚至要把 鞋脱在门口。一个在纽约上学的日本学生因为宿 舍地板很脏而备感痛苦。秋天的时候,看门人在人 口处贴了一个告示:

"请在门口擦擦鞋。"

日本学生用铅笔又在下面添了以下内容:

"出门的时候。"



(13)

The day laborer was of a cheerful disposition that naturally inclined to seek out the good in every situation. He was a genuine optimist. Thus, after tramping the three miles from home to begin the day's work on the ditch, he discovered that he had been careless, and explained to a fellow laborer:

"I've gone and done it now! I left my lunch at home."

Then, suddenly he beamed happily, as he added:

"And it's a good thing I did, for the matter of that, because I left my teeth at home, too."

有一个打工仔,天性乐观,任何事情总是往好 处想。有一次,从家里步行三英里去挖水沟,到那