

美丽英文系列丛书

# 心心相印

*MINDS TALKING*

本书列举的书信是从世界名人书信中精选出来的，作者包括世界知名的作家、诗人、艺术家、音乐家、神学家、政治家以及国王、总统、国家领导人等等。

励志美文 英汉对照

余平姣◎编著



企业管理出版社

ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT PUBLISHING HOUSE

C14012511

美丽

H319.4:I

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

心心相印: 英汉对照/余平姣编著. —北京: 企业管理出版社, 2013. 10  
ISBN 978-7-5164-0461-4

I. ①心… II. ①余… III. ①英语-汉语-对照读物②书信集-世界  
IV. ①H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2013) 第 180331 号

---

书 名: 心心相印

作 者: 余平姣

选题策划: 申先菊

责任编辑: 申先菊

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5164-0461-4

出版发行: 企业管理出版社

地 址: 北京市海淀区紫竹院南路 17 号 邮编: 100048

网 址: <http://www.emph.com>

电 话: 总编室 (010) 68701719 发行部 (010) 68701073  
编辑部 (010) 68456991

电子信箱: [emph003@sina.cn](mailto:emph003@sina.cn)

印 刷: 三河市兴国印务有限公司

经 销: 新华书店

规 格: 160 毫米×230 毫米 16 开本 13 印张 160 千字

版 次: 2013 年 10 月第 1 版 2013 年 10 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 30.00 元

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## Benjamin Franklin to Miss E. Hubbard

Philadelphia,

February 23, 1756.

I condole with you. We have lost a most dear and valuable relation. But it is the will of God and nature, that these mortal bodies be laid aside, when the soul is to enter into real life. This is rather an embryo state, a preparation for living.

A man is not completely born until he is dead. Why then should we grieve, that a new child is born among the **immortals**, a new member added to their happy society? We are spirits. That bodies should be lent us, while they can afford us pleasure, assist us in acquiring knowledge, or in doing good to our fellow creatures, is a kind and benevolent act of God. When they become unfit for these purposes, and afford us pain instead of pleasure, instead of an aid become an **encumbrance**, and answer none of the intentions for which they were given, it is equally kind and benevolent, that a way is provided by which we may get rid of them. Death is that way. We ourselves, in some cases, prudently choose a partial death. A mangled painful limb, which cannot be restored, we willingly cut off. He who plucks out a tooth, parts with it freely, since the pain goes with it; and he, who quits the whole body, parts at once with all pains and possibilities of pains and diseases which it was liable to, or capable of making him suffer.

Our friend and we were invited abroad on a party of pleasure, which is to last for ever. His chair was ready first, and he is gone before us. We could not all conveniently start together; and why should you and I be grieved at this, since we are soon to follow, and know where to find him?

Adieu,  
B. Franklin

### 热词空间

immortal n.不朽人物, 神仙

a.永远的, 不死的, 长久的

encumbrance n.阻碍, 妨害物, 累赘





## 富兰克林致赫伯德小姐

我要向你深表哀悼。我们失去了一位非常可爱、可贵的亲人。这是上帝和自然的旨意，当灵魂进入天堂的时候，躯体就要被置入黄土。或者说它是胚胎的发育期，是新生命的准备阶段。

一个人在死的那一刻才算得到真正的诞生。既然不朽的天堂诞生了一个新婴儿，他们幸福的社会里又增加了一名新的成员，我们为什么还要悲伤呢？我们都是精灵。无比仁慈智慧的上帝行善施恩，赐予我们躯体，让我们享受快乐的生活；帮助我们获取知识，让我们造福于人类。当我们的躯体无法适应这些目的——不能提供给我们快乐，反而让我们痛苦；不能给我们帮助，反而成为我们的累赘——当它们无法完成上帝当初托付的使命时，恩惠仁慈的上帝依然准备了一个办法，让我们摆脱躯体。死亡就是上帝所准备的解脱办法。我们自己有时也会明智地选择一种局部的死亡。受伤疼痛的手脚，已经无法复原，我们会心甘情愿地把它切除。要拔牙的人，也会毅然跟它分手，因为拔掉之

后痛苦就会随之消失。一个人完全脱离躯壳,就会立刻解脱掉一切痛苦以及引起痛苦和疾病的根源。

我们的朋友和我们自己早就受到邀请去参加一次欢乐的宴会,这是一场永远不散的宴会。他的坐席早已准备好了,所以他会先我们一步而去。我们不可能都很方便地一同前往;既然不久之后我们就要随他而去,并且知道到哪里可以找到他,那我们又为什么因此伤心呢?

再见

本·富兰克林

1756年2月23日于费城

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.

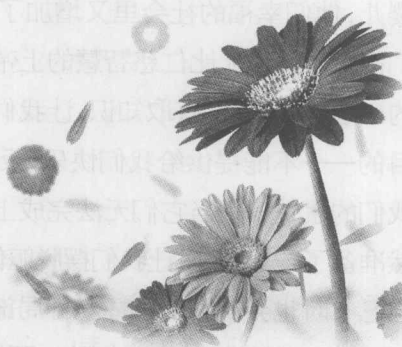
没有人是完全孤立的岛屿,每人都是构成大陆的一小块。

——约翰·邓恩

All work is empty save when there is no love.

没有爱,所有的工作都空洞无物。

——纪伯伦



## Benjamin Franklin to His Sister(Mrs. Jane Mecom)

London, September 16, 1758

Dear Sister,

I received your favour of June 17. I wonder you have had no letter from me since my being in England. I have written you at least two, and I think a third before this, and what was next to waiting on you in person, sent you my picture. In June last I sent Benny a **trunk** of books, and wrote to him; I hope they have come to hand, and that he meets with encouragement in his business. I congratulate you on the conquest of Cape Breton, and hope as your people took it by praying, the first time, you will now pray that it may never be given up again, which you then forgot. Billy is well, but in the country. I left him at Tunbridge Wells, where we spent a fortnight, and he is now gone with some company to see Portsmouth. We have been together over a great part of England this summer and among other places, visited the town our father was born in, and found some relations in that part of the country still living.

Our cousin Jane Franklin, daughter of our uncle John, died about a year ago. We saw her husband, Robert Page, who gave us some old letters to his wife, from Uncle Benjamin. In one of them, dated Boston, July 4, 1723, he writes that your uncle Josiah has a daughter Jane, about twelve years old, a good-humored child. So

keep up to your character, and don't be angry when you have no letters. In a little book he sent her, called "None but Christ," he wrote an acrostic on her name, which for namesake's sake, as well as the good advice it contains, I transcribe and send you.

"Illuminated from on high,

And shining brightly in your sphere.

Ne'er faint, but keep a steady eye,

Expecting endless pleasures there."

"Flee vice as you'd a serpent flee;

Raise faith and hope three stories higher,

And let Christ's endless love to thee,

Ne'er cease to make thy love aspire.

Kindness of heart by words express,

Let your obedience be sincere,

In prayer and praise you God address,

Nor cease, till he can cease to hear."

After professing truly that I had a great esteem and veneration for the pious author, permit me a little to play the commentator and critic on these lines. The meaning of three stories higher seems somewhat obscure. You are to understand, then, that faith, hope, and charity have been called the three steps of Jacob's ladder, reaching from earth to heaven; our author calls them stories, likening religion to a building, and these are the three stories of the Christian edifice. Thus improvement in religion is called building up and edification. Faith is then the ground floor, hope is up one pair of stairs. My dear beloved Jenny, don't delight so much to dwell in those lower rooms, but get as fast as you can into the garret, for in truth the best room in the house is charity. For my part, I wish the house was turned up side down. It is so difficult (when one is fat) to go upstairs; and not only so, but I imagine hope and faith may be more firmly built upon charity, than **charity** upon faith and hope. However that may be, I think it the better reading to say—



"Raise faith and hope one story higher."

Correct it boldly, and I'll support the alteration; for, when you are up two stories already, if you raise your building three stories higher you will make five in all, which is two more than there should be, you expose your upper rooms more to the winds and storms; and, besides, I am afraid the **foundation** will hardly bear them, unless indeed you build with such light stuff as straw and stubble, and that, you know, won't stand fire. Again, where the author says,

"Kindness of heart by words express,"

strike out words, and put in deeds. The world is too full of compliments already. They are the rank growth of every soil, and choke the good plants of benevolence, and beneficence; nor do I pretend to be the first in this comparison of words and actions to plants; you may remember an ancient poet, whose works we have all studied and copied at school long ago.

"A man of words and not of deeds

Is like a garden full of weeds."

It is a pity that good works, among some sorts of people, are so little valued, and good words admired in their stead: I mean seemingly pious discourses, instead of humane benevolent actions. Those they almost put out of countenance, by calling morality rotten morality, righteousness ragged righteousness, and even filthy rags—and when you mention virtue, pucker up their noses as if they smelt a stink; at the same time that they eagerly snuff up an empty canting harangue, as if it was a pose of the choicest flowers: So they have inverted the good old verse, and say now

"A man of deeds and not of words

Is like a garden full of——"

I have forgot the rhyme, but remember is something the very reverse of perfume. So much by way of commentary.

My wife will let you see my letter, containing an account of our travels, which I would have you read to sister Dowse, and give my love to her. I have no thoughts of returning till next year, and then may possibly have the pleasure of seeing you and

yours; taking Boston in my way home. My love to brother and all your children, concludes at this time from, dear Jenny, your affectionate brother.

B.FRANKLIN

### 热词空间

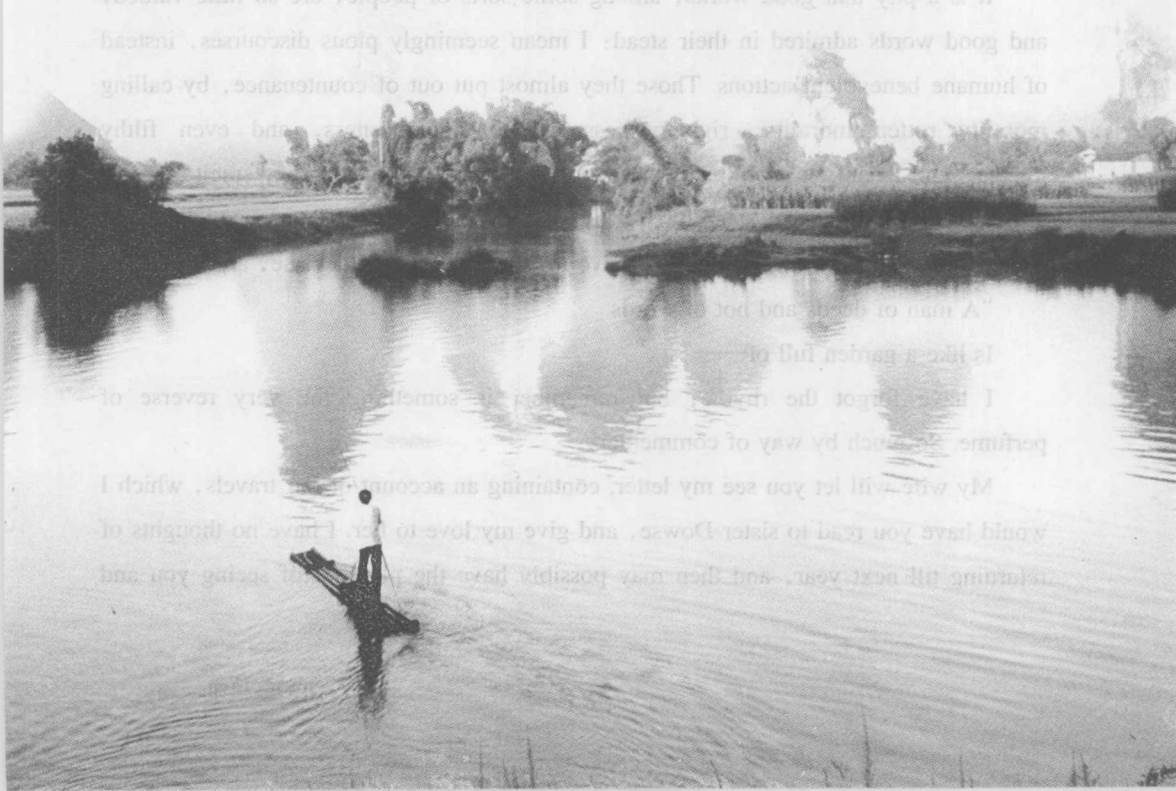
trunk n. 树干, 干线, 躯干, 主干, 象鼻, 箱子

vt. 把...放入旅行箱内

a. 树干的, 躯干的, 干线的, 箱形的

charity n. 慈悲, 博爱, 慈善团体, 施舍

foundation n. 基础, 根据, 建立



# 本杰明·富兰克林致姐姐

亲爱的姐姐：

我已收到你 6 月 17 日的来信。我很诧异，自我到英格兰后你再也没有收到我的任何信。我至少给你写过两封，而且在这封信之前还有第三封，紧接着在去看了你之后，我又给你寄去了我的照片。六月份我给本尼寄去了一箱书，还给他写了一封信；我希望他悉数收到，并希望他工作有长进。祝贺你征服了布里敦角，希望正如你的人民第一次通过祈祷得到了它一样，现在你们将祈祷它永远再也不会被丢弃，然后忘却这一切。比利很好，现在在乡下。我把他留在了滕布里奇韦尔斯，我们在那待了两周，现在他又与别人结伴去参观朴次茅斯了。今年夏天我们一起游览了英格兰的大部分地区，其中，我们还参观了我们的父亲出生的小镇，并找到了一些在那个地区仍然健在的亲戚。

我们的表妹简·富兰克林，约翰叔叔的女儿，一年前去世了。我们见到了她的丈夫罗伯特·佩奇，他给了我们一些本杰明叔叔写给他妻子的信。在其中一封 1723 年 7 月 4 日写于波士顿的信中，他写到你们的叔叔乔赛亚有一个女儿名叫简，大约 12 岁，是一个快乐的孩子。因此请你保持这种性格，没有收到信也不要生气。在叔叔送给她的一本书名为《独一无二的耶稣》的薄书里，他以她