

A Bird Named Boboli:

Life and Science

波波力谈生活与科学



[美] 大卫·凯力力◎著
Dr. Davood Khalili

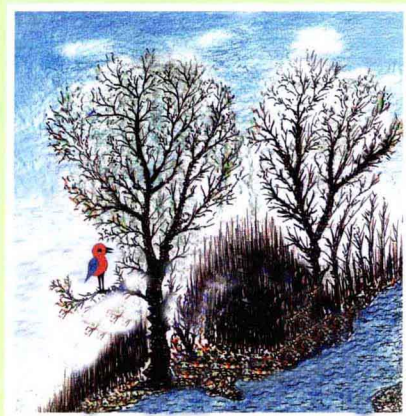


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序 言

在2008年北京奥运会前夕，我坐在某咖啡屋思考着地震及其他自然灾害，甚至还在想如何设计一种海啸预警装置，以挽救生命。忽然，耳边传来小孩“哇哇”的哭声。是个约莫三岁的小女孩。祖母动手打她，让她别再哭了，并向我投来歉意的目光，好似我是店主，她因小女孩的哭声影响了店里的生意抱歉。我心里涌起一阵悲伤，忆起儿时的好友被老师疯狂鞭打的画面，惩罚的原因仅仅是好友一天之内没能背出乘法口诀表。

出于对小女孩的怜爱，我手绘了只鸟送给了她。她渐渐平静，面露微笑。我告诉她祖母，她所用的方式并不能让人平静下来，她应该找到根本的缘由才可解决问题。也许孩子只是饿了，或者身体不舒服。此后，她祖母笑着请我在大作上签名，仿佛我是毕加索或达芬奇一般的大画家。

几天之后，还是同一间咖啡屋。一位老爷爷向我走来，“能请您为我孙儿画只鸟吗？”显然，这位老人目睹了小女孩哭闹的始末。我当即画了只鸟给这爷孙俩，不过小男孩并不满意。老爷爷告诉我，画上的小鸟太过瘦小，中国人偏爱肥腴的鸟。我立即依照他们的要求修改了图画，只希望不要再让我画了。然而事与愿违，更多的人围过来向我索图。那天我应求画了约有25只胖墩墩的小鸟。

他们中有些人是农民工，一直奔波在建造鸟巢的工地。也许返

乡时他们会将我的画带给孩子作纪念，带到河北、安徽、四川、山东、湖南或者更远的地方。他们的笑容，我永生难忘。

有个来自北京的高中女生与我同在那间咖啡屋，她专心致志地看着书。中途她起身去点餐，突然走到我面前递来一杯咖啡，表示十分赞赏我的所作所为。她说自己正在备战高考，而后她接着说，“我希望自己能像你一样成功，我也想学心理学去帮助那些汶川地震的灾民。”

这样一位年轻善良且胸怀大志的女孩着实让我感到震惊。我问她：“你真的觉得我算得上成功？我不是公司总裁，不姓克林顿，也不姓乔布斯，而且大学也不是修心理学的。”

“成功并不是意味着你拥有多少财富或者你有多少营销技巧。成功是在有生之年得以积极地影响他人，引导他们成为更优秀、对世界更有用的人。在我看来，你已经做到了。”女孩如是说。

几小时后，我祝愿她好运，离开了咖啡屋。回家路上，我才意识到这位高中女生对我影响至深，言语间，她已然让我担起了重任。于是，我决意要写更多的书。

机缘巧合，某天我偶遇了一家人，那家小孩看过我的一本书。他们问我为何小鸟没有名字，仿佛我笔下的小鸟是真实存在的人物。稍加思索后，我选定了波波力作为书中主人公的名字。波波力同时也是一座美丽的意大利花园。听过初稿故事的人都颇喜爱波波力，我也很快意识到波波力或许能够济世，尤其是有益于那些认为生活苦、科学难的孩子。

本书结合幽默与绘画艺术，呈现了有关人生、历史、科学真知的感悟。

Foreword

Not long before the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, I was sitting in a coffee house and was contemplating about earthquakes and other natural disasters. I thought about designing a tsunami-warning device that could save lives. Suddenly I heard a kid crying. She was perhaps three years old. Her grandmother started to hit her and asked her to stop crying in an apologetic manner to appease me as if I were the owner on the establishment and my business was being adversely affected by the noise. I felt sad and only started to remember the time in primary school where my best friends had tears in their eyes after severe punishment including being whipped by a mad or insane teacher, merely for not being able to memorize the times-table (multiplication table) in one day.

I felt sorry for the kid, so I drew a picture of a bird and gave her. She became quiet and smiled. I told the grandmother that her method was not the right way to make someone quiet and she ought to find the root cause and fix it. Maybe the kid was hungry or was suffering from some internal physical problem. Now, the grandmother smiled and asked me to sign the paper as if I was Picasso or Da Vinci.

A couple of days later, I was at the same place. An old man walked towards me and said: "Please draw a bird for my grandson."

Apparently they had seen the crying event. I drew one and gave them but the kid did not like it. The old man said that the bird was too skinny. "We like fat birds in China." I modified it and only hoping that it was the last drawing of the day but many people came near me and asked for a bird. I drew perhaps twenty-five chubby birds and gave them.

Some were perhaps migrant workers who had been working on the Beijing Olympic center also known as the Bird's Nest. Maybe they were going to take my drawings back to their hometowns in Hebei, Anhui, Sichuan, Shandong or Hunan or other far places, as souvenirs for their kids. They all smiled and I shall never forget that moment of my life.

A high school girl from Beijing, who was studying her books rigorously, with undivided attention, left her chair to buy something and suddenly got close to my table and handed me a cup of coffee and appreciated my act. She explained that she was preparing for her university entrance exam. She then added:

"I want to be successful just like you and I want to study psychology and help the living victims of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake."

I was shocked to see such a nice girl with such a big heart and a great mind so I said, "You really consider me successful? I am not a CEO and my name is neither Bill and nor Steve, and my major at university was not psychology."

"Success is not based on the amount of money you have earned or accumulated or the skills you have developed in marketing. Success is about reaching a point in your life that you can have positive influence on others and change them to be better for themselves and for the world. In my opinion you have achieved that

in your life.” She replied.

After a couple of hours I wished her luck and left the scene. While walking towards my room I realized that the high school girl was definitely influential and she already had put a big load on my shoulders by her words. So, I decided to write more books.

Incidentally, one day I met a family whose kid had read one of my books. They asked me why the bird did not have a name. They made me feel as if the bird was a real person. I thought about it and chose Boboli as the name for the main character in the next books. Boboli is also the name of a beautiful garden in Italy. Those who heard the stories first hand liked Boboli, and soon I realized that Boboli could help the world and especially the kids who think life is not easy and science may be hard.

The presentation here is about life, some history and facts about science, combined with humor and art.



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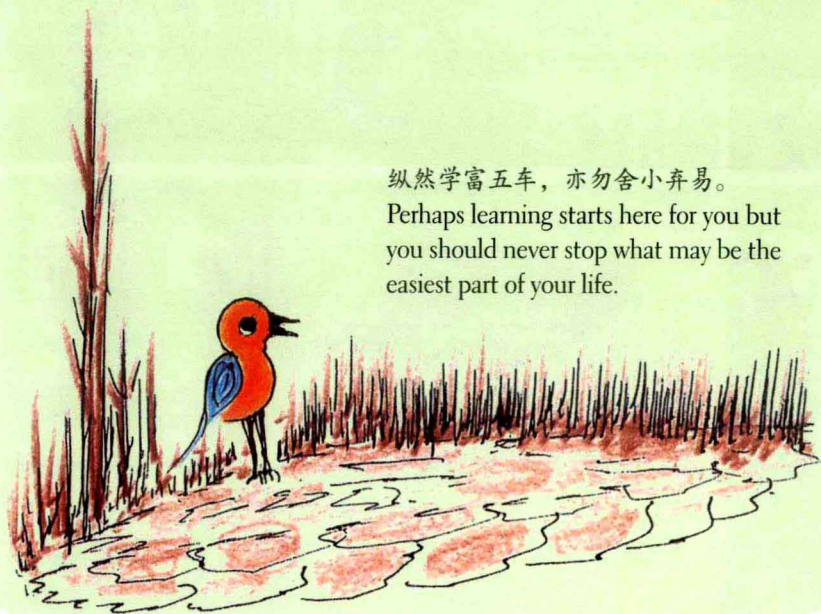
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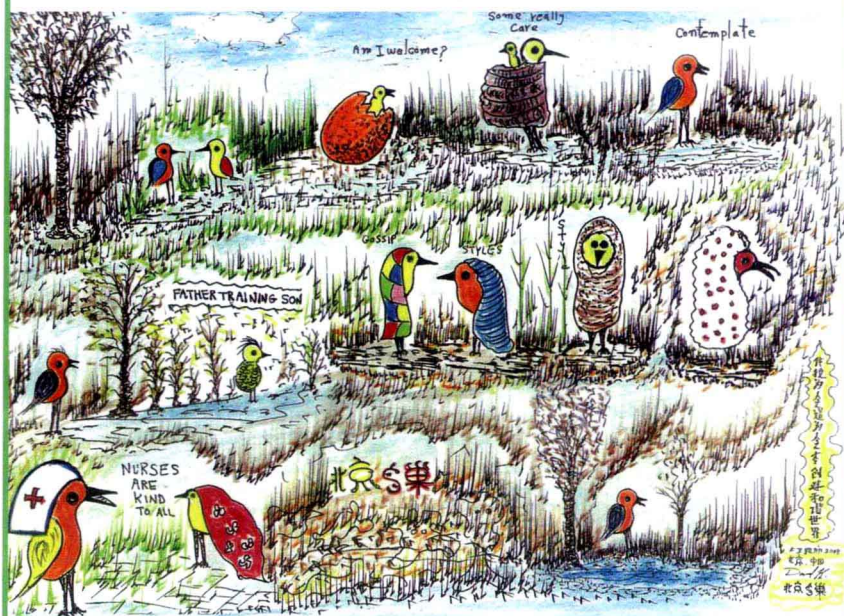
Cartoons

纵然学富五车，亦勿舍小弃易。

Perhaps learning starts here for you but
you should never stop what may be the
easiest part of your life.



As they say, there is a time for everything,
and also a picture is worth thousand words.





“From the parents who were once Olympian and think and act as Olympians we can expect kids only with Olympic spirit,” Boboli says.



传授为今之道为今之本 创建和谐世界

大卫·凯力 2008
北京，中国

"No wonder everyone seems to be learning Chinese nowadays," Boboli says.

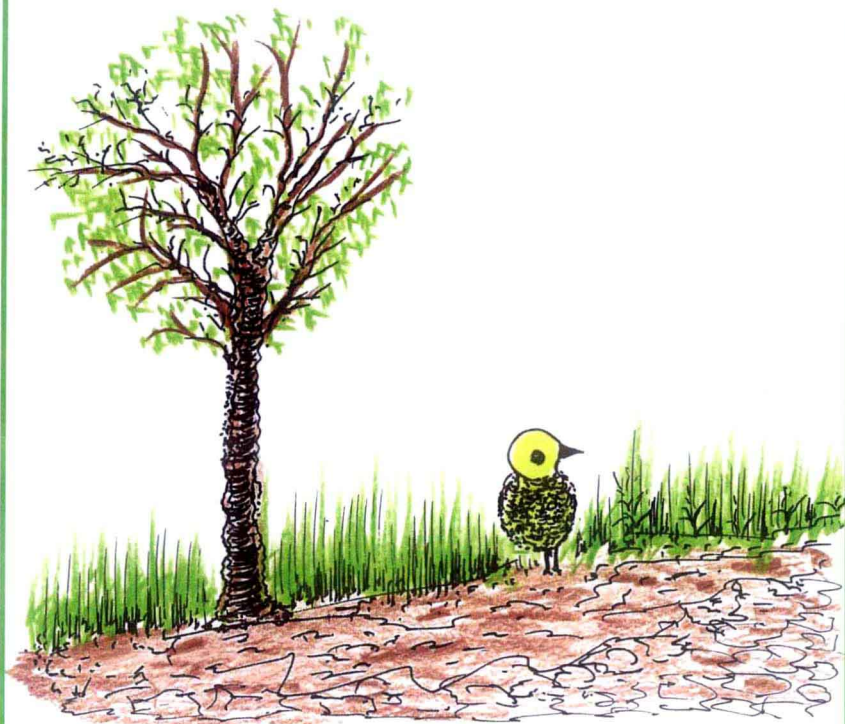


“There are crucial and critical times and moments in life that you may think you know just about everything but those are the moments that you need to pay attention to your parents. You may look big and very strong physically, but mentally and psychologically you may not be prepared to make the best possible decisions,” Boboli says.

“Being a teacher requires hard work and a lot of patience. There are only a few creatures in the world that truly accept the responsibility and are willing and able to help in creating a better world,” Boboli says.



“Without a goal or a dream you might as well close your eyes and sleep forever,” Boboli says.



My advice to you is to go back to school
and stay away from all those bad kids
who do not listen to my advice.

