

Unit One

Home and Family

家庭与家人

1. Ideas of Home Have Changed

A great many people, when they speak of home, tend to associate it with a certain atmosphere, certain physical surroundings, and certain emotional attitudes within themselves. This sentimentality toward home is something that has come down to us from the past. Many modern people do not have it, and I think it is a good thing that they do not.

In the old days life was difficult. Enemies could attack you and kill or rob you, and you had little protection against them. People did not live in well-built houses where doors could be locked. They did not have the protection of an organized police force or telephones which could summon the police instantly. How did this influence the way people felt about home? Small family groups clung tightly together for protection against beasts and against other men. Only the bravest went beyond the small family area. Even in the Middle Ages only the most daring went to lands beyond the sea. The human pursuit of security conditioned men to love their homes. I am sure that this feeling must have been very strong among the early settlers of the United States who were obliged, by famine and

oppression, to take the plunge and go to the new land where they knew no one and where they were subject to Indian attack. We can see this even today in the attitudes of minority groups who, because of a feeling of insecurity, still preserve cohesive family ties.

Today, thanks to modern transportation and well-organized societies, thousands of people willingly and eagerly leave the surroundings where they were born, and the oftener they do so, the less sentiment they are likely to have for those surroundings. I lived in England for three years, and I noticed that boys and girls left their parents' homes and lived in dwellings of their own. There they could just telephone and ask an agency to provide them with a house or an apartment, which was their home. How has the meaning of this word *home* been altered by such activity? What does *home* mean to those people or to families who often move about, living in first one hotel and then another? I believe that for them *home* means a place where they can have privacy.

This idea of *home* as being a place of privacy is emerging in my country, Saudi Arabia, where the young are abandoning their parents' homes to live their own life. As for me, the atmosphere and surroundings of the place where my parents live have no sentimental attachment. *Home* is where I can shut the door and be by myself. At the moment it is a room in Eaton Hall. When I left my parents several years ago, I was anxious to leave. You might call it unfeeling, but that was the way I felt. On the day of my departure for the United States, my grandmother sobbed and wept. My father, however, indicated that he understood how I felt. "Son," he said, "I am not sorry that you are leaving us. I only hope that you make the most of your time."

Words and Expressions

1. associate [ə'səʊʃieɪt] *vt.* 由……联想到 把……与……联系起来
2. surroundings [sə'raʊndɪŋz] *n.* 周围的事物 环境
3. sentimentality [ˌsentɪmen'tælɪti] *n.* 多愁善感 感伤
4. summon ['sʌmən] *vt.* 召唤 召集 集拢 聚集
5. cohesive [kəu'hi:sɪv] *a.* 有附着力的 有内聚力的
6. sentiment ['sentɪmənt] *n.* 感情 情绪 情操 伤感 意见 观点
7. dwelling ['dwelɪŋ] *n.* 住处 住宅
8. agency ['eɪdʒənsi] *n.* 经销 代理 经销处 代理处 媒介 力量
9. emerge [i'mə:dʒ] *vi.* 出现 暴露; (自困境中) 摆脱 发生
10. attachment [ə'tætʃmənt] *n.* 附着 附带 附件 情感 深情友爱
11. to take the plunge 采取断然行动 冒险尝试 毅然从事
12. where they were subject to Indian attack (在那儿), 他们受到印第安人的攻击

【参考译文】

1. 家庭观念的变化

许多人在谈到家的时候往往将它和某种气氛、某种环境及内心的某些情感态度联系在一起。这种对家的依恋情感古已有之，代代相传。许多现代人不再有了，我认为这是件好事。

在遥远的过去 人们生活十分艰难。敌人可能会攻击你 杀害你或抢劫你的财富，而你却毫无还手之力。人们并不住在可以锁门闭户的构造坚固的房子里。他们没有一支有组织的警察队伍的

保护，也不能随时打电话报警。这些怎样影响人们对于家的感情呢？小小家族的成员紧密团结，聚在一起，共同抵御野兽和敌人。只有最勇敢的人才离开小小家族管辖区。甚至在中世纪也只有最勇敢的人才敢涉足海外。人类对安全的追求决定了人们对家的热爱。我相信，美国的早期定居者对此一定深有感触。他们被饥荒压迫逼得走投无路，只好毅然决然冒险来到这个举目无亲、易受印第安人攻击的陌生的地方。甚至今天，我们从少数民族团体的态度也可以看出这一点。由于缺乏安全感，他们仍然保持着富有凝聚力的家庭纽带。

今天，由于有了现代交通和组织良好的社会，成千上万的人们愿意并且渴望离开他们出生的环境。而且，他们离家外出越频繁，对出生的环境的情感就可能越少。我曾经在英国呆过三年。我注意到男孩和女孩离开父母的家，住进自己的房子。在英国，他们只需拿起电话，要求一家房地产经销处提供一幢房子或一个套间，那就是他们的家了。家这个词的意义是如何被这种行为改变的呢？家对于那些经常流动、从一家旅馆搬到另一家旅馆居住的人们或家庭成员又意味着什么呢？我认为，家对他们来说是一个离群独处不受干扰的地方。

在我的国家沙特阿拉伯，年轻人放弃父母的家去过他们自己的生活。这种把家作为私人独处之地的看法正在我的国家形成。我对父母居住之地的气氛、环境没有眷恋的情感。家就是一个我能关起门来独处的地方。现在我的家就是伊登宿舍的一个房间。几年前当我离开父母时，我没有恋恋不舍，巴不得快快离开。你也许会觉得这是无情无义，然而那确实是我的感受。我离家去美国那天，祖母呜咽，泪流不止。但我的父亲却表明他能理解我的心情。“孩子，”他说，“我对于你的离去不觉得悲伤。我只希望你能

充分利用时间。”

2. Happy Reunion

A strong wind was bellowing, thunder was rumbling, and lightning flashing across the dark sky. Rain was pouring down. It looked as if heaven had been cracked open.

Gleams of light appeared from windows of nearby houses, glittering like gems in all the gloom.

A poor woman dressed in rags and shivering with cold was struggling on a lonely road, while the merciless rain was beating her without pause.

She knocked at a door, and a boy answered it. She begged him to let her stay a while inside. The boy then led her into the warm parlour and left her sitting by the fire.

The woman appeared old and tired under the bright electric light, though she was only in her early thirties. She sat still for a moment, then her eyes began to rove about the room. When her wandering eyes rested on the picture of a young man, she stood up, looking thunderstruck.

Just then, the boy came in with his father. The man at once recognized the woman as his wife. They had lost contact with each other during the war, and he thought he had lost her forever.

No word needed to be spoken. They ran into each other's arms while the little boy stared at them puzzled.

The storm was over and the sky cleared. Feeling very happy, the couple stood face to face with their child between them, watching the rain as it gradually stopped.

Words and Expressions

1. bellow ['beləʊ] *vt.* (公牛般地) 吼叫 咆哮
2. rumble ['rʌmbəl] *vi.* 雷鸣 雷声隆隆
3. gem [dʒem] *n.* 宝石 珠宝 精品 难能可贵的人
4. shiver ['ʃivə] *vi.* (因寒冷、恐惧) 颤抖 哆嗦
5. merciless ['mə:sɪlɪs] *a.* 无情的 冷酷的
6. rove [rəʊv] *vi.* 漫游 流浪
7. stare [steə] *vi.* 盯 瞪眼看 显眼 清清楚楚看得见
8. puzzle ['pʌzl] *vt.* 使迷惑不解
9. clear [kliə] *vt. vi.* 使 变清澈; 使 变晴朗
10. thunderstruck ['θʌndə'strʌk] *a.* 极震惊的 吓得目瞪口呆的
11. lost contact with each other : 相互失去联系
12. ran into each other's arms 相互扑进 投入 对方的怀抱

【参考译文】

2. 重 逢

狂风怒号 雷声轰鸣 闪电在黑暗的天空掠过 大雨倾盆而下。
天像是给砸裂了。

附近人家的窗户射出灯光，在昏暗中犹如宝石般闪耀着。

在寂寞的路上，一个衣衫褴褛的穷妇人颤抖着在寒风中挣扎，
那无情的雨水不停地抽打着她。

她敲了敲一户人家的门，一个男孩应声把门打开。她恳求他
让她进去歇息一会儿。那男孩便引她进入温暖的客厅，并让她坐
在炉火旁 随即离开了。

这妇人不过才 30 来岁，但在明亮的灯光下却显得苍老而又疲倦。她静静地坐了一会儿，眼睛开始慢慢地扫视房间。当她移动的视线停留在一个青年人的照片上时，她站起身来，仿佛遭到雷击一般震惊。

就在这时，男孩同他的父亲走进房来。那个男人一眼便认出这妇人是他的妻子。他们在战乱中失去了联系。他原以为他永远失去她了。

毋庸任何言语。他们相互投入了对方的怀抱，而男孩则迷惑不解地呆望着他们。

暴风雨过去了，天渐渐放晴。这一对夫妻高兴至极，面对面站着，孩子在他们俩之间，夫妻俩注视着大雨渐渐停止。

3. My Mother

My mother is a kind and gentle woman. She is very busy from morning till night. As a teacher she works hard and efficiently. As Mother, she takes good care of us and gives us every comfort. I have an elder brother. He and I both love her dearly, and she loves us affectionately.

My mother has been teaching maths at a middle school in my home town. She goes to the school early in the morning and does not return home until late in the afternoon. She loves her students, cares for them, and teaches them patiently and well enough. For her excellent qualities and very good teaching results, she is always praised and respected by her students and colleagues alike. And she has been chosen or elected as a model teacher several times.

My mother is a thrifty and industrious woman. She never buys any expensive and fancy dress for herself except that she goes occasionally to

buy some cheap and high-quality clothes for us. She never goes to any luxurious restaurant to have an expensive meal. She merely eats a humble meal outside when she is too busy. She lives a busy and simple life, without any complaints. As soon as she comes back from school, she sets about doing housework: sweeping the living-room and bedrooms or cleaning the furniture, and putting everything in good order. Besides, she prepares nice dishes for us to eat. She seems to be on the go all the time. As she is very busy working hard every day, she looks older than she really is. Her face is wrinkled, and her hair has turned silver white. But she looks as cheerful and happy as ever.

Often she says to us, "Work while you work, and play while you play. That is the way to be happy and gay. If you do not work, you will become lazy and of no use to society." What a piece of good advice this is! I never forget it and always bear it in my mind. This advice of hers will always serve as a guide to my action. My mother is great indeed, and I always feel proud of her.

Words and Expressions

1. gentle [*'dʒentl*] *a.* 温柔的 温和的
2. dearly [*'diəli*] *adv.* 深情地 由衷地 昂贵地
3. affectionately [*ə'fekʃənɪtli*] *adv.* 亲切地 亲爱地
4. patiently [*'peɪʃəntli*] *adv.* 耐烦地 有耐心地
5. elect [*i'lekt*] *vt.* 投票选举 推选 做出选择 决定
6. thrifty [*'θrɪfti*] *a.* 节俭的 节省的
7. luxurious [*lʌg'zjuəriəs*] *a.* 豪华的 奢侈的
8. wrinkle [*'rɪŋkl*] *vt.* 使起皱纹 使水面起涟漪

9. a humble meal; a simple meal 便餐

10. without any complaints 毫无怨言 从不埋怨

11. to be always on the go = to be always very busy 总是忙忙碌碌 总是忙个不停

12. to bear it in mind = to keep it in mind 牢记在心 铭记于心

【参考译文】

3. 我的母亲

我的母亲是一位心地善良、性情温和的妇女。她从早到晚忙个不停。作为老师 她工作努力且效率颇高 作为母亲 她细心关照我们 对我们体贴入微。我有一个哥哥 我们兄妹俩由衷地爱母亲 她也深情地爱我们。

我母亲一直在我家乡的一所中学教数学。她清晨去学校工作 下午很晚才回家。她热爱学生 关心他们 耐心地教他们 而且教得很好。因为她品质优秀 教学效果甚佳 所以总是受到学生和同事的称赞和尊敬 并多次被评为模范教师。

我母亲是一位节俭勤勉的妇女。她除了偶尔出去给我们买一些价廉物美的衣服外，从来未为她自己购买昂贵时髦的服装。她从不进豪华的餐馆吃一顿很贵的饭菜。当她忙得不可开交时，也只仅仅在外面吃一顿便餐。她过着繁忙而简朴的生活，没有半点抱怨。她从学校一回来就着手做家务 打扫起居室和卧室 或把家具擦洗干净，将每一件东西摆得整整齐齐。她还为我们做好菜吃。她似乎时时刻刻忙这忙那。她每天繁忙，工作辛苦，看上去比实际年龄老一些。她满脸皱纹，头发变成了银白色。但她脸上总是洋溢着欢乐和幸福。

母亲经常对我们说：“工作的时候就好好工作，玩耍的时候就痛痛快快地玩，这才是幸福快乐之道。人不干活就会变得懒惰，对社会毫无作用。”多好的忠告啊！我总是将它牢记在心，永不忘却。她的这番忠告永远是我行动的指南。我母亲的确很伟大，我总是为有这样的母亲感到自豪。

4. My Father

Everyone has a father. My father is of middle height. He is stout and strong, with a severe look on his face and with keen expressive eyes. On first sight you may feel he is hard to approach. In fact he is very kind and considerate.

I believe my father is a talented man. He is decisive and efficient in doing things. By his own talents and efforts, he has secured for the family a good social position and a comparatively rich life. People of all fields come to my house, and from them I have gained lots of valuable social experience and seen a lot of joys and sorrows of the world.

But at home, he is a harsh parent. He has high expectations of me. When I am idling away my time, I can see that it hurts him deeply. When I am doing something great, such as writing a book, he is more than excited. With such a father, I always remind myself that I must go on and on, never give up.

Words and Expressions

1. keen [ki:n] a. 热心的 紧张的 激烈的 敏锐的 敏捷的
2. decisive [di'saisiv] a. 决定性的 办事 果断的
3. harsh [ha:ʃ] a. 严厉的 无情的 刺耳的 刺目的

4. idle ['aɪdl] *vi.* (away 无所事事 虚度 时光)
5. to be hard to approach = to be not easy to get along with 不易接近;
不平易近人 不好打交道
6. joys and sorrows of the world 人世间的欢乐与悲伤 人间悲欢

【参考译文】

4. 我的父亲

父亲人皆有之。我的父亲中等身材，长得结实强壮，有一副挺严肃的神情和一双锐利而富于表情的眼睛。乍一看，你还以为他是难以接近的人。实际上，他很体贴入微、善解人意。

我相信我的父亲是一个有才能的人。他办事果断，卓有成效。他依靠自己的才干和努力，为我们的家庭获得了良好的社会地位和比较宽裕的生活。各行各业的人到我家来，我从他们那里获得了许多宝贵的社会经验，看到了许多人世悲欢。

但是在家里，他是个严厉的家长。他对我期望很大。每当我无所事事、虚度时光时，我能看出我这样浪费时间深深地刺痛了他的心。而当我做些像写书这样的大事时，他激动不已。有这样一个父亲，我总是提醒自己，必须不断前进，永不停息。

5. My Forever Valentine

The traditional holidays in our house when I was a child were spent timing elaborate meals around football games. My father tried to make pleasant chitchat and eat as much as he could during halftime. At Christmas he found time to have a cup or two of holiday beer and do his holly-shaped bow tie. But he didn't truly shine until Valentine's Day.

I don't know whether it was because work at the office slowed during February or because the football season was over. But Valentine's Day was the time my father chose to show his love for the special people in his life. Over the years I fondly thought of him as my "Valentine Man".

My first recollection of the magic he could bring to Valentine's Day came when I was six. For several days I had been cutting out valentines for my classmates. Each of us was to decorate a "mailbox" and put it on our desk for others to give us cards. That box and its contents ushered in a succession of bittersweet memories of my entrance into a world of popularity contests marked by the number of cards received, the teasing about boyfriends/girlfriends and the tender care I gave to the card from the cutest boy in class.

That morning at the breakfast table I found a card and a gift-wrapped package at my chair. The card was signed "Love, Dad," and the gift was a ring with a small piece of red glass to represent my birthstone, a ruby. There is little difference between red glass and rubies to a child of six, and I remember wearing that ring with a pride that all the cards in the world could not surpass.

As I grew older, the gifts gave way to heartshaped boxes filled with my favorite chocolates and always included a special card signed "Love Dad". In those years my thank-yous became more of a perfunctory response. The cards seemed less important, and I took for granted the valentine that would always be there. Long past the days of having a "mailbox" on my desk, I had placed my hopes and dreams in receiving cards and gifts from "significant others" and "Love, Dad" just didn't seem quite enough.

If my father knew then that he had been replaced, he never let it show. If he sensed any disappointment over valentines that didn't arrive for me, he just tried that much harder to create a positive atmosphere, giving me an extra hug and doing what he could to make my day a little brighter.

My mailbox eventually had a rural address, and the job of hand-delivering candy and cards was relegated to the U.S. Postal Service. Never in ten years was my father's package late — nor was it on the Valentine's Day eight years ago when I reached into the mailbox to find a card addressed to me in my mother's handwriting.

It was the kind of card that comes in an inexpensive assortment box sold by a child going door-to-door to try to earn money for a school project. It was the kind of card you used to get from a grandmother or an aging aunt or, in this case, a dying father. It was the kind of card that put a lump in your throat and tears in your eyes because you knew the person no longer was able to go out and buy a real valentine. It was a card that signaled this would be the last you would receive from him.

The card had a photograph of tulips on the outside, and on the inside my mother had printed "Happy Valentine's Day". Beneath it, scrawled in barely legible handwriting was "Love . . . Dad".

His final card remains on my bulletin board today. It's a reminder of how special fathers can be and how important it has been to me over the years to know that I had a father who continued a tradition of love with a generosity of spirit, simple acts of understanding and an ability to express happiness over the people in his life.

Those things never die, nor does the memory of a man who never

stopped being my valentine.

Words and Expressions

1. valentine ['væləntain] *n.* 在 2 月 14 日圣瓦伦丁节寄给情人的信或卡片 情人
2. time [taim] *vt.* 选择.....的时机 安排.....的时间 使合时宜 记录.....的时间
3. chitchat ['tʃɪtʃæt] *n.* 闲谈 聊天
4. halftime ['hɑ:f taɪm] *n.* 球赛中场休息
5. fondly ['fɒndli] *adv.* 亲爱地 爱怜地
6. recollection [ˌrekə'leɪʃən] *n.* 回忆 记忆力 回忆的事物
7. usher ['ʌʃə] *vi.* 引导 领引 宣布
8. cute [kju:t] *a.* 机敏的 聪颖的; (美俗) 吸引人的 逗人喜爱的
9. ruby ['ru:bi] *n.* 红宝石
10. perfunctory [pə'fʌŋktəri] *a.* 敷衍塞责的 马马虎虎的
11. relegate ['religeɪt] *vt.* 委托 托付 移送 贬谪
12. tulip ['tju:lɪp] *n.* 郁金香
13. scrawl [skrɔ:l] *vt. vi.* 潦草地写或画
14. legible ['ledʒəbl] *a.* 易读的 清楚的
15. an inexpensive assortment box : 装满各式便宜货的匣子
16. bulletin board : 记事板

【参考译文】

5. 我永远的情人

当我还是小孩子的时候，我们家过传统节日时总是把精心准

备的节日餐安排在足球赛时间。中场休息时，父亲总要快活地聊谈一番，然后大吃特吃。圣诞节期间他也要找时间为庆祝节日喝上一两杯啤酒，还要打上他那个青枝状的领结。但不到情人节，他是不会真正地神采飞扬起来的。

不知道是不是因为办公室的工作节奏到了二月就变得缓慢起来，还是因为足球赛已经结束了。但情人节是我父亲选来向他生活中特殊的人表示爱意的日子。许多年来，我亲密地把他当成我的“情人”。

我对情人节的最初印象是我六岁那年他带给我的惊喜。一连几天我都在剪裁送给同学的卡片。我们每个人都要做一个“信箱”，把它放在自己的桌子上，让别人往里塞卡片。这个盒子和里面的东西带来了一连串苦乐参半的回忆：我进入了一个“人缘竞赛”的世界，所收卡片的多少，有关男朋友或女朋友的玩笑以及我对那张来自班上最受欢迎的男孩的卡片的珍惜都显示了比赛结果。

那天清晨，我在早餐桌上发现一张卡片，椅子上还摆着一个包装好了的礼品盒。卡上签名“爱你，爸爸”。礼物是一只戒指，上面镶着的一小块红玻璃代表着我的生日幸运宝石——红宝石。对一个六岁的孩子来说，红玻璃和红宝石没什么两样。我还记得当时戴上戒指的骄傲劲是世界上所有的卡片都比不过的。

长大些后，礼物变成了装满我最喜爱的巧克力的心形盒子，而且总有一张签名“爱你，爸爸”的特殊卡片。那些年，我的感谢更多地成为一种敷衍的反应。卡片似乎不那么重要了。而且我理所当然地认为情人节总是会有这样一份礼物。那种把“信箱”放在桌子上等待别人塞礼物的日子已经过去很久了。我满怀着希望和梦想，期待能收到“重要人物”的卡片和礼物，而“爱你，爸爸”对我来

说似乎是远远不够的。

如果当时父亲知道 他的位置已经被人代替了 他却从未显露出来。如果他感觉到我因没有收到情人节的礼物而失望，他就努力创造一种欢快的氛围 多拥抱我一下或做些他能做的事 让我那天欢快一点。

最后 我在乡村安了家 信件上写着乡下地址。亲手送糖和卡片的事就交给了美国邮政公司。十年来，父亲寄包裹从未迟过——就是八年前的情人节那天也未迟过。那天，我从信箱里取到一张卡片，写的地址是妈妈的笔迹。

那是一种小孩子为挣钱上学而提着装满各式便宜货的匣子挨家挨户叫卖的卡片；那是一种你过去经常从祖母或上了年纪的婶娘那儿得到的卡片；那次是从奄奄一息的父亲那儿得来的卡片。那是一种让你喉咙哽塞 眼泪打转的卡片 因为你知道 送卡的人再也不能出去买一份真正的情人节礼物 这张卡片预示 它可能就是你从他那儿得到的最后一张卡片。

卡片的封面是郁金香的图片。里面是妈妈以印刷体书写的“情人节快乐”。再下面 潦草地写着几个几乎认不出的字：“爱你，爸爸”。

父亲最后给我的那张卡片至今仍留在我的记事板上。它时刻提醒着我，父亲可以是多么特殊的人。意识到我有这样一个父亲，这些年对我是多么重要。父亲始终以一种大度的气量，以充满理解的单纯的行为和对家人表达满意的能力持续着他爱的传统。

这些事情永远不会消失，我对父亲的记忆也永远不会消失。他是我永远的情人。

*Unit Two**Human Life*

人 生

1. The End of My Childhood

At Jemez I came to the end of my childhood. There were no schools within easy reach. I had to go nearly thirty miles to school at Bernalillo, and one year I lived away in Albuquerque. My mother and father wanted me to have the benefit of a sound preparation for college, and so we read through many high school catalogues. After long deliberation we decided that I should spend my last year of high school at a military academy in Virginia.

The day before I was to leave I went walking across the river to the red mesa, where many times before I had gone to be alone with my thoughts. And I had climbed several times to the top of the mesa and looked among the old ruins there for pottery. This time I chose to climb the north end, perhaps because I had not gone that way before and wanted to see what it was. It was a difficult climb, and when I got to the top I was spent. I lingered among the ruins for more than an hour, I judge, waiting for my strength to return. From there I could see the whole valley below, the fields, the river, and the village. It was all very beautiful, and the sight of it filled me with longing.