中英对照

中国人的智慧

(Chinese Wisdom)

《论语》及《聊斋志异》英译者
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(一)猴子与大象
The Monkey and the Elephant

After a heavy lunch, a little monkey took a nap between the branches on the top of a tall tree.

Suddenly, he was awakened by a kind of desperate cry for help . Opening up his eyes, the monkey found a stout mantis tightly holding a delicate branch with his saw-like forelimbs.

The insect was crying for help, as a black bird at a not too far distance was preparing to attack him. Without hesitation, the monkey jumped over and frightened away the bird.

"Thank you very much for saving my life, Mr. Monkey," the mantis said. "When I discovered I was followed by a bird, I realized that if I moved, the bird would attack me immediately; if I stayed there without moving, the bird would attack me too. If you had not come in time, I would have already been murdered. I deeply appreciate your big favor and don't know how to pay you back."

在一顿丰盛的午餐后,一只小猴子躺在一棵高大树上的树枝中间午睡。

突然,他被一种绝望的呼救声吵醒了。睁开眼睛一看,他发现了一只肥大的螳螂用他那锯一般的前肢紧紧地夹住一条嫩枝。

这只昆虫在喊救命,因为一只黑鸟在不远处正准备捕捉他。猴子毫不犹豫地迅速跳了过来,吓跑了这只鸟。

"猴子先生,真是非常感激,你救了我的一条命。"螳螂说,"当我发现我被一只鸟跟踪时,我知道如果我一移动,这鸟将会立刻攻击我。如果我停在那儿不动,他也将会扑过来。假如你不曾及时赶来,我一定早已遇害了。我深深地感谢你,真不知如何报答你的大恩大德。"

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"It is my pleasure," the monkey replied pleasantly, then jumped to another tree to look for fun.

"Saving a small creature's life is wonderful. I'll keep doing things like that as much as possible," The monkey said to himself elatedly as he was leaping through the abundant leaves and branches.

When the monkey rested at a coarse branch, he suddenly heard another cry, and it was more than one cry.

Following the direction of crying, the monkey quickly found four small birds crying in a nest. They cried because they were desperately hungry. "I think I'll die if Mom does not bring food home soon," one baby bird cried to the other ones and the other three ones responded with the same crying.

At this moment, the mother bird flew back. Amid cheers, the large black bird comforted her babies, "Sorry, my dear children, I did not bring you any food this trip. A little while ago, I was almost sure to catch a stout mantis . If a naughty monkey had not

"我乐意帮助你。"猴子愉快地回答,然后跳到另一棵树上游玩去了。

"救了一个小动物的生命真是妙极了。今后我将尽可能继续多做这一类的事情。"猴子在浓密的枝叶中跳跃着,兴高采烈地自语道。

当猴子停在一根粗枝上休息时,他忽然又听到了哭叫的声音,而且还不只是一声。

顺着哭叫声的方向,猴子很快发现有四只幼鸟在巢内哭喊。他们哭喊因为他们非常饥饿。"假如妈妈还不能很快带回食物来,我想我会饿死的。"一只幼鸟向另几只哭叫着,另三只也同样地哭诉着回答。

就在这个时候,母鸟飞回来了。在一片欢呼声中,这只大黑鸟安慰她的孩子们:"抱歉了,孩子们!这次我没有为你们带回任何食物。刚才,我几乎可以抓到一只肥大的螳螂。

interfered, that mantis would have made a good meal for my kids. Anyway, I'll keep looking for food for you."

The mother bird hastily kissed each of her children and flew away on her mission again, leaving those hungry little ones powerlessly crying.

Having quietly overheard the birds' conversation, the monkey was upset. He was totally confused. He stopped a mother to bring food to feed her hungry children. Was he wrong or right? Since he could not get the right answer, he jumped down on the ground. He went to consult with the most knowledgeable elephant.

"You did not do anything wrong," the authoritative elephant replied the monkey. "In this world, nobody can take care of everyone."

The elephant is right. Any good thing still has an opposite side effect. A Chinese philosopher said, "As long as we have done what we should, we can not expect approval from everyone."

假如一个顽皮的猴子不来捣蛋,那只螳螂将是你们的一顿美餐。不管怎样,我会继续为你们寻找食物的。"

母鸟匆忙地亲亲每一个孩子,便又去执行她的任务了,留下这批饥饿的小东西更是有气无力地哭喊着。

静静地偷听了鸟儿们的对话后,这只猴子烦乱极了,他是整个糊涂了。他阻挠了一个母亲带食物给她饥饿的孩子们吃。他做错了,还是做对了?猴子自己无法获得正确的答案,于是他跳到地上,去向学识丰富的大象请教。

"你没有做错。"具有权威的大象回答猴子,"在这个世界上,没有人可以照顾到每一个人。"

大象的话是对的。任何一件好事情都会有负面效果的。一位中国哲学家说:"只要我们做了应该做的,我们不必期待每个人都来赞同。"

（二）树叶后面的陷阱
Traps behind the Leaves

A cicada is an insect with a broad head and a pair of membranous wings, commonly seen on the trees in the northern China in summer.

The male cicada has a pair of resonating organs that produce a high-pitched drone. Hundreds of cicadas singing together create a music that is quite pleasant. The chorus of cicadas is one of the interesting things I often miss about my homeland. As a child, while I had no school in the summer, I would often lie down under trees with a few companions, doing nothing but enjoying the pleasant cicadas' chorus about six decades ago.

There is a story about a cicada in the Chinese classic, *Chuang-Tzu*. Once upon a time, a male cicada joyfully joined his friends in singing the most beautiful praises of happy summer. He sang and sang, completely intoxicating himself in the comfortable, hot afternoon

蝉是一种有宽额及一对膜状翅膀的昆虫，每逢夏季经常出现在中国北方的树上。

雄蝉有一对共鸣的器官，可以发出尖锐的声响。百蝉共鸣所制造出来的音乐也是很好听的。听蝉声和鸣是我经常怀念故乡的趣事之一。大约60年前，那时我还是一个孩童，暑假里经常与三五好友躺在家乡的大树下，什么事也不做，就只欣赏那好听的蝉鸣合唱。

中国一本古文经典《庄子》里有一个关于蝉的故事。有一次，一只雄蝉与它的朋友们一同快乐地唱着快乐夏日的赞美曲。它唱呀唱呀，完全陶醉在这舒适的炎夏午后，却没有注意到一个巨大的危机

without noticing a great danger approaching.

A couple of inches away, behind the singer, was a huge mantis extending his two powerful saw-like forelimbs, preparing to make a sudden attack on the helpless cicada. The mantis was concentrating on how to catch the delicate cicada for his late lunch and did not realize that a hungry yellow bird was hiding under the leaves, less than half a foot behind the mantis.



The bird was sure he could capture the mantis for his early supper, but he never dreamed that a mischievous boy standing under the branches was aiming at him with his hand-made bow. When the boy got the bird, he jumped up excitedly and hurt himself by a careless fall as he stepped into a big hole in front of him.

What the author of the book tried to tell us is that if you think you are smart enough to take advantage of another person, there is always somebody else who might be smarter than you, trying to take your advantage. The

已经来到。

两英寸远处,在这歌手的后面,有一只硕大的螳螂正伸出那强而有力像锯齿一般的前肢,准备突然扑向这只无助的蝉。螳螂正在聚精会神地思考,如何一举捕获这只美味的蝉作为它的午餐,却不知道一只饥饿的黄雀,正躲在离它不到半英尺的树叶后面。

这只黄雀满怀信心,以为它一定能够抓到这只螳螂作为它早到的晚餐,殊不知它怎么也没想到,有一个淘气的男孩,站立在树枝下面,用他那手制的弹弓正向着黄雀瞄准。当这个男孩射中了黄雀时,他兴奋地跳了起来,一不小心掉进了他前面的一个大洞里,受了伤。

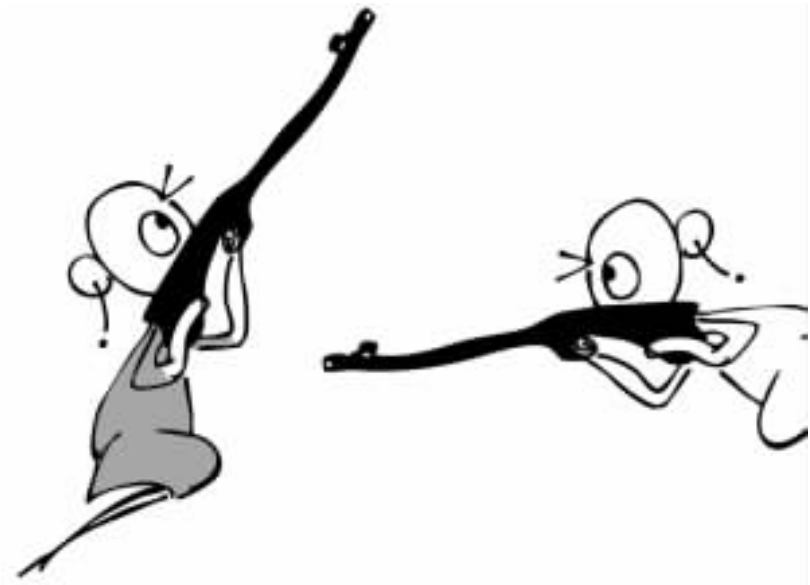
这本书的作者告诉我们:如果你认为你有足够的聪明可以去占别人的便宜时,经常会另外有人比

self-declared smartest person often becomes the victim of an unexpected accident.

There are traps behind leaves and under the branches. As long as you do not want to take advantage of someone else, you will be smart enough to defend yourself.

你更聪明，企图占你的便宜。自以为最聪明的人，往往会变成一件不可预期事件的受害者。

在树叶后面，在树枝下面，都有陷阱。只有你不想去占别人的便宜，你才会有足够的智慧来保护你自己。



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（三）鹬 与 蚌

The Snipe and the Clam

A clam was enjoying the warm sunshine by a riverside one beautiful spring afternoon. She opened up her two shield-like shells toward the lovely sun, and forgot about all the troubles with the others in the river.



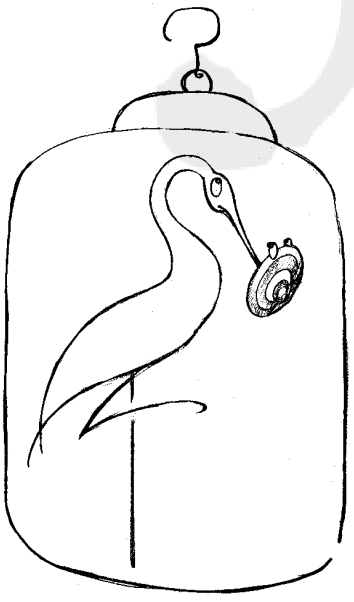
Suddenly, a hungry pin-tailed snipe flew down as fast as a flashlight from the blue sky, sticking his long sharp bill right into the shells trying to nip the lovely pink clam flesh for his quick lunch. Right at this moment, the clam quickly closed her shells tightly and clasped the bird's bill as hard as she could. The snipe did not get what he wanted, and tried all he could to pull back his beak, but in vain. Both stiffened with anger, and neither wanted to concede. The two parties were at a deadlock right there.

"If it does not rain tomorrow and the day after tomorrow," the snipe thought angrily, "there will be a dead clam."

一个美丽的春日午后，一只蚌正在河边享受那温暖的阳光。她张着她两扇盾形的双壳向着可爱的太阳，忘记了在河中与其他水族所发生的一切烦恼。

突然，一只饥饿的长嘴鹬闪电般地从蓝天中快速飞下，把他尖利的长嘴一直伸进了壳内，企图啄食那粉红色的蚌肉作为一顿精美的快餐。蚌迅速合起双壳，全力将鹬嘴夹紧。鹬吃不到肉，于是尽其全力想抽出长嘴，可是怎么也抽不出来。双方在盛怒中僵持着，没有一方想到让步。

"假如明天不下雨，后天也不下雨，这里将有一个死蚌。"鹬怒气冲冲地想。



"If it does not rain tomorrow and the day after tomorrow," the clam also thought confidently, "there will be a dead snipe."

"Tomorrow" had not come yet. There came a fisherman. The fisherman easily caught both the snipe and the clam.

Can you figure out, in this world, who is the "snipe"? Who is the "clam"? And who is the "fisherman" who gains the benefits without effort?

"假如明天不下雨,后天也不下雨,这里将有一只死鹬。"蚌蛮有把握地想。

"明天"还没有来到,来了一个渔夫。渔夫毫不费力地抓到了鹬和蚌。

在这个世界里,你能否预知谁是"鹬"?谁是"蚌"?谁是"渔夫"——那个不劳而获的人?

（四）老 虎 与 猫

The Tiger and the Cat



Zoologists tell us that the tiger and the cat belong to the same family, called felines. Both have almost the same physical constitution and similar outside form, except that one is big and heavy, and the other one small and light. Tigers are fierce and aggressive, while cats are much more domesticated and submissive. Therefore, the tiger and the cat do not get along very well in the world of animals.

But in China, people believe that, at the beginning, they were very intimate friends, and the cat was even much smarter than the tiger. The cat learned the physical skills quickly, and the tiger was always behind. Gradually, the tiger had to learn from the cat, and the cat was patient to teach the tiger. Day after day, month after month, finally, the tiger could also run, jump, roll, grasp, tear, and strike as well as the cat.

动物学家告诉我们：老虎和猫属于同一科，即猫科。两者有着相同的体质及相近的外形，只不过一种又大又重，另一种则又小又轻。老虎既凶猛又具有攻击性，而猫则比较驯良和顺从。所以老虎和猫在动物世界里是无法相处的。

但是在中国，人们相信 :在最原始的时候，老虎和猫是最要好的朋友，而且猫比老虎要聪明得多。猫学习各种技能很快，老虎则远落其后。慢慢地，老虎必须向猫学习，而猫也有耐心去教老虎。日复一日，月复一月，最后老虎也学会了跑、跳、滚、抓、撕和扑，而且和猫做得一样好。

一个夏日的午后，猫

One summer afternoon, the cat was taking a nap as the tiger sat nearby. Looking at the cat, the tiger suddenly thought, why should he keep befriending such a small animal since he had already learned all the skills from the cat? The evil tiger decided to kill the sleeping cat as a before dinner snack. The tiger stood up and approached the cat viciously. Just at this moment, the cat woke up. Opening up her eyes, the smart cat immediately realized what the tiger was trying to do and swiftly jumped on a nearby tall tree and climbed to the top branch.

The tiger thought he had already learned every skill from the cat. He never knew that the cat hid the tree climbing from him.

"I kept the last technique of the tree climbing from you just because I suspected you might be an ungrateful friend," the cat loudly told the tiger who watched under the tree helplessly.

Living in such a complicated, unpredictable society, who can guarantee that we shall never have a "tiger" friend?

在午睡，老虎坐在旁边。老虎注视着猫，突然想，既然自己已经向猫学会了各种技能，为什么还要继续和这个小动物做朋友？这邪恶的虎于是决定扑杀睡着的猫，作为他晚餐前的一道点心。于是虎站了起来，充满邪意地走近猫。就在这个当儿，猫醒来了。睁开眼睛，聪明的猫立刻明白虎要做什么，立刻敏捷地跳上了旁边一棵大树，并一直爬到树的最高处。

虎以为它已经向猫学会了每一种技能，可它怎么也不知道猫还藏着爬树这一手没有教它。

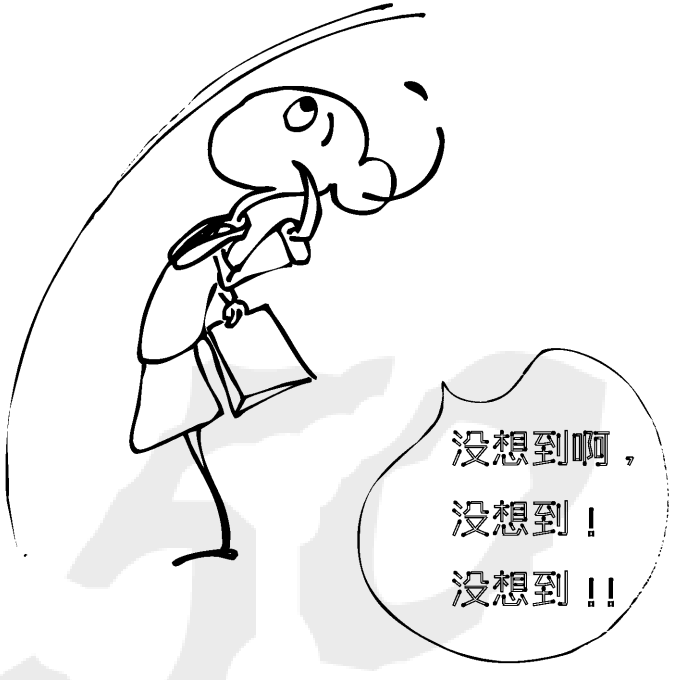
"我保留这最后一招没有教你，是因为我早就怀疑你可能是一个忘恩负义的家伙。"猫大声告诉那站在树下无能为力只有向上望着的虎。

生活在这么一个复杂的难以预测的社会里，谁敢保证我们将来永远不会

Maybe we individually should all hide a technique such as the tree climbing in case we meet a sudden attack like the one the cat had.

有一个“老虎”朋友？也许我们每一个人都应当保留一手爬树的本领，来预防像上面那只猫所遭受到的突然袭击。





（五）鹰 与 驴

The Eagle and the Donkey

It was a beautiful summer. The magical weather had turned the whole mountain green. The big animals, such as elephants and cows, were all taking naps after lunch under trees, while the small animals, such as rats and rabbits, were hiding themselves in their cool underground burrows.

The only one animal who was not afraid of the sunshine was a donkey. He was happily running up and down a muddy hill as a kind of self-amusing exercise.

In the sky, a hungry eagle flew over the mountain in looking for a small animal for his late lunch.

"Where are the small creatures?" The eagle kept asking himself, for he had flown for several hours, but had found nothing.

Finally, the eagle discovered the playful donkey. The eagle had eaten the meat of donkey once. He remembered

这是一个美丽的夏天。气候魔术般地把整座山都变成了绿色。一些大的动物像大象和牛等，午饭后都躲到树下午睡去了。小的动物如老鼠和兔子等，则都藏在凉爽的地穴中避暑。

惟一不怕骄阳的动物是一头驴子。他快乐地从一座小土山上跑上跑下，作为自我娱乐的运动。

天空中，一只饿鹰正飞过这座土山，寻找小动物作为他迟来的午餐。

"这些小动物都到哪儿去了？"鹰不停地自问，因为他已经飞了好几个钟头了，可还是什么也没有找到。

这时，他发现了这头正在玩耍的驴。鹰以前曾吃过一次驴肉。记忆中，

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