

翻译(Translation)

英汉-汉英互译练习

Passage 1

The Rewards of Living a Solitary Life

The other day an acquaintance of mine, a gregarious and charming man, told me he had found himself unexpectedly alone in New York for an hour or two between appointments. He went to the Whitney and spent the "empty" time looking at things in solitary bliss. For him it proved to be a shock nearly as great as falling in love to discover that he could enjoy himself so much alone.

What had he been afraid of, I asked myself? That, suddenly alone, he would discover that he bored himself, or that there was, quite simply, no self there to meet? But having taken the plunge, he is now on the brink of adventure. He is about to be launched into his own inner space to the astronaut. His every perception will come to him with a new freshness and, for a time, seem startlingly original. For anyone who can see things for himself with a naked eye becomes, for a moment or two, something of a genius. With another human being present vision becomes double vision, inevitably. We are busy wondering, what does my companion see or think of this, and what do I think of it? The original impact gets lost, or diffused.

"Music I heard with you was more than music." Exactly. And therefore music itself can only be heard alone. Solitude is the salt of personhood. It brings out the authentic flavor of every experience.

"Alone one is never lonely: the spirit adventures, walking in a quiet garden, in a cool house, abiding single there."

Loneliness is most acutely felt with other people, for with others, even with a lover sometimes, we suffer from our differences of taste, temperament, mood. Human intercourse often demands that we soften the edge of perception, or withdraw at the very instant of personal truth for fear of hurting, or of being inappropriately present, which is to say naked, in a social situation. Alone we can afford to be wholly whatever we are, and to feel whatever we feel absolutely. That is a great luxury!

For me the most interesting thing about a solitary life, and mine has been that for the last twenty years, is that it becomes increasingly rewarding. When I can wake up and watch the sun rise over the ocean, as I do most days, and know that I have an entire day ahead, uninterrupted, in which to write a few pages, take a walk with my dog, lie down in the afternoon for a long think (why does one think better in a horizontal position?), read and listen to music, I am flooded with happiness.

I am lonely only when I am overtired, when I have worked too long without a break, when for the time being I feel empty and need filling up. And I am lonely sometimes when I come back home after a lecture trip, when I have seen a lot of people and talked a lot, and am full to the brim with experience that needs to be sorted out.

Then for a little while the house feels huge and empty, and I wonder where my self is hiding. It has to be recaptured slowly by watering the plants, perhaps, and looking again at each one as though it were a person, by feeding the two cats, by cooking a meal.

It takes a while, as I watch the surf blowing up in fountains at the end of the field, but the moment comes when the world falls away, and the self emerges again from the deep unconscious, bringing back all I have recently experienced to be explored and slowly understood, when I can converse again with my hidden powers, and so grow, and so be renewed, till death do us part.

译文：

独自生活的报偿

前些日子，我的一个熟人，一位热爱交际且富有魅力的男士告诉我，他在纽约的两个约会之间偶然有一两个小时的空闲，便去了惠特尼博物馆，四处浏览着展品，无比幸福的度过了那些时光。发现自己独自一人也能如此的幸福，他感觉像坠入爱河那般震惊。

“他一直在害怕什么呢？”，我问自己。怕突然一个人呆着会发现自己厌烦自己，或者怕会失去自我？但是有了这次尝试，他便要开始探险了，即将发射到自己内心的宇宙之中。他的所见所感对他来说将是全新的，一度会新颖的让人惊奇。

因此，每个能用肉眼亲自观看事物的人一时之间便成为天才。如果身边有别人，一个看法便不可避免地变成双重看法。我们急于知道周围人的看法，以及自己的观点？”最初的印象消失了，或者变得模糊不清。

“与你共享的音乐便不止是音乐了。”的确如此。因此，音乐本身只能独自一人聆听。独处是人生的趣味所在，它让人感受到所有经历的真实韵味。

“独居但不孤独：精神在不停的探索，徜徉于静寂的花园中，徘徊在阴凉的房舍里，独自在那逗留。

与别人呆在一起时孤独感更为强烈，因为与他人在一起，即使是恋人，我们也会被不同的品味，不同的性格，以及不同的情绪所困扰。人际交往要求我们必须磨掉感知的棱角，在每每涉及个人私事时，我们因为怕伤害别人而避而不谈，或者害怕在社交场合不合时宜，比如过于暴露自己。而独自一人，我们便可以随心所欲，感受真正的自我。那真是有些奢侈的享受！

我已独自生活了二十年。对我来说，独自生活最大意义在于它变得越来越有裨益。每当早晨醒来，看着旭日从海平面上冉冉升起，我知道后面还有整整一天。在这一天里，我可以不受打扰地写几页书，带着我的狗一起散散步，下午长时间地躺着想一些事情（为什么人躺着时能更好地思考？），读读书，听听音乐。想到这些，我便沉浸在幸福之中。

只有在我过度劳累的时候,在我长时间不断工作的时候,在我感到内心空虚,需要充实的时候,我才会感到寂寞。有时,外出演讲回来,见了许多人,讲了许多话,心中满是纷乱的经验需要整理,偶而也会觉得孤独。于是有那么一会儿,我感到整个房子非常大,空荡荡的。不知此时的自我又藏匿于何处。这时,我会给花草浇浇水,挨个瞅瞅,仿佛它们是活生生的人一样,或是喂喂两只小猫,亲手做顿饭菜,这样自我就慢慢地重新找回。田野的尽头泉水喷涌翻腾,我注视良久。现实世界逐渐消退,自我再次从内心深处浮现。最近的种种经历都随之而来,以待我可以再次同内心潜在力量交流时慢慢地探究和领会。这些力量便如此慢慢增强,不断获得新生,直至死神将我们分开。

Passage 2

It seems as if a great deal were attainable in a world where there are so many marriages and decisive battles, and where we all, at certain hours of the day, and with great gusto and despatch, stow a portion of victuals finally and irretrievably into the bag which contains us. And it would seem also, on a hasty view, that the attainment of as much as possible was the one goal of man's contentious life. And yet, as regards the spirit, this is but a semblance. We live in an ascending scale when we live happily, one thing leading to another in an endless series. There is always a new horizon for onward-looking men, and although we dwell on a small planet, immersed in petty business and not enduring beyond a brief period of years, we are so constituted that our hopes are inaccessible, like stars, and the term of hoping is prolonged until the term of life. To be truly happy is a question of how we begin and not of how we end, of what we want and not of what we have. An aspiration is a joy for ever, a possession as solid as a landed estate, a fortune which we can never exhaust and which gives us year by year a revenue of pleasurable activity. To have many of these is to be spiritually rich. Life is only a very dull and ill-directed theatre unless we have some interests in the piece; and to those who have neither art nor science, the world is a mere arrangement of colours, or a rough footway where they may very well break their shins. It is in virtue of his own desires and curiosities that any man continues to exist with even patience, that he is charmed by the look of things and people, and that he awakens every morning with a renewed appetite for work and pleasure. Desire and curiosity are the two eyes through which he sees the world in the most enchanted colours: it is they that make women beautiful or fossils interesting: and the man may squander his estate and come to beggary, but if he keeps these two amulets he is still rich in the possibilities of pleasure. Suppose he could take one meal so compact and comprehensive that he should never hunger any more; suppose him, at a glance, to take in all the features of the world and allay the desire for knowledge; suppose him to do the like in any province of experience - would not that man be in a poor way for amusement ever after?

One who goes touring on foot with a single volume in his knapsack reads with circumspection, pausing often to reflect, and often laying the book down to

contemplate the landscape or the prints in the inn parlour; for he fears to come to an end of his entertainment, and be left companionless on the last stages of his journey. A young fellow recently finished the works of Thomas Carlyle, winding up, if we remember aright, with the ten note-books upon Frederick the Great. "What!" cried the young fellow, in consternation, "is there no more Carlyle? Am I left to the daily papers?" A more celebrated instance is that of Alexander, who wept bitterly because he had no more worlds to subdue. And when Gibbon had finished the DECLINE AND FALL, he had only a few moments of joy; and it was with a "sober melancholy" that he parted from his labours.

Happily we all shoot at the moon with ineffectual arrows; our hopes are set on inaccessible El Dorado; we come to an end of nothing here below. Interests are only plucked up to sow themselves again, like mustard. You would think, when the child was born, there would be an end to trouble; and yet it is only the beginning of fresh anxieties; and when you have seen it through its teething and its education, and at last its marriage, alas! it is only to have new fears, new quivering sensibilities, with every day; and the health of your children's children grows as touching a concern as that of your own. Again, when you have married your wife, you would think you were got upon a hilltop, and might begin to go downward by an easy slope. But you have only ended courting to begin marriage. Falling in love and winning love are often difficult tasks to overbearing and rebellious spirits; but to keep in love is also a business of some importance, to which both man and wife must bring kindness and goodwill. The true love story commences at the altar, when there lies before the married pair a most beautiful contest of wisdom and generosity, and a life-long struggle towards an unattainable ideal. Unattainable? Ay, surely unattainable, from the very fact that they are two instead of one.

"Of making books there is no end," complained the Preacher; and did not perceive how highly he was praising letters as an occupation. There is no end, indeed, to making books or experiments, or to travel, or to gathering wealth. Problem gives rise to problem. We may study for ever, and we are never as learned as we would. We have never made a statue worthy of our dreams. And when we have discovered a continent, or crossed a chain of mountains, it is only to find another ocean or another plain upon the further side. In the infinite universe there is room for our swiftest diligence and to spare. It is not like the works of Carlyle, which can be read to an end. Even in a corner of it, in a private park, or in the neighbourhood of a single hamlet, the weather and the seasons keep so deftly changing that although we walk there for a lifetime there will be always something new to startle and delight us.

There is only one wish realizable on the earth; only one thing that can be perfectly attained: Death. And from a variety of circumstances we have no one to tell us whether it be worth attaining.

A strange picture we make on our way to our chimaeras, ceaselessly marching,

grudging ourselves the time for rest; indefatigable, adventurous pioneers. It is true that we shall never reach the goal; it is even more than probable that there is no such place; and if we lived for centuries and were endowed with the powers of a god, we should find ourselves not much nearer what we wanted at the end. O toiling hands of mortals! O unwearied feet, traveling ye know not whither! Soon, soon, it seems to you, you must come forth on some conspicuous hilltop, and but a little way further, against the setting sun, descry the spires of El Dorado. Little do ye know your own blessedness; for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.

译文：

在这充满联姻婚嫁、决战厮杀的世界里，每天特定时刻，我们都欣然而又迅速地把一份食物一去不返地吞入包裹我们的皮囊。这个世界看上去似乎有很多东西都是可以得到的。猛然看来，尽可能地获取也成为纷繁人生的唯一目标。然而，对于精神世界来说，这只不过是表面现象。

正是因为不停地追求进取，我们才感到生活幸福。一件事完成后，另一件随之而来，如此连绵不绝，永无止境。对于往前看的人来说，眼前总有一番新天地。虽然我们蜗居于这颗小行星上，整日忙于锁事且生命短暂，但我们生来就有不尽的希望，如天上繁星，遥不可及。只要生命犹在，希望便会不止。真正的幸福在于怎样开始，而不是如何结束，在于我们的希冀，而并非拥有。

渴望是永远的乐趣，一笔如地产般真实稳固的财富，用之不尽，取之不竭。每年我们都会因为拥有渴望而充满活力。一个人如有许多希望，精神便会富足。人生只不过是一场单调乏味且编导拙劣的戏，除非我们对这戏有些兴趣；对于既没有艺术细胞也没有科学细胞的人来说，这个世界只不过是各种颜色的堆积，或者是一条崎岖小路，一不小心就会摔伤小腿。

正是因为希望与好奇，我们才会以加倍的耐心继续生存，才会着迷于纷繁复杂、多姿多彩的人或事，早晨醒来才会以崭新的热情投入新一天的工作和娱乐。希望和好奇是人观看这绚丽迷人的世界的一双眼睛：正是这双眼睛使得女人美丽妩媚，又使顽石妙趣横生。一个人可以倾家荡产，沦为乞丐，可是只要他还有这两个“护身符”，他就仍然可能拥有无限的欢乐。

假如一个人一顿饭吃得紧凑而丰盛，那他就不再感到饥饿；假如一眼就能看透人间世事，他就不会再有求知的欲望。如果他在生活中其它任何领域都是如此，那他的生活还有乐趣可言吗？

一个徒步旅行的人，背包里只有一本书，他会精心的研读，不时停下来思考一番，还经常会放下书，凝视着风景，或者观赏酒馆里的装饰图案；他害怕一旦读完，便没有什么乐趣了，剩下的旅程将寂寞而无以为藉。

最近，一位年轻人读完了托马斯*卡莱尔的著作。如果我没记错的话，关于腓特列大帝的笔记他记了整整十本。“什么？”这个年轻人惊恐地叫道：“没有卡莱尔的书可读了？那我只能看看日报了？”最有名的例子是亚历山大，他因为已没有国家供他征服而号啕大哭。当吉本完成《罗马帝国衰亡史》，也只不过高兴了一时，然后带着清醒而又抑郁的心情，他向往日的劳动成果挥手作别。

我们欣然把箭射向月亮，却毫无结果；我们把希望建立在遥不可及的黄金国上，

最终却一无所获。就像芥菜一样，兴趣的收割，只是为了下次的播种。你可能会认为等孩子出生了，一切麻烦也就结束了；然而这只是新麻烦的开始：你看着他长出牙齿，看着他接受教育，直到最后看着他结婚。天哪！每一天都会有新的担忧，新的感情冲击。儿孙的健康像你的健康一样牵动着你的心。

当你步入婚姻的殿堂，你可能认为已经爬到了山顶，剩下的只是悠闲地沿着平缓的山坡下山。然而，这只是恋爱的结束，婚姻的开始。拥有一颗骄傲而又叛逆的心，坠入爱河与赢得爱情都是难事；但维持爱情也很重要，夫妻都应相敬如宾，互相关爱。当真爱起始于圣坛之时，夫妻之间便开始了一场智慧与慷慨的竞争，一场为了一个不可能实现的理想而持续一生的奋斗。不可能实现？啊，当然不可能，因为他们不是一个人，而是两个呀。

传道者感叹到：“著书立说没有止境”，却没发觉他已高度评价了作家这一职业。的确，写作，旅行，积聚财富都是没有终结的。一个问题引发另外一个问题。我们不断学习，且永远达不到心中所渴望的那般学识渊博。我们永远雕刻不出自己心仪的塑像。当发现一个新大陆，或翻过一座山脉时，我们总会看到远方还有未曾涉足的海洋与陆地。宇宙浩渺，总会有供我们勤奋努力的东西，总会有供我们探索的空间。它不像卡莱尔的著作，可以读完。即使在其一角，在一个私人花园，或一个农庄附近，四季轮回，天气瞬息万变，哪怕在那里生活了一辈子，也总会有让我们惊喜的事情。

世上只有一种愿望可以实现，也仅有一种事物绝对能得到，那便是死亡。但因身处境地的不同，没人能告诉我们是否死得其所。

我们不停向着梦想前进，不肯稍作休息，这形成了一幅奇异的画面：不知疲倦，勇于冒险的先锋。的确，我们永远不会达到目标，甚至目的地根本就不存在；即使活上几百年，被赋予神的力量，我们最终也不能接近目标多少。啊，辛劳的双手！啊，不知疲倦的双脚，一直不停地奔走，却不知要到何方。不久，你便会发现，你必须登上某些显著的山头，然而在不远处，在夕阳的照耀下，你又会看到黄金国的尖顶。身处于幸福之中，你却没有觉察：满是信心地跋涉远比抵达要充满乐趣；真正的成功就在于奋斗。

Passage 3

The old lady had always been proud of the great rose-tree in her garden, and was fond of telling how it had grown from a cutting she had brought years before from Italy, when she was first married. She and her husband had been travelling back in their carriage from Rome (it was before the time of railways) and on a bad piece of road south of Siena they had broken down, and had been forced to pass the night in a little house by the road-side. The accommodation was wretched of course; she had spent a sleepless night, and rising early had stood, wrapped up, at her window, with the cool air blowing on her face, to watch the dawn. She could still, after all these years, remember the blue mountains with the bright moon above them, and how a far-off town on one of the peaks had gradually grown whiter and whiter, till the moon faded, the mountains were touched with the pink of the rising sun, and suddenly the town was lit as by an illumination, one window after another catching and reflecting the sun's beam, till at last the whole little city twinkled and sparkled up in the sky like a nest of stars.

That morning, finding they would have to wait while their carriage was being repaired, they had driven in a local conveyance up to the city on the mountain, where they had been told they would find better quarters; and there they had stayed two or three days. It was one of the miniature Italian cities with a high church, a pretentious piazza, a few narrow streets and little palaces, perched, all compact and complete, on the top of a mountain, within and enclosure of walls hardly larger than an English kitchen garden. But it was full of life and noise, echoing all day and all night with the sounds of feet and voices.

The Cafe of the simple inn where they stayed was the meeting place of the notabilities of the little city; the Sindaco, the avvocato, the doctor, and a few others; and among them they noticed a beautiful, slim, talkative old man, with bright black eyes and snow-white hair — tall and straight and still with the figure of a youth, although the waiter told them with pride that the Conte was *molto vecchio* — would in fact be eighty in the following year. He was the last of his family, the waiter added — they had once been great and rich people — but he had no descendants; in fact the waiter mentioned with complacency, as if it were a story on which the locality prided itself, that the Conte had been unfortunate in love, and had never married.

The old gentleman, however, seemed cheerful enough; and it was plain that he took an interest in the strangers, and wished to make their acquaintance. This was soon effected by the friendly waiter; and after a little talk the old man invited them to visit his villa and garden which were just outside the walls of the town. So the next afternoon, when the sun began to descend, and they saw in glimpses through door-ways and windows, blue shadows beginning to spread over the brown mountains, they went to pay their visit. It was not much of a place, a small, modernized, stucco villa, with a hot pebbly garden, and in it a stone basin with torpid gold-fish, and a statue of Diana and her hounds against the wall. But what gave a glory to it was a gigantic rose-tree which clambered over the house, almost smothering the windows, and filling the air with the perfume of its sweetness. Yes, it was a fine rose, the Conte said proudly when they praised it, and he would tell the Signora about it. And as they sat there, drinking the wine he offered them, he alluded with the cheerful indifference of old age to his love-affair, as though he took for granted that they had heard of it already.

"The lady lived across the valley there beyond that hill. I was a young man then, for it was many years ago. I used to ride over to see her; it was a long way, but I rode fast, for young men, as no doubt the Signora knows, are impatient. But the lady was not kind, she would keep me waiting, oh, for hours; and one day when I had waited very long I grew very angry, and as I walked up and down in the garden where she had told me she would see me, I broke one of her roses, broke a branch from it ; and when I saw what I had done, I hid it inside my coat — so —; and when I came home I planted it, and the Signora sees how it has grown. If the Signora admires it, I must give her a cutting to plant also in her garden; I am told the English have beautiful

gardens that are green, and not burnt with the sun like ours."

The next day, when their mended carriage had come up to fetch them, and they were just starting to drive away from the inn, the Conte's old servant appeared with the rose-cutting neatly wrapped up, and the compliments and wishes for a buon viaggio from her master. The town collected to see them depart, and the children ran after their carriage through the gate of the little city. They heard a rush of feet behind them for a few moments, but soon they were far down towards the valley; the little town with all its noise and life was high above them on its mountain peak.

She had planted the rose at home, where it had grown and flourished in a wonderful manner; and every June the great mass of leaves and shoots still broke out into a passionate splendour of scent and crimson colour, as if in its root and fibres there still burnt the anger and thwarted desire of that Italian lover. Of course the old Conte must have died many years ago; she had forgotten his name, and had even forgotten the name of the mountain city that she had stayed in, after first seeing it twinkling at dawn in the sky, like a nest of stars.

译文:

老太太总以自家花园里那棵高大的玫瑰树为荣。她非常喜欢告诉别人,数年前她刚结婚时从罗马带回来的枝条,是如何长成如今这般高大的。那时,她与丈夫乘马车从罗马旅行归来(那时还没有火车),途经锡耶那南部的崎岖路段时,马车坏了,他们被迫就宿于路边的小屋里。住宿条件当然非常差;她一夜未能安眠,一早便起身穿好衣服,立于窗前,感受着扑面而来的席席凉风,等待着黎明的到来。事隔多年,她仍然记得那情景。明月高悬在青山群峦之上。远处山峰上的小镇逐渐明亮起来,月亮慢慢消退,晨曦把群山涂得粉红。突然之间,一束阳光照亮了城镇。城里的窗户相继明亮起来,反射出耀眼的光芒。最后,整个小城宛若繁星,在天空中不停闪烁。

早上,得知须等些时日马车才能修好,他们便搭乘当地车辆去了山顶小城。有人告诉他们在那可以找到更好的住处。他们在那逗留了两三天。那是一座意大利风格的小城,教堂高高耸立,有一气派浮华的广场,几条狭窄的小街,还有几座小巧的宫殿。所有这些,紧凑而完美地排列在山顶之上。四周筑有城墙,城墙之内方园不比英国人的菜园大多少。但是,它喧哗热闹,生气勃勃,昼夜回响着脚步声与话语声。

他们住进一家简陋的旅馆。旅馆的餐厅是小城名流云聚之地。有市长,律师,医生,还有其他的一些人。在这些人之中,有一位英俊健谈的高个老人引起了他们的注意。他有一双乌黑的眼睛,头发雪白,高大挺直的身板,像年轻人一样。然而,餐厅的服务生却有些自豪地告诉他们,这位伯爵年事已高,来年就有八十高龄了。服务生还说,他们是他们家族最后一员,也曾是豪门巨富,然而他却没有子嗣。这位服务生还得意地提到,他爱情失意,终身未娶,好像这是一件本地值得炫耀的事情。

然而,这位老先生看起来心情非常愉快;显然他对这两位陌生人很感兴趣,并愿意与他们结交。在热心的服务生的帮助下,他们很快相识了;短暂的交谈之后,老人便邀请他们去他城墙外不远的别墅与花园做客。于是次日下午,夕阳西落,

从开启的门窗轻轻瞥去,他们看到,兰色暗影已渐渐笼罩棕褐的山峦,他们便欣然动身。那里很平常,矗立着一座现代化小型别墅座,表面粉刷了一层灰泥。还有一座铺满鹅卵石的花园,园里石砌水池中有几尾金鱼慵懒地游动。靠墙的地方有一尊守猎女神及其猎犬的雕像。但是使这小园生辉的是一颗巨大的玫瑰树。树已长过屋顶,几乎完全遮住了窗户。空气中满是玫瑰的芳香。这株玫瑰的确不错,听了客人夸奖,伯爵得意地说。他还表示非常乐意把树的来历讲给夫人听。于是他们坐在那里,一边饮酒,一边听他以老年人满不在乎神情,愉快地提及他的那一段往日爱情,仿佛他相信他们对此一定早有耳闻。

那位小姐住在山后峡谷的对面.那是好多年以前了,当时我还年轻,常常骑马去看她.路虽然很长,但是我骑得很快.夫人一定知道,年轻人都没有耐心.而且,那位小姐非常不友好,总是让我等,一等就是好几个小时.有一天,等了很久她也没来,我非常生气,在我们约定见面的花园里走来走去.一气之下便折了她的一棵玫瑰,只是从上面折了一根枝条下来.当我意识到自己做的事情之后,立马把它藏在了外套里.在回家之后,我便把它栽了起来.夫人都已看到了,它长成了现在这个样子.如果夫人喜欢,我一定送你一枝栽在花园里.我听说英国的花园非常漂亮,总是绿幽幽的,不像我们这里的园子,都快被太阳烤焦了.

次日,他们的马车修好了,上山来接他们。在就要离开旅馆之际,伯爵的老仆赶来了,送来一根包扎整齐的玫瑰枝条,并转达了伯爵旅途愉快的祝福。小城中的居民都赶来目送他们离去,孩童们也追随在车子后面,一直跟到小城门外。开始他们还能听到身后散乱的脚步声,但不久车子便驶入山谷,而这座喧闹的小城依然高高耸立于他们头顶的山颠。

她把玫瑰种在家中.玫瑰的长势非常好,枝繁叶茂;每年六月,在片片绿叶与新芽之中,绽放出绚丽的红花,散发出浓郁的香味,仿佛它的根须之间依旧燃烧着那位意大利情人的愤怒与没能实现的渴望。当然老伯爵肯定早已去世多年;而她也记不起他的名字了,甚至连她所住过的那座小城的名字也忘记了,虽然她曾经在拂晓之时看它犹如满天的繁星在空中闪烁。

Passage 4

Predictions of the collapse of the tropical rain forests have been around for years. Yet until recently the worst forecasts were almost exclusively linked to direct human predation, such as clear-cutting and burning for pastures or farms. Some scientists believe that the rise in carbon levels means that the Amazon and other rain forests in Asia and Africa may go from being assets in the battle against rising temperatures to liabilities. Amazon flora, for instance, holds more than 100 billion metric tons of carbon, equal to 15 years of tailpipe and smokestack emissions. If the collapse of the rain forests speeds up dramatically, it could eventually release 3.5 billion to 5 billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere each year—making forests the leading source of greenhouse gases.

有关热带雨林毁灭的预测已经有好多年了。然而直到最近，最坏的预测几乎都与人类的破坏相关，例如为建牧场或农场而成片砍伐和焚烧森林。一些科学家相信，二氧化碳水平的升高意味着亚马逊和亚洲、非洲的雨林可能从用以对抗温度升高的财富变成债务。例如，亚马逊植物群含有一千多亿吨的二氧化碳，相当于排气管和烟囱 15 年的排放量。如果雨林毁灭的速度大幅加剧，每年将向大气释放 35 亿到 50 亿吨的二氧化碳，成为温室气体的主要来源。 转贴

Passage 5

For as long as most people can remember, food has been getting cheaper and farming has been in decline. In 1974-2005 food prices on world markets fell by three-quarters in real terms. Food today is so cheap that the West is battling gluttony even as it scrapes piles of half-eaten leftovers into the bin.

That is why this year's price rise has been so extraordinary. Since the spring, wheat prices have doubled and almost every crop under the sun—maize, milk, oilseeds, you name it—is at or near a peak in nominal terms. The Economist's food-price index is higher today than at any time since it was created in 1845. Even in real terms, prices have jumped by 75% since 2005. No doubt farmers will meet higher prices with investment and more production, but dearer food is likely to persist for years.

But the rise in prices is also the self-inflicted result of America's reckless ethanol subsidies. This year biofuels will take a third of America's (record) maize harvest. That affects food markets directly: fill up an SUV's fuel tank with ethanol and you have used enough maize to feed a person for a year. And it affects them indirectly, as farmers switch to maize from other crops. The 30m tonnes of extra maize going to ethanol this year amounts to half the fall in the world's overall grain stocks.

大多数人仍能记得粮食越来越便宜，农业一直在走下坡路。从 1974 年到 2005 年，世界市场上粮食的实价掉了四分之三。今天的粮食是如此便宜以至于西方一边反对暴饮暴食，一边将成堆的只吃了一半的剩菜剩饭扔进垃圾箱。

这就是为什么今年的价格上涨如此的异乎寻常。自从今年春天小麦的价格已经翻番，玉米、牛奶、油菜籽等几乎所有阳光下的作物的牌价都在或接近最高点。《经济学家》的粮食价格指数已经高于自该指数 1845 年创立以来的任何时候。自 2005 年以来，粮食的实价也已经上升了 75%。毫无疑问，随着粮价的上升，农民会增加投资，产量也会提高。高粮价可能会持续几年。

粮价的上升也是美国对乙醇燃料不计后果地实行补贴所带来的自作自受的后果。今年生物燃料将消耗美国创纪录的玉米收成的三分之一。这直接影响了粮食市场：用乙醇装满一辆越野车的油箱所消耗的玉米足够一个人吃一年。间接的影响是，因为农民不种其他作物而转向种植玉米了。今年有三千万吨额外的玉米用于制造乙醇，这占据了世界总体谷物储存下降数的一半。

Passage 6

Being happy is more important to children than being famous or rich, a survey reveals. The poll of British primary school children also found that terrorism was considered the worst thing in the world - and that Simon Cowell was thought to be more famous than Jesus. If children ran the world they would most want to ban knives and guns and have more school holidays.

The nation-wide drive to tackle the obesity epidemic appears to have registered with children, as fear of being fat has shot up the list of worries among the under-10s to number three, up from ninth place last year. The survey of 1,800 children across the UK was carried out to mark National Kids' Day on December 18. Spokesman Patricia Murchie said: "The idea is to give preteens a national voice for their views in a very simple format. "This age group has some very clear ideas on how the world could be changed for the better but is very rarely given the opportunity to express them."

Marriage appears to have risen in popularity among children with 82 per cent saying they will wed when they grow up compared with 76 per cent in 2006 and 72 per cent in 2005.

This is how the youngsters expressed their views: What is the very best thing in the world: 1 Being happy. 2 Being famous. 3 Being healthy. 4 Being rich. 5 Families. 6 Good looks. 7 Nice food. 8 Friends. 9 Computer games. 10 Holidays. What are the very worst: 1 Terrorists. 2 Drunks. 3 Being fat. 4 Bullies. 5 Illness. 6 Dying. 7 Divorce. 8 School. 9 Telling lies. 10 Wars. Who is the most famous person in the world: 1 The Queen. 2 Harry Potter. 3 God. 4 Father Christmas. 5 Simon Cowell. 6 Jesus. 7 Jonny Wilkinson. 8 Spider-Man. 9 Prince William. 10 David Cameron.

一项调查显示，在孩子们心目中，“快乐”比“成名”或“富有”更重要。该项针对英国小学生的民意调查还发现，“恐怖主义”被认为是世界上最糟糕的事情；（美国偶像评委）西蒙·考维尔在孩子们心目中的知名度甚至超过了耶稣。如果孩子们有朝一日成为世界的主人，他们最希望禁用刀和枪支，还会延长学校假期。英国全国范围内兴起的“减肥运动”似乎也影响到了孩子。在 10 岁以下孩子最担心的问题排行榜中，“担心长胖”从去年的第九位升至第三位。这项调查共有 1800 名英国儿童参加，主要是为了庆祝昨天（12 月 18 日）的“全国儿童节”。发言人帕特里西亚·穆歇尔说：“开展这项调查主要是为了让孩子们能以一种十分简单的方式来表达自己的观点。”“10 岁至 13 岁的孩子对于‘如何让世界变得更加美好’有一些十分明确的想法，但却很少有机会将它们表达出来。”孩子们对于“婚姻”的兴趣似乎有所增长。82% 的孩子称他们长大后结婚，而去年和前年的这一比例则分别为 76% 和 72%。该项调查的结果如下：

世界上最美好的事情：1、快乐 2、成名 3、健康 4、富有 5、家庭 6、外表出众 7、美食 8、朋友 9、电脑游戏 10、放假

世界上最糟糕的事情：1、恐怖分子 2、喝醉 3、肥胖 4、欺辱别人 5、生病 6、死亡 7、离婚 8、学校 9、说谎 10、战争

世界上最著名的人：1、女王 2、哈利·波特 3、上帝 4、圣诞老人 5、西蒙·考威尔 6、耶稣 7、约翰尼·维尔金森（英国橄榄球星） 8、蜘蛛人 9、威廉王子 10、大卫·卡梅伦（英国政治家，现任在野保守党领袖）

Passage 7

Airport security lines can annoy passengers, but there is no evidence that they make flying any safer, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday. A team at the Harvard School of Public Health could not find any studies showing whether the time-consuming process of X-raying carry-on luggage prevents hijackings or attacks. They also found no evidence to suggest that making passengers take off their shoes and confiscating small items prevented any incidents.

美国研究人员日前称，机场安检让旅客很烦是真的，可是并没有证据表明这些手段让飞行更安全了。研究人员称，目前没有看到有研究表明，对旅客行李费时的 X 光检查避免了劫机或恐怖袭击行为，让旅客脱鞋并没收小件物品也没有避免意外事故。

The researchers said it would be interesting to apply medical standards to airport security. Screening programs for illnesses like cancer are usually not broadly instituted unless they have been shown to work. "We'd like airport security screening to be of value. As passengers and members of the public we'd like to know the evidence and the reasoning behind these measures." "Can you hide anything in your shoes that you cannot hide in your underwear?" they asked.

研究人员说，在机场安检中引进医疗标准可能会很有趣。在医学上，对癌症等病症的扫描操作通常不会太大张旗鼓，除非刻意为之。“我们希望机场安检也有其存在的价值。作为旅客或公众，我们想知道采取这些措施的证据和理由，”“在内衣里都无法藏住的东西还能藏在鞋里吗？”

TSA spokesman Christopher White said the agency has not had a chance to read the article. "While we can't publicize everything that we've done, every event, we can say definitively that our efforts over the last five years have not been for nothing," White added. White said the agency has pictures of shoe bombs on its Web site at (www.tsa.gov/) and welcomes people to examine them.

美国 交通安全管理局发言人怀特说他还没有读到研究人员的报告，不过他说，“我们不能把安检过程的任何事情都公之于众，不过可以肯定地说，我们在过去五年中的努力并非一无所获。”怀特说，他们的网站上就有鞋底炸弹的图片，公众可以去查看。

Passage 8

When the Bush administration first proposed holding a Middle East peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland, some months ago, the idea was greeted with almost universal skepticism. Op-ed writers mocked the key participants—U.S. President George W. Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas—for their political weakness. Ordinary Israelis and Palestinians, aware of past failures, were wary. Even the protagonists seemed ambivalent. During the conference last week, the three leaders seemed to be hedging their bets rather than announcing anything groundbreaking.

Olmert and Abbas, in a joint statement read by Bush, pledged to "make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008" on all outstanding issues separating the Israelis from the Palestinians. Yet when Abbas laid out his proposals for such a deal, Olmert and Bush avoided addressing them, sticking to nice words about "ending the occupation" and establishing "a new nation, a democratic Palestinian state."

During his seven years in office, President Bush has been criticized repeatedly for neglecting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially compared with the enthusiastic efforts of his predecessor, Bill Clinton. In changing course now, Bush argued that the time was finally right, citing the urgency of regional tensions and the desire for peace by leaders on both sides.

几个月前，当布什政府第一次提出在马里兰州的安纳波利斯举行一次中东和平会议时，这个想法几乎遭到了全世界的怀疑。反对派作家们嘲笑主要的参会者美国总统乔治·W·布什、以色列总理埃胡德·奥尔默特和巴勒斯坦民族权力机构主席马哈茂德·阿巴斯三个人在政治上的弱点。普通的以色列人和巴勒斯坦人因为知道过去和谈的失败而持谨慎态度。即使是会议的主角们，心态也是矛盾的。在上周的会议上，三位领导人似乎都在表达模棱两可的观点而不是宣布有任何突破性的进展。

奥尔默特和阿巴斯在一份由布什宣读的联合声明中保证，竭尽全力在 2008 年底前就所有有关巴以分治的尚未解决的事项达成一项协议。然而，当阿巴斯为这项协议提出建议时，奥尔默特和布什回避了这些建议，而是强调“结束占领”和建立“一个新的国家，一个民主的巴勒斯坦国”这样的美丽词语。

执政 7 年以来，布什总统一直因忽视以巴冲突而屡遭批评，特别是和前任比尔·克林顿所做出的积极努力相比。现在在改变方针的时候，布什争辩说，恰当的时机终于到了，他指出了地区紧张关系带来的紧迫感和双方领导人对和平的渴望

Passage 9

Birds and Death

The bird, however hard the frost may be, flies briskly to his customary

roosting-place, and, with beak tucked into his wing, falls asleep. He has no apprehensions; only the hot blood grows colder and colder, the pulse feebler as he sleeps, and at midnight, or in the early morning, he drops from his perch---death.

Yesterday he lived and moved, responsive to a thousand external influences, reflecting earth and sky in his small brilliant brain as in a looking-glass; also he had a various language, the inherited knowledge of his race, the faculty of flight, by means of which he could shoot, meteor-like, across the sky, and pass swiftly from place to place; and with it such perfect control over all his organs, such marvelous certitude in all his motions, as to be able to drop himself plumb down from the tallest tree-top, or out of the void air, on to a slender spray, and scarcely cause its leaves to tremble. Now, on this morning, he lies stiff and motionless; if you were to take him up and drop him from your hand, he would fall to the ground like a stone or a lump of clay--so easy and swift is the passage from life to death in wild nature! But he was never miserable

译文:

飞鸟之死

尽管天气是如此的寒冷,鸟儿还是矫捷地飞上一惯栖息的地方.把喙埋在翅膀下面,慢慢沉入梦乡.它没有丝毫的恐惧;睡梦中,只有滚烫的血液变得越来越冷;有力的脉搏也越来越微弱.在深夜或者第二天一大早,它便从栖身的树枝上跌落下来,死掉了.

昨天它还活蹦乱跳,回应外界无数刺激.它那奇异的小脑袋宛如明镜一般,映照着天地;它还会种种不同的语言,这是它们种族遗传下来的知识;还有飞行的技能,凭此它能流星般划过天空,迅速地从—个地方飞到另一个地方;它能如此完美地控制每一个器官,且每个动作都如此惊人地平稳,以致于它可以最高的树顶垂直飞下,从空旷的空中飞落到细小的树枝上而几乎不让树叶抖动.

而现在,在这个清晨,它僵硬地躺在那儿,一动不动;假如你把它捡起来,抛向空中,它就会像石头或者泥巴那样掉落在地-----在野生自然界中,由生到死是多么容易多么迅速的一个过程呀!但那鸟却永远不会觉得悲痛.

Passage 10

Some people insist that only today and tomorrow matter. But how much poorer we would be if we really lived by that rule! So much of what we do today is frivolous and futile and soon forgotten. So much of what we hope to do tomorrow never happens.

The past is the bank in which we store our most valuable possession: the memories that give meaning and depth to our lives. Those who truly treasure the past will not bemoan the passing of the good old days, because days enshrined in memory are never lost. Death itself is powerless to still a remembered voice or erase a remembered smile. And for one boy who is now a man, there is a pond which neither time nor tide can change, where he can still spend a quiet hour in the sun.

译文:

一些人坚持认为只有今日与明日最重要.可要按这条规则来生活的话,我们将会变得更加可怜.(我们的生活将会变得更加贫瘠)今天我们所做之事有多少是琐碎无功的,很快就被别人遗忘.又有多少我们明天要为之事将会成为泡影.

过去是一所银行。我们将最宝贵的财富——记忆珍藏其中。这些记忆赋予我们生命的意义和厚度。真正珍惜过去之人不会为美好时光逝去而哀叹。那些珍藏于记忆的时光是永远不会消失的。死亡本身也无法止住记忆中的声音，或擦除记忆中的微笑。对于已经长大成人的小男孩来说，那儿将会会有一个池塘。它不会因时间和潮汐而改变，可以让他继续在阳光下享受静谧的时光

Passage 11

Hour in the Sun

John H. Bradley

"...I was rich, if not in money, in sunny hours and summer days."

—Henry David Thoreau

When Thoreau wrote that line, he was thinking of the Walden Pond he knew as a boy.

Woodchoppers and the Iron Horse had not yet greatly damaged the beauty of its setting. A boy could go to the pond and lie on his back against the seat of a boat, lazily drifting from shore to shore while the loons dived and the swallows dipped around him. Thoreau loved to recall such sunny hours and summer days "when idleness was the most attractive and productive business."

I too was a boy in love with a pond, rich in sunny hours and summer days. Sun and summer are still what they always were, but the boy and the pond changed. The boy, who is now a man, no longer finds much time for idle drifting. The pond has been annexed by a great city. The swamps where herons once hunted are now drained and filled with houses. The bay where water lilies quietly floated is now a harbor for motor boats. In short, everything that the boy loved no longer exists— except in the man's memory of it.

译文：

"我是富足的，即使没有万贯家资，却也拥有无数个艳阳天与夏日。"——梭罗

当梭罗写下这句话时，他在怀念儿时的瓦尔登湖。

那时，伐木者与火车还未严重破坏湖畔美丽的景色。小男孩可以走向湖边，仰卧小舟，悠闲地飘荡在两岸之间。在他周围，潜水鸟在戏水，还有燕子轻盈地掠过湖面。梭罗喜欢回忆这样的艳阳天与夏日，"此时，悠闲也便成为最具有魅力且颇有裨益的事情。"

我也曾经是个热爱湖泊的小男孩，也拥有大无数个艳阳天与夏日。阳光与夏日依旧，而小男孩与湖泊却已改变。小男孩已长大成人，再也没有时间去湖上漂游。而湖泊已被大城市所吞并。苍鹭曾经觅食的沼泽，也已干涸，上面盖满了房舍。莲花漂浮的湖湾，也成了汽艇停泊的港口。

总之，小男孩所喜爱的都已不复存在——一切只停留在他的记忆里。

Passage 12

新中国建立了民族区域自治制度。在少数民族聚居地区设立自治机关，由当地民族自己管理本民族的内部事务。目前，全国共有 159 个民族区域自治地方，其中自治区 5 个，自治州 30 个，自治县（旗）124 个。民族区域自治地方根据

《中华人民共和国民族区域自治法》行使各种自治权利，有权依照当地民族的政治、经济和文化的特点，制定自治条例和单行条例；在不违背宪法和法律的原则下，有权采取特殊政策和灵活措施；上级国家机关的决议、决定、命令、指示，如有不适合民族区域自治地方实际情况的，自治机关可以报请批准变通执行或停止执行；自治机关有自主地管理本地方财政、经济、文化、教育事业的自治权利。在民族杂居散居地区，还建立了 1500 多个民族乡，使杂居散居的少数民族能更好地享受平等的权利。

New China brought about the system of regional autonomy for national minorities. Organs of self-government were set up in regions where people of national minorities live in compact communities, and the internal affairs of the national minorities were handled by themselves. At present, there are throughout the country 159 national autonomous areas, including five autonomous regions, 30 autonomous prefectures and 124 autonomous counties (or banners). National autonomous areas exercise all rights of self-government in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional National Autonomy and may work out autonomous rules and specific regulations according to local political, economic and cultural characteristics. Without violating the Constitution and the law, autonomous regions have the right to adopt special policies and flexible measures; autonomous organs can apply for permission to make alterations or desist from implementing resolutions, decisions, orders and instructions made by higher-level state organs if they are not in accordance with the situation in autonomous regions. Organs of self-government have the right to handle local financial, economic, cultural and educational affairs. In regions where people of a number of ethnic groups live together or in scattered communities, more than 1,500 national townships were established so as to enable national minorities to enjoy equal rights to the fullest.

必须坚持把人民群众利益放在第一位。要切实维护人民群众的经济、政治和文化权益，着力解决关系群众切身利益的突出问题，保障城乡困难群众的基本生活。不断满足人们日益增长的物质文化需要，是社会主义现代化建设的根本目的。只有执政为民，我们的各项事业才能获得最广泛最可靠的群众基础和力量源泉。

We must always put the interests of the people first. We must truly protect the people's economic, political and cultural rights and interests, pay particular attention to solving acute problems affecting their vital interests, and ensure that poor urban and rural residents have the basic necessities of life. The fundamental goal of our socialist modernization drive is to continually meet the growing material and cultural needs of the people. Only if we exercise power for the good of the people can we enjoy the broadest and most reliable support from the people and draw from them the strength for accomplishing all our undertakings.

总结一年来的工作，我们清醒地看到，经济社会发展中还存在不少问题和困难。一是经济运行中的突出矛盾虽有所缓解，但尚未根本解决。农业基础薄弱的状况没有明显改变，保持粮食增产和农民增收的难度增加；固定资产投资还有可

能反弹；煤电油运仍相当紧张；物价上涨的压力较大。

In reviewing our work of the past year, we clearly see that many problems and difficulties remain in our economic and social development. First, although the outstanding problems in economic activities have been somewhat alleviated, they have yet to be fundamentally solved. Weaknesses in agriculture as the foundation of the economy still have not improved substantially, and it has become harder to continue increasing grain production and rural incomes. In addition, there is the possibility of a return to overheating in fixed asset investment, supplies of coal, electricity, petroleum and transportation are still very tight, and there is still considerable inflationary pressure on prices.

必须坚持客观规律办事。我国现代化建设要始终坚持从国情出发，自觉遵循客观规律。既要积极进取，抓住机遇加快发展，又不能脱离实际条件，盲目扩大建设规模、片面追求经济增长速度。否则，欲速则不达，还会造成严重损失。经济工作和其他工作都要注重实效，把发挥主观能动性和遵循客观规律统一起来。

We must act in accordance with objective laws. In our modernization drive we must always proceed from actual conditions in the country and conscientiously abide by objective laws. We should work energetically and seize opportunities to speed up development, but we must not ignore reality, recklessly expand the scale of development and only pursue rapid economic growth. If we do not keep this in mind, we could end up “just spinning our wheels and going nowhere” or even suffering serious losses. Whether we are doing economic work or other work, we must strive for real results by combining our subjective initiative with adherence to objective laws.

控制固定资产投资规模。继续把好土地审批和信贷投放两个闸门。坚持实行最严格的土地管理制度，继续开展土地市场治理整顿，严格控制农用地转为建设用地，合理控制城市建设规模。加快完善重点行业的产业政策、专项规划和市场准入标准。着力优化投资结构，引导社会资金投向发展的薄弱环节。继续搞好经济运行调节，进一步缓解煤电油运紧张状况。

Reining in the scale of fixed asset investment, we will continue to closely monitor the two valves of approval for land use and availability of credit. We will maintain the strictest land management system by improving policies and intensifying law enforcement. We will improve city planning and land management, further rectify the land market, strictly limit transformation of farmland for use in development projects and appropriately control the scale of urban development. We will accelerate our work of improving the policies and plans for key industries and the criteria for their market access. We will work hard to improve the distribution of investment and guide non-government investment into areas that are developing poorly. We will continue to regulate economic activities to further alleviate tight supplies of coal, electricity, petroleum and transportation.

必须坚持处理好全局和局部的关系。全国经济是一个有机整体,应当按照“全国一盘棋”的战略布局,充分发挥各个地区的优势,调动中央和地方两个积极性。国家制定方针政策,必须考虑全局利益和长远发展,又要照顾不同地区、不同行业的特点;地方要充分发挥各自的积极性,又必须服从国家全局和长远发展的需要。

We must balance overall and local interests. Our national economy is an organic whole, so we should allow different regions to fully exploit their own advantages and mobilize the initiatives of both central and local governments in line with the strategic concept of “coordinating all the activities of the nation like moves in a chess game.” In formulating any principles and policies, we must consider not only the overall interests of the country and its long-term development but also the characteristics of each region and industry. Local governments should give full expression to their own initiative while subordinating their needs to those of the country as a whole and the requirements for long-term development.

必须坚持加强和改善宏观调控。近两年来的宏观调控,是认真落实科学发展观的重要实践。宏观调控与市场机制都是社会主义市场的基础性作用,同时要搞好宏观调控。关键是要根据经济运行的变化,把握好调控的方向、重点、时机和力度,改进调控方式方法,主要运用经济、法律手段,辅之以必要的行政手段,促进经济平稳运行和持续较快发展。

We must strengthen and improve macroregulation. Macroregulation has been an important way of implementing a scientific outlook on development over the past two years. Both macroregulation and market forces are integral components of the socialist market economy. We need to make better use of the basic role of market forces in allocating resources and carry out macroregulation well. It is important to adapt the direction, focus, timing and intensity of regulation to economic changes and to improve the methods of exercising it, which is mainly through economic and legal means supplemented by administrative means when necessary, in order to promote economic stability and sustained and rapid economic development.

Passage 13

两人都受到过猫的启示

斯卡拉蒂和肖邦都受到过猫的启示。斯卡拉蒂的猫用脚爪在他的大键琴的琴键上踩出一个一个音符时,斯卡拉蒂着手写了一首大键琴D小调赋格曲,《猫的赋格曲》。肖邦在创作F大调第3圆舞曲时,他的猫从钢琴键上跑过。肖邦感到非常有趣。在他称之为《猫的圆舞曲》中设法记下了同样的音响。

Both Were Inspired by Cats

Both Scarlatti and Chopin were inspired by cats. When Scarlatti's cat struck certain notes on the keys of his harpsichord, one by one, with its paws, Scarlatti proceeded to write *The Cat's Fugue*, a fugue for harpsichord in D minor. While

Chopin was composing Waltz No. 3 in F major, his cat ran across the keys of the piano, amusing Chopin so much that he tried for the same sounds in what is called The Cat's Waltz.

Passage 14

没有丝毫责任感

瓦格纳几乎没有丝毫责任感。他不仅似乎无力养活自己，而且从未想过有什么养活自己的责任。他确信世人应该供养他。基于这一信念，他向所有拿得出钱的人借钱——不论是男是女，也不论是朋友还是陌生人。乞讨信他一写就是二十几封。有时低声下气，不知天下有羞耻二字；有时趾高气扬地把资助他的殊荣恩赐给他看中的捐助人，要是领受人谢绝这一殊荣，他会气得半死。没有发现任何记录表明他曾经把钱付给或还给未对他提出法律上的要求的人。

凡是能弄到手的钱，他花起来象一位印度王子。他的某一出歌剧可能要上演了，单凭这一点指望，他一下子就欠下十倍于预期版税的帐单。没有人搞得清楚——肯定他自己也弄不清楚——他欠过多少钱。可是我们确实知道，一位为他出钱最多的捐助人曾经给他六千美元，帮助他偿还他在某市催得最紧的债款。一年后，又得给他一万六千美元，使他在另一个城市得以安顿下来，并免遭因无力偿还债务而锒铛入狱的灾难。

Innocent of Any Sense of Responsibility

Wagner was almost innocent of any sense of responsibility. Not only did he seem incapable of supporting himself, but it never occurred to him that he was under any obligation to do so. He was convinced that the world owed him a living. In support of this belief, he borrowed money from everybody who was good for a loan—men, women, friends, or strangers. He wrote begging letters by the score, sometimes groveling without shame, at others loftily offering his intended benefactor the privilege of contributing to his support, and being mortally offended if the recipient declined the honor. No record was found of his paying or repaying money to anyone who did not have a legal claim upon it.

What money he could lay his hands on he spent like an Indian rajah. The mere prospect of a performance of one of his operas was enough to set him to running up bills amounting to ten times the amount of his prospective royalties. No one will ever know—certainly he never knew—how much money he owed.

We do know that his greatest benefactor gave him \$ 6, 000 to pay the most pressing of his debts in one city, and a year later had to give him \$ 16, 000 to enable him to live in another city without being thrown into jail for debt.

Passage 14

自负的怪物

理查德·瓦格纳身材短小，脑袋挺大，与他的身躯极不相称——是个一副病态的矮个子。他神经脆弱，患有皮肤病。贴身穿的衣服若比丝绸稍微粗糙一点，便会使他痛苦不堪。他还有夸大妄想的毛病。

他是个非常自负的怪物。他从来不屑对世界或世人瞧上一眼，除非事情与自己有关。他不但自认为是天下头号重要人物，而且在他眼里惟有他一人生活在世间。他确信自己是世上最伟大的戏剧家之一，最伟大的思想家之一，最伟大的作曲家之一。听他侃侃而谈，他就是集莎士比亚、贝多芬、柏拉图三人于一身。你不难听到他谈话，他是世上论事不厌其烦的健谈者之一。同他度过一个夜晚，就会听他滔滔不绝讲一个夜晚。有时他妙语连珠，有时却令人厌烦不已。但不管是妙语连珠还是枯燥乏味，他只有一个话题：他自己。他总是在讲自己想些什么，做些什么。

他一味坚信自己总是对的。任何人，在最无足轻重的问题上，哪怕露出一丝异议，也会惹得他大发议论。他也许会说上好几个小时，鼓起自己那如簧之舌，千方百计证明自己是正确的。听的人被搞得耳朵发聋，不知所措。最后为了图个太平，别人也只好同意他的说法了。

A Monster of Conceit

Richard Wagner was an undersized little man, with a head too big for his body—a sickly little man. His nerves were bad. He had skin trouble. It was an agony for him to wear anything next to his skin coarser than silk. And he had delusions of grandeur .

He was a monster of conceit. Never for one minute did he look at the world or at people, except in relation to himself. He was not only the most important person in the world, to himself; in his own eyes he was the only person who existed. He believed himself to be one of the greatest dramatists in the world, one of the greatest thinkers, and one of the greatest composers. To hear him talk, he was Shakespeare, and Beethoven, and Plato, rolled into one. And you would have had no difficulty in hearing him talk. He was one of the most exhausting conversationalists that ever lived. An evening with him was an evening spent in listening to a monologue. Sometimes he was brilliant; sometimes he was maddeningly tiresome. But whether he was being brilliant or dull, he had one sole topic of conversation: himself. What he thought and what he did.

He had a mania for being in the right. The slightest hint of disagreement, from anyone, on the most trivial point, was enough to set him off on a

harangue that might last for hours, in which he proved himself right in so many ways, and with such exhausting volubility, that in the end his hearer, stunned and deafened, would agree with him, for the sake of peace.

Passage 15

不是为了批评，而是为了掌声

理查德·瓦格纳压根儿就没有想过，与他有过交往的人，并不感到他这个人和他所做的事最富有情趣、为之倾倒。他几乎对世间的一切问题都有自己的见解，包括素食主义、戏剧、政治以及音乐。为了证实自己的观点，他写了小册子、信、书……连篇累牍，好几百页。他不仅写这些东西拿去出版——所需费用往往是别人支付——而且常常一连好几个小时坐着读给他的朋友和家人听。

他写歌剧，常常是刚有一个故事梗概就邀请——或者更确切地说召集——一群朋友到他家来，把故事梗概读给他们听。不是为了批评，而是为了掌声。整出戏的歌词写完后，朋友们得再来听他朗诵。然后他就送去发表。有时歌词发表好几年，配词的乐曲才创作出来。他弹钢琴只是象个作曲家弹得那样（从这句话所能隐含的最糟糕的意义上讲），弹得糟透了，然而，他却常常坐在钢琴旁，面对包括他那个时代最杰出的钢琴家在内的一群人，一小时接一小时地为他们弹奏个不停。不用说，弹的都是他自己创作的音乐作品。他有一副作曲家的歌喉。他常常把著名的声乐家请到家里，亲自为他们演唱他的歌剧，并且包揽所有角色。

Not for Criticism, but for Applause

It never occurred to Richard Wagner that he and his doing were not of the most intense and fascinating interest to anyone with whom he came into contact. He had theories of almost any subject under the sun, including vegetarianism, the drama, politics, and music; and in support of these theories he wrote pamphlets, letters, books... thousands upon thousands of words, hundreds upon hundreds of pages. He not only wrote these things, and published them— usually at somebody else's expense — but he would sit and read them aloud. for hours, to his friends and family.

He wrote operas, and no sooner did he have the synopsis of a story, than he would invite— or rather summon — a crowd of his friends to his house and read that it aloud to them. Not for criticism, but for applause. When the complete poem was written, the friends had to come again, and hear that read aloud. Then he would publish the poem, sometimes years before the music that went with it was written. He played the piano like a composer, in the worst sense of what that implies, and he would sit down at the piano before parties that included some of the finest pianists of his time, and play for them, by the hour, his own music, needless to say. He had a composer's voice. And he would invite eminent vocalists to his house, and sing them his operas, taking all the parts.

Passage 16

美国最伟大的运动员

火车站挤得水泄不通。拉斐德学院的学生们一齐拥上站台，热切地等待着卡莱尔印地安人学校田径队的到来。倘若在几个月前，谁也没有人相信，一个谁也没听说过的学校，会在田径场上突然大败许多有名的大学。不用说，这些卡莱尔的运动员抵达后，准会象一营海军陆战队队员那样，一个接一个冲下火车。

火车终于到站了，两个年轻人——一位，个儿高，体态魁梧；另一位，个儿矮，长相瘦弱——踏上了站台。

“田径队在哪儿？”一位拉斐德的学生问道。

“就在这儿，”大个子回答道。

“就你们两个？”

“不，就我一个，”大个子说。“这位小兄弟是领队。”

拉斐德的学生们诧异地摇摇头。一定有人在和他们开玩笑。如果卡莱尔田径队就只有大个子一人，那他就得和整个拉斐德田径队比试高低了。

确实如此。他短跑、跨栏、长跑、跳高、跳远。他又投标枪又掷铅球。大个子赢得八项第一，一个人击败了整个拉斐德田径队。

这位大个子就是美国现代最伟大的运动员吉姆·索普

The Greatest American Athlete¹

The railroad station was jammed. Students from Lafayette College were crowding onto the train platform eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Carlisle Indian School's track and field squad. No one would have believed it a few months earlier. A school that nobody had heard of was suddenly beating big, famous colleges in track meets. Surely these Carlisle athletes would come charging off the train, one after another, like a Marine battalion.

The train finally arrived and two young men—one big and broad, the other small and slight—stepped onto the platform.

“Where is the track team?” a Lafayette student asked.

“This is the team,” replied the big fellow.

“Just the two of you?”

“Nope, just me,” said the big fellow. “This little guy is the manager.”

The Lafayette students shook their heads in wonder. Somebody must be playing a joke on them. If this big fellow was the whole Carlisle track team, he would be

competing against an entire Lafayette squad.

He did. He ran sprints, he ran hurdles, he ran distant races. He high-jumped, he broad-jumped. He threw the javelin and the shot. Finishing first in eight events, the big fellow beat the whole Lafayette team.

The big fellow was Jim Thorpe, the greatest American athlete of modern times.

Passage 17

悲伤，迷惘的人——吉姆·索普

1912年斯德哥尔摩奥运会后，吉姆·索普成了英雄，但没过多久，他就成了一个悲伤和迷惘的人。原来，有人发现，奥运会前两年，他曾经为了几块钱参加过半职业性的棒球比赛。许多业余运动员使用假名参赛赚钱，而索普却用了自己的真名。结果，从技术上讲，他在斯德哥尔摩参赛时，已经不是一名业余运动员了，而根据规定，所有奥林匹克运动员必须是业余选手。于是，他的奥运会奖牌和奖品被收了回去，发给第二名的获得者。那两人都拒绝接受奖牌和奖品。他们说，奖章和奖品实际上应该归索普所有。于是那奖章和奖品就存放在瑞士卢塞恩城博物馆中。索普获胜的记录也从奥运会的历史中删除了。“我对于人情世故不甚通达，”索普说。于是他决定永远放弃业余运动。

索普的崇拜者们曾经多次试图让国会把索普在1912年奥运会上赢得的奖品退还给他，这一计划从未成功。但当体育新闻记者们告诉报纸读者说吉姆·索普没有钱买票去观看在洛杉矶举行的1932年的奥运会，于是成千上万的人便把自己的票寄给这位昔日斯德哥尔摩奥运会上的英雄人物，索普还应邀和美国副总统一起坐在总统席上观赏运动项目。年当人们得知他急需医疗费不得不动手术时，从全国各地寄来的赠款使他得到数千美元的基金。

1950年，美联社曾经组织全国的体育专栏作家和体育节目广播员举行投票，其中170人投票选举吉姆为二十世纪最伟大的橄榄球明星。据美联社统计在另一次选举中，有393个体育专栏作家和体育节目广播员投票选举他为二十世纪前五十年里最伟大的运动员。他的总票数几乎和其次的三个当选者的票数之和一样多。

大约七十年以后，在1982年10月，国际奥委会决定恢复这位伟大的美国印第安人运动员的业余运动员身份并交还两枚金牌。1983年1月，国际奥委会主席萨马兰奇先生在洛杉矶亲自把这两枚金牌赠还给索普的女儿和他的孙子威廉·索普。这样吉姆·索普，这位现代最伟大的运动员终于恢复他应得的地位。

Jim Thorpe, a Sad, Bewildered Man

Jim Thorpe was a hero after the 1912's Stockholm Olympics and a sad, bewildered man not too much later. Someone discovered that two years before the Olympics he

had been paid a few dollars to play semiprofessional baseball. Though many amateur athletes had played for pay under false names, Thorpe had used his own name. As a result, he was not technically an amateur when he competed at Stockholm as all Olympic athletes must be. His Olympic medals and trophies were taken away from him and given to the runners-up. Both men refused to take them, saying they really belonged to Thorpe. The medals and prizes were then placed in a museum in Lucerne, Switzerland. The records of Thorpe's victories were removed from the history of the Olympic Games. "I was not very wise in the ways of the world," said Thorpe, and he then decided to give up amateur athletics for good.

Several times, there was an attempt by Thorpe's admirers to have Congress to return to him the trophies he had won in the 1912 Olympic Games. This project was never successful. But when sports reporters told newspaper readers that Jim Thorpe did not have enough money to buy a ticket to the 1932 Olympics, held in Los Angeles, thousands of people offered their own tickets to the man who had been the hero of Stockholm, and Thorpe was invited to sit in the Presidential Box with the Vice-President of the United States. When he had to have an operation and it became known that he needed money for hospital expenses, gifts of money from all over the country brought him a fund of several thousand dollars.

The Associated Press took a vote in 1950 among the sportswriters and sports radio broadcasters all over the country, and 170 of them voted for Jim as the greatest football star of the twentieth century; he led every other candidate. In another election, the Associated Press found that 393 sports writers and broadcasters voted for him as the greatest athlete of the first fifty years of the twentieth century. His total was almost as great as the combined score of the next three men in the pool. About seventy years later, in October 1982, the International Olympic Committee decided to restore the amateur status and the two gold medals to this great American Indian athlete. And it was Mr. Samaranch, President of the IOC, who personally presented the two medals to Thorpe's daughter and his grandson William Thorpe in Los Angeles in January 1983. Thus, Jim Thorpe, the greatest athlete of the modern times, is finally back where he well deserves to be.

Passage 18

几百万次笑声中的第一次

查理·卓别林 5 岁时偶然开始了他的表演生涯。他的母亲是音乐厅演员，一次演出中失了声，不得不离开舞台。查理上台唱了一首名曲。歌唱到一半，雨点般的钱就扔到了台上。查理停下来，对观众说，他先要拣一下钱，然后再把歌唱完。观众笑了。这是卓别林神话般生涯中赢得的几百万次笑声中的一次。在 20 世纪 20 年代至 30 年代，查理·卓别林大概是世界上最有名的人。有一次这位电影喜剧明星访问故乡伦敦，在两天之内就收到 73,000 封信。

The First of Millions of Laughs

Charlie Chaplin broke into show business at age five because his mother, a music-hall performer, lost her voice during the performance and had to leave the stage, and Charlie went on and sang a well-known song. Halfway through the song a shower of money poured onto the stage. Charlie stopped singing and told the audience he would pick up the money first and then finish the song. The audience laughed. This was the first of millions of laughs in Charlie Chaplin's fabulous career.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Charlie Chaplin was probably the most celebrated man in the world. On a visit to his native London, the motion-picture comedian received, 73,000 letters in just two days.

Passage 19

摆脱不了 13 的瓦格纳

作曲家理查德·瓦格纳（1813—1883）一生都摆脱不了 13 这个不祥的数字。他的名字有 13 个字母。他出生年份的数字之和是 13。他第一次公开演出是在 1831 年，其数字之和也是 13。他于 4 月 13 日完成《汤豪舍》，该剧于 1861 年 3 月 13 日在巴黎上演。1876 年 8 月 13 日他第一次上演《尼伯龙根的指环》，他被任命为里加国家剧院的导演那年，剧院于 9 月 13 日开幕。瓦格纳写了 13 部歌剧，被流放出萨克森 13 年，于新德意志联邦第 13 年的 2 月 13 日去世。

Wagner, Haunted by Number 13

The composer Richard Wagner (1813—1883) was haunted all his life by the number 13. There were 13 letters in Wagner's name, and the sum of the figures of the year of his birth was 13. He made his first public appearance in 1831, the number of which again added up to 13. He completed Tannhauser on April 13, and it was performed in Paris on March 13, 1861. On August 13, 1876, he began the first presentation of the Ring of the Nibelungen. The year he was made director of the state theater at Riga, the theater opened on September 13. Wagner wrote 13 operas, was exiled from Saxony for 13 years, and died on February 13 in the 13th year of the new German confederation.

Passage 20

寡言少语、性格开朗的罗伯特·伊文思牧师住在澳大利亚距悉尼 80 公里的蓝山，每到天空晴朗月光柔和的夜晚，他就把一架笨重的天体望远镜拖到自家后面的阳台，去做一件出乎寻常的事情：探测遥远的过去，寻找正在陨灭的星体。

当然，眺望过去是比较容易的事。瞥一眼夜空，你看到的都是历史，有多少

颗星就有多少部历史，因为你看到的不是星体现在的状况，而是光发射出来时候的状况。以我们所知，忠实的伙伴北极星可能在去年一月或 1854 年或 14 世纪初以来的任何时候就已经亮到头了，只是这一消息我们还不知道而已。我们只能说（也永远只能说），在 680 年前的今天它还在亮着。不断有星体殒灭，伊文思比其他夜观星象者做得更好的是他发现了天体告别的时刻。

白天，伊文思是澳大利亚联合教会的一位和善的半退休牧师，边做一些代理工作边研究 19 世纪宗教运动史。到了晚上，他就是一个不折不扣的太空头领，专门寻找“超新星”。

“超新星”的出现，是一个比太阳大得多的巨大星体崩溃，发生壮丽的爆炸景观，瞬时释放出相当于一千亿个太阳的能量，在一段时间中发出比星系中其他星球更多的亮光。伊文思说：“就像一万亿个氢弹同时爆炸。”按他的说法，如果超新星的爆炸距离我们不到 500 光年的话，我们就会灰飞烟灭。他戏称：“那就都没戏看了”。好在宇宙浩瀚，超新星通常距离我们很远，不足以造成危害。事实上，多数超新星离我们的距离超出平常的想象，其亮光在我们看来只不过是微弱闪烁而已。超新星能被看见的时间一般为一个月左右，这是它们与其他星星的差别就是占据了一个以前空着的空间位置。伊文思牧师寻找的就是这样一些在拥挤的夜空中超乎寻常、非常偶然的闯入者。

When the skies are clear and the Moon is not too bright, the Reverend Robert Evans, a quiet and cheerful man, lugs a bulky telescope onto the back sun-deck of his home in the Blue Mountains of Australia, about 80 kilometres west of Sydney, and does an extraordinary thing. He looks deep into the past and finds dying stars.

Looking into the past is, of course, the easy part. Glance at the night sky and what you see is history and lots of it – not the stars as they are now but as they were when their light left them. For all we know, the North Star, our faithful companion, might actually have burned out last January or in 1854 or at any time since the early fourteenth century and news of it just hasn't reached us yet. The best we can say – can ever say – is that it was still burning on this date 680 years ago. Stars die all the time. What Bob Evans does better than anyone else who has ever tried is spot these moments of celestial farewell.

By day, Evans is a kindly and now semi-retired minister in the Uniting Church in Australia, who does a bit of locum work and researches the history of nineteenth-century religious movements. But by night he is, in his unassuming way, a titan of the skies. He hunts supernovae.

A supernova occurs when a giant star, one much bigger than our own Sun, collapses and then spectacularly explodes, releasing in an instant the energy of a hundred billion suns, burning for a time more brightly than all the stars in its galaxy. 'It's like a trillion hydrogen bombs going off at once,' says Evans. If a supernova explosion happened within five hundred light years of us, we would be goners, according to

Evans – ‘it would wreck the show,’ as he cheerfully puts it. But the universe is vast and supernovae are normally much too far away to harm us. In fact, most are so unimaginably distant that their light reaches us as no more than the faintest twinkle. For the month or so that they are visible, all that distinguishes them from the other stars in the sky is that they occupy a point of space that wasn’t filled before. It is these anomalous, very occasional pricks in the crowded dome of the night sky that the Reverend Evans finds.