

The King and the Philosopher

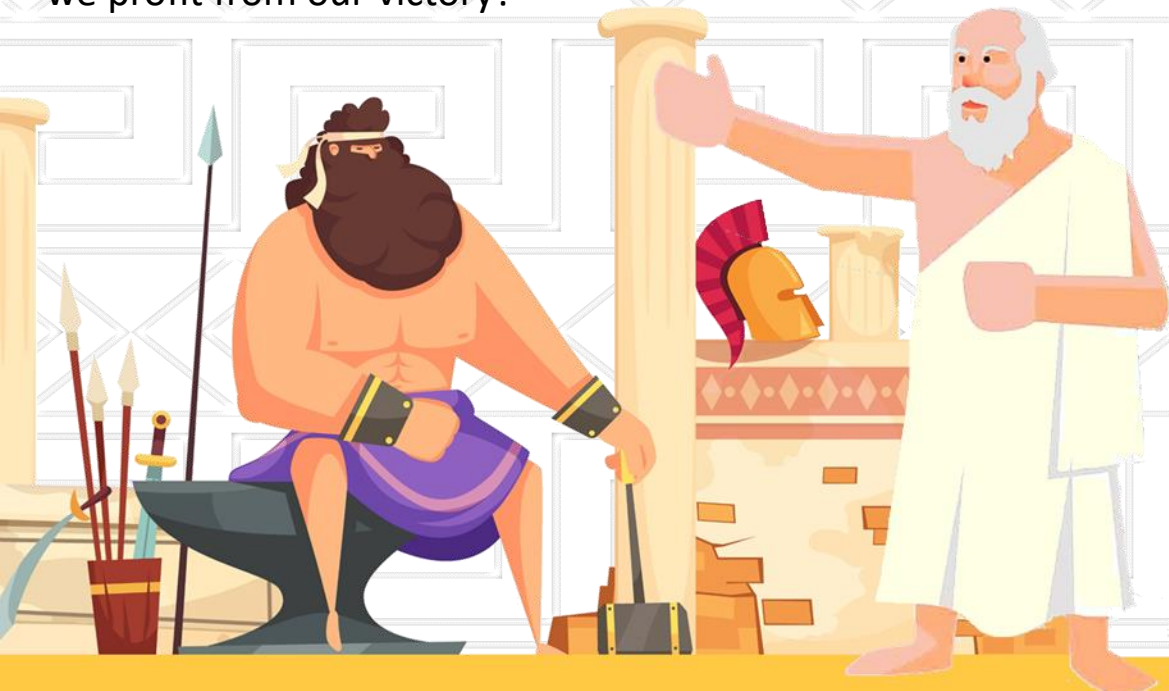
Cineas was an ancient Greek politician and a friend of King Pyrrhus of Epirus, considered one of the greatest generals in antiquity. After spending decades securing his own possessions, it was inevitable that the king would turn his attention toward the new powers of Rome and Carthage, to the west of Greece.

The story goes that Cineas tried to dissuade Pyrrhus from sailing to Italy and urged him to be satisfied with the possessions he already had. "Should the gods permit us to overcome them," Cineas asked, "how will we profit from our victory?"

国王与哲学家

西奈斯是古希腊政治家，也是伊庇鲁斯的皮洛士国王的朋友，被人认为是中古世纪前最伟大的将军之一。国王在花了几十年时间获取和巩固自身的财产以后，禁不住把注意力转向希腊西部的罗马和迦太基新政权。

故事这么说，西奈斯试图劝阻皮洛士航行到义大利，并敦促他该满足于他已经拥有的财产。“即便众神允许我们战胜他们，”西奈斯问道，“我们会如何从胜利中获利呢？”



“After we have conquered the Romans, no city in all of Italy will be able to resist us.”

“And once we have Italy, what next?”

“Sicily is a wealthy island and should be easy to take,” said Pyrrhus.

“Will that put an end to the war?”

“Of course not. Carthage would then be within reach,” said Pyrrhus. “After we have taken both Rome and Carthage, who in the world would dare oppose us?”

“在我们征服了罗马人之后，整个义大利中没有一个城市能够抵抗我们。”

“当我们占领了义大利之后，又怎么样呢？”

“西西里岛是一个富裕的岛屿，应该很容易攻取。”皮洛士说。

“这么一来，战事就此结束了吗？”

“当然不是，接下来迦太基市将触手可及。”皮洛士说，“在我们占领了罗马和迦太基之后，世上还有谁敢敌对我们呢？”



“And then what shall we do?”

“Then, my dear Cineas, we will relax, eat and drink, and have pleasant conversation.”

Cineas delivered the point he was leading to:
“What is to stop us from doing that right now, without causing further hardship to others or to ourselves?”

“然后我们将会做些什么事呢？”

“然后，我亲爱的西奈斯，我们将能一劳永逸，吃喝玩乐，并愉快地聊天。”

西奈斯提出他要指出的观点，“我们现在不是也能这样做吗？没有什么事能阻止我们，且不须带给别人或自身更多困苦呢！”



Pyrrhus and Cineas ended up sailing to Italy, and unfortunately for them, despite several successes—which gave rise to the term “Pyrrhic victory,” for a victory that inflicts such a devastating toll on the victor that it is tantamount to defeat and damages long-term progress—they never did gain that final peace the king referred to.

It’s easy to miss the chance to appreciate and enjoy our current blessings and to instead get so busy pursuing earthly goals that we lose sight of the things that will truly bring peace and contentment. May the story of King Pyrrhus serve as a life lesson to us all about investing in the things that truly matter.

皮洛士和西奈斯最终还是航行到意大利。不幸的是，尽管他们在一些战役中获得胜利，却也付出了惨重的代价。西方谚语“皮洛士式胜利”（Pyrrhic victory），正是源自这个事件。因为这场胜利带给得胜者如此毁灭性的损失，无异于失败，并破坏了长期进步，他们从未得到国王所说的最后和平。

我们很容易错过机会，没有感激赞赏和享受目前的祝福，只是忙于追求尘世的目标，以至于我们忽略了，及会真正带来和平与满足的事物。愿皮洛士国王的故事，教导我们所有人关于花时间精力在真正重要事物的人生教训。



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