

# One man's difference

## 一个人造成的差别



If you were to visit Abdul Kareem at his home in southern India, you would see acres of rich forest with abundant wildlife. But it hasn't always been that way. Twenty-five years ago, the area was a series of dry, rocky, lifeless hills.

你若到印度南部去拜访阿卜杜尔·卡里姆的 (Abdul Kareem 's) 家, 你会看到上英亩的茂密森林, 其中有许多野生动物栖居。不过, 当初情形并非如此。二十五年前, 那里也是一片干旱、嶙峋和毫无生气的丘陵。



Kareem was strangely drawn to the area during visits to his wife's family, who lived there. On an impulse, he bought five acres. In spaces between rocks, he planted saplings of trees native to the region. The well on the property barely yielded a bucketful of water at a time, so for three summers Kareem used a motorbike to haul water from a source a kilometer (about 2/3 mile) away. During this time he also bought land from neighbors who were happy to exchange their desolate properties for cash.

卡里姆妻子的家人住在那里，当他去拜访时，不可思议地被那个地区所吸引。事不宜迟，他立刻买下五英亩土地。——他在石头的间隙中栽了一些本地的树苗。地里的水井一次可取出的水几乎不到一桶，因此，卡里姆一连三个夏天，都要骑摩托车到一公里外的地方去运水。在这段时间，他还从邻居手中买下了邻接的另一块地。他的邻居很高兴能把荒地换成现钞。



The fourth year, Kareem's efforts began to pay off. The new vegetation, sparse as it was, helped his land retain more rainwater. The water level in his well rose, and that made it possible for him to gradually plant and tend the rest of his property, which had grown to nearly 13 hectares (32 acres).

到了第四年，卡里姆的努力终于开始有了回报。新的植被尽管稀疏，却能保留更多雨水。井里的水位也上涨了，他逐渐可以在其余的地方也种上树，并得以照料那些树。他的土地已经增加到13平方公里。



The transformation was slow but steady. As the saplings grew, birds flocked to the area and sowed the seeds of a variety of other plants. Year by year, more vegetation grew and more wildlife arrived. With few resources at his disposal, Kareem has changed his part of the world, day by day and step by patient step.

整个地区的转变虽然缓慢，却在稳步进行。当树苗不断长大时，鸟儿也开始聚集，带来各种各样的植物种子。大自然界的再生正在进行中。一年年过去，有更多的草木植物成长，也有更多的野生动物迁移来这里。卡里姆可使用的资源尽管并不多，但凭着日复一日、一步步的耐心努力，他改变了他所在的那部分世界。

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