



Perspectives

Bilingual children's stories

视点

双语儿童的故事

Flea Circus

Fleas can jump extraordinarily high, relative to their tiny size. Training fleas involves putting them into a small box or jar. Without a lid, the fleas could easily jump out, so the flea trainer puts a lid in place and waits.

Inside the container, the fleas jump up in order to escape. They hit the lid and fall back down. Again and again, the fleas will jump, hit the lid, and fall back. Then, after some time, the fleas don't jump so high. They jump up almost as high as the lid, but not quite.

Eventually, the trainer will remove the lid. The fleas could easily escape now, but they don't even try. They've become accustomed to only jumping to a certain height. They have more or less decided that's their limit; they are going as high as they can go, and they don't attempt anything further. Freedom is just a jump away, but it's a jump they don't make.

跳蚤马戏

相对于跳蚤的小小体形来说，它可以跳得非常高。训练跳蚤，要把跳蚤放进一个小箱子或罐子里。不加盖子，跳蚤很容易就可以跳出来，因此，跳蚤训练师就盖上盖子，在一旁静观。

容器里的跳蚤为了逃走，会跳起来。它们会撞到盖子上，掉下来。一次又一次，跳蚤会不停地跳，然后撞到盖子上，又掉下来。过了一段时间之后，跳蚤就不会跳那么高了。它们会跳得差不多和盖子一样高，但却不会和盖子一样高。

最终，训练师会除去盖子。跳蚤现在很容易就可以逃走了，但它们甚至连试都不会试。它们已经习惯了跳到某一高度。它们多少已决定了自己的局限在哪里；它们只跳所能跳的高度，多一点，都不愿试。轻轻一跳，即可获得自由，但它们却不会这么做。

“Stupid fleas,” we say. “So void of intelligence that they don’t realize the lid has been removed.”

But come to think of it, we too sometimes allow ourselves to be limited by barriers that exist only in our minds. We tried and failed at something, and our confidence was shaken. The next time around, when an opportunity arose to try something new or bigger, we didn’t rise to the challenge because we didn’t think we were capable of doing it.

Life is full of new beginnings and fresh possibilities. We don’t have to let the setbacks or mistakes of the past hold us down, like the nonexistent lid on the fleas’ jar. No imaginary limits for us!

- Abi F. May

“好笨的跳蚤喔，”我们说。“它们不知道盖子已经被拿走了。”

但只要想一想就知道，我们有时也会允许只存在于我们心里的障碍限制自己。我们尝试失败，信心就动摇了。下次当有机会尝试新的或更大的事情时，我们就不会去接受挑战，我们认为自己做不到。

生活充满了新开始和新的可能。我们不必为过去的挫折或错误所限制，它们就像跳蚤罐子上不存在的盖子一样。对我们而言，不应该有想象中的限制！



“Go to the ant!”

“Go to the ant, ... consider her ways and be wise.”

One king used to relate to his friends an anecdote of his early life. “I once was forced to take shelter from my enemies in a ruined building, where I sat alone many hours,” he said. “Desiring to divert my mind from my hopeless condition, I fixed my eyes on an ant that was carrying a grain of corn larger than itself up a high wall. I numbered the efforts it made to accomplish this object. The grain fell 69 times to the ground; but the insect persevered, and the 70th time it reached the top! This sight gave me courage at the moment, and I never forgot the lesson.”



“去察看蚂蚁！”

“去察看蚂蚁的动作，就可得智慧。”

有位国王常与朋友谈起他早期生活的轶事。

“我曾被迫在一座毁坏的建筑物里躲避敌人的追捕，我单独在那里待了好几个小时，”他说：“为了使自己去想无望的情况，我专注去看一只背着比其本身还大的玉米粒、往上爬的蚂蚁。我仍记得这只蚂蚁为完成目标所付出的努力。玉米粒掉落地上69次；但这只蚂蚁仍坚持下去，到第70次牠终于到达墙顶了！这个情景给了我当时所需的勇气，和一个我永不会忘记的功课。”

No Limits

Needy miners and settlers in British Columbia, Canada, engaged in stripping abandoned Fort Alcan of lumber, electrical appliances, and plumbing, made an amazing discovery. While dismantling the jail they found that the mighty locks were attached to the heavy doors, and two-inch steel bars covered the windows, but the walls of the prison were only wallboard made of clay and paper, painted to resemble iron. A good old heave against the walls by a man not as strong as a football tackle would have burst the wall out. But nobody ever tried it because nobody thought it possible.

You'll never know what can be done until you try to do it.



没有限制

加拿大卑诗省贫困的矿工和移民，在从事移除被废弃的阿加堡里的木材、电器设备和铅管时，有惊人的发现。在拆除监狱时，他们发现厚重的门上加了强大的锁，窗户上有两英寸厚的钢条，但监狱的墙只是由粘土和纸做成的墙板，特别上过漆以使它看来像是用铁做成的。甚至不须如在橄榄球赛上阻截对方队员那么有力地在墙上敲打，便可撞破墙板。但没有人试过，因为无人认为是可能之事。

尝试之后，你才会明白自己能做什么。

Shake it off and step up

A story is told of a dog that belonged to a certain farmer in what had once been a gold-mining area. One day, while the farmer was walking with his dog in bushland near the farm, the dog fell into one of the many old abandoned mineshafts. Although the shaft was dry and quite narrow, it was not so deep and the dog managed to survive the fall without breaking any bones.

The farmer could hear his dog barking pitifully, but could not get down the narrow, crumbling shaft to get him. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer decided the only thing to do was to end his dog's distress as soon as possible. He decided to bury the dog in the old shaft and put him out of his misery. He went back to his farm, got some tools and on returning, began to shovel earth quickly into the shaft.

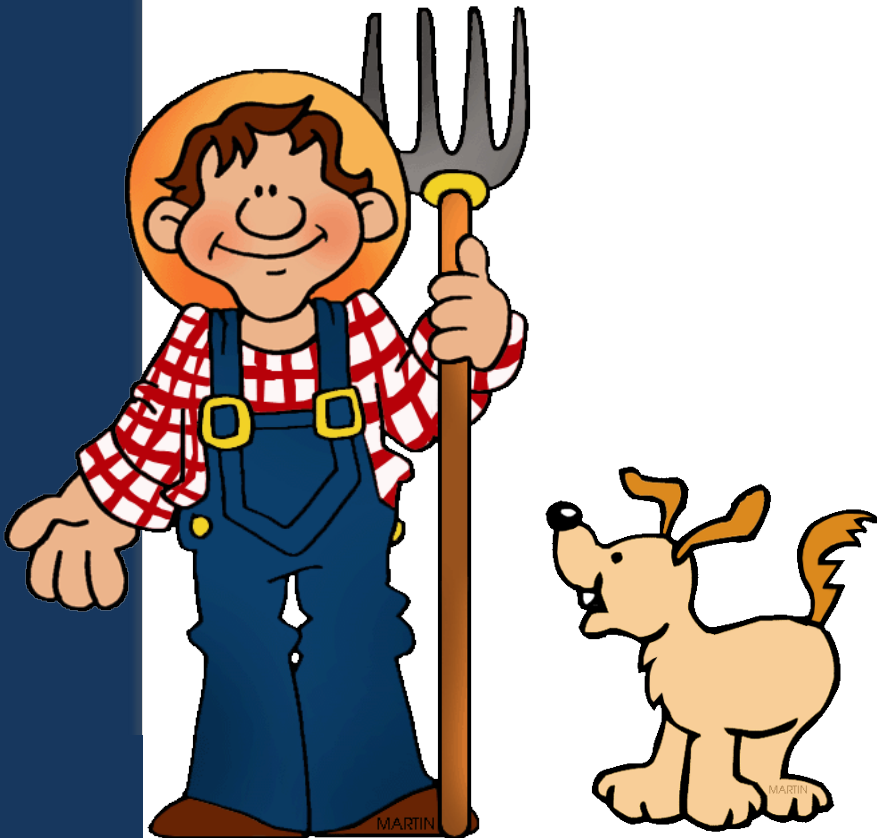
奋斗：把土甩掉和踩在土堆上

这是有关一只狗的故事。牠的主人是一位住在曾经是个金矿地区的农人。有一天，农夫带着他的狗在农场附近未开垦过的地区散步时，狗儿掉进了其中一个废弃的矿坑。虽然矿坑是干的、也十分狭窄，但却不很深，狗儿掉下去时没有摔断任何骨头。

农场主人可以听到他狗儿可怜的吠声，但却无法爬下狭窄、快倒塌的矿坑救它。在仔细评估情况后，农场主人决定唯一可做的事是，尽快结束他那只狗的痛苦。他决定把狗埋在矿坑里。他回到农场拿了一些工具，再次回到矿坑后，开始快速地把土铲进矿坑里。

Initially, the dog was terrified as the earth fell on him in the darkness. But as the farmer continued shoveling and the dirt hit the dog's back ... the dog shook it off and stepped up. Clod after clod rained down on him. "Shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up!" the dog seemed to be saying to himself. No matter how painful the blows, or how hopeless the situation appeared in the dim depths of the shaft, the dog fought his panic and just kept right on shaking off the dirt and stepping up until at last he was within reach of the farmer who joyfully hauled him out to safety.

最初，当狗儿在黑暗中因有土落在牠身上而感到很害怕。但当农场主人继续铲，泥土也掉落在狗背上时...狗儿开始把土甩掉和踩在土堆上。泥土如雨点般地落在它背上。“把土甩掉和踩在土堆上...把土甩掉和踩在土堆上...把土甩掉和踩在土堆上！”狗儿好像在对自己这么说。不管泥土掉落在牠背上时有多痛苦，在灰暗矿坑里的情况看来有多无望，狗儿没有放弃跟恐慌的争战，并不断把土甩掉和踩在土堆上，直到最后它被农夫快乐的拉到安全之地为止。



The end of a bitter trial

It happened around the year 1640. A group of Spaniards was traveling through the jungles of South America when one member of the party fell seriously ill with malaria. In a short time, the fever weakened him so much that he was unable to walk.

His friends were at their wits' end. They improvised a stretcher from branches and tried to carry him on it. The condition of the sick man and the difficulties in transporting him became such that they finally decided to lay him down at the side of a pool of water, in the shadow of a tree with thick foliage. There they left him.

His situation seemed desperate. His fellow travelers had left him some food, but he paid no attention to it. Water! That was his only thought. Tormented by a burning thirst, he bent down to the water, only to fall back in despair. The water had an awful, bitter taste.

痛苦考验的结束

这大约发生在1640年。一队西班牙人正在旅行穿过南美的一些丛林，团体中的一个成员得了很严重的疟疾，在很短的时间内，高烧就使他虚弱得无法走路。

他的朋友们不知所措。他们临时用树枝做了一个担架，试着去抬他。因为病人的情况和运送他的困难，最后他们决定把他放在一个水塘旁，在一棵有着浓密叶子的树的阴凉下。他们离开了他。

他的境况看起来很绝望。他的同伴们给他留下一些食物，但他没有注意到。水！那是他唯一想到的。受着燃烧般的口干舌燥的折磨，他往水里倾身下去，但是失望地跌了回去。这水有股令人讨厌的苦味。

But as time went on, and the fever continued to burn and consume his body, he drank again and again. Then a strange thing happened. After every drink of water, the fever seemed to subside and the pain to become less severe. Strength returned to his weak body.

Healing had come to him through the bitterness of the water. You see, the tree under which his companions had laid him was the Cinchona, or quinine tree. Leaves and pieces of bark had fallen into the water, and the quinine had dissolved. Not only was the exhausted traveler completely restored, but a wonderful remedy was discovered, through which countless lives have since been saved.

- As told by Corrie Ten Boom in her book, *Father Ten Boom*.

但是随着时间的推移，高烧在继续不断地燃烧和耗尽着他的身体，他不断地喝着那水。然后一个奇怪的事发生了，每一次喝完水之后，高烧似乎就有所减退，疼痛也变得不那么严重了。力气重新回到了他虚弱的身体。

那苦水医治了他。他的同伴们把他放在下面的那棵树，是金鸡纳树，也叫奎宁树。树叶和树皮落在水里使奎宁溶解了。不仅仅是这个筋疲力尽的旅行者复原了，一种神奇的药物从此被发现了，从那以后，无数的人得到了拯救。

(见彭柯丽的书《家父》)



Attitude Is Everything

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique restaurant manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, 'Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood."

态度决定一切

杰利是那种你真想讨厌的人：他总是好脾气，总是说积极的话。当有人问候他时，他总是说：“好极了！简直是再好不过了！”

他是一位独特的饭店经理，因为有几名饭店的侍者总是跟随他从一家饭店转到另一家饭店。这些侍者们跟随他的原因，正是由于他的态度。他天生就是一个能够激发工作热情的人。要是他的雇员情绪不好的话，杰利就会劝告他去看生活中积极的一面。

看到他如此乐观，我感到很好奇。有一天，我走到杰利的面前，问他说：“我简直搞不明白！你不可能整天都是这么乐观！你怎么能够做得到呢？”

杰利回答说：“每天早上，在我醒来之后，我就对自己说：‘杰利，你今天有两种选择：你可以选择心情愉快，也可以选择心情沮丧。’于是，我就去选择心情愉快。”

“Yeah, right. It's not that easy,” I protested.

“Yes it is,” Jerry said. “Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life.”

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in the restaurant business: He left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him.

Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

“是的，这很不错！但这并不是一件容易做到的事！”我抗议道。

“这很容易！”杰利说道：“生活中充满了选择。当你从生活中去粗取精之后，你就会看到：每一种情形都不过是一种作选择的机会。——你可以选择如何对事情做出反应，选择如何让人们影响你的情绪——好情绪、或坏情绪。你所做出的每一种选择，都会决定你如何去生活。”

几年后，我听说杰利做了一件在饭店行业里不该做的事情：一天早上，他忘记了锁后门，结果有三个持枪的强盗用枪顶住了他。在他试着打开保险箱的时候，由于紧张，他的手开始颤抖，而且无法打开暗码锁。这时，强盗们开始惊慌失措起来，就朝他开了枪。

幸运的是，很快就有人发现了杰利，并且把他送到了当地的外伤医疗中心。经过了18个小时的手术和几个星期的特别护理，杰利终于伤愈出了院；但是，在他的身体里却依旧带着枪弹的碎片。

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

在事情发生了半年之后，我又见到了杰利。当我问他近况好不好时，他仍然回答说：“好极了！简直是再好不过了！你想看看我的伤疤吗？”

我婉言谢绝了他。我问他说：“在抢劫事件发生的时候，你都想了些什么？”

“我想到的头一件事就是：我应当锁上后门。”杰利答道。“随后，当我倒在了地板上时，我便想起了自己仍有两种选择：我可以选择活下去，或者去选择死亡。结果，我选择了活下去。”

“你当时不害怕吗？那时，你失去知觉了吗？”我问道。

杰利接着说：“医护人员真了不起。他们不停地告诉我说：我会没事的。但当他们把我抬进了急诊室时，我从大夫和护士的表情上才看出了事情的严重性，我感到很害怕。因为从他们的眼神里，我看出了他们的想法：‘他已经是个死人了。’我知道自己应该采取什么行动！”

“What did you do?” I asked.

“Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me,” said Jerry. “She asked if I was allergic to anything. ‘Yes,’ I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, ‘Bullets!’”

Over their laughter, I told them, ‘I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.’”

Jerry lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

- Francie Baltazar-Schwartz

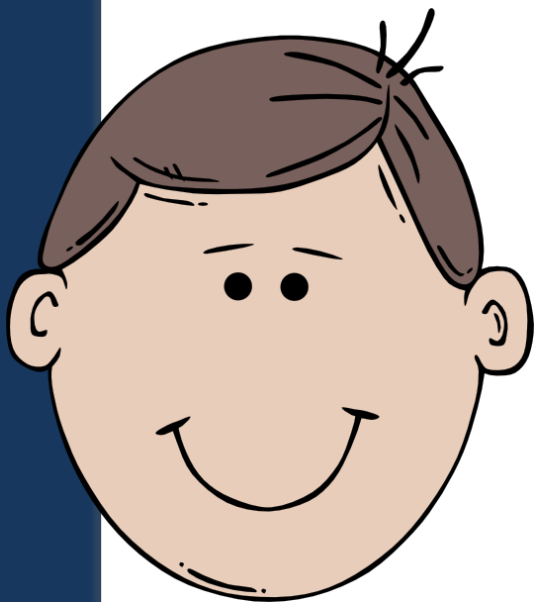
“你都做了些什么呢？”我问道。

“有一位膀大腰圆的护士高声地问了我许多问题，”杰利说：“她还问我是否对什么东西过敏？‘是的，’我说，大夫和护士全都停住了手，等着我往下说。我深深地吸了一口气，全力嚷道：‘子弹！’”

他们禁不住大笑起来。在他们的笑声中，我对他们说：‘我选择活下去，请把我当作活人、而不是死人那样来做手术吧！’”

于是，杰利就活下来了。这在于医生的医术，也在于他令人惊异的积极态度。我从他身上学到了这样一个道理：每天，我们都要选择去过一种充实的生活。毕竟，态度决定了一切！

- 弗朗西·巴尔特扎 - 施瓦兹
(Francie Baltazar-Schwartz) 著



双语儿童的故事：
www.freekidstories.org

Art from various clipart sources/Phillip Martin
(www.phillipmartin.info; used under Creative Commons license)