

WORD POWER

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES DIVISION, CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU

取諸自然

生活上的智慧要經年累月才會慢慢增長。 在原始社會裏,先民面對自然災害、猛獸威脅, 必須想方設法抵禦,才可自保平安,繁衍不息。 通過摸索實踐,古人漸漸領悟到取諸自然的 道理,學會伐木蓋建房舍,削石製作武器,冶金 煉造器皿。木、石和金屬都是大自然賦予的 材料,善加利用,有助推進人類文明,久而 久之,更衍生出獨特的文化意義。

以木材作為人才之喻,自古已有。古代 房屋,門扉梁柱皆為木造;宏偉的建築,如皇宮 大殿、深山古刹等,則用參天古木作棟梁。能肩 擔重任的人,可謂棟梁之材。與棟梁之材相反 的,是朽木之材。俗諺云:"木朽蟲生,牆罅 蟻入"。《論語·公冶長》載,孔子因見宰予白天 睡覺,虛擲光陰,遂以"朽木不可雕也,糞土之牆 不可杇*也"來批評這名弟子。後世故用"朽木 糞土"比喻一些不堪造就的人。木材經過雕琢, 可造成各式家具器物,但腐爛了的木頭卻無法 雕刻;生性懶惰的人終日無所事事,始終難成 大器。樹木如樹人,常言"十年樹木,百年 樹人",樹苗要培育多時才會長成婆娑大樹,造就 良才也非朝夕可竟之事。宋代王安石筆下的方仲 永天資聰穎,惜其父貪財,沒有悉心栽培,結果 良材入爨**,"泯然眾人",未能成為騏驥之材。

石的形態千變萬化,各具其貌。不過,無論 是光滑的江邊鵝卵,還是嶙峋的太湖怪石,都堅 硬緻密。因此,石常作為堅不可摧之喻。石頭千 年不化,不易為風雨所損,不易因時日而變, 在人們心目中,既是頑固也是無情之物。一個人 冥頑不靈,便有如不可點化的頑石;要令頑石 點頭,非下一番工夫不可。缺乏同情心者,謂之 鐵石心腸;心腸之硬,非大悲大慟之事不足以動 其容。此外,石頭也可作為沉重之喻,心事 重重,愁腸百結,便有如心中橫着一塊石頭, 坐立難安。 金、銀、銅都是貴重金屬,古時作錢幣之 用,當中以黃金最為稀珍。從古到今,黃金一直 是珍貴的象徵,俗語就有"浪子回頭金不換"的 說法。文人如不輕易下筆,可用"惜墨如金"來 形容。戰國末期秦相呂不韋命門客編《呂氏 春秋》,自以為內容完備,盡錄"天地萬物古今 之事",揚言能增刪一字者,即賞千金;這便是 成語"一字千金"的由來。常用敬詞中,也有不少 與黃金有關:古時生於富貴之家的姑娘稱為"千金 小姐",以顯示身分矜貴;現今尊稱人家的女兒, 仍用"千金"一語,其閨閣則稱為"金閨"。另外, 別人的承諾尊為"金諾",意謂珍貴如黃金,並非 輕易可得,典出《史記•季布欒布列傳》:"得黃金 百斤,不如得季布一諾"。

雖說滴水可穿石,烈火能流金,可是金和石始終遠較木頭堅硬。金石因此常作堅貞之喻,譬如"金石之交"比喻友誼牢固,"金石良緣"比喻此愛不渝。古語云:"精誠所至,金石為開",心誠意堅,可產生無窮力量,堅如金石也為之裂開。《易經·繫辭上》曰:"二人同心,其利斷金",意謂同心戮力,無堅不摧。另外,"眾口爍金"表示輿論可造成強大影響力,足可把金熔掉。這些都是以金石作喻的例子。昔日皇宮的藏書閣秘存珍貴文獻,稱為"石室金匱"之藏。據史書記載,石室金匱自秦漢已有,唐代經學家顏師古《漢書注》曰:"以金為匱,以石為室,重減封之,保慎之義"。歷代均建有金石藏書閣,北京故宮的文淵閣就曾經庋藏乾隆年間編纂的《四庫全書》。

現代人起居飲食的各式器具,用材當然不限於木、石和金屬,化工材料的製品隨處可見。 不過,木、石、金三者所承載的文化意義歷久 不衰,而正因為有文化上千絲萬縷的聯繫,人對 物那份感情也就更見深厚。

^{*} 杇,塗抹牆壁的工具,此處解作"粉刷",粵音"烏",普通話 唸"wū"。

^{**} 爨,爐灶,粵音"寸",普通話唸"cuàn"。

黃絹幼婦

謎語雖非中國獨有的文字遊戲,但在中國的 發展,源頭可遠溯至春秋。《國語·晉語五》載:

范文子暮退於朝。武子曰:"何暮也?"對曰:"有秦客廋辭於朝,大夫莫之能對也,吾知三焉。"

范文子告訴父親范武子,當日朝上有一位秦國來的客人提了一些拐彎抹角的問題,士大夫皆無言以對,而范文子自己則只懂其三。從二人的對話可見,當時的外交辭令已用上隱語,以曲折的比喻或暗示來表達意思,避免因為直述而引起不便。"廋辭"即隱語,大抵就是我們今天所説的謎語。

南朝劉勰在《文心雕龍·諧讔》中釋隱語如下: "讔者,隱也,遁辭以隱意,譎譬以指事",指出隱 語的目的,是隱去本事,假以他辭比喻或暗示。 先秦的隱語往往有矯弊曉惑的政治作用,不過, 漢以後隱語則以文字遊戲居多,不入正統。

東漢時有"曹娥碑"的故事,載於《世說新語·捷悟》。話說曹娥投水覓父屍而沉於江中,縣令有感於其孝行,遂立碑表彰。以博學多才見稱的蔡 邕經過立碑處,在碑的背面題了八個字:

黄絹幼婦

外孫白

蔡邕的啞謎無人能解,直至曹操和楊修路經該處,楊修才把那八個字所隱藏的意思一一拆解:"黃絹色絲也,於字為絕;幼婦少女也,於字為妙;外孫女子也,於字為好;虀臼受辛也,於字為辭*";蔡邕題字的意思,實為"絕妙好辭"四字。"黃絹幼婦"可謂謎語中的經典,遂成為謎語的代稱。

謎語往往要琢磨再三才能猜破。因此,人們 把謎語寫在紙條上,再黏附於花燈,方便猜謎 商揣,這便是燈謎的起源。猜燈謎的習俗據説始 於北宋,仁宗時人和年豐,文人出題把謎面貼於 花燈之上,考問賞燈人。宋以後,每逢正月十五 元宵佳節都會張燈結綵,把謎語貼在花燈上供 競猜,藉添節日氣氛。燈影人海,遂成為元宵一 大特色。清代《都門記略》收錄了以下這首詩,描 寫元宵猜燈謎的情景:

> 幾處高燈掛粉牆,人人痴立費思量; 秀才風味真堪笑,贈彩無非紙半張。

清代《燕京雜記》載:"上元設燈謎,猜中以物酬之,俗謂之'打燈虎'。謎語甚典博,上自經文,下及詞曲,非學問淵深者弗中。"燈謎又名"文虎"或"燈虎",把猜燈謎比作打虎、射虎一樣不容易,因此提示往往含"打"字或"射"字,如"打一古典名著"、"射一四字成語"等。燈謎有固定形式,通常分為三個部分:謎面、謎扣(或稱謎目)、謎底。下舉一例:

年近古稀 射一宋朝人(陸九齡)

"年近古稀"為謎面,是概括謎底的語句;"射一宋朝人"為謎扣,作用是限定猜射範圍;"陸九齡"為謎底,也就是燈謎的答案。陸九齡是南宋理學家陸九淵之兄,因此符合謎扣所指。古稀即七十歲,而"陸九齡"可解作六十九之齡,意思貼近"年近古稀";謎面、謎扣、謎底三者巧妙配合。



的巧妙心思。燈謎的內容豐富多樣,饒有趣味。 有些套用文學典故,得詩書滿腹才能猜對;有些 內藏市井俚語,通俗之餘,詼諧幽默。意趣迥 異,雅俗兼之。

燈謎源遠流長,本為民間口頭創作,縱使不太受人重視,卻歷久不衰。謎語雖無文學價值, 難與流傳千古的文章和著作相提並論,但取材 廣泛,有助於啓發思考,加強分析能力,同樣是 智慧的結晶,傳承有自。

下面三個燈謎,大家可有興趣動動腦筋,按 謎扣的提示找出答案?**

> 林(打一表演道具) 十斗(打一地質學名詞) 散財(打一中藥)

- * 虀臼乃受辛之器,即辛辣物的盛器。上古文字合"受""辛"為 "辭"。虀,粵音"擠",普通話唸"ji"。
- ** 謎底依次為"木偶"、"化石"和"金銀花"。

鍥而舍之,朽木不折;鍥而不舍,金石可鏤。

《荀子•勸學》



SHINY SILVER

Silver, a shiny precious metal, has an age-old link with fortune. In wealthy and

sophisticated families, for example, a lot of household utensils, including tableware, are made of silver. The tradition is for children of such families to be presented with a gift of silver spoons by their godparents at their christening ceremony. So children "born with a silver spoon in their mouths" are those born of rich parents. They are likely to inherit a great fortune, and hence be able to lead a privileged life without much effort.

What about people with a "silver tongue"? Are they equally well off? The answer is no. People who are "silvertongued" are those good at talking, especially those with a flair for persuading or impressing others. So they are usually good orators. However, sometimes circumstances require one to remain silent, and the saying goes "Speech is silver, but silence is golden." On certain occasions, too much talking might produce undesirable effects. For example, making a humorous remark in a sensitive situation may not be a wise move, for that remark might be taken in a negative way. This echoes the Confucian teaching "多言多败", which means the more one says, the more trouble one may invite.

Like gold, silver shines in light. If we see a silver lining around a cloud, that means the sun is about to shine again and a cloudy day is merely temporary. Metaphorically, this may be taken to mean that a gloomy situation is likely to be followed by something sunny. So those who are in distress might find it comforting and encouraging to be reminded of the proverb "Every cloud has a silver lining", which is similar to the Chinese idiom "雨過天晴" — sunshine will always come after showers.

Whether used in making jewellery or other ornaments, silver remains a kind of material that people are very much fond of. However, not all things associated with silver are welcome by us. For example, though "silver fox" is used rather euphemistically to refer to a grey-haired gentleman of a certain age, the appearance of silvery hair on our head is after all considered an alarming sign. While it is a nice thing to see goldfish swimming leisurely in an aquarium, we might get goose bumps if we see "silverfish" moving among our books. Silverfish is no fish, but a greyish insect that causes damage to paper products and clothing!



The Midas Touch 點后成金

"The Midas touch" is probably something that most businessmen long for. Why? It is because "the Midas touch" enables them to succeed easily at everything they do, and hence brings a thriving business.

The term has its origin in the Greek legend about King Midas. One day, Silenus, the chief of satyrs*, was found drunk in Midas' rose garden and brought to the King. Midas recognised Silenus and treated him with hospitality before arranging for Silenus to rejoin his pupil Dionysus, the God of wine and fertility. As a token of thanks for such kindness, Dionysus decided to reward Midas and granted him a wish. Midas hastily asked that everything he touched be turned to gold.

Midas was overjoyed at his new gift. But very soon, he came to regret this indiscretion as all the food and wine he was about to consume turned to gold in his mouth. Worse still, his daughter became a golden statue when she was touched by his hand. Desperate from hunger, thirst and remorse, he prayed to Dionysus, begging to be freed from this magical spell. Dionysus took pity on him and ordered him to bathe in the River Pactolus. Midas obeyed and was released from the curse. The name of Midas is thus associated with riches, while "the Midas touch" has become an idiom denoting the ability to make money effortlessly. For example, "Warren Buffett has the Midas touch in investment, which compels admiration."

"The Midas touch" may also be expressed as "the golden touch", which is more comprehensible to those having no idea who Midas was.

* Satyrs are mythological creatures, usually depicted as half-man and half-goat.

在現今的商業社會裏,相信許多人都渴望像希臘傳說中的彌達斯 (Midas) 一樣,擁有點金之術,使財源滾滾而來。有人在股票市場投機買賣,有人炒賣樓房,有人沉迷賭博,無非奢望不費多大力氣即可賺取厚利。

希臘有彌達斯點物成金的故事,中國古代神話也有許遜點石成金的傳說。《列仙傳》云:"許遜,南昌人,晉初為旌陽令,點石化金,以足逋賦。"許遜為東晉道士,得道成仙之前曾任旌陽縣令。某年,農民因歉收而無力繳納賦稅。許遜於是叫大家挑來石頭,然後施展法術,用手一指,把石頭通通變成金子,用以補足百姓所欠之賦。成語"點石成金"就是據此面來。"點石成金"確是奇能異術,難怪孫悟空在車遲國得悉有高人"呼風喚雨,只在翻掌之間;指水為油,點石成金,卻如轉身之易",也急欲求見(《西遊記》第四十四回)。

"點石成金"後引伸指善於修改詩文,比喻稍加改動,腐朽頓化神奇,綻放異彩。宋代胡仔《苕溪漁隱叢話後集·孟浩然》曰:"詩句以一字為工,自然穎異不凡,如靈丹一粒,點石成金也",讚美孟浩然煉字的功力,在"微雲淡河漢,疏雨滴梧桐"兩句中,"淡"、"滴"二字有點石成金之妙。

"點石成金"也作"點鐵成金"。宋代黃庭堅《答洪駒父書》:"古之能為文章者,真能陶冶萬物,雖取古人之陳言入於翰墨,如靈丹一粒,點鐵成金也。""點鐵成金"四字也最能體現黃庭堅所代表的江西詩派那種變古求新的詩歌創作風格。



"Only" in the Right Place

"Only" is a little word that we often use in everyday writing. It can perform various functions in a sentence — as an adverb, an

adjective or a conjunction. When used as an adverb, it denotes nothing, nobody or nowhere except the one being referred to, and may appear in different positions in a sentence. However, different positions stress different things, and give different meanings. Here are some examples:

Only Marcus won a silver medal in the track events. Marcus won only a silver medal in the track events. Marcus won a silver medal only in the track events.

In the first example, "only" is placed before the subject "Marcus". This means other than Marcus, no one in the team won a medal in the track events.

In the second example, "only" is placed before the object "a silver medal". This means all that Marcus got in the track events was a silver medal. That is to say, he did not win a gold medal in these events.

In the third example, "only" is placed before the adverb of place "in the track events". This means Marcus won a silver medal in the track events, but not in any other events.

Putting these three examples into context, we might come up with the following:

Only Marcus won a silver medal in the track events. His teammates all returned empty-handed.

Marcus won *only* a silver medal in the track events. He failed to claim any gold.

Marcus won a silver medal *only* in the track events. His performance in other events was awful.

The general rule is: "only", when used as an adverb, should be placed closest to the element it modifies. In oral English, this rule is often disregarded, because intonation and stress are capable of preventing ambiguity, but for written English, we should take care to put "only" in the right place, because misplacement will result in a shift in emphasis or even misunderstanding and give rise to incorrect interpretations.

As an alternative, the pattern "It is only...that..." can be used to give the same emphasis. Rewriting the three examples above, we would have:

It was only Marcus that won a silver medal in the track events.

It was only a silver medal that Marcus won in the track events.

It was only in the track events that Marcus won a silver medal.

So, when unsure of the right position of "only" in a sentence, we may simply start with "It is only..." plus the words to be stressed. In this way, we can convey the meaning precisely.





Man is harder than iron, stronger than stone and more fragile than a rose.

Turkish Proverb

中流砥柱

"中流砥柱"常用來比喻起着支柱作用的中堅分子,特指在逆境中肩負重任、支撐危局的能者。"中流"原指河流中央,也就是水流最湍急之處;"砥柱"實為黃河激流中的砥柱山。該山屹立於河南省三門峽的急流之中,千百年來,任憑流水沖擊,依然屹立不倒。山峯露出水面,形如柱石,故得"砥柱石"之名。

北魏酈道元《水經注·河水》記載: "昔禹治洪水,山陵當水者,鑿之,故 破山以通河。河水分流,包山而過。山 見水中若柱然,故曰砥柱也。"據書上 所載,古時大禹開山治水,倖存的山峯 便成為今天屹立水中的柱石。唐代柳公 權曾賦詩詠砥柱石,詩云:"孤峯浮水 面,一柱釘波心"。



後以砥柱石作喻,多指在動盪局面中能承受壓力的骨幹人物。宋代朱熹《與陳侍郎書》有以下一例:"而二公在朝,天下望之,屹立若中流砥柱,有所恃而不恐。"不少人把"中流砥柱"這個成語誤作"鐘樓底柱",相信是因"中流"與"鐘樓"、"砥"與"底"粤音相同所致。尋根探源,"中流砥柱"與鐘樓毫不相干,並非借鐘樓底座作喻。知道箇中典故後,日後便不會承訛踵謬,誤寫誤用了。

Prop and Stay

Props and stays are similar in the functions they perform: they both serve to lend support to other things. Their primary meanings are then extended to refer to a source of strength or support. So when someone is said to be the "prop and stay" of a certain entity, that implies he or she provides the chief support. In a family, the "prop and stay" is essentially the breadwinner. Here is an example: "As the prop and stay of his elderly parents, Johnson is indiscriminate in taking up freelance jobs."

"Prop and stay" is often used as a set phrase. Alternatively, either "prop" or "stay" alone may suffice to convey the same meaning. For instance, we may simply say "Mutual forbearance is the prop of traditional marriages" or "Miriam became the stay of her family business upon her father's retirement". For emphasis, we may use the term

"mainstay" (a strong rope used to steady and support the mainmast of a ship), as in this example: "The electronics and garment industries used to be the mainstays of Hong Kong's economy."

Other than "prop" and "stay", there are several other options in our vocabulary to stress the pivotal role someone or something plays in a community, system or institution. Here are just a few: "The police force are the *linchpin* of our law and order"; "Traditional virtues remain the *cornerstone* of every Chinese community", and "We have high hopes for the younger generation, the *pillars* of our society".



鼎之一二

99999999

遠古之時,祖先未懂得用火,過着茹毛飲血的日子。及後發現了火,因而學會烹煮,食具也隨之出現。據文獻所載,最早的食具皆為石製或陶製,後來人們懂得採礦和冶煉,就開始用銅器。



後世借鼎的形制而有"鼎足而立"之説,喻指三方面勢均力敵,典出《漢書·蒯通傳》。謀士蒯通慫恿韓信自立,與楚漢瓜分天下:"方今為足下計,莫若兩利而俱存之,參分天下,鼎足而立,其勢莫敢先動。"像三國時期魏蜀吳三分天下的形勢,可稱為"鼎足三分"。不過,只有三方勢力互相牽制,才可用鼎足喻之,像五代十國這種羣雄割據的局面,就不能説成"鼎分天下"。

春秋時期有"列鼎而食"的場面。時人用一套 形制相同但大小不一的鼎來盛載食物,地位愈 高,用鼎愈多。天子地位尊貴,可設九鼎,每鼎 盛載一種食物,如牛、羊、豬、魚等。"列鼎而 食"後指飲食窮奢極侈。另外,"三牲五鼎"也指 飲食極盡奢華。據《禮記》所載,先秦的祭祀活動 務必齊備三牲、五鼎、八簋。三牲為豬牛羊,五 鼎盛載五種不同的肉食,八簋盛載八種不同的糧 食。從祭品之盛,可見古人對祭祀一絲不苟。

鼎也是古代帝王統治權力的象徵。傳説夏禹 統治天下時,用各方所貢的青銅鑄造了九鼎,代 表當時九個州,取其天下歸夏的意思。自此九鼎 代代相傳,視為重器。《左傳·宣公三年》載,楚國 在莊王統治下國力日增,足以威脅周室。莊王伐 戎後,路經東周的城郊,在此閱兵,向周天子宣 威。周天子不敢怠慢,派大夫王孫滿前往慰勞楚 軍。莊王伺機探聽九鼎的輕重大小,王孫滿洞悉 莊王話外之音,便不亢不卑地指出,鼎之大小輕 重在於君王之德,不在於九鼎本身 — 君王有美 德,則鼎雖小猶重不可遷,相反,君王昏庸,則 **鼎雖大仍輕而可遷。周室勢力縱然今非昔比,但** "天祚明德,有所底止",現在還不是取而代之的 時候;因此,"鼎之輕重,未可問也"。這便是"問 鼎"的典源,後人借此作為覬覦政權之意。九鼎既 為鎮國之寶,故又有"一言九鼎"的説法,意謂一 句話的分量重如九鼎,能起決定作用。

《周易·鼎》爻辭曰:"鼎折足,覆公餗**", 意謂鼎足折斷,便會倒翻公侯的佳餚。由此產生 成語"折足覆餗",指做事必須量力而為,勉強 為之,只會像折足的鼎一樣,一敗塗地。《史記· 秦本紀》另有"舉鼎絕臏"的故事:戰國時期,



鼎的基本功用是煮食或盛載食物,站不穩便容易打翻。盛器如僅得兩足,自然難以站穩;就算多至四足,倘若參差不齊,又或地面不平,始終不穩當。三足設計則可解決此問題,即使長短稍見參差或地面凹凸不平,依然站得穩。以三足形制造鼎,盡顯古人智慧。

- * 洎,湯汁,粵音"記",普通話唸"jì"。
- ** 餗,鼎中之食,粤音"速",普通話唸"sù"。

ووووووووو

Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold.



Maurice Setter

公文錦囊

鏤金刻石

銘文是一種古老文體,源遠流長;刻銘敍事,周秦已有。古時的碑碣、鐘鼎等物上的文辭,不少出自名家手筆。銘文通常刻於碑板或器物之上,功用以祝頌、警戒為主,以歌功頌德和昭申鑑戒。唐代封演《封氏聞見記•石志》載:"若有德業,則為銘文"。南朝劉勰《文心雕龍•誄碑》釋曰:"碑實銘器,銘實碑文";換言之,碑是用來刻銘的器物,而銘就是碑上的文辭。

金屬和玉石堅硬無比,古時已是刻銘所用的物料。現今銘文也多刻於金屬或玉石之上,取其永垂萬世的意思。立碑敍事相當普遍,例如大型設施或特別的建築物落成啓用,又或意義重大的活動開展推行,許多時候均會立碑為記,以示隆重。

昔日銘文多用韻語,章句工整,詞藻華麗。今天的銘文只要做到雅正得體、簡明達意便可,艱澀難懂,反礙溝通。銘文的篇幅可長可短,通常以一段為限,且不用標點,分行時應注意在適當處斷句,有需要可加虛詞襯字,務求每行語意完整。一般而言,政府所擬的銘文,內容包含以下四個部分:

- 1. 立碑緣由(如建築物奠基、大型設施落成);
- 2. 主禮人(應提行頂格,以表尊重);
- 3. 立碑者(如前面已提述,則略而不贅);
- 4. 立碑日期。

不過,這樣的結構組合並非一成不變。以下面兩款 碑銘為例,前者不註明主禮人和立碑者,後者則同時列 出主禮人和立碑者:





按照傳統行文格式,銘文一般由右至左直排,格局務求工整美觀。不過,現今的銘文格局不拘,並無定式,如情況特殊,參差錯落也未嘗不可。另外,若中英銘文並置,更可靈活變化,中文銘文按英式由左至右置中横排;下例只錄中文,略去英文部分:



從以上各例可見,正文多以套語收束;為求簡潔易懂,通常以"立此為記"收結便可。不過,許多銘文詞藻華麗,文采彧彧,為配合文辭風格,可選用較為古雅的收結語,使文氣連貫。現把常見的幾種收結方式表列如下,並附解釋,以供參考:

文句	釋義
爰鐫吉金 (金屬碑)	於是刻在堅美的金屬之上。"爰",粤音"緩",解作"於是";"鐫",粤音"專",指雕刻;"吉金",本為古時祭祀用的鼎彝,現泛指以青銅等鑄造的器物。
爰泐貞珉 (石碑)	於是刻在堅美的玉石之上。"泐",粵音"肋",通"勒",指用刀刻;"貞"解作"堅硬美好";"珉",粤音"民",指玉一般的美石。"貞珉"也作"貞石"。
爰泐貞銘 (金石皆可)	• 於是刻在堅美的石或金屬之上。
爰綴數言 (金石皆可)	於是用若干文字記載下來。把文字組織為篇章謂之"綴"。也作"爰誌數言"。
以紀其盛 (金石皆可)	藉以記載如此盛事。也作"以誌其事"、"是以為記"。
以垂永紀 (金石皆可)	藉此流傳下去作為永久紀念。也作"以垂不朽"、"用垂久遠"、 "以誌永久"。
永誌弗諼 (金石皆可)	 永遠紀念,莫被遺忘。"諼",粵音"圈",忘記之意。

同事如在撰寫或審閱銘文方面有疑問,歡迎向公務員 事務局法定語文事務部研究支援組查詢(電話:2867 4997)。 游藝

澤琴天成

樹木是自然生態不可或缺的一 部分,除為大自然的生物提供食物和 棲身的地方外,對人類的生活起居也有 莫大貢獻。

單單是樹幹,就提供堅硬的 木材,可製成各式生活用品,大 如臥椅,小如筆筒,不一而足。傳 統家具如用上花梨、紫檀、黃楊等名 木,格外古雅別致。樹根縱橫交錯,看似 無用,實可變廢為寶,經過藝術家巧妙處 理,成為舉世無雙的珍品,教人讚歎不絕。

根雕藝術,或稱根藝,由來已久,是一門古老的造型藝術。根據考古發現,根藝早在二千多年前已經出現,而且水平相當高。湖北江陵馬山一號楚墓出土的"辟邪",虎首龍身,四足兔尾,是現今所知最早的一件根雕作品,可追溯至戰國年代。唐代文獻也有關於

根雕的記載,韓愈在諷世詩《題木居士之一》中提到被尊為神佛的"木居士","根如頭面幹如身",便具有根雕的特徵。宋明期間,根藝益趨成熟,畫家偶爾會把根雕作品繪入畫中。到了清代,更是根藝家輩出,不僅民間百姓,就連宮廷上下也喜歡欣賞根雕,根藝遂登上大雅之堂,廣受重視。

傳統根雕一般依形寓意,以具象入題,按照根材的原生形態立意,創造出活靈活現的人物、鳥獸等形象,又或山川林木等景觀,合自然之奇與工藝之巧,七分天成, 三分人工。這種因材命題的造型藝術,與隨意造象和可以徹底改變原生形態的木雕藝術,截然不同。

根雕的造型基本上由根材決定。根材的形狀、質地、紋理和色澤變化多端,往往令藝術家浮想聯翩,靈感泉湧。在不損自然美的前提下,後天的加工和修飾有助突出主題,錦上添花。根藝講求的不是仿真之工,

而是神韻之妙,似與不似之間,自有趣味。人工雕琢適 可而止,否

 態,流於庸俗呆板。根雕貴乎自然,得來之根材本 具天然美態,有時只要去汁除皮,再稍為打磨上 色,已是獨一無二的傑作。即使要局部細琢,也得 因材施藝,恰如其分,避免露出斧鑿痕迹。無論是 簡雕還是巧雕,巧借天然是其精神所在。以自然為 主,以雕刻為輔,含蓄樸拙,是根雕的主要特色。

> 除了供賞玩的藝術擺件之外,根 雕其實還包括家居用品,如屏風、枱 椅、几架等,既具實用價值,也可裝 飾家居,令一室添雅。

> > 顧名思義,根藝是以樹根為施藝的對象。實際上,選材並不局限於樹根,扭曲變形的枝幹,特別是有節、疤、瘤、洞的部分,都是根藝家眼中不可多得的材料。在惡劣環境中生長的樹木,形態尤為獨特,更是百載難

遇。藝術家獨具慧眼,原本在山中慢慢朽壞的根幹,經發現和提煉,反而獲得了永恆的生命。

中國幅員遼闊,不同地區的土質、氣候迥異,孕育出品種繁多的樹木,用作根雕材料,各有鮮明特色,而不同地區,如福建、浙江、安徽、廣西等的根藝,也因此大異其趣。不過,無論從哪裏採材,為確保作品完成後能永久保存,木質必須細密堅實,以不易腐蛀、龜

裂或變形者為宜。 樹木千姿百態,給予根藝家無 窮無盡的想象空間。根雕作品既能 保留根幹的天然美,又注入藝 術家功同造化的創造力,形 神兼備,野趣橫生。擷天 然之美,復以巧藝昇 華,使原先人們不屑 一顧的奇根怪木變 為藝術珍品,不但 觀賞者為之神往, 就連收藏家也青睞

玉石金鐵,猶可琢磨以為器用,而況於人

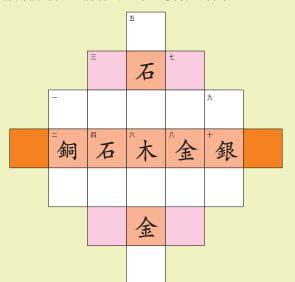
劉台

有加。





金、銀、銅合稱三金,跟木、石一樣,都是大自然賦予的有用物質。下面的圖形隱藏十個與金、銀、銅、木、 石有關的詞語,包含典故、比喻和專有名稱。你能否根據提示,逐一找出?所有答案均由上而下豎讀;每行為一組, 有兩個部分,前者的尾字為後者的首字。



- 古時錢幣的別稱,也是商周時鑄造器物的主要材料。
- 曹操所建三台之一,據説是給大小二喬居住的地方。
- 黄山一景,有從天而降之意。
- 立於門戶前或衢巷口的碑,有辟邪擋煞的作用。
- 指顛倒是非,胡謅騙人。
- 原指東王公與西王母,後喻為慶壽的主人夫婦。
- 世 神話中昆明國所貢鳥兒嗽吐之物,載於南朝梁人任昉的 《述異記》。
- 八 猶言非常珍貴,也是草藥名稱。
- 水中的月光,見宋代范成大《頃乾道辛卯歲三月望夜》一詩。
- 大雨的比喻,見宋代陸游《七月十七日大雨極涼》一詩。

請在二零一零年五月二十日前,把答案連同下列個人資料寄回"香港金鐘道66號金鐘道政府合署高座2310室公務 員事務局法定語文事務部《文訊》編輯委員會"。答對問題者可獲書券一張,名額五個。答案及得獎者名單將於下期

公布(答案以《文訊》公布有為準)。	
姓名:	
部門:	
職位:	_ 電話:
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何維安先生

鄭建華先生

委員

委員

Solution of Issue No. 38

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Sin Shun-ling	Hong Kong Police Force
Lee Siu-wan	Lands Department
Shum Kwai-kam	Rating and Valuation Department
Tang Siu-yin	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

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