

WORD POWER

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花鳥蟲魚

花鳥蟲魚是詩人騷客反覆詠歎的對 象,每多與精神境界、人生理想聯繫起 來,以小見大,教人感悟至深。

蘭花素有花中君子之譽,高潔的形象在中國文化中貫徹如一。孔子十分注重品德培養,多次以蘭花作為賢者之喻,"蘭當為

王者香"這句話流傳至今。《孔子家語·在厄》記孔子訓勉弟子曰:"芝蘭生於深林,不以無人而不芳;君子修道立德,不為窮困而敗節",意謂君子守節之心,不可因逆境而動搖,應如蘭花一樣,無論生長在什麼地方,依然散發幽香。愛國詩人屈原在《楚辭·離騷》中,同樣以蘭花象徵高潔脱俗,如"時曖曖其將罷兮,結幽蘭而延佇。世溷濁而不分兮,好蔽美而嫉妒",以蘭花之清幽對比時世之混濁。晉代陶淵明也曾以蘭花自況,盼望懷才得遇,《飲酒之十七》云:"幽蘭生前庭,含薰待清風。"

蟬也常常被人格化,作為風骨錚錚的象徵。蟬 蜕殼變為成蟲之前,棲於污泥濁水之中,羽化之 後,則伏居高枝,唯露是餐。蟬吸露不食的習性, 教人聯想到與人無求的情操。因此,蟬除了被古人 賦與重生的意義之外,更是讀書人立身處世的榜 樣。晉代郭璞《蟬贊》曰:"蟲之清潔,可貴唯蟬, 潛蜕棄穢,飲露恆鮮",把蟬視為高潔的化身。曹 植在《蟬賦》中頌讚蟬的貞剛:"淡泊而寡欲兮,獨 哈樂而長吟;聲皦皦而彌厲兮,似貞士之介心。" 不過,蟬在高枝獨鳴,也予人孤高的感覺;有些士 人難容於世,堅持潔身自愛,不隨俗流,便借 這種小昆蟲抒懷,惺惺相惜。 鳥能振翅拍翼,任意飛翔,縱橫天下。古往今來,抱 負遠大者,都借飛鳥寄寓理想,自勉

自勵。古時不少有識之士苦於出身貧寒或囿於社會制度,無法一展平生之志,處境恰如籠中之鳥無法高飛。西晉左思《詠史之八》曰:"習習籠中鳥,舉翻觸四隅",正好道出時不利兮、懷才不遇的無奈。懷抱天下之人,皆不甘為樊籬所困,總希望鯤鵬展翅,一舉千里。不少鳴禽歌聲悦耳,人愛豢養籠中,儘管生活無憂,卻喪失自由。人在官場,其實也如籠中鳥一樣備受束縛。宋代歐陽修貶官外任時,作《畫眉鳥》一詩,當中"始知鎖向金籠聽,不及林間自在啼",正是詩人重獲自由的寫照。

飛鳥在天際翺翔,游魚在水中暢泳,同樣無拘無束,教人嚮往。陶淵明尚未歸隱時,作《始作鎮軍參軍經曲阿》,詩云:"望雲慚高鳥,臨水愧游魚。"《昭明文選》釋曰:"魚鳥咸得其所,而己獨違其性也。"詩人才行高遠,特立獨行,在官場浮沉,根本非其所願。天上鳥、水中魚都自由自在,陶淵明羨慕之餘,不禁自慚形穢,故在《歸園田居》中,有"羈鳥戀舊林,池魚思故淵"之歎。熱衷功名者,均渴望鯉躍龍門,扶搖直上;其實追逐名利,貪慕榮華,代價匪淺。正如宋代趙方《溪魚》一詩所言:"溪流渺渺淨漣漪,魚躍魚潛樂自知。若逐桃花浪裏去,風雷相送入天池。"

不少人認為,花鳥蟲魚僅為賞玩之物,微不足道,但當我們把情感志趣投射其上,意蘊便豐富起來,超乎物象的層面,甚至關乎人

生要義,足以託情 寓意,明心啓性。

四時兮代謝,萬物兮遷化。 聽春鳥於春朝,聞秋蟲於秋夜。

盧照鄰

Birds & Words

Though city development has destroyed the natural habitat of many birds, occasionally we still see a hawk gliding in the sky or sparrows hopping on the pavement. In the suburbs, where we have lush greenery, birds remain a common sight.

There are many references to birds in the English language. Here are just a few examples. Except for those that are caged and certain species like penguins and ostriches, birds fly freely in the air. These winged creatures are widely accepted as symbols of freedom. Hence we have the simile "free as a bird" to capture the idea of a carefree mood. You might have heard of "I'd rather be a sparrow than a snail", the opening of the folk song El Condor Pasa. This, in the same vein, is also a reference to the yearning for liberty. But if you are told "The bird has flown" when looking for someone, the person you want to find is already gone.

Like other animals, there are both diurnal and nocturnal birds. Some wake up with the rising sun, while some are active at night. Metaphorically, people who get up early are called "early birds". Sometimes this expression also refers to people who arrive early. In real life, a railway company might offer early-bird tickets to those who leave home early in the morning; likewise, certain hotels might provide early-bird packages for those who check in before the peak season begins. We also have the proverb "The early bird catches the worm", which suggests that opportunities are only available to those competitors who

arrive first. By extension, you may use this proverb to remind people that to be successful, they have to take immediate action. Those who go to bed late are "night owls". Some Hong Kong people are typical "night owls"; they prefer working at night or enjoy nightlife a lot. Along the same lines, people who "fly with the owls" are those that become most active or creative at night.

Some people find owls scary. With two big forward-facing eyes and a flat face, they look distinct from other bird species. To indicate that you are not foolish or easily frightened, you may say "I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls".

In many places, the sight of owls is believed to be an ill omen of bad luck or even death. In English culture, however, owls have long been held as a symbol of wisdom. Owls can see well in darkness while humans cannot. This

might explain why we have the expression "wise as an owl". In Greek mythology, owls were often associated with Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom, and were chosen as the mascot of Athens. Since Athens is home to owls, it is meaningless to "bring owls to Athens", which has now become an idiom meaning to undertake a pointless venture. "Send owls to Athens" or "carry owls to Athens" are variants having the same meaning.

典問

鱼腸雁足,,,,

書信除了傳遞消息之外,更可傳情寄意。古時人們兩地分隔,全靠書信聯繫,或託人捎信,或飛鴿傳書。無論是塞外從戎,還是浪跡四海,一封家書,可抵萬金。

我們常把信札書簡稱為"魚雁",書信何以與"魚"、 "雁"扯上關係?

原來早於漢代,"魚"已是書信的代稱。樂府《飲馬長城窟行》曰:"客從遠方來,遺我雙鯉魚。呼兒烹鯉魚,中有尺素書。"此詩為婦人思夫之作,當中"雙鯉"所指的,並非真正的鯉魚,而是兩塊魚形木板,一蓋一底,用來把信藏在中間。古人用絹寫信,故書信又名"尺素"。詩中説"烹鯉魚",實指解開信夾,取出裏面的"尺素書"。據現代學者聞一多研究所得,魚形木板上鑿有一孔作魚目,繩子綑繞木板後由此穿過,令雙鯉合而為一,最後加上封泥。可見把書信藏於"雙鯉",既能保密,也能防止損毀。除了"雙鯉"之外,"雙魚"、"鯉素"、"魚書"等皆為書信的別稱,文學作品中尤為常見,例如"重泉若有雙魚寄,好知他年來苦樂,與誰相倚"(清代納蘭性德《金縷曲·亡婦忌日有感》);"於傳鯉素,耿耿生平"(清代金人望《答鈕琇書》);"長江不見魚

書至,為遺相思夢入秦"(唐代韋皋《憶玉簫》)。

另外,《漢書·蘇武傳》載,漢武帝時蘇武出使匈奴,結果留胡十九年不得歸。後昭帝立,要求讓蘇武回國,但匈奴訛稱蘇武已死。蘇武屬下用計,教漢使這樣對匈奴王說:"天子射上林中,得雁,足有繫帛書,言武等在某澤中",單于不虞有詐,唯有把蘇武遣返漢土。古人相信鴻雁等雀鳥能充當信使,故"鴻雁"可指代書信。"雁足"、"雁帖"、"雁書"等,都是書信的別稱,例如"魚腸雁足望緘封,地遠三江嶺萬重"(唐代李紳《逾嶺嶠止荒陬抵高要》);"烽火相連,雁帖魚書誰與傳"(元代李唐賓《梧桐葉》);"今日龍山外,當憶雁書歸"(唐代王勃《九日懷封元寂》)。"鴻雁"也可指親人的音訊。雁羣隨季節遷徙,秋去春回,人們盼望春臨雁歸時,遠方會傳來親人的音訊。宋代林景熙《答柴主簿》曰:"銅槃消息無人問,寂寞西樓待雁音",當中"雁音"便是音訊之意。

"魚"和"雁"均指代書信,故有"魚腸雁足"、"魚 封雁帖"、"魚書雁帛"、"魚箋雁素"等説法。另外, "雁去魚來"表示互通消息,"雁逝魚沉"、"雁杳魚沉" 則表示音訊斷絕。



説促織



昆蟲之中,蟬、螽斯、蟋蟀等鳴蟲甚得人喜愛。 蟋蟀,又名促織或趨織,在方言中也叫蛐蛐兒,文人 則稱之為蛩*。從古代詩詞歌賦可見,這種小昆蟲使 人聯想翩翩。

蟋蟀在我國最古老的詩歌中已經出現。例如《詩經·豳風·七月》借蟋蟀的活動寫季節變化:"七月在野,八月在宇,九月在戶,十月蟋蟀入我牀下。"蟋蟀生命短促,炎夏過後,秋末冬初,便告別人間。入秋後,天氣一個月比一個月冷,原本在曠野鳴叫的蟋蟀,為了避寒來到屋檐下,再跳進屋內,最後躲到牀下,此後蹤影不復見。蟋蟀入屋取暖,大概是常見之事。三國阮籍《詠懷之十四》一詩云:"開秋兆涼氣,蟋蟀鳴牀帷。"另《詩經•唐風•蟋蟀》三章均以"蟋蟀在堂,歲聿其莫"起首,寫蟋蟀由野外入屋,感歎時光流逝,勸人珍惜光陰。

在湮遠的古代,蟋蟀的叫聲早已引起人們注意。《古詩十九首·明月皎夜光》曰:"明月皎夜光,促織鳴東壁。"詩人意不在詠蟋蟀,而是借其聲襯托月下躑躅的悵惘。蟋蟀鳴叫,其實只為求偶,由於詩人滿懷心事,蟲鳴入耳頓成哀音。蛩吟惹人愁緒,唐代杜甫亦有同感,其詩《促織》云:"促織甚微細,哀音何動人",藉此訴説思親情懷。另賈島《客思》一詩借蟋蟀的吟叫烘托遊子思鄉之情:"促織聲尖尖似針,更深刺着旅人心";夜半聞蟋蟀聲,教人倍覺寂寥。

蟋蟀的鳴叫短而急,似有催促之意。古時人們聽到蟋蟀的叫聲,便知道秋天已至,於是趕緊預備過冬。晉代崔豹《古今注·魚蟲》謂:"促織,謂鳴聲如急織。"蟋蟀的鳴叫有如機杼之聲,催促婦女趕快編織,以免隆冬之時沒有寒衣保暖。古代俚語故有"趨織鳴,懶婦驚"之説。靜心聞之,其實蟋蟀的叫聲也可以是悦耳的天籟。據五代王仁裕《開元天寶遺事》所載,唐代後宮妃妾有養蟋蟀之習:"宮中秋

興,妃妾輩皆以小金籠貯蟋蟀,置於枕畔,夜聽其聲。"後來,流風所及,民間百姓也學着養蟋蟀。

蟋蟀除了能鳴之外,還很擅鬥,是勇悍的象徵。 據説鬥蟋蟀的遊戲始於唐代天寶年間。宋朝宰相賈似 道便深好此道,甚至帶同蟋蟀上朝議政,鬧出笑話。 賈似道也醉心研究蟋蟀,曾著《促織經》,是為首部蟋蟀專書。明代蔣一葵《長安客話》載:"瓦盆泥罐,遍市井皆是;不論男女老幼,皆引鬥以為樂",可見鬥蟋蟀之玩意,朝野皆盛。不少富家子弟喜在家設蟋蟀會,而老百姓也在里巷聚集鬥蟋蟀。正所謂奇貨可居,待價而沽,一隻擅鬥的蟋蟀往往身價驚人,儘管如此,依然有買家不惜一擲千金求之。

明代高承埏在《蟋蟀賦》中,把鬥蟋蟀的場面描寫得生動傳神:"賭以玉塵,注以金錢;東西對列,左右旁觀。策之以草杆,鼓之以笑喧……負者斂形卻竄,捷者凌勢長驅。餘聲不絕,膽氣猶粗。逞雄驕於頃刻,變勝敗於須臾。"蟋蟀相鬥,通常勝方得賞,因而形成賭博之風。明代沈德符《萬曆野獲編》載:"每賭勝負,輒數百金,至有破家者。"鬥蟋蟀之風在明清兩代盛極一時,清代蒲松齡曾在《聊齋誌異·促織》中諷刺這種風氣:宮中盛行鬥蟋蟀,故向民間徵集蟋蟀,百姓不堪其擾。這篇小説表面上是"以促織富,裘馬揚揚"的故事,但"天子一跬步,皆關民命,不可忽也",才是旨趣所在。

鳴叫也好,格鬥也好,本是蟋蟀天性。文人墨客 多愁善感,把蛩吟當作悲歌,託物寄情,無傷大雅。 然而,人們為求足不出戶便能聽到蛩聲,竟將蟋蟀困 於籠中,令其喪失自由;復有好勇鬥狠者,藉蟋蟀互 鬥取樂,以致同類相殘,何其殘忍!蟋蟀一生短暫, 不過數月,棲身野外,自有其天地,何苦捕而虐之?

* 蛩,粤音"窮",普通話唸"qióng"。



Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

Rachel Carson



觀羽思情

民政事務總署 一級法定語文主任謝穎詩

香港擁有不同的生態環境,又位於候鳥遷徙的 "東亞-澳大利亞飛行路線"之上,是雀鳥長途飛行 的重要補給站。四季更替為我們帶來不同訪客,長 居香港的留鳥更多不勝數。根據記錄,曾在香港出 現的雀鳥超過五百種,鳥種之多,約佔全中國三分 之一。在大自然中,每隻小鳥都訴說着一個故事。

白居易的《燕詩》概括道出燕子哺育雛鳥的辛勞,現代的燕子父母更要面對不少新挑戰。家燕 (Barn Swallow) 是香港的夏候鳥,每年夏天都會來港繁殖後代。在元朗市中心,一雙家燕返回往年居住的屋檐築巢。過了約一個月,小家燕出生了,家燕爸媽含辛茹苦餵哺小寶寶。某天,牠們如常外出覓食,不料大廈外牆開始維修,燕巢外架設了棚架並鋪上了圍網,令燕巢的入口受阻。家燕爸媽多番嘗試也未能返回巢



長途旅程往往會遇到一些意外之事。踏入秋天,維多利亞公園的草坪來了一位很特別的訪客,頭戴羽冠,身穿黑白斑駁的衣裳,經常在草地上用又長又彎的嘴挖蟲吃。這種鳥稱為戴勝 (Eurasian Hoopoe),在香港屬偶見鳥。戴勝的到訪吸引了很多觀鳥者,公園的晨運客也紛紛駐足觀看。長途飛行令這隻初來乍到的鳥兒疲憊不堪,加上正值換羽期,每天都要辛勤覓食,為下一個旅程做好準備。經過數星期,新羽毛已長得差不多了,可是某個下午,忽遭流浪貓襲擊,右腳受了傷,一拐一拐的,覓食時也得奮力用翅膀

撐着。究竟這 位遠道而來的 訪客能否康 復,再次踏上 旅程呢? 在大自然中,每個小生命都得來不易。炎炎盛夏,一對小䴙䴘*(Little Grebe)忙碌地在米埔魚塘的淺水處築巢。過了數天,小鸊鷉媽媽下了六顆蛋,兩口子喜孜孜的期待新生命降臨。但是,經過連場暴雨,鳥蛋一顆又一顆被沖走了,最後只剩下四顆。小䴙䴘夫婦沒有氣餒,來來回回加高鳥巢,以免再有鳥蛋給沖走。正當孵化期快將結束時,鳥巢又遭水淹,最終只有一個寶寶趕及在大水再犯之前出生。小䴙䴘夫婦焦急地在鳥巢附近徘徊,不住哀鳴,確定其他鳥蛋都無望孵化後,才依依不捨地離去。牠們只好忘記傷痛,全力撫養唯一的寶寶。

倖存的小鸊鷉比手掌還要小,看上去頗為瘦弱,經常躲在母親背上取暖。牠對四周充滿好奇,不 時撐着小小的身軀四處探索。得到父母悉心照料,小

寶寶羽翼漸豐,只消 兩星期便可以跟隨。 母在池塘內覓食。 然那年夏天連場大 雨,但小鸊鷉一家三 口仍堅強地熬過。 到 了秋天,小鸊鷉寶 已可單獨生活了!



野生雀鳥經常面對各種挑戰:人為因素會令骨肉分離,長途遷徙險阻重重,惡劣天氣更可奪去生命。 身處逆境,雀鳥非但不會輕易言棄,而且盡力解決問題,表現出堅韌的生命力。野外的鳥兒時時刻刻都靠着本能努力求生,值得我們尊重和愛惜。

在野外觀賞雀鳥,只要緊記顧及鳥兒的感受,從遠處靜觀(觀察鳥巢時尤應注意),避免干擾鳥兒的生活,便能看到鳥兒最真、最可愛的一面,領略到飛羽世界的奧妙。

* 鸊鷉,粵音"闢堤",普通話唸"pìtī"。





飛蛾撲火

在風雨飄搖的晚上,偶有飛蟲受到屋內燈光吸引,從窗外飛 進來,繞着光源飛舞。在這些昆蟲當中,不難發現飛蛾的身影。

原來古人早已觀察到昆蟲這種特性,故有"飛蛾撲火"的說法。"飛蛾撲火"也作"飛蛾赴燭"、"飛蛾投焰"、"燈蛾撲火",典出《梁書·到溉傳》:"如飛蛾之赴火,豈焚身之可吝。"古時沒有電燈,照明就靠火光。飛蛾朝着火光飛去,大有可能燒傷,甚至焚身而亡。"飛蛾撲火"因此引伸指自尋死路、自取滅亡的行為。晉代支曇諦《赴火蛾賦》曰:"燭耀庭宇,燈朗幽房,紛紛羣飛,翩翩來翔,赴飛焰而體燋,投煎膏而身亡",説明了飛蛾撲火的天性。

從另一個角度觀之,"飛蛾撲火"也可喻作不顧一切奔向目標。宋代黃庭堅《演雅》一詩曰:"蛣蜣轉丸賤蘇合*,飛蛾赴燭甘死禍",表達的正是不辭勞苦、不畏犧牲的精神。

* "蛣蜣"即蜣螂,一種背有堅甲、足有長毛的黑色昆蟲,以糞便為食,常把糞滾成球形;粵音"竭疆",普通話唸"qīqiāng"。"蘇合"即蘇合香,喬木的一種,味香。



Moths are nocturnal insects. As the night falls, they become active and will, by instinct, be drawn to any source of light. From this observation, we have derived the simile "drawn like a moth to a flame", which describes people who are instinctively or strongly attracted to someone or something. One real life situation that we might have experienced is that, when a department store is having a sale, people swarm in for good bargains, as if they were all moths drawn by the light of a flame.

Abundant examples can be found in literary works and other genres to illustrate the use of the expression "drawn like a moth to a flame". Here is one in Barnaby Rogerson's The Prophet Muhammad: A Biography: "The moment the Prophet arrived in Medina, Salman had been immediately drawn, like a moth to a flame, to Islam, although he remained a slave."

The meaning of "drawn like a moth to a flame" is neutral. Sometimes it carries a bad connotation when the context so suggests. "Drug abusers are drawn to psychotropic substances like a moth to a flame" is an obvious example of disapproval.



The Flowers of O'Keeffe

Simmie Tang Official Languages Officer I Civil Service Bureau

In Western culture, flowers generally imply beauty, life and sensuality, with different flowers carrying their own symbolic meanings. For example, red carnations signify love, while white irises stand for purity. Men consider women and flowers to share the same attributes of grace, freshness and fragility. Therefore, flowers are traditionally associated with femininity and womanhood, and their blossoms can denote a girl entering womanhood or experiencing the world.

Flowers have frequently been used in paintings as vehicles for symbolism. For instance, in Dutch still lifes of the 17th century, bouquets represent the transience of life and sensual pleasure; in Rococo paintings of the 18th century, flower gardens are symbols of blossoming love. To the American modern painter Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), flowers were equally inspiring, except that she dealt with them differently.

In 1923, O'Keeffe began painting flowers in very large sizes, creating some of her signature pieces. She

incorporated photographic techniques such as cropping and zooming into her compositions even before the technology of developing colour films or blow-ups was invented. O'Keeffe cropped her images so tightly that they filled the entire canvas, dwarfing viewers who stood right in front of them.

According to O'Keeffe, it was a natural attraction to the physical beauty of flowers and the idea to paint something fresh and fragile that drove her to capture the images of flowers. She explained that busy city

dwellers did not have time to study and appreciate things thoroughly; to make these people stop and look at her works, she chose to "make them big like the huge buildings going up".

O'Keeffe's flowers were portrayed frontally. But she never attempted to be realistic, and hence not every petal or detail was painted. Though influenced by the clarity of straight photography, she believed that "it is only by selection, by elimination, by emphasis

that we get at the real meaning of things". By producing oversized close-ups and removing her objects from context, she simplified details and turned organic forms into colour shapes. O'Keeffe once remarked, "I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way."

However, some critics thought O'Keeffe rebellious and interpreted her gigantic flowers as metaphors for sex. To this accusation, the painter replied that she was just representing the flower itself, flatly denying that her flowers were suggestive of the female organ. She perceived her art as how she saw the objects, and her flowers were nothing but flowers.

were nothing but flowers.

O'Keeffe's floral works are massively enlarged, presenting the images as something unfamiliar and startling, especially to those with little knowledge of her style. The effect is so overwhelming that viewers can no longer be sure whether it is just flowers they are looking at. Stirred by the vibrant colours and delicate shapes, viewers may find themselves lost in the artist's mystical world.





水中牡丹

假如要用一種魚來代表中國,相信不少人會屬意金魚。金魚素有國魚之稱,品種繁多,數以百計,由於金紅色居多,還有"火魚"、"硃砂魚"等別稱。金魚顏色豔麗,鱗光閃閃,故得"金鱗仙子"之名;國人又因其色彩繽紛、姿態萬千而稱之為"水中牡丹"。

古時"金魚"不過是個統稱,泛指金紅色的魚兒,明代李時珍《本草綱目》指金魚有數種,鯽為其一。據學者研究所得,今天供觀賞的金魚,是由野生鯽魚演變過來的,祖先可上溯遠古。《本草綱目》又引《述異記》曰:"晉桓沖遊廬山,見湖中有赤鱗魚",因此不少人推定金魚自晉已有。

金魚深得國人喜愛,與佛教東漸不無關係。唐 代佛教盛行,放生的觀念隨之受到重視,放生金魚 十分普遍。唐肅宗為方便放生,在各地築池八十多 個。放生之習到了宋代風氣未減,不少寺院均建有 魚池。蘇軾於杭州為官時,曾到南屏山尖教寺賞 魚,賦詩《訪南屏臻師》曰:"我識南屏金鯽魚,重來

附檻散齋餘",是為證也。由唐代開始,金魚 逐漸脱離物競天擇的野外環境,得到人們

寵愛和保護。

據文獻所載,北宋的達官貴族都喜歡觀賞金魚,無論是宮中御花園還是豪門府第,闢設魚池,增添生氣,乃常見之事。南宋高宗更是歷史上一位十分喜愛賞玩金魚的皇帝。宋室南移,偏安一隅,高宗耽於逸樂,在宮中大興

土木造園建池,命人四處搜羅金輝,是為 金魚家化之始。影響所及,士大夫也興起賞玩金魚 之風。正如《本草綱目》所記,金魚"自宋始有蓄者, 今則處處人家養玩矣。"

金魚賞玩日益普及,人工養殖技術隨之萌芽,鑑賞風氣亦慢慢形成,令金魚賞玩趨於精專。據史料所載,明神宗對金魚十分痴迷,當時還沒有琉璃魚缸,金魚不是池養,便是盆養,因此宮中多處擺放着大缸甕,用來飼養金魚,以便近賞細評。神宗又醉心於金魚研究,每年中秋節當天都有評鑑佳珍的聚會。賽金魚之約遂成為內臣宮眷之間比較派頭的場

合,誰家的金魚最稀有好看,誰家 便最威風神氣,金魚也因而成為 時下珍玩。

金魚的繁衍迄今千餘 年,名目有增無減;不同 品種各有特徵。金魚固然 以"金色"最為普遍,實尚可 細分為紅、黃、黑、白、藍、紫等,此外 還有顏色斑駁的三色與五花。除了顏色之 外,又根據眼睛、頭部、尾部,以及鱗片、 魚背等其他特徵命名。金魚既為國魚,取名自然馬 虎不得,務求凸顯其賞心悦目的色彩、婀娜多姿的 美態。

金魚品種命名,大多雅致得宜,既有吉祥寓意,也能點出特色所在。例如頭部肉瘤發達,看似戴了高冠者,稱作"獅子頭";通體銀白,額有紅印者,是為"鶴頂紅",有鴻運當頭之意;背部光滑無鰭,尾大如羽扇者,名曰"丹鳳",游動時曼妙生姿;黑白分明,頭、背、各鰭均為黑色而餘下部分雪白者,取名"喜鵲",有報喜的意思,寓意吉祥;通體烏黑,眼如算盤子突出者,得"黑牡丹"之名。要數稀有品種,不得不提"朱頂紫羅袍":頭戴紅冠,身披紫衣,何等貴氣。

中國是金魚的故鄉;由明代開始,金魚更遠輸日本、葡萄牙、英美等國,成為世界各地人民喜愛的觀賞魚。日本人對金魚尤其寵愛有加,悉心培育,繁殖出琉金、蘭壽等新品種,把金魚文化發揚光大。

自古以來,人們都把金魚視為吉祥之物。大戶 人家喜歡在庭院築個金魚池,借"金魚滿塘"的諧 音,取其"金玉滿堂"之意。尋常百姓即

使因條件所限而未能關建魚池,也可用

小缸養三數尾,或在家中懸掛金魚圖,藉以迎吉納祥。此外,飼養金魚能陶情悦性,可視為生活藝術一種。靜觀游魚在水中追逐嬉戲,自由自在,往往令人心曠神怡,忘憂

解鬱。

The bird a nest, the spider a web, man friendship.

William Blake



菊頌

法律援助署 二級法定語文主任王偉響

大地繁花錦簇, 奼紫嫣紅開遍, 花海之中, 哪種花才是心頭所愛? 薔薇有刺,海棠無香, 菊則氣清色雅、香淡質潔, 人皆不忍挑剔, 反倍愛之。試想菊花可供觀賞、製藥、釀酒、入饌, 對經濟民生皆有裨益, 其佳處豈僅為案頭一枝?

菊有黄白紫紅,枝挺葉勁,與羣芳競豔,當不遜於牡 丹碧桃。然菊挾其優雅丰姿,捨眾而特立,甘忝"花中四 君子"之末而不好鬥麗爭妍。

在中國民俗文化中,菊象徵健康長壽,也寓意登科中舉。菊,不僅代表古代士人清廉崇儉的情操,歷來也備受騷人墨客推崇,是詩人借物寓情、畫師妙筆細繪的好題材。金庸小説對菊花也着墨頗深,例如《連城訣》一書以"人淡如菊"形容"清秀絕俗……穿一身嫩黃衫子"的凌霜華;"花"本作"華",菊花凌霜不凋,"凌霜華"不就是菊嗎?

凌霜華與丁典初會於菊花會上,時為清代康熙、雍正年間。賞菊的起源或可追溯至晉唐,有説是承襲東晉陶淵明之風。北宋周敦頤"菊之愛,陶後鮮有聞"一語,是説像陶淵明這樣愛菊的人少如鳳毛麟角,並非指愛菊的人減少了。雖然濂溪先生未能一睹後世菊藝之盛,但北宋建都於汴京(即今之開封),而養菊、賞菊早於南北朝已在當地蔚然成風,至唐代規模更盛。唐代劉禹錫曾詠讚汴京的白菊,詩云:"家家菊盡黃,梁園獨如霜……仙人披雪氅,素女不紅裝。"梁園,即今之開封禹王臺公園。

北宋時,汴菊已名聞遐邇,故有"黃花遍圃中,汴菊

最有名"之讚。與周敦頤同時代而又愛菊的名儒雅士,想必大不乏人。士人賞菊、賽菊的活動也演變為官民同樂的菊花會,及至明清,盛況依然。乾隆南巡開封時,曾御筆親題"楓葉梧青落,霜花菊白堆"的詠菊佳句,現時此碑仍立於梁園。開封譽為"菊花之鄉",並以菊花為市花,每年的重陽菊花會更是馳名中外,為當地帶來可觀的旅遊收益。

民間傳說有十二花神,九月菊花黃,花神正是陶淵明。在重陽飲菊花酒的習俗,本源於西漢宮廷,後因五柳先生以詩、酒、菊聞名,士人受其感染,加上重九之時金風拂檻,秋菊盈園,最宜詩朋酒友相聚,持螯把盞、酌酒賞菊遂靡然成風。

我們在品評菊花之餘,也可窺探各地民生風貌和飲食文化,相信華南人士對廣東中山小欖菊會最熟悉不過。人生幾見月當頭,適逢小欖六秩一度的甲戌菊花大會,更是難得的機緣。小欖菊會展品繁多,萬花綻放,還薈萃雜技、曲藝、飄色、舞龍、舞獅等民俗表演,是一個以菊花為主題的文藝盛會。

無獨有偶,小欖同以菊花為市花,享有"菊城"的美譽。小欖菊宴更是色香味全,遠近馳名。地道中山菊饌令人饞涎欲滴,即使老饕也趨之若鶩。太史蛇羹赫赫有名, 佐料講究,當中大白菊更是少不得。

品菊的文化歷史悠久,無論在物質上還是精神上,都 豐富了人們的生活。



Solution of

Issue No. 42

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落紅不是無情物,化作春泥更護花。

龔自珍



昆蟲的種類成千上萬,多不勝數。原來當中有些已進入我們的生活語言,也有一些在我們展卷時才初 次認識。下列二十個包含昆蟲名稱的句子,你能否根據"蛛絲蟲跡",從圖中揀選合適的字填入空格內,使 意思完整?每字只可用一次,不得重複。

| 1. □□□□, 成語,喻作不自量力。 | 青 |
|---|--|
| 2. □□, 傳說中的一種蟲,據《淮南子》載,把母蟲和子蟲 | 舞 雷 蟻 殼 豸 |
| 的血分別塗在銅錢上,買東西時用其一付帳,另一個留 在身上,則花掉的銅錢會自動飛還。現作錢的別稱。 | 虚备。 |
| 3. 魯迅筆下的阿Q和小D遭人欺負,都曾自認 | 秋 蟲 遊 小 金 |
| 4. □□□, 成語, 利益微薄的意思。 | 藏 蜉 |
| 5. □□□□, 阮籍詩句,下接"采采修羽翼"。 | 滿一斯莎螞窩三 |
| 6. 杜甫詩句:"穿花 □ □ 深深見,點水 □ □ 款款飛。" | 蝉 |
| 7 | 毒耳搬蜂名 化蚊脱食蛛 |
| 8 | 娘臂蠅蛛角雞 |
| 9 | |
| 10 | 身 蛩 蝶 玩 |
| 11,即書蟲,也喻作只懂埋首苦讀的讀書人。 12,與鯨吞類近,同樣有侵佔的意思。 | 壁流捫聲蝣成潔 蝸利山蜓何螢聚 |
| 13. □□、 , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , | |
| 14. | |
| 15. ,形容人多聲雜,一擁而上。 | □□□□, 三十六計之一, 趁對方不留神, 伺機逃脱 |
| 16. 聞一多詩句: "乘] 打着燈籠照着你,乘你的耳邊悲 | |
| 啼着 | , 成語,比喻流言紛起,足以為害。 |
| | |
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