

文訊

WORD POWER

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妙語成章

“幽默”一詞始見於《楚辭·九章·懷沙》：“眇兮杳杳，孔靜幽默”，意為靜謐無聲。林語堂信手拈來，把“humour”音譯成“幽默”。雖然此“幽默”不同彼“幽默”，但從此中文多了一個常用詞，文學研究多了一門類別，女孩子多了一項擇偶條件。林語堂認為“幽默沒有旁的，只是智慧之刀的一晃”。中國文人給人的印象，或感懷家國，或纏綿悱惻，或寄情山水，鮮見嬉笑戲謔，但其實他們也有幽默的一面，即使命途多舛，也能樂天知命，笑看人生。翻閱古今文學作品，不難發現到處有智慧之刀在輕晃。

古代騷人墨客如恆河沙數，其中一位世人公認具幽默感的是陶淵明。官場黑暗，民生凋敝，他選擇辭官歸隱田園；可是寶貝兒子不成器，可以選擇回爐重造嗎？陶淵明曾賦詩《責子》：“白髮被兩鬢，肌膚不復實。雖有五男兒，總不好紙筆。阿舒已二八，懶惰故無匹。阿宣行志學，而不愛文術。雍端年十三，不識六與七。通子垂九齡，但覓梨與栗。天運苟如此，且進杯中物。”陶淵明以遊戲人間的筆墨，數落五個兒子遊手好閒、不學無術、貪吃好玩，充滿輕快談諧的意趣。詩篇雖句句責子，讀來卻讓人感到濃得化不開的舐犢之情。這不是板着臉孔的嚴父，也不是愁眉苦臉、為愛子前途憂愁的苦爸，而是一個看着自己不爭氣的孩子，好氣又好笑的慈父。

陶淵明辭官歸故里，有人卻漏夜趕科場。歷史上不少士子窮盡畢生精力考取功名，十試不第的晚唐詩人羅隱或許最為人熟悉。羅隱開罪權臣，在科場屢次落第。他首次上京赴考，在鍾陵縣偶遇才貌雙全的歌妓雲英。十二年後，羅隱再度落第，重返鍾陵時與雲英不期而遇。雲英詫異問羅隱為何仍是一介布衣。傷口被故人無心撒了一把鹽，羅隱不慍不怒，以《贈妓雲英》一詩作答：“鍾陵醉別十餘春，重見雲英掌上身。我未成名君未嫁，可能俱是不如人。”當中“我未成名君未嫁”一句既是自嘲，也幽了雲英一默：咱倆就是半斤和八兩，誰也別嘲笑誰。對於命運的不公，羅隱雲淡風輕一句“可能俱是不如人”，表面看來是諷刺自己和雲英，實則蘊含辛酸之意，亦是

羅隱對二人遭遇的至深體會。這首詩字字耐人尋味，以幽默排解不平，貫徹中國傳統溫柔敦厚、怨而不怒的精神。

古往今來，只有看破世情，參透道理，但仍懷赤子之心的人，才能以幽默筆致寫出生活中諸般不如意事。現代作家梁實秋在散文《中年》中，用誇張的言詞形容中年男女在外表和體態上的各種變化。他提到男士踏入中年，“頭頂上的頭髮有搬家到腮旁領下的趨勢”；至於女士，除了體重由“燕子要變鸚鵡”外，“臉上的皺紋已經不是熨斗所能燙得平的”。梁實秋毫不忌諱地以尖酸的文字描述中年人的老態，絕不是對步入中年感傷怨歎。恰恰相反，他的人生感悟是：“中年的演員才能擔得起大齣的軸子戲，只因他到中年纔能真懂得戲的內容。”他以輕鬆的筆調，鼓勵中年人調整心態，千萬別因青春小鳥一去不返而錯過後面的好戲。

老舍是另一位擅長以幽默方式表達思想的作家。上世紀三十年代，他在林語堂創辦的文學雜誌《論語》及其他刊物發表了多篇短文，以幽默的筆觸，為那個時代留下了一幅幅生動的畫像。抗戰時，物資短絀，生活困難。老舍在《多鼠齋雜談》一文中，談到被迫戒煙，他自嘲道：“我既已戒了煙酒而半死不活，因思莫若多加幾種，爽性快快的死了倒也乾脆。”那該戒什麼呢？“戒葷嗎？根本用不着戒，與魚不見面者已整整二年，而豬羊肉近來也頗疏遠。”老舍雖然自稱“不知道戒了茶還怎樣活着，和幹嘛活着”，但必不得已，還是得戒茶。在老舍的生花妙筆下，苦哈哈的日子也情趣橫生，絲毫不見委靡之情。

在浩瀚無際的文學世界中，從來不乏幽默作品，但必須多花心思，才能領略個中意味。余光中嘗以幽默論人，認為可分三種境界：第一等能創造幽默；第二等雖不能創造，但能領略幽默；第三等則連領略也做不到。我等凡人即使未必能寫出幽默大作，只要能領會文章的妙語巧思，隔着時空向作者會心一笑，其樂何如。

LAUGHING MATTERS

One knows well that a good clown can steal the show, perk up the atmosphere, and set off roaring laughter among the audience. Then what wonders can a troupe of over a hundred clowns do? You may find the answer in Belén, a slum on the edge of the Peruvian city of Iquitos.

Every year, some one hundred clowns, a cadre of social workers, doctors, nurses, students, psychiatrists and dancers from around the world, are flown by the Peruvian Air Force to Iquitos, the largest city in the world not accessible by road. They are all volunteers for the Belén Festival, a humanitarian clowning project.

The project traces its origin back to 2005, when the Gesundheit! Institute (a US non-profit healthcare organisation) and Bolaroja (a Peruvian hospital clowning organisation) sent clown doctors to Belén on a service mission. The clowns noticed that the children there did not play as much as those elsewhere. In an effort to address the needs of the children in Belén and enliven the community, they made a commitment to return every year.

This is Lucy's first volunteering trip to the Belén Festival. On any other day, she is a nurse in a private clinic. During her stay in Belén, Lucy is a humanitarian clown who brings laughter, warmth and hope to the grim daily life of the Belén community with her enthusiasm and her harmonica. Yet even wearing a luminous purple wig and baggy pants with white go-go boots, Lucy looks a bit ordinary compared to the clown standing next to her, a big bearded man in a ballerina tutu with a super-sized animal hat perched precariously on his head. All around them, everyone is in their most colourful, outrageous costumes, ready for the parade into the heart of Belén. It is sweltering and humid. Lucy's sweaty nose is chafing against the big round red bulb, but she barely notices, for she is enthralled by the happiness of the barefooted children. After a short lecture on the dangers of sunburn, Dr Patch Adams, founder of the Gesundheit! Institute, stands at the front of the brigade and bellows, "Are you ready to go nuts?" With laughter, howls, whistles and handclapping, they are off.

A rainbow-coloured procession of sparkly gold fairy wings, ballerina tutus, and flamingo paraphernalia marches into the slum of Belén. It is a shanty town, home to

thousands of Peruvians, mostly from deep jungles of the Amazon, hoping for a better life for themselves and their children. They, however, find themselves destitute without access to electricity, running water or sanitation facilities. Lower Belén, the riverfront district closest to the Itaya River, is inundated by floodwater half of the year. That is why the huts there either float or are built on tilts and rafts.

Like Lucy, many of the volunteers have never clowned before. Patch Adams does not think training is essential. He wants everybody to be a love revolutionary. Maybe it is the red rubber bulb that releases their clown inside; maybe it is the beat of music; maybe it is simply heatstroke, everybody clowns around like a natural. Lucy finds herself in an alternate universe, where it is socially acceptable to slap high fives with strangers and dance and sing in the streets. Some clowns are playing catch with giggling children. Some are making balloon animals for a screaming horde. Some just wrap up people in big heartfelt hugs. The place comes alive with laughter and excitement.

During the ten-day festival, the clowns perform in the streets and in orphanages, nursing homes, hospitals and markets. Some conduct free workshops for children in art, dance and music. Some lead children in painting murals and houses red, blue, orange and yellow, bringing vigour and vitality to the impoverished community. Others pay door-to-door visits to promote public and environmental health messages. Many are just having fun with street kids.

Patch Adams was once asked by a reporter how a bunch of clowns could make a difference. He replied, "If you can connect for even a moment with unconditional love, then you can inspire hope." A hug, a smile, a joke. Hope can be inspired in so many different ways. For Lucy and her fellow humanitarian clowns, the trip is a visceral experience of unlocking their creativity and the joyful inner child inside. For the poverty-stricken people in Belén, the powerful, universal language of laughter reconnects them to joy and infuses them with buoyancy when their hopes and expectations are, more often than not, dashed. As Mark Twain said, "The human race has only one effective weapon, and that is laughter." Laughing indeed matters for us all.



Tell me what you laugh at, and I'll tell you who you are.

Marcel Pagnol

說笑的藝術 ——相聲



桃葉兒尖上尖
柳葉兒遮滿了天
在其位這個明阿公
細聽我來言吶……

台上青年一襲長衫，手搖摺扇，笑意盈盈，唱着北京傳統小曲《探清水河》。台下二千多名觀眾手揮熒光棒，低聲應和。放眼望去，一片綠色的海洋。別以為這是流行歌手的演唱會，這其實是中國相聲社團德雲社的加演節目。

相聲是中國傳統民間藝術。侯寶林等相聲大師合著的《相聲溯源》記載，“早期的相聲曾經叫過‘象聲’或‘像聲’，實際是一種口技”。民間藝人經過長期的探索和積累，採口技、說書等藝術之長，逐漸發展出以“說、學、逗、唱”等手法引人發笑的表演形式，到了晚清形成現在我們所知的相聲。“說”指說繞口令、快板、歇後語等。“學”指模仿各處方言、口技等。“逗”，能逗人笑，可說是相聲的風格。“唱”分兩類，一類是唱太平歌詞、小曲；一類是“學唱”，摹擬各種戲曲、時調小曲等。

相聲精彩不精彩，關鍵在於“包袱”抖得響不響。所謂“包袱”，就是使人發笑的片段。演員把精心編寫的句子一層一層地鋪墊包好，笑料放在最後，待時機成熟突然抖落，令觀眾哄堂大笑。包袱須在意料之外、情理之中，才能發揮最佳效果。以相聲《新夜行記》為例，郭德綱跟于謙訴苦：“地，不分東西南北。人，不分男女老少。都可以走二環，為什麼我不能走二環？”捧眼（音“根”，相聲的笑料）的于謙替他大為不值，很確定地告訴他，北京二環高速公路誰都可以走。

郭：跟身分有關係嗎？
于：沒有。
郭：跟學歷有關係嗎？
于：這都不挨着。
郭：跟錢有關係嗎？
于：這都兩碼事！

包袱鋪平墊穩了，郭德綱把包袱一抖：

郭：我憑什麼不能走二環？對不對？我能躲着車走呀，你開你的。
于：您等會兒等會兒吧。
郭：撞死是我的事兒。
于：別說了！
郭：我就樂意走個逆行道你管得着嗎！
于：什麼亂七八糟的！
郭：咱說理！知道嗎？
于：還說理哪！你先等會兒吧！哦，您自己走着上二環呀？
郭：我一直說我能不能走二環。

原來郭德綱說的不是乘車，而是用兩條腿走二環高速公路，可憐那于謙還一直在為他叫屈。觀眾此時恍然大悟，一下子轟然大笑，台下“噫”聲一片，以善意的揶揄向演員表示讚賞。

初看相聲的觀眾可能會有點失望，覺得相聲笑點不多。其實相聲雖以說笑為主，卻又不止於此。相聲是曲藝藝術，除了“逗”這一門，還講究“說”、“學”、“唱”這些功夫。為什麼資深相聲票友對聽過的段子還是百聽不厭？他們欣賞的可能是演員的戲曲功底、語言的精妙、對段子的處理方式，逗眼捧眼過招，還有演員與觀眾互動等。

優秀的相聲除了在技藝層面給人帶來美感外，還能夠緊貼時代脈搏，反映民生和社會問題，引人發噱之餘，也發人深省。老一輩的相聲名家十分重視相聲的諷刺功能，例如侯寶林的《離婚前奏曲》諷刺男人升職後驟然需要愛情，大搞婚外戀；馬三立的《買猴兒》諷刺官僚主義。兩者雖然已是多年前的舊作，但現在看來仍不過時。《買猴兒》裏馬馬虎虎、大大咧咧、嘻嘻哈哈的角色馬大哈更風靡全國，成為粗心大意者的代名詞，連詞典也將之收錄其中。老舍曾在《談相聲的改造》一文中慨歎，“慢慢的，藝人們只圖招笑，而忘了諷刺；或是諷刺的對象不是貪官惡霸，而是貧苦的民眾；這可就麻煩了。忘了諷刺，相聲便失去了威嚴，而一味貧嘴惡舌。”老舍六十多年前的感言，至今仍振聾發聵。

人都是愛玩愛笑的，帶給人們歡樂的相聲按理應該廣受歡迎，但事實並非如此。由於缺乏創作和演出人才，相聲在九十年代一度陷入低谷。當時，郭德綱與張文順等相聲演員創建北京相聲大會，即德雲社的前身，提倡相聲應回歸劇場，並改編了《西征夢》和《論吃》等傳統段子，令人耳目一新。在他們努力下，相聲再次走進人們的視野，重新煥發活力。除了德雲社外，各地也興起了不少相聲團體在小劇場演出；段子有傳統的，也有不少是原創的。

相聲是源於市井的草根文化；是融合多種民間藝術的文化載體；是郭德綱所言“不搞笑就太搞笑了”的說笑藝術。只要做到言之有物、雅俗共賞，相聲一定能傳承下去，綻放光華。除了相聲演員努力外，觀眾支持也不可或缺。一隻燕子銜不來整個春天，一抹熒光灑不滿四面舞台。大家下次到內地旅遊，何妨上一回茶館，品着茶，嗑着瓜子，聽相聲演員在台上講故事甩包袱，聽到精彩處發一聲嘹亮的“噫——”。



To **humour** someone is to give in to or to indulge a person's wishes: *She always humours him to prevent trouble.* When saying "**humour me**" to someone, you are asking him/her to agree with your wishes, even if they seem unreasonable: *I know you don't want to take a walk in the rain, but just humour me.*

To kill yourself or to die is generally unpleasant unless you **kill yourself laughing** or **die laughing**, which means you are overcome with laughter: *The play was so funny that I almost died laughing/killed myself laughing.* One can **shake, bellow, hoot, shriek, roar** or **rock with laughter**. One can also be said to **burst out laughing, dissolve into fits of laughter**, or **split his sides** (to laugh so hard that his body is shaking).

And just as the bulbous red clown noses come in small, medium and large, so too is laughter found in a myriad of forms from a **giggle** to an infectious **chortle** to a full blown raucous **guffaw**. A **giggle** is a silly or nervous spasmodic laugh: *We giggled at the back of the church like schoolchildren.* Coined by Lewis Carroll in his novel *Through the Looking-Glass*,



chortle is a mash-up of the words chuckle and snort. A **chortle** is a laugh of pleasure and satisfaction: *This was really funny and I actually broke into a chortle.* A **guffaw** is a very loud hearty laughter: *The audience guffawed at the comedian's jokes.*

Lol is an acronym for "laughing out loud", and is commonly used in social media and text messages. Some people use it at the end of a sentence to mitigate the impact of their words: *Oh my gosh, I'm so depressed lol.* It is, however, not a word you would normally use in formal communication.

Laugh somebody/something out of court is to dismiss an idea, suggestion, opinion, etc. with scorn or derision: *When he broached the possibility of a reform, they laughed him out of court.* According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*, this expression has been used in English since the late 1800s. Passing the **laugh test** (also **straight face test** or **giggle test**) means the argument or idea is legitimate or plausible, and is something you can repeat without the compulsion to laugh: *Many of the arguments put for the proposal don't even pass the laugh test.* These relatively new expressions have yet been included in dictionaries.



《政府公文寫作手冊》第三版

《政府公文寫作手冊》初版成書於一九九七年，二零零四年再版。第二版問世至今，已逾十載。近年政府的工作流程、辦公模式，以至公文寫作和發布的習慣均有所改變。有見及此，公務員事務局法定語文事務部決定重新修訂手冊，檢視所載準則，更新資料並增添示例。

一如以往，《政府公文寫作手冊》第三版將按公文類別分冊，並以電子版形式分批推出，率先出版的是《總論》和《公函》兩冊。《總論》載列撰寫各類公文的通則，《公函》則涵蓋公務書函的格式和寫作要點。這次

修訂除對原有內容更新補遺外，還增添了延伸閱讀部分，討論一些與公文寫作有關的特殊情況或小知識，例如標點符號用法和回覆聯署信的格式等。《公函》是同事最常參考的分冊，新版增加了按不同情境擬寫的示例，也擴大了有關電郵的篇幅，闡釋電郵的基本格式和注意事項，並提供更多例子，供同事參考。

《總論》和《公函》(第三版)及其餘各冊(第二版)已上載法定語文事務部內聯網及公務員事務局網頁(請掃描下方二維碼)，公務員易學網也提供連結，歡迎同事瀏覽。





The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

What do the annual Towel Day, an IBM chess computer named Deep Thought, and asteroid Arthur Dent share in common? The answer is they all pay homage to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (commonly known as *H2G2*) written by British writer Douglas Adams in 1979. Starting out as a radio series on BBC Radio in 1978, the book has since spawned a “trilogy in five parts”, a TV series, a record album, a computer game, and a motion picture. It is a comic example of science fiction that has remained highly popular for 40 years. It is on the list of Peter Boxall's *1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die*. It is the story of a terrible, stupid catastrophe and some of its consequences.

It all starts with a house.

Arthur Dent, a thirtyish ordinary Englishman who enjoys an ordered life and a nice cup of tea, awakens one morning to find his house about to be bulldozed to make way for a highway bypass. In the course of his protest, he learns that the plan has been on display for months—“in the bottom of a locked filing cabinet stuck in a disused lavatory with a sign on the door saying ‘Beware of the Leopard’”. Ironically, a Vagon Constructor Fleet from outer space arrives moments later to demolish Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass, telling the protesting Earthlings that the plans have been on file for 50 years at Alpha Centauri, a stellar system only four light years away.

Seconds before the Earth is destroyed, Arthur is saved by an actor friend, Ford Prefect, a space hitchhiker stranded on Earth for 15 years. In any other works of science fiction, Arthur might find a way to avenge the Earth's destruction or develop a romantic relationship with an exotic alien princess. But what we have here is a pragmatist constantly in shock who rarely knows what is going on. All he longs for is simply a decent cup of tea.

Ford Prefect is no more a hero than Arthur. All he wants is to see the marvels of the universe for less than 30 Altairian dollars a day. Inside his satchel is a largish electronic book with the words DON'T PANIC inscribed on its cover. This is *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*—a book constantly updated that “tells you everything you need to know about anything”. Throughout the novel, the book plays a major role in introducing Adams' surreal and bizarre universe.

The hapless duo escape by hitching a lift on a Vagon spaceship and are ejected, after a round of poetry torture, into space. Against all odds, they

are picked up seconds later by the Heart of Gold, the fastest spaceship in the galaxy propelled by the Infinite Improbability Drive, which was stolen by Zaphod Beeblebrox, the two-headed, three-armed self-serving president of the galaxy with an ego-complex. Also on board are a highly intelligent Earth girl Trillian and her two mice. And there is Marvin too, the manically depressed robot. In his own words, “What are you supposed to do if you are a manically depressed robot? No, don't bother to answer that, I'm 50 000 times more intelligent than you and even I don't know the answer. It gives me a headache just trying to think down to your level.” To no one's surprise, Marvin is the favourite character for many. We tend to feel better when comparing ourselves to people who fare less well. And who has a grimmer view of life than the always gloomy Marvin, whose famous quote is “Life, ... loathe it or ignore it, you can't like it”?

Together these four travellers and a clinically depressed robot begin a zany interstellar journey. Readers will encounter many wondrous things, including Babel Fish that perform instant translation once you stick one in your ear, doors that open and close with pleased self-satisfaction, a missile turning into a sperm whale, mice that experiment on scientists, computers with distinct personalities, luxury planets being created as commodities, and the worst poetry in the universe.

The book has a vice-like hold on readers from the start, and is sure to have them laughing from the first to last page. It pokes fun at bureaucracy, lampoons mankind's foibles and follies, and approaches philosophical questions in a humorous manner.

Do you ever wake up in the morning and wonder, “Who am I?” “What is my purpose in life? Does it really matter if I don't get up and go to work?” Many books have touched on these nagging issues but failed to give an answer. What makes *H2G2* so unique is that it actually offers the ultimate answer to life, the universe and everything, deduced by Deep Thought, a super computer, after seven-and-a-half million years' computing. According to Deep Thought, the jaw-dropping and mind-boggling answer is meaningless without the proper question. What is the role of Earth in finding the ultimate question? What are the two species more intelligent than human beings on Earth? What is the truth behind alien sightings on Earth? For all the answers, stick out your thumb to the sky, pick up *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and have a hilarious trip.

It is the ability to take a joke, not make one, that proves you have a sense of humour.

Max Eastman



幽默大師

香港警務處
Sakura

相信不少人都知道，我們常說的“幽默”一詞，其實是國學大師林語堂把英語“humour”音譯而成。林語堂致力提倡幽默，並身體力行，創作大量幽默小品，素有“幽默大師”之稱。在他眼中，誰才是真正的幽默大師呢？

林語堂在《論幽默》一文中，認為“老子多苦笑，莊生多狂笑”，而“孔子個人溫而厲，恭而安，無適，無必，無可無不可，近於真正幽默態度”。孔子率弟子周遊列國，宣揚自己的治國理念，曾多次身陷險境。有一次，孔子為了躲避司馬桓魋（粵音“頹”）的加害，連夜逃往鄭國，倉皇之間與弟子子貢等人失散。後來，有人告訴子貢，東門外有個相貌不凡的人，“其頹似堯，其項類皋陶，其肩類子產”，但神態卻“累累若喪家之狗”，可能是孔子。當子貢尋回孔子時，便把此話如實轉告，孔子不但沒有一絲慍色或尷尬，反而笑着說：“而謂似喪家之狗，然哉！然哉！”孔子面對如此狼狽的窘境，仍能自我調侃，自嘲一番，難怪林語堂“所愛的是失敗時幽默的孔子”。

中國人一向忌諱談論死亡，但孔子為人豁達，與弟子妙論生死，從容坦率。有一次，子路問如何侍奉鬼神，孔子答：“未能事人，焉能事鬼？”子路接着追問死亡是怎麼一回事，孔子又答：“未知生，焉知死？”孔子以反問的方式啓發子路思考生死問題，既顯聰明睿智，又不失談諧俏皮。此外，子貢曾問人死後是否有知覺，孔子先從正反角度闡述己見，指出自己若說死者“有知”，恐怕孝子賢孫會過分厚葬而影響生者的生計；若說死者“無知”，又擔心不肖子孫會對先人棄而不葬；最後以“非今之急，後自知之”收結，意思是“現在不用急，等你死後自然知道”。孔子連珠妙語，一反萬世師表不苟言笑的傳統形象，令人忍俊不禁。

林語堂從《論語》看到了孔子的人情味和幽默感，但他最景仰的還是蘇東坡。他用英文撰寫《蘇東坡傳》，向西方介紹自己的偶像，盛讚蘇東坡“比中國其他的詩人更具有多面性天才的豐富感、變化感和幽默感”。蘇東坡少年得志，可是中年後接連被貶，從繁華的京城流

放到窮鄉僻壤，生活淒苦。昔日手執寸管，寫下“人生到處知何似，應似飛鴻踏雪泥。泥上偶然留指爪，鴻飛那復計東西”此等不朽詩句，如今手握鋤犁，躬耕隴畝；從前名動京華，往來無白丁，現在“與樵漁雜處，往往為醉人所推罵”。儘管漫天風雨，卻沒有打倒天性曠達的蘇東坡。務農之餘，他把陶淵明的《歸去來兮辭》改編為歌，教給農人，大家在牛角上打着拍子，互相唱和。農忙時，“四鄰相率助舉杵，人人知我囊無錢”。無論是名士，還是樵漁，蘇東坡都能與之相處甚歡。

宋朝以牛羊為貴，豬肉為賤。在黃州吃不起羊肉，身為老饕的蘇東坡便自創新做法，以豬肉入饌，並寫下《豬肉頌》：“洗淨鑊，少着水，柴頭罨煙焰不起。待他自熟莫催他，火候足時他自美。黃州好豬肉，價賤如泥土。貴者不肯食，貧者不解煮。早晨起來打兩碗，飽得自家君莫管。”如今，東坡肉已成遠近馳名的美食。有幽默感且對生活充滿熱情的人，不管身處何地，都能把日子過得有滋有味！

我們也不妨看看林語堂自己的幽默本色。林語堂曾在東吳大學教授英文，開學第一天，他拿來花生請學生吃，然後滔滔不絕，大談吃花生之道：“吃花生必吃帶殼的，一切味道與風趣，全在剝殼。剝殼愈有勁，花生米愈有味道。”說到這裏，他話鋒一轉：“花生米又叫長生果。諸君第一天上課，請吃我的長生果。祝諸君長生不老！以後我上課不點名，願諸君吃了長生果，更有長性子，不要蹺課，則幸甚幸甚，三生有幸！”學生聽後哄堂大笑。此後，每有林語堂的課，教室總是座無虛席，連其他大學的學生也慕名而來。

林語堂認為，幽默是一種人生態度，一種應付人生的方法。月前讀報，知悉本港有小學舉辦“幽默周”，教導學生利用幽默化解矛盾與窘迫，此舉實與林博士倡導的不謀而合。學生從小接受幽默教育，縱使不能贏在起跑線上，至少能一路帶笑前行。其實，不論是成人還是小孩，如果能向這些幽默大師學習，身處順境能享受，身處逆境能將就，這一生的路途大抵會舒坦很多吧。

一個真有幽默的人，別有會心，欣然獨笑，冷然微笑，替沉悶的人生透一口氣。

錢鍾書



尚公主那些事兒

公主者，皇家嬌嬌女也。與她成婚不能叫娶，只能叫“尚”，以示尊崇。當了皇帝的乘龍快婿，那可真是風光無限好！平步青雲，光宗耀祖，富貴無憂，當駙馬該是叫人好生艷羨的“優差”，故有“皇帝女兒不愁嫁”之說。可是，這句話在魏晉南北朝可能站不住腳。當時，門閥世族勢力最為強盛，所謂鐵打的世家，流水的皇帝。開國皇帝多出身庶族，須與世家大族聯姻來提高威望，鞏固統治。世家卻更願意與門當戶對的士族通婚，對祖上出身豪強、家教欠佳的公主不大看得上眼。在這樣的背景下，上演了許多鬥智鬥勇的準駙馬逃婚事件。

南朝名士江敷（粵音“效”），少有美譽，長得一表人才，宋明帝要把侄女臨汝公主許配給他。江敷聽說後立刻上《辭婚表》，以“尚公主的都是倒霉蛋，求放過”為主旨，旁徵博引，洋洋千言，力陳駙馬爺這個高風險“行業”的辛酸苦楚。江敷甚至放下狠話，說如果不能退婚，就寧可毀容剪髮，逃到深山做野人去。江敷為何視當駙馬爺為畏途？他舉了幾個理由。

首先是失去自由。公主管丈夫比管奴隸還嚴。駙馬一天什麼都不用幹了，就是等着公主召見，“召必以三晡為期，遣必以日出為限”，可憐那駙馬渾渾噩噩，都忘了晚霞、曙星是什麼樣子。至於說月夜撫琴，清晝讀書這等如意事，更是“一生之內，與此長乖”，一輩子都甭想了！其次是失去朋友。以前車馬盈門，呼朋引伴，何其瀟灑快意！尚了公主後就門可羅雀，“非惟交友離異，乃兄弟疏闊”。還有是失去尊嚴。管家吃公主的飯，對駙馬的一舉一動虎視眈眈；僕人領公主的糧，連個笑臉也不給。

成為“三失”青年雖不好受，好歹還活着，最可怕的是當駙馬有性命之憂啊！公主有皇帝為後盾，她說什麼都是金科玉律。夫妻不睦，倒霉的一定是駙馬。東陽太守王藻的父親是駙馬，他自己也尚了南朝宋文帝的女兒臨川公主。王藻婚後仍風流如故，與侍女你儂我儂，結果臨川公主一狀告到已登基為帝的姪兒那裏，他就坐牢去了，最後還在獄中一命嗚呼。

江敷表中所提到當駙馬的種種委屈，世家子弟都心照不宣。出於強烈的求生慾，雀屏中選者紛紛各出奇謀，以求脫離魔掌。有的裝傻扮呆，比如東晉名士劉惔；有的直接跑路，比如東晉最年輕的州

刺史荀羨；有的裝病示弱，比如“美風姿，好言理”的王景文。已婚人士應該安全了吧？那倒不一定，須知皇族中人的想法往往迥異於我等百姓平民。《晉書》記載，書聖王羲之的兒子王獻之“少有盛名，而高邁不羈，雖閒居終日，容止不怠，風流為一時之冠。”生在當代絕對是“男神”，據說連已離婚的新安公主也是粉絲，要求皇帝把她許配給王獻之。可是，王獻之早已名草有主，妻子是青梅竹馬的表姐郗道茂，兩人情投意合，恩愛逾恆。王獻之為拒婚也是拼了，他用艾草燒傷雙腳，心想腿都癩了，公主也該死心了吧。可是他低估了公主非君不嫁的決心。一紙詔書下來，王獻之還是不得不休妻，另尚公主。郗道茂一生沒有再嫁，鬱鬱而終。王獻之對前妻一直心存愧疚。《晉書》記載，他病重臨終時，道士問他此生有何過錯，他說：“不覺餘事，惟憶與郗家離婚。”

如果因為一眾準駙馬的逃婚壯舉，便以為南北朝公主皆是驕橫跋扈之輩，尚公主定必招致婚姻不幸，則未免失之偏頗。“破鏡重圓”這個成語的主角，便是陳朝樂昌公主。她性情溫婉，才貌雙全，與駙馬徐德言琴瑟和諧，本應有幸福人生，可惜其兄長便是亡國在即仍沉酒淫逸的陳後主。徐德言預感大難將至，把一面銅鏡破開，各執其半，約定在正月十五日賣鏡於市，以知對方是否安好。陳亡後，樂昌公主被隋文帝賜給大將楊素為妾。徐德言歷經千辛萬苦來到長安，正月十五日依約前往鬧市，果見一老僕以高價叫賣半面銅鏡。他上前相認，並賦詩云：“鏡與人俱去，鏡歸人不歸。無復嫦娥影，空留明月輝。”公主得詩，悲不自勝。楊素得悉個中情由後，大受感動，願意讓樂昌公主離開。公主和徐德言後來重歸江南故里，相伴到老。

在古代，婚姻往往不是個人選擇，皇室和世家大族更重視的是政治利益。在這樣的政治婚姻中，倒霉的駙馬看似不少，悲摧的公主說不定更多。破鏡重圓等美事，正因為難能可貴，才得以傳頌至今。話說回來，大家也許想知道大膽直言的江敷有何下場。據《宋書》記載，其實那篇《辭婚表》是宋明帝命人以江敷名義寫的公開信，目的是治治一眾金枝玉葉的“公主病”。做了這麼一場戲，結果江敷還是與臨汝公主成了親，過上了不知是否幸福快樂的日子。



世界上有兩種話必須一聽就懂，因為它們不堪重複：第一是幽默的話，第二是恭維的話。

余光中

Feeling strained over the long to-do list? Laughter is a powerful antidote to tension and anxiety. Some research shows that laughter counteracts the effects of stress on the body and immune system by reducing stress hormone levels. We have gathered some riddles that may amuse and relax you. Take some well-deserved “me time” and put your genius to the test.

1. Which letter in the English alphabet likes asking questions? _____
2. What did the beach say when the tide came in? _____
3. Do knock before you open the refrigerator, in case there is a _____.
4. What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you'll die? _____
5. Mike is a butcher. He is five foot nine. What does he weigh? _____
6. How do you make an egg roll? _____
7. What is the hardest part about skydiving? _____
8. Which three letters would surprise the Invisible Man? _____
9. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly? _____
10. Before the Amazon River was discovered, what was the widest river in the world? _____



Please send your entry to the Editorial Board of *Word Power*, Official Languages Division, Civil Service Bureau, Room 2310, High Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong before 27 August 2019. Watch out for our coming issue to see if you get all the answers right, and better still, if you are one of the lucky five to win a prize. The Editorial Board will have the final say on the answers.

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第七十五期答案

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| 2. 筮 | 8. 9月7至9日 |
| 3. 甘肅、青海、寧夏 | 9. 淨 |
| 4. 周文王、周武王 | 10. 火星 |
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Issue No. 77 (September 2019) : Encounters

二零一九年九月第七十七期主題：相遇

Issue No. 78 (December 2019) : Connection

二零一九年十二月第七十八期主題：相知

Contributions from colleagues are welcome. Please refer to Issue No. 71 for details. 歡迎同事投稿，細則請參閱第七十一期。

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