

文訊

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三星堆之謎

四川省廣漢市以西約十公里，一馬平川，卻有三個大土堆突兀而起，就像三顆星星連成一線，因此得名三星堆。鴨子河從這裏流過，每年春暖花開，四處洋溢油菜花獨特的香氣。村民日出而作，日入而息，誰都沒有料到，腳下這片土地竟埋藏着一個沉睡已久的古代文明。

石破天驚的發現往往始於偶然。一九二九年，當地農民清理水溝，挖出四百餘件玉石器。可惜時局動蕩，無法進行有系統的考古挖掘。建國後雖有零星發現，考古工作亦沒有中斷，可是並沒有引起多大關注。直至一九八六年盛夏，磚瓦廠工人取土製作磚坯時，無意間發現玉石器，隨後考古專家一個月內掘出兩個祭祀坑，出土的青銅器、金器、玉石器、象牙，不論品質和數量都遠遠超乎想像。沉睡三千年的三星堆，一醒震驚天下。

三星堆文物風格與中原同期的殷商文明迥然不同。中土青銅器器形凝重，紋飾華美。三星堆出土的青銅面具、人面像及人頭像卻顴骨突出，高鼻寬眉，眼如杏核，闊口大耳；更有一些嘴巴咧至耳根，嘴角上翹，露出令人不解的微笑。這些文物造型誇張，工藝超凡，難怪有人懷疑是出自外星人之手。

三星堆文物不但外形獨特，部分器物更體量驚人。大立人高逾2.6米，身穿三層綢衣，赤足立於怪獸座上，專家推斷這是集神、巫、王三者於一身的領袖。一號青銅神樹高近4米，三層九枝，

上有九鳥，相信是連接天地、溝通人神的通靈之樹。有“千里眼”、“順風耳”之稱的縱目面具高66厘米，寬1.38米，雙眼呈柱狀凸出，雙耳如飛鳥展翅，專家認為這是人神合一的意象造型，也許是古蜀人祖先神造像。金杖長1.4米，上面刻有人頭、鳥、魚圖案，學者認為是王權和神權的象徵。直徑85厘米的青銅太陽輪酷似汽車方向盤，相信是祭日的神器。一件件文物瑰異譎詭、巧奪天工，靜靜訴說着一個古老文明的獨特文化與輝煌歲月。這裏物質文明興盛；這裏神權至高無上；這裏就是傳說中神秘莫測的古蜀國。

古蜀國本身就是個謎。

古文獻對古蜀的記載寥若晨星，神話色彩十分濃厚。李白和李商隱都曾用過古蜀的典故。李白《蜀道難》

云：“蠶叢及魚鳧，開國何茫然？爾來四萬八千歲，不與秦塞通人煙。”蠶叢和魚鳧分別是蜀國第一代及第三代君主。李商隱《錦瑟》有“望帝春心托杜鵑”

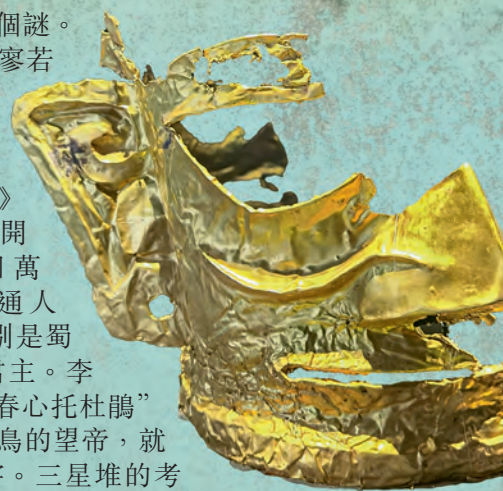
之句，死後化為杜鵑鳥的望帝，就是魚鳧的繼任人杜宇。三星堆的考古發現，證明古蜀國非但不是子虛烏有，而且文明程度絕不遜於中原。單從出土大量印度洋海貝便可見，蜀道雖難，但古蜀與南亞、中亞地區

早已有貿易來往，絕非不通人煙的荒蠻閉塞之地。

二零二零年，三星堆遺址發掘工作再次啓動，考古人員在一、二號坑旁邊發現六個新坑，共出土逾四千件接近完整的文物，部分青銅器的器型更是前所未見。這批青銅器工藝精湛繁複，造型奇譎華美，連見多識廣的考古人員都嘖嘖稱奇。難怪三星堆博物館館長雷雨慨歎，沒去過三星堆的話，可能就不會知道自己的想像力多麼貧乏。相信看過青銅神壇、頂尊蛇身銅人像、銅獸面跪坐人頂尊銅像、龜背形網格狀青銅器的人，都會覺得館長所言非虛。

過往一些懸而未解的謎團，經過考古專家抽絲剝繭，現正逐漸解開。祭祀坑的年代已確認為商代晚期。三星堆遺址陸續發現城牆、宮殿區、作坊區、居住區、祭祀區、墓葬區，證實這裏曾是古蜀國都邑。三星堆文明並非外星文明，而是與中原文明並存，足以印證華夏文明多元一體的說法。

可是，三星堆依舊迷霧重重。在富庶強大的古蜀國，人民過着怎樣的生活？他們如何與其他文明交流共融？為何此地工藝水平極高，卻未見有文字留存？三千多年前，這裏到底發生了什麼事，以致無數價值連城的器物被砸毀焚燒，長埋地下？三星堆遺址方圓十二平方公里，現在才挖掘了千分之二左右。總有一天，當泥土撥開，塵霧散去，答案會慢慢浮現。





A GUILTY PLEASURE



It's Friday night. The children are already asleep. You change into your most comfortable pyjamas and curl up in your blanket, with pillows piled high behind your back, and a mug of hot chocolate and a plate of cookies on your bedside table. It is pouring outside, with thunder faintly rumbling in the distance. Just the right kind of day to pick up a book. What do you have in mind? How about a murder mystery?

Ever since Edgar Allan Poe penned the first modern detective story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and introduced the enigmatic and eccentric C. Auguste Dupin in 1841, mysteries have captivated readers for centuries and become one of the most popular genres of fiction worldwide.

Mysteries, however, are sometimes referred to as a guilty pleasure, implying that they are a lesser form of literature. While guilt and pleasure are subjective feelings that leave little room for a conclusive discussion, things like storytelling skill and writing style carry a certain extent of objectivity. Many brilliant mystery writers strive to provide readers with memorable characters and stellar prose. Tana French's Dublin Murder Squad series, for instance, are full of exquisitely telling details, emotional tension and thrills, set against a moody Irish atmosphere so richly described that you can almost visualise yourself being there. Like all other books, there are varying degrees of literary merit among mystery novels. It is a gross generalisation to assume that all books in a genre are artistically unsophisticated just because some of them are crude and formulaic.

Reading elitism is nothing new. Novels were deemed guilty pleasures in the 18th century. In *Northanger Abbey*, Jane Austen writes an impassioned defence of novels, which were then viewed with the same stigma that is associated with mystery fiction these days. "Although our productions have afforded more extensive and unaffected pleasure than those of any other literary corporation in the world," writes Austen, "no species of composition has been so much decried." She claims that in novels "the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humour, are conveyed to the world in the best-chosen language". Indeed, it is only in hindsight that some great works have become lauded pieces of classic literature. In their times, they were simply enjoyed as light reading.

There is nothing more enjoyable than bingeing on a good mystery. Mysteries quench our thirst for the very essence of human nature, though more on the darker side. At its best, mystery fiction offers unique insights into the psychological makeup and motivations of characters who are downright evil, or at least morally ambiguous. And let's not forget about the protagonists who are determined to redress the wrong and uphold the right. From Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe to Kate Atkinson's Jackson Brodie, mysteries have a long tradition of featuring flawed and complex protagonists who struggle with their personal demons while trying to solve their cases. Their haunted pasts, addictions or obsessions make them relatable, elevating the stories to more than just crime-solving puzzles. Readers are left with a better understanding of the vagaries of the human heart and the inner struggles we all face, in addition to the adrenaline rush and the vicarious excitement of joining the chase to catch a killer.

The promise of a glimpse into the depth of human nature is alluring, but there is something more to mystery novels that is irresistibly engaging and incredibly hard to replicate in any other genre. As a reader, you are invited to put on your own detective hat, piece together clues and attempt to uncover the truth alongside the protagonist. With every turned page, you are led down a circuitous path amid a cloud of mist. At some point, you are tricked by false leads, red herrings and last-minute alibis, all of which heighten the suspense surrounding the mystery. To have your deductions confirmed is fulfilling, but to be surprised is all the more fun. The intellectual challenge, combined with the intricate plot and clever twists and turns, fuels your imagination and has you on the edge of your seat until the very end.

It's way past midnight. You keep promising yourself, "Just one more chapter, and then I'll go to sleep." Yet, the urge for closure keeps you from putting the book down. When the loose ends are tied up, conflict resolved, villains vanquished and justice served, you come away feeling satisfied—the way you feel after that last piece of cookie. It is perhaps only now that you feel guilty ... considering all the other, arguably more important, tasks you could have accomplished during the time that you have spent with the novel. But the pleasure is well worth it.

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science.

Albert Einstein

謎格舉隅

中秋佳節剛剛過去，大家遊逛綵燈會時，有否發現一些燈謎除謎目外，還加上“粉底格”、“諧音格”等提示？這些寫在謎目後面的謎格究竟有何作用？

清末謎聖張起南的著作《橐園春燈話》把謎格的由來解釋得十分清楚：“其平正通達，可為謎料者，大都被前人攫去，不得不以人力補天工，庶幾另闢一新世界。是格者，不得已而用之者也。”謎語的最高境界是渾然天成，謎面謎底絲絲相扣。可是，謎語相傳千年，可作謎材者幾近枯竭。後人為廣開謎路，只好在讀音、字序、字形方面動腦筋，使謎底緊扣謎面。此所謂“格為謎用，格助謎活”。謎格雖然名目林立，卻非雜亂無章，可以分門別類，以下是一些常見謎格：

(一) 諧音變義

諧音格：又稱**梨花格**，源出唐代詩人岑參名句“忽如一夜春風來，千樹萬樹梨花開”，以滿目雪白梨花，形容謎底全為諧聲白字（別字）。以下例子來自康樂及文化事務署二零一八年舉辦的元宵節綵燈會：

拗橫折曲無處直（本港地名一／諧音格）
謎底：荃灣（全彎）

圍棋格：謎底字數為偶數，至少四字，前半截諧讀，後半截正讀，反之亦可。格名源於諧讀部分與正讀部分壁壘分明，有如圍棋黑子白子一般，例如：

拳王之父（上市公司一／圍棋格）
謎底：阿里巴巴（爸爸）

粉面格、**素心格**、**粉底格**：謎底字數不限，但必有一字讀作諧聲。格名暗示了諧音字的位置：



(二) 倒轉字序

鞦韆格：謎底為兩字，順讀或倒讀皆成理，有如鞦韆前後擺盪。不過，謎底必須倒讀，才與謎面相扣，例如：

今天（國名一／鞦韆格）謎底：日本

捲簾格：格名出自詩句“倒捲珠簾上玉鉤”，寓意謎底要從尾讀起，猶如珠簾由下而上捲起。此格與鞦韆格相似，但謎底多為三字，例如：

免賀禮（慶祝日一／捲簾格）謎底：情人節

(三) 拆字連讀

蝦鬚格、**燕尾格**、**蠅頭格**、**蜓尾格**：謎底至少兩字，首字或尾字為合體字，該字須分拆成兩個字，與謎底的其他字連讀，才扣合謎面。格名以動物形貌比擬合體字的結構與位置：



有人認為謎格構思靈巧，能為燈謎另闢新徑，倍添趣味；有人則視之為牽強附會，令謎題失卻本真。其實燈謎的雅俗巧拙，關鍵並非在於是否使用謎格，而在於有沒有觸類旁通的奇思妙想。張起南曾言：“謎雖小道，然擴而充之，宇宙間一名一物，無所不包。”也許以小見大，讓猜謎者探賸鉤深，正是謎語趣味所在，也是這種文字遊戲最迷人之處。

以下燈謎妙用謎格，連張起南也為之讚歎不已，你能猜得出嗎？

萬國衣冠拜冕旒（猜一字／捲簾格）
（謎底在下一頁）

TOP MYSTERY

The first of May is the Labour Day holiday in many countries, but on this day in 1999, it was no time to rest for American mountaineer Conrad Anker and his team. They were examining a frozen body at nearly 27,000 feet on the North Face of Everest. Unlike other climbers, the group was in no hurry to reach the summit. They climbed up high for a completely different reason—to investigate the disappearance of the renowned mountaineer George Leigh Mallory and his young companion Andrew Comyn Irvine during an attempted summit of Everest 75 years earlier.

Athletic, charismatic and impossibly handsome, Mallory was the most illustrious British climber of his generation. His abilities on the mountain were legendary. Geoffrey Winthrop Young, a very experienced alpine climber, once mentioned that Mallory's unique movements were "as sure-footed and as agile as the proverbial chamois". Indeed, his climbing prowess was so extraordinary that many people perceived him as infallible. Near the end of his mountaineering days, Mallory was torn between his love for his wife Ruth and his obsession with scaling Everest—"the wildest dream", as he called it. He was the only person on all three British expeditions to Everest, the "Third Pole", in the 1920s. In the 1921 reconnaissance expedition, Mallory identified a potential route to the summit. Returning with the goal of reaching the mountaintop, the 1922 expedition team ended on the third try when an avalanche killed seven Sherpa porters. Despite the near-death experience, Mallory returned to the mountain in 1924 for one final attempt before settling down with Ruth and their three young children.

On 8 June 1924, Mallory set off early from a high camp at 26,800 feet with the 22-year-old Irvine. Dressed in gabardine jackets and hobnailed boots, they began making the final push to the highest point on Earth which lay a mere 2,200 feet above them. At 12:50 pm, Noel Odell, the geologist of the expedition team, was collecting fossils on his way to the camp. Looking up, he saw the clouds parting, with the whole summit ridge and final peak of Everest in clear sight. On the ridge within 800 feet of the summit were two tiny black spots scaling the rock formation and, in Odell's words, "moving with considerable alacrity". However, clouds quickly rolled in again and a snow squall blew up. It was the last time the climbing duo were seen alive.

Over the years, the final hours of Mallory and Irvine have stirred much curiosity and conjecture. Did they fall into a

crevasse, succumb to the bitter cold or die from exhaustion? Did they meet their demise on the way up or on the way down? Most intriguingly of all, did they reach the summit, almost three decades before the first recorded successful ascent of the mountain by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953?

To solve this mystery, Anker and his companions set off to locate Irvine's remains based on clues gathered over the years. It was hoped that the pair's camera might be found on his body. The film, if undamaged, could possibly be developed and help answer some of the questions swirling around Mallory and Irvine's fateful expedition. To their astonishment, the body they found on the North Face was Mallory's. It was in a position of self-arrest with a broken right leg, apparently the result of a fall. Many of his belongings were recovered, including a pair of sun goggles deep inside a clothing pocket. This discovery seems to suggest that Mallory, after being last sighted by Odell, was on the move at least until nightfall. If true, he should have had enough time to reach the top. The fall that resulted in his death would likely have happened after dark when he was on his descent back to the camp. Adding to the speculation was the absence of Ruth's photograph among his artefacts. As told by his family, Mallory had promised to leave Ruth's picture on the summit. Did he manage to make the ultimate tribute to his wife before death?

Unfortunately, the camera was not found on Mallory's body and so we will never know with certainty whether the pair had made it to the top of the mountain. Yet their legacy inspires us to ponder an even greater mystery of human nature—the motivation behind our willingness to seek out danger. What led Mallory, Irvine, and many others to risk their lives in pursuit of the summit? If his famous quip "Because it's there" seems too flippant a response to the question, a more heartfelt answer might lie in what Mallory wrote after he climbed Mont Blanc in 1911:

Have we vanquished an enemy? None but ourselves. Have we gained success? That word means nothing here. Have we won a kingdom? No ... and yes. We have achieved an ultimate satisfaction ... fulfilled a destiny.

Is Mallory's life a cautionary tale of conquering the unconquerable, or a beacon of light that illuminates the path to a well-lived life? Perhaps, in pursuing our interests with passion and vigour, the action is the reward itself.

〈謎格舉隅〉參考答案：命

“冕旒”指古代帝王的禮帽，是天子的代稱。
“命”字可分拆為“人、一、叩”，倒讀即為“叩一人”，扣合謎面萬國使臣跪拜天子的意思。



人間第一峯

從前，東北海之外，廣袤無際的洪荒大地上，有座名為“不咸”的巍峨高山，峯頂常年白雪皚皚，素有“千年積雪萬年松，直上人間第一峯”的美譽。光陰流轉，不咸山隨着朝代更迭有了不同的名字：北魏時期稱“徒太山”，唐代稱“太白山”，遼金時期稱“長白山”，此名沿用至今。

長白山脈雄踞關東大地，逶迤數千里，與黑龍江並稱“白山黑水”，泛指中國東北地區。這一古老山脈屹立億萬年，孕育萬物生長，也庇護着山下的人們繁衍生息。從古老的肅慎族，到挹婁、勿吉，以至女真、滿族，世世代代生於斯、長於斯，無不對長白山崇敬有加，奉之為聖嶽神山。這片莽莽蒼蒼的崇山峻嶺，滋養了他們粗獷豪邁的氣概和勇敢尚武的精神。

女真部落人口稀少、武器簡陋，卻奇跡般於白山黑水之間崛起，兩度入關，問鼎中原。女真人建立金朝後，視長白山為“興王之地”，先後封之為“興國靈應王”和“開天宏聖帝”，並在山北興建廟宇，每逢春秋二季，擇日致祭。金朝一度統治大半個中國，但“維金之祚，與山無極”終究是奢望。在蒙古鐵騎的踐踏下，盛極一時的金朝享國百餘年便告覆滅。

統治中國近三個世紀的滿清王朝，亦奉長白山為“龍興之地”。《滿洲實錄》和《太祖武皇帝實錄》等史書有以下記載：三個仙女到長白山仙湖沐浴嬉戲，年紀最小的一個吃了神鵲銜來的朱果後誕下一子，名為布庫里雍順，也就是滿族人的祖先。清兵入關後，在長白山一帶挖了許多壕溝，並插柳結繩為界，禁止老百姓上山伐木、採參和狩獵。咸豐年間，天災人禍接踵而至，往東北逃荒避難的人愈來愈多，禁令才解除。

清朝封禁長白山的原因，至今仍眾說紛紜：有人說是為了保護龍脈，有人說是為滿族留下退路，有人說是為了獨佔資源。長達兩百多年的封禁，為長白山披上一層神秘面紗，令人浮想聯翩，就連不少小說也以此山為背景。金庸名著《雪山飛狐》中的雪山便是長白山。故事以眾人爭奪闖王李自成埋在長白山的寶藏為主線，最後胡斐與苗人鳳的宿命一戰，也在長白山上演。南派三叔所著的《盜墓筆記》中，長白山下的青銅門後蘊藏着驚天大秘密。書中主角張起靈二零零五年隻身進入長白山地底看守青銅門，與另一主人

公吳邪告別時，相約十年後重聚。相信作者也沒想到，到了二零一五年，大批書迷竟湧至長白山，共赴十年之約。當現實與虛構的界線變得模糊不清，長白山益發顯得耐人尋味，引人入勝。

康熙、乾隆等清朝皇帝都曾前赴東北，遙拜祖山。末代皇帝溥儀雖然接受西方教育，但對長白山不減敬畏，曾親臨吉林小白山望祭長白山神。然而，長白山神並沒有把愛新覺羅皇族護佑到底。隨着溥儀退位，清朝也宣告滅亡。春秋不斷的香火沒有換來千秋萬代的江山。當君王已化為枯骨，帝國灰飛煙滅，廟宇只剩破瓦頹垣，長白山的傳奇仍延續下去。

長白山之巔鑲嵌着一汪湛藍，煙波浩渺，猶如人間仙境。這是中國最大的火山口湖——天池，也是松花江、圖們江、鴨綠江三江的源頭。二零二零年，無人機在距離天池水面五百米的上空，拍攝到池中出現不明物體，天池水怪之說一時甚囂塵上。

其實，長白山天池水怪之說由來已久。光緒三十四年（一九零八年），奉天候補知縣劉建封在《長白山山崗志略》寫道：“自池中有物出水，金黃色，首大如盞，方頂有角，長項多鬚。”上世紀八十年代以來，長白山天池水怪的傳聞層出不窮，據說目擊者數以千計，既有遊客、記者，也有氣象工作者、火山監測站人員等。

科學家說，天池水溫太低，大型生物不可能存活，何況天池形成不過三百多年，池中即使有神秘生物，也不可能源自遠古時代。那麼，人們在天池瞥見的究竟是什麼？是在湖面上捕食的動物？為何遍尋不果？這一切至今仍是個謎。長白山自然博物館設有怪獸廳，展示了兩個根據目擊者所述形象雕製的怪獸像：一個像龍，披着一身黃鱗；另一個像牛，頭上長有一雙金角。雖然怪獸之說尚無明證，天池怪物在中國的知名度卻堪比英國尼斯湖水怪，吸引不少遊客慕名而來。

奇峯、林海、飛瀑、冷泉、怪石、幽谷……天池水怪的傳說固然給人無限遐想，但看不盡的風光、說不完的故事、參不透的奧秘，才是長白山的魅力所在。

至道之精，窈窕冥冥；至道之極，昏昏默默。

《莊子·在宥》



A Story of Gene Therapy

Kevin Lam
Department of Health

A cherubic baby lay on a pristine white sheet, breaking into a fantastic grin at his mother. She leaned forward and gave him a little peck on his forehead. Eugene, a five-month-old infant, had been a mother's dream—full of smiles, contentment, and easy to care for. The young mother had been full of bliss since he was born, but today she looked worried and sad.

A few days ago, Eugene's mother received a call that broke her heart. At the other end of the telephone was a doctor from a nearby hospital. He told her, in a measured tone, that little Eugene had just been diagnosed with a rare hereditary disease that caused muscle weakness and atrophy. He would eventually lose the ability to walk and breathe before his second birthday. Her mind went numb at that point, and the rest of the conversation was little more than sounds flowing in and out of her consciousness. The doctor said something bleak about the prognosis but promised her that he would do what he could. She was suddenly at a loss for words, and tears started rolling down her once joyful face.

Eugene's condition is called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), which is the most common inherited cause of infant mortality. More than one child in a family may be afflicted, even though the parents do not exhibit any physical aspects of the genetic condition. Two physicians, Guido Werdnig and Johann Hoffman, made the first attempt to lift the veil of this mysterious infantile syndrome in the 1890s, but another century would pass before a major breakthrough was made. In the 1990s, scientists discovered that SMA is caused by a defective or missing gene that produces the human survival motor neuron (SMN) protein. This SMN protein is like sunlight to plants. Without it, muscle in the patient's body is destined to wilt and die. In the most serious cases, infants rarely see their second birthday.

Thanks to the intensive research on the human genome, there is today a sophisticated understanding of the structure of the SMN gene and how it operates in our body. As scientists tweak and synthesise genes in a laboratory, gene therapy has emerged as a promising treatment option for patients like Eugene. It works by delivering the functional gene to cells at a rate large enough to replace the wrong copy, thus enabling the body to produce enough SMN protein for itself. Figuratively

speaking, the process is akin to marshalling thousands of billions of tiny soldiers and arming them each with an identical code book and a map. Once injected into the body, these soldiers each make a long and winding march towards their assigned target cell while dodging the sentries of the body's defence systems. Their mission continues inside the cell, with the soldiers slipping their code books through the cellular fence and letting out a loud cry to summon the cell to produce SMN protein.

A few weeks after the devastating news, Eugene's mother received another call from the same doctor. Her heart pounded as she listened intently. "I want to let you know that there is a clinical trial going on for an experimental therapy," said the doctor, "and this would offer hope to little Eugene's situation." He went on to say something about gene therapy, DNA loaded cells, target delivery and genome editing that the mother did not quite understand. But through teary eyes, she saw a gleam of hope.

Eugene was enrolled in the clinical trial of this experimental treatment in 2014, where he was given a single infusion directly into his vein in a hospital. It was a nerve-wracking moment, and his parents were at his bedside throughout the whole procedure, praying that the tiny soldiers inside the milky liquid would find their way and do their job.

A few days passed, and Eugene seemed well. The doctor indicated that Eugene's tiny body was responding positively. Fifteen other patients below the age of two also underwent the first series of trials, which went on for over three years. The outcome was very promising, with the children's muscle functions preserved if not much improved.

This novel therapy has revolutionised treatment to address previously unmet medical needs and has since benefited thousands of young SMA sufferers like Eugene in more than 40 countries. It is a milestone more than 130 years in the making, made possible by generations of dedicated researchers who left no stone unturned in studying the disease. With researchers redoubling their efforts in using this pioneering method for cure, other debilitating genetic abnormalities might eventually become a thing of the past, like the silent tears that Eugene's mother once shed.

Mystery is not the absence of meaning, but the presence of more meaning than we can comprehend.

Dennis Covington

極地的啓示

環境保護署
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破冰船徐徐前行，海冰不時互相碰撞，甚至擊中船身，發出隆隆巨響。船上廣播突然傳來令人振奮的消息：“現時天氣狀況良好，適合直升機飛行。請各位整理好行裝，留意宣布，預備隨時按指示到升降坪集合。降落冰面後，沿紅色旗幟小心前行，就會見到帝王企鵝羣落……”

初次踏足海冰，心裏很不踏實，因為腳下就是深不見底的南冰洋。冰面上新雪鬆軟，深可及膝，令人舉步維艱。沿途不時見到成年帝王企鵝覓食回來，牠們雖然挺着大肚子，卻比我們矯捷得多，不愧為極地王者。踉踉蹌蹌走了約一小時，四周企鵝的鳴叫聲愈來愈大，我們終於到達帝王企鵝羣落了！那份夢想成真的喜悅，將在冰上行走帶來的疲倦一掃而空。



我遊走於企鵝羣中觀察和拍攝時，遇上一隻幼雛。牠迷茫地四處走動，在眾多企鵝當中顯得異常嬌小，同伴不時啄咬牠的頭，肆意欺凌。到底小企鵝的爸媽在哪兒呢？是

覓食時遇上意外嗎？還是不小心把牠弄丟了？南極生存條件嚴苛，企鵝父母都只能育養自己的孩子，離家落單的幼雛幾乎沒有一線生機。我不禁疑惑，帝王企鵝在進化期間究竟經歷何事，才選擇在會消失的海冰上育雛，抵受嚴寒之餘還要與時間競賽呢？這個謎，恐怕連科學家也無法解開。

親身接觸帝王企鵝之後，我對牠們更添敬佩。在這片極地，生存絕非易事。到訪之時正值春末，天氣相對穩定，但仍遇上暴風雪驟然來襲。寒風夾雜大雪，令四周變得白茫茫一片，我也數不清多少次險遭強風吹倒，實在驚心動魄。帝王企鵝卻偏偏選擇在嚴冬繁殖，與狂風暴雪對抗，承受攝氏零下五十度的低溫，飢寒交迫也絕不退縮。

帝王企鵝照顧子女的辛勞，實在不下於人類。牠們在嚴寒下小心翼翼地守護鳥蛋，以免鳥蛋受寒，孵不出小企鵝來。寶寶破殼而出後，父母還要長途跋涉，在育幼場與大海之間往返覓食，不斷餵養，悉心照料。正因為父母這份無微不至的愛，小企鵝才得以在短短五個月內健康成長，並趕及在初夏海冰裂開之前褪去絨毛，長出防水新羽，在海洋的呼喚下縱身一躍，初嘗海中暢泳的樂趣，進入“鳥生”的另一階段。



帝王企鵝的棲息地與世隔絕，環境極端，科研人員難以長年在此工作。正因如此，不少有關這羣極地王者的謎團尚未解開。此外，帝王企鵝和人類同樣面臨全球暖化帶來的威脅。如果海冰加速融化，雛鳥就會趕不及換上防水羽毛，難以存活。怎樣才能減輕全球暖化造成的禍害，仍然有待科研人員繼續為帝王企鵝和人類尋找答案。

朋友看見我拍的企鵝照片，都說小寶寶太可愛了，真想一擁入懷。我倒希望大家除了喜歡企鵝毛茸茸的外表，也聽聽牠們背後的故事，想想如何在日常生活中為減緩氣候暖化出一點力，保護生態環境，為科研人員爭取多點時間解開更多謎團，找出對策，讓這羣無懼嚴寒、堅毅不屈的極地王者得以繁衍下去，也讓你我共享的地球生生不息。



人生如在霧中行，只有眼前的一片才是看得見的，
遠望是茫茫大霧。

唐君毅《人生之體驗續篇》

相片由作者提供



謎城

本期〈謎格舉隅〉一文介紹了幾種常見的謎格。掌握謎格的規律，解謎就能更得心應手。以下謎題均與香港相關，部分題目附有謎格。你能找到正確答案，走出這座“謎”城嗎？

起點

1. 泛舟遊湖 (港鐵站一) (轆轤格)
2. 既膩且甜 (港鐵站一) (粉底格)
3. 唐虞以前 (港鐵站一)
4. 化泥潤物，迎石榴開 (青衣地名一)
5. 齊聲讚好 (土瓜灣街道一)
6. π (香港島嶼一) (粉底格)
7. 二人閒適快活 (輕鐵站一) (蠅頭格)
8. 儲君有言 (交通要道一)
9. 說話不僅動之以情 (九龍街道一) (粉面格)
10. 打呼嚕聚集地 (社區設施一) (圍棋格)

終點

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Not-a-Mindboggler

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Solution of Issue No. 92

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2. companion
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7. adventure
8. journey
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Issue No. 94 (January 2024) : Days to Remember

二零二四年一月第九十四期主題：紀念日

Issue No. 95 (April 2024) : Beginnings

二零二四年四月第九十五期主題：最初

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