

《英语经典美文：自力更生》

Self-Reliance

自力更生

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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I read the other day some verses written by an eminent painter which were original and not conventional. The soul always hears an admonition in such lines, let the subject be what it may.

前些天，我读到了一些由一位卓越的画家创作的诗句，它们不是千篇一律的，很原创。这些诗句总能引起灵魂的警示，无论主题是什么。



The sentiment they instill is of more value than any thought they may contain. To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, — that is genius.

它们灌输的感情比任何思想都更有价值。相信自己的思想，相信你内心真实的想法适用于所有人——这就是天才。

Speak your latent conviction, and it shall be the universal sense; for the inmost in due time becomes the outmost, — and our first thought is rendered back to us by the trumpets of the Last Judgment.

坚持你内心深处的信念，它将成为普遍的感知；因为内在的思想最终会变成外在的表达，而我们最初的想法将被最后审判的号角回响给我们。

Familiar as the voice of the mind is to each, the highest merit we ascribe to Moses, Plato, and Milton is that they set at naught books and traditions, and spoke not what men, but what they thought.

对每个人来说，心灵的声音都很熟悉，我们将最高的赞誉给予摩西、柏拉图和弥尔顿，是因为他们轻视书籍和传统，他们发表的不是人们的声音，而是他们自己的思想。

A man should learn to detect and watch that gleam of light which flashes across his mind from within, more than the lustre of the firmament of bards and sages. Yet he dismisses without notice his thought, because it is his.

一个人应该学会察觉和关注那闪过心灵的光芒，那比吟游诗人和贤哲的光辉更重要。然而，他会因为这个思想是自己的而不予理会。

In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts: they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty. Great works of art have no more affecting lesson for us than this.

在每一个天才的作品里，我们都能识别出自己曾经拒绝的思想：它们以一种独特的威严重新回到我们身边。对我们来说，伟大的艺术作品没有比这更让人动容的教训。

They teach us to abide by our spontaneous impression with good-humored inflexibility then most when the whole cry of voices is on the other side.

它们教导我们要以好心情坚守我们最初的直觉，尤其是在所有声音都在反对的时候。

Else, to-morrow a stranger will say with masterly good sense precisely what we have thought and felt all the time, and we shall be forced to take with shame our own opinion from another. Translation

否则，明天一个陌生人将以精明的理智说出我们一直以来所想所感，我们将被迫羞愧地接受别人的观点。

