**Will you be a worker or a laborer?**

**你想做工作者还是劳役者？**

**1 To be truly happy, a person must feel both free and important. People are never happy if they feel compelled by society to do work they do not enjoy, or if what they do enjoy is ignored by society as having no value or importance. In a society where slavery in the strict sense has been abolished, the social indications around work, the value of work and the salary, have degraded many laborers into modern slaves — "wage slaves".**

**一个人要想真正快乐，必须觉得自己既自由又重要。如果觉得自己是受社会逼迫而做自己不喜欢的工作，或者自己喜欢的工作被认为没价值或不重要而遭社会忽视，那他绝不会快乐。在一个奴隶制度严格说来已经被废除的社会里，工作的社会含义、工作的价值和薪水，已经把许多劳役者降格为现代奴隶——“薪奴”。**

**2 People are considered laborers if their job has an adverse effect on them, yet they feel compelled to continue working by the necessity of conforming to societal expectations and earning the revenue to support themselves and their families. The polar opposite of labor is play. When we play a game, we enjoy what we are doing, but it is a purely private pastime; society does not care when or whether we play.**

**如果人们的工作对自己有负面的影响，但为了遵从社会的期望或者挣钱养家糊口而被迫必须继续工作，那么他们就被认为是劳役者。劳役的对立面是玩乐。当我们玩游戏时，我们很享受正在做的事情，但这仅仅是个人娱乐。社会对我们何时玩乐或者是否玩乐并不关心。**

**3 Between labor and play stands work. People are labeled as workers if their personal interests coincide with the jobs society pays them to do; what is necessary labor from the point of view of society is voluntary play from the individual's personal point of view. Whether a job is to be designated as labor or work depends, not on the job itself, but on the tastes of the individual who undertakes it. The difference does not, for example, correlate with the difference between a manual and mental job or between jobs of low or high esteem; a gardener covered in dirt in a greenhouse may be a worker while a well-dressed city mayor may prove to be an unhappy laborer!**

**处于劳役和玩乐之间的就是工作。如果人们的个人兴趣跟社会付酬让他们做的工作相吻合，他们就被称为工作者。社会上看来一定是苦工的事情对个人来说却是自在的玩乐活动。一份活到底应定为工作还是劳役并不取决于其本身，而是承担这份活的个人感受。比如，二者的区别与是体力活还是脑力活或尊严的高低没有关联。温室里满身尘土的园丁可能是工作者，而衣冠楚楚的市长则可能是一个不开心的劳役者！**

**4 People's attitude toward their work determines everything. To workers, leisure means simply the hours they need to relax and rest in order to work efficiently. Workers are therefore more prone to dedicate more time to working, taking too little leisure rather than too much. To laborers, on the other hand, leisure means autonomy from compulsion, so it is natural for them to imagine that the fewer hours they have to spend laboring, and the more hours they have free for play, the better.**

**人们对自己工作的态度决定了一切。对工作者而言，闲暇只是为了更有效地工作而需要放松休息的时间。因此，工作者更倾向于投入更多的时间工作，而花在休闲上的时间并非很多，而是很少。而对劳役者而言，休闲意味着从被迫状态中得到自主。因此，他们自然会想，花在劳作上的时间越少，自在玩乐的时间越多，则越好。**

**5 Besides the mere hours spent in leisure, workers and laborers differ in the amount of personal satisfaction they derive from their jobs. Workers who enjoy their jobs will be happier, less stressed, and generally more satisfied with their lives. They will also work with more diligence and precision because they have fostered a sense of personal pride in their jobs. On the other hand, laborers, whose sole incentive is earning their livelihood, feel that the time they spend on the daily grind is wasted and doesn't contribute to their happiness. Instead of valuing all 24 hours of their day as enjoyable and productive hours, they gauge only the time spent in leisure and play as meaningful. Unfortunately, laborers are all too commonplace, and only a small percentage of the population is in the lucky position of being workers.**

**除了花在闲暇上的时间不同，工作者和劳役者的区别还在于他们从工作中获得的个人满足感不同。工作者喜欢自己的工作，感觉更快乐，更轻松，通常对自己的生活更满意。他们工作起来也会更勤奋，更精细，因为他们对自己的工作已经产生了一种自豪感。相反，由于劳役者的唯一动力是挣生活费，他们觉得每天花在苦差上的时间是一种浪费，不会让自己快乐。他们不把每天的24小时都当作愉快有用的时光，认为只有花在休闲娱乐上的时间才是有意义的。不幸的是，劳役者太常见了，只有一小部分人能有幸成为工作者。**

**6 In recent decades, technological innovation and the division of labor have caused major economic changes by eliminating the need for special strength or skill in many fields and have turned many paid occupations with enjoyable work into boring labor. Increasing productivity with automated machines, such as robots, has reduced the number of necessary laboring hours. It is possible to imagine an upcoming society in which the majority of the population will have almost as much leisure time as in earlier times was enjoyed by the medieval aristocracy. The medieval aristocrats had an abundance of leisure time but often wasted it in trivial pursuit of games and fashion. Likewise, modern-day laborers with too much leisure time may find it difficult to refrain from the addictive and trivial pursuits of celebrity gossip, extravagant fashion, and excessive video games and TV — similar bad habits that waste valuable time.**

**近几十年，技术创新和劳动分工使许多领域不再需要专长或特殊技能，导致了重大经济变革，把许多可以通过开心工作来挣钱的职业变成了枯燥的劳役。随着自动化机器如机器人的使用，日益提高的生产力减少了必要的劳作时间。可以想象，在即将到来的社会中，大多数人会拥有同早期中世纪贵族一样多的闲暇时间。中世纪贵族有大量的闲暇时间，但却往往耗费在玩游戏和对时尚的无聊追求上。同样，有太多闲暇时间的现代劳役者们会觉得很难摆脱那些无聊又易上瘾的追求，像名人八卦、奢华时尚、过度电子游戏和电视等诸如此类浪费宝贵时间的坏习惯。**

**7 However, it's not necessary to take such a toxic attitude toward such a positive thing as leisure time. In fact, in many countries, people now use their leisure time to improve their minds and their working conditions to create a happier, more contented life. Lifelong learning can make the difference between being bored, unhappy laborers and workers who find meaning and joy in their employment and life. "Continuing education" or "experiential learning" can offer an array of classes from pleasant diversions such as sports, art classes or music to leadership development, advanced accounting skills, or CAD (computer-aided design), to name only a few.**

**不过，没必要对休闲这种正面的事情采取如此否定的态度。事实上，目前在很多国家，人们利用闲暇时间去提高认识，改善工作环境，以创造更快乐安逸的生活。终身学习对做一个乏味不开心的劳役者，还是成为一个从职业和生活中发现意义和乐趣的工作者有重要的影响。“继续教育”或“体验学习”能提供一系列课程，略举几例，如从运动、艺术或音乐等休闲娱乐课程到领导力拓展、高级会计或CAD（计算机辅助设计）等。**

**8 Whatever the job, people who enjoy their work find time passes quickly. They hurl their passion into their work, be it physical like the work of a smith, or more mental like that of a scientist or an artist. Even purely mental work can suffice as an outlet, as aptly expressed by the phrase "sinking one's teeth into a problem".**

**不管是什么工作，喜欢自己工作的人总发现时间过得飞快。不管是铁匠的体力活，还是像科学家或艺术家从事的偏脑力的活，他们在工作中都会投入激情。即便是纯脑力活也足以让他们挥洒激情，恰如短语表达的那样，“全身心投入问题中”。**

**9 Eventually, everyone has to find a job and earn a living. Laborers are slaving away at a job they don't enjoy for a small monetary reward, waiting all day until they go home and play. But while laborers are counting down the hours, workers are energized and focused, taking optimum pleasure in the task at hand. By choosing a job that is both useful to society and personally fulfilling, workers maintain a simultaneous sense of purpose and enthusiasm that improves their whole lives. So in the end, whatever job you choose, you must contend with this essential question: Will you be a laborer or a worker?**

**最终，每个人都得找一份工作谋生。劳役者仅为了一点金钱报酬，像奴隶一样做自己并不喜欢的工作，一天到晚等着回家玩乐。但是当劳役者倒数着时间之时，工作者则干劲十足，全神贯注，从手头的任务中享受到最大的快乐。他们通过选择一份有益社会、成就自我的工作，怀揣着一种使命感和热情，提升了自己的整个生活。因此到头来，不管你选择什么工作，都必须面对这个根本问题:“你想做一名劳役者还是工作者？”﻿**

**The joy of a prideful tradition**

**光荣传统带来的欢乐**

**1 I first met him in 1965, when I rushed into his little shop to have the heels of my shoes repaired. He greeted me with a cheerful smile and instant hospitality. "You're new in this neighborhood, aren't you?"**

**第一次见他是在1965年，当时我匆匆进入他的小店去修我的鞋跟。他露出开心的笑容，马上热情地招呼我，“你刚搬到这附近，是吗？”**

**2 Indeed, I had moved into a house at the end of the street only a week before.**

**的确，一周前我才刚搬进街道尽头的那栋房子。**

**3 "This is a fine neighborhood," he said. "You'll be happy here."**

**“这一带挺好的，”他说，“你生活在这儿会开心的。”**

**4 I sat there with my shoes off, watching as he got ready to stitch up my shoes I'd entrusted to him. He looked sadly at the leather covering the mount of the heel. It was worn through because I had failed to have the shoes patched a month ago. I grew a little impatient, for I was rushing to meet a friend. "Please hurry," I begged.**

**我脱了鞋坐在那儿，看着他准备动手缝补我交给他的鞋。他惋惜地看着包鞋跟底的皮革。一个月前鞋就该补了，现在那块皮已经磨穿了。因为还要急着去见一位朋友，我有点不耐烦了。“请快点儿，”我请求道。**

**5 He looked at me over his spectacles. "Now, don't worry. I won't be long. This handicraft is my specialty and I want to do a good job." He was silent a moment. "You see, I have a tradition to live up to."**

**他从眼镜上方看了看我。“别急，要不了多久的。这手艺是我最拿手的，我想做好点。”他沉默了一会儿。“你知道，我得遵守传统。”**

**6 A tradition? In this simplistic little shop that was no different from so many other shoe-repair shops on the residential side streets of Washington? The thought seemed a bit absurd.**

**传统？就这家和华盛顿住宅区那么多街边修鞋店没什么区别的简陋小铺子？这想法好像有点荒唐。**

**7 He must have sensed my bias, for he smiled with a gleam in his eyes as he went on. "Yes, I inherited a tradition. My father always told me, 'Son, do the best job on every shoe that comes into the shop, and be proud of your fine work. If you work with dedication, you'll always have happiness and money.'"**

**他准是觉察到了我的不屑，因为他两眼闪烁着光芒，微笑着继续说道：“是的，我继承了一个传统。我父亲总对我说：‘儿子，每只拿到店里的鞋都要修到最好，并且为自己的细活骄傲。如果你尽心工作，就总会拥有快乐和金钱。’”**

**8 As he handed me the finished shoes, he said, "These will last a long time. I've utilized good leather."**

**把修好的鞋递给我时，他说：“这鞋能穿很长时间，我用的是好皮料。”**

**9 I left in a hurry but I had a warm and grateful feeling. On my way home I passed the little shop again. There he was, sitting amongst his tools, still working. He saw me, and he waved and smiled, as cordial as could be. That was the beginning of our friendship, a fellowship that came to mean more and more to me as time passed.**

**我急匆匆地离开了，但觉得既温暖又感激。回家途中我又经过那家小店，他坐在工具中间，还在工作。看见我，他热诚友好地挥手微笑致意。从此我们的友谊就开始了，这是一段随着时间流逝对我越来越重要的交情。**

**10 Thereafter, we waved to each other in a friendly greeting when I passed his shop every day. At first I went in only when I had repair work to be done. Then I found myself lingering in his store or dropping in every few days, just to chat with him for the joy he would impart.**

**从那以后，我每天经过他的店的时候，我们都友好地彼此挥手问好。刚开始我只是在有东西要修的时候才进去，后来我发现自己呆在他的店里或隔几天去拜访一下完全是为了和他聊天，享受他带来的快乐。**

**11 He was a tall man, bent from long years of work. What little hair he had was gray; his face was deeply lined. His personality was clear, but never stern. And, I remember best his fine dark eyes, alive with his charitable, carefree, and humorous spirit.**

**他身材高大，多年工作弄得有点驼背，不多的头发已经灰白，脸上皱纹纵横。他个性鲜明，但从不严苛。此外，我尤其记得他那双动人的黑眼睛，洋溢着和善、快乐与幽默。**

**12 He was the happiest man I've ever known. Often, as he stood in front of his door overseeing the street, working at a pair of shoes, he sang a beautiful melody in a high, clear voice. Neighbors nicknamed him "the singing cobbler". The neighborhood children loved him. He'd periodically pause his work to referee arguments or give out candy. He had no patience for bullying and would insist the children play fair in front of his store.**

**他是我见过的最快乐的人。经常，他站在店门口，朝着大街，一边修理鞋子，一边高声清晰地唱着动听的曲子。街坊们戏称他为“鞋匠歌手”。周边的孩子都喜欢他，他时不时会停下工作去调解争吵或者分发糖果。他不能容忍欺凌弱小，坚持让孩子们在他店前面公平游戏。**

**13 One day, I came away from my house filled with fury because of a poor job some painters had done on my house. My friend waved to me as I walked by, so I went into his shop to vent my frustration. He let me speak angrily about the poor work and carelessness of present-day workmen. "They had no pride in their work," I said. "They just wanted to collect money for doing nothing! The undutiful attitude these days is almost a sin."**

**有一天，因为几个油漆匠把我的房子弄得不像样子，我怒气冲冲地从家里出来。路过他的小店时，已是朋友的他冲我招手，我便走进他的店里发泄郁闷。他听我气愤地诉说现今工人工作糟糕，粗心马虎。“他们对自己的工作没有荣誉感，”我说，“他们只想挣钱却不想做事。如今这种不负责的态度简直就是一种罪过。”**

**14 He consoled me, saying, "There's a lot of that kind around, but maybe we should not blame them too rashly. Maybe their parents had no pride in their work. That's hard on a child. It keeps a child from learning what's important."**

**他安慰我说：“身边有许多那样的人，不过我们或许不要太急于怪罪他们。可能他们的父母就对自己的工作没有自豪感。这对孩子来说很不好，让他们没法知道什么东西才是重要的。”**

**15 "What can be done about it?" I asked.**

**“对此我们能做什么呢？”我问。**

**16 He pondered that for a minute before answering. Then he looked at me seriously. "There is only one way. Every man or woman who hasn't inherited a prideful tradition must start building one. In this country, each of us can make our own contribution to the fabric of society, and we must endeavor to make it a good one. No matter what sort of work a person does, if we give it our best each day, we're starting a tradition for our children to live up to. When a person amends their ways and learns to take pride in their work, a lifetime of happiness will ensue."**

**回答之前他想了一会儿，然后认真地看着我，“只有一个办法。一个人如果没有光荣传统可以继承，那他/她就必须开始去建立一个。在这个国家，我们每个人都能为社会建设做出自己的贡献，我们必须努力把它做好。不管一个人做什么样的工作，只要我们每天都把它做到最好，我们就在为自己的孩子建立一个可遵循的传统。当一个人修正自己的方式并学会以自己的工作为荣时，快乐的一生就会随之而来。”**

**17 I traveled for a few months on business, and shortly after my return, I walked down the street, looking forward to seeing my friend again. Yet when I arrived, I found the door closed. There was a little sign: "Call for shoes at shop next door."**

**我在外出差了几个月，一回来就上街，期望再见到我的朋友。可是我那儿时却发现门关着，一张小告示上写着“取鞋请到隔壁店”。**

**18 I went into the next shop, and what I heard pierced my heart. Yes, the old man had passed away. He was stricken with an infectious illness two weeks before and died two days later.**

**我走进隔壁店里，听到的消息让我心如刀绞。是的，这位老人已经过世了。两周前他突然患了传染病，两天后就去世了。**

**19 I went away with a wretched void in my heart. I would miss him, terribly. But he had left me something, an important piece of wisdom I will invariably remember: "If you have inherited a prideful tradition, you must carry it on; if you haven't, then start building one now."**

**离开时，我心里空落落的，痛苦不已。我会很怀念他，非常地怀念。不过他已给我留下了一些东西——一句我将永远牢记的隽语：“如果你继承了一个光荣传统，就必须把它传承下去；如果你没有，那现在就开始建立一个。”**