

Owl's Fables

The Lantern and the Firefly

Lessons you wish weren't true



The **owl speaks** when dusk is deep,
Where **truths** are sown, but none dare reap.
A **tale** once told will **haunt the mind**,
For those who **look**, but **still are blind**.

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A firefly admired a lantern that burned brightly in the night. “How grand you are,” said the firefly, “to shine so long and steady.”

The lantern replied, “My light is not my own; it comes from the flame within.”

Envious, the firefly asked, “Could I take your flame to burn as you do?”

The lantern flickered. “You could try,” it said, “but beware: what burns within me also consumes me.”

Later, the villagers found the firefly, still glowing faintly, its wings charred black.

Moral: Some lights are not meant to be borrowed.



0.1.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只萤火虫欣赏着一盏夜晚明亮燃烧的灯笼。“你真是太宏伟了，”萤火虫说，“能发光如此长久且稳定。”

灯笼回答道：“我的光并非属于我；它来自内心的火焰。”

心生嫉妒，萤火虫问：“我可以借用你的火焰像你一样燃烧吗？”

灯笼闪烁了一下。“你可以试试，”它说，“但小心：在我体内燃烧的东西也会吞噬我。”

之后，村民们发现那只萤火虫，仍然微弱地发光，翅膀被烧焦变黑。

道德：有些光并不适合借用。

0.1.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī yínghuǒchóng xīnshǎngzhe yī zhǎn yèwǎn míngliàng ránshāo de dēnglóng. “Nǐ zhēn shì tài hóngwěi le,” yínghuǒchóng shuō, “néng fāguāng rúcǐ chángjiǔ qiě wěndìng.”

Dēnglóng huídá dào: “Wǒ de guāng bìng fēi shǔyú wǒ; tā láizì nèixīn de huǒyàn.”

Xīn shēng jìdù, yínghuǒchóng wèn: “Wǒ kěyǐ jiè yòng nǐ de huǒyàn xiàng nǐ yīyàng ránshāo ma?”

Dēnglóng shǎnshuò le yīxià. “Nǐ kěyǐ shìshì,” tā shuō, “dàn xiǎoxīn: zài wǒ tǐnèi ránshāo de dōngxī yě huì tūnshì wǒ.”

Zhīhòu, cūnmínmen fāxiàn nà zhī yínghuǒchóng, réngrán wēiruò de fāguāng, chībǎng bèi shāojiāo biàn hēi.

Dàodé: Yǒuxiē guāng bìng bù shìhé jiè yòng.

