

Aesop's Fables

47. THE FOX AND THE GOAT 狐狸和山羊



A Fox fell into a well and was unable to get out again. By and by a thirsty Goat came by, and seeing the Fox in the well asked him if the water was good.

一只狐狸失足掉到了井里，无论如何也爬不上来。一只口渴的公山羊来到这个井边，看见狐狸待在井下，便问他井水好不好喝。



"Good?" said the Fox, "it' s the best water I ever tasted in all my life. Come down and try it yourself."

“好不好喝？”狐狸说，“这可是我有生以来尝过最好喝的水，你快下来亲自试试吧。”



The Goat thought of nothing but the prospect of quenching his thirst, and jumped in at once. When he had had enough to drink, he looked about, like the Fox, for some way of getting out, but could find none.

一心只想喝水的山羊信以为真，便不假思索地跳了下去，当他“咕咚咕咚”痛饮完，就不得不开始思考爬上井去的办法，可他也像狐狸那样一筹莫展。



Presently the Fox said, "I have an idea. You stand on your hind legs, and plant your forelegs firmly against the side of the well, and then I' ll climb on to your back, and, from there, by stepping on your horns, I can get out. And when I' m out, I' ll help you out too."

狐狸早有准备，他狡猾地说：“我倒有一个方法。你用前脚扒在井墙上，再把后腿蹬直了，我从你的后背跳上井去，再拉你上来，这样我们就都得救了。”



The Goat did as he was requested, and the Fox climbed on to his back and so out of the well; and then he coolly walked away.

公山羊同意了他的提议，狐狸踩着山羊的后背跳出了井口，接着便大摇大摆地扬长而去。



The Goat called loudly after him and reminded him of his promise to help him out: but the Fox merely turned and said, "If you had as much sense in your head as you have hair in your beard you wouldn't have got into the well without making certain that you could get out again."

公山羊指责狐狸不信守诺言，没有把他拉上去。但是，狐狸却回过头来对公山羊说：“喂，朋友，如果你的心眼能像胡须那样多，就不至于在没想清楚应该如何跳出井之前，盲目地跳下去了。”



Look before your leap.

三思而行。



Sweet dreams!
Good Night!

