

The Beginner's Creed

初学者信条

Peter J. Denning*

The Beginner's Creed

I am a beginner.

I am entering a new game about which I know nothing.

I do not yet know how to move in this game.

I see many other people playing in this game now.

This game has gone on for many years prior to my arrival.

I am a new recruit arriving here for the first time.

I see value to me in learning to navigate in this domain.

There is much for me to learn:

The basic terminology

The basic rules

The basic moves of action

The basic strategies

While I am learning these things I may feel various negative reactions:

Overwhelmed at how much there is to learn

Insecure that I do not know what to do

Inadequate that I lack the capacity to do this

Frustrated and discouraged that my progress is so slow

Angry that I have been given insufficient guidance

Anxious that I will never perform up to expectations on which my career depends

Embarrassed that everyone can see my mistakes

But these moods are part of being a beginner. It does not serve my goal and ambition to dwell in them. Instead,

If I make a mistake, I will ask what lesson does this teach.

If I make a discovery, I will celebrate my aha! moment.

If I feel alone, I will remember that I have many friends ready to help.

If I am stuck, I will ask for help from my teachers.

Over time, I will make fewer mistakes.

I will gain confidence in my abilities.

I will need less guidance from my teachers and friends.

I will gain familiarity with the game.

I will be able to have intelligent conversations with others in the game.

*摘自《Communications of the ACM》, The Beginner's Creed, July 2017.

I will not cause breakdowns for promises that I lack the competence to keep.

I have an ambition to become competent, perhaps even proficient or expert in this game. But for now,

I am a beginner.

—By Peter J. Denning

译文：

我是初学者

我初次接触这个新游戏，先前我对此一无所知

我不知道在这个游戏中如何走棋

我看到许多人在玩这个游戏

在我到来之前，这个游戏已经存在很多年

我只是一个新学员，初次到来

我明白学会在这个领域倘佯对我的价值

只是有实在太多东西要学习：

基本词汇

基本规则

基本步骤

基本策略

在学习这些东西时，我可能感受各种负面情绪：

被太多要学的新东西淹没

因不知所措深感不安

对我是否有能力应对缺乏信心

因为进展缓慢而倍感沮丧和灰心

因为没有得到足够的指导而怒气冲冲

因为我永远达不到职业的期望而忧心忡忡

因为每个人看到我的错误而感到羞愧

但是，这些情绪是每个初学者必须经历的。纠结在这种情绪中并不能帮助我实现我的目标和理想。

如果我犯了错误，我将思考从中学到哪些教训

如果我有了发现，我将欢呼，啊哈

如果我感到孤单，我将记着有许多朋友乐意帮助我

如果我遇到困难，我将请求老师帮助

坚持下去，我将越来越少犯错

我将对自己的能力充满信心

我将减少对老师和朋友的依赖

我将熟悉这个游戏

我将在游戏中与其他人进行智慧对话

我不会因为没有保持承诺的能力而失败

我有信心成为这种游戏的有竞争力的玩家，甚至高手或专家

但是，现在，

我是初学者。