

聖塔巴巴拉華美協會

Santa Barbara Chinese American Association (SBCAA)

www.chinesefestival.com

會刊

Newsletter

第 51 號 2007 年 1 月

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恭祝各位會員 2007 丁亥新年快樂，萬事如意！

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year!

華美協會春節慶祝活動

在歡樂祥和的 2007 年新春佳節來臨之際，聖塔巴巴拉華美協會熱情邀請您和您的家人參加我們的春節慶祝活動。

精美的食物，精彩的文藝節目，都會給你留下愉快的記憶。見見老朋友，結識新朋友，大朋友小朋友都會很開心。您還可以更新您的會員身份。

春節慶祝活動費用(含食物, 飲料, 表演)：

會員：10 元，非會員：15 元

學生：7 元，兒童：5 元

停車免費。

更多信息，請見www.chinesefestival.com

時間：2007 年 2 月 10 日，上午 11 點-下午 4 點

地點：Goleta Valley Community Center (GVCC)

SBCAA Spring Festival Celebration Party

You and your family are invited to enjoy the annual SBCAA Chinese Spring Festival celebration party.

We have delicious food, and celebration show. It is a good chance to meet your old friends, and to get to know some new friends. You can also renew your annual membership at the Party.

Party ticket fee (Food, Drinks, and shows):

Member \$10, Non-member adult \$15.

Student: \$7, Children: \$5.

Parking is Free.

For more information, please refer to our website www.chinesefestival.com.

Time: 11:00am to 4:00pm, February 10, 2007

Location: Goleta Valley Community Center (GVCC)

UCSB 中國學生學者聯誼會 春節慶祝歌舞晚會

時間：2007年2月11日，晚上6:30-9:30
地點：UCSB Multi-Culture Center (MCC)

歡迎各位前來觀賞，詳細信息請見：
<http://orgs.sa.ucsb.edu/cssa/newYear07/newyear07.html>

華美協會新一屆理事會成立

黃林當選會長，原理事李瑋，余剛，黃淑姬，鄭國才，林靜藝，王堅，Shariff D' Souza 卸任。我們感謝他（她）們為華人社區做出的貢獻。

新一屆理事會名單如下

會長：黃林
副會長：王進學
財務：李德潔
秘書：韋美娟
公關及文化活動：劉浩志，韋美娟，
易蜀明，樂維毅，斯密史鄧
出版：宗山（會刊），高春凱（網站）
會員名錄：陶靖
中國學生會：高春凱

華美協會2006年9-12月份收支情況報告

收入：\$575.00（會員費 \$545.00 + 2006中秋活動收入 \$30.00）
支出：\$1,107.52（中秋活動 \$766.37，銀行帳號費 \$6.50，會刊費用 \$334.65）
淨收支：(\$532.52)

UCSB CSSA Spring Festival Celebration Show

Time: 6:30-9:30pm. February 11th, 2007
Location: Multi-Culture Center Theater, UCSB

All are welcome, for more information,
<http://orgs.sa.ucsb.edu/cssa/newYear07/newyear07.html>

New SBCAA Board Formed

Mr. Huang Lin was elected as the President, former boardmembers, Ms.Rebecca Li, Mr. Gang Yu, Ms. Susie Lee, Ms. Grace Lim, Mr. Michael Cheng, Mr. Jian Wang and Mr. Shariff D'Souza retired from the board. We appreciate their kind contribution to the Santa Barbara Chinese community. The new SBCAA board is

President: Lin Huang
Vice President: Jinxue Wang
Treasurer: Dejie Li
Secretary: Joan Vignocchi
Public Relations and Culture Events:
Hao-Chih (Bernard) Liu, Joan Vignocchi,
Lillian Westue, Wei-Yee Luan, Dan Smith
Publication: Shan Zong (Newsletter)
Chunkai Gao (Website)
Membership: Jing Tao
UCSB CSSA: ChunKai Gao

SBCAA financial Statement (Sept-Dec. 2006)

Deposits: \$575.00 (Membership fee \$545.00 + Income on Moon Festival of 2006 \$30.00)
Withdrawals: \$1,107.52 (2006 Moon Festival \$766.37 + Bank Account Maintenance Charge \$6.50 + News Letters \$334.65)

Change: (\$532.52)

編輯部

編輯：陳淑娟 史建 宗山

歡迎會員們投稿。請寄宗山(E-mail: zongshan2000@yahoo.com)。來稿最好用微軟 WORD 文體，中英文並具。我們也需要義工幫助翻譯和打字，如果願意幫忙請與編輯們聯系。

We encourage members to submit articles to: Shan Zong, E-mail: zongshan2000@yahoo.com. Submission should preferably be in MS WORD format with both Chinese and English versions. We need volunteers to translate and type articles. If you would like to help, please contact the editorial staff.

所有文章隻代表作者個人觀點，不反映編輯部或華美協會董事會的觀點。

All articles represent authors' own views and do not reflect the views of the editorial board or the SBCAA board.

The Editorial Board

Editors: Bella Chen, Jian Shi, Shan Zong

漫話春節

秋月白 收集

春節，是農曆正月初一，又叫陰歷年。這是我國民間最隆重、最熱鬧的一個傳統節日。春節的歷史很悠久，它起源於殷商時期年頭歲尾的祭神祭祖活動。

春節到了，意味著春天將要來臨，萬象復蘇草木更新，新一輪播種和收穫季節又要開始。人們剛剛度過冰天雪地草木凋零的漫漫寒冬，早就盼望著春暖花開的日子，當新春到來之際，自然要充滿喜悅載歌載舞地迎接這個節日。

千百年來，人們使年俗慶祝活動變得異常豐富多彩，每年從農曆臘月二十三日起到年三十，民間把這段時間叫做“迎春日”，也叫“掃塵日”，在春節前掃塵搞衛生，是我國人民素有的傳統習慣。

然後就是家家戶戶準備年貨，節前十天左右，人們就開始忙於採購物品，年貨包括雞鴨魚肉、茶酒油醬、南北炒貨、糖餌果品，都要採買充足，還要準備一些過年時走親訪友時贈送的禮品，小孩子要添置新衣新帽，準備過年時穿。

在節前要在住宅的大門上粘貼紅紙黃字的新年寄語，也就是用紅紙寫成的春聯。屋裡張貼色彩鮮艷寓意吉祥的年畫，心靈手巧的姑娘們剪出美麗的窗花貼在窗戶上，門前掛大紅燈籠或貼福字及財神、門神像等，福字還可以倒貼，路人一念福倒了，也就是福氣到了，所有這些活動都是要為節日增添足夠的喜慶氣氛。

春節的另一名稱叫過年。在過去的傳說中，年是一種為人們帶來壞運氣的想象中的動物。年一來。樹木凋蔽，百草不生；年一過，萬物生長，鮮花遍地。年如何才能過去呢？需用鞭炮轟，於是有了燃鞭炮的習俗，這其實也是烘托熱鬧場面的又一種方式。

春節是個歡樂祥和的節日，也是親人團聚的日子，離家在外的孩子在過春節時都要回家歡聚。過年的前一夜，就是舊年的臘月三十夜，也叫除夕，又叫團圓夜，在這新舊交替的時候，守歲是最重要的年俗活動之一，除夕晚上，全家老小都一起熬年守歲，歡聚酣飲，共享天倫之樂，北方地區在除夕有吃餃子的習俗，在南方有過年吃年糕的習慣，

待第一聲雞啼響起，或是新年的鐘聲敲過，街上鞭炮齊鳴，響聲此起彼伏，家家喜氣洋洋，新的一年開始了，男女老少都穿著節日盛裝，先給家族中的長者拜年祝壽，節中還有給兒童壓歲錢，吃團年飯，初二、三就開始走親戚看朋友，相互拜年，道賀祝福，說些恭賀新喜、恭喜發財、恭喜、過年好等話，祭祖等活動。

節日的熱烈氣氛不僅洋溢在每家各戶，也充滿各地的大街小巷，一些地方的街市上還有舞獅子，耍龍燈，演社火，游花市，逛廟會等習俗。這期間花燈滿城，游人滿街，熱鬧非凡，盛況空前，直要鬧到正月十五元宵節過後，春節才算真正結束了。

春節是漢族最重要的節日，但是滿、蒙古，瑤、壯等十幾個少數民族也有過春節的習俗，隻是過節的形式更有自己的民族特色，更蘊味無窮。

2007年也是農曆豬年，是中國十二生肖中的最後一個生肖，象征著吉祥發財和福氣。

About Chinese New Year

Complied by Qiu Yuebai

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival/Lunar New Year is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. The Chinese New Year period lasts for 15 days, beginning on the first day of the first lunar month of the Chinese calendar. The holiday period ends with Lantern Festival on the 15th day first month. Spring Festival Celebration has a history of more than 2000 years, it started to celebrate the passing of the winter, and the arriving of Spring.

Spring Festival celebration is also called “Guo Nian”, according to legend, in ancient China, Nian, a man-eating beast from the mountains, could infiltrate houses silently to prey on humans. The people later learned that Nian was sensitive to loud noises and the color red, so they scared it away with explosions, fireworks and the liberal use of the color red. So Guo Nian actually means surviving the Nian. These customs led to the first New Year celebrations.

Chinese New Year is also the time for family reunion. A reunion dinner is held on New Year's Eve where members of the family, near and far, get together for celebration. Traditionally, red packets (Hong Bao) with some gift money inside are passed out during the Chinese New Year's celebrations, from senior members in the family to children.

Celebrated internationally in areas with large populations of ethnic Chinese, as well as part of the Eastern Asia, such as Viet Nam, Korea, and Japan.

種菜小記

朱 啟

陪讀是無奈的，尤其對於像我這樣一個既無條件入校讀書又不能謀求合法工作職位的大男爺們。但是日子又需要一天天艱苦熬過，除開洗衣做飯忙家務，終日上網瀏覽那些過眼雲煙般的花邊新聞也不是個長法。為了打發時光，利用校園的優勢，在住處邊上那專門配發給學生家庭的菜地裡開墾種植，也算是孤獨寂寞遇境中的一大樂趣。

事情乍開頭那陣子，我先是來到學生社區辦公室，表述了自己打算種菜的強烈願望。工作人員拿出一張畫著圖形標著數碼的表格，比比劃劃地說上一陣讓我根本無法聽明白的英語，再把那表格遞給我，也就算是完事。我當時依然是丈二和尚摸不著頭腦，幸虧旁邊有個華裔同胞留學生，熱心為我指點迷津：“到路邊停車場邊上的菜地裡，隻要看到沒人種植的荒地塊，撿起一塊隨便就種沒問題！”

按圖索驥，尋找那沒圍護欄、沒架絲網，以及沒有種植任何蔬菜的荒蕪地塊，把雜草除淨，把土地深翻整平，然後開始播下各類種子。最初那陣，種植的蔬菜類型單純，就是那些從超市裡買來的芸豆、豌豆、土豆、胡蘿卜等類便宜貨。K-mart 和周日早市上是有成包的菜種和培育生長的菜苗的，但都貴得令人咂舌。尤其是初來乍到，每當花錢購物時，都是先在腦子裡把美元折換成人民幣去使用，這樣花三兩美元去買一小包僅有十幾到幾十粒的菜種，或者從一兩顆到三五顆不等的西紅柿、黃瓜、茄子、辣椒之類菜苗，那又如何舍得？

為了擴大蔬菜種類，便隻好到別人的菜地邊上或者垃圾箱裡去撿那些被扔掉的菜苗，然後栽培到自己的園中，仔細地澆灌培育。漸漸地認識人多了，有時便也從中國學生那裡得到些許像韭菜、黃瓜、茼蒿、芹菜之類的菜種以及菜苗，並逐漸使自己學會了在適當的季節留出種子來。

年復一年，菜園裡的蔬菜種類就日漸繁多起來。開春的菠菜、茺荳、茼蒿、韭菜，夏季的辣椒、扁豆、茄子、黃瓜，秋季的芹菜、芋頭、南瓜、冬瓜，冬季的洋蔥、大蒜、白菜、蘿卜，一季連著一季，一茬挨著一茬，菜園四季常青，收穫連綿不斷。

最令我引以為傲的，還是栽種於去年初秋，生長於今年盛夏的那棵佛手瓜，可謂是開創了我這三年種菜歷史上的最高收成。截至如今，整茬的果季下來，共採摘肥碩鮮嫩的佛手瓜 250 磅有餘。除開三四個月以來，自家涼拌、熱炒、腌咸菜、蒸包子等隨意性食用以及饋贈友人之外，時下在自家的陽台上還余留下五六十磅的庫存呢。

蔬菜收穫多了，自家吃不了，就開始贈送朋友。其實這也算不上是講究風格，反倒是因為有時候領受到別人的幫助，自己又囊中羞澀，缺少現鈔回饋，就拿新鮮的青菜來頂替，往往要比從商場裡買來禮品更受大家歡迎。因為是現摘現送，新鮮水靈，不施化肥，不撒農藥，無需加工，沒有污染，地地道道的保健食品，吃著自然也更為可口與放心。

有的時候，邀請友人前來菜園裡採摘也是一大樂趣。年逾古稀的瑞芳大姐夫婦來到菜園，因為年邁而無法跨越菜園邊圍那有些過高的欄杆，於是便請我為他們代勞採摘。我在園中挑選，大姐在外頭吆五喝六地直叫喚：“這個，這個。不，是右邊的這個！還有左邊連著那幾個，都給我摘下來，是我看見的！”大姐的神情和話語，簡直不亞於任何一個爛漫活潑的十來歲少年。我猛然聯想到，倘若能夠喚回人們的青春年少，這菜園的功用又算是多麼的神奇！

來美的日子久了，有些時候也少不得跟一個鍋裡摸勺子的妻子拌上幾句嘴。如果是在國內，當然可以亮開嗓子，大吼大叫地施發一陣子大男人的威風。可是如今已然時過境遷，即使受了氣也得禮讓三先。因為這是在美國，仗力欺人，老婆自然不肯干；聲音高了，影響鄰居，同樣也會被報警。無奈之下，便走到菜地裡，揮汗如雨地勞作一陣子，慢慢的身子也就乏了，火氣也就消了，然後返回家門，再平心靜氣地對著老婆陪笑臉。當然，女人的貪婪本性使然，當我把那分文不需的大包小裹的鮮嫩蔬菜捎帶回轉，老婆那原本那柳眉倒豎、杏眼圓睜的可怖面孔，立馬也就由陰轉晴地和軟下來……

而每當心志積郁的時候，來到菜地，彷彿離卻了人世紛爭，一切的郁悶和不快在生機旺盛的蔬菜面前全都化解。面對一片片綠油油的菜葉和一束束含苞待放的花蕾，就仿佛見到了闊別重逢的親人和老友，怡然自得地展開一番寂靜無聲的潛心對話，心頭那所有的積郁轉瞬間便一掃而光，剩下的唯有恬適和安然。

搭理菜園的日子久了，對一些社會現象的認識也就會隨之提高。有時候以種菜的方式來區別中美兩國學生的個性，感覺也是一件異常有趣的事情。

美國學生的個性體現在種菜上，往往出現一種貪多求全，花裡胡哨，虎頭蛇尾，務虛不務實的基本特色。在我的菜園邊上，曾經有幾戶美國的學生家庭，趁著住宅區辦公室派員整平荒地的當口，大張旗鼓地趕來圈圍了很大的地塊，部署了規劃圖案，購買了木頭欄杆、鐵絲網架以及水管、噴壺、鍬鏟等一系列用具，並洒播了大把大把各式各樣的種子，煞有介事地勞作了一大陣子。到頭來卻出現了一種不問不管放任自流的局面：干了地不澆，稠了苗不間，長了草不除，甚至於結了果也不摘，最後落個本錢白花，功夫白費，隻余留白佔著大片荒地的那種形式上的心理滿足而已。

中國學生種菜，盡管在勤奮與實際方面較之老美具有很大不同，但受時間和精力的限制，往往大都呈現出那種曇花一現的局面。身為 F1 的丈夫，一般是見天忙於搞試驗、做研究、寫論文，沒啥功夫花在

打理菜園上；而身為 F2 並無法實施進修考試轉換身份的妻子，除了帶孩子、做家務，還少不得要以各種方式，去賺點兒貼己零用錢，來滿足女兒家那種美容化妝、首飾衣著和小吃交往的無止境需求。如此一來，小夫妻在初來乍到時那種僅憑一時熱情而開墾的菜園，播種、管理和收穫不是很久，大多都會放任自流，雜草叢生。唯有待到父母前來探親的時節，才會集中打理上一個階段，並獲得些許淺嘗輒止的收穫。

看來，種菜也是一樁必須依憑自身的時間、條件、喜好和心思的復雜事兒。

My Vegetable Garden By Zhu Qi, Translation: You-You

Life can get a little boring for someone like me, a husband with a F2 visa has passed the age of attending school yet cannot seek jobs outside campus. I can only spend my day doing household chores such as laundry, cooking, and surfing the internet. But this is not a long term solution. When I learned that the university could allocate unused land nearby for vegetable growing, I found a remedy to my loneliness. I first went to the Office of Student Community and expressed my strong desire to grow vegetables. The staff showed me a map and gave me a lot of details that I could hardly grasp. After leaving the office, I was still unclear. Fortunately a fellow Chinese student found out about my situation, and gave me a tip: find an unused land by the parking lot, make a mark, and that's your garden.

It was quite easy to find barren land in the planting lot. I first removed the weeds, plowed the land, and began to sow all kinds of seed I could find. These included green beans, peas, potatoes, carrots, and other types of common vegetables. Gradually friends learned about my hobby, and they gave me seeds for Chinese chives, chrysanthemum, and cucumber. Over time, I learned to grow the seeds in the appropriate season.

Year after year, the variety of vegetables in my garden blossomed. In spring, it produces spinach, coriander, chrysanthemum, leek; in summer, pepper, lentils, eggplant, cucumber and celery; in autumn, taro, pumpkins and melon; in winter, onion, garlic, cabbage, carrot. From season to season, my vegetable garden was evergreen, thanks to the good weather and abundance of water.

What I take pride in is the Chayote ("Buddha hand squash") that I planted in the early autumn of last year. It harvested this summer and broke my vegetable growing record. I have harvested more than 250 pounds of this crispy, delicious vegetable.

It is also a great pleasure to give our newly picked vegetables to our friends. They are fresh, organic, delicious and healthy. They are received with many thanks. Occasionally, I invite friends to visit my vegetable garden. They would exhibit such joy and gladness as they harvested their own vegetables. The wonders of the vegetable garden were truly amazing.

Sometimes, when I feel down, I would work in my vegetable garden. The exuberant green vegetables would greet me like old friends, and my melancholy would evaporate.

Spending time in my vegetable garden has allowed me to make interesting observations. For example, I noticed the difference between American and Chinese students in their approach to vegetable growing. Usually American students will start out with big plans by encircling a big block, building the

wood fence and buying various tools such as shovels, spray cans, and pipes. They will sow large quantities of seeds. However, after several months, their enthusiasm would fade, and they came less often. Finally, weeds would take over the garden and outgrow the vegetables.

Chinese students, on the other hand, start small. The F1 husbands would spend most of their time on research. The work of the vegetable garden then fall on their wives. In addition to taking care of the children and doing housework, the wives would find tending the garden attractive because it is a good way to save money. Unfortunately, their interest would also become interrupted by other chores. As a result, their land would become untended. It is only during festive occasions when their parents come to visit that the gardens would become full of life again.

Growing vegetables is not a trivial affair after all! It requires time, patience, and love for a garden to truly blossom.

灰姑娘的南瓜車

石頭

從洛杉磯回來時已經是夜裡了，離聖塔芭芭拉市區隻有 20 英哩了，大家都已經疲憊不堪，開在海邊的 101 公路上，四周是漆黑的一片，隻有遠處海面上淡淡的銀色的月光，和對面零星的汽車。

“看，那不是灰姑娘的南瓜車嗎？” 同伴興奮的說道，手指著車的左前方。

看出去，果然，一輛漂亮的南瓜車正沿著燈火通明的大道向岸邊駛來，真是美極了。

原來，由於我們的車移動的關係，海裡的那座燈火通明的石油鑽台，在明亮的棧橋上奔馳了起來，真象傳說中那金碧輝煌的南瓜車，載著那善良的姑娘，去參加王子的舞會。

在聖塔芭芭拉住了這幾年，去過洛杉磯好多次，卻從來沒有留意到這一美景。美，原來是無處不在的。需要的卻是一雙發現美的眼睛。

(提醒：開車以安全為主，不要因為看風景而導致不必要的危險，開車安全是您的責任，特此聲明)。

Cinderella's Pumpkin Coach By Shi Tou

It was late at night when we came back from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara downtown was about 20 miles away, everyone was a little tired. Our car ran smoothly on Highway 101, it was dark outside, except the sliver moonlight on the ocean, and the random cars in the other direction.

“Look, isn't that the Cinderella's Pumpkin Coach?” my friend happily claimed, pointing outside to the left front direction.

I looked outside, and saw the prettiest Grand Coach ran on a beautiful boulevard towards us, as if it carried the kind girl Cinderella to the Prince's Ball. What a beautiful scene!

I realized later that because of the moving of our car, the oil platform in the ocean looked like the Coach in the famous fairytale, moving along the pier toward the shore.

I have been living in Santa Barbara for many years, and have been to Los Angeles so many times, but I never noticed this. As it says, Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.

(Note: Please be very careful, it is your responsibility to keep safe while driving.)

日歷

葉信岳

(當思念的劇本隻剩下一個演員的時候,就變成了懷念...)

當我翻開發黃的日歷,
想起了你離開的日期,
也許你早就忘記,
我苦苦思念又是何必.

希望有一台時光機器,
還能聽到你的呼吸,
白日夢是最好的回憶,
請告訴我如何脫離?

這是一份我們的日歷,
還能感覺你的氣息,
如果保存沒有意義,
為什麼夢裡還有你?

不明白這麼早遇見你,
讓我耗盡了一生的力氣,
卻沒辦法實現你的真理,
直到一切可待成追憶.

小鎮

葉信岳

(因為是背影,所以記憶永遠是美好的...)
我們,最初相遇時的小鎮,
有人還在等.

我們,曾記得老街上的路燈,
數著到夜深.

這愛情走不出小鎮,
我困守你筑的圍城,
做個不懂防守和進攻的人,
武器庫裡隻有天真.

我想你會有人疼,
但誰愛得比較深?
難道記憶走不出小鎮,
你的背影是人生?

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作者感謝詹芳瓊小姐的在英語翻譯中的幫助.

Calender

By YE Xinyue

[When the life drama has just one character, only yearning is left behind....]

when i open the faded calender
I can only find myself in the past
maybe you have already moved on
why do i still dwell in the past?

I hope there is a time machine
so i can hear your breath
day dreams are the sweetest memories
please tell me how do i escape?

This is a calendar owned by us,
I can still feel you through it.
if there is no meaning in remembering
why do i still see you in my dreams?

I don't know why we had to meet so early
exhausting the energy of my life
Though you can never become my reality
I still wait to become part of the memory

The Town

By YE Xinyue

[Memories are sweet because we can only watch the shadows]

In the town where we met for the first time,
There is still someone waiting,

Do we still remember the lamps along the old street?
We count them until deep in the night.

The love story belongs to this tiny place,
I am trapped in the illusory city built by you,
As a soldier knowing neither attack nor defense,
my only weapon is to be true and naïve

For sure you should be well taken care of,
but I wonder who loves you most?
What I know is that the memory stays with the town.
your shadow will be with all my life.

Xinyue Ye, Doctoral Student of Geography at UCSB-SDSU,
xinyue.ye@gmail.com, the author thanks to Miss Fangqiong Zhan's comments on the English version

鑽石和珍珠

吳海萍

有一次，一位老師語重心長地跟我們說，做人要作珍珠，不要作鑽石，因為鑽石固然璀璨奪目，卻是借助別的光源才能發光；關了燈以後，便沒入寂然的黑暗之中。珍珠本身就有熒熒的珠光，即使在黑暗中也能顯露出她的華美本質。最可貴的是，珍珠的形成過程原是痛苦的：蚌殼裡落入一粒沙。這蚌痛苦地掙扎磨合，用淚液將這粒沙層層包裹，月復一月，年復一年，竟用自己的生命孕育出一顆驚世駭俗的珍珠。

人年輕的時候，大約沒有不想作鑽石的吧？幻想著自己在舞台的聚光燈下，唱著、舞著、笑著，風情萬種，傾國傾城；台下萬頭攢動，掌聲如潮。從舞台上的聚光燈裡走出來，你拖著疲憊的身體，走進后台陰暗閉仄的化妝間，卸掉重重的油彩，便又變回了你自己——一個與普通人一般無二的，吃喝拉撒睡的，實實在在的人。

後來，隨著時間的流逝（時間真是個殘酷的東西），你美人遲暮、年老色衰、人老珠黃、色衰愛馳……你盡可以用你所能想到的一切殘酷的字眼來形容這種不堪的境地。有新的漂亮的臉蛋兒、明亮的眼睛、鮮嫩的嘴唇取代了你。你漸漸地被人遺忘。

一個人咀嚼著被遺忘的痛苦該是個怎樣的過程呢？也許像蚌殼裡落入了一粒沙。你無時無刻不被這疼痛折磨著。你時常一個人呆呆地坐在窗前，空對著老照片裡光鮮的容顏，緬懷著昔日的光華，一邊慨嘆著人們的喜新厭舊和薄情寡義——萬沒想到自己爭強好勝一輩子，竟落到這樣的一個結局！然而也怨不得這麼多了，這個世界的遊戲規則原本如此。

時間久了，你漸漸悟出，生命中的許多東西是生不帶來死不帶去的，早先的執著竟是為色相所迷惑。這個時候的你開始變得與世無爭：餓來即食，渴來即飲，困來即睡……鉛華洗盡的生活越來越接近生活的本真面目。

你又站在鏡子前時，已經坦然接收了現在的自己。布滿皺紋的臉有一種特別的美，散發著智慧的光芒。這種美，收了畢露的鋒芒，變成了幽幽的珠光。

也許某一天，一個懂得欣賞珍珠之美的人會忽然出現在你面前，跟你說：“現在，我是特為來告訴你，對我來說，我覺得現在你比年輕的時候更美，那時你是年輕女人，與你那時的面貌相比，我更愛你現在備受摧殘的面容。”

也許，這樣戲劇性的場景隻存在於杜拉斯的《情人》裡吧？

Diamond and Pearl

By Wu Haiping, Translation: TU Lianting (屠 蓮婷)

Once, a teacher told us that one must live like a pearl, not a diamond, because even though diamonds are beautiful and sparkling, they can only shine with the help of others, and after turning off the light, they are no longer shining. In contrast, pearls have a special light that even in the dark, the beauty is still visible. What is even more valuable is the process of formation of a pearl: a tiny piece of sand falling into the clam. As the clam struggles, it uses its tears to surround that tiny piece of sand, month after month, year after year, miraculously using its own life to form a renowned piece of pearl.

When we are young, probably everyone wants to be a diamond. Dreaming of ourselves singing, dancing, laughing, doing all that we can do on a stage filled with lights; below the stage, thousands of

people clapping their hands on our behalf. When walking off the stage, taking our tired body and walks in the resting room in the dark, back stage, washing off the thick make-up and once again, becoming ourselves again – we realize that we are just a normal person like everyone else, eating, sleeping, moving through day to day living like how others live.

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Then, with the passing of time (time is such a cruel thing), we become frail, fragile, no longer beautiful and exceptional. There are many other younger, more beautiful faces that replaced us on the stage. We are gradually forgotten by the world.

How do we survive the days of being forgotten? Maybe just like a sand falling into the clam. We will always be tortured by the truth and reality. We will notice ourselves more than often sitting in front of the window staring into space, looking at our frail image in the mirror, reflecting upon the moments in the past, seeing the power of forgetting the old, accepting the new; we would never imagine that after being a fighter our whole life, the ending is such sorrow. But what and to whom can we blame? These are the rules to the game!

After a long time, we would realize that there are many things that we can not bring with us with death, and did not belong to us at birth. The stubbornness of before was just for the façade. This is when we become calm and lives life quietly, surpassing everything the real way: we eat when we're hungry, drink when thirsty, sleep when tired...the life after so many years of wariness is finally close to the real face of "living".

Again, we stand before the mirror, and this time we accept what we see. A wrinkled face that shines with inner beauty, and this beauty, turns into the quiet pearl from the once shining diamond.

Maybe one day, someone that understands the beauty of pearls would suddenly appear before us and say: "now, I am here to tell you that to me, you are even more beautiful now. You were a young woman then, in comparison with the appearance of then, I love your appearance of living even more."

Maybe, this dramatic scenario only exists in Marguerite Duras' *The Lover*.

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