

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 1-5: Carpenter and the Bridge (木匠和木桥)

There were once two brothers who lived on adjoining (相连的) farms and fell into conflict (发生冲突). It was the first serious rift (不和) in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery (机器) and trading (交换) labor and goods as needed. It began with a small misunderstanding (误解) and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded (爆发) into an exchange of bitter words (激烈争吵) followed by weeks of silence (静默).

One morning there was a knock (敲门) on John's door. He opened it to find a man-with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have some small jobs here and there I could help with?" "Yes, I do." said the older brother. "Look across the creek (小溪) at that farm. That's my younger brother's place. Last week there was a meadow (草地) between us. He recently took his bulldozer (推土机) to the river levee (防洪堤) and now there is a creek (小溪) between us. Well, he may have done this to spite (故意气我) me, but I'll do him one better. I want you to build me an 8-foot fence (栅栏) so I won't have to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger (挖洞器) and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide. There was no fence there at all instead there was a bridge. A bridge stretched from one side of the creek to the other! And his younger brother was coming toward them, his hand outstretched (伸出来). "You are quite a fellow (了不起的伙伴) to build this bridge after all I've said and done." For a moment, the two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter put his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I have a lot other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

The story is intended to tell us: don't pay back evil with evil (以眼还眼). Don't pay back unkind (不和善) words with unkind words. Instead, pay them back with forgiveness (原谅). Just as Jesus said in the Bible: "blessed (有福) are the peacemakers (使人和睦者), for they will be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

2. Discussion:

1. What was the carpenter hired to do?
2. How did the older brother react to the disobedience of the carpenter?
3. What is the lesson we learn from this story?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 36. Slow down! | 慢点! |
| 37. Take care! | 保重! |
| 38. They hurt. | (伤口)疼。 |
| 39. Try again. | 再试试。 |
| 40. Watch out! | 当心。 |
| 41. What's up? | 有什么事吗? |
| 42. Be careful! | 注意! |

4. Proverbs:1

1. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; (I Corinthians 13:4 -5)
2. But Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, " (Matthew 5:44)