

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 12-5: The Rush (匆匆)

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Swallows (燕子) may have gone, but there is a time of return; willow (柳树) trees may have lost their leaves, but there is a time of re-greening; peach blossoms (桃花) may have fallen (落谢), but they will bloom (开花) again. Now, you the wise (聪明的人), tell me, why should our days leave us, never to return (一去不回)? If they had been stolen by someone (被人偷去), who could it be? Where could he hide them? If they had made the escape themselves (自己逃走), then where could they stay at the moment?

I don't know how many days I have been given to spend (仍有多少可用), but I do feel my hands are getting empty (手头所剩无几). Taking stock (清点) silently, I find that more than eight thousand days (二十几年) have already gone (消失) from me. Like a drop of water from the point of a needle disappearing (不见) into the ocean, my days are dripping (滴落) into the stream of time (时间的溪流中), soundless (无声), traceless (无踪). Already sweat (汗) is starting on my forehead, and tears welling up (涌出) in my eyes. Those that have gone have gone for ever (永远), those to come keep coming; yet in between, how quick (迅速) is the change (转变), in such a rush (如此的快速)? When I get up in the morning, the sun marks its presence in my small room. The sun has feet, look, he is walking (行走), lightly and furtively (偷偷摸摸的); and I am caught, blankly (茫然), in his turning (转变). The day flows away down the sink (洗脸盆) when I wash my hands, wears off in the bowl (消失在碗中) when I eat my meal, and passes away before my day-dreaming gaze (注视) as I reflect(思索) in silence. I can feel his rush (快速) now, so I reach out my hands to hold him back, but he keeps flowing (流出) past my withdrawn (退缩的) hands. In the evening, as I lie in bed, he walks over my body, glides (滑过) past my feet, in his agile (敏捷的) way. The moment I open my eyes

and meet the sun again, one whole day has gone. I hold my face in my hands (面埋在双手中) and give a sigh (叹气). But the new day begins to fly by (飞驰而过) in the sigh (叹息). What can I do, in this hush (快速) world, with my days flying in their escape? Nothing but to wait (等待) to rush. What have I been doing in that eight-thousand-day rush, apart from waiting? Those past (过去的) days have left (分散) as smoke by a light wind, or evaporated (蒸发) as mist (雾) by the morning sun. What traces (痕迹) have I left behind me? Have I ever left behind any traces of smoke at all? I have come to the world, completely (完全) naked; am I to go back, in a blink (眨眼间), in the same completely nakedness? It is not fair though; why should I have made such a trip for nothing! You the wise, tell me, why should our days leave us, never to return?

2. Discussion: The author, Ziqing Zhu (朱自清, 1898 - 1948), wrote this inspiring article in 1922 when he was only 24 years old. He died young in 1948 at the age of 50.

1. How does this article make you think about the reality (实际) and meaning of your life on earth?
2. What do you think of man's mortality (必死性, 终有一死的)? (Hint: In addition to this visible material world, is there an invisible spiritual realm (国度, 领域)? Which would last forever?).
3. What do you think is the answer to the author's question?

3. Proverbs:

1. Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, and no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again (重生). (John 3:3)
2. Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:5 – 6)
3. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.(John 3:16)
4. Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the God except through me." (John 14:6)