

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 3-5: The Story about Revenge (报复)

Once upon a time, there was a wise man (智者) who insisted (强调) that to live well (生活得好), one had to be positive (积极) and thankful (感恩) for all of life.

One day, a traveler (旅行者) came to him and said, “How can I be positive? Nothing goes right in my life! I’ve been badly hurt by people I trusted, and now I want revenge!”

The wise man shook his head. “What would you do to those who have hurt you?” he asked. “I’d tear them limb from limb (使他粉身碎骨). I’ll ruin (毁掉) their business and they broke off ().”

“Can you help me to get revenge?” he begged. “Yes,” said the wise man, “I’ll certainly help you, but first you must do two things for me.”

“I will,” said the traveler.

“First,” said the wise man, “I want you to tear (折掉) a branch off that tree over there.”

The traveler readily went to the tree and twisted off (折下) a large branch.

“There you are! What’s the second thing?”

The wise man smiled, “Now put it back (放回去),” he said.

The traveler stood staring (口瞪口呆). “I can’t do that,” he said.

“No,” said the wise man, “So remember this: it’s very easy to wound and to destroy, but it is more difficult to repair the damage that has been done.

Note that (注意) the tree won’t hurt (不会报复) you back. It will go on growing and bearing fruit.”

It’s much better to be constructive (建造) than destructive (毁坏) – even to people that have hurt you.

2. Discussion:

1. What is the moral (教育意义) meaning of this story?
2. How did the wise man handle the traveler?
3. Explain in your own words: “It’s much better to be constructive than destructive.”

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 120. What a good deal! | 真便宜! |
| 121. What should I do? | 我该怎么办? |
| 122. You asked for it! | 你自讨苦吃! |
| 123. You have my word. | 我保证。 |
| 124. Believe it or not! | 信不信由你! |
| 125. Don't count on me. | 别指望我。 |
| 126. Don't fall for it! | 别上当! |