

<<苦斗人生>>

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前言

人生自古谁无死，留取丹心照汗青。

——这是南宋文天祥在其《过零丁洋》中的名句。

我曾想，略知民族英雄文天祥之坎坷命途者，自然会作如此联想：他能写“人生自古谁无死”这样的千古绝句，也一定会仰天慨叹：人生自古谁无苦！

后来，留学英伦，读NoelGrove的Marktwain——MirlrorofAmerica（《马克·吐温——美国的镜子》）一文，深为其动，尤其是以下这句，让我思绪袅袅：

Bitternessfedonthemanwhohadmadetheworldlaugh . （这位令全世界的人发出笑声的人自己却饱尝辛酸。

） 马克·吐温，一代美国文学巨匠，幽默大师，他的作品让美国人欢笑，让西方人欢笑，让全世界的读者欢笑。

他本人却在“苦水”中泡大！

我本以为，他应该是这样一个人： Itappinessandpleasurerefedonthemanwhohadmadetheworldlaugh

. （这位令全世界的人发出笑声的人，生活充满了幸福和快乐！

） 由此，我更坚信：人生自古谁无苦！

而大多数幸福快乐的人，难以体验命运坎坷的煎熬。

殊不知，天有不测，人生无常。

当不测风云突然降临，却常常措手不及。

难能可贵的是，书中23个真实故事的主人公面临种种苦难——骤失至亲、痛苦童年、命途多舛、天有不测……没有屈服，而是勇敢地挑战命运，展现出的品质、意志和风采强烈地震撼着我。

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内容概要

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作者简介

毛荣贵，上海交通大学教授，翻译博导。

曾任《科技英语学习》（月刊）主编10年。

1996年应美国驻华大使James R.Sasser（詹姆士·尚慕杰）之邀，以leading citizen（杰出公民）的身份遍访美国并讲学；Rosemary Adang，英语语言文学研究专家。

中美教授携手，精选美国当代短文

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章节摘录

1. For as far back as I can remember, my son Ryan could not wait to get behind the wheel of a car. He applied for his drivers permit at 9 a.m. on his 16th birthday, booked his Australian license test for precisely one year later, December 14, 1993, and got a near-perfect score. That was the day my husband Gary and I gave Ryan an "old but good" Ford Laser hatchback. The car seemed ideal for him—a gasoline miser and reasonably cheap to repair.

2. Ryan was a typical 17-year-old with a teen-agers enthusiasm for life. He played tennis and cricket and enjoyed any sport on TV. Tall and lanky with an ever-present grin, he had a wonderful sense of humor and was gaining an appreciation of girls. He loved fiddling with computers and often fixed problems with our town-planning consultancy's computer system. 3. Ryan was mature for his age, as single children often are, and took his studies seriously. He had set his mind on doing well in the Higher School Certificate in 1994 and had taken coaching in math over the Christmas break. On Australia Day 1994, about a week before school was due to resume, he wanted to spend a few days with a friend who had moved from a nearby suburb to north-west Sydney. We agreed, but urged him to drive carefully. "Don't worry, Morn," he said, smiling, as he packed a bag and grabbed the car keys. 4. At 3:20 p.m. Ryan lost control of the car on a bend near his destination and slid onto the gravel shoulder. Trying to avoid a pole, he spun the wheel furiously, and the car somersaulted. Police believe he was speeding.

5. Ryan was rushed to a Sydney hospital by helicopter. We arrived just as he was being wheeled, unconscious, into the emergency room with bandages around his head. We were ushered to a waiting room. Then the nightmare began. 6. The first doctor's words were a blur. I heard something about head injury, pressure on the brain and the need for an immediate operation. In the hours that followed, I half expected Ryan to walk through the door, grin and say, "Sorry, Mom and Dad, I'm okay now." Instead, we waited and waited. Finally a surgeon came by. Grim-faced, he shook his head. "Sorry," he said. "There's no hope." 7. When I looked at Ryan in intensive care, I thought my heart would break. My beloved cheeky, confident, athletic son was lying motionless on a bed. A respirator pushed air into his lungs, and needles and tubes fed fluids into his veins. Blipping heartbeat and blood-pressure monitors surrounded him. His beautiful brown eyes were open but vacant, staring at the ceiling.

8. Gary called in additional experts. The prognosis was always the same. The only active part of his brain was the centre controlling breathing. Once life-support equipment was removed, the doctor explained, Ryan would continue to breathe on his own for a few days, but even this function would soon shut down. We were shattered, and our hearts were broken. We realized it was time to say good-bye. 9. Friends and relatives besieged the hospital to farewell Ryan. Then at 4 a.m., nine days after the accident, when all was quiet with only Gary and me at his side, our son gently took his last breath.

10. At the funeral the church overflowed with school friends and teachers. On the curve where the accident happened, a classmate placed a white cross. Shortly afterward, the roads authority replaced the 80-kilometer-per-hour road sign with one saying 65. 11. I know every youngster thinks, it won't happen to me. I wish that were so. But each year too many under 25s die on the road. Speed and alcohol are not the major causes of these accidents. Ryan was not a drinker. The real killer is a deadly mix of inexperience and overconfidence.

12. My message to every young person is: you are not a competent driver simply because you have a driver's license. There's nothing in the license test that shows a young driver how to react to a dangerous situation in a split second, or what to do when your car is out of control. At 17 you may feel invincible. But please, remember that, each week, good, responsible young adults like our son are killed because of simple errors of judgment. You get no second chance. 13. We miss Ryan. Our home, once full of laughter, now deafens us with its silence. I would give anything to hear, once more, "Hi Morn, I'm home."

14. If you know a young driver, show him or her this article. It may save a life.

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编辑推荐

《苦斗人生》中一篇篇精美短文，富含妙词佳句，采用中英文对照，并辅以画龙点睛的“导读”，是我们中国英语学习者不可多得的原材料、好教材。阅读这套丛书，能解美国社会和文化，学地道现代英语，记时尚英语新词，育广泛阅读兴趣，养英语表达语感，练措词造句诀窍，习美伦英语写作，品英汉表达差异，磨犀利翻译文笔。

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