11/4/2016 Print



Total number of document(s): 1

文江學海 A26

恒管英萃

Wen Wei Po

鍾可盈 2016-11-04

,

嗜茶如命英國人 Would you like a cuppa?

英國人愛茶如命,a cup of tea或其口語cuppa(多見於英國英語)通常是在紅茶內加入砂糖和鮮奶,類似香港的奶茶。一句「Would you like a cuppa?」(你要喝杯茶嗎?)就如我們說「你吃飯了沒有」般普遍。一杯紅茶對英國人來說比心靈雞湯更奏效,「Could I offer you a cup of tea?」(我給你倒杯茶吧!)就如「我給你泡個麵吧」般窩心。中國喝茶不加糖或奶,但對茶之鍾愛和英國人不相伯仲,因此英語有不少有關茶的諺語,往往又與中國扯上關係。

跟茶價有何關係

討論政經大事或是閒話家常時,若對方回應一句:「What's that got to do with the price of tea in China?」(這跟中國茶價有何關係?)你頓感莫名其妙,但可能叫人大惑不解的是閣下的言論啊。

原來,英國從19世紀開始,就從全球產茶之冠的中國入口茶葉,當時中國對出入口管制甚嚴,向出發時間不同的貨船徵收不同稅款,有時甚至高於貨物買入價。滿載茶葉的英國貨船便需與時間競賽,愈早出關,稅款愈低,利潤便愈高。

「What's that got to do with the price of tea in China?」就此而來,表示茶葉本身的價格比不上時間和稅項重要。這說法現成為修辭性疑問或反問句(rhetorical question,即發問的本意並非為了答案),諷刺對方答非所問或前言不對後語:What's that got to do with the price of tea in China when you brought up dinner? I'm asking whether you like my new hairdo!(我在問你喜歡我的新髮型與否啊!你胡扯上晚餐有何關係?)

中國茶葉代表珍貴

中國肩負全球至少四分之一的茶葉產量,既重質,又重量,如能擁有all the tea in China(直譯:中國所有的茶葉)確乃如獲至寶。此諺語形容如連城之璧般罕有珍貴:My mother's approval means all the tea in China to me. (我極為重視媽媽對我的讚許。)用法如諺語all the gold in Fort Knox(Fort Knox是諾克斯堡,即是美國聯邦政府黃金存儲地)和all the money in the universe/ world一樣,表示珍而重之。

相反地,not for all the tea in China即是無論出動什麼誘餌也不為所動:Look at how furious she now is! I wouldn't approach her for all the tea in China.(看她現在火冒三丈,無論如何我也不會走近她半步!)

「瓷器店裡有蠻牛」

11/4/2016 Pr

除盛產茶葉外,中國瓷器精雕細琢,叫西方國家趨之若鶩。china一詞亦泛指瓷器,瓷製餐具多留在盛宴或款待貴賓用,可見其貴重程度! 試想像在充滿易碎的瓷器店內突來一頭橫衝直撞的蠻牛,後果堪虞。諺語A bull in a china shop就是描述笨手笨腳、或是在敏感情況下茫無頭緒的人:I feel like a bull in a china shop once I see people crying in front of me!(別人在我面前哭訴時,真教我手足無措!)■鍾可盈博士 恒生管理學院英文學系高級講師

隔星期五見報

DOCUMENT ID: 201611043113112

Source: Wisers electronic service. This content, the trademarks and logos belong to Wisers, the relevant organizations or copyright owners. All rights reserved. Any content provided by user is the responsibility of the user and Wisers is not responsible for such content, copyright clearance or any damage/loss suffered as a result.

----- 1 -----

WiseNews Wisers Information Limited Enquiry: (852) 2948 3888 Email: sales@wisers.com Web site: http://www.wisers.com Copyright (c)2016Wisers Information Limited. All Rights Reserved.