



LET'S BLOG

文：Paul

當一位外籍人士想買一打特價雞蛋
When A Foreigner Tries To Buy A Carton Of Discount Eggs

我經過一間超級市場門口的時候，剛好看到一幅很大的廣告牌，上面寫著「雞蛋特價」。在顯眼的「半價」標誌之下有一行很小的中文字，寫著顧客如果買兩打雞蛋，就只需付一打雞蛋的價錢。

我泊好電單車，從超級市場拿了兩打雞蛋，走到收銀機前排隊。我前面站著一位大約四十歲的外籍人士，他手上也拿著一打雞蛋。我猜他大概是被這幅廣告吸引進來的。幾分鐘後，輪到他付款的時候，一名看上去四十多歲的女收銀員看了一下他手上的一打雞蛋，然後告訴他一定要買兩打或以上雞蛋才能獲得半價優惠，否則就要按原價計算。她說的是中文。

I stopped by a neighborhood supermarket when I saw a large poster. Eggs were on sale. It had a giant "50% off" sign on it and then a tiny line written in Chinese, saying that customers have to buy 2 dozens or more to qualify for this discount.

I parked my motorcycle and went inside and took 2 dozens of eggs and waited in line before the cash register. A Caucasian male probably in his 40s was also standing in front of me. He was holding 1 dozen of eggs in his hand and I guess he was also probably attracted to the store by the sign.

A few minutes later, when it was his



他困惑地看著收銀機上顯示的價格，問她為什麼外面的廣告牌上明明寫著半價，可是她卻要求他付原價。他說的是英語。

她告訴他只要進去再拿一打雞蛋就可以得到他想要的半價優惠，這樣很容易就能把問題解決了。很明顯他們彼此都不知道對方在說什麼，漸漸兩個人都顯得有點暴躁。買雞蛋的人開始質疑為什麼一個當收銀員的卻無法用基本的英文與別人溝通，他更不明白這間超級市場

turn to pay, the cashier, a mid-aged woman also in her 40s, looked at his 12 eggs and told him that he had to buy 2 dozens or more to get the half-price discount, otherwise he had to pay for the original price. She was saying this in Chinese.

Puzzled by the price on the cash register, he asked her why she was asking him to pay for the original price when the sign outside is saying they're doing a 50% off discount. He was saying this in English.

She told him to grab another 12 eggs and then he would get his half price and they would both end up living happily forever. It's obvious that none of them understood what each other was saying and temper started going downhill rapidly. The egg shopper started to question why the cashier couldn't understand or communicate with others in basic English and he also couldn't understand why the supermarket hired her in the first place. And the cashier started to question why somebody who's living in the Chinese territory couldn't read simple words such as two dozens in Chinese and listen to simple words from a sincerely staff at the



當初為什麼要聘請她。收銀員開始質疑為什麼一個在中國領土內生活的人看不懂像兩打雞蛋這麼簡單的中文，也聽不懂一位誠懇的收銀員的解釋。如果懂英文的話，她早就到一間大機構當文員或者到其中一間賭場去工作了，再也不用跟一個連一打雞蛋和兩打雞蛋都分不清的傻瓜顧客糾纏不清。

我原本抱著看熱鬧的心態看著他們由於語言不通而產生的誤會，直至幾分鐘後我忽然間發覺如果他們兩個人的對話一直不結束的話，遲早我泊在超級市場門口的電單車會被抄牌。所以我把廣告牌的內容翻譯給這位外國人，他終於拿了另一打雞蛋然後離開這間可惡的超級市場。輪到我給錢的時候，收銀員還抱怨剛才的經歷。

當我後來拿著我買的特價雞蛋離開這間超級市場的時候，我有一種很不錯的感覺。我記得前一天晚上在電視上看見一名外交官在討論朝鮮六方會談的進度時，他說道：“只要我們能讓他們一齊坐下來，互相了解對方的觀點，就可能會有進展。”我覺得我總算也為促進澳門社會之中彼此的諒解付出了我的一點兒努力。

(譯文)

supermarket and if she could speak English she would be working at an office or one of the casinos now instead of serving shitty customer like this complete idiot who couldn't know the difference between one dozen of eggs and two dozens of eggs.

I treated their communication, or should I say miscommunication because none of them understood what the other one was saying. A few minutes later, I realized that their conversation could go on forever and I might get a ticket for parking my motorcycle on the sidewalk. So I translated the content of the poster to the foreigner and he finally grabbed another carton of eggs and left this miserable shop. The cashier was still complaining after I had finished paying for my eggs.

Finally, when I walked out of the supermarket with my cartons of discount eggs, I felt really good about myself. I remembered watching a diplomat working on the six-nation North Korea nuclear talks saying this on the television news the night before: "If we could get them to sit down and talk and let them understand each other's viewpoints, there might just be progress." I felt I was doing my part to turn Macau into a society of understanding.

