

:: Fun with English proverbs ::

Are you ready?

Let us continue with **D**

Damned if you do, damned if you don't

左右做人難

My mother once said: 'There are always some people who will approve of your ideas and some who won't, it is a case of being damned if I do, damned if I don't. My mother is telling me that no matter what she does, some people will criticize her.'

Devil takes the hindmost

人不為己，天誅地滅

The long form of this saying is 'every man for himself and the devil takes the hindmost'. It means that a person should look after his own interests with no regard for anyone else.'

My father once said: 'Though the devil takes the hindmost, we should be kind to others.'

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs 不要一味貪圖眼前的好處而毀去利益的根源

I have heard a story about a goose that laid golden eggs. The owner of the goose killed it just because he hoped to get all the golden eggs. We could



say that the owner of the goose is just destroying something that contributes to his success.

Don't cry stinking fish

我們不應在他人面前自揭瘡疤

You would surely be very surprised if you see a fish peddler complaining that his fish were old and stinking. Like the fish peddler, we should never bring someone's attention to our unfavourable qualities. On the other hand, we should speak proudly of our good features and abilities.

Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs

不要班門弄斧

This saying means that you do not need to teach an experienced person to do something that he already knows.

Maria once said to me: 'Oh, Carol, please don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs. Your mother is a cooking teacher, so you don't really need to teach her how to bake a cake.'