

# The Spring that Crossed the Road

## 泉眼过马路

Uncle Baldy lived in north Georgia near the Tennessee border. His family got their water from a spring near the front of his house.

Water in those days was always considered a gift from above. Often the people who built the spring would drive a nail in a nearby tree and hang a long-handled dipper on it. Anyone who came along could quench his thirst.

But if too many dipped into the water, or if they weren't careful and knocked dirt in it, Uncle Baldy would get angry and yell at them for 'filing up' his spring.

“鲍第大叔”住在靠近田纳西州的北乔治亚。他的全家人都从房前附近的一个泉眼里汲水。

在那个年代，水一直被人认为是天赐之物。建造泉眼的人经常在泉边的树上钉上一枚钉子，并在钉子上吊挂一根长柄勺子，好让任何过路的人都可以汲水解渴。

但是，如果有太多的人前来汲水，或不小心将一些泥土踢进泉眼的话，鲍第大叔就会感到生气，并会冲着“弄混”泉水的人们大声叫喊。



Across the dirt road from Uncle Baldy's house was a little school. The school had no well or spring of its own. The children would have to either bring their drinking water from home or risk Uncle Baldy's wrath by using his spring. Invariably by Friday afternoon Uncle Baldy's crystal clear spring water looked more like a mud puddle.

从鲍第大叔的家跨过一条土路，就是一座小学校。因为学校里没有水井、或泉眼，所以孩子们不是自己带水，就是冒着被鲍第大叔怒斥的危险来到泉边汲水。因此，每到星期五的下午，鲍第大叔的那眼清澈透明的泉水就更显得像个泥塘。

Uncle Baldy had all he could take. One Monday when the children arrived, they found a fence around the spring. They were no longer permitted to set foot on his property.

Soon something strange happened. Uncle Baldy noticed the water level in his spring began to get lower and lower. Then one day the white sand in the bottom of the wooden frame was bone dry.

最后，鲍第大叔终于受够了。有一个星期一，当孩子们前来汲水的时候，看到那眼清泉已被一道篱笆圈住了，因为鲍第大叔再也不愿意让他们踏进他的园子了。

很快就发生了一件非常奇怪的事情。鲍第大叔注意到：在他的泉眼里，水位开始逐渐变低了；终于有一天，在泉眼底下的木框里竟只剩下了干透的白砂。



Several weeks later, one of the parents happened to step backward into a clump of weeds and got stuck in deep mud. Realizing what he had found, he and some of the men brought shovels and dug around the mudhole. Soon a thin stream of water began to trickle out. Now the school had its own water supply.

Across the road, Uncle Baldy's spring was a dry wooden box stuck in the ground. Evidently, the spring had decided to cross the road and join the school!

**Moral:** Those who are generous gain more, while those who are stingy lose out.

几个星期之后，一个爸爸偶然地踏进了野草丛中，并深深地陷在了泥沼里。这时，他意识到了自己的发现！于是，他便和几个同事一起拿起了铁锹，开始在小洞的周围使劲地挖了起来。很快，有一股细细的水流便欢快地涌了出来。从那时起，学校就有了自己的水源。

在土路的那一边鲍第大叔的泉眼只剩下一个陷在地里的、干燥了的木盒子。显而易见的是：这眼泉水决定跨过土路，参加学校去了！



**寓意：**有人乐善好施，反倒越来越富；有人一毛不拔，反而越来越穷。