



## The Anthem to Cat Dedicated to the People who Love Cat

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Throughout the ages, no one can tell how many people have praised and eulogized cat. However, the existent languages are not enough to describe its beautiful face, strong body, and flexible mind as it really is.

In its big family, there are white cat, black cat, orange cat, Persia cat, Chinese Lihua cat, Russian blue cat, Indian Siamese cat, and Scottish fold cat. And there are so many cats that we cannot name them all. There are cats that will catch mice, there are also cats that are chased by mice. There are cats that can run into black holes, and there are cats that can climb up trees. While mentioning cat, we couldn't help thinking of Grandpa Deng's quotation: <sup>[1]</sup>"**No matter if it is a white cat or a black cat, the cat that can catch rat is a good cat.**" For a while, we really do not know what kind of cat Grandpa Deng refers to when he said the good cat?

From the moment the cat (He, instead) was born, he showed us his independent character, which is innate. When he was small, less than one month old, he was the most cute and astute, and adorable as well. At the time when his legs were still unsteady, he started to learn to be naughty. He played with a piece of chicken feather, and a reel of thread. These were all his good toys. And he would play with them for an exceptionally long time. While doing so, no one knew how many times he would fall. But when he fell, he would stand up immediately, and then run again. Even if he had hit his head against the door or the leg of the table, he didn't cry, and never made a scene when it hurt. The cat became increasingly daring, and gradually exploited unfamiliar places to play, that is going into the courtyard. When he arrived there the garden flowers would be suffering. He had a wrestle with the flowerpot, swinging with a flower branch. And wherever he went, the drop flowers would follow. In a split second, vibrant wildflowers and weeds would bow to show best regards to him.

The fur of most of cats is beautiful. His ears are either standing high or falling. The long tail is fascinating. The cat has a motto: egoistic; and his temper: unpredictable. He has no obsequiousness at all. But he has an aloof and arrogant temperament. When he is happy, he is obedient and clever. And he is kinder than any animals else. He would rub himself against his master's thigh and stick his neck out for his master's scratching. Or when the cat's master began his writing, the cat would jump up on the desk, and step his paws, just like stamping some small plum blossoms on his master's manuscript paper. The cat also has a variety of mew and meow, varying in length and thickness, the pitch of his voice rises and falls. When he keeps silent, he will make a purring to amuse himself very well. It all depends on his own mood. If he is unhappy, no matter how many good words his owner says, he won't give any respond at all. And he cuts loose from his old ties.

The cat really has a weird trait. Honestly speaking, sometimes he is very lovely. He will find a warm place, go and sleep there all day long. He has nothing to be worried. And he never concerns anything unrelated to himself. But when he decided to go out to play, he would leave home for a day and a night, refusing to return regardless of his owner's calls. But when he hears the slightest noise of a mouse, he is so dutiful that he will hold his breath for hours without any move, waiting for the mouse to come out, smashing it into pieces! The cat deserves to be the king of epidemic eradication. He is the natural predator of mice.<sup>[2]</sup> He has the same reputation as the tiger, which is praised by the people. But sometime she would lose, and then he would be chased to run around by the rat, people despise him. So, his both brave and wretched characters make people having love of him as well as a deep hatred of him.

The cat belongs to the *Felinae*, coming from the same family as his brother tiger. No, comparatively speaking, his brother tiger is inferior to him. He can climb or jump up to a tree, which is more than ten

meters high, within a second. His brother tiger cannot catch up with him. Let alone when he sees a worm and a rat, even a serpent, he dares to chase them and has a fight with them.

People say that the cat is fortunate and blissful. And he has a remarkable destiny as well. Even if he jumps from the fourth floor, it is not necessary for the people to worry about his life, because the cat has such an ability that he can gently touch to the ground with his four paws, nowhere will be injured all over his body. But most of the other animals will break their body into pieces under this circumstance. Because “the cat has nine lives”<sup>[3]</sup> that is given by God.

Five thousand years ago in ancient Egypt, the cat held a prominent position as *Bast, the Moon Goddess*<sup>[4]</sup>. Since then, he, like the dog, had become man's close friend. There are proverbs and idioms in many countries around the world to describe the importance of his existence: “When the cat is away, the mice will play”<sup>[5]</sup>; “When the cat runs on the roofs, the mice dance on the floor”<sup>[6]</sup>; “Cat outside the house, repose for the mouse”<sup>[7]</sup>; “A cat may look at a king;”<sup>[8]</sup> “Cats hide their claws;”<sup>[9]</sup> “The cat shuts its eyes when stealing cream.”<sup>[10]</sup>As a result, human languages have been enriched.

The people a worldwide love cat and are fond of him. Particularly for the cat, in 1906, **the Cat Fanciers' Association, INC. (CFA)**<sup>[11]</sup> was set up and made a number of provisions, the purpose for which is to ensure the survival of the cat species by recording a particular blood line for each generation. For cats, the CFA holds the “**World Championship Cat Show**” around the world each year. Many famous cats, precious purebred cats were glorified. Cat owners are also thrilled.

While this year, in 2022, something ridiculous happened at the International Cat Federation(CFA), that is **the Russian blue cat** is in troubles. Because of Russia's Special Military Operations in Ukraine in Feb. 2022, the CFA initiated sanctions against the incredibly beautiful **Russian blue cat**. The Russian cats were not allowed to participate in the beautiful cat competitions. This event will go down in history.

However, this small sanction is unlikely to affect people's love and affection for cats. “**Upon this tiny sphere, a few flies are running against the wall. They hum and squeak, with pain they shriek, with spasms they squall. An ant on a locust would boast it was a big country. A pismire could not find it easy to shake one tree.**”<sup>[12]</sup> Cats are still man's best friend. His name is spoken in all living languages. Now every language tells us the cat's story. And all existent languages are not rich enough to describe the cat as perfectly as he really is. Ah, people love cat and praise cat!

### AUTHOR'S NOTES

[1]不管白猫黑猫抓住老鼠就是好猫

On July 2, 1962, the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee met to discuss the issue of "quotas for the production of agricultural products to households". On July 7, 1962, **Deng Xiaoping(1904-1997, the Chairman of the Military Commission of China. Chinese people kindly called him Grandpa Deng.)** met with all the comrades attending the seventh Plenary Session of the Third Communist Youth League Central Committee and discussed the adjustment of agricultural production management policies. He quoted a Sichuan proverb often quoted by **Liu Bocheng (1892-1986, one of the ten marshals of the P. R. China, one of the founders of the Chinese PLA, a great proletarian revolutionist, strategist, Marxist military theorist, military educator.)**: “It doesn't matter whether a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice, it is a good cat.” To express his views on the resumption of agricultural production and household quotas. **Deng Xiaoping** said, “I'm afraid we must take an attitude as to what form is the best for the relations of production. We should take whichever form can be used more easily and quickly to restore and develop agricultural production in any places. The masses should take whatever form they wish, and legalize what is illegal, **‘No matter whether it is a white cat or a black cat, the cat that can catch the rats is a good cat.’**” (See “*How to Restore Agricultural Production*”, *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping, Vol. 1*)

[2]猫是老鼠的天敌

**Cats are the natural predator of mice.** Without the cat, the mouse will do whatever it wants. In medieval Europe, the Christian Church believed cats to be devil, and millions of cats were put to

death. Unexpectedly, the cat's misfortune led to an epidemic of rats. Very soon, the plague of rats and waves of bubonic plague swept across Europe. The lesson of this painful history fully proves that **"When the cat is away, the mice will play."** (狸猫不在, 老鼠闹宅) Since then, people had changed their attitude towards cats. Cats, like dogs, had become man's friends.

[3]猫有九条命

The legend has it that cat has nine lives was not created in England. It comes from an Indian collection of Sanskrit stories called *The Fables of Pilpay*. It was translated into Arabic in the eighth century and later into various European languages, which had a wide influence on European folklore. In 1570, an English edition of the collection appeared, with the title **"Greedy and Ambitious Cat"**, which tells us the story of how a cat was seriously injured when he stole the king's food but survived because God gave him nine lives.

[4]月亮女神巴斯特Bast, *The Moon Goddess*

[5]狸猫不在, 老鼠闹宅See Note 2

[6]只要猫上了房, 老鼠就在地上忙

**When the cat runs on the roofs, the mice dance on the floors.** This proverb first appeared in European languages.

[7]家里没有猫, 老鼠伸懒腰

**Cat outside the house, repose for the mouse.** It is also translated from French.

[8]猫可以傲视国王

This proverb says that *Maximilian I*, king of Bavaria in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, visited a woodcarving workshop. The owner's cat, lounging on the bed, looked at the king with a suspicious expression on his face. This cat wouldn't have thought of that this proverb was born because of him. **"Even a cat may look at an Emperor."** In France, the saying developed into **"Even a dog can look down on a bishop."**

[9]猫藏利爪而不露

**Cats hide their claws.** Warning those who are unguarded in their dealings with others. Meaning you may know a person's face but not his mind.

[10]猫闭着眼睛偷吃奶油

**The cat shuts its eyes when stealing cream.** Laughing the one who plugs his ears while stealing a bell.

[11]国际爱猫联合会

**The Cat Fanciers' Association, INC. (CFA)** founded in early 1906, is a non-profit organization registered in the United States. At beginning it was a small organization. And later the CFA has become the largest registered thoroughbred cat organization in the world. CFA holds more than four hundred cat shows around the world each year, featuring more than thirty cat breeds.

[12] From the poem, **"Reply to Comrade Guo Meruo- to the Tune of Man Jianghong"** written by Mao Zedong, the founding father, and Chairman of the People's Republic of China.

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