

14. 细菌也搬家



wǒ jiào xiǎo pú shì xì jūn zú qún jiǎ de yī fēn zǐ wǒ cóng xiǎo jiù jīng cháng tīng xì jūn
我叫小蒲，是细菌族群甲的一分子。我从小就经常听细菌
qún lǐ de zhǎng bèi shuō shēn wéi xì jūn de wǒ men xiǎo dào rén lèi de ròu yǎn dōu kàn bú jiàn
群里的长辈说，身为细菌的我们，小到人类的肉眼都看不见。
yīn cǐ wǒ men jiù xiàng yǒu le yī céng yǐn xíng de bǎo hù céng néng zài rén lèi miàn qián lái qù zì
因此，我们就像有了一层隐形的保护层，能在人类面前来去自
rú ér bù bèi fā jué guò zhe ān yì yòu zì zài de shēng huó
如而不被发觉，过着安逸又自在的生活。

zhè tiān wǒ men zhèng zài tì xì jūn zhǎng bèi qīng zhù dà shòu tū rán zú qún lǐ zuì jù
这天，我们正在替细菌长辈庆祝大寿。突然，族群里最具
nèi hán de zhì zhě shén sè níng zhòng dì duì wǒ menshuō dào rén lèi tòu guò xiǎn wēi jìng zhǎo dào le
内涵的智者神色凝重地对我们说道：“人类透过显微镜找到了
wǒ men zài guò sān tiān tā men jiù huì yòng dòu xiāo jì lái xiāo miè wǒ men duō nián lái jiàn lì de cūn
我们。再过三天，他们就会用消毒剂来消灭我们多年来建立的村
zǐ zhǎo xīn zhù chù chéng le pò zài méi jié de shì er dà jiā dōu jí dé rú rè guō shàng de
子！”找新住处成了迫在眉睫的事儿，大家都急得如热锅上的
mǎ yǐ shāng liang zhe rú hé shì hǎo wǒ xīn xiǎng wǒ men bú xiàng rén lèi fā míng le chē
蚂蚁，商量着如何是好。我心想，我们不像人类发明了车，
néng yuè guò qí qū de shān lù wǒ men yě bù bǐ rén lèi lái de mǐn jié nán dào wǒ men jiù cǐ
能越过崎岖的山路；我们也不比人类来得敏捷，难道我们就此
bèi shì jiè táo tài ma wǒ men de jì jū shēng yá jiù cǐ zhōng jié le ma
被世界淘汰吗？我们的寄居生涯就此终结了吗？

Bacteria's move to a new home

My name is Xiaopu, and I am a member of bacterial group A. Since I was a child, I have often heard the elders in the bacterial community say that we, as bacteria, are so small that we cannot be seen by human's naked eye. Therefore, we seem to have an **invisible** protective layer, we can come and go freely in front of human beings without being noticed, and live a **comfortable and carefree** life.

Today, we are celebrating the birthday of an elderly bacteria. Suddenly, the wisest man in our group said to us solemnly: "Humans have found us through a **microscope**. In less than three days, they will use disinfectant to wipe out the village we have built over the years!" Finding a new place to stay became our immediate priority, everyone was as anxious as a cat (direction translation: as nervous as ants on a hot pot), discussing what to do. I thought to myself, we are not like humans who invented cars and can cross **rugged mountainous roads**; we are not as agile than humans but are we going to be eliminated from the world? Is this the end of our parasitic life?

liǎng tiān hòu xì jūn zú qún de tàn xiǎn tuán duì fā xiàn le huī chén de cún zài mā mā yě
两天后，细菌族群的探险团队发现了灰尘的存在！妈妈也
shì tàn xiǎn tuán duì yì yuán tā shuō hái zi wǒ men cóng rén lèi kǒu zhōng tàn tīng zhè huī chén
是探险团队一员，她说：“孩子，我们从人类口中探听这灰尘
shì kōng qì zhōng de wēi lì yīn wéi shí fēn qīng yíng néng suí fēng piāo luò yīn cǐ wǒ men néng
是空气中的微粒，因为十分轻盈，能随风飘落。因此，我们能
jiè zhe fēng lì xiàng pú gōng yīng bān suí fēng fēi yáng kàn biàn gè dì de měi jǐng suǒ yǐ zhǎng bèi men
借着风力像蒲公英般随风飞扬，看遍各地的美景，所以长辈们
dǎ suàn chéng zuò huī chén bān jiā ne
打算乘坐灰尘搬家呢！”

mèi mèi sā jiāo dào mā mā wǒ men bù bān hǎo ma nà gè huī chén lǐ kǒng
妹妹撒娇道：“妈妈……我们不搬，好吗？那个灰尘里恐
pà róng nà bú xià wǒ men de zú qún ba wǒ men huì bú huì zài fēi xíng tú zhōng è zhe le bù
怕容纳不下我们的族群吧？我们会不会在飞行途中饿着了？不
rú wǒ men jiù zài zhè ér huàn gè dì fāng zhù jiù xíng le mā mā wǒ men bù bān hǎo
如，我们就在这儿换个地方住就行了。妈妈——我们不搬，好
ma mā mā
吗？妈妈——”

mā mā xiào le xiào duì wǒ men fēn xī dào hái zi huī chén lǐ de měi lì fāng mǐ
妈妈笑了笑，对我们分析道：“孩子，灰尘里的每立方米
néng chéng zài duō dá shí wàn gè xì jūn ne tā lǐ tóu chǔ cún zhe lǚ gài měi tiě dēng kuàng
能承载多达十万个细菌呢！它里头储存着铝、钙、镁、铁等矿
wù kě yǐ ràng wǒ men zàn shí chōng jī zhí dá mù dì dì wǒ hé mèi mèi tīng le zhī
物，可以让我们暂时充饥，直达目的地。”我和妹妹听了之
hòu máo sè dùn kāi suǒ yǒu yí lǜ yì sǎo ér kōng xìng zhì bó bó dì děng zhe qǐ háng nà kè
后，茅塞顿开，所有疑虑一扫而空，兴致勃勃地等着起航那刻
de dào lái
的到来。

Two days later, the scouting team of the bacterial community found a speck of dust! My mother is one of the scouts. She said: "Children, we heard from human beings that this dust is a particle in the air. Because it is very light, it can travel with the wind. Therefore, we can use the wind to fly, like a dandelion, to see beautiful sceneries from all over the place. The elders have decided to move with the dust!"

My sister said in a spoiled manner: "Mom... let's not move, okay? I'm afraid there won't be room for our group on the dust, right? Will we be hungry during the flight? Why don't we just live here but find another spot. Mom – we don't move, okay? Mom-"

My mother smiled and analysed to us: "My child, each cubic meter of dust can carry as many as 100,000 bacteria! It stores minerals such as aluminum, calcium, magnesium, and iron, which can temporarily satisfy our hunger until we reach our destination." After hearing this, my sister and I were enlightened, all our doubts disappeared, and we eagerly awaited for the moment to set sail.

gé tiān dà huǒ er dōu yī xù dā shàng le huī chén zhè tàng dān chéng háng bān dà fēng chuī
 隔天，大伙儿都依序搭上了灰尘这趟单程航班。大风吹
 lái, huī chén piāo qǐ xiǎng qǐ mā mā gěi wǒ qǔ de míng zì pú xī wàng wǒ xiàng pú gōng
 来，灰尘飘起。想起妈妈给我取的名字——蒲，希望我像蒲公
 yīng yí yàng zì yóu zì zài dì zài tiān kōng áo xiáng rú jīn bú jiù gāng hǎo shí xiàn le ma
 英一样，自由自在地在天空翱翔。如今不就刚好实现了吗？
 guò le shí jǐ gè xiǎo shí wǒ men chéng gōng táo lí le rén lèi de xiāo dú jì zhuó lù yú
 过了十几个小时，我们成功逃离了人类的消毒剂，着陆于
 shì jiè de lìng yí gè jiǎo luò duì yú xīn huán jìng dà jiā què yuè wàn fēn zài nà lǐ wǒ men
 世界的另一个角落。对于新环境，大家雀跃万分。在那里，我们
 yù dào le xīn de xì jūn zú qún tā men chēng zì jǐ wéi “yǐ” suī rán wǒ men hé tā men
 遇到了新的细菌族群，他们称自己为“乙”。虽然我们和他们
 tóng wéi xì jūn dàn shì yàng mào bù yí yàng shēng huó fāng shì yě jié rán bù tóng bǐ rú wǒ men
 同为细菌，但是样貌不一样，生活方式也截然不同。比如我们
 jū zhù zài rén lèi de zhuān wū lǐ nà lǐ zī yuán fēng fù shí shuǐ tuō shǒu kě dé yǐ xì jūn
 居住在人类的砖屋里，那里资源丰富，食水唾手可得；乙细菌
 men de cūn zǐ zé jiàn zài shù mù shàng tā men yǐn zhe shù yè dī luò xià de yǔ shuǐ tóng shí yǐ
 们的村子则建在树木上，他们饮着树叶滴落下的雨水，同时以
 jiàng jiě shù yè lǐ de xiān wéi sù wéi shēng
 降解树叶里的纤维素为生。

The next day, everyone boarded the one-way flight on the dust. When the wind
 blew, the dust floated up. Thinking of the name my mother gave me - pu, I hope that I can
 soar freely in the sky like a dandelion. Isn't this a fulfilment of my hope?

After more than ten hours, we successfully escaped the human disinfectants and
 landed in another corner of the world. Everyone is very excited about the new environment.
 There, we encountered a new group of bacteria that called themselves "B". Although we are
 the same bacteria as them, we have different appearances and have completely different
 lifestyles. For example, we live in human brick houses, where resources are abundant and
 water is readily available; Bacteria B's villages are built on trees, where they drink the
 rainwater from leaves and disintegrate plant cellulose in leaves for food.

zhì zhě men shì chá zhè lǜ yì àng rán de huán jìng hòu jué dìng zài cǐ chóng xīn jiàn lì cūn
智者们的视察这绿意盎然的环境后，决定在此重新建立村
zǐ wǒ men hái xiàng yǐ xì jūn men xué xī xīn jì néng xiàng shì rú hé jiàng jiě xiān wéi sù hé shōu
子。我们还向乙细菌们学习新技能，像是如何降解纤维素和收
jí yǔ shuǐ yǐ biànnénggèngkuài dì shì yìng xīn huán jìng cǐ wài wǒ men fēn xiǎng le zhān fù zài
集雨水，以便能更快地适应新环境。此外，我们分享了粘附在
rén lèi zhuān wū qiángshàng de shēng huó diǎn dī yǐ xì jūn men yě tīng de jīn jīn yǒu wèi
人类砖屋墙上的生活点滴，乙细菌们也听得津津有味。
shēng huó huàn rán yì xīn yě yǔ xīn xì jūn qún jiàn lì le yǒu yì wǒ men qī xǔ néng wéi
生活焕然一新，也与新细菌群建立了友谊。我们期许能为
xì jūn qún dài lái yì xiē gòng xiàn yě xī wàng dà jiā guò zhe rú tóng huà bān xìng fú de rì zi
细菌群带来一些贡献，也希望大家过着如童话般幸福的日子，
bú zài bān qiān
不再搬迁……

After inspecting the lush green environment, the wise men decided to rebuild our village here. We have also learnt new skills from Bacteria B, such as how to disintegrate plant cellulose and harvest rainwater so that we can adapt to the new environments more quickly. In addition, we shared the details of us living on the walls of human brick houses with Bacteria B, and they enjoyed the story.

We now lead a brand-new life and formed friendships with new bacteria. We hope to contribute to the bacterial community, and hope that everyone will live a fairy tale-like life and will not have to move again...

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More resources at https://multilingual-malaysian.github.io/SRJKC_resources/