

Can you tell us a famous proverb from your country?

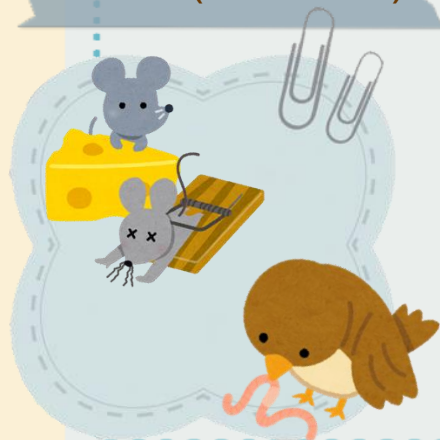
Marina (Brazil)

In Brazil, there is a proverb that says, "One swallow does not make a summer". There is a similar expression in Japan which is often used to teach that the presence of a good omen doesn't necessarily mean that everything will go well. However, in Brazil, it carries the meaning that "great things cannot be accomplished by a single person alone". This proverb teaches the importance of helping one another. Nowadays in Japan, where people from different cultures and languages are living together, this way of thinking is essential for the building of a harmonious and inclusive society.



Kane (Australia)

In English, there is a proverb that says, "The early bird catches the worm". It means that those who act quickly are more likely to succeed. Therefore it is a positive message that the first to take action will gain the greatest opportunity. However, there's another part to this proverb, "But the second mouse gets the cheese". While the first mouse gets caught in the trap, the second mouse avoids it and obtains a tasty cheese prize. The message here is that while acting early can be good, being first is not always the most advantageous. Which one do you think you are?



China has many proverbs that are quite similar to those in Japan. Even though the wording may be different, they still convey the same meaning. For example, the Japanese proverb "Reciting a Buddhist prayer to a horse", is expressed in Chinese as "Playing a lute to a cow", meaning to play music for a cow despite the cow not being able to comprehend music. Also, the Japanese proverb "Giving a weapon to an ogre", is expressed in Chinese as "Wings on a tiger", meaning to give wings to a tiger.

There are many other similar expressions like these, and they are all very interesting. These proverbs make you realize just how deeply connected Japanese and Chinese cultures have become throughout their long histories.

Seki (China)



Multicultural Mie



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