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In Trump's shadow, Republican suburban slide shows little sign of slowing



Voters cast their ballots in state and local elections at Pillow Boro Hall in Pillow, Pennsylvania, U.S. November 5, 2019. REUTERS/Mark Makela

(Reuters) - The last time Democrats controlled the government in Delaware County, a suburb of Philadelphia, the U.S. Civil War had just ended. But on Tuesday, Democrats ended a century and a half of Republican dominance. In two other Philadelphia-area suburbs, they captured Chester County's board of commissioners for the first time in history and seized control of Bucks County's board of commissioners for the first time since the 1980s.

The Democratic gains in Pennsylvania, a state crucial to U.S. President Donald Trump's election in 2016, suggest Republicans have yet to staunch the bleeding in the suburbs, where voters have increasingly revolted against Trump's heated rhetoric.

The results should "scare" Republicans ahead of the November 2020 election, said Douglas Heye, a strategist who previously worked for the Republican National Committee. "More and more data suggests we're seeing a flight away from Republicans in suburban areas," Heye said.

There were warning signs in other historically Republican strongholds as well.

In Kentucky, where Trump this week held a campaign rally to bolster Republican Governor Matt Bevin's reelection bid, a Democratic challenger scored an upset win driven in part by a strong performance in suburbs of northern Kentucky outside Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Virginia, Democrats captured total control of state government for the first time in a generation, flipping both chambers of the legislature on the strength of wins in the rapidly grow-

ing and diversifying suburbs of northern Virginia and the capital of Richmond.

Many vulnerable Virginia Republicans sought to keep the campaign focused on local issues. Trump notably did not campaign in the state down the stretch, even as he sought to flex his political muscle in Kentucky and Mississippi.

The election results underscore the challenge Republicans in swing areas face when Trump seeks re-election in 2020, including U.S. senators Cory Gardner of Colorado, Susan Collins of Maine, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Martha McSally of Arizona: embrace Trump and risk alienating suburban voters, especially women, or keep your distance and risk losing Trump diehards.

"That's the question every Republican up for reelection is asking themselves: how do you overperform Trump in suburban areas without hurting yourself with the base voters you absolutely need?" said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on Senator Marco Rubio's presidential campaign.

Collins dismissed reading too much into the local elections, noting Republicans did well in other Kentucky races, including wresting the attorney general office from Democrats.

"I think this was an example of a very unpopular incumbent governor," she said in an interview in Washington on Wednesday.

LESSONS FOR DEMOCRATS

Democrats may have their own lessons from Tuesday's elections. In Kentucky, Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear emphasized so-called "kitchen table issues" such as healthcare and education instead of Trump during the campaign.

That playbook was successfully employed by dozens of Democratic congressional candidates in swing districts last year, when the party seized control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the 2020 presidential race, Democrats are grappling with whether a moderate such as former Vice President Joe Biden or a liberal such as U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren would be best suited to defeat Trump.

"One of the reasons Democrats have overperformed in swing districts in the last two years is that they've nominated a lot of moderates," Conant said, adding that Republicans would likely claw back some suburban losses if Warren were at the top of the Democratic ticket in 2020.

It remains difficult to determine how the House impeachment inquiry is affecting voter choices. Bevin, the Kentucky governor, sought to capitalize on Republican anger over the issue, using impeachment in his advertising and defending Trump. It was not enough to win.

Republicans noted that Bevin was deeply unpopular after battling schoolteachers and unions.

Bevin, who trails by just over 5,000 votes, refused to concede the race, citing reports of unspecified "irregularities." On Wednesday he filed for a canvass, which is a review of vote totals from each county to ensure the correct figures were transmitted to the state elections board.



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Pacquiao, Ma Partner For E-commerce Venture In Philippines To Provide Jobs



PACQUIAO & MA – The fighting Senator, Manny Pacquiao is teaming up with Chinese billionaire, Jack Ma to establish a logistics and e-commerce hub in the Philippines. (Image from: Jinkee Pacquiao | Instagram)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

MANILA, Philippines — World boxing idol and Senator Manny Pacquiao and Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma have agreed to work together to put up logistics and e-commerce hubs in the country that is expected to generate thousands of jobs.

Pacquiao said Ma, who is also known as Ma Yun, has expressed his interest to invest in the Philippines to provide more employment for Filipinos.

This partnership could potentially lead to thousands of job opportunities for Filipinos. According to Pacquiao, he and Ma have been exchanging notes on how he could help the Philippines.

He also gave emphasis on how Ma could help out the country in terms of job generation. Reports say that Jack Ma is set to visit the senator in his home town in General Santos within the year.



Manny Pacquiao, “The fighting senator.”

Based on an article from Philstar, Pacquiao said that ma wanted to build a company run and managed by Filipinos. He added that the pilot area for their partnership would be in General Santos.

According to the boxing legislator, Ma, who is his personal friend, has been exchanging notes with him “for quite some time now” on how he could help the Philippines, especially in job-generation. Pacquiao went to Hangzhou, China last week to meet Ma to discuss the details on how to go about their new project. He said Ma is set to visit Pacquiao’s home in General Santos City, hopefully, within the year.

The senator said they have agreed that the best way to do this is for them to partner in setting up logistics and e-commerce centers all over the Philippines. He said Ma, the richest man in China, wants put up a company run and managed by Filipinos.

He said the pilot area for their collaboration would be in General Santos City and would slowly expand all over the Philippines until they reach their target of providing direct jobs for thousands of Filipinos.

“This should directly benefit at least thousands of Filipino families and also

provide livelihood for millions more in indirect employment. These investments will surely need suppliers and manufacturers who also have to hire more people as they expand,” Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao said he and Ma share a mutual passion to help the poor because both of them lived a life of abject poverty before they became wealthy through dedication to their chosen profession and sheer hard work.



Manny Pacquiao in his fighting heyday.

“We are very comfortable with each other because we came from the same situation. We both know how it is to feel hungry every day” Pacquiao said in Filipino. “If we are able to provide jobs for more Filipinos, we are not only helping their families rise up from poverty, but we are also helping the country in its fight against crime,” he said.

From being a street urchin doing menial jobs as construction laborer and bakery assistant, the 40-year old Pacquiao became a professional boxer at the age of 16 just to be able to make ends meet. He soon became one of the world’s greatest sportsman before joining politics as a congressman, and now as a senator.

At an early age, the 55-year old Ma, on the other hand, had to cycle 70 kilometers a day just to earn a living as tourist guide and struggled in college to be able to get a degree.

After having been rejected multiple times in his job applications, Ma rose to

become the founder of Alibaba, which is now the world’s biggest online commerce platform.

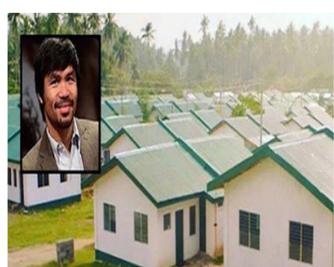
Ma retired from Alibaba last month and said he would focus on philanthropy and education.



Pacquiao has built 1,000’s of homes for the poor.

Pacquiao also shared that one of the most important lessons he learned from Ma during their meeting was: “You don’t have to know a lot of things to succeed, you have to find the right people to do the job, and make sure that they work together, and believe in the same vision.” He also gave emphasis on how Ma could help out the country in terms of job generation. Reports say that Jack Ma is set to visit the senator in his home town in General Santos within the year.

Based on an article from Philstar, Pacquiao said that ma wanted to build a company run and managed by Filipinos. He added that the pilot area for their partnership would be in General Santos.



Adding to this, they plan to expand their reach throughout the entire Philippines. They also said that they would not stop until they reached their goal of providing direct jobs for thousands of Filipinos.

“This should directly benefit at least

thousands of Filipino families and also provide livelihood for millions more in indirect employment.” --Senator Manny Pacquiao



Both Pacquiao and Ma had a passion to help out the poor because they both came from poverty. However, through their dedication and hard work, they managed to overcome it.

The Senator then added that providing jobs for his fellowmen will not only help decrease poverty but help prevent crime as well.

Recently, Pacquiao got a chance to visit Jack Ma’s Paradise farm. Along with him were his wife, Jinkee Pacquiao, and several others on his team. (Courtesy Philnews.com)

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Trump Begins Formal Withdrawal From Paris Climate Agreement



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

President Trump got a step closer to pulling America out of the Paris Climate Agreement by sending a withdrawal letter to the United Nations...

Driving the news: While Trump indicated this intention in June 2017, today marks the first day his administration could begin the formal process...

Why it matters: While today is more procedural than symbolic in nature, the U.S. beginning the exit process is likely to further dampen the 2015 climate deal's aspirations...

What they're saying: A White House spokesman didn't comment beyond writing by email that "the president has already announced that the U.S. is not a part of the Paris Climate Agreement."

Pompeo wrote on Twitter: "Today we begin the formal process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. The U.S. is proud of our record as a world leader in reducing all emissions..."



The big picture: The U.S. is the only country in the world not to support the accord, whose goal is to drastically slash greenhouse gas emissions...

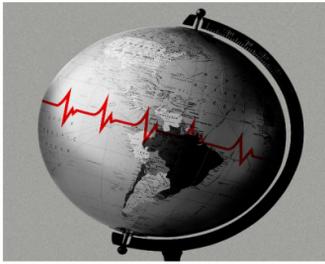
Where it stands: The planet's temperature has already increased about 0.8°C since 1880, according to NASA, and the world isn't even close to meeting the Paris goals...

Reality check: In a Rose Garden speech in June 2017, Trump criticized the accord as a bad deal for America because it allowed China to continue increasing its emissions...

What we're watching: If a Democrat wins the White House in 2020, he or she would have to submit a letter to rejoin the accord...

day delay. The U.S. could then be back into the agreement as soon as Feb. 21, 2021. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related Paris + 2: Climate Jolted Faster Than Projected



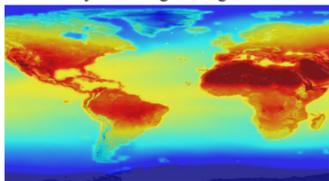
(Illustration/Axios)

Saturday marks two years since President Trump announced he would pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement — and the chasm between scientific findings and political action is only growing.

The big picture: Climate science is now more clear than ever about the damage that climate change is causing. But many countries aren't on track to meet their Paris emissions targets — and now there's no U.S. leadership to push them to try harder.

The details: Scientists tell us that they now have:

- More confidence in the observed amounts of global warming, showing the planet has been heating up faster than previously thought...
•Clear evidence that virtually all of the observed warming since 1950 is due to human activities...
•Robust data showing that limiting global warming to the Paris targets of 1.5°C or 2°C would have significant, tangible benefits by reducing damage.



Climate change patterns viewed from space.

Between the lines: A study published last week projected that unchecked growth in greenhouse gas emissions could cause global sea levels to rise by an average of 3.6 feet by 2100.

This compares to just 2.3 feet if warming is limited to 2°C above preindustrial levels, coauthor Robert Kopp tells Axios.

The lower the amount of warming, the less likely it is that the planet will trigger climate change tipping points like the loss of the Greenland or West Antarctic ice sheets.

Over the past two years we've learned that key impacts of climate change, like the melting of ice, the rise in sea level, and the increase in devastating weather extremes, are playing out faster than our models projected just a few years ago.

— Michael Mann, Penn State University

The emissions reductions required to meet the 1.5°C goal are drastic and would be costly. They include getting to net zero emissions by 2050, and negative emissions by 2100.

There are few signs that governments are willing to undertake such radical actions.

Where it stands: While virtually all countries except the U.S. remain committed to the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, many aren't on track to meet their targets — which are mostly too weak anyway...



China and India are poised to meet their targets with currently implemented policies...

cies, the group says, "which may suggest they could be doing even more," said Elliot Diring, of the nonprofit Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

Canada, Australia and the U.S. aren't on track to meet their goals.

By the numbers: Since Trump promised to withdraw from the deal:

Global greenhouse gas emissions reached a record high, while America's emissions ticked back up after declining a few years.

Support for technology that captures CO2 emissions is increasing, through investments and legislation, but it's still nowhere near enough.

The intrigue: Experts say Trump's vow to withdraw from the deal didn't cause this progress, or lack thereof. But...

What's harder to assess is the degree to which it's undermining political will in countries to push forward the policies needed to meet their targets...

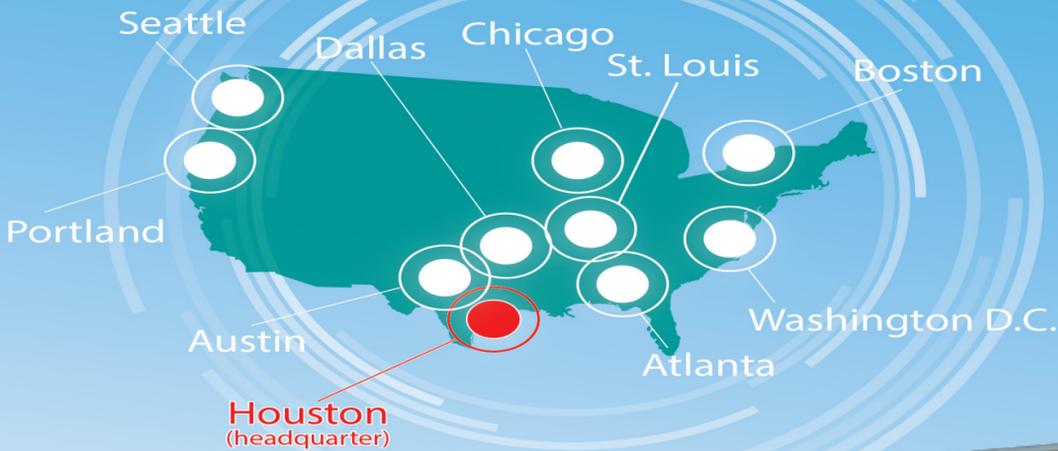
What to watch: To what degree countries ratchet up their policy ambitions and Paris targets at a high-profile United Nations summit on September 23. A top U.N. official said earlier this week 80 countries were prepared to do so, but he didn't name names.



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在北极开工厂，下一步人类就要上天了



的破冰船，它是世界上最大的核驱动破冰船，在2017年2月的冰雪暴，“胜利五十年”拖着一艘油轮，沿途打开喀拉海的坚冰，驶往亚马尔半岛的工厂码头。而从萨别塔港出发的每艘油轮可运送17万立方米液化天然气，夏天去中国，冬天去欧洲，将零下160摄氏度保存的天然气运往世界各地。

通过为当地工厂制作一本画册，谢洛特换来了进入工厂拍摄的机会，甚至进入在建的液化天然气储罐内部。一张照片里，四个巨大白色圆柱矗立其间，每个圆罐可以储存16万立方米的液化天然气。另一张照片，几何形的储气室闪烁着金属冰冷的光泽。

在北极，谢洛特看见高耸的破冰船状若神庙，气井口的阀门形似十字架，这令他想起法国哲学家雅克·艾吕尔曾经写过，现代社会对“技术”的神圣化崇拜。

谢洛特住在工厂附近的一户涅涅茨人家里，恰逢他们家的小姑娘生病，公司给他们家派了架直升机。天然气公司还出钱重新修整了位于萨别塔港150公里外的村庄，那也是涅涅茨人的聚居区，修整后的村庄焕然一新，变成了整个亚马尔地区最漂亮的村子。

尽管LNG公司雇佣专人与涅涅茨社群沟通，试图从各方面补偿项目造成的生态破坏。但涅涅茨人并不高兴，Gregory告诉谢洛特，没人愿意在自家的后院建工厂。

但对整个国家而言亚马尔半岛的能源工业意义重大，它可以带动北极航道开发，亚太市场开拓，并振兴俄地方经济。LNG项目对俄罗斯的油气工业摆脱过度依赖欧洲市场，向东推进具有尤其重要的作用，因此俄罗斯政府对该项目高度关注。

据美国地质勘探局(USGS)评估，北极地区拥有待发现天然气技术可采储量超过47万亿立方米，占全球未开采天然气储量的30%。亚马尔地区的天然气，按目前已获得的开采许可，可开采至2045年底。

等北极开采完了，人类会把手伸向哪里？谢洛特站在北极大地，想着这个问题，“恐怕就轮到月球、火星了。”这样想着，他甚至感觉自己已经站在了月球之上。

俄罗斯境内，西伯利亚北部的亚马尔半岛位处北极圈，当地以游牧为生的原住民涅涅茨人，将亚马尔称作“世界尽头”。这里曾长期与世隔绝，白皑皑的雪原上只有涅涅茨人与他们放牧的驯鹿迁徙时留下的足迹。

作为世界上最大的天然气储藏区，亚马尔的雪原下蕴藏着40多万亿立方米天然气，储量大、埋藏浅、纯净度高。

为了满足欧亚大陆日益增长的天然气需求，近二十年，半岛上开始出现越来越多的油气开采工程。其中规模最大的由俄、中、法三方共同投资建设的亚马尔液化天然气(LNG)项目。今年前六个月，俄罗斯亚马尔LNG项目实现液化天然气产量900万吨，共发运LNG运输船126艘。

萨别塔港原本只是亚马尔半岛上一个临海的小村落，自从亚马尔LNG项目开工后，萨别塔港变成了油气外运的重要枢纽，原本寂静的村落开始响起工厂

和破冰船的轰鸣。从直升机的窗户望出去是白茫茫的一片，永久的冻土、蜿蜒的河流、低矮的灌木丛，一年绝大多数时间被冰雪覆盖。靠近萨别塔港的地方，一个钻塔接着一个钻塔，纵横的公路和管道将苔原切割破碎，刺穿了苔原上无边无际的宁静。这一切都被叫查尔斯·谢洛特的摄影机记录下来。

十字架与神庙 夜晚三点，集装箱像排小盒子零零落落码在雪上。雪地泛着橙色的光，天空中竖立着蓝色光线。光线来自工厂作业区和工人聚居村。气温零下摄氏36度，空气里的冰晶将光线折弯。谢洛特在亚马尔LNG工厂附近拍下此刻的景象，他觉得面前的北极像极了月球。

谢洛特原本是一名环境工程师，因为对环境问题的关注，他开始进行一系列环境摄影项目。很久以来，谢洛特一直憧憬去北极，当他知道亚马尔半岛上

新建的LNG项目时，立刻决定前往拍摄。他希望用自己的摄影向世人展现北极正在经历的变化，呼唤人们思考人与自然的关系。

在谢洛特看来，沉浸于现代文明生活的很多人，似乎忘记了整套文明方式赖以运转的方式——驱动文明的机器、工厂和各种工业设施。为了让普通人洗上澡、吃上饭、用上暖气、水电，工厂不断地采掘油气，现在这些工厂开到了北极。谢洛特一方面惊叹人类的壮举，另一方面也为此感到忧心。

“为了维持舒适的生活，人类把手伸得越来越远，北极已经是能够得着的极限。北极之后，我们人类还能去哪儿呢？”

正在北极发生的变化令谢洛特想起“人类世”这个词。人类世是指地球的最近代历史，人类世并没有准确的开始年份，可能是由18世纪末人类活动对气候及生态系统造成全球性影响开始算起。在人类世界，地球为人所主宰，没有

一处自然没有人的插手，没有一处景观未经人的涂抹。谢洛特乘着直升机和雪地摩托，或徒步在冰原上穿行，追逐并拍下“人类世”的景观。

LNG工厂巨大的烟囱喷出的烟雾上涌，和北极上空朦胧变幻的云雾汇成一股，驾驶员开着直升机，带着谢洛特在天空中接近烟云，拍下了云烟翻涌的这一刻。

大地上时时迸发的红色焰火，是流出的甲烷在燃烧。学名“耀斑”的焰火映照天空，是钻井时伴生现象。谢洛特跟当地人约好，“一见耀斑就来通知我。”拍摄的过程很吓人，谢洛特尽可能走到火焰近处，握着的照相机变得非常烫手，与此同时后脑勺却暴露在零下25摄氏度的冷空气中。50厘米之间，气温从极寒变成极热，燃烧的甲烷时不时爆发巨大的响声，拍完照片，谢洛特耳鸣了几个小时。谢洛特拍过一艘名为“胜利五十年”

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“因为一顿饭，我和老公离婚了” 婚姻，究竟该如何经营？

曾经听人过这样一句话：“你和一个人越亲密，会越多看到他的缺点”我觉得很有道理。

你爱上一个人，可能是因为她脱俗的气质，或是他运筹帷幄的魄力。就像我们常常崇拜明星一样，钟情于一个人。那时候觉得Ta很有力量，似乎能拯救你，能带你进入想要的生活。

然而，当两人结婚之后，爱恋的激情褪去，生活只剩下最为平淡的柴米油盐这种琐碎的小事，而这种小事却往往会把我们带进情绪的深渊。

最近读者小红来信，她说她离婚了，而原因，仅仅只是因为一顿饭。

那天吃晚饭时，上了一天班的她回到家里，忙活了近两个小时才做出一顿饭。但她的老公从坐下来就开始埋怨：“怎么每天做饭都这么久，你不是五点多就下班了吗？”

“我从下班就开始忙到现在没停过，一个人又要带孩子，又要择菜，洗菜，做饭，炒菜，你想早点吃，你不会来帮忙吗？一回来就在那里玩手机。”

此时她老公无话可说，但吃了几口菜以后，又开始唠叨：“你做菜怎么又没放味精，随便个人在网上说说味精不健康那就不吃了。人家说什么你就信什么，这菜连个味精都没有，怎么吃？”

“不想吃就别吃，嫌难吃你怎么不去自己做啊”

吵到最后，她老公直接把桌子掀了，小红当时气浑身发抖，满腹的怒火和怨气涌上了心头，向她老公提出了离婚。

她老公也寸步不让：“离就离，我都不知道当初为什么要娶你这种女人回来。”

结果，八年的婚姻，就这样走到了尽头。

小红跟我说，所有人都劝她，为了这点小事离婚不值得，其实只有她自己心里知道真正让他们离婚的，根本就不是那顿饭，而是生活中那些日积月累的小事。

真正让人心死的，其实正是那些不



起眼的小事，积累成伤，疼痛入骨，最后就在某一瞬间爆发了。

曾经在网络上看过这样一个故事。

一个男人离婚后才知道，原来马桶是要清洗的，当他蹲在厕所里洗马桶时才明白，原来生活中那么多琐碎的事情要去，下班回家要去接孩子下课，晚上要去做饭，还得监督孩子做作业。早上要早起给孩子做饭，还要送孩子去上学，当原来他老婆做的事做起来以后才知道老婆的辛苦。他老婆一直为这个家默默地奉献着自己。而在过去的婚姻生涯里，他除了挣钱，从未给这个家做出任何贡献。

没有人是为了离婚而结婚的，可是当两个人一同走进婚姻的围城之后，若

是有一个人打了瞌睡，那便代表了另一个人的心，正在被逐渐放凉。

后来小红跟我说过，她走到离婚这一步，并不是矫情，只不过是攒够了失望。因为在当今社会男女之间根本没有平等，在男人的角度看女人，男人们觉得女人们什么重活都不用干，全部都归他们，而且在生活和社会竞争的压力下男人们总是觉得自己要承受太多的责任和压力，而女人们却是挥霍着他们辛苦的劳动成果，每天都过着自在享受的日子。可他们不知道，在他们看不见的地方女人所承担的生活压力并不比他们少。

我想，爱情可能真的像人说的那样：

无法在婚姻的围城里长久地存活，婚前的甜甜蜜蜜，也许终会转变为婚后万千琐碎的牵绊。

牵绊多了就会有失望，失望久了，很容易就变成了绝望。而当你绝望之时，哪怕只是一件特别微小的生活琐事也会成为情绪爆发的导火索，炸毁我们经营多年的感情与婚姻。

很多人都曾来信问我，到底该如何经营好自己的婚姻？

其实很简单，在日复一日的琐碎日子里，我们最需要的是彼此的关心和包容。

偶然见过一对残疾夫妻，他俩走路

的姿势吸引了我：一个歪着身子向左，一个歪着身子向右。

这时，丈夫突然快走了几步，把蹒跚的妻子抛在后面。

本以为他们是在闹矛盾，却见丈夫歪歪斜斜地奔到路口，拦下了一辆出租车，转头向妻子招手。

在那一瞬间，我忽然懂了。真正的爱情是不能用言语表达的，行为才是最有力的说明。

唯有陪伴，才是最长情的告白。再好的条件，都抵不过一个伴侣对你细心呵护的关心。

好的婚姻是在生活的琐碎里，彼此理解彼此付出。

因为爱而互相疼惜，共同把生活的苦变成甜。因为爱，让我们穿越人世间所有的悲与痛。

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