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 By Jonathan Swift

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 下文节选自《格列佛游记》 第10章 勒皮他飞岛（1）

 The flying island of Laputa

I had only been at home for about ten days when a friend of mine asked me to join him on a journey to the East Indies．I still wanted to see more of the world，and as he was offering to give me double the usual pay，I managed to persuade my wife to let me go． The voyage took eight months，and after stopping for a short time in Malaysia，we arrived in the Gulf of Tongking． “I'll have to stay here for a while on business”，my friend the captain told me． “But you can take the ship and some of the sailors．Go and see what you can buy and sell in the islands around here”．That sounded interesting to me，so I agreed．Unfortunately，we sailed straight into a terrible storm，which drove us many miles eastward．Then，by a very unlucky chance，we were seen and chased by two pirate(海盗) ships． Our ship was not fast enough to escape，and the pirates caught us．They decided to keep the sailors to help sail the ship，but they did not need me．I suppose I was lucky they did not kill me．Instead，they left me alone in a small boat in the middle of the ocean，with only enough food for a few days，while they sailed away． I am sure the pirates thought I would die．However，I saw land some hours later，and I managed to sail the boat to it．As I stepped out of the boat and walked up the beach，I noticed that although the sun had been very hot，the air suddenly seemed cooler． At first I thought a cloud was passing over the sun. But when I looked up，I saw，to my great astonishment，a large island in the sky，between me and the sun． It was moving towards me，and there were people running around on it．I waved my arms and shouted as loudly as possible．”Help！Help！” I cried． “Rescue me！” When the island was about a hundred metres over my head，they let down a seat on a chain．I sat on it，and was pulled up to the island．I had discovered the flying island of Laputa. Laputans are certainly strange－looking people．Their heads always turn either to right or left：one of their eyes turns inwards，the other upwards． Their main interests are music and mathematics．They spend so much time thinking about mathematical problems that they do not notice what is happening around them．

 Excerpted from Chapter 10 of ***Gulliver’s Travels***

By Jonathan Swift