

机密★启用前

# 重 庆 邮 电 大 学

## 2017 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

科目名称： 翻译硕士英语 (A 卷)

科目代码： 211

### 考生注意事项

- 1、答题前，考生必须在答题纸指定位置上填写考生姓名、报考单位和考生编号。
- 2、所有答案必须写在答题纸上，写在其他地方无效。
- 3、填（书）写必须使用 0.5mm 黑色签字笔。
- 4、考试结束，将答题纸和试题一并装入试卷袋中交回。
- 5、本试题满分 150 分，考试时间 3 小时。

I. 词汇语法部分 (40 分)

一、多项选择

A. 选择一项最佳答案将句子补充完整。(共 30 小题, 每小题 0.5 分, 共 15 分)

1. For the transaction to succeed, some means had to be found to \_\_\_\_\_ the trustee to comply with the terms of the trust.  
[A] compile [B] confront [C] compel [D] control
2. For any Chinese or Asian, the successful launch of Shenzhou 5 is \_\_\_\_\_ a cause for jubilation.  
[A] doubtable [B] doubtless [C] doubtful [D] undoubted
3. With the advance of the medical technology, some cancers are treated by \_\_\_\_\_ therapy nowadays.  
[A] radiant [B] radiance [C] radiation [D] radical
4. Although 20 years passed, Mary still remembers some \_\_\_\_\_ of that conversation.  
[A] pieces [B] chips [C] fragments [D] shatters
5. His hands were white and small, his frame was \_\_\_\_\_, his voice was quiet and his manners were refined.  
[A] briskly [B] delicate [C] fragile [D] breakable
6. The technicians are working hard to \_\_\_\_\_ the design of the new car to make it more competitive in the overseas market.  
[A] find [B] modify [C] develop [D] make
7. Temperatures will \_\_\_\_\_ 38 °C over the weekend due to the heat wave, says the weather forecaster.  
[A] drop down [B] fall down [C] soar into [D] soar up
8. The schools themselves admit that not all children will be successful in the jobs, \_\_\_\_\_ they are being trained.  
[A] in that [B] for that [C] in which [D] for which
9. Those members requested that China undertake an appropriate commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ these practices.  
[A] cut off [B] eliminate [C] remove [D] struggle
10. Generally speaking, this is not a usual exit. You should only use this door in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
[A] emergence [B] emergency [C] urgency [D] accident

11. The government has promised to do \_\_\_\_\_ lies in its power to ease the hardships of the victims in the flood-stricken area.  
[A] however [B] whichever [C] whatever [D] wherever
12. The money withheld from the employee's \_\_\_\_\_ may be kept in the company's checking account for a brief time until the payment is due.  
[A] bill [B] paycheck [C] paper [D] card
13. The lecture which lasted about three hours was so \_\_\_\_\_ that the audience couldn't help yawning.  
[A] tedious [B] bored [C] clumsy [D] tired
14. Whether or not we go to Europe for our holiday \_\_\_\_\_ whether we can save enough money to cover the cost.  
[A] depends on [B] relies on [C] builds on [D] takes on
15. It remains a hot issue whether high school students should be encouraged to \_\_\_\_\_ serious social issues like the causes of unemployment.  
[A] look after [B] look up [C] look into [D] look around
16. The worsening economic conditions will \_\_\_\_\_ lead to more crimes and more victims.  
[A] absolutely [B] inevitably [C] certainly [D] undoubtedly
17. Wines can be \_\_\_\_\_ as dry, medium or sweet according to their sugar content.  
[A] divided [B] ranged [C] viewed [D] classified
18. There's absolutely no \_\_\_\_\_ between the different work teams --- we don't know what others are doing.  
[A] agreement [B] coordination [C] understanding [D] discussion
19. He was a really considerate friend --- always available to help at the \_\_\_\_\_ hint of trouble.  
[A] sight [B] slight [C] slightest [D] signal
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ at the military academy is so rigid that most students can hardly bear it.  
[A] convention [B] confinement [C] principle [D] discipline
21. Batista was keeping himself in power only by a mounting use of \_\_\_\_\_, corruption and violence.  
[A] depression [B] compression [C] confession [D] repression

22. The coach was \_\_\_\_\_ that Michael had recovered sufficiently from his knee injury and he was able to play in the semi-final next week.  
[A] relief [B] relieved [C] relaxed [D] reliable
23. Critics believe that the control of television by mass advertising has \_\_\_\_\_ the quality of the programs.  
[A] lessened [B] declined [C] affected [D] effected
24. Now that spring is here, you can \_\_\_\_\_ these fur coats till you need them again next winter.  
[A] put over [B] put away [C] put off [D] put down
25. Some people believe that since oil is scarce, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the motor industry is uncertain.  
[A] terminal [B] benefit [C] fate [D] estimate
26. The defense lawyer was questioning the old man who was one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the murder committed last month.  
[A] observers [B] witnesses [C] audiences [D] viewers
27. Nancy was \_\_\_\_\_ from the warehouse to the accounting office, which was considered a promotion.  
[A] delivered [B] exchanged [C] transferred [D] transformed
28. My grandmother has always taken a \_\_\_\_\_ interest in my work, and I have an equal admiration for the stories of her time.  
[A] splendid [B] weighty [C] vague [D] keen
29. \_\_\_\_\_ quantities of water are being used nowadays with the rapid development of industry and agriculture.  
[A] Excessive [B] Extensive [C] Extreme [D] Exclusive
30. Dr. Smith was always \_\_\_\_\_ the poor and the sick, often providing them with free medical care.  
[A] reminded of [B] concerned about [C] tended by [D] absorbed in

**B. 选择与所给词意义相近的正确答案（共 10 小题，每小题 0.5 分，共 5 分）**

- ( ) 31. comprehensive      A. accidental      B. including much  
C. delicate      D. small
- ( ) 32. conventional      A. large      B. at a conference  
C. outstanding      D. ordinary
- ( ) 33. enhance      A. reject      B. get

- |                     |                     |                                  |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
|                     | C. improve          | D. free                          |
| ( ) 34. attribute   | A. admiration       | B. program                       |
|                     | C. disease          | D. quality                       |
| ( ) 35. recession   | A. parade           | B. amusement                     |
|                     | C. giving in        | D. business decline              |
| ( ) 36. default     | A. jump             | B. fail to do something required |
|                     | C. do automatically | D. seize                         |
| ( ) 37. degenerate  | A. give up          | B. improve                       |
|                     | C. stay the same    | D. worsen                        |
| ( ) 38. implausible | A. possible         | B. hard to believe               |
|                     | C. imaginary        | D. historical                    |
| ( ) 39. obsolete    | A. current          | B. difficult to believe          |
|                     | C. out-of-date      | D. not sold                      |
| ( ) 40. encounter   | A. meeting          | B. total                         |
|                     | C. departure        | D. attack                        |

## 二、 填空

用括号内单词的正确形式填空（共 10 小题，每小题 0.5 分，共 5 分）

41. The new law \_\_\_\_\_ (power) the police to search private houses in an emergency.
42. We shall be very glad to have your \_\_\_\_\_ (present) at the annual meeting.
43. Rather quiet at first, he became very \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) over his second glass of beer.
44. She sued for divorce on the grounds of her husband's alleged \_\_\_\_\_ (conduct) with his secretary.
45. She doesn't like \_\_\_\_\_ (door) sports even though she knows that it is good for her health.
46. A bar with \_\_\_\_\_ (adjust) weights at each end is lifted for sport or exercise.
47. She's \_\_\_\_\_ (fortune) in getting that good job, since the business is worse nowadays.
48. Jane was so \_\_\_\_\_ (apology) about forgetting her husband's birthday party that it was almost embarrassing.

49. There is great \_\_\_\_\_ (like) now that interest rates will increase further.

50. Before playing the new game, \_\_\_\_\_ (familiar) yourself with the rules.

三、改错 (共 10 小题, 每小题 0.5 分, 共 5 分)

以下每个句子都有一个错误, 请指出错误并改正。

51. Chuck is a businessman who is always very busy that he has little time for his friends.

52. The number of people who learns English as a foreign language is more than 750 millions.

53. Except the differences in spelling, written English is more or less the same in both British and American English.

54. You will get close to the nature and take exercise at the same time.

55. You should not go rafting if you know how to swim.

56. The teacher told the students not to look out the window.

57. I know people are trying to help, but I wish they wouldn't treat me as if I am a child.

58. In the Bronze Age, people could make tools from copper and bronze.

59. It's useless try to argue with Shylock.

60. After five hours' drive, they reached where they thought was the place they'd been dreaming of.

四、完形填空 (共 20 小题, 每小题 0.5 分, 共 10 分)

As many people hit middle age, they often start to notice that their memory and mental clarity are not what they used to be. We suddenly can't remember 61 we put the keys just a moment ago, or an old acquaintance's name, or the name of an old band we used to love. As the brain 62, we refer to these occurrences as "senior moments". 63 seemingly innocent, this loss of mental focus can potentially have a(an) 64 impact on our professional, social, and personal 65.

Neuroscientists, experts who study the nervous system, are increasingly showing that there's actually a lot that can be done. It 66 out that the brain needs exercise in much the same way our muscles do, and the right mental 67 can significantly improve our basic cognitive 68. Thinking is essentially a 69 of making connections in the brain. To a certain extent, our ability to 70 in making the connections that drive intelligence is inherited. 71, because

these connections are made through effort and practice, scientists believe that intelligence can expand and fluctuate \_\_\_ 72 \_\_\_ mental effort.

Now, a new Web-based company has taken it a step \_\_\_ 73 \_\_\_ and developed the first "brain training program" designed to actually help people improve and regain their mental \_\_\_ 74 \_\_\_.

The Web-based program \_\_\_ 75 \_\_\_ you to systematically improve your memory and attention skills. The program keeps \_\_\_ 76 \_\_\_ of your progress and provides detailed feedback \_\_\_ 77 \_\_\_ your performance and improvement. Most importantly, it \_\_\_ 78 \_\_\_ modifies and enhances the games you play to \_\_\_ 79 \_\_\_ on the strengths you are developing--much like a(n) \_\_\_ 80 \_\_\_ exercise routine requires you to increase resistance and vary your muscle use.

- |                    |                  |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 61.[A]where        | [B]when          | [C]that          | [D]why          |
| 62.[A]improves     | [B]fades         | [C]recovers      | [D]collapses    |
| 63.[A]If           | [B]Unless        | [C]Once          | [D]While        |
| 64.[A]uneven       | [B]limited       | [C]damaging      | [D]obscure      |
| 65.[A]wellbeing    | [B]environment   | [C]relationship  | [D]outlook      |
| 66.[A]turns        | [B]finds         | [C]points        | [D]figures      |
| 67.[A]roundabouts  | [B]responses     | [C]workouts      | [D]associations |
| 68.[A]genre        | [B]functions     | [C]circumstances | [D]criterion    |
| 69.[A]channel      | [B]condition     | [C]sequence      | [D]process      |
| 70.[A]persist      | [B]believe       | [C]excel         | [D]feature      |
| 71.[A]Therefore    | [B]Moreover      | [C]Otherwise     | [D]However      |
| 72.[A]according to | [B]regardless of | [C]apart from    | [D]instead of   |
| 73.[A]back         | [B]further       | [C]aside         | [D]around       |
| 74.[A]sharpness    | [B]stability     | [C]framework     | [D]flexibility  |
| 75.[A]forces       | [B]reminds       | [C]hurries       | [D]allows       |
| 76.[A]hold         | [B]track         | [C]order         | [D]pace         |
| 77.[A] to          | [B]with          | [C]for           | [D]on           |
| 78.[A]irregularly  | [B]habitually    | [C]constantly    | [D]unusually    |
| 79.[A]carry        | [B]put           | [C]build         | [D]take         |
| 80.[A]risky        | [B]effective     | [C]idle          | [D]familiar     |

II. 阅读理解部分（共 20 小题，每小题 1.5 分，共 30 分）

Text 1

In the 2006 film version of *The Devil Wears Prada*, Miranda Priestly, played by Meryl Streep, scold her unattractive assistant for imagining that high fashion doesn't affect her. Priestly explains how the deep blue color of the assistant's sweater descended over the years from fashion shows to department stores and to the bargain bin in which the poor girl doubtless found her garment.

This top-down conception of the fashion business couldn't be more out of date or at odds with feverish world described in *Overdressed*, Elizabeth Cline's three-year indictment of "fast fashion". In the last decades or so, advances in technology have allowed mass-market labels such as Zara, H&M, and Uniqlo to react to trends more quickly and anticipate demand more precisely. Quicker turnarounds mean less wasted inventory, more frequent releases, and more profit. Those labels encourage style-conscious consumers to see clothes as disposable—meant to last only a wash or two, although they don't advertise that—and to renew their wardrobe every few weeks. By offering on-trend items at dirt-cheap prices, Cline argues, these brands have hijacked fashion cycles, shaking an industry long accustomed to a seasonal pace.

The victims of this revolution, of course, are not limited to designers. For H&M to offer a \$5.95 knit miniskirt in all its 2,300-plus stores around the world, it must rely on low-wage, overseas labor, order in volumes that strain natural resources, and use massive amounts of harmful chemicals.

*Overdressed* is the fashion world's answer to consumer-activist bestsellers like Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. "Mass-produced clothing, like fast food, fills a hunger and need, yet is non-durable, and wasteful," Cline argues. Americans, she finds, buy roughly 20 billion garments a year—about 64 items per person—and no matter how much they give away, this excess leads to waste.

Towards the end of *Overdressed*, Cline introduced her ideal, a Brooklyn woman named Sarah Kate Beaumont, who since 2008 has made all of her own



clothes—and beautifully. But as Cline is the first to note, it took Beaumont decades to perfect her craft; her example can't be knocked off.

Though several fast-fashion companies have made efforts to curb their impact on labor and the environment—including H&M, with its green Conscious Collection Line—Cline believes lasting change can only be effected by the customer. She exhibits the idealism common to many advocates of sustainability, be it in food or in energy. Vanity is a constant; people will only start shopping more sustainably when they can't afford not to.

81. Priestly criticizes her assistant for her

- A. poor bargaining skill. B. insensitivity to fashion.  
C. obsession with high fashion D lack of imagination.

82. According to Cline, mass-market labels urge consumers to

- A. combat unnecessary waste. B. shut out the feverish fashion world.  
C. resist the influence of advertisements. D. shop for their garments more frequently.

83. The word “indictment” (Line 3, Para.2) is closest in meaning to

- A. accusation. B. enthusiasm. C. indifference. D. tolerance.

84. Which of the following can be inferred from the last paragraph?

- A. Vanity has more often been found in idealists.  
B. The fast-fashion industry ignores sustainability.  
C. People are more interested in unaffordable garments.  
D. Pricing is vital to environment-friendly purchasing.

85. What is the subject of the text?

- A. Satire on an extravagant lifestyle. B. Challenge to a high-fashion myth.  
C. Criticism of the fast-fashion industry. D. Exposure of a mass-market secret.

## Text 2

An old saying has it that half of all advertising budgets are wasted—the trouble is, no one knows which half. In the internet age, at least in theory, this fraction can be much reduced. By watching what people search for, click on and say online, companies can aim “behavioural” ads at those most likely to buy.

In the past couple of weeks a quarrel has illustrated the value to advertisers of such fine-grained information: Should advertisers assume that people are happy to be tracked and sent behavioural ads? Or should they have explicit permission?

In December 2010 America's Federal Trade Commission (FTC) proposed adding a "do not track" (DNT) option to internet browsers, so that users could tell advertisers that they did not want to be followed. Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Apple's Safari both offer DNT; Google's Chrome is due to do so this year. In February the FTC and the Digital Advertising Alliance (DAA) agreed that the industry would get cracking on responding to DNT requests.

On May 31st Microsoft set off the row. It said that Internet Explorer 10, the version due to appear with windows 8, would have DNT as a default.

Advertisers are horrified. Human nature being what it is, most people stick with default settings. Few switch DNT on now, but if tracking is off it will stay off. Bob Liodice, the chief executive of the Association of National Advertisers, says consumers will be worse off if the industry cannot collect information about their preferences. People will not get fewer ads, he says. "They'll get less meaningful, less targeted ads."

It is not yet clear how advertisers will respond. Getting a DNT signal does not oblige anyone to stop tracking, although some companies have promised to do so. Unable to tell whether someone really objects to behavioural ads or whether they are sticking with Microsoft's default, some may ignore a DNT signal and press on anyway.

Also unclear is why Microsoft has gone it alone. After all, it has an ad business too, which it says will comply with DNT requests, though it is still working out how. If it is trying to upset Google, which relies almost wholly on advertising, it has chosen an indirect method: There is no guarantee that DNT by default will become the norm. DNT does not seem an obviously huge selling point for windows 8—though the firm has compared some of its other products favourably with Google's on that count before. Brendon Lynch, Microsoft's chief privacy officer, blogged: "We believe consumers should have more control." Could it really be that simple?

86. It is suggested in Paragraph 1 that "behavioural" ads help advertisers to

- A. ease competition among themselves.
- B. lower their operational costs.
- C. avoid complaints from consumers.
- D. provide better online services.

87. "The industry" (Line 6, Para.3) refers to

- A. online advertisers.
- B. e-commerce conductors.

C. digital information analysis. D. internet browser developers.

88. Bob Liodice holds that setting DNT as a default.

A. may cut the number of junk ads. B. fails to affect the ad industry.

C. will not benefit consumers. D. goes against human nature.

89. Which of the following is true according to Paragraph 6?

A. DNT may not serve its intended purpose.

B. Advertisers are willing to implement DNT.

C. DNT is losing its popularity among consumers.

D. Advertisers are obliged to offer behavioural ads.

90. The author's attitude towards what Brendon Lynch said in his blog is one of

A. indulgence. B. understanding. C. appreciation. D. skepticism.

### Text 3

Now let us look at how we read. When we read a printed text, our eyes move across a page in short, jerky movement. We recognize words usually when our eyes are still when they fixate. Each time they fixate, we see a group of words. This is known as the recognition span or the visual span. The length of time for which the eyes stop—the duration of the fixation—varies considerably from person to person. It also varies within any one person according to his purpose in reading and his familiarity with the text. Furthermore, it can be affected by such factors as lighting and tiredness.

Unfortunately, in the past, many reading improvement courses have concentrated too much on how our eyes move across the printed page. As a result of this misleading emphasis on the purely visual aspects of reading, numerous exercises have been devised to train the eyes to see more words at one fixation. For instance, in some exercises, words are flashed on to a screen for, say, a tenth or a twentieth of a second. One of the exercises has required students to fix their eyes on some central point, taking in the words on either side. Such word patterns are often constructed in the shape of rather steep pyramids so the reader takes in more and more words at each successive fixation. All these exercises are very clever, but it's one thing to improve a person's ability to see words and quite another thing to improve his ability to read a text efficiently. Reading requires the ability to understand the relationship between words. Consequently, for these reasons, many experts have now begun to question the usefulness of eye training, especially since any approach which trains a person to read

isolated words and phrases would seem unlikely to help him in reading a continuous text.

91. The time of the recognition span can be affected by the following facts except \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. one's familiarity with the text      B. one's purpose in reading  
C. the length of a group of words      D. lighting and tiredness

92. The author may believe that reading \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. requires a reader to take in more words at each fixation  
B. requires a reader to see words more quickly  
C. demands an deeply-participating mind  
D. demands more mind than eyes

93. What does the author mean by saying "but it's one thing to improve a person's ability to see words and quite another thing to improve his ability to read a text efficiently." in the second paragraph?

- A. The ability to see words is not needed when an efficient reading is conducted.  
B. The reading exercises mentioned can't help to improve both the ability to see and to comprehend words.  
C. The reading exercises mentioned can't help to improve an efficient reading.  
D. The reading exercises mentioned has done a great job to improve one's ability to see words.

94. Which of the following is NOT true?

- A. The visual span is a word or a group of words we see each time.  
B. Many experts began to question the efficiency of eye training.  
C. The emphasis on the purely visual aspects is misleading.  
D. The eye training will help readers in reading a continuous text.

95. The tune of the author in writing this article is \_\_\_\_\_

- A critical      B neutral      C pessimistic      D optimistic

#### Text 4

A woman walked into a polling place in Peoria, Ill. last week and proceeded to use one of the new electronic voting machines set up for early voting. She logged on, went through each contest and seemed to be making her choices. After reviewing each race, the machine checked to see if she was satisfied with her selections and

wanted to move on. Each time, she pressed YES, and the machine progressed to the next race. When she was done, a waving American flag appeared on the screen, indicating that her votes had been cast and recorded.

But there was a problem. The woman had not made any choices at all. She had only browsed. Now when she told the election judges she was ready to do it again—but this time actually vote—they told her it was too late. Pressing the last button, they said, is like dropping your ballot (投票) in an old-fashioned ballot box. There's no getting it back.

So what?

So this: In one week, more than 80 million Americans will go to the polls, and a record number of them—90%—will either cast their vote on a computer or have it tabulated (以表格形式排列) that way. When that many people collide with that many high-tech devices, there are going to be problems. Some will be machine malfunctions. Some could come from sabotage (蓄意破坏) by poll workers or voters themselves. But in a venture this large, trouble is most likely to come from just plain human error, a fact often overlooked in an environment as charged and conspiratorial as America is in today. Four years after Congress passed a law requiring every state to vote by a method more reliable than the punch-card system that paralyzed Florida and the nation in 2000, the 2006 election is shaping up into a contest not just between Democrats and Republicans but also between people who believe in technology and those who fear machines cannot be trusted to count votes in a closely divided democracy.

96. When the woman left the polling place, she most probably felt \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) pleased
- B) disappointed
- C) guilty
- D) embarrassed

97. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as the cause of the voting problems?

- A) sabotage by poll workers
- B) machine malfunctions
- C) problems caused by voters
- D) power blackout

98. The new electronic voting machines were used because\_\_\_\_\_.

- A) they were more economical
- B) they were regarded as more reliable than the punch-card system
- C) they represented the state-of-the-art technology
- D) they were attractive to voters

99. The author's attitude toward the present American society is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) critical B) satisfied  
C) optimistic D) pessimistic
100. According to the passage, the 2006 presidential election would be \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) fairer than before B) less fair than before  
C) still problematic D) totally unsuccessful

III. 英语写作部分 (30 分)

一、信息补全写作 (20 分)

仔细阅读作文题目以及所给出的段落开头信息, 补全所缺信息, 使之成为不少于 300 词的文章。

**Borrowing money from a friend will not harm or damage friendship**

1. Definitely all of us could encounter some trouble, and at that time, we really need the help of our friends. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the first place, the majority of us have some financial problems; lending money to our friends is a right and sensible choice. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_
3. In addition, the more help we give to our friends, the more chance we will receive the help from them. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Furthermore, \_\_\_\_\_
5. In conclusion, \_\_\_\_\_

二、摘要写作 (10 分)

阅读以下文章, 完成 100 词左右的英语摘要。

I am afraid to sleep. I have been afraid to sleep for the last few weeks. I am so tired that, finally, I do sleep, but only for a few minutes. It is not a bad dream that wakes me; it is the reality I took with me into sleep. I try to think of something else.

Immediately the woman in the marketplace comes into my mind.

I was on my way to dinner last night when I saw her. She was selling skirts. She moved with the same ease and loveliness I often saw in the women of Laos. Her long black hair was as shiny as the black silk of the skirts she was selling. In her hair, she wore three silk ribbons, blue, green, and white. They reminded me of my childhood and how my girlfriends and I used to spend hours braiding ribbons into our hair.

I don't know the word for "ribbons", so I put my hand to my own hair and, with three fingers against my head, I looked at her ribbons and said "Beautiful." She

lowered her eyes and said nothing. I wasn't sure if she understood me (I don't speak Laotian very well).

I looked back down at the skirts. They had designs in them: squares and triangles and circles of pink and green silk. They were very pretty. I decided to buy one of those skirts, and I began to bargain with her over the price. It is the custom to bargain in Asia. In Laos bargaining is done in soft voices and easy moves with the sort of quiet peacefulness.

She smiled, more with her eyes than with her lips. She was pleased by the few words I was able to say in her language, although they were mostly numbers, and she saw that I understood something about the soft playfulness of bargaining. We shook our heads in disagreement over the price; then, immediately, we made another offer and then another shake of the head. She was so pleased that unexpectedly, she accepted the last offer I made. But it was too soon. The price was too low. She was being too generous and wouldn't make enough money. I moved quickly and picked up two more skirts and paid for all three at the price set; that way I was able to pay her three times as much before she had a chance to lower the price for the larger purchase. She smiled openly then, and, for the first time in months, my spirit lifted. I almost felt happy.

The feeling stayed with me while she wrapped the skirts in a newspaper and handed them to me. When I left, though, the feeling left, too. It was as though it stayed behind in the marketplace. I left tears in my throat. I wanted to cry. I didn't, of course.

I have learned to defend myself against what is hard; without knowing it, I have also learned to defend myself against what is soft and what should be easy.

I get up, light a candle and want to look at the skirts. They are still in the newspaper that the woman wrapped them in. I remove the paper, and raise the skirts up to look at them again before I pack them. Something falls to floor. I reach down and feel something cool in my hand. I move close to the candlelight to see what I have. There are five long silk ribbons in my hand, all different colours. The woman in the marketplace! She has given these ribbons to me!

There is no defense against a generous spirit, and this time I cry, and very hard, as if I could make up for all the months that I didn't cry.