

## Important Things Life Teaches Us: Pickup<sup>1)</sup> in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 PM, an older African America<sup>2)</sup> woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing<sup>3)</sup> rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately<sup>4)</sup> needed a ride. Soaking<sup>5)</sup> wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her—generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry. She wrote down his address, thanked him and drove away. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched<sup>6)</sup> not only my clothes but my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others. "

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nat King Cole. "

### 生活中的启示：雨中搭车

一天午夜11:30分，一位年长的黑人妇女在阿拉巴马的一条高速公路旁站着，忍受着暴风雨的鞭答。她的车坏了，她急切地等待搭乘别人的车。她浑身湿透，决心一定拦住下一辆车。这时，一位白人青年停车，帮了她的忙——在那充满种族冲突的60年代，这实属闻所未闻。那位男子开车把她送到安全地方，找人帮她的忙并为她叫来了一辆出租车。她似乎急急忙忙要去什么地方。她记下他的地址，谢了他便让司机开走了。7天过去了，这天忽然有人敲了那位年轻人的房门。让他吃惊的是，来人给他送来了一台大型的落地式彩色电视机。上面附着一张纸条：“非常感谢您那天晚上在高速公路上帮了我的忙。当时大雨不仅湿透了我的衣服，也摧垮了我的精神。但你来了。由于你的帮助，我才得以在老伴咽气前赶到他的病床前见了她一面。你帮了我的忙并无私地为他人服务。愿上帝保佑您。

娜特·金·科莱夫人谨上。”

### NOTE 注释：

1. pickup ['pɪkʌp] n. 中途搭车
2. African America 黑人的
3. lashing ['læʃɪŋ] n. 大量，许多
4. desperately ['despəɪtli] adv. 拼命地，失望地
5. soaking ['səʊkɪŋ] adj. 湿透的
6. drench [drentʃ] v. 湿透