

THE EPOCH TIMES

# ARTS & CULTURE



▲ One of Aesop's most famous stories involving talking animals. This illustration shows a great race. "Fable of the Hare and the Tortoise," 17th century, by Frans Snyders. Oil on canvas. The Prado Museum, Madrid.

## LITERATURE

## 'Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!'

The talking animals of literature

By Jeff Minick

"Talk to the Animals" from the 1967 film "Doctor Dolittle" won the Academy Award for Best Original Song. Here are the opening lyrics:

Oh, if I could talk to the animals,  
just imagine it

Chatting with a chimp in  
chimpanzee

Imagine talking to a tiger,

**Talking animals  
in our literature  
seem so natural  
that we rarely  
pause to ask why.**

chatting with a cheetah

What a neat achievement it  
would be

Talking with animals may be an impossibility, but human beings down through history have certainly talked to animals. Hundreds of millions of pet owners around the globe do so every day, as when reprimanding their dog for snatching a hamburger from the kitchen table or talking to a kitten as if to a baby.

Not only do we talk to animals, but

we attribute to them human emotions and thoughts—another custom in play from the dawn of recorded history. We find this anthropomorphism in Genesis, when the snake hoodwinks Eve; in the ancient fables of Aesop and similar legends told by people around the world; and in tales where rabbits, crows, mice, tigers, and other beasts are endowed with human powers. This same holds true in the fairy tales of the last 500 years and in many of our contemporary children's stories.

*Continued on Page 4*



## A Life-Changing Bestseller



Zhuangzi Falun expounds on the profound principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance. It focuses on a long-forgotten term called “cultivation” and the importance of moral character on one’s path to spiritual perfection.

The book is the main text of the spiritual practice Falun Dafa. It was a national bestseller in China in the 1990s, and has since been translated into more than 40 languages. Find out why it has captured the hearts and minds of tens of millions of people in more than 100 countries worldwide.

“What made Falun Gong stand out from other qigong exercises and meditation practices was a moral system—compassion, truthfulness, and forbearance—unmistakably Buddhist in origin.

Arthur Waldron  
LAUDER PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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▲ “A Fishing Boat off a Rocky Coast in a Storm With a Wreck,” circa 1664, by Jacob Adriaensz Bellevois. Oil on canvas. Royal Museums Greenwich, UK.

MUSIC

## A Biographical Hymn That Captured American Hearts

A life-changing experience inspires ‘Amazing Grace’

By Rebecca Day

On March 21, 1748, former Royal Navy serviceman and ship worker John Newton prayed for the first time in many years, as his boat was tossed around by a violent, sudden storm off the coast of Ireland. After surviving the bad weather and making it to shore, though he had led a life thus far that abstained from religion, he committed himself to Christianity right then and there.

Each subsequent year, he’d spend the day of March 21 in deep spiritual reflection. He also spent some time studying theology and experienced a resounding moral renaissance.

From a young age, Newton exhibited a rebellious temperament. His quick wit and penchant for pushing the envelope meant that he often found himself in trouble. When he was required by the government to serve in the Royal Navy, he was occasionally ousted and sent to different ships by the captains for his insubordinate behavior.

Ultimately, he ended up on a ship working along the Atlantic slave trade route. Because of his unruly personality that rivaled even the notoriously haughty captain, he was left behind in Sierra Leone along with the slaves, forced to work on a plantation run by the native Sherbro people.

After several months, his father was finally able to track him down and free him. Newton would spend years working intermittently for ships along the slave trade route, but the moral implications involved weighed on his conscience. He eventually became an outspoken abolitionist and an ordained clergyman with the Church of England.

Although he didn’t have the university degree to join the church in an official way, he was offered a position as a curate (priest) for a rural parish in Buckinghamshire County after the landlord read his writings on his faith. This unique, ministerial role in the Olney parish focused on community and encouraged citizens of the parish to maintain a personal relationship with the curate for counseling and fellowship.

**God’s Saving Grace**  
Newton believed that God’s mercy had served as the guiding force behind his life-changing experience in 1748 on the storm-battered vessel. While tending to Olney as a curate, he also took time to write poetry and songs. When he paired up with professional composer William Cowper, the dedicated minister would experience yet another spiritual awakening.

Both the beloved curate and the talented Cowper contributed original works in 1779 to a set of hymns dedicated to Newton’s parish called “Olney Hymns.”

Within this historic edition, “Amazing Grace” made its official debut.

Originally used as a small part of a New Year’s Day sermon in 1773, the song’s initial rendition contained only lyrics. Historians believe the first versions of this powerful hymn were sung a cappella or chanted by the congregation. And Newton’s moving, honest lyrics were written with the intent of being autobiographical.

Newton had penned the song’s reflective words as he thought about Christ’s grace, and he wanted to share his personal experience of converting to Christianity as a message of hope with the people of his humble parish.

**Singing the Word**

While the hymn remained confined to the streets of Olney, Buckinghamshire, in 1779, once it managed to make its way across the pond to America in the 1800s, it reached widespread acclaim.

Its arrival in America coincided with one of the nation’s biggest religious movements, the Second Great Awakening, which gave rise to independent traveling revivals that attracted hundreds of followers and attendees. “Amazing Grace” soon became an integral part of these events, especially in the South.

The song has taken on many different distinct melodies over centuries, but it was the 1835 hymn “New Britain,” written by South Carolinian composer William Walker that

became the go-to melody worshippers paired with Newton’s lyrics. Even today, this version of “Amazing Grace” is considered to be the official rendition and is the one most often performed.

In contemporary times, estimates show that the treasured tune is performed about 10 million times each year. The song remains such a core part of spiritual culture that music critic and historian Gilbert Chase remarked that it is “without a doubt the most famous of all the folk hymns.”

True to the song’s message and proving once again that its beauty transcends location, “Amazing Grace” has extended to wider circles which have included mainstream artists who also enjoy covering hymns. It has appeared on over 1,100 records by both Christian and secular musicians.

Since its first official recording in 1922 by the Sacred Harp Choir, the enduring, centuries-old hymn has been recorded over 7,000 times. The collection at the U.S. Library of Congress comprises more than 3,000 published recorded performances of “Amazing Grace” by various musicians and ensembles.

Rebecca Day is an independent musician, freelance writer, and frontwoman of country group, *The Crazy Daysies*.

HISTORY

## 3 Americans Cross the Atlantic in a Balloon

The first successful transatlantic crossing in history

By Dustin Bass

A 1978 photograph of the Double Eagle II crew (L-R) Larry Newman, Ben Abruzzo, and Maxie Anderson. San Diego Air and Space Museum.

As their helium-filled balloon, Double Eagle, descended rapidly toward the frigid waters off the coast of Iceland, Ben Abruzzo and Maxie Anderson appeared doomed to meet the same tragic end as the five balloonists before them. It was September 1977. The pair had been in the air for 66 hours and had covered nearly 3,000 miles. Since 1783, there had been 13 attempts that failed to make the transatlantic crossing via balloon. Abruzzo and Anderson’s latest attempt found them bobbing up and down on the surface of the Atlantic, working to keep their canopy afloat and trying unsuccessfully to stave off frostbite.

Unlike some of those previous attempts, Abruzzo and Anderson had the capability to radio for help. Soon a rescue helicopter could be heard in the distance. The two returned to the United

States to recover, and then began making plans for a 15th attempt.

As August 1978 approached, Abruzzo and Anderson headed back to their starting point along the northeast tip of the country. This time, they brought along Larry Newman, an accomplished and experienced pilot and balloonist. On Aug. 11, the three climbed into the canopy of the Double Eagle II with the black and silver 11-story-tall helium-filled balloon in full bloom. The balloon, and the one before it, was named in honor of their aviation hero, Charles Lindbergh, known as the Lone Eagle. Their destination, much like Lindbergh’s in 1927, was Paris.

In fact, the French-American balloon connection ventures back deep into U.S. history. Jean-Pierre Blanchard, the French inventor and aeronaut, made the first balloon flight in America from Philadelphia to Gloucester County, New Jersey, on Jan.

9, 1793. George Washington was actually in attendance to view the balloon’s launch.

As people gathered in Presque Isle, Maine, the three balloonists said their goodbyes to friends and family, then lifted off. The flight would cross the Atlantic Ocean over the course of nearly a week. Alternating with rest, the three stayed focused on their surroundings and their equipment, specifically the altimeter, which measures the balloon’s altitude. Their diet was hot dogs and canned sardines, and a consistent dose of excitement and adrenaline.

Those first four days were smooth floating. On the fifth day as they neared the Irish coast, floating at approximately 20,000 feet, they were hit with turbulent weather. It seemed to be a repeat of Abruzzo and Anderson’s 1977 attempt.

As the atmospheric pressure continued to change, the balloon lost altitude, dropping quickly from 20,000 feet to a precarious 4,000 feet. The three pilots began tossing over anything they didn’t need. The group had to lighten their load before they crashed into the ocean. Slowly but surely, the balloon began to rise and they finally reached a safe altitude.

During the final leg of the adventure, as they floated past the southern part of England, a small plane came by. Its passengers were the wives of the three men. As they

blew kisses to each other, the plane zoomed on to meet them at their destination.

They had hoped to land at Le Bourget Field, where Lindbergh had landed, but they had been blown slightly off course and had to make do with landing in a wheat field just 50 miles west of the City of Lights. When they finally made landfall this week in history, on Aug. 17, 1978, the three had broken the duration and distance records for balloon flight at 137 hours and 6 minutes and 3,120 miles.

**More History Making**

The three, however, were not done setting records and making history. Two years later in 1980, Anderson and his son, Kristian, in their balloon named Kitty Hawk, became the first to balloon across the American continent. Anderson also was the first to at least attempt an around-the-world flight. His balloon for that attempt was named Jules Verne, in honor of the author of the classic novel “Around the World in 80 Days.”

For Abruzzo and Newman, in 1981 they would take their 13-story-tall Double Eagle V with several others, including Ron Clark and Rocky Aoki, to cross the Pacific Ocean from Nagashima, Japan, to Mendocino National Forest in California. Though it took about half the time—84 hours and 31 minutes—it set a new distance record of 5,768 miles.

Tragically, both Anderson and Abruzzo were killed in flying accidents. In 1983, Anderson was killed during a balloon race in France when the balloon’s equipment malfunctioned and he, along with his co-pilot Don Ida, attempted to make a crash landing in order to avoid flying into communist East Germany. In 1985, Abruzzo died along with his wife in a plane accident. The Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was named in their honor. Each year, the museum hosts the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta where approximately 500 multicolored hot-air balloons float throughout the city and surrounding areas.

Dustin Bass is an author and co-host of *The Sons of History* podcast. He also writes two weekly series for *The Epoch Times*: *Profiles in History* and *This Week in History*.



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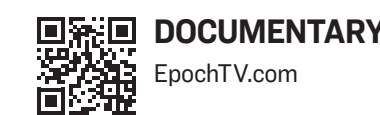
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1.



2.

ALL IMAGES IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

## LITERATURE

# 'Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!'

Continued from Page 1

Some writers of fiction for adults also bring anthropomorphic magic to their stories. In George Orwell's "Animal Farm," his acerbic takedown of totalitarian governments, domesticated livestock are the key players. In Richard Adams's "Watership Down," a warren of rabbits takes center stage. Created in 1916 by newspaper columnist Don Marquis, a cockroach named Archy and the alley cat Mehitabel appeared as narrators in hundreds of poems and stories, and became enormously popular with readers.

## Why the Attraction?

This integration of animals into our literature seems so natural that we rarely pause to ask that question. Why, for instance, did Aesop match a tortoise against a hare in a footrace rather than two of his contemporary Greeks? Jump forward more than 2,000 years in time, and we might well ask why Brian Jacques in his popular "Redwall" series substituted mice, moles, badgers, rats, and other species for human characters.

One obvious answer surely has to do with familiarity.

Until recently, our ancestors around the globe lived much more intimately with nature than we do today. The hunters who for eons brought food from field and forest to the fire were as familiar with the ways and habits of deer, rabbit, and bear as we are with the aisles of our grocery stores.

Evidence of this long intimacy is also visible in our naming of animals. To return briefly to Genesis, Adam "gave names to

all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field," thereby identifying each species. In that long-ago past, people also called favored domestic animals by name. Alexander the Great tamed and rode his war horse Bucephalus, and in the "Odyssey," Homer specifically references Argos, Odysseus's dog, who before dying recognizes his long-absent master. Today's pet owners follow this same custom of nomenclature, taking Maverick on a walk in the evening or entertaining Miss Kitty with a bit of twine. Like storytellers old and new, we personify our pets.

Given such close connections, it seems only natural that fabulists and bards would weave animals into their tales, using them as vehicles of amusement and as a means of passing on wisdom and morality to children. The folklore created by the griots of Southern Africa, for example, featured local wildlife like rhinos, lions, and giraffes, while Native Americans told stories of coyotes, buffalo, and foxes.



▲ Book cover for a 2008 paperback edition of "Animal Farm" by George Orwell.

## Emotional Distance

In "Anthropomorphism in Children's Literature," Dr. Lara Gray, an expert on children's literature, makes an interesting point regarding the widespread use of animal protagonists and characters in books for kids. She writes that animals "can bring silliness and incongruity, making a story more enjoyable. But they also add a degree of emotional distance for the reader, which is important when the story message is personal, painful, or powerful."

As one example, Gray chooses "The Three Little Pigs." As they lose house after

house, "we roll along with the rhyme; the same situation involving homeless children is far less palatable."

This holds true for many folk and fairy tales. Transform Peter Rabbit into a boy, and the story changes completely. The natural instinct of a rabbit is to slip into a garden for a bite to eat; the boy who does the same is either starving or a vandal. Make the Big Bad Wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood" a man, and we have a vicious murderer on the prowl.

## Symbolism

In his article "Aesop's Fables," Edward Clayton, professor at Central Michigan University, introduces another related reason for using animals as characters in fables and, by extension, in other fiction as well. By observation and daily experience, our ancestors associated certain human traits with other living creatures. Ants and bees, for instance, were industrious. Donkeys and camels were stubborn, and goats, as in "Three Billy Goats Gruff," were wily and tough.

Remarking on these similarities between human beings and other species, Clayton then writes: "This allows the author to suggest or imply a lot of backstory in a format which is partially defined by its brevity. So, whereas establishing that a human character is clever might take considerable effort, if the author chooses a fox as one of the characters in the fable, then cleverness is already established as a trait for that character. Similarly, it takes less time to say 'this fable is about a mouse' than to establish the timidity of a particular human being."

C.S. Lewis's imaginative creation of the lion Aslan in his "Chronicles of Narnia" is a classic example of this tactic. The lion is the "king of the beasts," symbol of authority and power. To have personified a sparrow or a squirrel, or even an earthly human king, as Aslan would have destroyed an idea central to Lewis's story.

## Stories for Everyone

Finally, featuring animals rather than human beings allows for a universality that might not otherwise exist. Expose a reader from Poland, Peru, or China to Aesop's "The Ant and the Grasshopper,"

and the story flows effortlessly across the cultural divide.

"Animal Farm" nicely illustrates all the above points. Pigs, who become dictators after leading the revolt against a farmer, are known for their intelligence and greed. They train the farm's dogs to become their vicious, personal guards. The sheep follow wherever the wind blows.

Orwell intended "Animal Farm" as an explosive critique of Soviet communism and totalitarian government in general. Had he used historical Russian figures like Stalin and Trotsky, and fictional citizens, the novel might have won immediate acclaim, but it would have lacked staying power. The anthropomorphism of this fable for grownups instead makes it a timeless tale of revolution, government and ideals corrupted, and oppression.

The same holds true for much of children's literature. The young person traveling off to the big city from a farm or a small town, or vice versa, has long served as a popular theme in literature and film—it's a standby in many Hallmark movies—but the grandfather of this storyline is Aesop's "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse." The story illustrates the contrast between the peaceful, humble life of the country mouse and the affluent but dangerous lifestyle of his city cousin, and has endured for more than two millennia.

A.A. Milne's "Winnie-the-Pooh," Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book," Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web," and countless other books are all descendants of such early fabulists and storytellers, still entertaining adults and children alike while their wolves and bears, rabbits, and spiders pass along their lessons of wisdom.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va.

Featuring animals rather than human beings allows for universality.



▲ An illustrated plate of the wolf blowing down the pig's straw house from the 1904 adaptation of "The Three Little Pigs" by L. Leslie Brooke. Library of Congress.

1. "Alice in Wonderland," circa 1879, by George Dunlop Leslie. Oil on canvas. Brighton & Hove Museums, United Kingdom.

2. An illustrated plate of "Little Red Riding Hood," 1911, by Jessie Willcox Smith from the book "A Child's Book of Stories."

3. An illustration of Kipling's Mowgli and Baloo, titled "Mowgli," 1923, by Jessie Willcox Smith from "Boys & Girls of Bookland."

4. "Adam Naming the Creatures," 1847, by N. Currier. Hand-colored lithograph. Library of Congress.



3.



4.



REWIND, REVIEW, AND RE-RATE

# Friendship and Grit in Old South Savannah

Despite his wealth, a man seeks a simpler life

By Ian Kane

Having just thoroughly enjoyed watching and reviewing “Sound of Freedom” starring Jim Caviezel, I was interested in his other projects and came across 2013’s “Savannah.” It also stars another actor I admire—Chiwetel Ejiofor, who blew me away in “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” (2019). “Savannah” is based on a nonfiction book by American author John Eugene Cay Jr. titled “Ward Allen: Savannah River Market Hunter.”

The film begins in 1954, when 95-year-old Christmas Moultrie (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is talking with middle-aged friend Jack Cay (Bradley Whitford). Moultrie relates some of the trials, tribulations, and triumphs he shared with his best friend Ward Allen via flashback decades earlier, which forms most of the movie.

Both Ward Allen (Jim Caviezel) and Moultrie were born during the mid-1800s and came from completely different worlds. Allen was born into a life of wealth and privilege. His father John Elliot Ward owned a plantation in Savannah, Georgia, but died when Allen was only 10 years old. Although Allen was the sole heir to the plantation, he sought out the much simpler life of duck hunter.

Moultrie, on the other hand, was the last child born in slavery in Savannah at another plantation located there. By the time he and Allen became duck-hunting buddies, he’d already been freed from slavery but still endured some of the endemic racism that lingered afterward.

Allen and Moultrie are quite the dynamic duo, trading quips back and forth as they launch their rowboat out onto the Savannah River just before dawn, and then sitting silent among the reeds until the first ducks take flight. They stand in unison and fire their rifles at the ducks, and as the flights of fowl fall into the water, Allen’s trusty dog swims out to retrieve the carcasses.



▲ Ward Allen (Jim Caviezel, R) and best friend Christmas Moultrie (Chiwetel Ejiofor), in 2013’s “Savannah.”

The two have formed a market hunting business together and sell their little duckies at local businesses. However, duck hunting has been sharply curtailed by law, and the men sometimes get busted for their fowl-slaying forays.

Fortunately for them, Allen has quite the gift of gab. And with his Oxford-educated vocabulary and command of the classics (from which he often quotes), he manages to get them off with a mere slap on the wrist after he charms local judge Harden (Hal Holbrook).

Allen keeps bumping into Lucy Stubbs (Jaimie Alexander), a pretty young socialite. Each time, they seem to be more and more attracted to each other, although Allen keeps his distance. And that’s fine by her father, Mr. Stubbs (Sam Shepard), who considered Allen’s skallywag ways to be unsuitable for his daughter. Of course, this only makes her want Allen more, so when the two fall for each other and decide to get married,

that isn’t too popular with daddy.

On their wedding night, Mrs. Allen wakes up to hearing her husband riding up and down the streets outside of their new home in Savannah, while shooting his pistol into the air and waking up the neighbors. This is when we see the first signs of trouble, namely, Allen’s propensity for getting highly drunk and causing ruckuses.

Sometime later, Allen and Moultrie have warning shots fired at them when their boat trespasses onto an ornery neighbor’s property during one of their duck-hunting exploits. Moultrie becomes upset when Allen doesn’t acknowledge that the neighbor, had Allen not been present, was fixing to shoot him because he’s black. As a result, a rift forms between them.

This is when that I realized that this wasn’t as light and Hallmark-y as I thought it might be. There’s some real grit here, told well through excellent writing and deft delivery by top-drawer actors.

What could have come off as an inef-

fectively rendered historical drama with a rose-tinted portrayal of Ward Allen, instead seemed more like a complex tale about a complex man. This is in no small part to Mr. Caviezel, who could charm the skin off a snake. It’s the kind of performance that makes one want to further investigate the real-life trials, triumphs, and tribulations of Allen, and the turbulent times he lived in.

The supporting cast also hits all the right marks, with Jaimie Alexander turning in a convincing performance as Allen’s conflicted love interest. Mr. Ejiofor is likewise game as Allen’s loyal friend who keeps his dignity in the face of adversity.

“Savannah” is a beautifully shot film with incredible natural scenery. It’s also a well-told movie that has to do with friendships across color lines, something that was a lot more common in the Old South than most Hollywood productions would have you believe.

“Savannah” is available on Apple TV, Vudu, and Plex, and on DVD and Blu-ray.

Ian Kane is an U.S. Army veteran, author, filmmaker, and actor. He is dedicated to the development and production of innovative, thought-provoking, character-driven films and books of the highest quality.

## ‘Savannah’

**Director**  
Annette Haywood-Carter

**Starring**  
Jim Caviezel, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Jaimie Alexander, Sam Shepard

**Running Time**  
1 hour, 41 minutes

**MPAA Rating**  
PG-13

**Release Date**  
Aug. 23, 2013

★★★★★

TRUTH and TRADITION

In Our Own Words

## From the Desk of Our Puzzle Master



“I’ve benefited greatly from the many relationships and friendships formed making the puzzle pages better and better with each passing year.

**Tom Houston**  
Puzzle Master



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Dear Epoch VIP (and Puzzler!),

Thank you for subscribing to The Epoch Times and for supporting our journey of providing the world with truthful, uncensored journalism as well as analysis of world events, especially in China.

My journey with The Epoch Times actually began in 2009 when I discovered the publication’s outstanding coverage of events in China, something of which I had studied for over 30 years principally as a linguist and China analyst. The Epoch Times’ coverage was unique and included many aspects and facets of Chinese life under the Chinese Communist Party that were either not covered or were entirely avoided by the mainstream press. After reading this coverage, I felt compelled to “climb aboard” and support The Epoch Times on its journey toward truthful reporting that would not be beholden to any kind of censorship, whether it’s from a government or commercial entity.

After discussions with the editor-in-chief on what the newspaper actually most needed and what I personally could do to support the paper, I published my first puzzle page on Jan. 4, 2010—over 12 years ago. Since then, my Epoch Times journey has been eventful, to say the least. I have learned and grown a great deal, and so has our puzzle page! It’s grown from a single page of puzzles in a 16-page edition to two pages of puzzles (and a half page on the Wednesday “For Kids Only” page) in what is now a 52-page paper!

Along the way, hundreds of puzzlers have reached out through our [feedback@epochtimes.com](mailto:feedback@epochtimes.com) email to comment on the puzzles, send me pictures of their unique solutions, ask questions, point out my mistakes (I’ve made many!), pass along a compliment or constructive criticism and offer to help. I’ve benefited greatly from the many relationships and friendships formed making the puzzle pages better

and better with each passing year.

Thank you, readers! We wouldn’t be where we are today without you! **Each and every one of you who has subscribed, advertised, or who has sent in encouraging words, constructive comments, or ideas has helped to make The Epoch Times what it is today.**

A number of Epoch Times readers (and puzzle fans) actually contribute to our puzzle pages! “Coder Chang” developed a “4 Numbers” puzzle tool (4Nums.com) that we have been using since January 2018. Our skydiving chess master, Michael Gibbs, began donating “Chess Challenges” to The Epoch Times over two years ago. Liz Ball, an accomplished puzzle developer whose work has appeared in more than 300 publications (HiddenPicturePuzzles.com) began donating her popular “Hidden Picture” puzzles to The Epoch Times’ kids page over a year ago.

We sincerely appreciate these puzzles, and for me, they are a kind reminder of the community that has built up around this newspaper.

**In short, seeing people genuinely moved by The Epoch Times’ commitment to journalism and truthful reporting of events, often glossed over or “slanted” by other media outlets, has been a heartwarming experience for me.**

I hope that your journey with The Epoch Times will be as educational, satisfying, and fulfilling as mine has been. And, please, always feel free to drop us a line at [feedback@epochtimes.com](mailto:feedback@epochtimes.com). We appreciate your insight, and who knows—I could always use a few more hands in the puzzle workshop.

In truth and tradition,

Tom Houston  
The Epoch Times

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