



Business | Croesus or Cassandra?

商业 | 富可敌国还是不祥预言者？

注释：

Croesus: 克洛伊索斯，古代吕底亚国王，以巨富闻名。这里借指富可敌国的人。

Cassandra: 卡珊德拉，希腊神话中能预见灾难却无人相信的预言者。

标题用这两个典故概括马斯克的两面性：财富惊人，也常作末日式预言。

Elon Musk's vision of the future

埃隆·马斯克的未来愿景

注释：

vision: 愿景，设想。这里不是单纯的视觉，而是对未来社会、技术和政治秩序的整体想象。

The world's richest man sits down with The Economist

全球首富接受《经济学人》专访

注释：

sit down with: 与某人坐下来详谈，接受采访。新闻报道里常用来表示正式、较深入的访谈。

ELON MUSK, in his telling, is a modern-day Cassandra—better than most at predicting the future, but doomed to be disbelieved. “People don’t realise that what I’m saying will come to pass,” he tells The Economist in a 90-minute interview for The Insider, held at a giant Tesla factory in Texas where electric cars drive themselves off the assembly line. That may be because his future-gazing ranges from the unsettling to the downright weird. Mr Musk predicts that, within five years, artificial-intelligence systems may surpass the sum of all human intelligence. Within ten years, robots in the workplace will help usher in an era of such “amazing abundance” that money will become meaningless. And within 20 years, Britain—a country that he has not visited for years—will be engulfed in civil war.

埃隆·马斯克自称是现代版的卡珊德拉：他预见未来的能力超乎常人，却注定无人相信。他在德克萨斯州一座巨型特斯拉工厂接受《经济学人》专访时表示，人们没有意识到，我所说的终将成真。此次专访历时 90 分钟，收录于《内部人士》节目，采访地点正是电动汽车自动驶下流水线的地方。他对未来的预判之所以难以令人信服，或许正是因为其内容从令人不安到匪夷所思，无所不有。马斯克预测，五年内，人工智能系统的能力可能将超越全人类智慧的总和；十年内，职场机器人将引领人类迈入一个富足非凡的新时代，届时金钱将失去其意义；而二十年内，英国这个他已多年未曾踏足的国家将爆发内战。

注释：

in his telling: 按他自己的说法。

modern-day: 现代版的，当代的。

doomed to be disbelieved: 注定不被相信。doomed to 表示某种不好的结局几乎不可避免。

come to pass: 发生，应验。

future-gazing: 对未来的预测和想象。

downright: 彻头彻尾地，完全地。

usher in: 开启，usher in an era 表示“开启一个时代”。

engulfed in: 被卷入，被吞没。常形容战争、危机、火灾等迅速席卷某地。

长难句解析：

原句：“People don’t realise that what I’m saying will come to pass,” he tells The Economist in a 90-minute interview for The Insider, held at a giant Tesla factory in Texas where electric cars drive themselves off the assembly line.

结构拆解：主干是 he tells The Economist。引号部分是他说的内容，其中 that 引导宾语从句，what I’m saying 是从句里的主语，will come to pass 是谓语。in a 90-minute interview 交代采访场景，

held at... 是过去分词短语，补充说明采访在哪里举行；where 引导定语从句，修饰 factory。翻译时不必跟着英文一路套从句，可以先交代采访地点和身份，再处理他说的话，中文更顺。

Believe them or not, the predictions of Mr Musk, who last month briefly became the world's first trillionaire, are worth taking seriously. The driving force behind Tesla and SpaceX, a rocket-maker turned AI conglomerate, is doing more than any entrepreneur to shape the future. His influence—powered by money and feats of engineering genius—stretches from the White House to global trouble spots such as Ukraine. With 240m followers on X, his social-media platform, Mr Musk's views, especially those that are divisive, have significant repercussions.

不管你是否认同，马斯克的预言都值得认真审视。就在上个月，他曾短暂登顶，成为全球首位万亿富翁。作为特斯拉和 SpaceX 的核心推动者，他对未来的塑造力超越了任何一位企业家。SpaceX 已从火箭制造商蜕变为人工智能综合集团。凭借雄厚的财力与卓越的工程才能，他的影响力从白宫延伸至乌克兰等全球热点地区。马斯克在其社交媒体平台 X 上坐拥 2.4 亿粉丝，他所发表的观点，尤其是那些充满争议的言论，往往会引发深远的连锁反应。

注释：

trillionaire: 万亿富翁。

driving force: 主要推动力。

conglomerate: 综合企业集团，多元化集团。

feat: 壮举，非凡成就。

trouble spot: 热点地区，动荡地区。

divisive: 引发分裂的，有争议的。

repercussion: 后果，连锁反应。

长难句解析：

原句：The driving force behind Tesla and SpaceX, a rocket-maker turned AI conglomerate, is doing more than any entrepreneur to shape the future.

结构拆解：主干是 The driving force is doing more。behind Tesla and SpaceX 修饰 driving force，说明他是两家公司的幕后推动者。a rocket-maker turned AI conglomerate 是 SpaceX 的同位语，其中 turned 表示“从.....变成.....”。to shape the future 是目的或结果方向。中文如果把同位语塞进主句会很长，可以拆成两句：先说马斯克是核心推动者，再补一句 SpaceX 的身份变化。

Dressed in black boots and a leather jacket with the logo of Grok, his chatbot, on the back, he showed flashes of the steely single-mindedness that helped him pioneer the mass-production of electric

vehicles and send reusable rockets into space against all odds. He also showed how bent on shaping his own reality he is, to the point of intransigence on matters outside his sphere of expertise.

他身着黑色皮靴和一件皮夹克，夹克背面印着其聊天机器人 **Grok** 的标志。他不时流露出那股钢铁般的坚定意志。正是凭借这种意志，他力排众议，开创了电动汽车的大规模量产，并将可重复使用的火箭送上太空。与此同时，他也展现出自己对主导现实的强烈执念，甚至在超出其专业领域的问题上，也毫不妥协，一意孤行。

注释：

show flashes of: 流露出，闪现出。

steely: 钢铁般的，坚定冷硬的。

single-mindedness: 专注，一心一意，近乎执拗的坚定。

against all odds: 尽管困难重重，顶着极低胜算。

bent on: 一心想。

intransigence: 不妥协，强硬固执。

sphere of expertise: 专业领域，能力范围。

长难句解析：

原句：Dressed in black boots and a leather jacket with the logo of Grok, his chatbot, on the back, he showed flashes of the steely single-mindedness that helped him pioneer the mass-production of electric vehicles and send reusable rockets into space against all odds.

结构拆解：句首 Dressed in... 是过去分词短语，先描写人物外观。主干是 he showed flashes of the steely single-mindedness。that 引导定语从句，修饰 single-mindedness，说明这种意志带来了什么结果：pioneer... and send... 两个动词并列。against all odds 修饰后面的成就，强调是在极大阻力下完成。中文宜拆成外貌、性格、成就三层，不要硬译成一个长句。

It was Mr Musk's first extended interview since the public listing of SpaceX, which soared to a value of \$2.6trn in the days after trading began but has since plunged to \$1.6trn, a fifth below what it first traded at. The main topic of conversation was AI. It is a technology, he says, that can move him from "exhilaration to terror" in a single day. For now, his "philosophical conclusion" is to "look on the bright side".

这是马斯克自 SpaceX 公开上市以来首次接受的深度专访。SpaceX 上市后股价在数日内一路飙升，市值一度高达 2.6 万亿美元，但随后大幅回落至 1.6 万亿美元，较首日交易价格下跌了约五分之一。此次采访的核心话题是人工智能。马斯克表示，这项技术能在同一天内让他的情绪从亢奋跌落至恐惧。就目前而言，他的哲学结论是选择往好的方面想。

注释：

extended interview: 长时间深入访谈，不是简短采访。

public listing: 公开上市。

soar: 飙升，猛涨。

plunge: 暴跌，骤降。

exhilaration: 兴奋，亢奋，强烈的振奋感。

look on the bright side: 往好的方面想，看到积极一面。

长难句解析：

原句：It was Mr Musk's first extended interview since the public listing of SpaceX, which soared to a value of \$2.6trn in the days after trading began but has since plunged to \$1.6trn, a fifth below what it first traded at.

结构拆解：主干是 It was Mr Musk's first extended interview。since the public listing of SpaceX 交代时间起点。which 引导非限制性定语从句，补充 SpaceX 上市后的市值变化；soared 和 plunged 构成转折；a fifth below what it first traded at 是对 1.6 万亿美元的进一步说明。中文适合拆为两句：一句说采访背景，一句说 SpaceX 上市后的市值起落。

It is a choice that conveniently serves his own interests. Mr Musk believes that AI systems and robots will eventually handle most digital and physical jobs, rendering work by humans “optional”. To that end, xAI (now called SpaceXAI) is developing systems to perform cognitive tasks such as software programming while Tesla is manufacturing humanoids. Mr Musk plans to power the whole AI caboodle with data centres in space.

这一选择恰好契合了他自身的利益。马斯克认为，人工智能系统和机器人终将承担大多数数字化及实体工作，使人类劳动变得可有可无。为此，xAI（现更名为 SpaceXAI）正致力于开发能够执行软件编程等认知任务的系统，而特斯拉则专注于人形机器人的研发制造。马斯克计划在太空中建设数据中心，为整个人工智能生态体系提供能源支撑。

注释：

serve one's interests: 符合某人的利益。

render: 使变得。render work optional 即“使工作变成可选项”。

to that end: 为此，为了达到这个目的。

cognitive task: 认知任务。

humanoid: 人形机器人。

caboodle: 一整套东西, 全部家当。

Without jobs, he suggests there may need to be large-scale wealth redistribution to create “universal high income” for humans. But although the world’s richest man says he is fine to pay “trillions in tax”, he also argues that money will be irrelevant a decade from now. Thus he argues that governments should simply “issue people cheques”, because amid an infinite supply of goods and services produced by machines, deflation will be a bigger problem than inflation.

他认为, 在大量工作岗位消失的情况下, 可能需要进行大规模财富再分配, 为人类提供普遍高收入。尽管这位世界首富表示愿意缴纳数万亿美元的税款, 但他同时也认为, 十年后金钱将失去其意义。因此, 他主张政府直接向民众发放补贴支票, 因为当机器能够无限量地生产商品和提供服务时, 通货紧缩将比通货膨胀更令人担忧。

注释:

wealth redistribution: 财富再分配。

universal high income: 普遍高收入。

irrelevant: 无关紧要的, 不再重要的。

amid: 在.....之中, 在.....背景下。

Mr Musk acknowledges there are imminent risks from increasingly powerful AI systems. Noting that the capabilities of frontier models are improving rapidly, he elaborates on a recent proposal by Sir Demis Hassabis, co-founder of Google DeepMind, for America’s government to set up a self-regulatory body via which the industry would test its own models for dangers. Mr Musk argues that the effort should be extended to China, and that leading AI labs, including Chinese ones, should have a week or two to inspect each other’s latest models before release, flagging any risks to governments in both Washington and Beijing. “The competitors can keep each other honest.”

马斯克承认, 日益强大的人工智能系统正带来迫在眉睫的风险。他指出, 前沿模型的能力正在快速提升, 并就谷歌 DeepMind 联合创始人德米斯·哈萨比斯爵士近期提出的一项建议作了进一步阐述。该建议呼吁美国政府建立一个行业自律机构, 由业界自行对模型进行风险测试。马斯克认为, 这一举措应将中国纳入其中, 各主要人工智能实验室(包括中国的实验室)应在新模型发布前拥有一到两周的时间, 相互审查对方的最新模型, 并将发现的任何风险同时上报给华盛顿和北京两地的政府。竞争对手之间可以相互制衡, 确保各方诚实守信。

注释:

imminent: 迫近的，即将发生的。常修饰 risk、threat、danger 等。

frontier model: 前沿模型

elaborate on: 详细阐述。

self-regulatory body: 自律机构，由行业内部制定或执行部分规则。

keep each other honest: 互相监督，防止彼此作弊或隐瞒问题。

长难句解析：

原句：Noting that the capabilities of frontier models are improving rapidly, he elaborates on a recent proposal by Sir Demis Hassabis, co-founder of Google DeepMind, for America's government to set up a self-regulatory body via which the industry would test its own models for dangers.

结构拆解：句首 Noting that... 是现在分词短语，交代他提出看法的背景。主干是 he elaborates on a recent proposal. by Sir Demis Hassabis 说明建议是谁提出的；co-founder of Google DeepMind 是同位语；for America's government to set up... 说明 proposal 的具体内容；via which 引导定语从句，修饰 body，说明行业将通过这个机构测试模型风险。中文需要分层处理，否则“建议”的修饰成分会拖得很长。

He goes so far as to suggest that, in order to keep models safe, he may even be prepared to bury the hatchet with Sam Altman, boss of OpenAI, with whom he has fought a losing battle in court over recriminations stemming from the days when they co-founded the AI lab together. “At the end of the day, if we have to talk, we'll talk,” he says, adding that both men might need to “set aside our personal differences for the good of the world”.

他甚至进一步表示，为了确保 AI 模型的安全，他或许愿意与 OpenAI 首席执行官萨姆·奥特曼握手言和。此前，他曾就两人共同创立该人工智能实验室时期遗留的恩怨，与奥特曼对簿公堂，但最终败诉。他说，说到底，如果有必要谈，我们就谈。他还补充道，两人或许需要为了世界的利益，放下彼此的个人恩怨。

注释：

go so far as to: 甚至到.....地步，进一步提出。

bury the hatchet: 握手言和，和解。

recrimination: 反责，互相指责，翻旧账。

stem from: 源于，来自。

set aside: 搁置。

长难句解析：

原句：He goes so far as to suggest that, in order to keep models safe, he may even be prepared to bury the hatchet with Sam Altman, boss of OpenAI, with whom he has fought a losing battle in court over recriminations stemming from the days when they co-founded the AI lab together.

结构拆解：主干是 He goes so far as to suggest that...。that 从句里，he may be prepared to bury the hatchet 是核心内容；in order to keep models safe 是目的状语；boss of OpenAI 是 Sam Altman 的同位语；with whom 引导定语从句，补充两人的诉讼关系；stemming from... 是现在分词短语，说明 recriminations 的来源。中文宜先说“愿意和解”，再另起一句交代两人的旧怨和诉讼。

Mr Musk seems much less worried about the rise of Chinese labs than other AI bosses, such as Anthropic's Dario Amodei. He is impressed by new releases like Kimi K3, unveiled this month by Moonshot AI, and reckons there is a “good chance” that Chinese AI firms will become “the leaders at some point”, pointing to the country's electricity supply, which vastly exceeds America's, and its ability to churn out robots. (He adds that he finds videos of Chinese robots knocking each other's heads off “pretty funny”.)

与 Anthropic 的达里奥·阿莫代伊等其他 AI 公司高管相比，马斯克对中国 AI 实验室的崛起似乎要淡定得多。他对新近发布的产品颇为赞赏，例如 Moonshot AI 本月推出的 Kimi K3，并认为中国 AI 企业很有可能在某个时间点成为行业领头羊，理由是中国的电力供应远超美国，且具备大规模量产机器人的能力。（他还补充道，看到中国机器人互相打脑袋的视频，他觉得挺好笑。）

注释：

reckon: 认为，估计。

unveil: 推出，发布。常用于新产品、新政策、新计划。

at some point: 在某个时候，迟早某个阶段。

vastly: 大幅地，远远地。

churn out: 大量生产，快速产出。

Mr Musk opposes efforts by some officials in the Trump administration to ban American companies from using Chinese models, saying it would not do much to stop their makers from winning the AI race. He expects China eventually to overcome its shortage of cutting-edge chips, the result of American export restrictions, by creating its own lithography machines, the absence of which currently prevents it from manufacturing sufficient quantities of high-end processors. Currently ASML, a Dutch firm, holds a monopoly on the sale of the most advanced class of lithography tools, and is barred from selling them to America's superpower rival. But China is “closer than most people realise to solving the lithography problem,” says Mr Musk.

马斯克反对特朗普政府部分官员提出的禁止美国企业使用中国 AI 模型的主张，认为此举对于阻止中国赢得人工智能竞赛收效甚微。他预计，中国最终将通过自主研发光刻机来突破尖端芯片短缺的困境。这一困境源于美国的出口管制，而光刻机的缺失正是目前制约中国大规模生产高端处理器的关键所在。目前，荷兰企业阿斯麦垄断着最先进光刻设备的销售市场，且被明令禁止向美国的超级大国竞争对手出售相关产品。然而，马斯克表示，中国在解决光刻问题上的进展，比大多数人所意识到的要更接近成功。

注释：

cutting-edge: 尖端的，最前沿的。

lithography machine: 光刻机，芯片制造中的关键设备。

high-end processor: 高端处理器。

hold a monopoly on: 垄断，对.....拥有垄断地位。

be barred from: 被禁止做某事。

长难句解析：

原句：He expects China eventually to overcome its shortage of cutting-edge chips, the result of American export restrictions, by creating its own lithography machines, the absence of which currently prevents it from manufacturing sufficient quantities of high-end processors.

结构拆解：主干是 He expects China to overcome its shortage。eventually 表示时间；the result of American export restrictions 是 shortage 的同位语，解释短缺原因；by creating... 表示解决方式；the absence of which 引导非限制性定语从句，which 指 lithography machines，说明缺少光刻机带来的后果。中文不要把所有修饰塞在“短缺”前面，最好拆成“预计能突破困境”“困境来自哪里”“缺什么造成什么影响”三层。

The serial entrepreneur is unabashed about the amount of power he wields. He contends that AI will control almost everything eventually, and that his dominance of SpaceX, where he holds more than 80% of the voting shares, is aimed at ensuring that its long-term goal of turning humanity into a multi-planetary species with a colony on Mars is achieved, even if it depresses short-term profits. As for his sway over American politics, where his money and influence helped return President Donald Trump to power in 2025 (and briefly put Mr Musk in charge of gutting the federal bureaucracy), he says he became too involved. “I got carried away, frankly.”

这位连续创业者对自己手中握有的巨大权力毫不讳言。他认为，人工智能终将掌控几乎所有事物。他对 SpaceX 持有逾 80% 投票权的强势主导，是为了确保公司将人类发展为多星球文明、在火星建立殖民地这一长远目标得以实现，哪怕这会牺牲短期利润。至于他对美国政治的深远影响，他坦言自己当

时介入过深。他曾凭借雄厚财力与广泛影响力助力唐纳德·特朗普于 2025 年重返白宫，并一度主导大刀阔斧地裁撤联邦政府机构。他说，坦白讲，我当时有些得意忘形了。

注释：

serial entrepreneur：连续创业者。

unabashed：毫不羞愧的。

wield power：掌握权力，行使权力。

sway：影响力，支配力。

gut：大幅削减，掏空。这里指大刀阔斧地裁撤联邦官僚机构。

get carried away：得意忘形，做得过头。

长难句解析：

原句：He contends that AI will control almost everything eventually, and that his dominance of SpaceX, where he holds more than 80% of the voting shares, is aimed at ensuring that its long-term goal of turning humanity into a multi-planetary species with a colony on Mars is achieved, even if it depresses short-term profits.

结构拆解：contends 后面接两个并列 that 从句：第一个是 AI will control almost everything；第二个是 his dominance of SpaceX is aimed at ensuring...。where 引导定语从句，补充他在 SpaceX 的投票权；ensuring 后又接 that 从句，说明要确保长远目标实现；even if 引导让步从句。中文处理时要大胆拆句，先说他对 AI 的判断，再说他为什么要控制 SpaceX，最后补上“即便牺牲短期利润”。

Still, he shows no sign of relinquishing the geopolitical bully pulpit. Although SpaceX's Starlink satellites, which provide internet connectivity in remote places, have been used to help Ukraine counter Russia's invasion, Mr Musk remains adamant that any peace deal should offer territorial concessions to the aggressor. He describes the media's characterisation of Europe's far-right as "false, misleading and nonsense", and argues that it is made up of "normal people" seeking safe cities, secure borders and sensible spending.

尽管如此，他丝毫没有放弃地缘政治强硬立场的迹象。SpaceX 的星链卫星在偏远地区提供互联网接入服务，并已被用于协助乌克兰抵御俄罗斯的入侵。即便如此，马斯克依然坚持认为，任何和平协议都应向侵略方作出领土让步。他将媒体对欧洲极右翼势力的定性斥为虚假、误导且荒谬，并主张这些人不过是渴望城市安全、边境稳固和理性财政支出的普通民众。

注释：

relinquish：放弃，交出。

bully pulpit: 有影响力的公开发声平台，原指政治人物借职位进行公开倡导的位置。

connectivity: 连接能力。

counter: 反击，抵御，应对。

adamant: 坚决的，固执坚持的。

aggressor: 侵略者，挑起冲突的一方。

characterisation: 定性，描述，刻画。

长难句解析：

原句：Although SpaceX's Starlink satellites, which provide internet connectivity in remote places, have been used to help Ukraine counter Russia's invasion, Mr Musk remains adamant that any peace deal should offer territorial concessions to the aggressor.

结构拆解：Although 引导让步状语从句，先承认星链曾帮助乌克兰；which provide... 是 Starlink satellites 的非限制性定语从句；主句是 Mr Musk remains adamant；that 从句说明他坚持的内容。中文可以先把星链的功能和用途拆开，再用“即便如此”转入主句，逻辑更清楚。

His jeremiads about civil war in Britain stem from a view that an influx of people whose ideas are “antithetical to Western beliefs” will lead to a reckoning. Asked if he is anti-Muslim, he replies: “I’m against rape and murder. I’m against the imposition of rules and laws that are contrary to what we’ve come to accept in the West, and it’s a crying shame that traditional media, like you, don’t recognise this.”

他对英国爆发内战的悲观预言，源于他认为大批持有与西方价值观相悖思想的人涌入，将引发一场社会危机。当被问及是否反对穆斯林时，他回答说，他反对的是强奸和谋杀。他反对将那些与西方社会既有规范相悖的规则和法律强加于人。像你们这样的传统媒体对此视而不见，实在令人痛心。

注释：

jeremiad: 悲观预言，长篇哀叹式警告。

influx: 涌入，大量进入。

antithetical to: 与.....相反。

reckoning: 清算，严峻后果，必须面对的时刻。

imposition: 强加。

crying shame: 极其遗憾、令人痛心的事。

It is unclear how his dark vision of the future outside America fits with his AI utopianism. But even Mr Musk wonders if it all makes sense. At times, he says, he believes in a theory in which the

universe is a computer simulation created by aliens. “The things I’m doing are so preposterous that it’s hard to believe they’re real.”

他对美国以外世界未来的悲观预判，与他对人工智能的乌托邦式憧憬之间究竟如何调和，目前仍令人费解。就连马斯克本人有时也不禁自问，这一切究竟是否说得通。他坦言，自己有时会相信这样一种理论：宇宙不过是外星人创造的一场计算机模拟。他说，我所做的这些事情荒诞到令人难以置信，简直像是不真实的。

注释：

dark vision: 阴暗的愿景。

fit with: 与.....相符。

simulation: 模拟，仿真。

preposterous: 荒唐的，离谱的，令人难以置信的。