九牛一毛

西漢時代有個很有名的大將軍名叫李陵，他驍勇善戰、百戰百贏。

有一次，雖然李陵的軍隊奮勇殺敵，因為兵力不足而戰敗投降。

李陵打算暫時先忍辱投降，以便伺機等待機會反擊。

但當李陵投降的消息傳到首都，皇上身邊嫉妒的大臣們都開始指責李陵。

皇上十分氣憤，他將李陵的妻子與母親都賜死了。

司馬遷一直很敬重李陵，他不信李陵會無緣無故投降，便諫言皇上不要聽信謠言。

但就因為這樣，皇上便遷怒司馬遷，並將他囚禁，進行嚴懲。

司馬遷隨後寫了一封長信給他的朋友，說道：“我現在在寫一部歷史長篇，如果我死了，就如同九牛一毛般微不足道，但我願意承受住這般的懲罰，來完成這部書。”最終，司馬遷完成了這部名流千古的史學著作——《史記》。

九牛一毛

西汉时代有个很有名的大将军名叫李陵，他骁勇善战、百战百赢。

有一次，虽然李陵的军队奋勇杀敌，因为兵力不足而战败投降。

李陵打算暂时先忍辱投降，以便伺机等待机会反击。

但当李陵投降的消息传到首都，皇上身边嫉妒的大臣们都开始指责李陵。

皇上十分气愤，他将李陵的妻子与母亲都赐死了。

司马迁一直很敬重李陵，他不信李陵会无缘无故投降，便谏言皇上不要听信谣言。

但就因为这样，皇上便迁怒司马迁，并将他囚禁，进行严惩。

司马迁随后写了一封长信给他的朋友，说道：“我现在在写一部历史长篇，如果我死了，就如同九牛一毛般微不足道，但我愿意承受住这般的惩罚，来完成这部书。”最终，司马迁完成了这部名流千古的史学着作——《史记》。

Li Ling was a great [general](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/general) during the time of [emperor](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/emperor) *Han Wu-di* (hàn wǔ dì汉武帝). He was a very good [fighter](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/fighter), and he won every [battle](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/battle).

One time, however, Li Ling's troops were so [hopelessly](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/hopelessly) [outnumbered](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/outnumber) by the Huns that although they fought bravely, the whole army was soon taken [captive](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/captive).

Li Ling shamefully surrendered for the moment, planning to wait for an opportunity to strike back.

But when news of the [surrender](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/surrender) reached the capital, the emperor's [jealous](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/jealous) [ministers](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/minister) began to [degrade](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/degrade) Li Ling in front of the emperor.

What he heard made the emperor so angry that he had Li Ling's wife and mother put to death.

Ze-ma Chian, who had always respected Li Ling, believed that he wouldn't surrender without a reason, and urged the emperor not to believe rumors.

This time, the emperor grew angry at Sz-ma Chian, and locking him up, punished him severely.

Sz-ma Chian then wrote a long letter to a friend, saying, "I am now in the middle of writing a history book. If I die, it will be as if one ox in a group on nine were to lose a single hair. I am willing to [withstand](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/withstand) [punishment](http://dict.hjenglish.com/w/punishment) in order to complete this book." Sz-ma Chian finally did finish his book - the very famous Shr-Ji.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 皇上 | huángshang | the emperor / Your majesty the emperor / His imperial majesty |
| 嫉妒 | jídù | to be jealous / to envy / to hate |
| 大臣 | dàchén | chancellor (of a monarchy) / cabinet minister |
| 指責 | zhǐzé | to criticize / to find fault with / to denounce |
| 無緣無故 | wúyuánwúgù | no cause, no reason (idiom); completely uncalled for |
| 諫言 | jiànyán | advice / to advise |
| 聽信謠言 | tīngxìnyáoyán | to take heed of idle chatter (idiom) |
| 遷怒 | qiānnù | to take one's anger out on sb (who does not deserve it) |
| 囚禁 | qiújìn | to imprison / captivity |
| 嚴懲 | yánchéng | to punish severely |
| 承受 | chéngshòu | to bear / to support / to inherit |
| 懲罰 | chéngfá | penalty / punishment / to punish |