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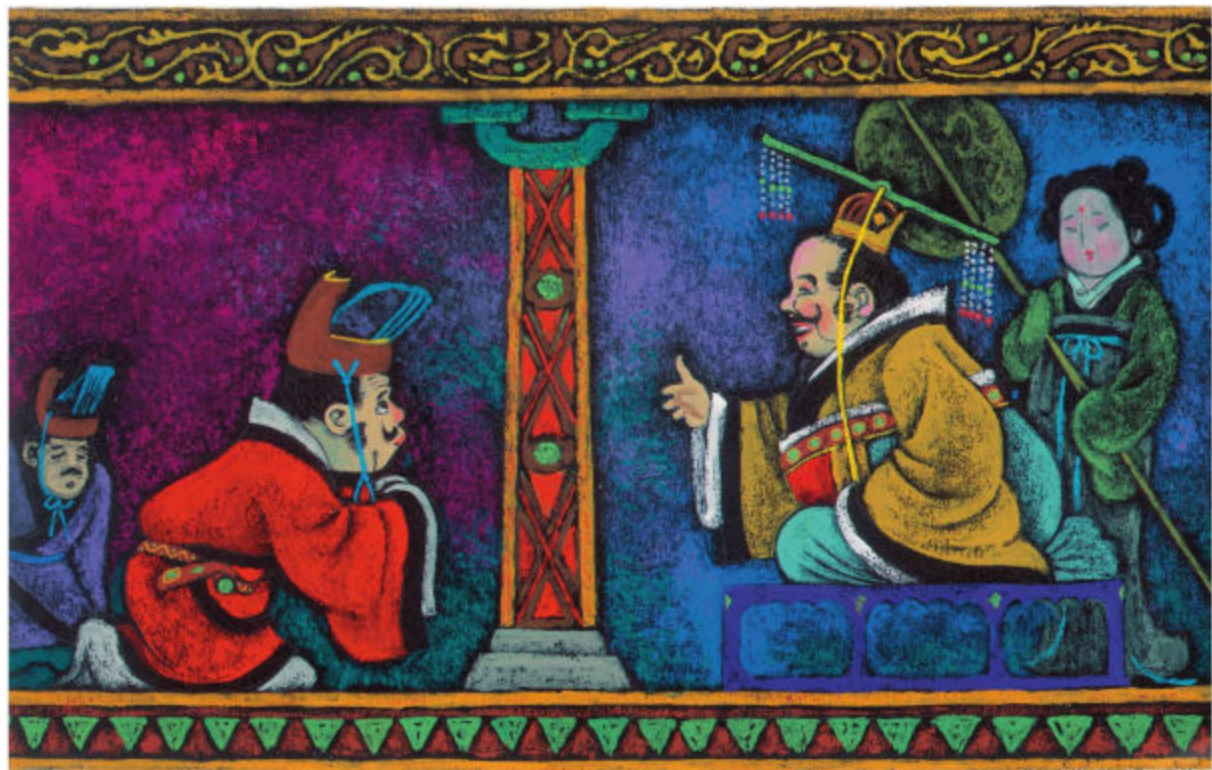
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世界上有一粒种子，像核桃那样大，绿色的外皮非常可爱。凡是看见它的人，没一个不喜欢它。听说，要是把它种在土里，就能够钻出碧玉一般的芽来，开出的花美丽无比，芳香无比。

Once there was a seed, as big as a walnut, with a lovely green husk. Everyone who ever saw it liked it. It was said that if it were planted, when it grew, its sprouts would be like green jade and its flowers most beautiful and sweet.



国王听说有这样一粒种子，笑得合不上嘴。他说：“我的园里什么花都有的。但是，这些平常的花，我弄得到，人家也弄得到，又有什么稀奇？现在好了，有这样一粒种子，只有一粒。等它钻出芽来，开出花来，世界上就没有第二棵。这才显得我最尊贵，最有权力。哈！哈！哈！……”

The king was very pleased to hear about such a seed. He said, "In my garden, I have all sorts of flowers. But those are just ordinary flowers. I have them, but everyone else can have them, so what's special about them then? Now I learn there is a truly special seed, the only one of its kind. When it sprouts and blossoms, there will be no other plant like it in the world. In this way it can show my utmost power and nobility. Hahaha..."



每天早晨，国王亲自把这个盆从暖房里搬出来，摆在殿前的台阶上，晚上还要亲自搬回去。天气一冷，暖房里还要生上火炉，热烘烘的。

国王叫人把这粒种子取来，种在一个白玉盆里。土是御花园里的，筛了又筛，总怕它还不够细。浇的水是用金缸盛着的，滤了又滤，总怕它还不够干净。



The king asked his servants to get hold of the seed and plant it in a white jade pot. The soil for planting the seed was brought from the royal garden, but they sieved it again and again as if it would never be fine enough. Although contained in a gold jar, the water for the seed was filtered again and again as if it would never be clean enough. The king himself would bring the pot out of the greenhouse and put it on the doorstep of his palace every morning and move it back in the evening. When the weather got cold, they would light a stove in the greenhouse to keep the seed warm.

转眼两年过去了，种子一点儿动静也没有。国王生气了，他说：“这是死的种子，又臭又难看，我要它干吗？！”他就把种子从泥里挖出来，使劲往池子里一扔。



Two years had passed, but the seed did not grow at all. The king was angry. He said, "This is a dead seed, smelly and ugly. What do I need it for?" He dug the seed out and tossed it into his pond.



种子从国王的池里，跟着流水，流到乡间的小河里。渔夫在河里打鱼，一扯网，把种子捞了上来。他觉得这是粒稀奇的种子，就到集市上高声叫卖。

The seed drifted with water from the pond to a river in the countryside. A fisherman fishing in the river found it and pulled it up with his net. Believing that the seed was a precious one, he brought it to the fair and cried "for sale".



富翁听见了，笑得眼睛眯成一条缝儿。他说：“我的屋里什么贵重的东西都有了。可是，这又算什么呢！金银珠宝，不只我一个人有。现在呢，有这么一粒种子——只有一粒！这要开出花来，不但可以显出我高雅，而且可以把世界上的富翁都盖过去。哈！哈！哈！……”



A rich man in the fair heard the fisherman's cry and was very pleased. He said, "In my house I have all sorts of precious things. But what's the worth of them? Gold, silver, jewels...Everyone can possess them. Now there is such a seed, the only one of its kind. When it blossoms, it will show my good taste and dwarf all other rich men in the world. Hahaha..."



富翁把种子买来，种在一个金缸里，特意雇了四个有名的花匠，专门照管这一粒种子。这四个人确实是尽心尽力，轮班在金缸旁边看着，一分一秒也不断人。他们把本领都使出来，用上好的土、上好的肥料，按时浇水，按时日晒。总之，凡是能做的他们都做了。

The rich man bought the seed, brought it home and planted it in a gold jar. He hired four famous florists to take good care of the seed. The four of them were very conscientious and worked in shifts to keep watch over it day and night. They did their best by using the best soil and the best fertilizer and making sure it got enough water and sunshine. They did all they could.



富翁想：“到开花的时候，我就大请客。那些跟我差不多的富翁都请到，让他们看看我天地间没第二份的美丽的奇花，让他们佩服我最阔气、最优越。”他每过一会儿就到金缸旁边看看。

The rich man thought, "When it blossoms, I will host a big banquet. All the rich men around me will be invited. They will have a chance to admire the beautiful flower I have — the only one of its kind in the world — and envy my richness and superiority." He would go watch the gold pot every few minutes.

转眼又是两年过去了，种子还是一点儿动静也没有。富翁生气了，他说：“这是死的种子，又臭又难看，我要它干吗？！”他就把种子从泥里挖出来，使劲往墙外边一扔。



Two years had passed, but the seed did not grow at all. The rich man was angry. He said, "This is a dead seed, smelly and ugly. What do I need it for?" He dug the seed out and tossed it over the wall.

种子跳过墙，
掉在一个商店门
口。商人拾起来，
高兴极了，他说：
“稀奇的种子掉在
我的门口，这一定
是我要发财了。”
他把种子种在商店
旁边，盼着种子发
芽开花，每天开店
的时候去看一回，
关店的时候还要去
看一回。



The seed fell on the ground in front of a shop. The shop owner picked it up and was very pleased. He said, "A rare seed on my doorstep must be a sign of good fortune." He planted the seed beside the shop. He was so eager to see it grow and blossom that he would check on it every morning when he opened the shop and every evening when he closed it.



一年很快过去了，种子并没发芽。商人生气了，说：“我真是傻子，以为是什么稀奇的种子！原来是死的，又臭又难看。”他就把种子挖出来，往街上一扔。

A year had passed, but the seed did not grow at all. The shop owner was angry. He said, "What an idiot I was to think of it as a precious seed! It turns out to be a dead one, smelly and ugly." He dug the seed out and tossed it into the street.



种子在街上躺了半天，被清道夫跟脏土一块儿扫进垃圾车里，倒在军营旁边。



The seed lay on the street for quite some time before it was swept into a garbage truck together with dirt and dumped near a military camp.



一个士兵拾起种子，高兴地说：“稀奇的种子让我拾着了，我一定要升官了。”他就把种子种在军营旁边，盼着它快发芽开花，下操的时候就蹲在旁边看着。

A soldier picked it up and was very pleased. He said, "A rare seed found by me must be a sign of my promotion." He planted the seed near the camp. He was so eager to see it grow and blossom that he would come watch it once he finished training every day.



一年多过去了，种子还没发芽。士兵生气了，他说：“我真是傻子，以为是什么稀奇的种子！原来是死的，又臭又难看。”他就把种子挖出来，用全身的力气，往很远的地方一扔。

One year had passed, but the seed did not grow at all. The soldier was angry. He said, "What an idiot I was to think of it as a precious seed! It turns out to be a dead one, smelly and ugly." He dug the seed out and tossed it as far away as he could.



种子飞呀，飞呀，最后落在一片碧绿的麦田里。

田里有个年轻的农夫，正拿着锄头松土。他看见种子掉下来，说：“嗨，真是一粒可爱的种子！种上它。”农夫就用锄刨了一个坑，把种子埋在里边。

他照常工作，该耕就耕，该锄就锄，该浇就浇——自然，种那粒种子的地方也一样，耕、锄、浇，样样都做到了。

The seed sailed in the wind and finally landed in a wheat field where a young farmer was hoeing. When he saw the falling seed, he said, "Oh, what a cute seed! Let me plant it." He dug a hole and buried the seed in it.

He worked in the fields as usual — plowing, hoeing and watering when it was time to. The spot where the seed had been planted was treated the same way as any other part of the fields.

没几天，在埋那粒种子的地方，碧绿的像小指那样粗的嫩芽钻出来了。又过几天，拔干、抽枝，一棵活像碧玉雕成的小树站在田地里了。



Just a few days later, the seed sprouted. A green, tender shoot as thick as one's little finger sprung up. Within another few days, it branched forth and quickly grew into a tree so fresh as if it had been carved from green jade.