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## 女娲补天 The Sky-patching Goddess

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很早很早以前，地球上没有人类，  
在山林草木间，只生活着鸟兽鱼虫。



Millions of years ago, there were no men on the earth. Only birds, beasts, fishes, and bugs lived in the mountains and forests.



一天，天神女娲坐在河边梳洗完后，顺手拾起一团泥巴，仿照自己的样子，捏啊捏，捏出一个泥娃娃。

One day, while the goddess Nüwa was sitting by the river after washing her face and combing her hair, she took some clay from the ground and molded a small figure like herself.



女娲把泥娃娃放在地上，泥娃娃立刻围着她又蹦又跳，还会说话。女娲很喜欢这个泥娃娃，像妈妈一样细心照顾他。

She put the figure on the ground and gave him life. The little figure immediately started playing with her and speaking to her. Nüwa liked him very much and took good care of him like a mother.

泥娃娃一天天长大，但是没有小伙伴和他聊天，也没有小伙伴和他玩耍，他只能看着动物们成群结队地嬉戏。



He grew up day by day, but there was no friend to talk to or play with. He could only watch the animals play with each other.

于是，女娲又用泥巴捏出很多泥娃娃。有男孩，也有女孩。他们开心地在一起玩耍。



Sympathizing with his loneliness, Nüwa made more figures; some were boys, some girls. Now they could enjoy playing together.

男孩和女孩长大以后，  
结婚有了自己的娃娃，再也  
不用女娲捏了。渐渐地，他  
们学会了种庄稼、盖房屋、  
织布……过着幸福的日子。



When they grew up, they bore children and freed Nūwa from making more figures. Gradually they also learned how to raise crops, build homes, and make cloth. They lived happily.



可是有一天，一场灾难突然降临人间。  
水神共工和火神祝融打了起来，结果水神  
战败，他一腔怒火没地方发泄，一头撞向  
撑天的不周山。

But one day the human world was stricken by a sudden catastrophe. Gong Gong the Chinese god of water and Zhu Rong the Chinese god of fire had a fight.



In the end the water god was defeated. Ashamed and enraged, he smashed his head against Mount Buzhou, one of the pillars supporting the sky.

随着轰隆一声巨响，不周山被撞倒了，天破了一个大洞，天河里的水哗的一下倾泻下来。大地变成一片汪洋。



He smashed so hard that the mountain collapsed. With one of its pillars missing, the sky now had a massive hole. In the sky there was the River of Heaven, whose water began flowing out of the hole and flooding the earth.

人们的庄稼被淹没了，房子被冲垮了，圈养的牲畜被冲走了。人们想往山上跑，可是火山又喷发了，山林里燃起熊熊大火。灾难中的人们不知道该去哪儿藏身。



Crops, houses, and livestock were all destroyed. The humans wanted to run up the mountains to stay away from the flood, only to find the mountains were all on fire because of erupting volcanoes. They had no place to go.

偏偏在这时候，一条恶龙趁机  
跳出来作乱，吃人、伤人。



Worse still, an evil dragon came to attack and eat them.

女娲知道后，帮助人类用木棒、石块打死恶龙，又让人们挑水扑灭山火。



When Nüwa became aware of their sufferings, she helped them to kill the dragon with clubs and stones and to put out the fire with water.

可是，灾难并没有完全过去，  
天河里的水依旧哗啦啦向大地倾  
泻。女娲决心补住天的破洞。



But that was not the end of the catastrophe: water was still pouring down from the hole in the sky. Pitying the humans, Nüwa decided to patch up the sky.



女娲让人们捡来大大小小的石头，砍来一担一担的山柴，堆放在一起。

Nüwa asked the humans to gather stones of all sizes and tons of firewood.



她点燃山柴，日日夜夜不停地烧那些石头。

She then started burning the firewood to melt the stones. She worked day and night.

整整烧了九九八十一  
天，一块块石头被烧成了  
色彩斑斓的五色石。



After being on fire for 81 days, the stones turned into five-colored stones.