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## 凤栖梧桐

### Phoenix Birds in a Divine Tree

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在岐山脚下，有一个叫高岗的美丽村庄。村口长着一棵神奇的梧桐树，被乡亲们称为神树。关于这棵树，有一个美丽的传说……

At the foot of Qishan Mountain, there was a beautiful village named Gaogang. At the village entrance there was a Chinese parasol tree, also called the Wutong tree in the native language. Villagers considered it a divine tree. There is a beautiful story about it.

一年夏天，可怕的山洪突然暴发，高岗村很快就被淹没了。房子被冲走，庄稼被冲毁……人们哭声一片，纷纷四处躲避。

One summer, a terrifying mountain flood destroyed the crops and homes, and the whole village was at risk. The villagers were crying and seeking shelter all around.



大水过后，村里一片荒凉，很多乡亲都准备离开高岗村，另寻活路。这时，一个叫梧桐的小伙子拦住大家，说：“有土地，就有梦想。高岗村是咱们祖祖辈辈的家啊！”



When the flood was gone, the village was in ruins, and many villagers wanted to leave the village so they could earn a livelihood elsewhere. At this moment, a young man named Wutong stopped them and said, "The land is still here, and that means our dream is still with us. Gaogang has been our home for generations."

乡亲们听了梧桐的劝说，纷纷留了下来，  
跟着他挖土修坝，重新造田。



On hearing his words, the villagers chose to stay. Wutong took the lead in building dikes and recovering the damaged farmland.

可是，没想到一场大雨过后，洪水把人们辛辛苦苦修好的堤坝全都冲毁了，新修的梯田也被冲得七零八落。乡亲们很难过，一位老大爷拍着梧桐的背说：“好多人都不想再干了。”



Unfortunately, a heavy downpour brought another flood that destroyed the newly built dikes and terraced land. The villagers were all very sad. An old man patted Wutong's back and said to him, "Many people don't want to carry on any more."

Wutong said, "We can't just give up like this." He persuaded the villagers and resumed his work. His clothes were soaked with sweat, his shoulders were badly bruised from carrying heavy loads, there were blisters on the soles of his feet, but he never stopped working.



梧桐说：“我们不能轻易放弃啊。”他说服乡亲们，重新挑起了扁担。汗水湿透衣服，接着干；肩膀磨破皮，接着干；脚上打起水泡，还是接着干……

梧桐干活儿很努力，经常忙得顾不上吃饭……一天早晨，他挑着一担土刚走到村口，竟然一头倒在地上。乡亲们立刻围上来抢救他，连天上的小鸟也盘旋着和大家一起呼喊：“醒来！醒来！”



Wutong worked very hard and often forgot to eat. One morning, when he got to the village entrance carrying a heavy bucket of earth to shore up the dikes, he suddenly fell to the ground. The villagers came to help him right away. Even the hovering birds joined the crowd and called out, "Wake up! Wake up!"

但是，梧桐的眼睛没有再睁开。乡亲们悲痛地把他埋葬在村口的大石头旁边。说来也奇怪，梧桐刚刚入土，他的墓前突然长出一棵小树。一位大叔赶紧带来一罐清水，细心地浇灌着小树……

But Wutong's eyes could no longer open; he was dead. With broken hearts the villagers buried him beside a big rock at the village entrance. Oddly enough, the moment Wutong was buried, a sapling sprouted in front of his tomb. An old man brought a jar of clear water and carefully watered it.



红色的朝阳洒下灿烂的光芒。小树在阳光的爱抚下，越长越粗，越长越高……只一顿饭的工夫，它就在大家惊奇的目光中长成了一棵参天大树。乡亲们说：“这棵树肯定是梧桐变的，就叫它梧桐树吧。这是梧桐在看着我们呢。”

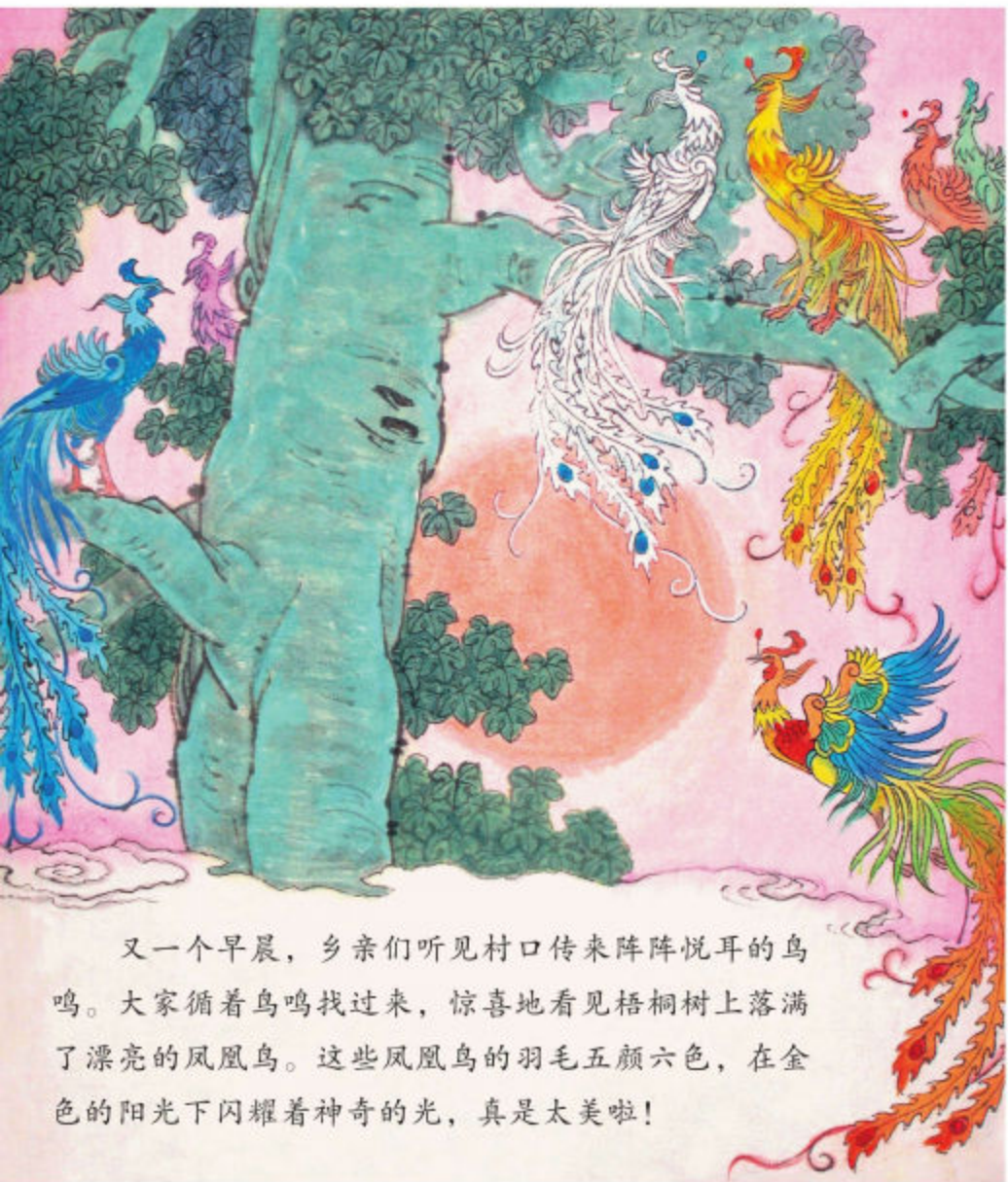


In the warmth of the morning sun, the sapling grew taller and stronger. In fact, in the time it would take to eat a bowl of soup, the crowd was surprised to find it turn into a sky-scraping tree. The villagers said, "The tree must be the reincarnation of Wutong. Let's name the tree after him. He's watching us from heaven."



They bowed three times to the tree and said to it, "Please rest assured. We will make our home village a better place!" They continued to work on restoration. After some time, houses were rebuilt, land was better terraced, and dikes became stronger.

乡亲们一起向梧桐树鞠了三个躬，告诉它：“放心吧，我们一定把家乡建得更好！”大家继续挥洒汗水，重建家园。渐渐地，高岗村的房屋又建了起来，梯田也修好了，堤坝也比过去更坚固了……



又一个早晨，乡亲们听见村口传来阵阵悦耳的鸟鸣。大家循着鸟鸣找过来，惊喜地看见梧桐树上落满了漂亮的凤凰鸟。这些凤凰鸟的羽毛五颜六色，在金色的阳光下闪耀着神奇的光，真是太美啦！

One morning, villagers heard sweet birdsongs coming from the village entrance. When they followed the songs and came to the village entrance, they found the tree was filled with gorgeous phoenix-like birds, whose rainbow-colored plumage glistened beautifully in the sun.

In fact, the phoenixes were attracted by the Wutong tree. Since that morning, the phoenix birds lived in the big Wutong tree. They brought magic seeds and sowed them on Qishan Mountain and in Gaogang Village. The seeds grew and made the mountain green, the land fertile and the Wutong tree flourish.

原来，是这棵梧桐树把凤凰鸟引过来的。从此，凤凰鸟就住在大梧桐树上。它们衔来一粒粒神奇的种子丢在岐山上，丢在高岗村……岐山上绿树成荫，庄稼丰收在望，大梧桐树也更加茂盛了。





有一天早晨，一位老大爷从树下走过的时候，忽然发现树上的凤凰不见了，树下多了一群漂亮的姑娘。“你们从哪里来？”老大爷问。“我们是从梧桐树上的啊。”一个姑娘答完，咯咯咯地笑了起来。

One morning, when an old man walked by the tree, he found the phoenix birds were all gone, but a group of beautiful girls were standing under the tree. He asked, "Where are you from?" "We are from the Wutong tree," one of the girls answered and giggled.



“凤凰鸣叫在高岗，梧桐生长向朝阳……”姑娘们唱着歌，跟着老大爷走进高岗村，她们选中了村里那些最勤劳的小伙子，分别和他们组成家庭。



The girls merrily sang, "Phoenixes sing in Gaogang, Wutong trees grow towards the sun..." as they followed the old man to the village, where they picked the most diligent young men and married them.



从此，岐山变得越来越美，高岗村的乡亲们日子过得越来越幸福。有时，村里的老人会坐在梧桐树下，把梧桐和梧桐树的故事讲给孩子们听。这些孩子长大了，又会把这个故事讲给他们的孩子听……

Qishan Mountain became even more beautiful and Gaogang villagers lived even more happily ever after. Sometimes the elders in the village would sit under the Wutong tree and tell the stories of Wutong and the Wutong tree to young children. When the children grew up, they would pass the stories on to their children.

