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## 龙门点额 A Persistent Carp

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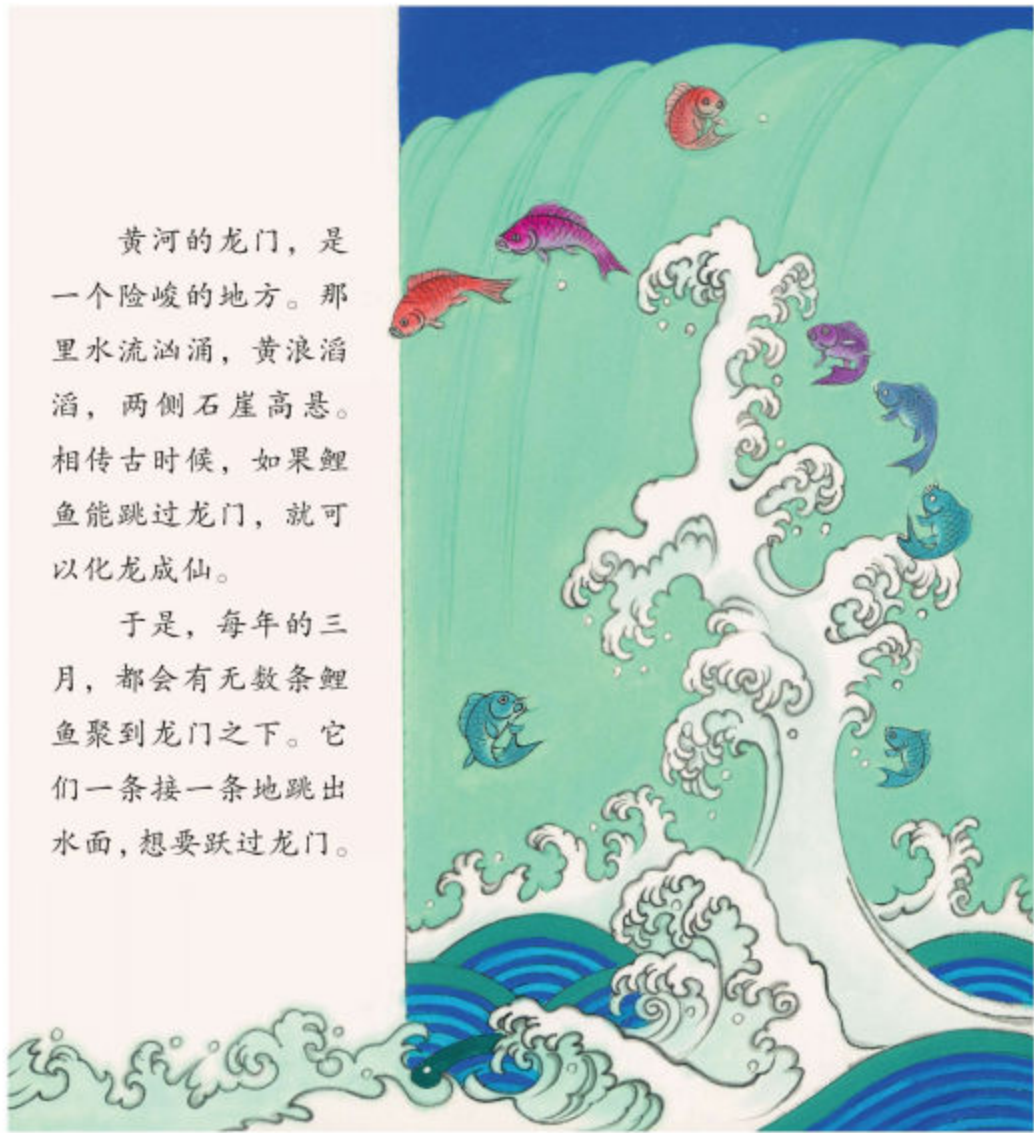
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Longmen, also known as the Dragon Gate, is a waterfall site on the Yellow River where the water plummets down from a great height and flows fast between high cliffs on both banks. Legend has it that in ancient times if a carp succeeded in leaping the waterfall at the Dragon Gate, it would be immediately transformed into a dragon and fly off into the sky.

黄河的龙门，是一个险峻的地方。那里水流汹涌，黄浪滔滔，两侧石崖高悬。相传古时候，如果鲤鱼能跳过龙门，就可以化龙成仙。

于是，每年的三月，都会有无数条鲤鱼聚到龙门之下。它们一条接一条地跳出水面，想要跃过龙门。




Therefore, in March every year, thousands of carp would gather at the site and attempt to leap the waterfall one by one in the hope of becoming dragons.

这一年，诗仙李白来到龙门，站在河边的一块巨石上，一边欣赏壮观的景色，一边饮酒作诗，为鲤鱼助威。



One March, the famous poet Li Bai came to the site to witness the spectacle of leaping carp. Standing on a rock near the river, the wine-loving poet enjoyed the scene while drinking and composing poems to praise the aspirations of all the leaping carp.



李白吃惊地看到，一条小鲤鱼跳得比其他鱼都高，甚至超过了浪尖。他非常高兴，举着酒杯，为小鲤鱼呐喊鼓劲。

Among the jumping school a small carp caught Li Bai's attention. He was surprised to see it was the highest jumper, sometimes nearly cresting the falls. He was happy for its endeavor and raised his wine vessel to cheer for it.

糟糕的事情发生了，小鲤鱼  
重重地摔在李白脚下的巨石上。



Unfortunately the little fish couldn't maintain its momentum and fell on the rock where Li Bai was standing.



小鲤鱼被摔晕了，躺在烈日下一动不动，只有鳃微微地一张一合着。李白急忙捧来水，浇在小鲤鱼身上。

The bad fall left the little fish unconscious, lying motionless in the sun, with only its gill flaps opening and closing. Li Bai quickly scooped up some water and poured it over its body.



Suddenly a gust of wind blew water from the falls and Li Bai had to close his eyes to avoid the splash of water. Upon opening his eyes, he was surprised to see a chubby little boy standing in front of him.



恰好这时一个大浪打来，水溅到李白脸上，他不由得闭上眼睛。当再睁开眼睛时，他惊讶地看到面前站着一个小胖乎乎的小男孩。小男孩的胳膊上挽着一条金光点点的红绶，原来小男孩就是那条小鲤鱼。

A red ribbon with glittering dots on the boy's arm suggested that he had been transformed from the little fish Li Bai had just saved.

小男孩心里充满感激，因为以前跳龙门的鲤鱼有很多掉在大石头上，最终干渴而死。他对李白深施一礼，说：“谢谢您的救命之恩！”李白一下子喜欢上了这个有礼貌的孩子。



The little boy was very grateful to Li Bai, for many other carp had previously fallen on rocks while leaping the falls and, without any helping hand, had died there. Therefore he bowed deeply to Li Bai and said, "Thank you for saving my life!" Li Bai immediately liked the boy for being so courteous.



小男孩告诉李白：“这是我第三次来跳龙门了，明年我还要来。”李白很感动，提笔在小男孩额头上点了一个红点，说：“孩子，点个记号，明年我会再来看你。”

The little boy told Li Bai, "This year saw my third attempt. I'll come again next year." Impressed by his perseverance, Li Bai took his brush pen and put a red dot on the center of his forehead and said to him, "Boy, I'll come see you again next year. This mark will help me spot you."



第二年春天，李白一到龙门，就来水边寻找额头上有红点的小鲤鱼。小鲤鱼也看到了李白。他跳到岸上，摇身变成一个少年，对李白说：“您瞧，我长大了。我今年一定会成功的。”

The next March, Li Bai came to the Dragon Gate again. While he was looking for the little carp with a red dot, the little carp also saw him. It jumped out of the water and turned into a teenage boy, and said to Li Bai, "Look at me, Sir, I've grown up. I'm sure I'll make it this year."

“孩子，即使不成功，  
也没关系！”“今年不成功，  
我会再来，直到成功为止！”  
李白被他的执着打动，举起  
酒杯说：“孩子，我来助你  
跳过龙门。”



Li Bai said, "Boy, even if you don't, it's fine." The boy replied, "If I fail again this year, I'll keep trying until I make it." Once again touched by his perseverance, Li Bai raised his wine vessel and said, "Boy, let me help you leap the falls."



Li Bai cast some wine in his vessel over the river.



李白把酒杯里的酒洒向水面。说也奇怪，被酒洒到的浪花竟然一朵叠一朵形成一个高高的水柱，托着男孩升腾起来。男孩离龙门越来越近，越来越近……

Magically, the water tinted with the wine began to stack up and soon turned into a very high water column that carried the boy up into the sky, closer and closer to the Dragon Gate.



浪花中七彩变幻。不一会儿，石门变成了天门。瞬间，少年不见了，一条白龙腾空飞起。

白龙围绕着李白飞了三圈，冲李白点了三下头致谢，然后向着天上飞去。李白微笑着目送白龙远去，将杯中的酒一饮而尽。

As it grew higher, the water column also changed into rainbow colors, and there suddenly appeared a heavenly gate. In a flash, the boy disappeared and a white dragon flew out.



The white dragon circled three times around Li Bai and nodded to him three times in gratitude before it flew into the sky. With a smile Li Bai watched the dragon fly away. When the dragon finally disappeared in the distance, the poet finished the rest of his wine in one gulp.