

The Legend of Mid-Autumn Festival

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Many people celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, but do you know the story behind it? I am going to tell you all about it. A long time ago, China once had a huge problem. There were ten suns in the sky scorching the land. Imagine ten giant burning balls of gas in the sky! Everybody and everything was in big trouble. The crops withered, people suffered from high heat, and animals started to die because there was no more water. People felt hopeless and there was nothing they could do.

Suddenly, a great anchor name Hou Yi (后羿) showed up and said, "I think I can try to shoot down the suns." People were excited to hear that but were wondering if Hou Yi could really get the job done. Hou Yi, with his bow and arrows, climbed to the tallest mountain. At the top of the mountain, he aimed at one sun, and....he let go. BAM! There went the sun! He did it! Then, Hou Yi loaded his bow again and got ready for another shot. BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! Hou Yi shot down another 8 suns. Luckily, Hou Yi left one sun in the sky because the land still needed light and warmth.

Everyone was cheering! Hou Yi saved the world! The emperor, too, was pleased with him. As a gift, he gave Hou Yi an elixir of immortality, and said, "If you drink the potion, you will live forever." Hou Yi was thrilled! But he thought about his wife Chang-Er (嫦娥). He could not drink it, because he did not want to live forever without his wife; and there wasn't enough elixir for both of them. Eventually, he gave the elixir to his wife and asked her to hide it somewhere safe.

One of Hou Yi's apprentices, Peng Meng, overheard their conversation. One day when Hou Yi was out hunting, Peng Meng drew his sword and approached Hou Yi's wife. He demanded Chang-Er to give him the elixir. "Give me the elixir, or else...", he said, Chang-Er said, "No! You will never have it!" And she took the bottle, opened the cap and drank it! Suddenly, something strange happened: Chang-Er rose up and floated to the sky. Hou Yi came back just in time to see his wife flew away.

Hou Yi was very sad because his lovely wife has gone to the moon .He couldn't see her ever again. He took out his favorite foods, cake and fruit, and sat under the moon to eat it. That is why people today eat mooncakes in Mid-Autumn festivals. Next time, when you enjoy the mooncake, you may think about this romantic story.