

## 《中国神话故事：吴刚伐桂（Wu Gang Chopping the Laurel Tree）》

Once upon a time, in the magical world of the heavens, Wu Gang and Chang'e were great friends. Wu Gang lived at the South Gate of Heaven, but he often longed to visit Chang'e who lived in the Moon. He became so busy meeting her that he forgot his duties.

从前，在神奇的天界，吴刚和嫦娥是好朋友。吴刚住在南天门，但他常常渴望去探望住在月亮上的嫦娥。他忙于与她相会，以至于忘记了自己的职责。



The Jade Emperor, who rules over everything, was not pleased. In a fit of anger, he punished Wu Gang by sending him to the Moon to chop down a giant Laurel Tree. Wu Gang was told that he could not return to the South Gate of Heaven or see Chang'e again until the tree was completely gone.

统治万物的玉皇大帝对此感到不悦。一怒之下，他惩罚吴刚，将他送到月亮上去砍伐一棵巨大的月桂。吴刚被告知，只有当他完全砍倒这棵树时，他才能返回南天门，再次见到嫦娥。

Wu Gang worked hard, chopping away from winter to summer. After six long months, he was almost done. Just as he was about to finish, the Jade Emperor sent a clever crow to the tree. With a quick swoop, the crow took Wu Gang's shirt, which was hanging on a branch.

吴刚努力工作，从冬天砍到夏天。经过漫长的六个月，他即将完成任务。正当他即将砍完时，玉皇大帝派来了一只聪明的乌鸦。乌鸦迅速掠过，叼走了挂在树枝上的吴刚的衣服。

Wu Gang chased after the crow, forgetting all about the tree. When he finally got his shirt back and returned, he found that all the chopped branches and leaves had grown back! From then on, whenever Wu Gang got close to finishing the tree, the crow would perch on a branch and "caw, caw" loudly. If Wu Gang stopped to look, the tree would miraculously regrow.

吴刚追赶乌鸦，完全忘记了树。当他终于找回衣服并返回时，他发现所有被砍下的树枝和树叶都重新长出来了!从那时起，每当吴刚即将砍完树时，乌鸦就会停在树枝上大声“哇哇”叫。如果吴刚停下来看它，树就会奇迹般地重新长出枝叶。

Years passed, and Wu Gang kept chopping, but the Moon Laurel tree never fully disappeared. There's a special secret, too: on the sixteenth day of the eighth month every year, a single leaf from the Moon Laurel falls to Earth. Whoever finds this magical leaf is blessed with endless gold and jewels.

岁月流逝，吴刚一直在砍伐，但月桂树从未完全消失。还有一个特别的秘密：每年八月十六日，月桂树上的一片叶子会落到地球上。找到这片神奇叶子的人将会得到无尽的金银财宝。

So, little ones, remember the story of Wu Gang and his never-ending task. And maybe one day, you'll be the lucky one to find that special leaf and be showered with treasures!

所以，孩子们，要记住吴刚和他那永无止境的的任务的故事。也许有一天，你也会是那个幸运的人，找到那片特别的叶子，并被宝藏淹没!