

## The story about Mid-Autumn Festival

The fifteenth day of the eighth month each year in Chinese lunar calendar is the Mid-Autumn Festival. Because on that day, there is usually a full moon, Mid-Autumn Festival is also called Moon Festival. Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most important festivals in China and eastern Asia. On that day, all family members will try to rush back home and eat family dinner together. After dinner, they will bring out moon cakes and other snacks and chat on the porch, under the full moon.

Here is a story about the origin of Mid-Autumn Festival:

Once upon a time, instead of one sun, there were ten suns in the sky. They ten suns were supposed to come out alternatively, only one sun at a time. But the suns were very naughty. One day they decided to come out altogether. The strong heat from the ten suns quickly dried up the rivers, burned all plants and made all animals thirsty to death.

Just then, a hero named Hou Yi stood up. He was a very strong archer. He carried his 10-thousand-pound bow to a tall mountain called Kunlun. There he aimed his arrow at the suns. With the release of each of his 1000-pound arrow, a sun fell off from the sky. When there was only one sun left in the sky, he ordered it to come out every morning and go inside every evening.

When the Jade Queen of the heaven learnt about this, she awarded Hou Yi some magic pills. If he took the pills, he could ascend to the heaven and become immortal. But Hou Yi had a beautiful wife named Chang Er and he did not want to leave her behind. So Hou Yi did not take the magic pills, but instead he asked Chang Er to hide them in a safe place.

When Hou Yi gave Chang Er the pills a wicked man was spying outside of their window. On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, after Hou Yi had left home hunting, that man came. He tried to force Chang Er to give him the pills. Chang Er held to the pills as tight as she could, but the man was too strong. Chang Er didn't want the man to get the pills. So she swallowed them. As soon as she finished the last pill, her body started to float. Soon she was flying higher and higher. Since she wanted to stay close to her dear husband, she landed on the moon.

When Hou Yi came home, he heard what had happened from his neighbors. He was very sad. He didn't want to do anything except looking at the moon. Suddenly he saw a figure on the moon. She even waved to him. Hou Yi quickly brought out some cakes and fruits that Chang Er used to like.

When their neighbors saw what Hou Yi was doing, they all brought out some delicious cakes and other snacks under the full moon for Chang Er. After that, every year, on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, people would put out moon cakes and other snacks and they would feel fortunate as they have their whole family together.

中秋节的传说

农历的八月十五是中国的中秋节。因为那一天晚上通常都有一轮满月,月亮又大又圆,因此中秋节又被称为团圆节。在中秋节那天,离家在外的人们都尽量赶回家中,全家人团聚在一起,边吃月饼,边赏月。

那么中秋节是怎么来的呢?

很久以前,天上有十个太阳,他们轮流值班,每天一个太阳出来。但是这些太阳很淘气,有一天他们十个全跑了出来。顿时,大地干裂,万物枯竭,人和动物都快被烤焦了。

这时,一个叫后羿的大力士站了出来。他也是个神射手。他背着重万斤的弓来到昆仑山顶,搭上重千斤的箭,一箭射出,一个太阳应声而落。他接连射了九箭,最后天上只有一个太阳的时候,他停止了射击。他命令最后那个太阳每天早上出来,晚上回去。

天上的王母娘娘听说这事以后,奖励给后羿一些仙丹,服用之后就可以升到天上,而且可以长生不老。但是,后羿不想丢下他美丽贤惠的妻子嫦娥,所以他没有服用仙丹。他把仙丹交给嫦娥,让她把它们藏好。

就在后羿把仙丹交给嫦娥的时候,窗外有人偷看。等八月十五那天后羿去林中狩猎以后,那个坏家伙就来了,逼着嫦娥要她交出仙丹,嫦娥不给他,他就要硬抢。嫦娥没有办法,就把仙丹吞进了肚子里。立刻,嫦娥就飞起来了,她越飞越高,竟然飞到月亮上去了。她选择去月球,因为月球离地球比其它星球相对更近些,她仍然无比思念后羿。

后羿回家后从邻居那儿知道了事情的经过,他悲痛万分,整夜盯着月亮发愣。忽然,他看见月亮上有一个熟悉的身影,那分明就是嫦娥呀,嫦娥似乎也正朝他招手。于是,后羿搬出桌子,摆上平时嫦娥爱吃的点心和水果。

附近的百姓听说嫦娥升天的消息候,也都很想念嫦娥,以后每逢中秋月圆的时候,都在月下摆上点心和水果,遥祭嫦娥。

从此,中秋节吃月饼的习俗就流传开来了。