

This is a classic Chinese idiom story from traditional Chinese culture, focusing on Dong Yong's moving journey of selling himself into servitude to bury his father. As a cherished part of ancient Chinese Mengxue education, it embodies the wisdom of extreme filial piety and sacrifice, a timeless virtue passed down through traditional Chinese culture stories.

【标题】

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Dong Yong Sells Himself to Bury His Father



【原文出处】

出自《搜神记》《后汉书·列女传》注引，是蒙学中“孝亲尽孝、知恩图报”主题的经典典故。董永为葬父自卖为奴，其至孝之心感天动地，后衍生出“天仙配”的民间传说，成为中华孝文化的重要符号。

【故事内容】

dōng hàn shí qī nán yáng jùn yǒu yì wèi míng jiào dǒng yǒng de nián qīng rén chū shēn hán mén yǔ fù qīn
东汉时期,南阳郡有一位名叫董永的年轻人,出身寒门,与父亲
xiāng yī wéi mìng dǒng yǒng xìng qíng chún hòu qín láo pǔ shí měi tiān kào gēng tián dǎ chái móu shēng
相依为命。董永性情醇厚,勤劳朴实,每天靠耕田打柴谋生,
duì fù qīn hē hù bèi zhì wú lùn rì zǐ duō me jiān xīn cóng bù ràng fù qīn shòu bàn diǎn wēi qū
对父亲呵护备至,无论日子多么艰辛,从不让父亲受半点委屈。

bù xìng de shì fù qīn yīn zhǎng nián láo lěi shēn tǐ rì jiàn xū ruò zuì zhōng yì bìng bù qǐ dǒng
不幸的是,父亲因长年劳累,身体日渐虚弱,最终一病不起。董
yǒng sì chù qiú yī wèn yào huā guāng le jiā zhōng suǒ yǒu jī xù què yī rán méi néng wǎn jiù fù qīn
永四处求医问药,花光了家中所有积蓄,却依然没能挽救父亲
de shēng mìng fù qīn qù shì hòu dǒng yǒng lián wéi fù qīn bàn lǐ sàng shì de qián dōu méi yǒu xīn
的生命。父亲去世后,董永连为父亲办理丧事的钱都没有,心
zhōng yòu bēi yòu jí bù zhī rú hé shì hǎo
中又悲又急,不知如何是好。

wéi le ràng fù qīn ān rán rù tǔ dǒng yǒng sī lái xiǎng qù zuì zhōng zuò chū le yì gè jué dìng
为了让父亲安然入土,董永想来想去,最终做出了一个决定—
zì mài wéi nú yòng mài shēn de qián wéi fù qīn bàn sàng shì tā dǎ tīng dào dāng dì fù hù zhuāng
—自卖为奴,用卖身的钱为父亲办丧事。他打听到当地富户裴

shì jiā xū yào pú rén biàn zhǔ dòng qián qù qiú jiàn shuō míng zì jǐ de chù jìng yuàn yì mài shēn sān nián huàn qǔ zàng fù zhī zī
氏家需要仆人,便主动前去求见,说明自己的处境,愿意卖身三年,换取葬父之资。

péi shì jiàn dòng yǒng xiào xīn chéng kěn yòu qín láo lǎo shí xīn zhōng shí fēn gǎn dòng bù jǐn dá yīng le tā de qǐng qiú hái é wài gěi le yì xiē qián ràng tā fēng guāng dì ān zàng fù qīn dòng yǒng yòng zhè bǐ qián wéi fù qīn bàn wán sàng shì hòu biàn rú yuē lái dào péi shì jiā zuò nú pú měi tiān qǐ zǎo tān hēi qín qín kěn kěn dì gàn huó tiǎo shuǐ pī chái gēng tián zhòng dì cóng bù tōu lǎn shuǎ huá
裴氏见董永孝心诚恳,又勤劳老实,心中十分感动,不仅答应了他的请求,还额外给了一些钱,让他风光地安葬父亲。董永用这笔钱为父亲办完丧事后,便如约来到裴氏家做奴仆,每天起早贪黑,勤勤恳恳地干活,挑水、劈柴、耕田、种地,从不偷懒耍滑。

tā duì dài gōng zuò jìn xīn jìn lì duì dài péi shì yì jiā gōng gōng jìng jìng jí shǐ shòu dào qí tā pú rén de jǐ duì yě cóng bù jì jiào sān nián qī mǎn hòu dòng yǒng dǎ suàn shú shēn huí jiā zhòng xīn kāi shǐ shēng huó chuán shuō zhōng dòng yǒng de zhì xiào zhī xīn gǎn dòng le tiān dì tiān dì pài qī xiān nǚ xià fán bāng zhù tā cháng hái zhài wù zuì zhōng liǎng rén jié wéi fū qī guò shàng le píng ān xìng fú de shēng huó
他对待工作尽心尽力,对待裴氏一家恭恭敬敬,即使受到其他仆人的挤兑,也从不计较。三年期满后,董永打算赎身回家,重新开始生活。传说中,董永的至孝之心感动了天帝,天帝派七仙女下凡,帮助他偿还债务,最终两人结为夫妻,过上了平安幸福的生活。

dòng yǒng zì mài wéi nú zàng fù de gù shì liú chuán qiān gǔ chéng wéi hòu shì xiào qīn jìng zhǎng de kǎi mó tā gào sù wǒ men xiào xīn shì zuì zhēn guì de pǐn zhì jí shǐ shēn chù kùn jìng yě yào jìn lì wéi fù mǔ jìn xiào
董永自卖为奴葬父的故事,流传千古,成为后世孝亲敬长的楷模。它告诉我们,孝心是最珍贵的品质,即使身处困境,也要尽力为父母尽孝。

【English Translation】

During the Eastern Han Dynasty, there was a young man named Dong Yong in Nanyang Commandery. Born into a poor family, he lived with his father and depended on each other. Dong Yong was honest, diligent and simple, making a living by farming and cutting firewood every day. He took good care of his father and never let him suffer any grievances, no matter how hard life was.

Unfortunately, his father's health gradually declined due to years of hard work, and he finally fell seriously ill and passed away. Dong Yong sought medical treatment everywhere, spending all his family savings, but still failed to save his father's life. After his father died, Dong Yong didn't even have the money to hold a funeral for him. He was filled with sorrow and anxiety, not knowing what to do.

To bury his father properly, Dong Yong thought hard and finally made a decision—sell himself into slavery to get money for his father's funeral. He heard that the wealthy Pei family needed servants, so he took the initiative to visit them, explained his situation, and was willing to sell himself for three years in exchange for money to bury his father.

Moved by Dong Yong's sincere filial piety and hardworking nature, the Pei family not only agreed to his request but also gave him some extra money to hold a decent funeral for his father. After finishing his father's funeral with this money, Dong Yong came to the Pei family as a servant as promised. He got up early and worked late every day, doing his work diligently—carrying water, chopping firewood, farming the fields—never being lazy.

He did his work wholeheartedly and treated the Pei family respectfully. Even if he was squeezed by other servants, he never cared. After three years, Dong Yong planned to redeem himself and go home to start a new life. According to legend, Dong Yong's profound filial piety moved the Jade Emperor, who sent the Seventh Fairy down to earth to help him pay off his debts. Finally, the two got married and lived a peaceful and happy life.

The story of Dong Yong selling himself into slavery to bury his father has been passed down for thousands of years, becoming a model of filial piety for later generations. It tells us that filial piety is the most precious quality, and even in difficulties, we should try our best to be filial to our parents.

【启蒙寓意】

1. **Filial piety is the foundation of virtue:** Dong Yong's willingness to sacrifice himself for his father shows that filial piety is the most basic and important moral character.
2. **Honesty and trustworthiness go hand in hand with filial piety:** Dong Yong kept his promise to work as a servant for three years, embodying the importance of integrity while practicing filial piety.
3. **Kindness and filial piety will be rewarded:** Dong Yong's sincere filial piety moved others and brought him good fortune, proving that good deeds are always repaid.
4. **Adversity tests true character:** In the face of the hardship of losing his father and being poor, Dong Yong chose to take responsibility, showing a strong and noble character.

【互动小练习】

1. 填空题 (Fill in the blanks) :

董永为了给父亲办丧事，决定_____ (zì mài wéi nú) 。

To hold a funeral for his father, Dong Yong decided to _____ (sell himself into slavery).

2. 选择题 (Multiple choice) :

董永的孝行感动了谁? ()

Who was moved by Dong Yong's filial piety? ()

A. 裴氏 (The Pei family) B. 天帝 (The Jade Emperor) C. 以上都是 (Both A and B)

3. 思考题 (Think and share) :

董永为了父亲愿意牺牲自己，你觉得孝心中最重要的是什么? 说说你的理解。

Dong Yong was willing to sacrifice himself for his father. What do you think is the most important thing in filial piety? Share your understanding.

As one of the most revered traditional Chinese culture stories about filial piety, "Dong Yong Sells Himself" has inspired generations to honor their parents with great sacrifice. It perfectly showcases the core value of filial devotion in Chinese idiom stories, making it a timeless educational tale for readers interested in traditional Chinese culture.