

This is a classic Chinese idiom story from traditional Chinese culture, focusing on Lao Lai's heartwarming journey of dressing in colorful clothes to amuse his elderly parents. As a cherished part of ancient Chinese Mengxue education, it embodies the wisdom of bringing joy to parents through gentle devotion, a timeless virtue passed down through traditional Chinese culture stories.

### 【标题】

老莱斑衣 (拼音: Lǎo Lái Bān Yī)

Lao Lai Wears Mottled Clothes to Amuse His Parents



### 【原文出处】

出自《艺文类聚》引《列女传》，是蒙学中“孝亲敬长、乐善承欢”主题的经典典故。老莱子年逾七十仍身着彩衣、模仿孩童取悦双亲，以暖心之举诠释“大孝”，成为中华孝文化中“承欢膝下”的典范。

### 【故事内容】

chūn qiū zhàn guó shí qī chǔ guó yǒu yì wèi míng jiào lǎo lái zǐ de yīn shì tā xìng qíng chún hòu bù  
春秋战国时期，楚国有一位名叫老莱子的隐士，他性情醇厚，不  
mù míng lì yì shēng qián xīn yán xué gèng yǐ xiào shùn wén míng xiāng lǐ lǎo lái zǐ yǔ qī zǐ xiāng  
慕名利，一生潜心研学，更以孝顺闻名乡里。老莱子与妻子相  
bàn xī xīn fèng yǎng nián mài de fù mǔ jí shǐ zì jǐ nián guò qī shí tóu fā huā bái duì fù mǔ  
伴，悉心奉养年迈的父母，即使自己年过七十，头发花白，对父母  
yī rán rú tóng yòu tóng bān gōng jìng tǐ tiē  
依然如同幼童般恭敬体贴。

dāng shí lǎo lái zǐ de fù mǔ yǐ jìn bǎi suì shēn tǐ xū ruò xīn jìng yě zhú jiàn xiàng xiǎo hái zǐ  
当时老莱子的父母已近百岁，身体虚弱，心境也逐渐像小孩子  
yì yàng róng yì fán mèn bù ān lǎo lái zǐ kàn zài yǎn li xīn li shí kè jì guà zhe ràng shuāng qīn  
一样，容易烦闷不安。老莱子看在眼里，心里时刻记挂着让双亲  
kāi xīn tā měi tiān jīng xīn zhǔn bèi fù mǔ ài chī de shí wù xì xīn zhào liào qǐ jū qǐ wò cóng  
开心。他每天精心准备父母爱吃的食物，细心照料起居起卧，从  
bù yǒu bàn diǎn fū yǎn  
不有半点敷衍。

wéi le pái jiě fù mǔ de jì mò ràng tā men bǎo chí yú kuài de xīn qíng lǎo lái zǐ xiǎng chū le  
为了排解父母的寂寞，让他们保持愉快的心情，老莱子想出了  
yì gè tè bié de bàn fǎ tā zhuān mén zuò le yì jiàn wǔ cǎi bān lán de cǎi yī lèi sì yú xiǎo hái  
一个特别的办法。他专门做了一件五彩斑斓的彩衣，类似于小孩  
zǐ chuān de yī fú měi dāng fù mǔ xīn qíng bù jiā shí tā jiù chuān shàng zhè jiàn cǎi yī zài táng  
子穿的衣服，每当父母心情不佳时，他就穿上这件彩衣，在堂  
qián yáo huàng shēn tǐ mó fǎng xiǎo hái zǐ shuō huà de yǔ qì pǎo tiào de zī tài dòu fù mǔ fā xiào  
前摇晃身体，模仿小孩子说话的语气、跑跳的姿态，逗父母发笑。

yǒu yì cì lǎo lái zǐ wéi fù mǔ duān shàng rè tāng zǒu lù shí bù xiǎo xīn jiǎo xià yì huá jí jiāng  
有一次，老莱子为父母端上热汤，走路时不小心脚下一滑，即将  
shuāi dǎo tā pà fù mǔ kàn jiàn hòu dān xīn shòu pà jí máng gù yì wāi wāi niǔ niǔ dì diē zuò zài  
摔倒。他怕父母看见后担心受怕，急忙故意歪歪扭扭地跌坐在  
dì rán hòu xiàng xiǎo hái zǐ yì yàng fàng shēng kū le qǐ lái zuǐ li hái niàn dāo zhe wǒ bù téng  
地，然后像小孩子一样放声哭了起来，嘴里还念叨着：“我不疼，  
wǒ bù téng niáng kuài lái bào bào wǒ  
我不疼，娘快来抱抱我。”

fù mǔ kàn jiàn tā zhè fù mó yàng bù jǐn méi yǒu dān xīn fǎn ér bèi dòu dé hā hā dà xiào yì sǎo  
父母看见他这副模样，不仅没有担心，反而被逗得哈哈大笑，一扫  
xīn zhōng de yù mèn shēn biān de lín jū kàn dào hòu dōu chēng zàn lǎo lái zǐ nián guò qī shí hái  
心中的郁闷。身边的邻居看到后，都称赞老莱子：“年过七十还  
rú cǐ tǎo fù mǔ huān xīn zhè cái shì zhēn zhèng kè jìn gǔ zǐ li de xiào shùn a  
如此讨父母欢心，这才是真正刻进骨子里的孝顺啊！”

lǎo lái zǐ yì shēng jiān chí yǐ cǐ fāng shì chéng huān shuāng qīn xī xià zhí dào fù mǔ ān rán lí  
老莱子一生坚持以此方式承欢双亲膝下，直到父母安然离  
shì tā bān yī yú qīn de gù shì liú chuán qiān gǔ gào sù hòu rén xiào shùn bù jǐn shì wù zhì  
世。他“斑衣娱亲”的故事，流传千古，告诉后人：孝顺不仅是物质  
shàng de fèng yǎng gèng shì jīng shén shàng de péi bàn yǔ ān wèi  
上的奉养，更是精神上的陪伴与安慰。

### 【English Translation】

During the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods, there was a hermit named Lao Laizi in the state of Chu. He was honest and kind, not coveting fame and fortune. He devoted his life to studying and was famous in his hometown for his filial piety. Lao Laizi lived with his wife and carefully took care of his elderly parents. Even when he was over seventy with gray hair, he remained as respectful and considerate to his parents as a child.

At that time, Lao Laizi's parents were nearly a hundred years old. They were physically weak and their moods became as fragile as children's, easily feeling depressed and restless. Seeing this, Lao Laizi always kept in mind to make his parents happy. He carefully prepared their favorite food every day, took good care of their daily life, and never perfunctory in the slightest.

To relieve his parents' loneliness and keep them in a cheerful mood, Lao Laizi came up with a special idea. He specially made a colorful, mottled coat similar to the clothes worn by children. Whenever his parents were in a bad mood, he would put on this coat, sway his body in the hall, imitate the tone of children's speech and their running and jumping postures to amuse his parents.

Once, Lao Laizi brought hot soup to his parents. He accidentally slipped while walking and was about to fall. Fearing that his parents would worry when they saw it, he quickly pretended to stumble and sit on the ground awkwardly, then cried loudly like a child, muttering: "It doesn't hurt, it doesn't hurt. Mother, come and hug me quickly." Seeing him like this, his parents were not worried at all. Instead, they were amused to laugh heartily, sweeping away the depression in their hearts.

When the neighbors around saw this, they praised Lao Laizi: "Being over seventy and still trying to make his parents happy like this is the true filial piety that is rooted in his bones!"

Lao Laizi persisted in amusing his parents in this way until they passed away peacefully. His story of "wearing mottled clothes to amuse parents" has been passed down for thousands of years, telling later generations that filial piety is not only material support, but also spiritual companionship and consolation.

### 【启蒙寓意】

1. **Filial piety includes spiritual companionship:** Taking care of parents' emotional needs and making them happy is as important as material support.

2. **Respect for parents lasts a lifetime:** No matter how old we are, we should always maintain respect and consideration for our parents.
3. **Sincerity is the core of filial piety:** Lao Laizi's actions came from his sincere love for his parents, which is the most touching part of filial piety.
4. **Adapting to parents' needs shows true care:** Adjusting our own way to cater to our parents' moods reflects the depth of our love and responsibility.

### 【互动小练习】

1. 填空题 (Fill in the blanks) :

老莱子穿\_\_\_\_\_ (cǎi yī) 模仿孩童，逗父母开心。

Lao Laizi wore \_\_\_\_\_ (colorful clothes) to imitate a child and amuse his parents.

2. 选择题 (Multiple choice) :

老莱斑衣的故事主要体现了什么? ( )

What does the story of Lao Lai wearing mottled clothes mainly reflect? ( )

- A. 对父母的精神陪伴 (Spiritual companionship for parents)
- B. 热爱孩童的天性 (Love for children's nature)
- C. 喜欢穿彩衣的爱好 (Hobby of wearing colorful clothes)

3. 思考题 (Think and share) :

除了逗父母开心，你还能做些什么来陪伴父母? 制定一个“陪伴小计划”吧!

Besides amusing your parents, what else can you do to accompany them? Make a "companionship plan"!

As one of the most heartwarming traditional Chinese culture stories about parental devotion, "Lao Lai's Colorful Clothes" has inspired generations to bring joy to their elderly parents. It perfectly showcases the core value of gentle filial respect in Chinese idiom stories, making it a timeless educational tale for readers interested in traditional Chinese culture.