

The Owl and the Echo (貓頭鷹與回聲)

Deep in the dark forest, there lived a young owl named Oliver. Oliver thought he was the loudest bird in the world. One night, he sat on a high branch and hooted, "I am the best!"

Suddenly, from across the valley, a voice answered back, "I am the best!"

Oliver was shocked. He flapped his wings and shouted, "Who are you?" The voice immediately replied, "Who are you?"

Oliver became very angry. He thought there was a rude bird hiding in the trees. He yelled, "You are a silly bird!" And the voice yelled back, "You are a silly bird!"

Oliver flew home to his mother, crying, "Mom, there is a mean bird in the forest mocking me!"

His mother smiled and said, "Oliver, that was not a mean bird. That was an echo. The world is like a mirror. If you speak with anger, you will hear anger. If you speak with kindness, you will hear kindness."

Oliver flew back to the branch. He took a deep breath and shouted, "I love the forest!" This time, the forest sweetly whispered back, "I love the forest!" Oliver finally understood: the secret to a happy life is to give what you want to receive.

The Masterpiece in the Dust (塵埃中的傑作)

In a small village, there was an old man named Mr. Miller who spent every day painting in his garden. One day, a curious boy named Leo climbed over the fence. He saw a canvas covered in messy brown and gray spots. It looked like a mistake.

Leo laughed and said, "Mr. Miller, that is a very ugly painting! Why are you wasting your time on something so dull?"

Mr. Miller didn't get angry. He simply invited Leo to sit down. "Patience, young man," he whispered. "You are only looking at the shadows. A true artist knows that you cannot have a sunrise without the dark night before it."

Over the next hour, Leo watched in silence. Mr. Miller added bright strokes of gold, soft touches of pink, and brilliant flashes of blue. Suddenly, the dull brown spots became sturdy tree trunks, and the gray smears became a misty morning sky.

It was the most beautiful sunrise Leo had ever seen. He realized that the "ugly" parts were actually the foundation for the beauty.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Miller," Leo said softly.

The old man smiled and replied, "Life is just like this canvas, Leo. Sometimes we only see the messy, dark colors. But if you keep painting with hope, you will find that the shadows are what make the light look so bright."