

# Gratitude

Many years ago, there was a carpenter who lived in a small village. He loved to play with various toys, was good at observation, and was particularly smart. So, he became a carpenter when he grew up, selling all kinds of wooden furniture and wooden crafts for a living. In this village, people helped each other when there were difficulties, and the carpenter was no exception. Although he was not very skilled and his craft was not so exquisite, but because he was the only one in this village who knew how to do woodworking, everyone showed him great respect .

In one fall, there was a fire on the hill next to the village, and it burned down all trees in the woods. It would take at least several years for the woods to grow back. This made the carpenter lose his wood source for his woodcraft. Therefore, he was very worried and uneasy that he wouldn't be able to make a living. However, other villagers also thought of this problem, so they spontaneously subsidized foods to him. Some farmers who grew rice generously gave him rice; some butchers kept a few kilos of meat for him; some of the other farmers on the field also left him fruits and vegetables generously. The carpenter was very impressed, thinking to himself, since they treated me so nice, I should definitely seek a chance to repay everyone.

Thus, shortly afterward, the carpenter left the other villagers, and went to the provincial capital to look for teachers who would teach him woodcraft, planning to come back in the future when he would be able to repay a debt of gratitude.

Afterward, he followed his teacher for years, learning a lot as well as making plenty of money. He felt it was the time to reward the villagers who helped him before, so he decided to return home. When he was back home, many villagers still remembered him as a carpenter. This deeply touched him. Finally, he determined to help each of those needy villagers build one tidy wooden house; also, he decided to establish a new school, providing all kids in the village a chance to study, leading them to a more promising future.

Soon, the carpenter finished the wooden houses and the school with his superb craftsmanship and skills. His gratitude and extraordinary skills were appreciated by all the villagers. At the same time he became a famous figure in the village, receiving sufficient praise and respect from everyone.

This story tells us that we should not attempt to haggle when getting along with others, but try to be helpful. In this way, can we help each other to form a favorable situation for everyone. Moreover, as human beings, we should learn to be grateful. As an old saying goes, "A drop of grace ought to be repaid in pools of gratitude."

By Roger Lin