



Non-fiction

Group 2

New Tales Of Judge Pao C.C.

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Cai, Chloe – 10

IN ANCIENT CHINA,

One boy was different from all the rest. His skin was so dark it had a blue sheen if you looked at it in the sunlight, and on his forehead was a mysterious scar, shaped like a crescent moon.

That boy was me.

My name is Bao Zheng, and this is my life.

As I was born dark-skinned, I was considered cursed by my birth family and I was thrown away by my father, after meeting him for the first time. So naturally from a very small age, before I was barely even one, I was nursed by my older brother and sister-in-law.

There were many stories about me, all different. This is the truth. Or the twisted version of it.

...

MY FIRST CASE was called The Chalk Circle.

Once upon a time, a beautiful sixteen-year-old girl called Hai-Tang was sold into a house of *prostitution* by her impoverished family, after her father's death. Beauty may seem like a dream to many, but it does have its costs...

...

HAI-TANG STARED AT THE CEILING,

She had no more will to live. 'Why can't I just die?' She thought, her mind turning to all the pros and cons of dying. 'She was helpless, depressed and stained, so what was the point of living anymore?' Hai-Tang thought, her thoughts turning depressing and sad.

“來了!” A loud voice rang in her ears, as it resounded with the sound of a bronze gong being hit.

Hai-Tang dragged her tired and limp body to her bed, that is, if you could call a mass of cardboard and stones a bed. There was no fight left in the maiden anymore. None of the fire that crackled inside her when she was just starting in the prostitution house. Indeed when her family dumped her on the doorstep, she fought.

She had a fire in her that most thought was impossible to smother. However as time went on, and she became a shell of herself, her fire slowly weakened daily. As countless nights and days passed, her will to live grew smaller and smaller, until one day when her time of need and helplessness was at its peak, she was befriended by Ma Chun-Shing, a wealthy and childless tax collector, who visited her every Saturday.

Today was the last day Hai-Tang was going to meet him. For she was going to kill herself this very night.

'Ah, there he is.' Hai-Tang thought as her door swung open.

In the hall, a handsome man with stylish clothes and acrostic features sashayed down the hall and glanced at the walls. "Tsk," the man clicked his tongue, upon seeing the crumbling walls that had spots of green mould growing on the cracks that spread throughout the place.

As he walked towards the door at the end of the hall he visibly cringed when he heard some...very unpleasant sounds, emitting from a room to his right. As the man pushed the door open he walked briskly inside the door before coming to a sudden halt.

"Hai-Tang..." the man whispered, shocked at the sight of his usually lively friend. Sure, Hai-Tang's movements were always rather sluggish, her cheeks were hollowed out, and her skin ashy grey but she always had a lively and happy expression on her face. Unlike now.

After sweeping his judging gaze over at his friend the man couldn't take it anymore and his cold mask broke. "Hai-Tang, I cannot let you live here anymore!" The man shouts at her, his loud voice echoing in her room. "Then what do you propose?" Hai-Tang asks, her voice void of all emotion.

Already giving up.

"Become my second wife." A lengthy and awkward silence was followed by that sentence, until Hai-Tang finally broke the long and awkward silence her voice cracking as she said, "y-you'd do that f-for m-m-me?" "Of course," the man says smiling.

After that proclamation, Hai-Tang couldn't believe it, she was finally getting out of there. Her Prince Charming was finally coming for her.

How little did she know what fate had in store for her.

...

FATE SMILED, as she guided her pawn towards the blank space next to the king. "Well? Give up so easily, Life?" She said tauntingly to her opponent. "Never."

As she waited patiently for the other person to make a move. Suddenly the king moved slightly and a slightly loud thump was followed by the same voice from before.

"Checkmate."

...

HAI-TANG WOKE UP WITH A START, she groaned, the previous night's memories rushing through her head. Ma Chun-Shing bringing her to his home. Ma Chun-Shing introducing her to his first wife. And many, *many* more painful memories crashed into her head.

...

SIX MONTHS PASSED, and as our oblivious yet loving main character Hai-Tang smiles with adoration at her son, she unknowingly ignites the wrath of Ma Chun-Shing's first wife, Ah-Siu.

Ah-Siu, jealous person by nature and blinded by the black poison of jealousy, planned to destroy Hai-Tang's life.

...

Ah-Siu smiled, 'ah, it's finally the day,' she thought, glee visible in her eyes, 'the day when I can finally destroy that awful excuse for a woman!'

Ah-Siu, fed up with her husband's antics, accuses Hai-tang of adultery, and poisons Ma, blaming Hai-tang for the crime she committed.

After that, Ah-Siu claims to a court that Shoulang is her child so that she can gain rights to Ma's fortune.

The court believes Ah-Siu's words instead of Hai-Tang's, and Hai-Tang is arrested and beaten by guards until she confesses her crime, which she didn't do, but they don't know that do they?

As Hai-tang is about to be hanged, she is rescued by Bao Zheng in a scene similar to the Judgment of Solomon: Shoulang is placed in a circle of chalk between the two women, and each is ordered to pull the child toward her by hurtful means. Hai-Tang being Shoulang's mother couldn't bear to hurt her child, so she gave in and is judged his true mother.

Justice Bao

ESF Glenealy School, Mithaiwala, Burhanuddin – 10

(China's Sherlock Holmes)

On a day when bright sunshine drenched the world, I was sitting in the middle of a timbered park, thinking long and hard about my write-up for the young writer's award. That's when I dozed off...

When I widened my eyes, I found myself in the 7000-year-old Ningbo city, in China. I flickered my eyes but only the vintage walls were to be seen. As I took a few steps forward, still trying to make sense of where I was, I saw a person: pale brown skin tone, with a distinct white crescent-shaped birthmark. To my great surprise this gentleman was none other than the one and only Judge Pao, Justice Bao, Bao Zheng or whatever you want to call him. This happened to be my ultimate luck! It suddenly dawned on me that perhaps I should interview him... I got my sharp pencil and precious leather-bound notebook ready to scribble down notes.

I politely enquired – “Can I interview you?”

“必须的! (Of Course!)” replied Judge Bao.

“Holy macaroni!” “I don't know how to speak mandarin!” I gasped.

“That's alright, I can speak English, but will you learn Mandarin?” asked Judge Bao.

I took a moment to ponder and then replied “yes.”

My first question was:

“Can you tell me about your family and early life?”

He replied:

“I was born on March 5th in the year 999 in Shexian, Hefei, Northern Song Dynasty. My father was a scholar and an official, while my grandfather was a commoner. My parents couldn't afford to educate me, however, I managed to clear the imperial examination at the age of 29 and qualified as a Jinshi. I did not take this position to look after my elderly parents. I had two wives: Lady Zhang, with whom I had a son named Bao Yi, and Lady Dong with whom I had two daughters. Bao Yi died at a very young age.”

“Sorry to hear that!” I said gloomily.

“Tell me more about your experience as a judge,” I probed.

Judge Bao responded “I would share with you some of the astonishing life experiences.

The first one is when my opinion differed completely from the emperor. He went and freed all the prisoners and promoted many government officials, just after Ningbo fell due to the torrential waves that flooded the city. I scolded the emperor because His Majesty was planning to release people who had performed unacceptable things and promote individuals who had not worked for the position, just because he was overjoyed!”

“Hmmm! Did you actually scold the emperor? I asked

“Yes, I did.” answered Judge Bao. “I was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor, which gave me the authority to reprimand the incumbent emperor. I was also given three knives to execute criminals: one decorated with a dog's head for commoners, one with a tiger's head for government officials and one with a dragon's head for nobles.”

By now, we had strolled together a long way. There was an eating house in the vicinity.

“Are you hungry?” asked Judge Bao.

I replied “Well!” “I don't mind having lunch”. I could eat a horse, I muttered to myself.

We bought some mouth-watering food. I ordered an appetizing dim sum which had crunchy chicken meat while he ordered noodles that smelled heavenly, with fresh delicious vegetables. Now, like my blotter was stuffed with letters, I was filled with delicious food. Alright, back to the interview.

Judge Bao continued...”the second one is, civet cat exchange for crown prince (the baby). I had met Emperor Renzong's mother, who had fallen out of favor for supposedly giving birth to a civet skinned cat, but the baby had been kidnapped by a rival named Guo, at the command of the jealous Consort Lui and had been replaced with the cat. A maid called Kou was ordered to kill the baby by Guo, however she could not muster the courage and instead gave the baby to the chief who in return secretly took it to the younger brother of the emperor. Eventually, the child was raised by him. Kou was tortured to death by Guo when Liu began to suspect that the infant had survived. Subsequently, with the help of a woman dressed up like Kou's ghost, I dressed up as Yama the God of Hell, to play on both Guo's fear of the supernatural and guilt hereby extracting his confession. When the verdict was out, the emperor was reluctant to accept Consort Li. I then admonished the emperor and ruled that he should be beaten up for lack of piety instead they beat up the emperor's dragon robe. He eventually accepted his mother and elevated her as the new Empress Dowager.”

“The third one is cracking the cattle tongue case... One day a peasant told me that someone had cut off one of his cattle’s tongue. I advised him to kill the bovine and sell it in the market. The peasant hesitated as it was illegal. I reassured him that if he listens to me, I will find the culprit. The peasant butchered the cattle and took it to the market. Shortly, a man came and accused the peasant of killing the cattle in the local court. I immediately arrested the man as it was clear that the wrongdoer wanted to cause grief and was annoyed on seeing the peasant make profit which is why he reported and sued him.”

“Now I know why you are the Sherlock Holmes of China!” I exclaimed.

“You were a very famous judge who had helped solve crime and was considered to be an extremely honest, clever and fair politician. It is also believed you became the immortal Yama of a Department of Hell known as ‘the Infernal Bureaucracy’ at night and worked as a supernatural judge sorting out the affairs of the Afterlife.”

By now the heavens had become murky and black, and it was about time to retreat home. I had one final question.

“Do you have any Hong Kong connections?” “Well, yes, I do,” he replied. “My 29th generation descendant lived there, and his name is Sir Y.K. Pao. He built one of the world’s largest shipping companies called ‘King of The Sea’. His son-in-law Peter currently runs it.” Judge Bao asked me to meet Peter and give him his regards. “Of course,” I said. “It will be my pleasure!”

By now, I had woken up and was elated. This dream made me grateful for being in Hong Kong and appreciate the people who shaped its society. Judge Bao’s narration was very intriguing, it took me a long time to untangle the deep-rooted information, however it was worth being aware of.

I finally had a chronicle from the man himself for my young writers’ award!

Bibliography: Wikipedia, Friday every day, The world of Chinese Beijing tourism, Vibrant Dot, WayBack Machine and Shanghai daily. com.

Brilliant Bao: Well and Lesser-known Stories

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Wang, Chi Yuen – 10

The 5th of March, year 999, 1023 years ago in the far past, was arguably one of the most important days in Chinese legal history of Chinese law. It was the day when Bao Zheng was born.

Historians can not agree on Bao's family origins. According to one version, Bao, the son of a scholar and an official, was born in a middle class family in Hefei, Anhui province. His parents had inspired him with wisdom of ancient sages such as Confucius since he was young. Bao was an exceptional student. In 1027, at the age of 29, he passed the highest-level imperial exam and became a 'Jinshi' or 'presented scholar'. Bao subsequently worked for various government posts, including the Magistrate of Tianchang, the Prefect of Kaifeng and an investigating censor.

Bao Zheng was very brave and outspoken. A report from CGTN described him as an 'upright official who dared to contradict the emperor.' Legend has it that Bao Zheng was once giving a lecture to Emperor Renzong, pointing out how wrong he was to offer a high-profile government position to the uncle of his favorite concubine. The emperor got furious and just wanted to leave the room. But Bao grabbed his clothes and would not let him go until he got his message across.

There are many legendary cases handled by Bao, some of which even appear in our textbook. A case in point is a story known as "Bao Trials a Stone".

One day, Bao was walking down a bustling street. Suddenly, he heard crying and decided to investigate. He then found the source of the noise: a boy next to a random and innocent-looking stone. He asked the boy kindly, 'Why are you crying?' The boy pulled himself together and replied, 'I sell youtiao (Chinese doughnut sticks with lots of oil). Today, I came out here earlier than usual. I saw how low the sun was and decided to take a nap. I put a pile of 100 coins next to me. When I woke up, they disappeared!' The boy broke into tears again.

'Very well, I will find the coin stealer.' Bao said calmly. He was thinking about how to bring the stealer on site and catch him red-handed. Then, as if a lightbulb lit over his head, he got a plan. He yelled, 'It must have been the stone!' Everyone who heard Bao yelling came over to see what was going on. Bao secretly thought, 'My plan is working!' Bao said to the stone, 'Did you steal his money?' Obviously, the stone didn't answer. Bao said again, 'Stone, did you steal the child's money?' The stone still didn't answer. Bao pretended to lose his temper and bellowed, 'If you don't tell the truth, I will crack your head open!' All the people around him laughed. Some even yelled loudly, 'Stones don't know how to talk!' 'Everybody says Bao Zheng is smart. But in reality, he is a stupid official!' Bao roared in anger, 'You are interrupting me interrogating a stone! Everyone must drop one coin into this pit of water!', pointing to the bucket at his feet. With the gaze of Bao Zheng, no one could escape doing the extraordinarily simple task of putting a coin into the bucket.

One person put a coin into the bucket and was just about to leave. But Bao said, 'Aha! The coin stealer! Don't you dare to leave!'

Bao Zheng's rationale works like this. Because youtiao is pretty oily, the boy always has oil on his hands. The coins he handles thus has oil on them. The oil ended up on the hands of the stealer when he exchanged coins with the boy. The stealer was then sent to jail for burglary.

Bao not only knew some science, as portrayed by the above example, but also understood criminal psychology very well. This can be illustrated in the following story. One day, an old farmer rushed to the yamen (government office), reporting that something had been stolen from his house. Bao initiated an investigation and soon found that what was stolen was his cow's tongue!

It is common sense that cows eat by pulling food with their tongue. Without the tongue, a cow can not eat and chew. Moreover, cutting off the tongue will cause oral infection, hastening the cow's death.

Having pondered for a while, Bao asked the old man to kill the cow and sell it in the market. The old man was bewildered by Bao's words, but did so, thinking he would make some money selling beef. He indeed made handsome money.

A few days later, a man appeared in the yamen, accusing the old man for killing and selling the cow. Back in the Song Dynasty, cows were scarce commodities. Therefore, killing or injuring a cow was considered a crime, and anyone who reports the killing would get a reward. However, it was Bao Zheng who privately instructed the old man to kill the cow. In other words, the old man slaughtered the cow with the government approval. Bao approved this because he thought that the real "tongue cutter" would be very jealous of the old man who made a hefty profit out of the dying cow, and reported the case as a revenge. It transpired that the "tongue cutter" did exactly what Bao expected. Bao set a psychological trap, and the criminal took the bait.

In many ways, Bao was a ground-breaking and unprecedented judge. He was intelligent, decisive, and upright. More importantly, he brought justice to underprivileged people. He embodies what Confucius said "Justice to all of the world." This is incredible, given that he lived in a feudal society without a sound and modern legal system. He is a well-deserved "Lord Bao".

It seems like Sherlock Holmes has a lot to learn.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Joseph's Primary School, Chong, Chi Yeung – 11

According to Chinese history, there was once a famous judge called Judge Pao, his full name was Pao Qing Tian, who got thrown out of the house immediately after birth because of his ugly appearance. His sister, a woman who was notoriously known to be spoiled and ruined the child accidentally by doing things that she thought was going to help the child out of kindness who she was currently assigned to take care of without realizing what she had done. This happened to an orphan when Pao Qing Tian's sister found him on the streets and took care of him and ended up being a beggar. Now, people still believe that he is on the streets still begging for money believing that someone would be his savior and get him a home to live in for free. On the other hand, Pao Qing Tian's sister would be perfectly fine as a guardian if she didn't spoil children by accident.

Despite being took care of a woman that would spoil him, Pao Qing Tian still resisted his sister's offers that would make him spoiled because he had a talent of knowing what was right and what was wrong.

As Pao Qing Tian grew up, he went to school like normal children, though some of the students were a bit racist and laughed at Pao Qing Tian's black skin and bullied him, he still learned and made friends perfectly well. Halfway through primary school Pao developed a dislike at people who enjoyed bullying others and people who cheated or did things against the school rules because he knew that students should follow the school's rules if they chose to learn at that school. He also despised teachers who ignored things such as students who fought or cheated when they saw it because he knew that teachers should also be aware of student's actions and punish them if it was against the school rules other than teaching

When Pao Qing Tian was eleven, he suddenly thought to himself "Maybe I should study law and become a judge, so that I can clean China of corruption and crime and right all the wrongs that people have made." Though Pao Qing Tian wanted to be a judge as soon as possible, he still knew that he needed enough knowledge before he could go to law school so he decided to finish school before going to law school. After seven years when Pao Qing Tian was eighteen and finished secondary school, he immediately asked people in his town where was the nearest law school, and found out that the nearest law school, was 200 miles away and Pao Qing Tian had to ride on horseback and in ships to get there and it took him two months to get there.

After Pao Qing Tian arrived at the law school, he trotted lightly up the stairs to the principal's office, and greeted him. When the principal saw him, he said "Who are you, young man, I do not remember you being in my school, why are you here?" Pao Qing Tian replied "Sir, I come from a humble home and I am here to ask of the way of how to apply for this law school." The principal said "Very well, you are in luck, there is currently one space for one more student to join. Also, the waiting list is empty, so I suppose you could just take the examination test right now and get interviewed by me (all the teachers were teaching), to see if you are worthy to be in the school. That is, if you really want to join." Pao Qing Tian was elated and instantly said "I really want to join this law school, so I am willing to take the admissions test immediately. Fortunately enough for Pao Qing Tian, the admissions test only questioned basic laws like no killing other citizens, no stealing (pick-pocketing, shoplifting, burglary...), no blackmailing, all those random stuff that everybody knew about. Pao Qing Tian, knowing the basics, got into the law school easily.

In Pao Qing Tian's law education, he excelled at everything and was excellent at reasoning, citing sentences in laws and also public speaking, in order to prove that it was right to do something in court when he became judge. During Pao Qing Tian's law education, he revised for a long time for exams and through hard work, so he got perfect grades and got praised by his teachers from time to time at school.

A few years later, Pao Qing Tian graduated and got the title Judge Pao. He was widely known for his former success in law school. His first trial was a guy called Mike Whoppee who robbed another woman of her valuables in the middle of the night. In the middle of the trial, Mike silently took a knife out of a pocket and tried to fling it at someone, but before he knew it, he was held tightly and brought back to jail until he could see more sense than just trying to kill police, so the whole thing was declared as a mistrial. A few days later, Mike was accused for attacking police and thievery and he was imprisoned for 5 years for attempting to assault the police and stealing.

Some legends say that at night, Judge Pao works for the underworld in Chinese religions as judge, but I am definitely not buying that, since Judge Pao is definitely a human who is normal, just like us.

In Judge Pao's life, he had thousands more famous trials that he did, and all of China wept when Judge Pao died because he did so much for China during his day.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Cheung, Nga Ting Annette – 10

Vincent van Gogh once wrote in 1889 that he never got tired of the blue sky. When we look up at the clear and blue sky, its peace and calmness entitle it to be a byword for justice and moral integrity. There is a judge, Bao Zheng (包拯) (999–1062 A.D.), who wins the acclaim from the general public since Northern Sung Dynasty (960–1127 A.D.) and is popularly symbolised as Clear–Sky Bao (Bao Qingtian 包青天). What kind of good qualities would endear Judge Bao to Chinese for over thousands of years? Let's explore why and how the legendary Judge Bao is remembered for his integrity over the centuries.

Judge Bao's name was Bao Zheng (包拯), also Bao Gong (包公), Bao Longtu (包龍圖) after his appointment by the Emperor as Longtuge Daxueshi, etc. He was born in an official and well-educated family from Luzhou, China. Besides being an astute judge at Kaifeng in Henan Province, China, Judge Bao served in the civil service for around a quarter of a century and was promoted to high-ranking posts, including but not limited to Kaifeng Prefecture, the Treasury and the Military Affairs. He repeatedly pleaded to Emperor Renzong (reign: 1022–1063 A.D.) to be compassionate for the public's sufferings and stop making endless exorbitant demands on the common people. He is impartial and fearless of any privileged and powerful political figures or officials and the closest relatives of the Emperor and fought against all illegal actions by punishing wrongdoers from all walks of life. One famous example of Judge Bao's exemplification of judicial independence is his impeachment of Zhang Yaozuo, an uncle of the Emperor's concubine. Judge Bao is also famous for his incorruptibility and does not allow any of his descendants who commits bribery to return home or be buried in the family burial site. Upon his death, the Emperor gave him the honorary rank of Minister of Rites and the posthumous title of Filial and Reverent Dukes. The full confidence and the backing of the Emperor and other highest officials are prerequisite for his successful implementation of rule of law in the complex bureaucracy of the imperial China.

As Judge Bao becomes famous, tales spread of his miraculous powers of detection and become fictional. In the stories, Judge Bao is portrayed in a special image – he has a dark iron-colored complexion, which in Chinese drama, Xiqu, symbolises justice, incorruptibility and impartiality. The crescent moon mark on his forehead “added” by dramas since Ming and Qing Dynasties points to the hope and brightness brought by him. Some stories even state that Judge Bao investigates both the worldly cases for human beings in the daytime and the spiritual cases in the underworld for the dead people in the nighttime. Why is the history connected with the legend which turns him into a “half-man–half-mythological” hero?

First, one needs to understand various traditional Chinese values in Judge Bao's legend. The supernatural intervention in his cases reflects the root of the Chinese emphasis on criminal justice, namely, morality's ties to their cosmology. Since the Spring and Autumn period (771–476 B.C.), Confucianism, one of the dominant academic and political beliefs, indicates that every element of universe is interconnected with each other and human society and human life are parts of the entire universe with a moral principle operating to balance and maintain harmony. Justice can therefore be naturally restored by good morality and supernatural intervention, etc. Next, Confucianism emphasizes its key idea of “filial piety”, taking form of obedience to parental authority, ancestor worship and the devotion to family which help to strengthen the surrounding society and unite the empire. Later in Sung Dynasty, the state supports Neo–Confucianism to revive the ancient Confucian doctrines and emphasizes morality for the whole empire.

Further, the interplays among the above Chinese values, literatures like chantefables, novels, theatre plays, illustrations and other art pieces since Sung Dynasty featuring Judge Bao and the faith from common Chinese general public make the unique contributions to the growing imagery and historical legend. One of the early written literatures, a set of widely performed ballad–stories for narrating and singing (namely, shuochang cihua which the performers tell the Judge Bao stories through an alteration of spoken prose and chanted verse), was printed in Ming Dynasty (1465–1487). Another edition “Bao Longtu adjudicates on Hundred Court Cases” (1594) inspired other storytellers and dramatists. In around 1879, Shi Yukun's novel, “The Three Hero and Five Gallants”, compiled and dispersed his stories into a more coherent narrative. The traditional opera is unarguably a good medium for the wider illiterate public to learn about the court cases.

One of the famous tales in Mr. Shi's novel which embraced the above enrichments was the exchange of civet cat for baby prince. In this tale, a jealous emperor's concubine secretly swapped the infant Emperor Renzong with a civet cat and alleged Emperor Renzong's mother to give birth to such animal. At the request of the exiled mothers after decades, Judge Bao found the truth with the help of a dead royal servant's spirit and got confessions from all wrongdoers. Yet, Emperor Renzong was reluctant to accept her as his mother. Judge Bao ordered to beat his dragon gown, instead of Emperor Renzong, for lack of filial piety. This famous new scene of beating dragon gown is added by subsequent Beijing opera plays about Judge Bao which resemble Mr Shi's novel.

Nowadays, many Asian and foreign people recognise Judge Bao as a justice icon and Baogong Park and temples are established in Asian countries for worship and tourism. Besides dramas, vernacular fictions, modern and foreign movies and television series, [the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies founded by the](#) Harvard-Yenching Institute has Judge Bao's cases reconstructed. Judge Bao preserves the priceless Chinese values and the public faith on impartiality, fairness and incorruptibility should be well preserved throughout the world.



Creative Writing
Non-Fiction

Group 2

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Lo, Yuet Ching – 9

A long time ago, there was a man who lived in China called Pao. He was born in the Song Dynasty on March 5, 999 years ago. He is a judge. His face is black. There was a moon shape on his head. Do you know why his head had a moon and he had a black face? Let's see his story...

When Pao was born, everyone knew he was born perfectly. They were over the moon. In addition, his mother's health was unaffected. He cried, and he cried very loud. He didn't have a moon shape on his head, and his face was not black. After Pao was born, they had a party for him.

When Pao went to school, he was a brilliant student. Every time he took an exam, he got good marks. His parents and cousin were all proud of him. He was pleased, but not arrogant. He did better than before in his exam. Also, his conduct was good. His teacher always praises him. He was a monitor when he was in school.

When he was 29 years old, he could be a judge, but he needed to go home, which was far away, so his parents were worried about him. His dad said, "It's too far. We'll be concerned about you. He didn't do the judge when he heard that because he wanted to stay at home and care for his elderly parents. Everyone said he was very filial.

When his parents died, he went to the place for his work. At that time, everyone admired him because he was fair, just, and unselfish; everyone called him Judge Pao. He was extremely famous. He worked very hard and was fair. Every bad guy feared him because they assumed Judge Pao would need them in prison.

He had one wife before, but after they got married and his wife died, they didn't have any daughters or sons. He then married another woman. He and the woman had two daughters and a son. They lived happily.

One time, there was a blaze on the street. Everyone went to get water to help put out the fire. There were two ways to get the water. One of the waters was sweet, called "sweet water street," and the other was bitter, called "bitter water street. Then a man said, "Which one can we choose, the bitter or the sweet?" The other man said, "Let's choose the bitter one." Then all the people went to the bitter water to get it, but there were too many people, so they couldn't get it. Judge Pao caught the man who had chatted before because he knew they wanted the fire to get bigger, so they chatted for a few times. At the same time they were chatting, the fire would get bigger and bigger. Then Judge Pao called for half the people to go to "sweet water street" to get the sweet water, and the other half to go to "bitter water street" to get the bitter water. At the end, the blaze was not there. All the people were thankful for Judge Pao.

When Judge Pao saw an old woman crying loudly one day, he asked her what had happened. She answered, "There are people who grabbed my cow." Judge Pao caught the man who grabbed the woman's cow. He recognized the man as his uncle, but he also adjudicated. After a long time, his uncle also said, "The cow wasn't mine to grab," so Judge Pao found the people who saw his uncle grab the cow. At the end, his uncle needed to go to prison, and then his uncle said, "I am your uncle. I don't want to go there, please. "I won't do that anymore, please." But Judge Pao didn't let him go, and then his uncle went to prison. After the judgment, everyone said he was fair.

One Sunday, Judge Pao saw a boy who sold the fritters crying. He asked, "Why are you crying?" The boy said, "I can't find my money." Then Judge Pao needed the people to throw one dollar in the water. After a long time, he knew who stole the boy's money because, when the money was thrown into the water, there were some oil bubbles in the water. Then the thief shouted, "Sorry, I stole the money." The thief gave the money back to the boy, and the boy forgave the thief, but the thief also needed to go into prison.

In 1062, on the third of July, Judge Pao was sixty-three years old; at that time, he died in the Legend of Kaifeng. When the people knew that Judge Pao had died, they were very sad; somebody cried loudly all day because he kept the place peaceful. There was disharmony in the ancient world, but he kept the Song Dynasty harmonious. Everyone thanks him for maintaining the Song Dynasty's peace.

Now, people say the black face and the moon shape on Judge Pao's head mean he is fair, just, and unselfish. Many writers will talk about him. Let's know more of Judge Pao's story. You can watch the movie on TV or read about it in a book. Also, some people made a Pao Qingtian Temple of him because they think that Judge Pao is a god. You can find the Pao Qingtian Temple in Macao and Wan Chai. There were some people who made statues of Judge Pao, too. In the three examples, you can see that Judge Pao is a fair, smart, just, and unselfish judge. He has an alias called Pao Zheng. In China, there is a park to commemorate Judge Pao. He is many people's super star. He is now well known as well. If you don't know who he is, you should know that he is a famous judge. Judge Pao is an iconic figure in Chinese culture and is renowned for his strict and impartial judgments, which have won him both respect and admiration from the Chinese public.

A Symbol of Justice

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Judge Pao was a celebrated figure of uprightness and justice in ancient China. Although he passed away long time ago, he is still very well-known for his highly developed moral sense and pursuit for legal equity for commoners nowadays.

Judge Pao's real name is Pao Zheng. As a result of his respectable personality and contributions to society, people called him Pao Gong (equivalent to Lord Pao in English) and Pao Qing Tian ("Qing Tian" meaning a clear sky, a metaphor for describing his uncorrupt quality).

Pao Zheng was born in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou, China (currently known as Feidong County near Hefei, Anhui, China). His parents had high expectations for him. Therefore, he began to learn to read when he was five. He did well at school. Consequently, at the comparatively young age of 29, he was qualified as a Jinshi, the highest rank of imperial scholars.

You may ask, was he ready to start his work in the government? This is what we might expect, but it did not happen. His parents were old and were struggling to look after themselves, so he postponed his ambitions to take care of them, which he did until he reached his late thirties.

Fortunately, his career did not seem to suffer since people in China respected young ones who sacrificed years of work to look after their parents. After mourning for his parents after their deaths, he was accepted into the government and became a high-ranking official during the reign of Emperor Ren Zong in the Song Dynasty and began his career as a judge.

One day, the country was hit with huge floods. When the water finally receded, the grateful emperor decided to express his gratitude to the gods by granting a general amnesty for all criminals and promoting all civil and military officials.

Judge Pao objected to the plan. Justice was too important to be set aside in this way, he told the emperor. Acts of criminality should lead to punishment. Bringing justice to society should be the only way to rise in a government.

The emperor followed his advice. Despite the fact that he lived in a culture where thoughts expressed too candidly to people in power could lead to disaster, he spoke his mind.

Judge Pao also demonstrated his fairness in a number of cases that he solved. Once, his uncle broke the law and was sued by the victim. He summoned his uncle to court and punished him by beating him 100 times with a stick. He even impeached Prime Minister Song Xiang, an uncle of the emperor's favourite concubine and other powerful people. Unfortunately, he died at the age 63.

There is also an interesting question about Judge Pao. Why does he have a crescent on his forehead? It is said that the crescent symbolizes his unique talent for investigating crime in the underworld at night. Without the crescent, this talent would be gone. This mark was formed in his mother's womb.

Judge Pao is a symbol of justice in China nowadays. Many people take him as the prototype for many wonderful stories in various genres of ballads, novels, cartoons, operas, movies and TV dramas. Some of the most popular portrayals of him can be found in the novel "Seven Heroes and Five Gallants". The novel first appeared in the 1880s. In it, he was assisted by a team of heroes who used their great fighting skills to arrest criminals and corrupt officials, seeking justice without hesitation or fear.