

The Legend of the Three Trees

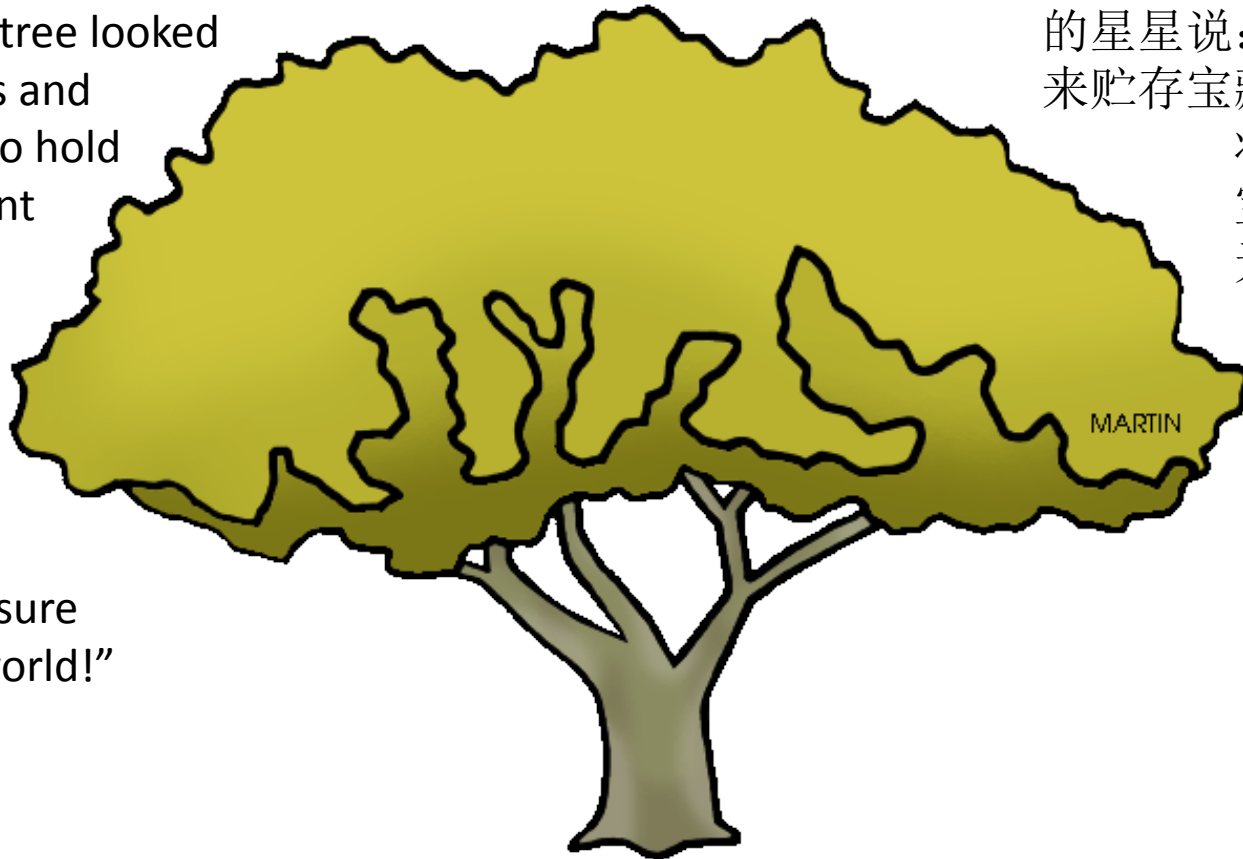
三棵小树的传说

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

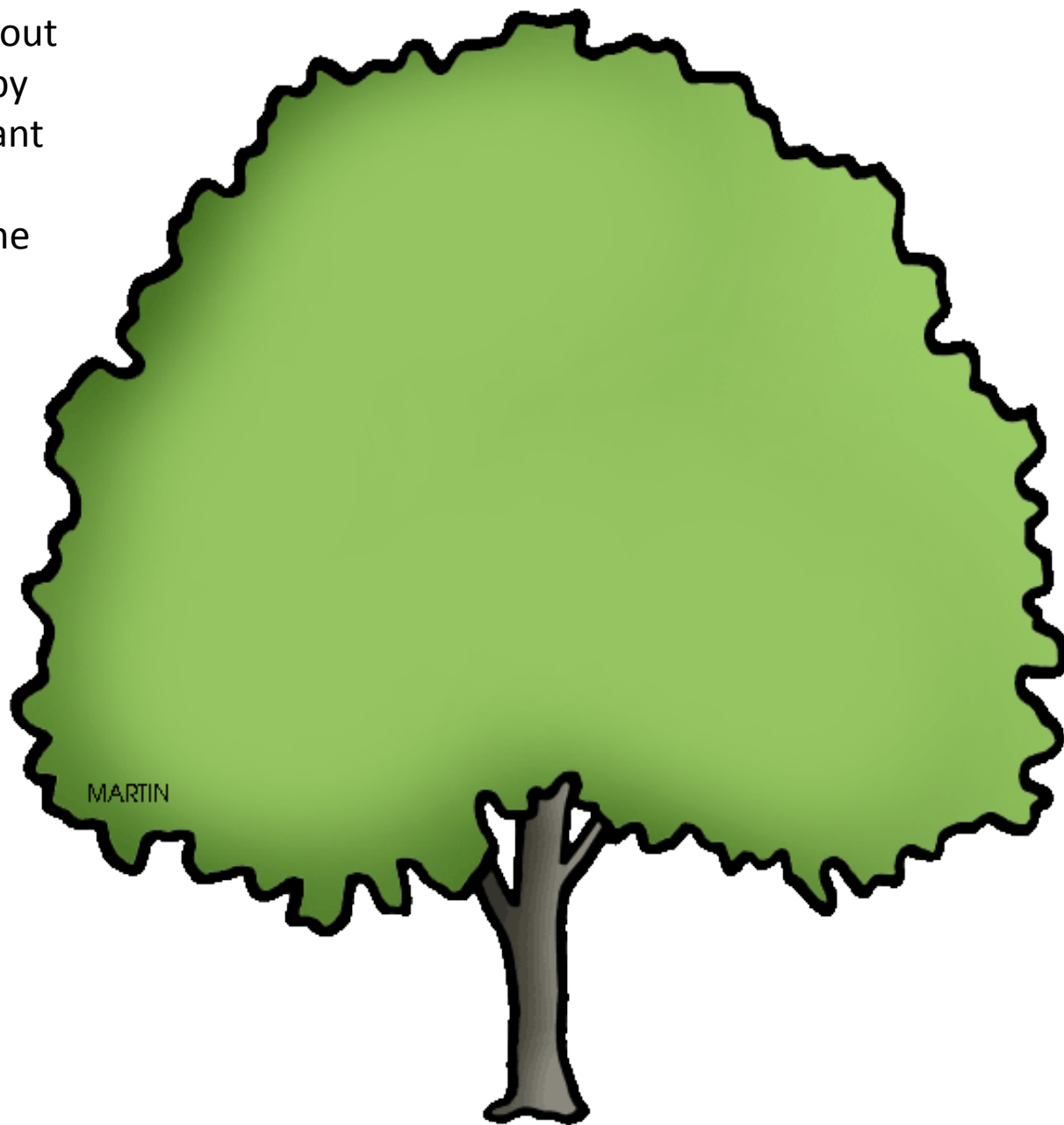
从前，一个山顶上站立着三棵小树，他们在梦想着将来成材之后的样子。

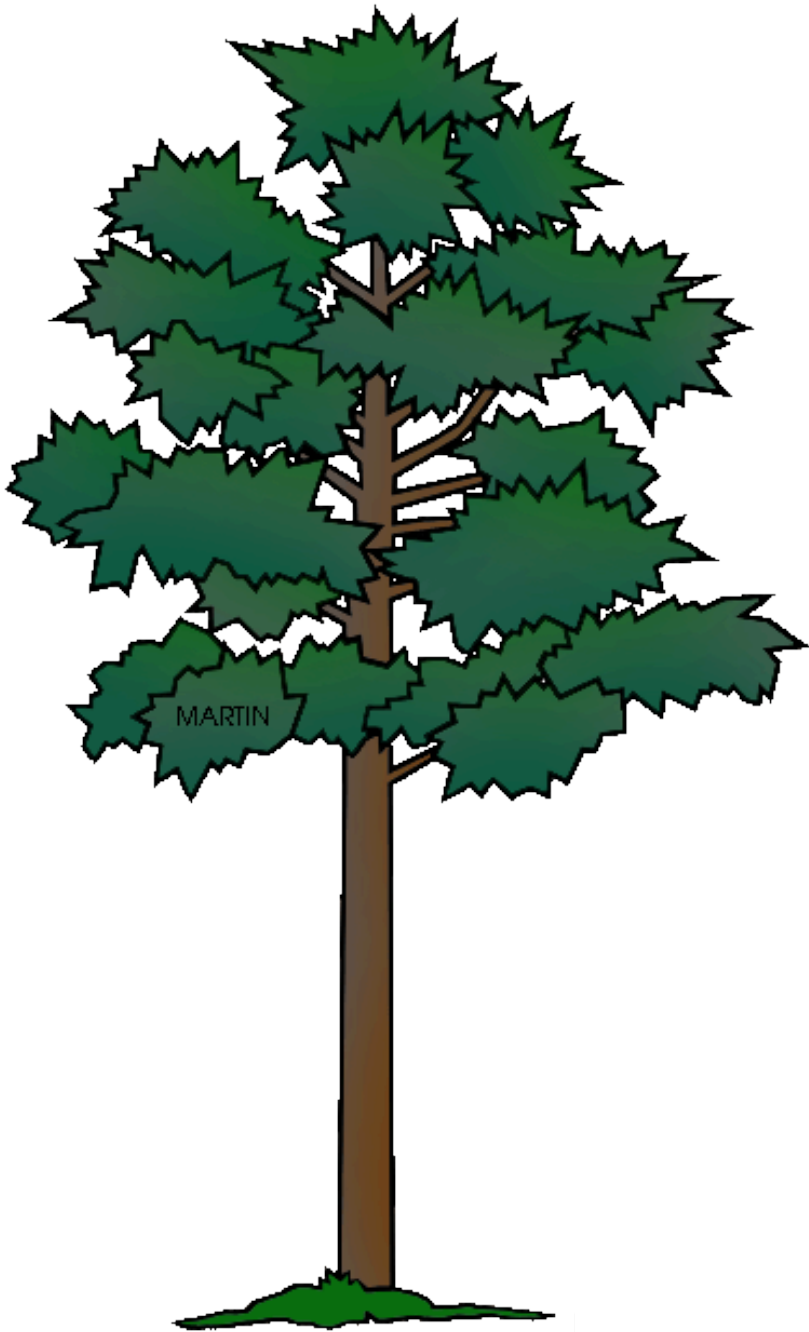
第一棵小树仰望着天上的星星说：“我要被用来贮存宝藏。在我里面将装满黄金和宝石。我会是天下最美的宝藏箱！”



The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

第二棵小树看着一条小溪潺潺地流入了大海。它说：“我要装载着伟大的国王，旅游在雄伟的海洋里。我会是世界上最坚固的大船！”





The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountaintop at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to Heaven. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

第三棵小树向山谷下面看去，它看到了人们正在市区里忙碌地工作着。“我一点都不想离开山顶。我要长得高大健壮，当人们停下来看我的时候，他们就会放眼仰望天堂。我会是世上最高大的树木。”

One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell.

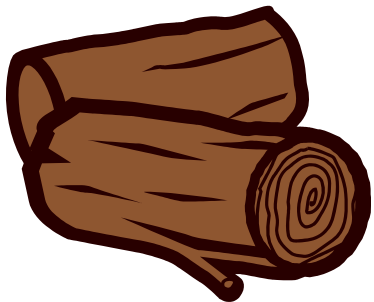
The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell.

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight, tall, and pointed bravely to Heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

有一天，三位伐木工人登上了山顶。当第一位伐木工人看到第一棵树时，他说：“这棵树太美了，正好适合我用。”于是，他高举斧头将它砍了下来。

当第二位伐木工人看到第二棵树时，他说：“这棵树非常强壮，正好适合我用。”于是，他高举斧头将它砍了下来。

最后的一位伐木工人看到了第三棵树。它的心沉了下去。它站得又直又高，勇敢的指向天堂。但是，伐木工人根本就没有往上看。“任何一棵树对我来说都可以用。”他喃喃自语地说着，并高举斧头将树砍了下来。



The carpenter fashioned the first tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, or with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail an ocean, or even a river. Instead she was taken to a lake.

木匠却第一棵树制成了饲养动物用的牧草箱。这棵曾经非常漂亮的树木，里面盛放的却不是黄金或宝藏；它被锯末覆盖着，用来盛放喂养动物的草料。

第二棵树却被制成了一只简单的小渔船。它是那么地微弱，简直无法在大海、甚至是河流上航行；因此，它便被放到了湖里。



The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. “What happened?” the once tall tree wondered. “All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountaintop and point to Heaven. ...”

当伐木工人把第三棵树砍成了横梁，放进了堆置木材的料场时，它觉得非常地困惑。“这到底是怎么回事呢？”这棵曾一时高大得令人惊叹的树木说：“我只要要求能留在山顶上，高耸地站立着指向天堂...”





One night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. “I wish I could make a cradle for him” her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood.

“This manger is beautiful,” she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

但一天晚上，当金黄闪烁的星光照在了第一棵树上的时候，一位年轻的女子将她的新生儿放进了牧草箱里。“但愿我能为他做个摇篮来睡！”她的丈夫轻声地说着。婴儿的母亲紧握着他的手微笑着，夜晚的星光也明亮地照射在平滑坚固的木头上。

“这马槽真是太美了！”她说。这时，第一棵树才突然地觉醒到：它正在抱着全天下最伟大的宝藏。



One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree sailed out into the lake. Soon a storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely in the wind and the rain. The tired man woke up. He stretched out His hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of Heaven and Earth.

后来，在一天傍晚，有一位疲累的旅行者和他的朋友们一起拥进了一只旧渔船。当第二棵树平静地在湖里行驶的时候，那位旅行者便在船里睡着了。不久，天气开始变得雷雨交加，船儿在恐惧之下颤抖了起来。它知道：在装载这么多乘客的情况下，它是没有足够的力量来安全地渡过暴风雨的。就在那时，这位疲累的旅行者醒过来了。他站立起来，挥手说道：“平静下来！”于是，暴风雨就马上停止了！突然间，第二棵树才了解到：它正在装载着那掌管天堂和大地的伟大君王。

One Friday morning the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly, harsh, and cruel. But three days later, Jesus rose from the dead and the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

过了一些日子，在一个星期五的早晨，第三棵树被吓了一跳：因为，有人把它从那被人遗忘了的木料堆里拉了出来。它胆怯地被人扛着，穿过了一群嘲讽和愤怒群众。后来，它又颤抖着任凭士兵们将一个人的双手钉在了它的上面。它感到了恶心、粗暴和冷酷。但是，三天过后，耶稣从死里复活和第三棵树才明白：上帝的爱已改变了一切！这使得第三棵树变得非常地强壮。之后，每当人们想起了第三棵树的时候，他们就会联想到上帝。这要比成为世上最高大的树木还好很多呢！



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