

圣诞之星

The Christmas Star

Mexican legend has it that in the 16th century, a young peasant child named Maria was distraught one Christmas Eve, as she had no gift to lay before the altar of the baby Jesus in her local village church. As she walked to the chapel, saddened that her poverty prevented her from making even the smallest offering, her young cousin encouraged her that whatever she gave from her heart, no matter how humble, would be received by Jesus if it was offered in love.

在墨西哥的传说中，十六世纪的一个平安夜，一个名叫玛丽雅的农民家孩子忧心如焚，因为她没有礼物能放在村里教堂的耶稣圣像前。去往教堂的路上，想到贫穷使她无法献上哪怕一份小小的礼物，她心里很难过。而她的表亲鼓励她，只要她发自内心、凭着爱献上，哪怕礼物再卑微，也能为耶稣接受。





Encouraged by this thought, Maria raced around the chapel, collecting weeds and lacing them together in a small bouquet. It wasn't much, she knew, but she prayed that her gift would convey all that she carried in her heart.

受这番鼓励，玛丽雅在教堂四周跑来跑去，采集各种野草，把它们捆成一个小花束。这不多，她知道，但她祈祷自己的礼物能全然地代表自己的心意，虽然它很卑微。

As she walked to the altar to present her offering, she was scolded by some people who questioned the appropriateness of presenting a gift of weeds to the Holy Child. Determined nonetheless to offer her little bouquet, Maria walked boldly to the front of the church, knelt, and laid her bouquet by the nativity scene.

当她朝着圣坛走去，准备献上礼物时，有人责备她，他们质疑将野草献给圣婴耶稣是否合宜。玛丽雅决意不论如何也要献上自己的小花束，她勇敢地朝教堂前方走去，屈膝跪下，将花束放在圣婴诞生情景前方。



According to the legend, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and all the parishioners in attendance proclaimed that they had seen a Christmas miracle. Because of this, and the fact that it blooms around Christmas, the poinsettia became known in Mexico as "flor de Noche Buena," or "Christmas Eve flower."

传说那一刻，鲜红的花朵从野草中怒放，所有在场的教区居民们都宣称他们看到了圣诞奇迹。因此，也因为一品红开在圣诞期间，这种植物就在墨西哥当地被称作“平安夜之花”。



Let us always remember that God can transform even our humblest efforts into flaming flowers that proclaim His love.

让我们永远记住，上帝甚至可以将我们最卑微的努力，转变成火焰般的花朵，以宣告他的爱。

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