

## Story 13: The Pear Story



Story shared by: *Xiang Lu*

Representing: *Chinese in Groningen*

### The Story:

When Kong Rong was a little boy, he lived with his large family, being the youngest of his siblings. One day, his parents placed a plate of pears on the table, all of different sizes—some large, some small. Like any child, most would think the biggest pear was the best, and naturally, you'd expect the kids to reach for the largest one. But when it was Kong Rong's turn to pick, he didn't do what everyone expected.

Instead of grabbing the biggest pear, Kong Rong chose the smallest one. His parents, curious about his choice, asked him why he had picked the smallest pear when he could have had any one he wanted.

Kong Rong, in his youthful wisdom, replied, "I am the youngest, so I should take the smallest. The biggest pears should go to my older brothers and sisters."

His parents smiled, impressed by his thoughtfulness. Kong Rong's action showed respect for his siblings and demonstrated that he wasn't greedy. It became a story told over generations, known as Kong Rong Rang Li, used to teach children about kindness, selflessness, and respect for family.

Over time, the story found its way into countless families, passed down from one generation to the next. But as times changed, some began to see the story differently. In modern times, especially in the West, some people might wonder: why should the youngest always take the smallest pear just because he's younger? Kong Rong had the first choice, so why shouldn't he take the biggest one if he wanted to?

The story raises questions about fairness, about how much we should prioritize others over ourselves, and whether the values it teaches still hold the same meaning today. But no matter how it's viewed, the story of Kong Rong and the pears remains a cherished lesson in kindness and thoughtfulness, one that has shaped the way many children learn to respect those around them.

**Story Moral:** *It is best to know one's role and be humble towards one's seniors*





<https://digifolk.eu/>