

Story 6: Dragon Boat



Story shared by: *Jerry*

Representing: *Chinese in Groningen*

The Story:

Long ago, in ancient China, there was a man named Qu Yuan, a famous poet and statesman who served the kingdom of Chu. He was deeply loyal to his country, always striving to protect it. But not everyone in power shared his vision. Some of the officials were jealous of him and, through deceit, managed to have him exiled from his homeland.

Qu Yuan was heartbroken. He loved Chu dearly and could only watch as it slowly fell into ruin, powerless to help. In his sorrow, he poured his heart into poems, expressing his frustration and despair. As the situation grew worse, the weight of his helplessness became too much to bear. In the end, Qu Yuan chose to end his life, throwing himself into the Miluo River.

The people of Chu admired Qu Yuan and were devastated by his loss. Fearing that the fish would devour his body, the local fishermen leapt into their boats and raced across the river, searching for him. To protect him, they tossed Zongzi—sticky rice wrapped in bamboo leaves—into the water, hoping to distract the fish and keep his body safe.

That is why, to this day, during the Dragon Boat Festival, people eat Zongzi. It's to remember that moment, when the people tried to save Qu Yuan. The dragon boat races we see each year also come from those fishermen, who paddled furiously across the river in search of him. Through these traditions, Qu Yuan's loyalty and dedication to his country are honored, even though his story ended in tragedy. Every year, the boats race, and Zongzi is eaten, keeping his memory alive.

Story Moral: *Remembrance*



