

# 18. 薪火相传



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星期日

晴

zhè tiān lái dào tàn chǎng      qià qiǎo kàn dào bà ba gāng cóng zhǎo zé lín zài chū yì chuán de hóng shù  
这天来到炭厂，恰巧看到爸爸刚从沼泽林载出一船的红树  
tóng      jí jiāng kào àn de shí hòu      bà ba xī miè yǐn qīng      gǎi yòng chuán jiǎng      huǎn huǎn de kào àn  
桐。即将靠岸的时候，爸爸熄灭引擎，改用船桨，缓缓地靠岸。

jiē zhe      gōng rén jiù lù xù bǎ hóng shù tóng bān shàng àn      wǒ yuán yǐ wéi zhè xiē tǐ lì huó ér  
接着，工人就陆续把红树桐搬上岸。我原以为这些体力活儿  
zhǐ yǒu nán rén zài zuò      què wàng jiàn yì pī nǚ yuán gōng ná qǐ gōng jù      shú liàn de xiāo diào shù tóng de  
只有男人在做，却望见一批女员工拿起工具，熟练地削掉树桐的  
wài pí      lìng yī xiē gōng rén zé bǎ yǐ xiāo hǎo shù pí de shù tóng bān dào yòng hóng zhuāng hé huáng ní qī  
外皮；另一些工人则把已削好树皮的树桐搬到用红砖和黄泥砌  
chéng de tàn yáo qián  
成的炭窑前。

bú yì huì er      bà ba hé gōng rén zài yáo lǐ yòng hóng zhuāng wéi diàn      jiāng qù pí de shù tóng yì  
不一会儿，爸爸和工人在窑里用红砖为垫，将去皮的树桐一  
gēn jiē yì gēn zhěng qí dì pái fàng zài hóng zhuāng shàng      wǒ jiàn zhuàng xiǎng yī yàng huà hú lu      biàn shì tú  
根接一根整齐地排放在红砖上。我见状想依样画葫芦，便试图  
bǎ yáo wài de shù tóng káng jìn yáo lǐ      shū bù zhī      tā men què xiàng zhā le gēn sì de      yì dòng yě  
把窑外的树桐扛进窑里。殊不知，它们却像扎了根似的，一动也  
bú dòng      bà ba hé gōng rén zhè xiāng què shì sān liǎng xià gōng fū jiù bǎ shù tóng ná qǐ      zhěng qí dì pái  
不动，爸爸和工人这厢却是三两下功夫就把树桐拿起，整齐地排  
liè zài tàn yáo nèi  
列在炭窑内。

## Passing the torch

When I came to the charcoal factory today, I happened to see my father fetched a boat-load of mangrove wood from the swamp bushes. When the boat was about to reach the shore, Dad turned off the **engine**, switched to paddles, and slowly docked.

Then, the workers transported the mangrove wood ashore one after another. I thought that these manual jobs were only done by men, but I saw a group of female employees using tools to **skilfully** peel off the outer bark of the trees; other workers carried the cleaned wood to the charcoal kiln made of red bricks and yellow clay.

After a while, Dad and the workers used red bricks as a padding layer in the kiln. They neatly arranged the peeled wood on the red bricks one by one. Seeing this, I wanted to **imitate** them, so I tried carrying the wood into the kiln. To my surprise, the wood seemed to be rooted in the ground and could not be moved at all, but father and the workers took the wood without much effort and arranged them neatly in the charcoal kiln.

bà ba máng le yí zhèn zhǔn bèi gěi tàn yáo diǎn huǒ shí fā xiàn wǒ dāi zhàn zài nà lǐ tā  
 爸爸忙了一阵，准备给炭窑点火时，发现我呆站在那里，他  
 biàn yì biān diǎn huǒ yì biān gào sù wǒ huǒ yí diǎn rán chái huǒ jiù bì xū quán tiān hòu shāo zhe měi  
 便一边点火，一边告诉我，火一点燃，柴火就必须全天候烧着。每  
 yī zhì liǎng gè xiǎo shí jiù yào tiān yí cì chái bàn yè yě bì xū rú cǐ wù bì què bǎo tàn yáo lí de  
 一至两个小时就要添一次柴，半夜也必须如此，**务必**确保炭窑里的  
 měi yī gēn shù tóng dōu bèi xūn kǎo chéng mù tàn zài zhì tàn de guò chéng zhōng tàn yáo de huǒ hòu zhì guān  
 每一根树桐都被熏烤成木炭。在制炭的过程中，炭窑的火候至关  
 zhòng yào huǒ hòu jiāng yǐng xiǎng mù tàn de pǐn zhì ruò huǒ hòu bù zú shù tóng jiù méi bàn fǎ chéng  
 重要，火候将影响木炭的品质。若火候不足，树桐就没办法成  
 tàn wēn dù guò gāo huì bǎ tàn yáo lí tóu de shù tóng tàn huà chéng bái huī qián gōng jìn qì yīn  
 炭；温度过高，会把炭窑里头的树桐炭化成白灰，前功尽弃。因  
 cǐ bà ba yǒu shí huì zài chǎng lǐ áo yè kān shǒu yào huǒ yǒu shí zé ràng gōng rén tōng xiāo kàn gù  
 此，爸爸有时会在厂里熬夜看守窑火，有时则让工人**通宵**看顾。  
 bà ba chī guò wǔ cān hòu biàn dào mào yān de tàn yáo páng jiǎn chá èr shí tiān qián yǐ kāi shǐ  
 爸爸吃过午餐后，便到冒烟的炭窑旁，检查二十天前已开始  
 xūn kǎo de mù tàn qíng kuàng jīng yàn lǎo dào de bà ba hé shī fu cóng guān chá tàn yáo biān mào chū lái  
 熏烤的木炭情况。经验老到的爸爸和师傅，从观察炭窑边冒出来  
 de yān jiù néng pàn duàn lǐ miàn de shù tóng chéng bù chéng tàn néng chéng tàn de yáo tā men biàn jìn  
 的烟，就能判断里面的树桐成不成炭。能成炭的窑，他们便进  
 xíng fēng yáo xūn mù de bù zhòu jiē zhe bà ba hé shī fu zài dào tàn chǎng de lìng yì biān jiǎn chá yǐ  
 行封窑熏木的步骤。接着，爸爸和师傅再到炭厂的另一边检查已  
 kǎo shú de tàn zhǔn bèi kāi yáo  
 “烤熟”的炭，准备开窑。

Dad was busy for a while, and when he was about to light the charcoal kiln, he found me standing aside staring blankly. While he lighted the fire, he told me that once the fire is lit, the firewood must burn all day long. It is necessary to add firewood every one to two hours, even in the middle of the night, they **must** make sure that every log in the charcoal kiln is smoked and roasted into charcoal. As part of the process of making charcoal, the heat of the charcoal kiln is very important, and the heat will affect the quality of charcoal. If the heat is not high enough, the wood will not be able to turn into charcoal; if the temperature is too high, the wood in the charcoal kiln will be charred into white ash, and all previous efforts will be wasted. Therefore, my father would sometimes stay up late in the factory to watch over the fire, and sometimes let the workers watch over **the whole night**.

After Dad had lunch, he went to the smoking kiln to check the condition of the charcoal that had been smoked twenty days ago. My experienced father and other experts can tell whether the wood inside are successfully turned into charcoal by observing the smoke coming out of the charcoal kiln. For kilns that succeeded in making charcoal, they will carry out the steps of sealing the kiln to bake the wood. Then, Dad and the experts went to the other side of the charcoal factory to check the "baked" charcoal and prepare to start the unsealed the kiln.

wǒ zé bèi huàndào lìng yí zuò yǐ lěng què de tàn yáo jiāng lǐ tóu de mù tàn bān chū lái sòng  
我则被唤到另一座已冷却的炭窑，将里头的木炭搬出来，送  
dào bāo zhuāng bù zài nà lǐ wǒ bǎ yòng chēng chēng hǎo de mù tàn zhěng qí dì pái jìn bāo zhuāng dài  
到包装部。在那里，我把用秤称好的木炭整齐地排进包装袋，  
zài jiāo yóu gōng rén bǎ dài zi lēi jǐn bǎng hǎo zuì hòu děng sòng mù tàn de kǎ chē qián lái yùn zǒu  
再交由工人把袋子勒紧绑好。最后，等送木炭的卡车前来运走。  
zhěng gè fán suǒ de zhì tàn guò chéng dào cǐ zǒng suàn dà gōng gào chéng cǐ shí wǒ bù jīn àn zì dà  
整个繁琐的制炭过程到此总算大功告成。此时，我不禁暗自大  
hū zhōng yú kě yǐ xiū xi le  
呼：终于可以休息了！

jīng guò zhè yì tiān wǒ tǐ yàn dào tàn yáo gōng rén de gōng zuò zhēn shì shí zú de tǐ lì huó ér  
经过这一天，我体验到炭窑工人的工作真是十足的体力活儿  
ā bù jǐn xū bǎ chén diàn diàn de shù tóng bān jìn bān chū nài dé le mēn rè de tàn yáo hái dé jīng  
啊！不仅须把沉甸甸的树桐搬进搬出、耐得了闷热的炭窑，还得经  
dé zhù áo yè kàn gù yáo huǒ zhēn shì shǎo diǎn er tǐ lì dōu ràng rén chī bù xiāo ā  
得住熬夜看顾窑火，真是少点儿体力都让人吃不消啊！

wǒ yīn wéi jīn tiān chōng dāng le xiǎo gēn bān zhōng yú nòng míng bái tàn shí jì shàng shì yǐ gāo wēn  
我因为今天充当了小跟班，终于弄明白炭实际上是以高温  
yòu xūn yòu hōng zhì chéng ér fēi shāo chū lái de yóu qí zhì zuò hóng shù mù tàn yào hěn yǒu céng cì  
又熏又烘制成，而非烧出来的。尤其制作红树木炭，要很有层次  
dì bǎ mù cái bāo hán de xián shuǐ xūn gān hōng gān yí bù xiǎo xīn qǐ huǒ jiù quán chéng le huī  
地把木材包含的咸水熏干、烘干，一不小心起火，就全成了灰  
jìn dāng nián bà ba wèi le jiē shǒu shēng yì zhōng xué jiù chuò xué jí shǐ miàn duì qīn qī de lěng  
烬。当年爸爸为了接手生意，中学就辍学。即使面对亲戚的冷  
chāo rè fěng tā réng jiān shǒu duì shì yè de zhí zhu bìng yuè zhàn yuè yǒng rú jīn bà ba yòng dà  
嘲热讽，他仍坚守对事业的执着，并越战越勇。如今，爸爸用大  
bàn bèi zì cóng shì zhì tàn dāng mù tàn chū yáo tā sī sī wén wén de yàng mào jiù kāi yáo yì  
半辈子从事制炭。当木炭出窑，他斯斯文文的样貌，就“开窑一  
shēn hēi zài bān yùn guò chéng zhōng tā de liǎn shàng hé shí zhǐ dōu zhān mǎn le hēi hēi de tàn  
身黑”。在搬运过程中，他的脸上和十指都沾满了黑黑的炭  
fěn chéng le tā de tè zhēng  
粉，成了他的特征。

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I was called to another kiln that had cooled down, and the charcoal were taken out and sent to the packing department. There, I weighed the charcoal by the scales and neatly arrange them into bags, and then hand them over to the workers to tighten and to tie the bags. Finally, the bags will be taken away by trucks. At this point, the whole cumbersome/complicated charcoal-making process is finally done. At this time, I couldn't help but think secretly: I can finally rest!

After this day, my experience tells that that to work in the charcoal kiln requires a lot of physical labour! Not only do the workers have to move heavy wood in and out, endure the sweltering heat of the kiln, but they also have to stay up late to look after the fire in kiln. It is really too much for a little person with limited strength like me!

Because I acted as an apprentice today, I finally figured out that the charcoal is actually made in high-temperature, they are smoked and baked, but not burned. In particular, to make mangrove charcoal, the salty water in the wood must be smoked and dried in a repetitive process. If it accidentally catches fire, they will all be reduced to ashes. In order to take over the business, my father dropped out of middle school. Even in the face of cynicism from his relatives, he still persisted in his career, and became more and more courageous as he fights on. Today, Dad spends most of his time in charcoal making. When the charcoal comes out of the kiln, his neat appearance turn "black" as he opens the kiln". In the process of carrying the charcoal, his face and ten fingers are all covered with black charcoal dust. This became his signature appearance.

cǐ kè wǒ tǐ huì le bà ba rú hé zài zhè hēi sè shì jiè zhōng huó chū mǎn shì sè cǎi  
此刻，我体会了爸爸如何在这“黑色世界”中活出满是色彩  
de rén shēng tàn yāo lǐ de rè qì shì shēng mìng rán shāo bèng chū de rè liàng mí mǎn zhe rén jiān yān  
的人生。炭窑里的热气，是生命燃烧迸出的热量，弥漫着人间烟  
huǒ de wèi dào  
火的味道。

jīn yè wǒ péi bà ba zài chǎng lǐ guò yè fù zé tiān chái ràng yāo huǒ bú duàn wǒ qī  
今夜，我陪爸爸在厂里过夜，负责添柴，让窑火不断。我期  
xǔ zhè háng yè xīn huǒ xiāng chuā shēng shēng bù xī  
许这行业薪火相传、生生不息。

At this moment, I realized how my father lived a colourful life despite being in this "black world".  
The hot air in the charcoal kiln is like the heat from the burning in our lives, filling the air with the smell of life.  
Tonight, I will spend the night with my father in the factory, I will be in charge in adding firewood to  
keep the kiln fire going. I hope that this industry will be **passed on from generation to generation** and continue  
to live on.

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# 背诵古诗

chūn yè xǐ yǔ  
春夜喜雨 唐·杜甫



hǎo yǔ zhī shí jié dāngchūn nǎi fā shēng  
好雨知时节，当春乃发生。  
suí fēng qián rù yè rùn wù xì wú shēng  
随风潜入夜，润物细无声。  
yě jìng yún jù hēi jiāngchuán huǒ dú míng  
野径云俱黑，江船火独明。  
xiǎo kān hóng shī chù huā zhòng jǐn guānchéng  
晓看红湿处，花重锦官城。



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