

Li Bing and the Flooding

by Vinnie Rotondaro



A very long time ago there were people who lived along a river in China. The river was named the Min River.

There was a problem with the Min River. The people who lived along it were scared of it because it would overflow. This happened once a year, every year. When the river overflowed, water would flood the people's homes, and everything would get wet. This was a very bad thing for the people who lived along the Min River. It was a big problem. So some of the people got together and started to think about how they could fix it.

Eventually the governor of the people got involved. His name was Li Bing, and he was very smart. Li Bing investigated the problem. To investigate a problem means to study it carefully and learn as much about it as possible.

Li Bing found out that the problem of the flooding river started up in the mountains. The tops of the mountains were very high up in the sky, where it was very cold. When it was wintertime, it would get so cold that the tops of the mountains would become covered in snow. When springtime came, all the snow would melt. When snow melts it turns into water. The problem was that the melted water would fall down the mountains and go into the Min River. This is why it would overflow and flood people's homes.

Li Bing knew that the melting snow was the cause of the flooding. But he also knew that he couldn't stop the snow from melting. So he started to think about other ways that he could fix the problem. Then Li Bing had a great idea. He realized that the best way to solve the problem would be to turn it into an opportunity. An opportunity is a chance for something good to happen.

Away from the river there was a flat piece of land that had its own problem. It didn't have any water. It needed water. So Li Bing started thinking about how he could get the extra water that was bad for the people who lived along the Min River to the flat plain of land that needed water to grow plants.

Li Bing got a bunch of workers together and created a levee in the Min River. A levee is a big wall that people build to stop water from going somewhere. The levee makes the water go somewhere else.

Li Bing and his workers made the levee out of bamboo and stones. It took him and his men four years to build. When the levee was done, the water stopped flooding the homes of the people who lived along the Min River and started going into the land that was flat and needed water. Now the people who lived along the river didn't have to worry about the river flooding, and plants began to grow in the flat land.