

The Story of Hayun Village - The Village on the Bone Mountain

On the rugged shores of the eastern sea, where the winds salt the air and the waves beat relentlessly, stands Hayun Village, a peculiar and solitary village built on a living foundation: a hill composed of shells, bones of sea animals and the remains of daily life. This pile of materials is not only the foundation of the village; it is the story of generations of survival and adaptation.

The Origin of Hayun

It is said that Hayun's ancestors arrived on these shores centuries ago, guided by a dream of safe land and protection from the beasts of the sea and the marauders of the neighboring lands. Finding solid ground, they began to deposit the remains of their catch - shells of molluscs, fish bones and shells of crustaceans - mixed with bones from hunting and ashes from fires. Over time, these materials, compacted with mortar made of sand and limestone, formed an artificial elevation.

The Building Process

The construction of this structure was not just a byproduct of daily life, but a ritual. Each family, at the end of the day, would take their leftovers to the top of the mound and carefully spread the materials. Larger bones were broken into smaller fragments to fill the gaps, and shells were used to reinforce the edges. Each season, a layer of mortar was applied to protect the structure from wind and rain.

The inhabitants began to build their homes on this raised ground, using timber and sloping roofs to withstand storms. Thus, generation after generation, Hayun grew upward, creating a "mountain" made of past and present life.

Defense and Isolation

Over the years, the elevation gave the village a strategic advantage. Access to the top was restricted to two ladders, easily removable in case of danger. Stories tell of pirates who tried to invade the village, only to find an impassable path and be driven back with spears and nets filled with sharp stones.

Life in Hayun

Today, Hayun is home to just over 160 people, all deeply connected to the structure that sustains them. Small shrines dedicated to sea deities dot the village, many of them made from ancient fragments found on the mountain, such as dolphin skulls and giant seashells.

The inhabitants are proud of their heritage and believe that this sacred elevation that is slowly growing is more than stone and bone; it is a spiritual guardian. On stormy nights, the elders say that they can hear the murmurs of their ancestors mixed with the howling of the wind, protecting them from unseen dangers.

The Rituals of the Living Mountain

Every year, a festival is held to honor the mountain made of shells and bones. During the event, each family offers their best shells and bones to the mountain, in gratitude and in renewal of the protection it offers. A bonfire is lit at the highest point, and chants echo, asking for the seas to be generous and the storms to be merciful.

An Ever-Growing Mountain

Hayun never stops growing. For the villagers, it is both a testament to their past and a reminder of their unbreakable connection to the sea. Each layer added is a new page in the village's generations-old story, a story that will continue to be written as long as the winds blow and the sea brings sustenance.

Hayun Village Highlights

The Netmaker - Lao Ning: Lao Ning, with calloused fingers and keen eyes, creates the nets that are the basis of the village's survival. Sitting in his wooden hut, he weaves plant fibers by hand, reinforcing each knot with almost ritualistic precision. His nets are renowned for their durability, and fishermen say that without them, no sea can bear fruit.

The Healer - Mei Yu: Mei Yu, a serene and respected figure, lives in a hut decorated with dried sea plants and jars of ointments. Using local herbs, crushed shells, and fish oil, she heals wounds and treats the village's illnesses. His knowledge has been passed down through generations, and many believe his hands carry the blessing of sea deities.

The Storyteller - Uncle Shen: Uncle Shen is the heart of the village on stormy nights. Sitting by the communal fire, he tells tales of sea monsters and ancient seafarers, blending fact with mythology. His stories not only entertain, but also teach lessons about courage and respect for the sea.

The Carpenter - Jian Rong: Jian Rong, the village builder, transforms driftwood and driftwood into houses and boats. His skill is vital to the community, and each piece he creates bears his signature: a small wave-shaped carving, symbolizing harmony with the sea.