

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

### **Sending Goose Feathers from Thousands of Miles Away**

1. During the Tang Dynasty\*, the King of Huihe wanted to maintain a friendly relationship with the Tang Dynasty, so he sent his messenger, Mian Bogao, to visit the King of Tang and bring national treasures to him. The most precious one was the rare white goose.
2. On the way, Mian Bogao was distressed and restless. He thought, "If I lost the white goose, how could I explain it to my king?" Therefore, he kept an eye on the white goose and took good care of it.
3. Having walked for over a mile, Mian Bogao came to the Mianyang River. He wanted to bathe the white goose, so he opened the cage and put the white goose into the water carefully. All of a sudden, the white goose spread its wings. He jumped forward quickly and wanted to catch the white goose. Unfortunately, he could only pluck a few goose feathers and the white goose flew away.
4. Mian Bogao was very anxious as he did not know how to tell the King of Tang that he had lost the white goose. He beat his chest and burst into tears. One of the servants told him, "The white goose has already gone. It is meaningless to cry and feel sorry. Let's think of a solution together."
5. A solution popped up in Mian Bogao's head. He decided to continue the journey. He took out a piece of pure white silk and carefully wrapped the goose feathers. Then he wrote a few lines on the silk:  
*"As I have lost the white goose on the way, it is difficult to return home.  
May I ask the King of Tang to accept my heartfelt apologies?  
These goose feathers are light but they are sent from afar and with the best wishes."*
6. Finally, Mian Bogao came to Changan, the capital of the Tang Dynasty, with jewellery and the goose feathers. He met the King of Tang and presented the king with the gifts. After the king opened a little bag, he saw the few goose feathers and read the lines on the white silk. The king listened to his explanation. At last, the king forgave him for having lost the white goose and rewarded his honesty with appreciation. He returned home with great joy.

\*The Tang Dynasty refers to a dynasty in ancient Chinese history that ruled from 618 AD to 907 AD.

