

包拯

Extraordinary Chinese People

Ancient times

Bao Zheng

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Extraordinary Chinese People - Ancient Times Bao Zheng

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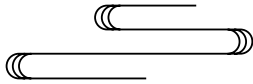
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Bao Zheng (包拯)
(999-1062), a Chinese
politician in Song
Dynasty, known
for his honesty and
uprightness.



In TV dramas, Bao Zheng is often shown with a face dark as charcoal and a crescent moon mark on his forehead. In reality, Bao Zheng did not look like that at all. He was born into a respected family in Hefei, Anhui (安徽合肥).



Why do people like to portray Bao Zheng with a charcoal-black face and a crescent moon on his forehead?

As a child, Bao Zheng loved listening to storytellers, especially tales about solving tricky cases. The twists and turns of those stories fascinated him.



From an early age, he showed sharp logical thinking and often said, 'When I grow up, I want to be a good official.'

One morning, Bao Zheng's elder sister wanted to test him. She shared a boiled egg with their younger sister. Then she asked Bao Zheng, 'One egg is missing. Can you guess who ate it?'



Little Bao Zheng thought for a moment. Then he smiled and said, 'This isn't hard, Big Sister! Can everyone please come with me to the living room?' The family looked at each other in surprise. They found his serious face a bit funny, but they still followed him into the living room and sat down.



Bao Zheng bustled about, as busy as could be. First, he brought eight bowls from the kitchen. Then he took a pot of fresh water. He said, 'Everyone, please take a sip of water. Don't swallow it. Rinse your mouth and spit it into the bowl.'



Do you think Bao Zheng's method for solving the egg riddle was a good one? Why or why not?

The family did as he asked.
When Bao Zheng looked, only
his sisters' bowls had bits of
egg yolk floating inside.



He laughed and announced, 'Case solved!
The egg was eaten by Big Sister and Little
Sister together, isn't that right?' His big sister
nodded, impressed, and admitted he was
correct.

