

# Change

By Yi Wang

My hometown was on the east coast of China. The soil was very rich and everything grew very well on the land. Vegetables and fruits changed with the seasons. It is near the sea so seafood was also abundant. It was called the land of fish and rice. In spring, flowers of different colors decorated the town, the fields, and the mountains. The fragrance of orange flower permeated every corner of the city. In fall, the fragrance changed to sweet Osmanthus. I was born and grew up there. I knew the town was pretty, but I never thought it was special.

After I married, I lived in Reno, Nevada, for a few years. Reno is in the desert. There are no fruit trees or wild flowers. But anything you wanted was available. I was able to buy everything I needed from the groceries and malls. A few years later when I went to its neighbor state, California, I saw forests and flowers. Tears came to my eyes because I was so happy to see green trees and the flowers were fresh and beautiful beyond words. After years in the desert, I knew to appreciate the beauty of nature.

When I went back to my hometown from America, the whole city had changed. The city had more business and people. There were more and wider roads. Old

houses had been torn down and replaced by tall buildings. The city was bigger; fields had disappeared. The rivers had been polluted by the increased industry and population. People in the city had become richer. They enjoyed material goods from all over world. I had hoped to see my hometown, but it had disappeared.

We wanted to be rich and sacrificed our environment. Sometimes we chase something better and thoughtlessly give away the things we had. When we look back, we cry for what we've lost.