

The Kaki Tree Parent and Child

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1.

**Once upon a time
in Nagasaki prefecture,
there was a healthy kaki tree
that had sweet, delicious kaki fruit.
This kaki tree
loved watching over
happy children.**

**However, something terrible happened
about 70 years ago
on August 9th.**

**There was a big flash of light
and then ka-boom,
there was a loud sound.**

2.

**Fire broke out
all over the place,
and it burned and burned
and burned.**

**The kaki tree was frightened
and didn't know
what was happening.**

**After a while
the fires went out.**

**The kaki tree
was burnt badly
and was no longer able
to bear any fruit.**

3.

**One day many years later,
a tree doctor named Doctor Jumoku
came to the kaki tree.**

**“I can’t believe it, kaki tree.
You were a victim of the atomic bomb,
but you are still so healthy.
You are a symbol of peace,” the doctor said.**

**“Not at all,” the kaki tree responded.
“Because of that war,
I can’t bear fruit any more.
I’m not a symbol of peace;
I’m just a tree
that will soon wither up and die.”**

**“Don’t say that,” said the doctor.
“I am a tree doctor.
I don’t know if it will work,
but I will perform surgery on you
and try to make you better.”**

4.

**The surgery took a long time
because the kaki tree's injury
from the atomic bomb
was very bad.**

**Doctor Jumoku worked long and hard
and finally finished
treating the tree.**

"Thank you very much," said the kaki tree.

**Doctor Jumoku
felt that he heard a prayer
in those words
saying,
"Please don't ever create
a tree like me again."**

Then fall came.

5.

“Oh, good,” said Doctor Jumoku.

**“You have so many
delicious-looking fruit.”**

**“Thank you, doctor.
I’m glad I’m alive,” said the kaki tree.**

**“You’re exaggerating,
kaki tree.
Oh, I have a great idea.
Will you let me
grow your children?
I want all the children
of Nagasaki
to know about you,”
said Doctor Jumoku.**

**The kaki tree smiled
and nodded
and then gave the doctor
its seeds and branches.**

6.

**Doctor Jumoku
very carefully raised
the kaki tree's children.**

**(Doctor Jumoku)
“Grow healthily,
baby kaki trees.
Grow up quickly and healthily
and be strong.”**

**“Grow healthily,
baby kaki trees.
Grow to bear
sweet, delicious kaki fruit.”**

**Until now it was unthinkable
that children of a kaki tree
that was a victim of the atomic bomb
could grow up
and bear fruit.**

**Doctor Jumoku took
the baby kaki trees that were growing
and began planting them
in many places throughout Nagasaki.
And each time he planted a baby kaki tree
he thought “Life is amazing.”**

7.

**One day, a young man who drew pictures
heard about Doctor Jumoku
and came to see him.**

**“Doctor Jumoku, you are amazing.
“I want to help,” he said.**

**“That is so kind of you,” replied the Doctor.
“But how can you help?”**

**“I have a good idea,” he said.
“How about if everyone gets together
and draws pictures,
sings songs and dances
when the baby kaki trees are planted?**

**“That sounds like fun,” said the kaki tree.
“But can you do all that by yourself?”**

**“Actually,
I’m sure lots of friends
will gather to join us,” he replied.**

**This group of friends,
called “The Kaki Tree Friends”
began planting baby kaki trees
all throughout Japan.**

8.

(Young man)

“This is a baby kaki tree.

**Before we plant it,
let’s all draw pictures
of kaki trees.”**

**Let’s draw Let’s draw
Let’s draw our feelings now
Let’s draw Let’s draw
Let’s draw the feelings of the kaki [kaki tree]**

**Both children and adults
looked carefully
at the baby kaki tree.
They also thought quietly
about the kaki tree in Nagasaki.**

(Young man)

**“Everyone,
please raise this baby kaki tree
to grow up big in your hearts.”**

**Let’s draw Let’s draw
Let’s draw our feelings now
Let’s draw Let’s draw
Let’s draw the feelings of the kaki [kaki tree]**

9

**The time
finally came
to plant the baby kaki tree.**

**Each of the children
carefully placed dirt
around the roots of the baby kaki tree.**

**Then the baby kaki tree
and everyone there
promised to gather
in 10 years
at the same time
on the same day.**

**Soon,
people from many different countries
wanted to meet
the baby kaki trees.**

10.

**So Doctor Jumoku
and the young man
delivered baby kaki trees
to children throughout
the world.**

**Even in these other countries
they drew pictures,
sang and danced.**

**And in each place
where a baby kaki tree was planted,
everyone made a promise
to come back in 10 years
at the same time on the same day.**

11.

**As you can see here,
there are many “Kaki Tree Friends”
gathered around the kaki tree
in Nagasaki.**

**“Kaki tree, kaki tree.
Thanks to you
and the baby kaki trees
we have made many friends,”
said Doctor Jumoku.**

**“Yes,” said the young man.
“Children from all around the world
are playing alongside
the baby kaki trees.”**

**Then
the kaki tree friends,
filled
with gratitude,**

12.

**sent balloons
floating up into the sky.**

(Kaki tree)

**“Everyone,
Thank you
for making my children
bear fruit
in so many places.
There is no greater happiness
for a parent.”**

**This kaki tree
that was a victim of the atomic bomb
now has many friends.**

**And now this kaki tree
most of all enjoys
talking about many things
with each of its friends that comes by.**

The End