



Illustrated Tales of Wisdom from The Supreme Master Ching Hai - God Takes Care of Everything

# God Takes Care of Everything



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*The Kingdom of God is not a palace that is shining with gold,  
silver, diamonds, rubies and all kinds of precious stones.  
It is the purity, the loving kindness, the compassion, the peace of mind.  
That is the Kingdom of God. If we carry this Kingdom of God within us,  
then wherever we go, we will always feel that we are in Heaven.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*



## The Story of a Great Master

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!” Have you ever looked up into the night sky and wondered in this way? Who created those brilliant stars? Well, many years ago, there was a beautiful little girl who wondered the same thing. Looking into the brilliance of the star-filled sky, She wanted very much to meet with their Creator. This became Her secret dream, a dream She held close to Her heart for a long, long time. And after many years of searching high and low for God, Her dream finally came true. She got to meet the Creator of the stars!

This little girl was born in the southeastern Asian country of Aulac. From a very young age, She had always prayed to the Creator of the stars, “Please let me

see You!” Even though it seemed that Her wish was not granted for a very long time, She never gave up. She kept Her faith and continued to pray. She went to church with Her parents and to the temple with Her grandmother. She read many great books that were supposed to teach people how to find God. Sometimes She even fell asleep holding a holy book to Her chest.

This little girl was kind to everyone She met. Poor people touched Her heart, and She would go out of Her way to give them what little food or money She could find in the house. Because of Her genuinely helpful nature, She inspired love in the hearts of all who knew Her.

When this little girl grew up and became a beautiful young woman, Her father sent Her to study in England. With a talent for language, She quickly learned to speak English, German, and French. She continued to work for the poor and needy by whatever means She could. And never for one moment did She forget Her dream.

Later, She married a German doctor. He was a very kind man, and they spent two happy years together. But a desire to find God, not only for Herself but also to be truly helpful to those who were less fortunate, was still burning in the heart of this young woman. And so it was that one day, with her husband’s blessing, She left alone to continue Her search for God.

The next part of Her journey took Her to many distant lands, including the far reaches of India. Finally, in the remote and snow-covered Himalayan Mountains, She found an Enlightened Master who introduced Her to an ancient spiritual practice called the Quan Yin Method.

As She received the Quan Yin Method and began meditating on the heavenly Sound and Light, She came face to face with God and became one with God. In this enlightened state, Her soul not only reached the stars but went far, far beyond them. She was taken by God to a very high level of Heaven, and She became a great Master Herself.

After many moons in the Himalayas, She was ready to descend from the mountains. Soon She came to Formosa, a beautiful island near China, and slowly began



sharing this wonderful Quan Yin Method with others. Since then, She has traveled around the world to help people re-connect with God through this method. Many have become enlightened; their souls have also reached the stars, the heavens and beyond.

She is now affectionately known as The Supreme Master Ching Hai. But Master Ching Hai tells us that we are all supreme masters because we are the children of God. If we know the way, we can see God and talk to God any time we wish.

Master Ching Hai doesn't just teach the Quan Yin Method. She also paints, writes songs, plays musical instruments and designs beautiful clothing and jewelry. She is also a great storyteller, and She loves to tell jokes. Whenever She is among people, there is always a lot of laughter.

Master Ching Hai continues to care for people just as She did when She was young. She especially loves children, and says that children are closer to God than adults. She reminds us that we all need to be like children to see God.

So you see, a little girl's dream to see God has come true. If it is possible for Master Ching Hai, it is possible for all of us. Do you have the same dream as She did?

*A Little Message:*



As a creator of artistic designs as well as a spiritual teacher, Supreme Master Ching Hai loves all expressions of inner beauty. It is for this reason that She refers to Vietnam as “Au Lac” and Taiwan as “Formosa.” Au Lac is the ancient name of Vietnam and means “happiness.” And the name Formosa, meaning “beautiful,” reflects more completely the beauty of the island and its people. Master feels that using these names brings spiritual elevation and luck to the land and its inhabitants.



*If we preserve this heart of a child, no matter how old we have grown, we are still God's children. We will not go to hell, or encounter any unfavorable situations. Our life will be very smooth. At least our hearts will be forever happy. We will keep an open mind. Problems and obstacles will not make us feel greatly frustrated or upset. We will be very carefree, without attachments burdening our mind. This is the heart of a child. It is not true that we cannot be children again after we have grown up.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*



*Every time we extend loving kindness,  
tolerance and understanding to others, at that time we create Heaven.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*



# Preface

*This* illustrated narrative, suitable for all ages, is a distinctive collection of twenty inspiring stories told by The Supreme Master Ching Hai. Presented in lively and amusing comic strips and text, each story is replete with profound meanings that will touch the reader and fill the heart with bliss.

The interesting and heart-warming parables will inspire youngsters to develop their potential in thinking, realization, and imagination. These comic strips convey noble truths in a way that is easy to understand, thereby enabling children to discover and absorb the Truth in a happily relaxed manner. In our present-day environment of complex and confusing information, this treasured collection will nourish the minds and souls of your children with the humor and wisdom of The Supreme Master Ching Hai.





# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| The Story of a Great Master .....                    | 04 |
| Preface .....  | 09 |
| 1. The Two Brothers and the Star-fruit Tree .....    | 13 |
| 2. The Story of a Fighting Cock .....                | 21 |
| 3. God's Arrangements Are Always the Very Best ..... | 24 |
| 4. Loving Others Is Loving Ourselves .....           | 29 |
| 5. Love Without Distinction .....                    | 32 |
| 6. The Real Treasure .....                           | 36 |
| 7. A Thief Becomes a Spiritual Practitioner .....    | 39 |
| 8. Compassion and Mercilessness .....                | 44 |
| 9. Art of the Samurai .....                          | 49 |
| 10. God Takes Care of Everything .....               | 52 |
| 11. This Topsy-Turvy World .....                     | 56 |

## **A Little Message:**

In speaking of God, or the Supreme Spirit, Master instructs us to use original non-sexist terms to avoid the argument about whether God is a She or a He.

She + He = Hes (as in Bless)

Her + Him = Hirm (as in Firm)

Hers + His = Hiers (as in Dear)

Example: When God wants, Hes makes things happen according to Hiers will to suit Hirmself.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 12. Everything Is Created by the Mind .....               | 59 |
| 13. Use Your Intelligence Well .....                      | 62 |
| 14. The Ignorant Prince .....                             | 66 |
| 15. A Test of the Ego .....                               | 70 |
| 16. It Is Detachment that Counts .....                    | 73 |
| 17. We Should Not Copy a Master's Outer Performance ..... | 78 |
| 18. An Ingenious Way to Decline Visitors .....            | 81 |
| 19. The Wisdom of an Old Beggar Woman .....               | 83 |
| 20. Xe Gong's Affection for Dragons .....                 | 87 |
| Supreme Master Television .....                           | 91 |
| References .....  | 92 |
| Our Publications .....                                    | 93 |
| How to Contact Us .....                                   | 95 |



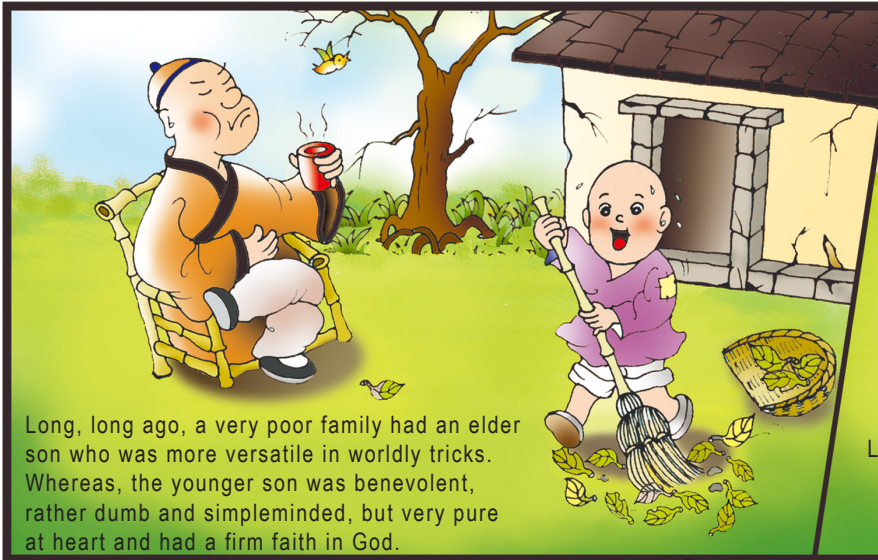


**God is all pervading love.  
So whenever we do things in love, God will help us.**

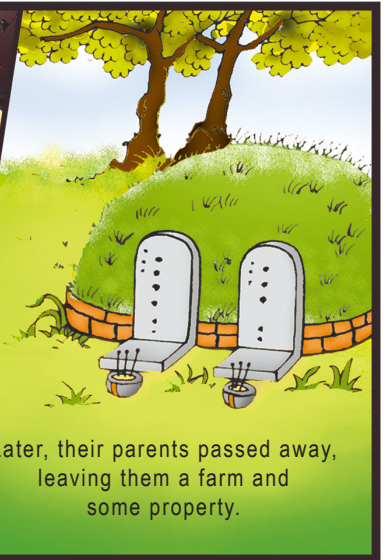
**~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~**

# The Two Brothers and the Star-fruit Tree





Long, long ago, a very poor family had an elder son who was more versatile in worldly tricks. Whereas, the younger son was benevolent, rather dumb and simpleminded, but very pure at heart and had a firm faith in God.



Later, their parents passed away, leaving them a farm and some property.



Better let me take care of all the property. Since you don't have a wife and children, and are incapable of managing property, I will give you only one star-fruit tree to care for. Okay?



Yes, big brother.



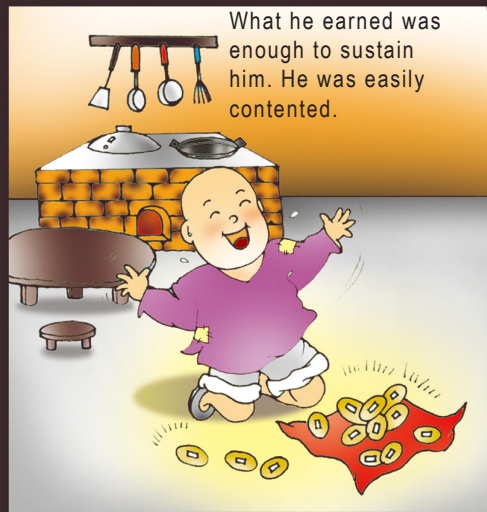
The younger brother worked diligently every day.



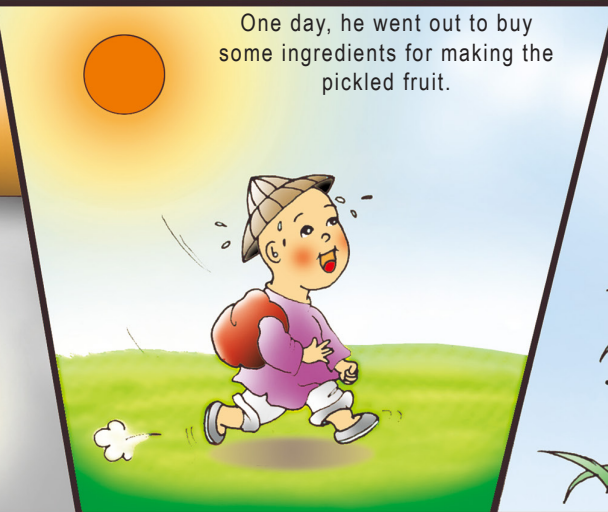


When the star-fruit were ripe, he picked and sold them to earn money. The tree was big and yielded a lot of star-fruit.

With the unsold fruit left behind, he made star-fruit juice and also pickled some of them.

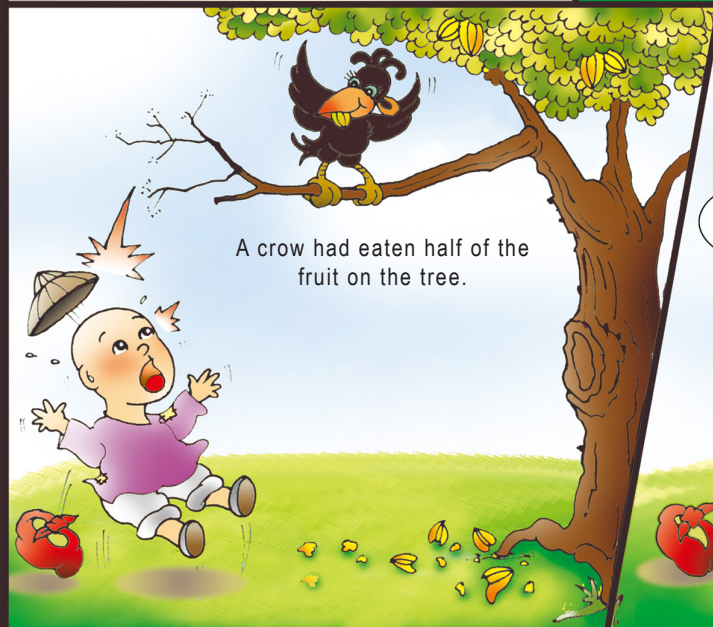


What he earned was enough to sustain him. He was easily contented.

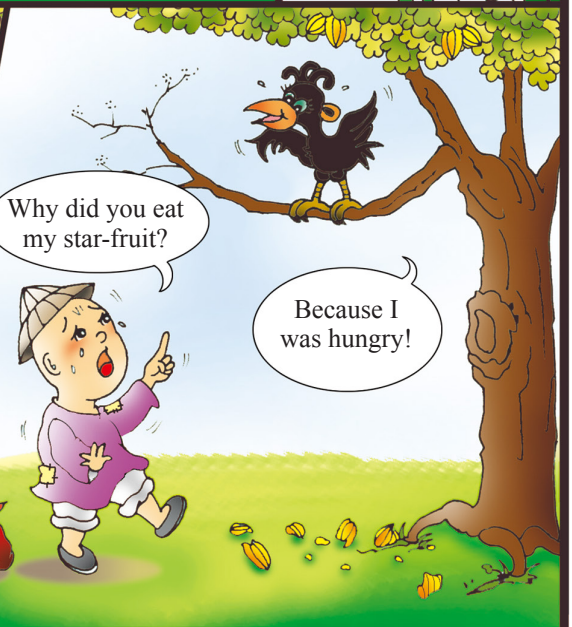


One day, he went out to buy some ingredients for making the pickled fruit.

When he came home, he saw...

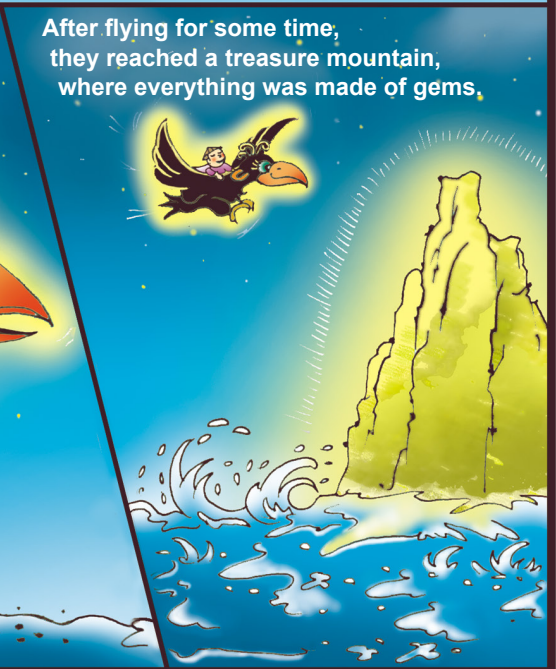
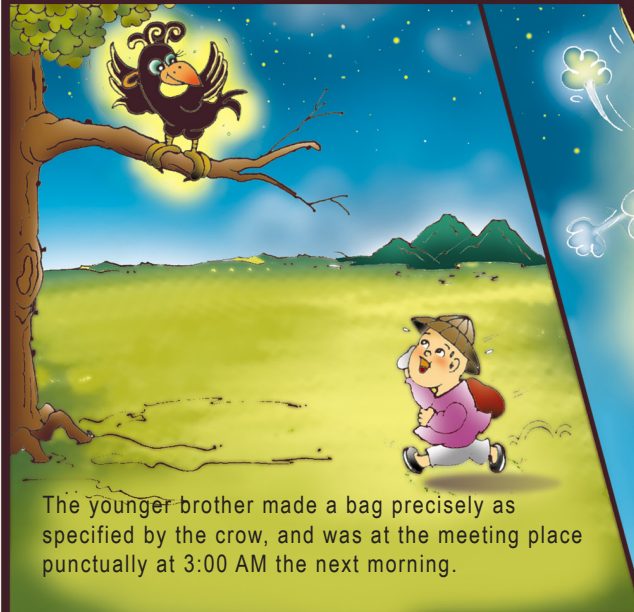
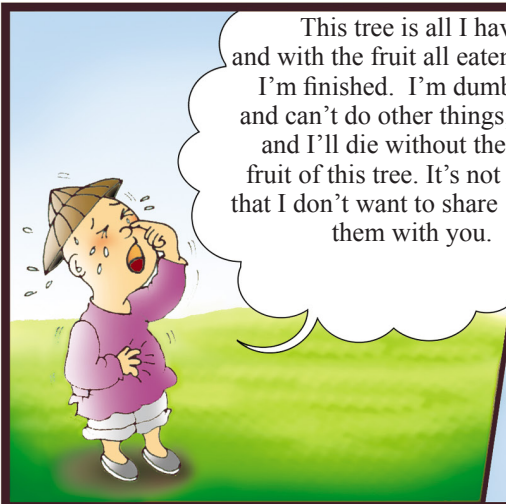


A crow had eaten half of the fruit on the tree.

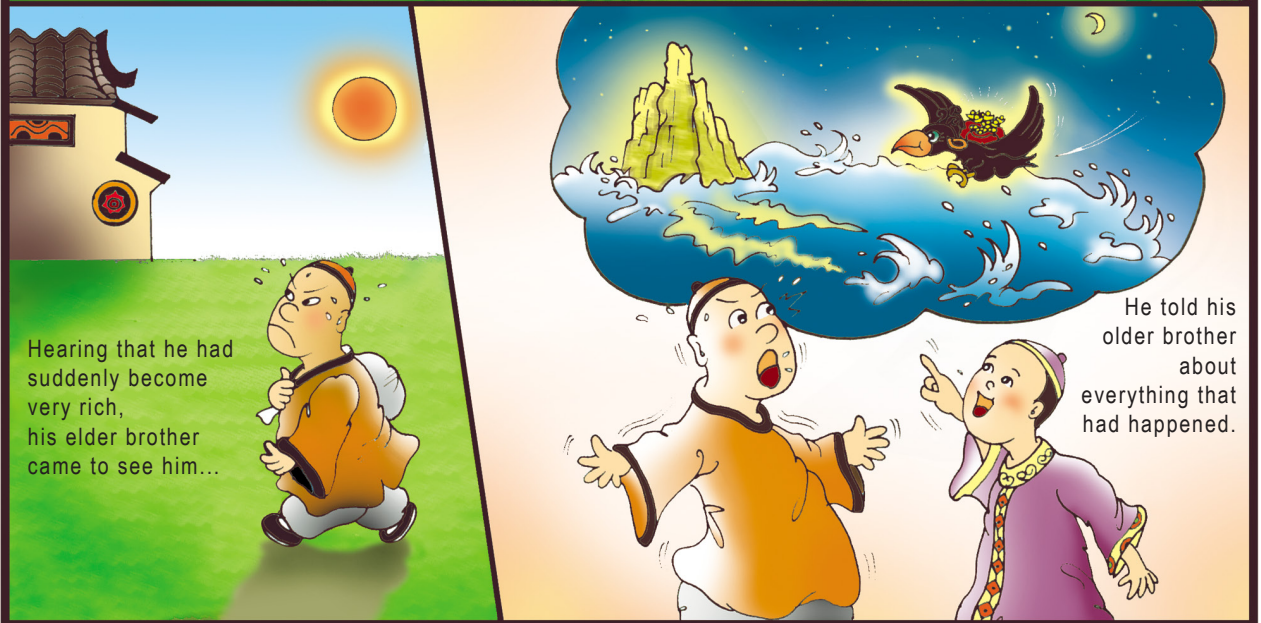


Why did you eat my star-fruit?

Because I was hungry!





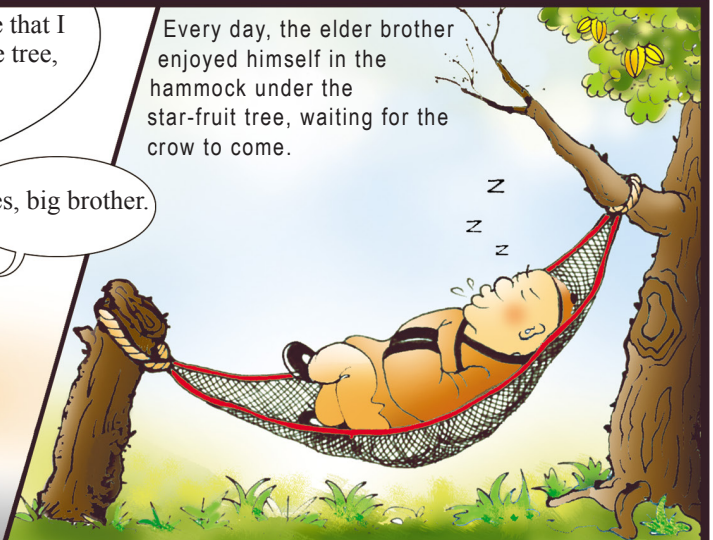


All these blessings came from the star-fruit tree that I gave you. Now, it is my turn to take care of the tree, and you can move into my place.



Yes, big brother.

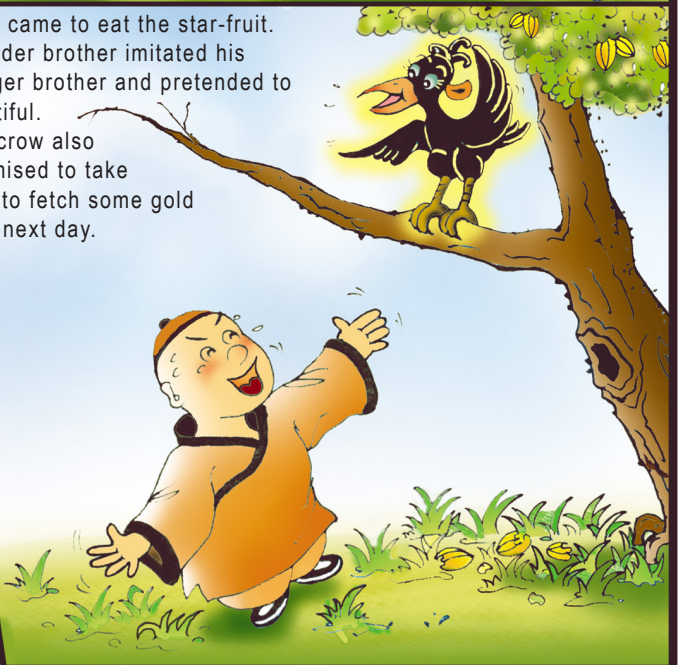
Every day, the elder brother enjoyed himself in the hammock under the star-fruit tree, waiting for the crow to come.



All he dreamed of was jewelry! One day, it really happened...



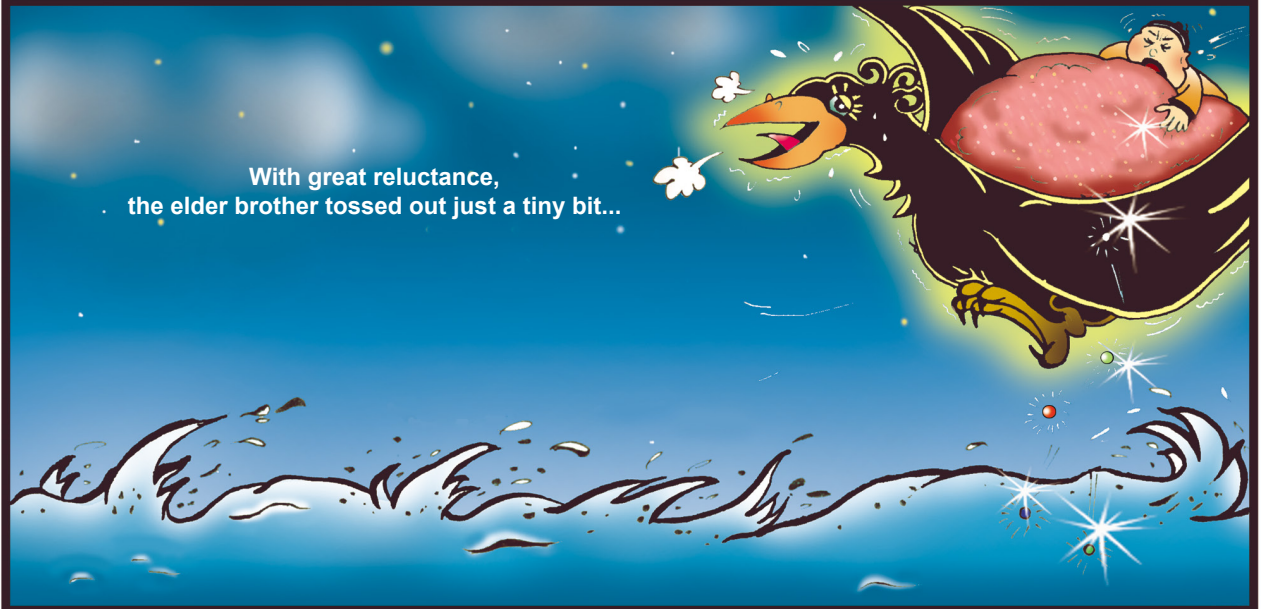
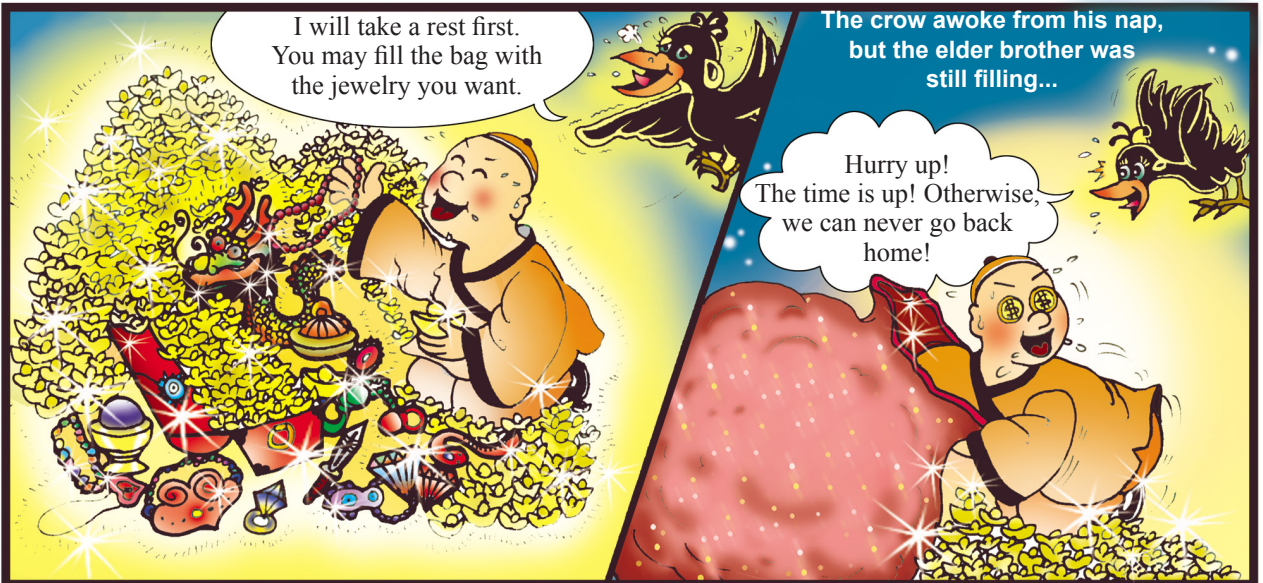
A crow came to eat the star-fruit. The older brother imitated his younger brother and pretended to be pitiful. The crow also promised to take him to fetch some gold the next day.



Long before the appointed time, he was there waiting for the crow with an extremely huge bag...



Remember! Do not open your eyes or speak during the journey.





Over the ocean, they encountered a strong gale.

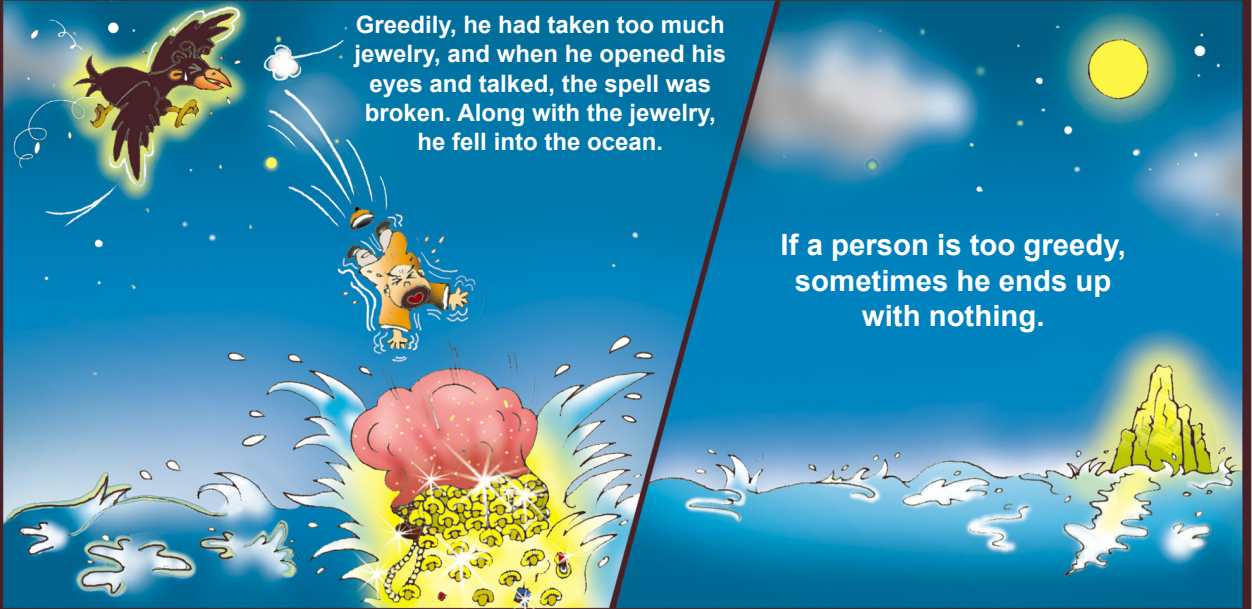
The crow tried its best to stay balanced; however, the wind was too strong.

Hey! I will fall off if you continue to waver like this!



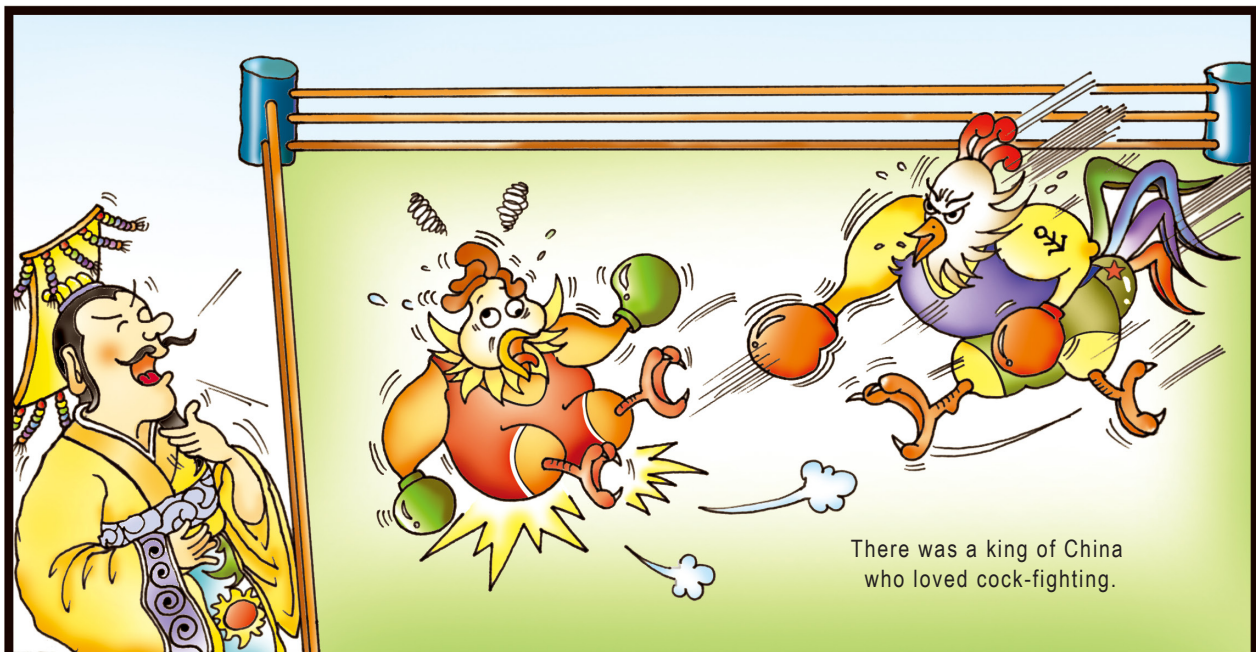
Greedily, he had taken too much jewelry, and when he opened his eyes and talked, the spell was broken. Along with the jewelry, he fell into the ocean.

If a person is too greedy, sometimes he ends up with nothing.



# The Story of a Fighting Cock





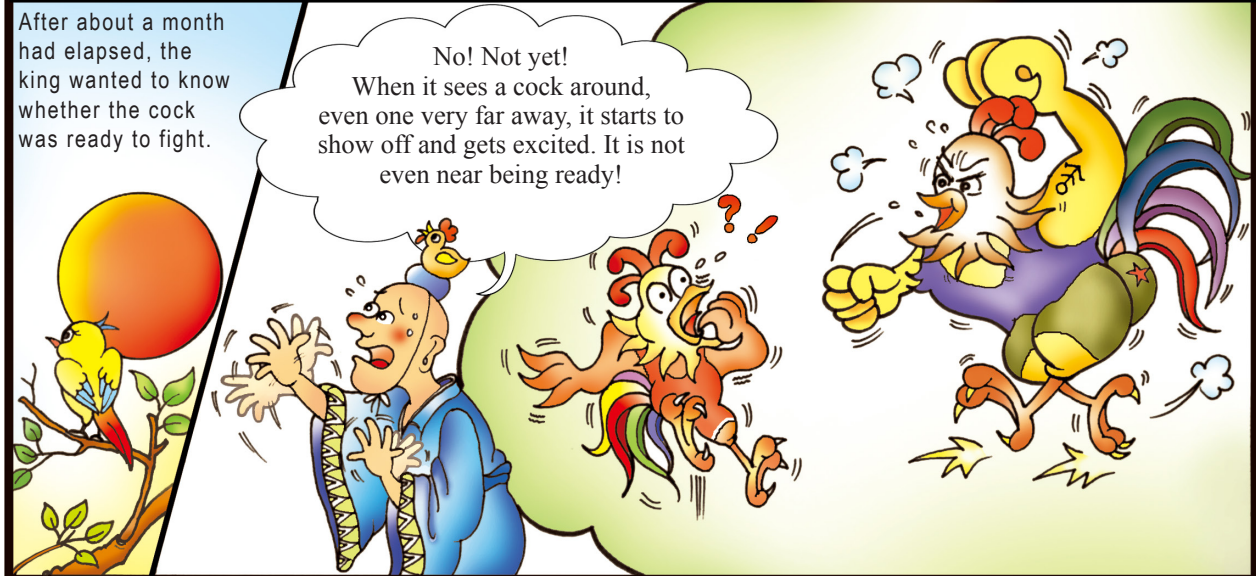
There was a king of China who loved cock-fighting.

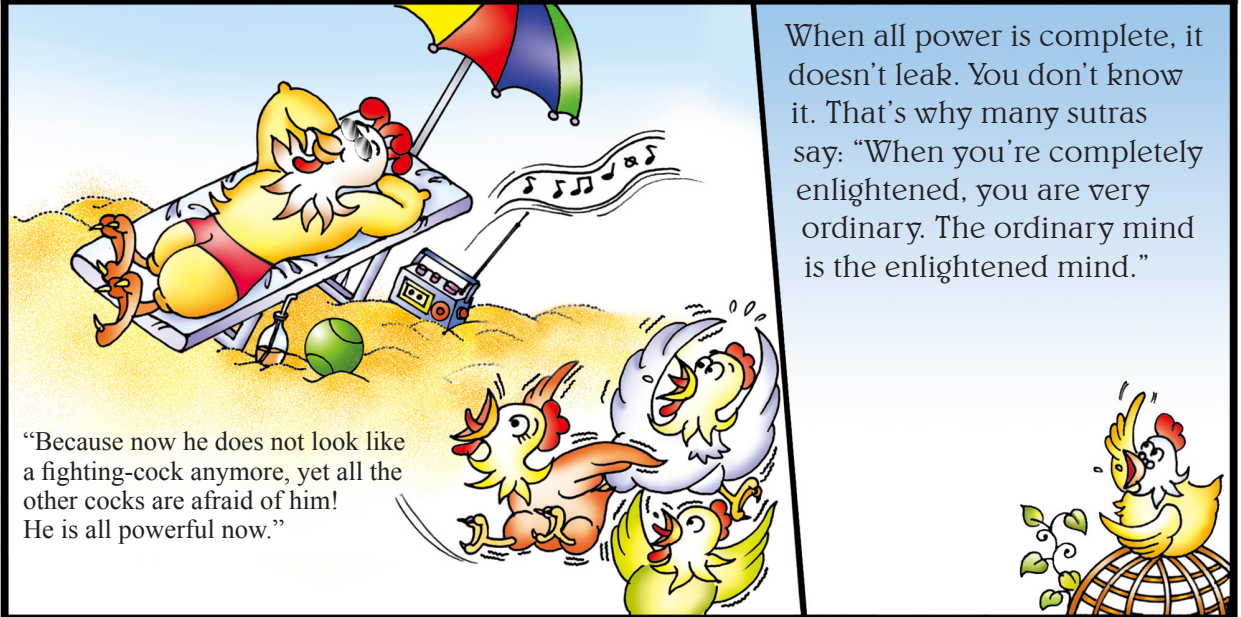
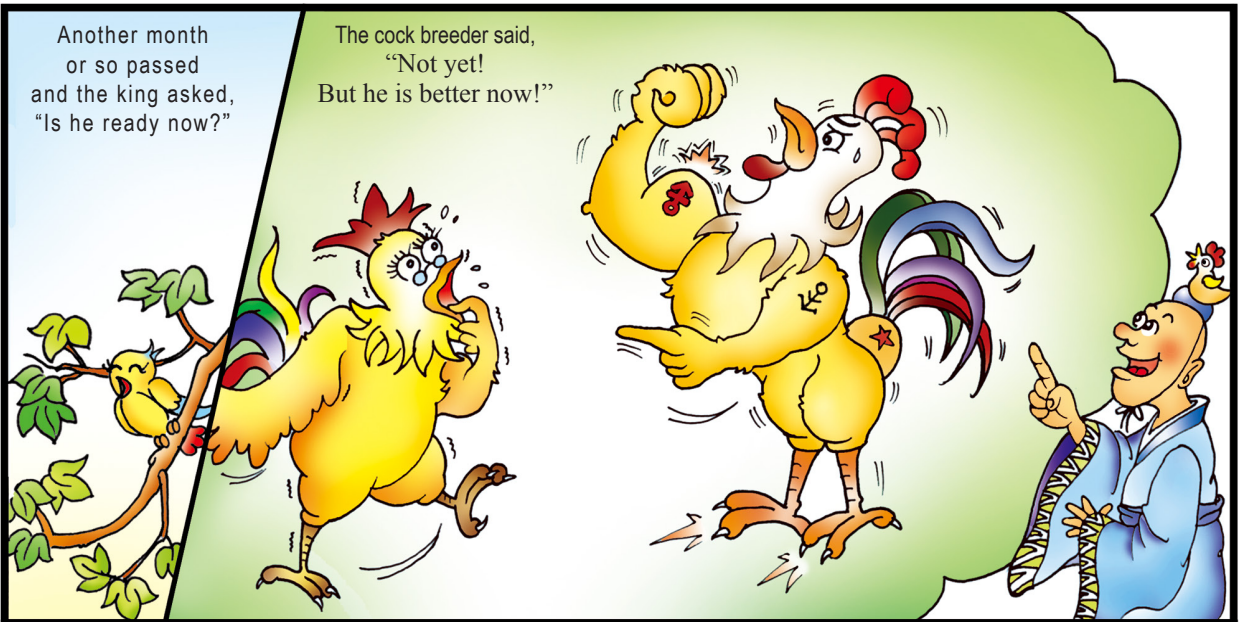
He engaged the finest trainer to raise a gamecock of the best breed to become the future champion.



After about a month had elapsed, the king wanted to know whether the cock was ready to fight.

No! Not yet!  
When it sees a cock around, even one very far away, it starts to show off and gets excited. It is not even near being ready!





*God's Arrangements  
Are Always the Very Best*







A king and his trusted advisor disguised themselves as ordinary citizens and went out among the subjects to try to better understand them.



He accidentally cut his finger.

The king took a knife and began to peel the mango.

Wow!  
I'm bleeding!



\*Some people in India worship a sacred goddess named Kali. According to legend, Kali is the goddess of negativity and destruction. In ancient times, there were superstitious people who were greatly afraid of her and thought that they must offer living creatures in sacrifice to her.





# Loving Others Is Loving Ourselves

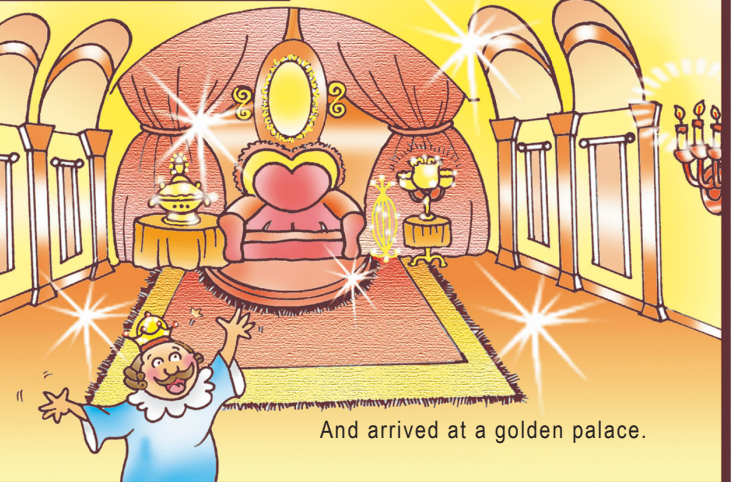




Once upon a time, there was a very wealthy king who seldom gave alms to the needy; instead, he only enjoyed himself in his glorious position.



One day, he died...



And arrived at a golden palace.



He was hungry, but there was nothing to eat.

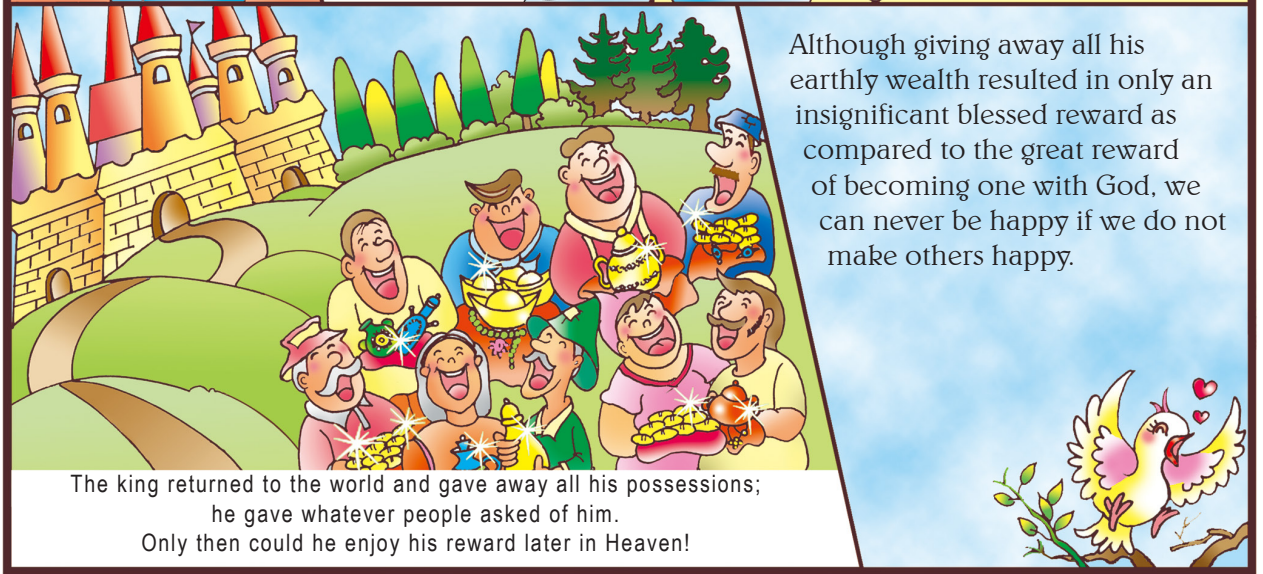
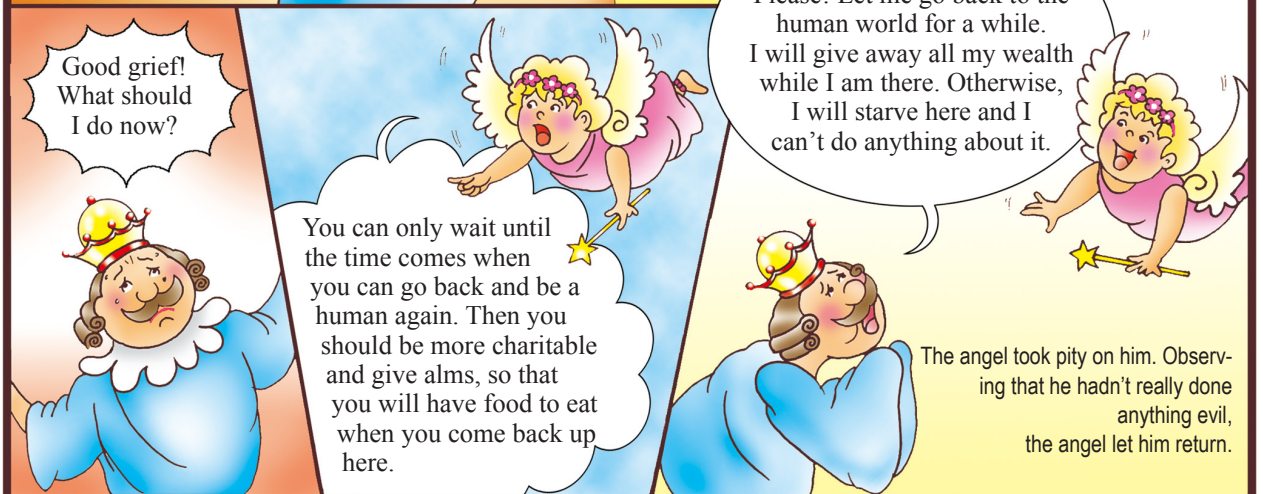
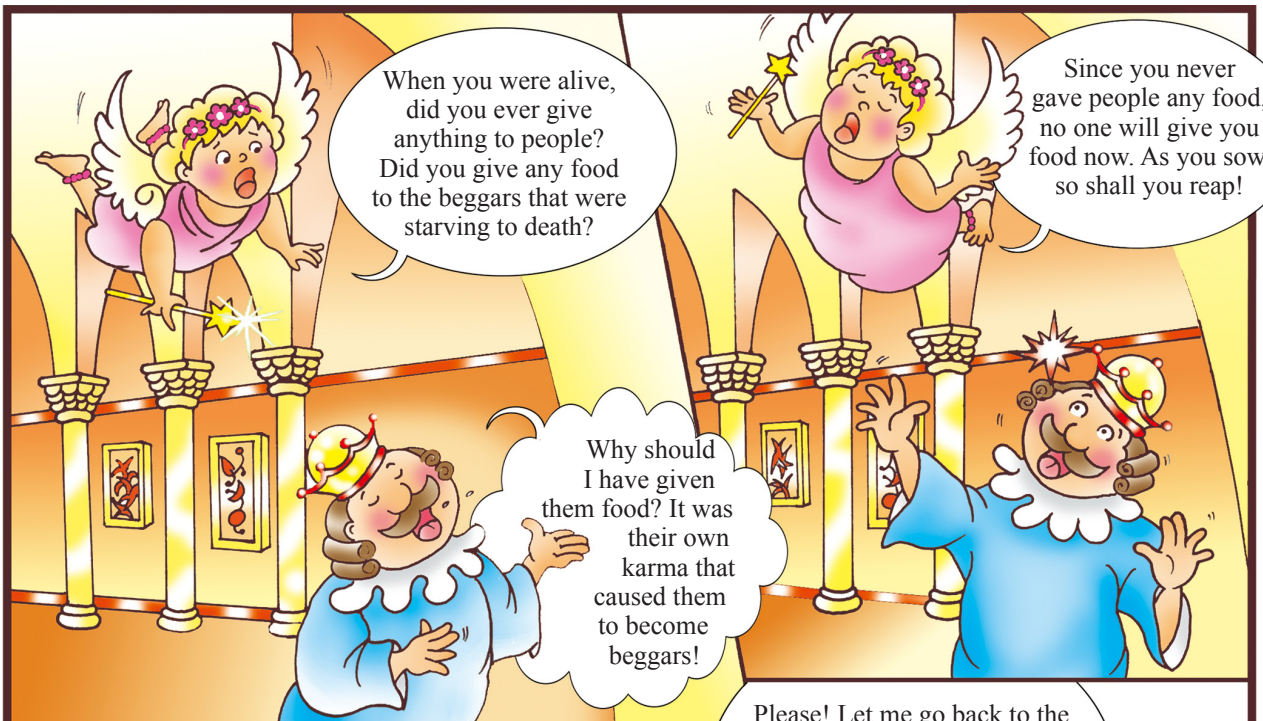


He complained to the angel:

This is ridiculous! Why is there no food or drink in my house?



The king could no longer stand the hunger and thirst.



The king returned to the world and gave away all his possessions; he gave whatever people asked of him. Only then could he enjoy his reward later in Heaven!

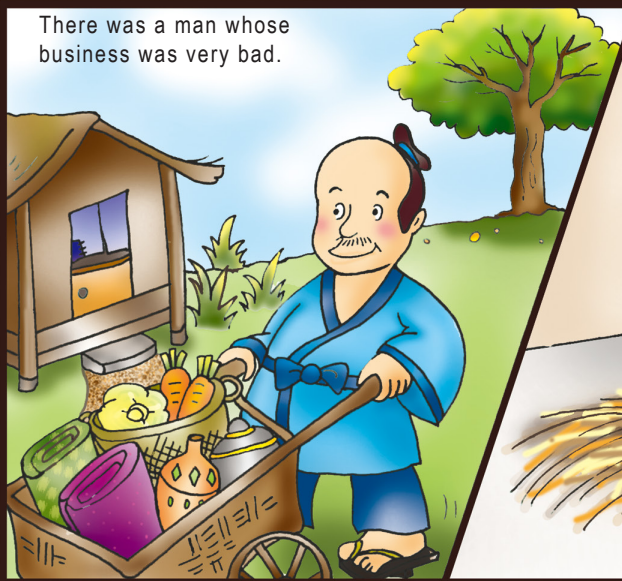


# *Love Without Distinction*

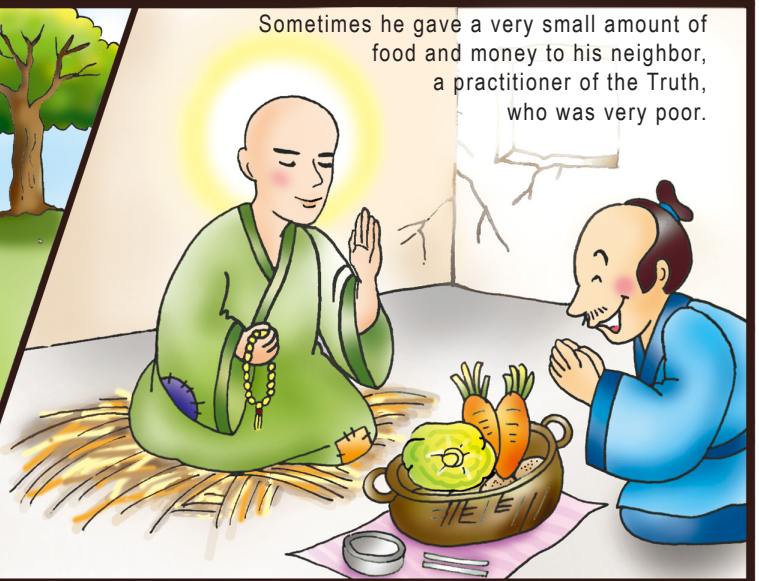




There was a man whose business was very bad.



Sometimes he gave a very small amount of food and money to his neighbor, a practitioner of the Truth, who was very poor.



The more he gave to the practitioner next door, the better his business and family became.

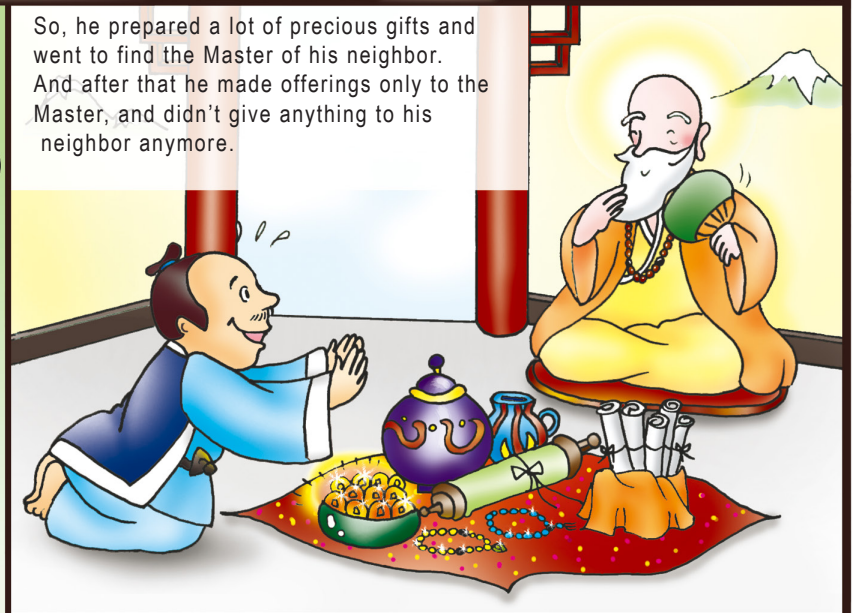


After a period of time

Ah, the more I give to this guy, the better my business is getting. And I hear that he has a Master who is a million times greater than he.



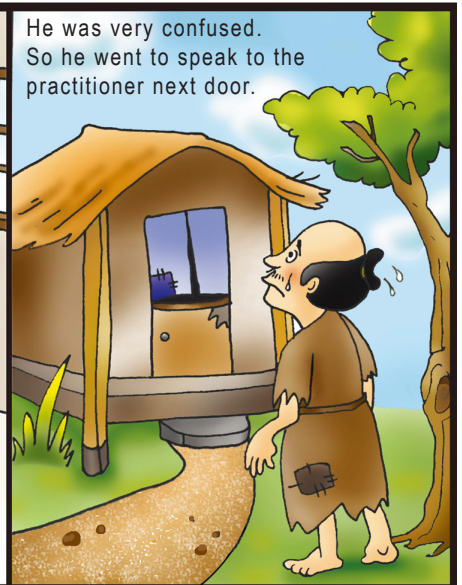
So, he prepared a lot of precious gifts and went to find the Master of his neighbor. And after that he made offerings only to the Master, and didn't give anything to his neighbor anymore.



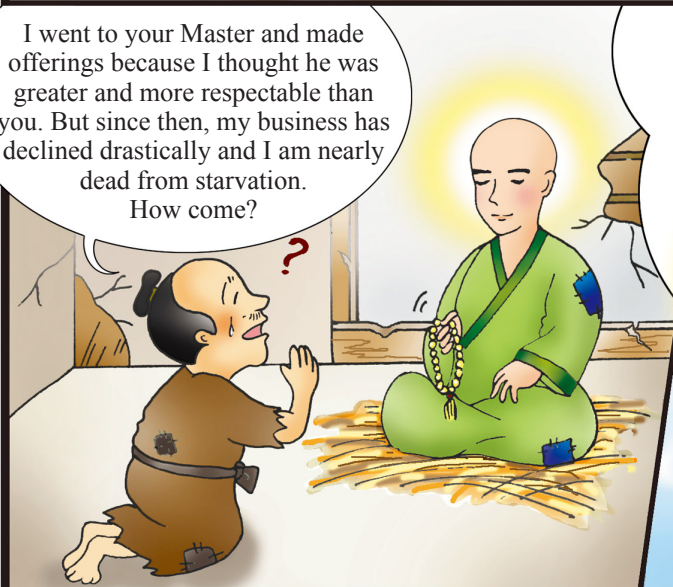
But after a while, his business dwindled, just going down and down every day. He nearly went bankrupt and had nothing to eat.



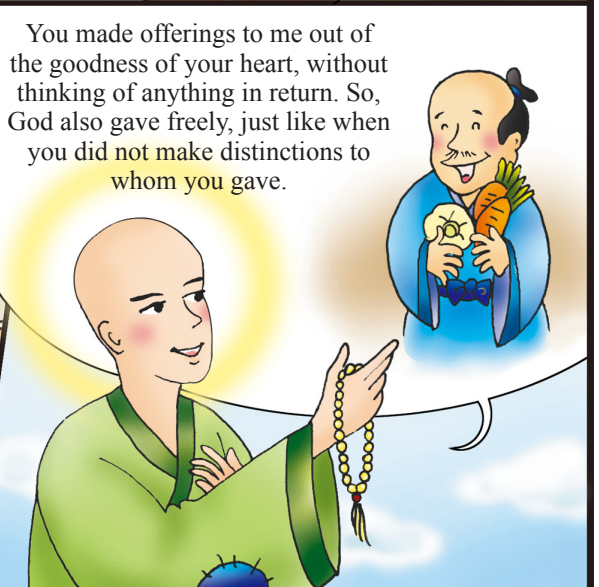
He was very confused. So he went to speak to the practitioner next door.



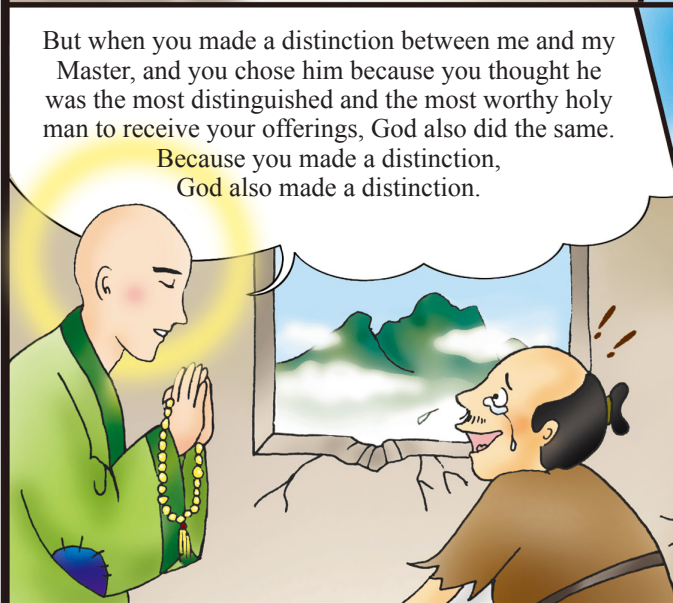
I went to your Master and made offerings because I thought he was greater and more respectable than you. But since then, my business has declined drastically and I am nearly dead from starvation. How come?



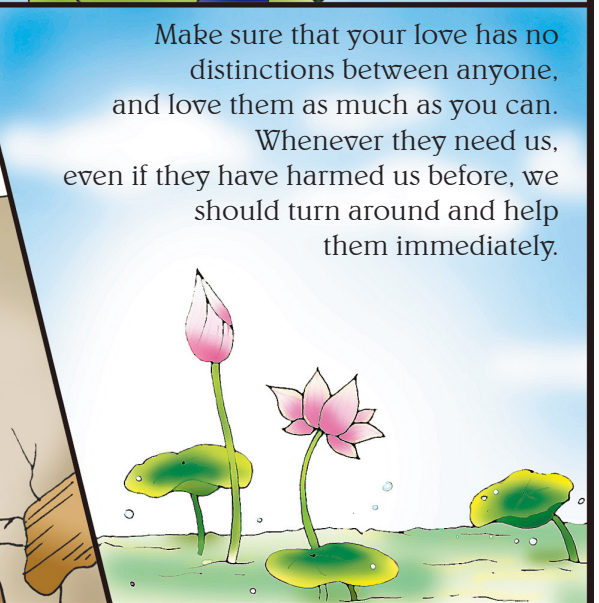
You made offerings to me out of the goodness of your heart, without thinking of anything in return. So, God also gave freely, just like when you did not make distinctions to whom you gave.



But when you made a distinction between me and my Master, and you chose him because you thought he was the most distinguished and the most worthy holy man to receive your offerings, God also did the same. Because you made a distinction, God also made a distinction.



Make sure that your love has no distinctions between anyone, and love them as much as you can. Whenever they need us, even if they have harmed us before, we should turn around and help them immediately.



*He who has love for other people has God in his heart.*

*To serve God's children is to serve God.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*



# The Real Treasure



In India, there was a very good king.  
He was very loving to his subjects.

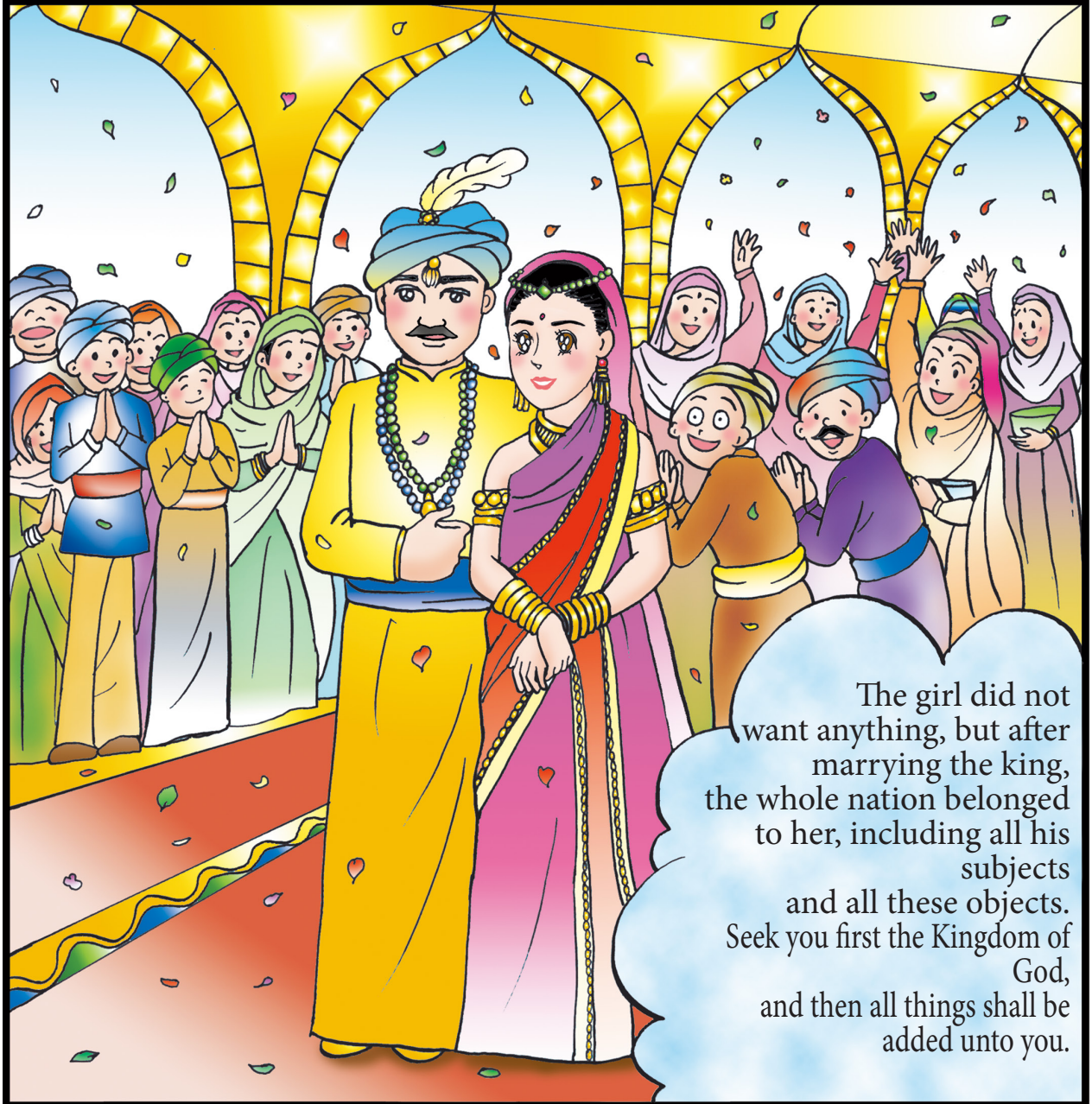


One day, he arranged that all his possessions and treasures be given to his people.

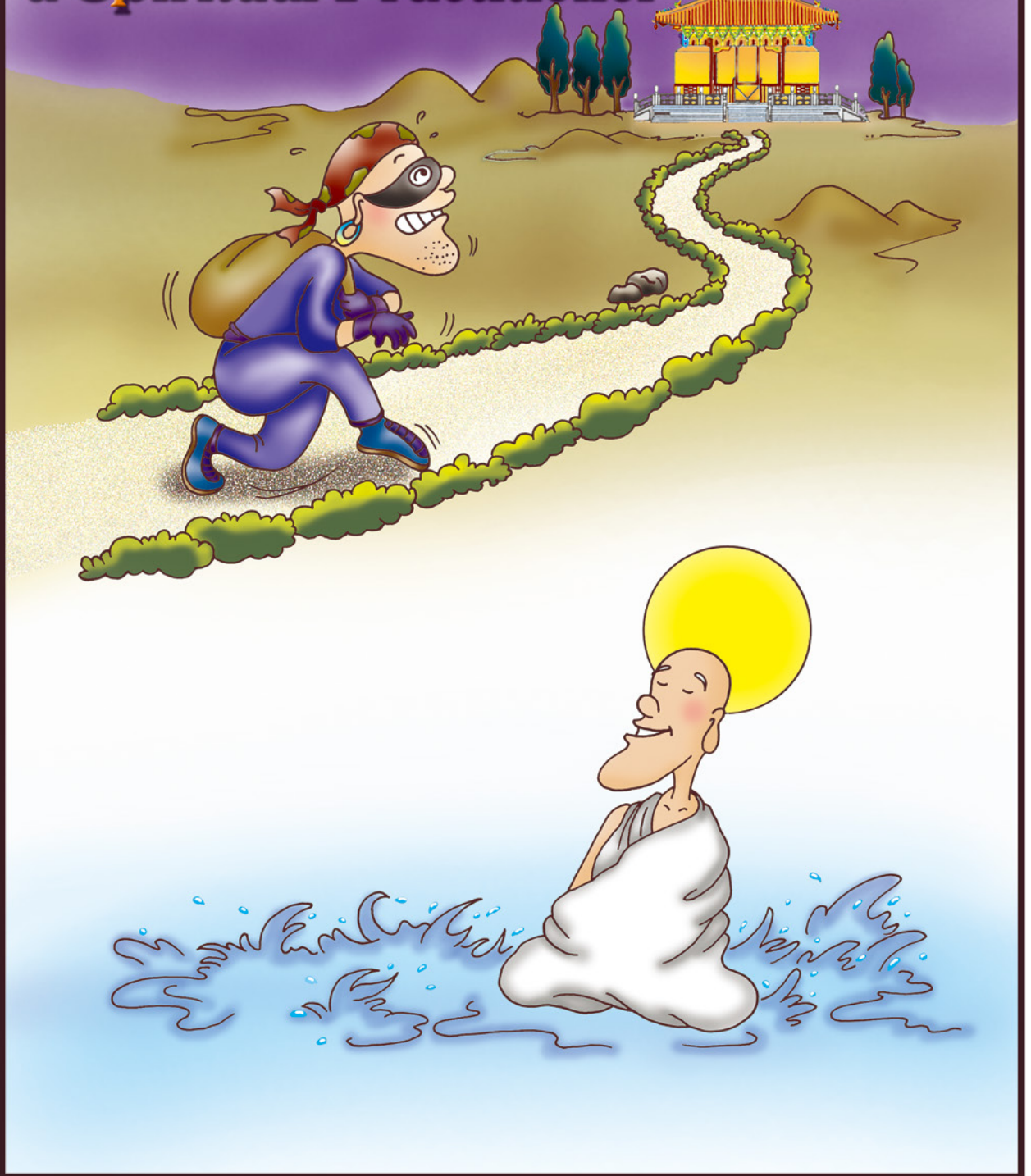


Everyone came and picked something of his or her heart's desire.





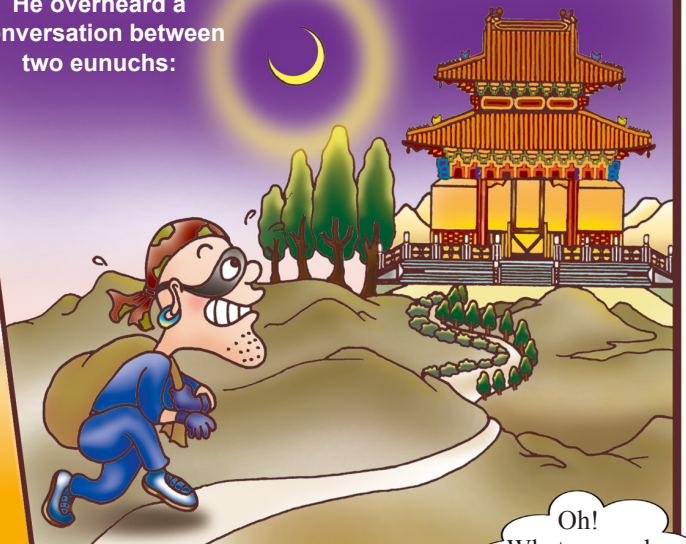
# A Thief Becomes a Spiritual Practitioner



One day when a thief was stealing something from the palace,



He overheard a conversation between two eunuchs:



Our king wants the princess to marry one of the practitioners on the banks of the Ganges River. What do you think about this?



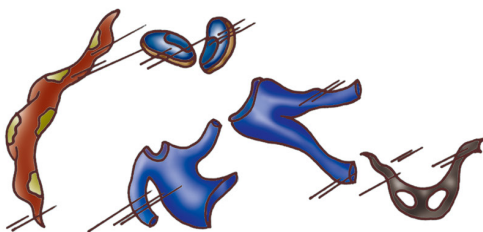
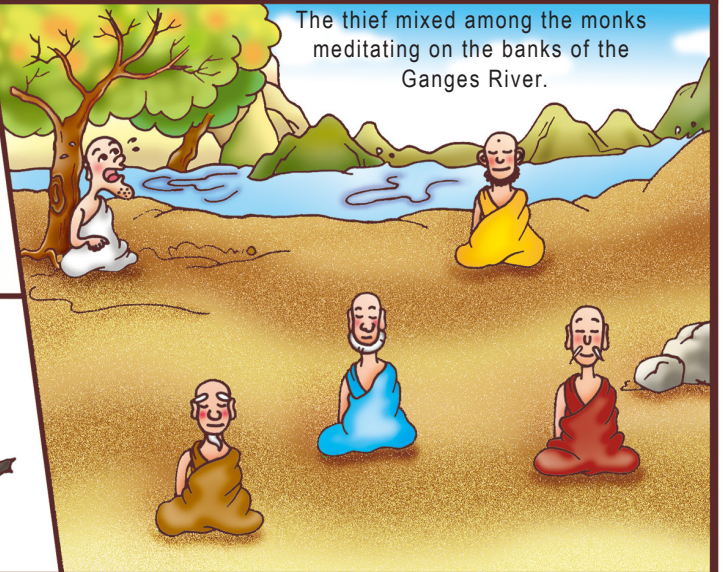
Oh! What a grand deal that would be!

It is good! Practitioners are the most virtuous and most noble persons in the world.

The thief immediately quit his stealing business, and stealthily left to become a monk.



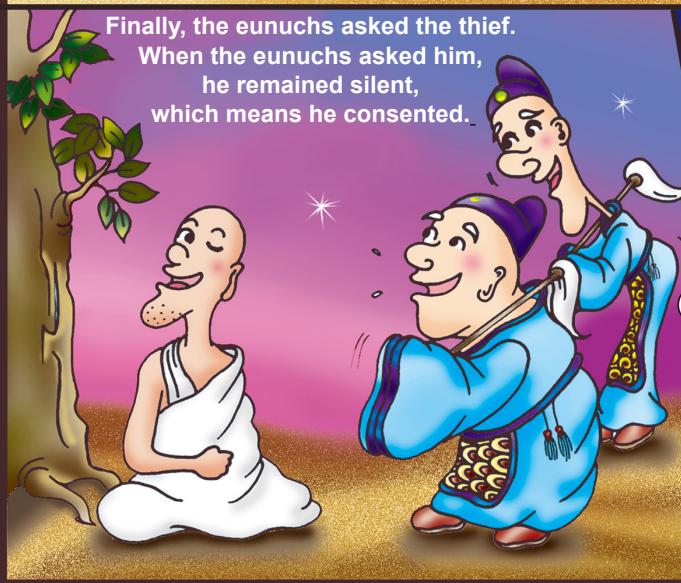
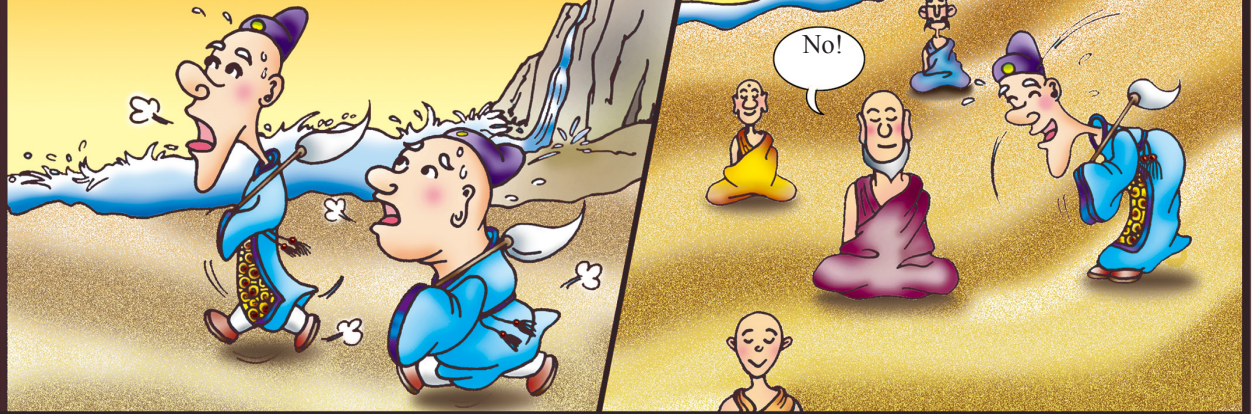
The thief mixed among the monks meditating on the banks of the Ganges River.

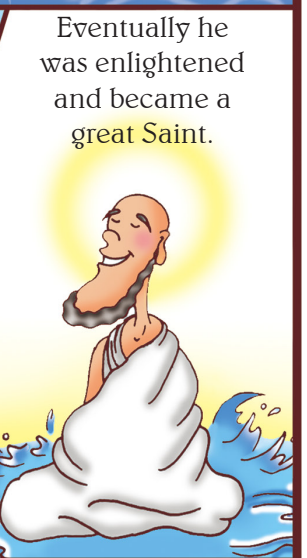
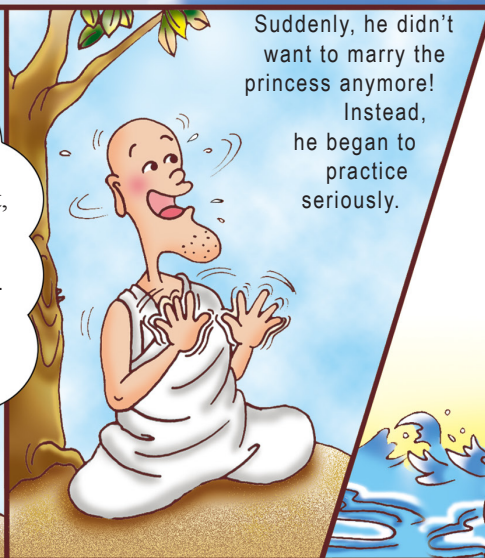
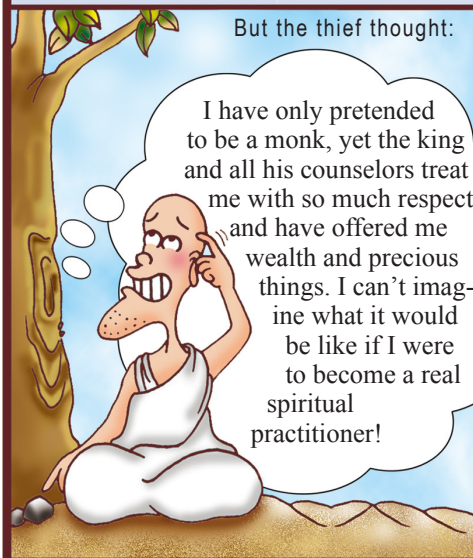
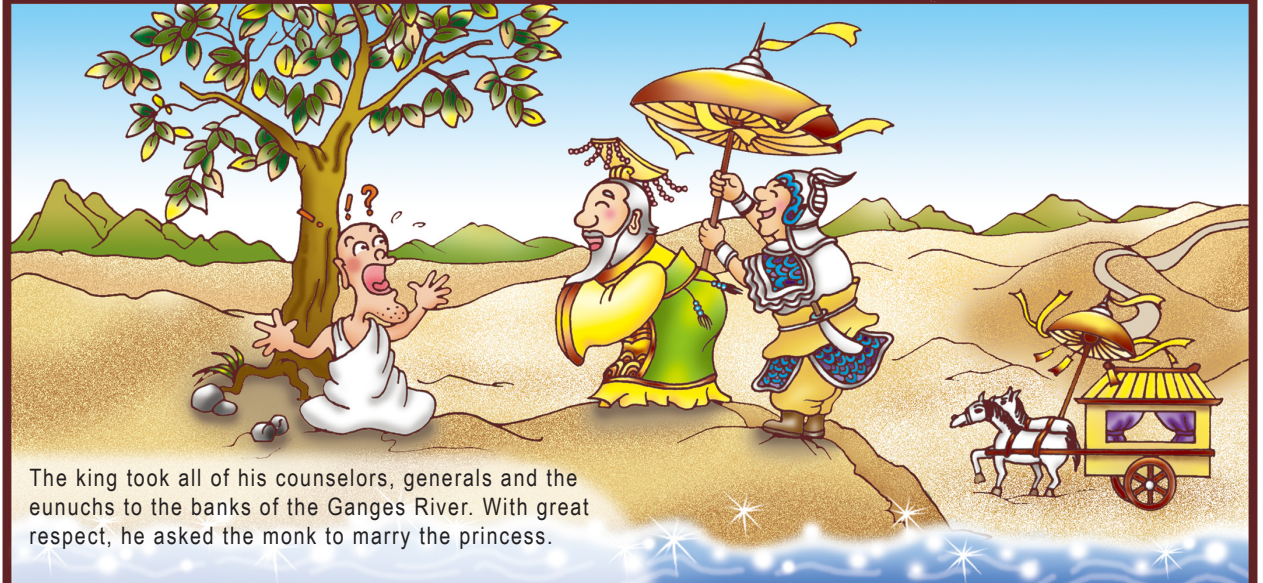
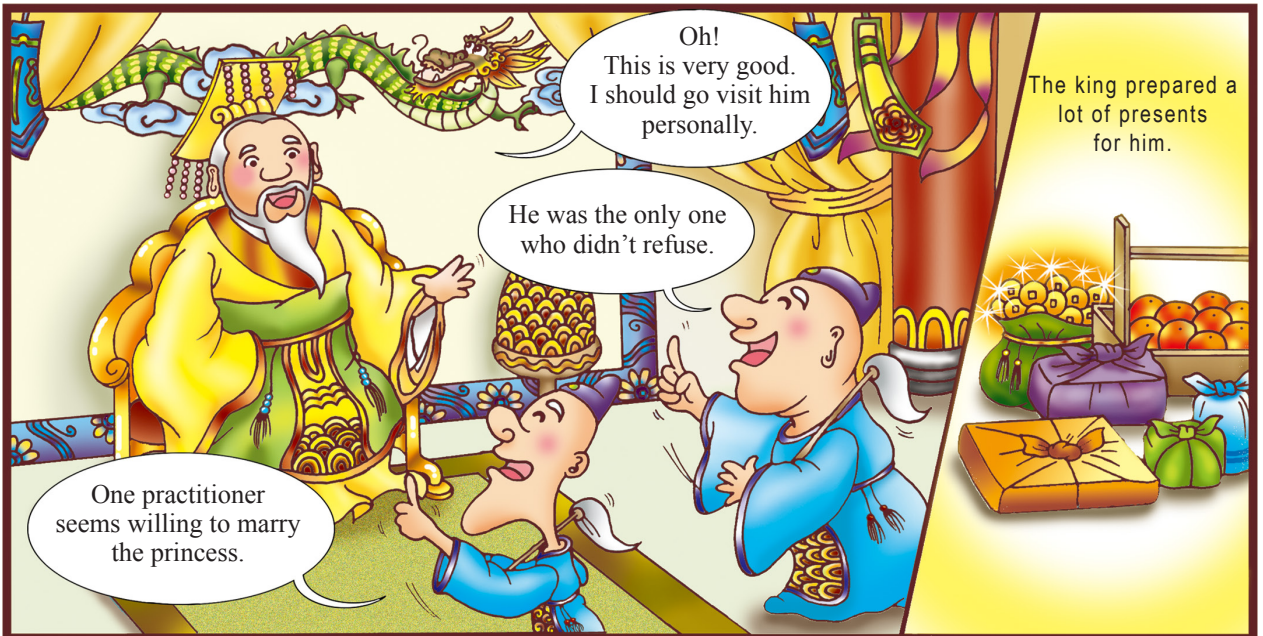




Several days later, the king sent several eunuchs to the banks of the Ganges River to ask the monks if one of them would marry the princess.

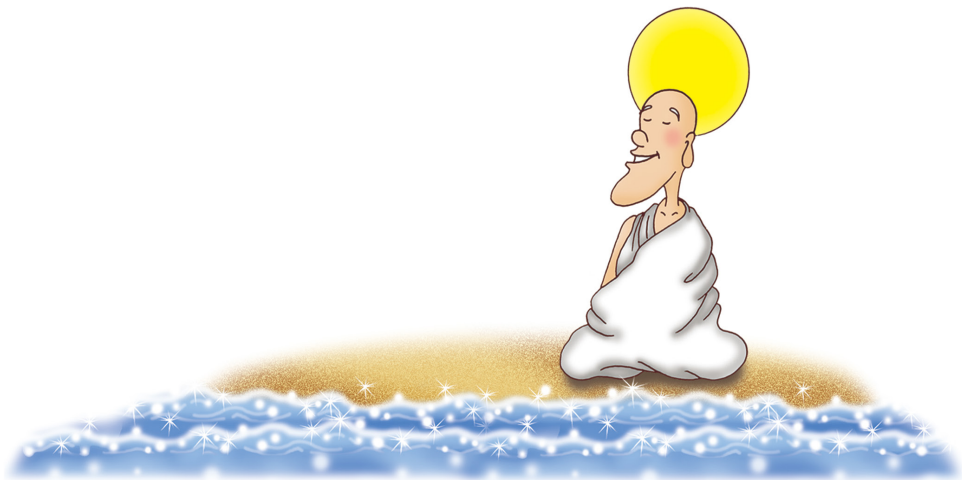
They were good practitioners and didn't care about the princess.





*If we know we are virtuous people, God-loving people,  
then we believe that God will arrange everything for us according to  
our worthiness. So we don't have to ask for anything.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*



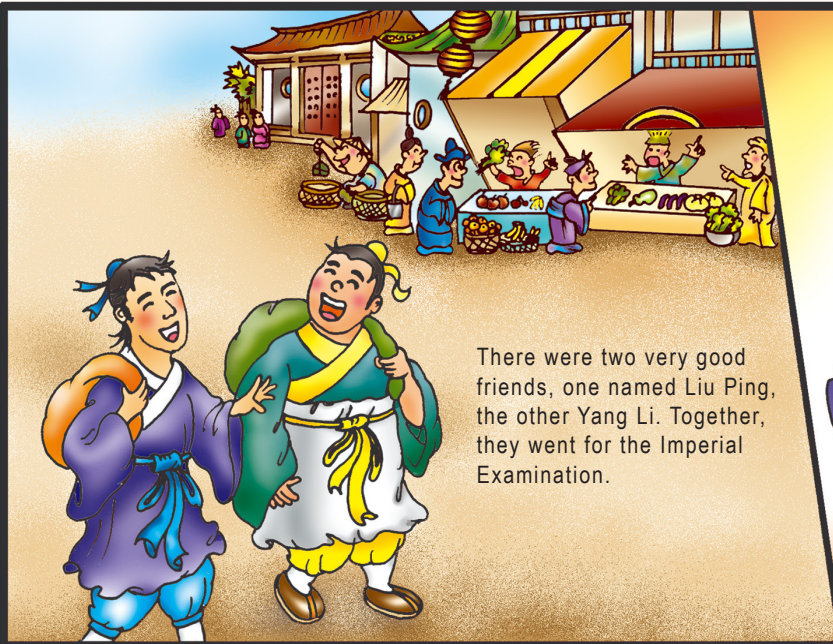


*Compassion  
and  
Mercilessness*

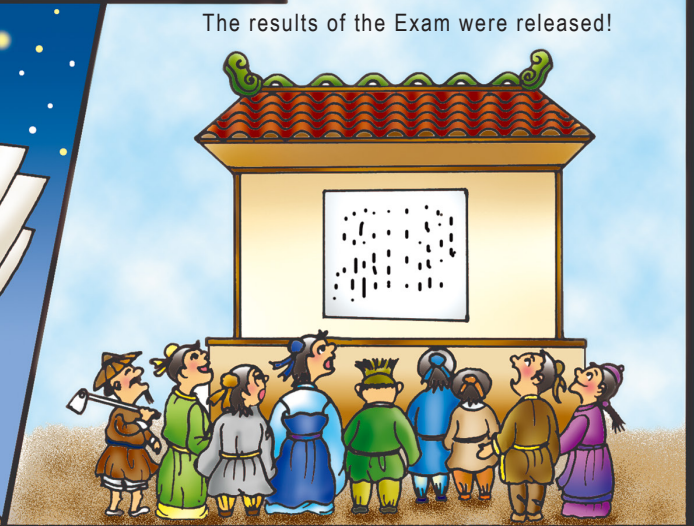
Liu Ping had studied diligently.



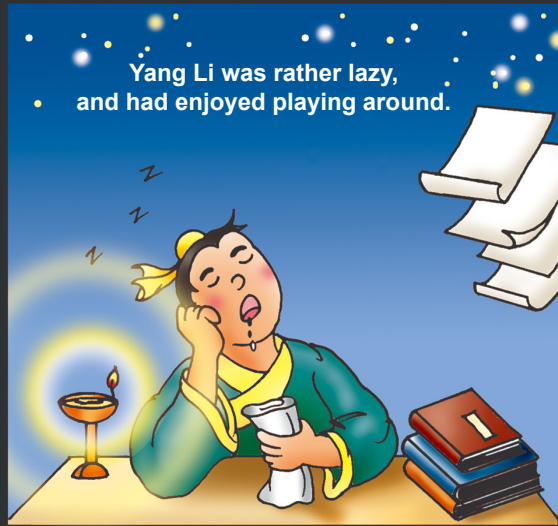
There were two very good friends, one named Liu Ping, the other Yang Li. Together, they went for the Imperial Examination.



The results of the Exam were released!

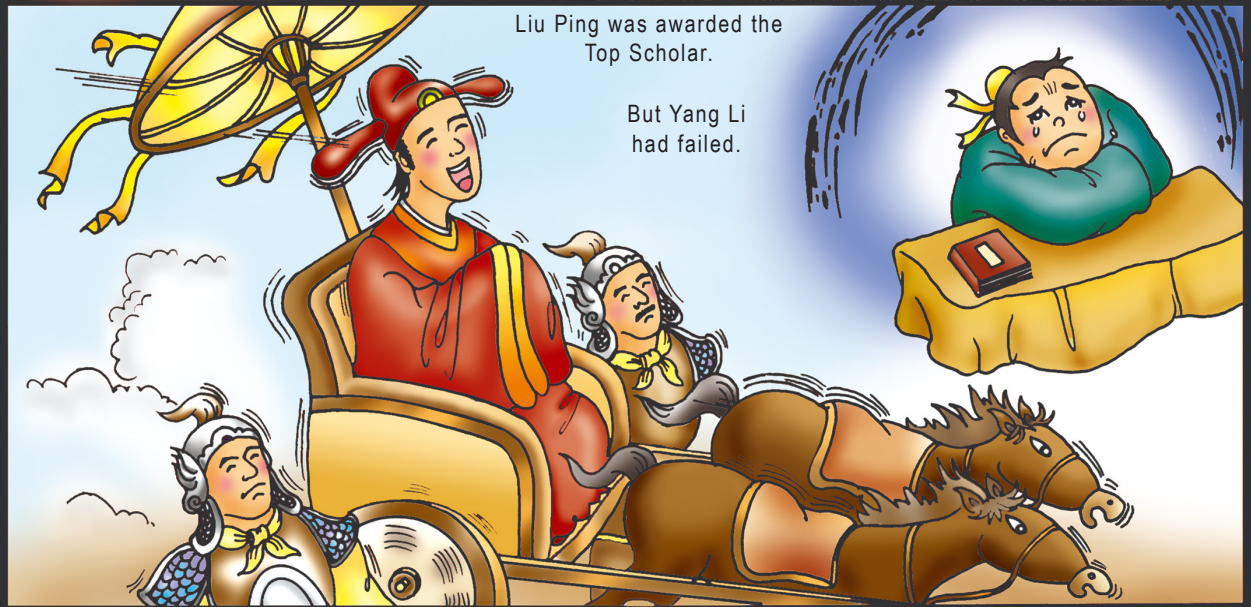


Yang Li was rather lazy, and had enjoyed playing around.



Liu Ping was awarded the Top Scholar.

But Yang Li had failed.



Liu Ping, who had received an appointment as a high official, knew that Yang Li must be feeling very badly, so he sent for him.



Liu Ping sent a junior clerk to receive him.



Much humiliated, Yang Li was very upset and angry.



Returning home, he felt very depressed and no longer wanted to live.



Sigh! If I had only studied a little harder!



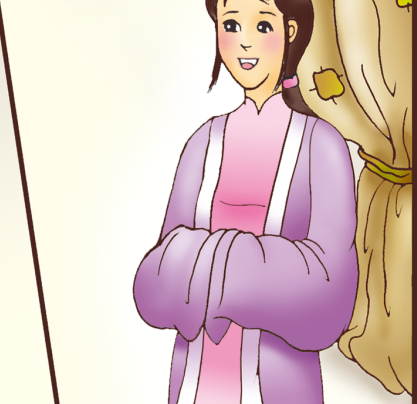
Strange! What is taking Liu Ping so long?



He was served lousy food that was usually given to lowly servants or beggars.



Out of nowhere came a very beautiful and elegant woman.



She understood his predicament, and comforted and encouraged him...

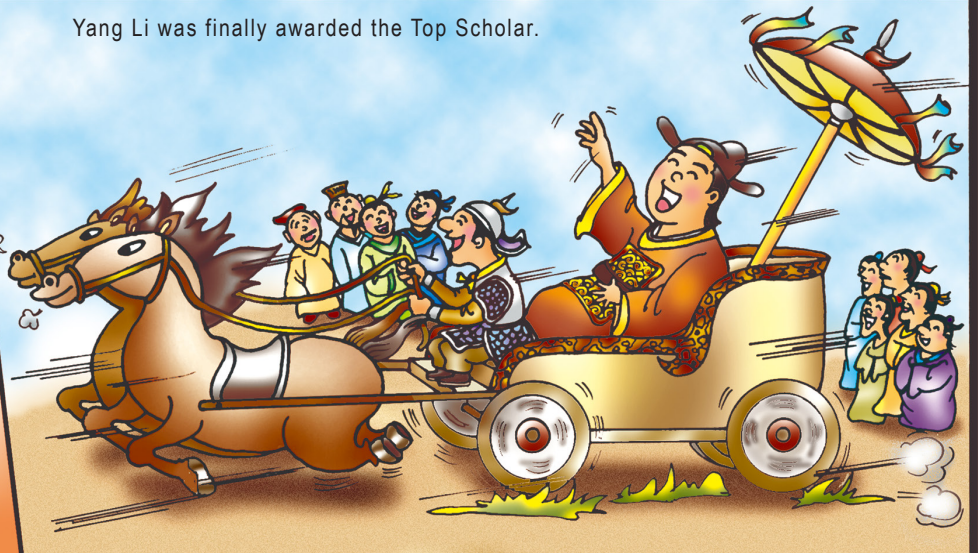


She told him to focus on his studies, while she would support him with her weaving. Deeply touched, Yang Li studied very hard.



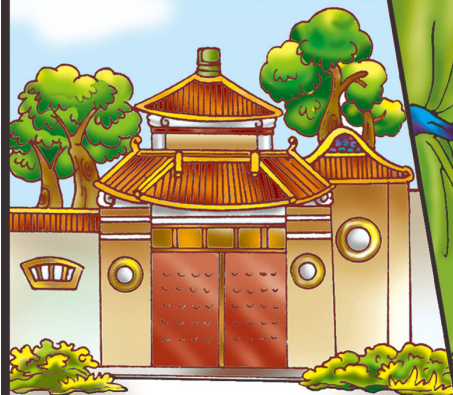
Again, the results of the Exam were released...

Yang Li was finally awarded the Top Scholar.



Immediately after learning of his success, he rushed straight to Liu Ping's residence.

He lashed out in anger toward his former old friend.



Liu Ping whispered something to his assistant....



The subordinate returned with a woman.

Hey! How can it be you?



What are you doing here?



She is my wife!

The truth was, Liu Ping had asked his wife to take care of Yang Li and to encourage him, so that he wouldn't degenerate and bury his talent.



Yang Li finally realized Liu Ping's love for him. The two good friends embraced each other, crying with great emotion.



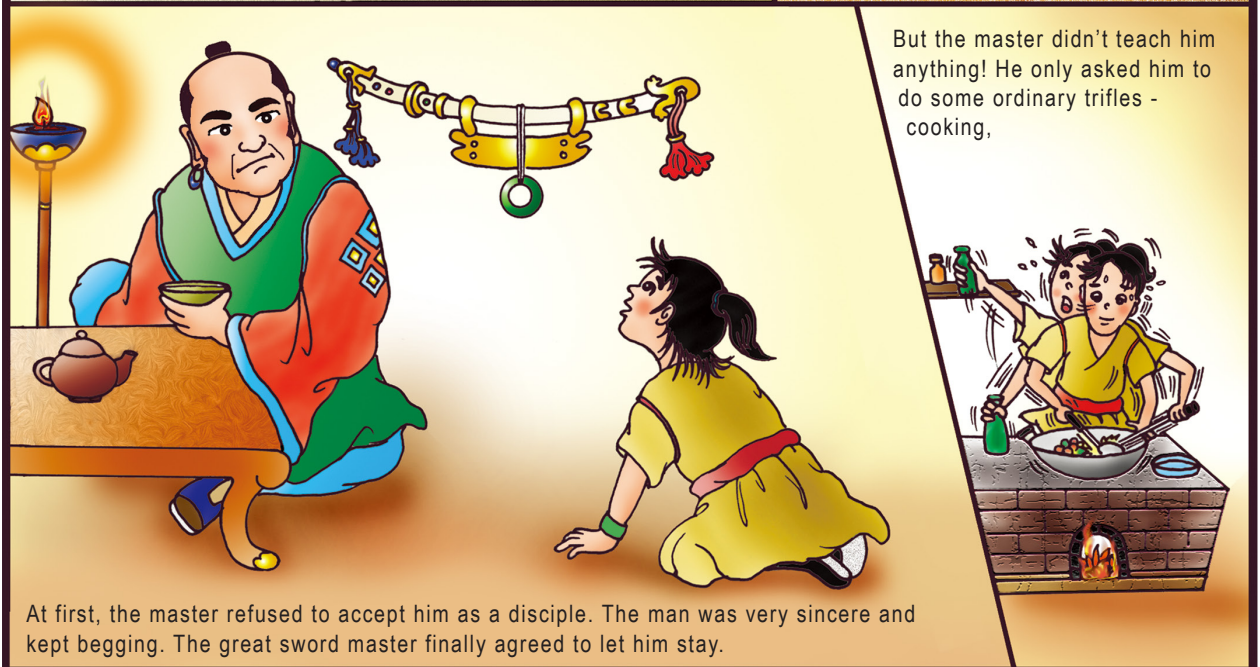
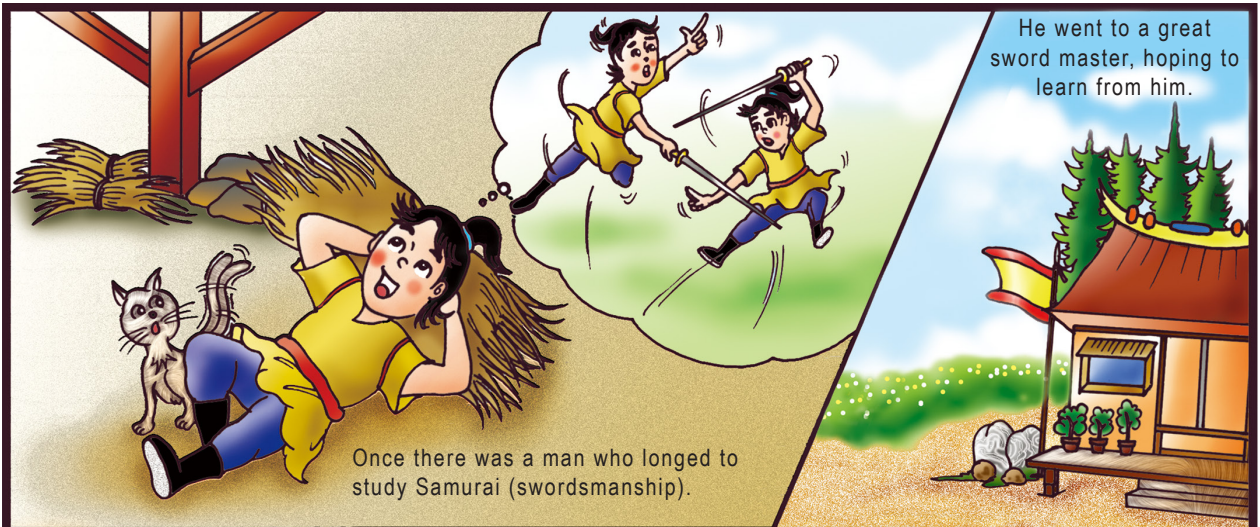
Sometimes, the compassion of an ignorant person can hurt others. However, the mercilessness of a wise one can help many people, including himself and others. This is true compassion. Therefore, sometimes we need to know how to be merciless. "The truly good person knows when to be tough and when to be gentle."



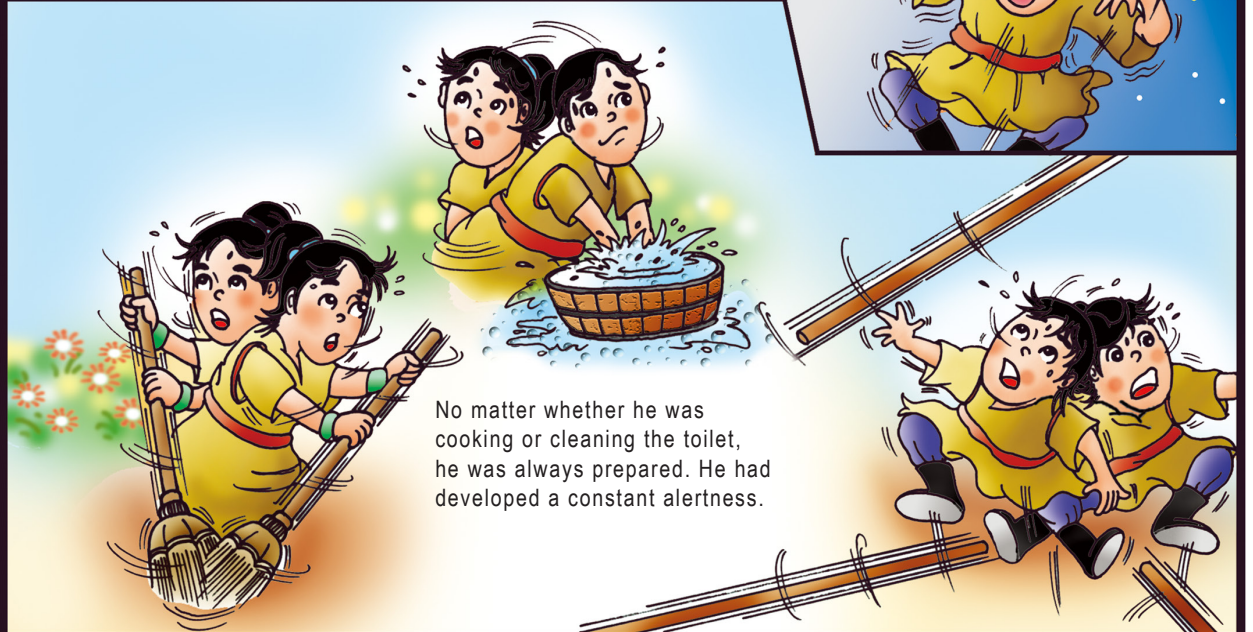
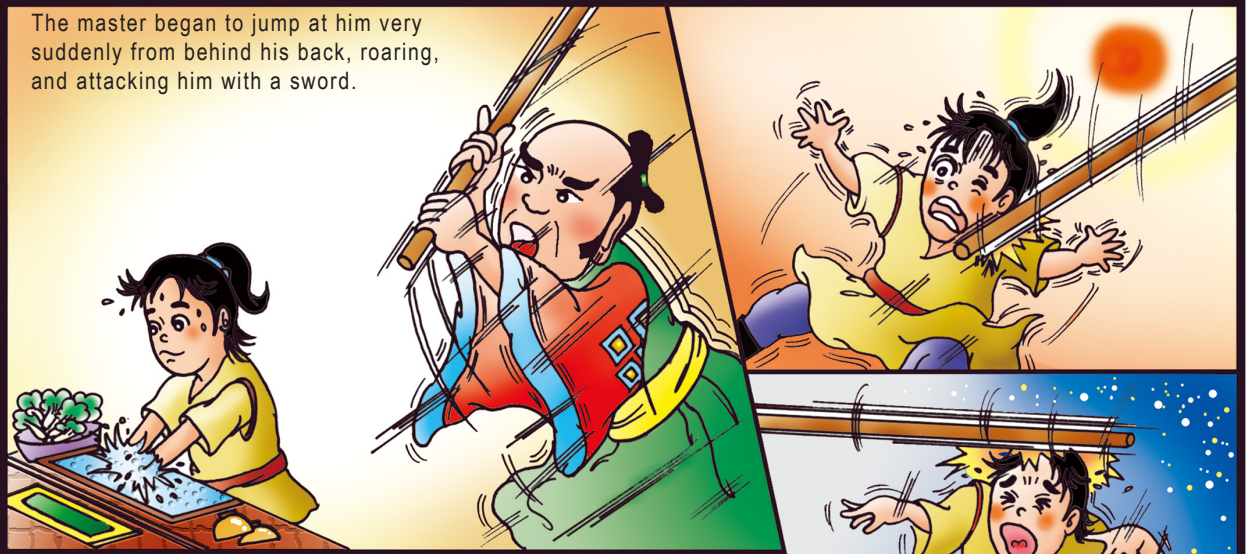


# Art of the Samurai



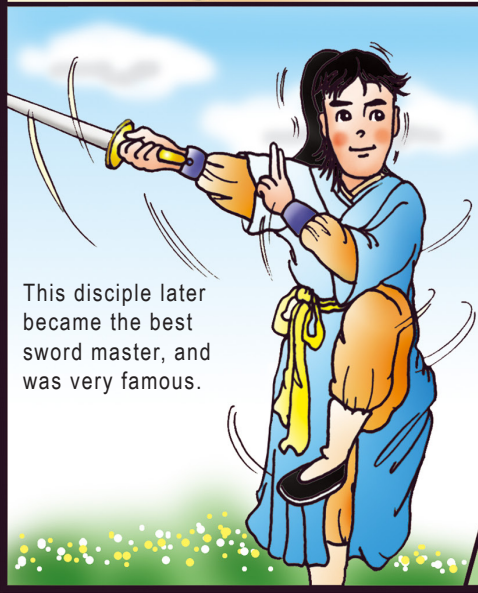


The master began to jump at him very suddenly from behind his back, roaring, and attacking him with a sword.

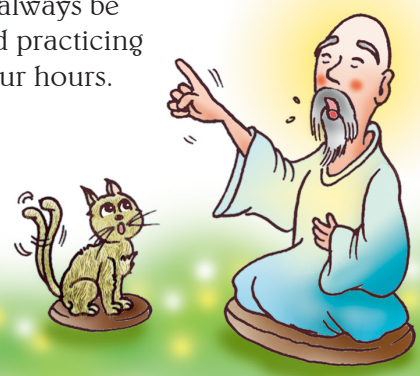


No matter whether he was cooking or cleaning the toilet, he was always prepared. He had developed a constant alertness.

This disciple later became the best sword master, and was very famous.



So we should always be prepared, and learn the spirit of being alert. This world is neither good nor bad. It all depends on how we use its situations to learn the lessons that are good for us. We should always be learning and practicing all twenty-four hours.





God Takes Care of Everything



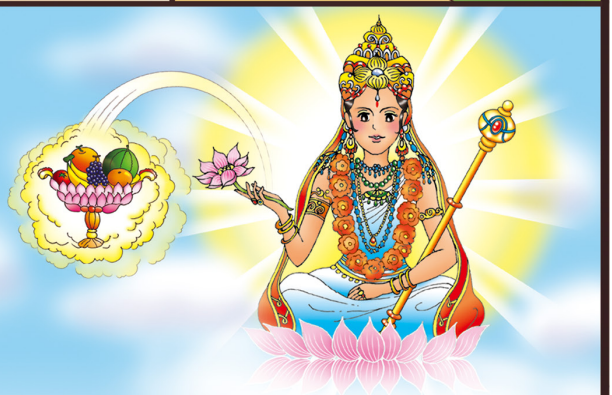
There was once a very diligent Indian yogi. His mother passed away in a very happy and peaceful way.

On his knees, he thanked the grace of God for taking his mother in this manner.

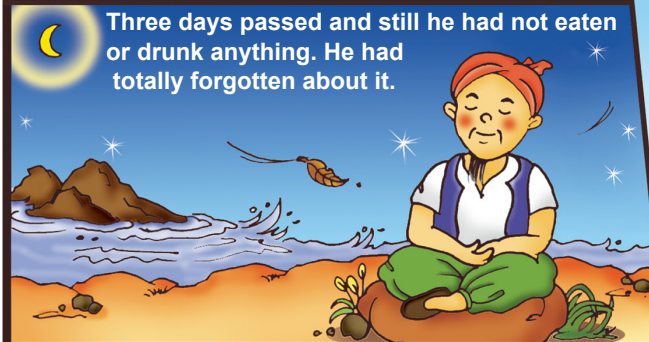
After burying his mother, he went to the bank of the Ganges.



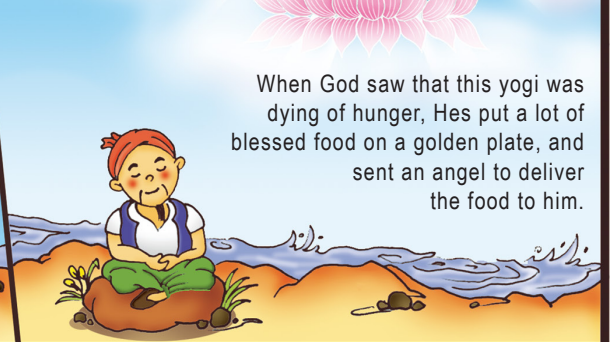
Every day, he concentrated on meditation, communicating with God.



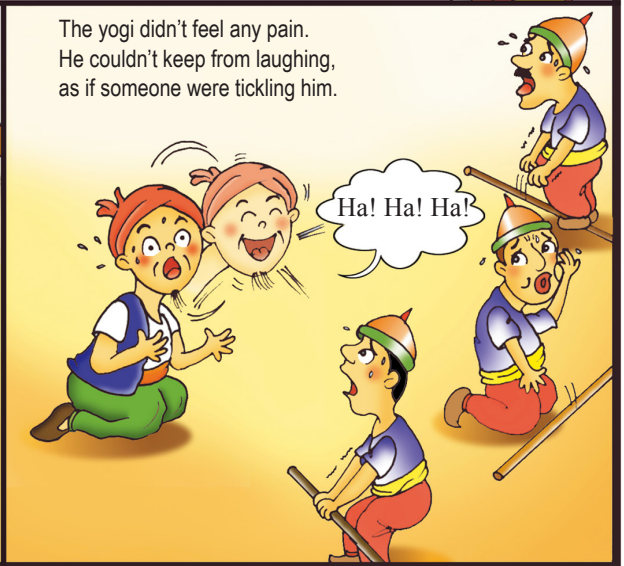
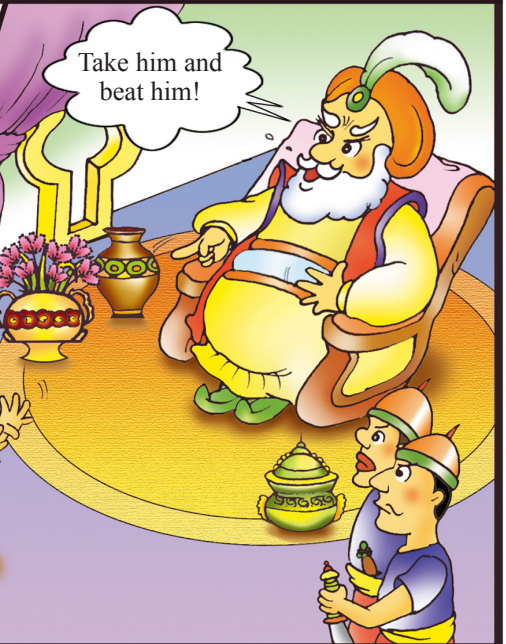
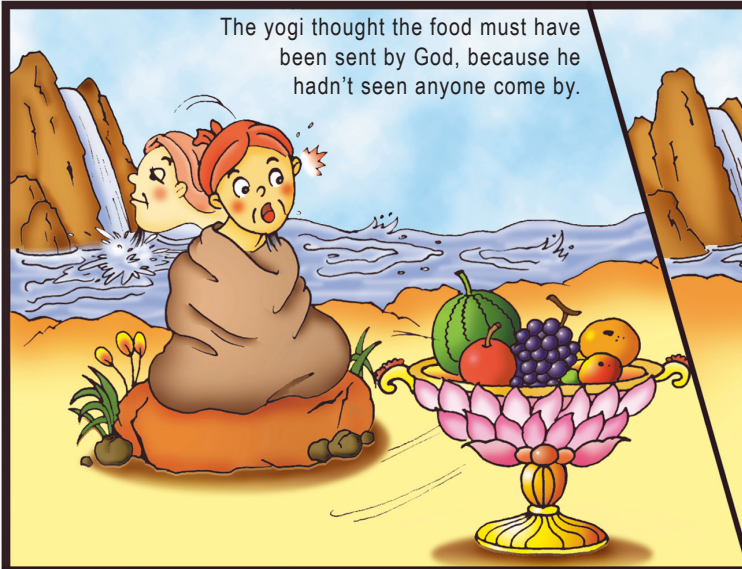
When God saw that this yogi was dying of hunger, He put a lot of blessed food on a golden plate, and sent an angel to deliver the food to him.



Three days passed and still he had not eaten or drunk anything. He had totally forgotten about it.

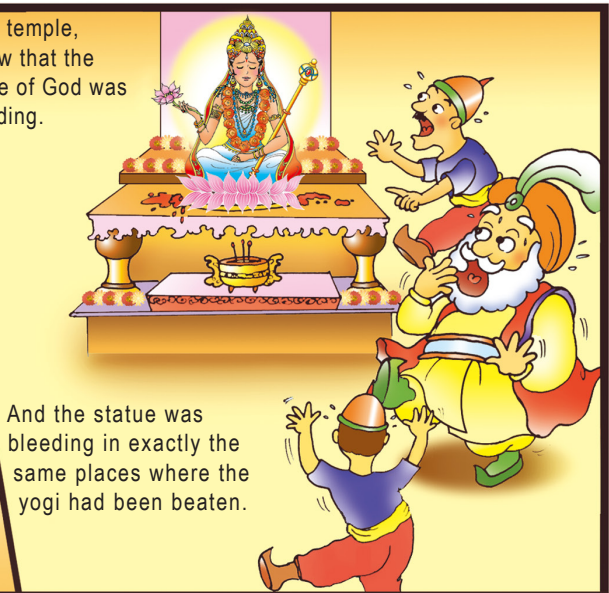


Quietly, the angel left the food beside him and flew back.



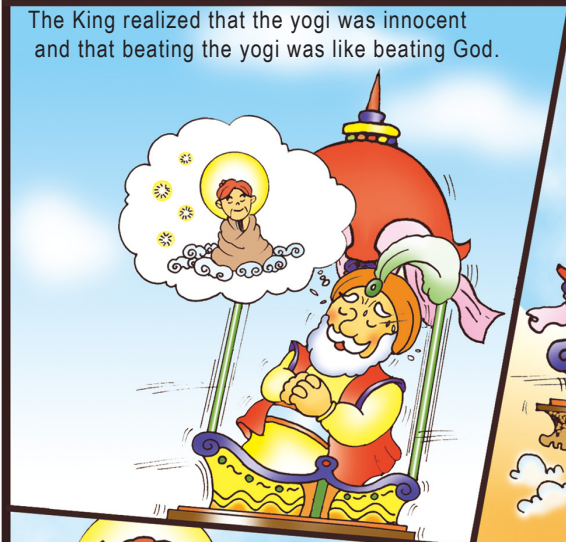


The King was so curious that he went to the temple to see if the plate had really been stolen.



In the temple, he saw that the statue of God was bleeding.

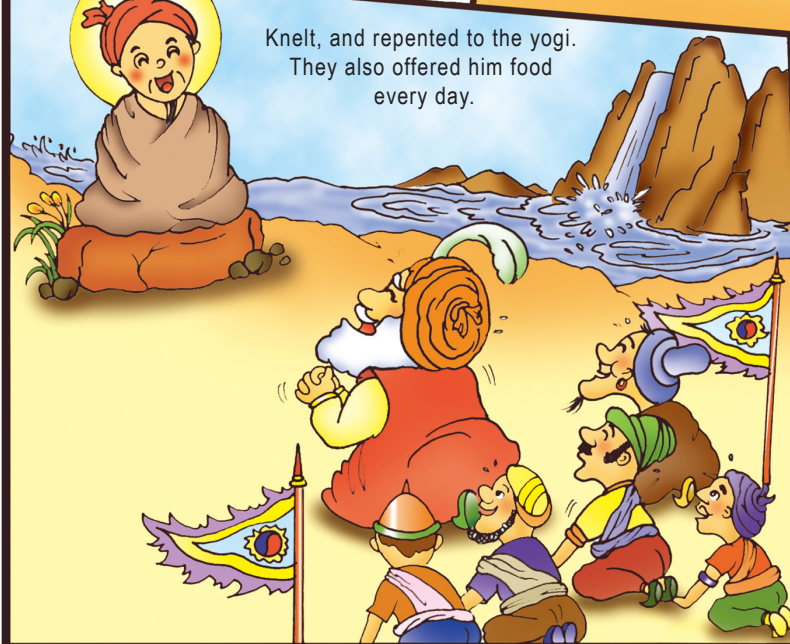
And the statue was bleeding in exactly the same places where the yogi had been beaten.



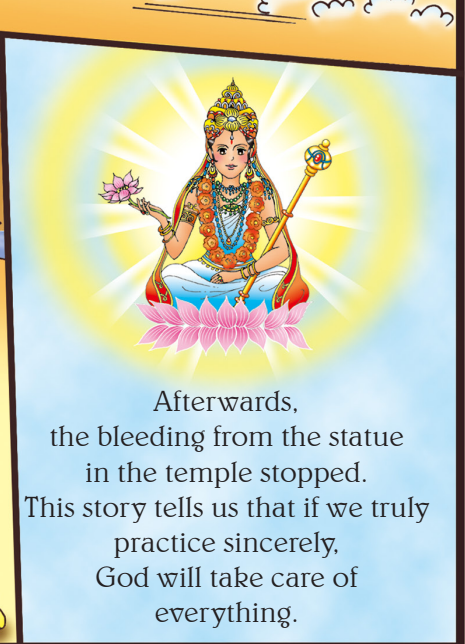
The King realized that the yogi was innocent and that beating the yogi was like beating God.



The King and his royal court members were all very frightened. They hurried to the riverside,



knelt, and repented to the yogi. They also offered him food every day.



Afterwards, the bleeding from the statue in the temple stopped. This story tells us that if we truly practice sincerely, God will take care of everything.



This Topsy-Turvy World



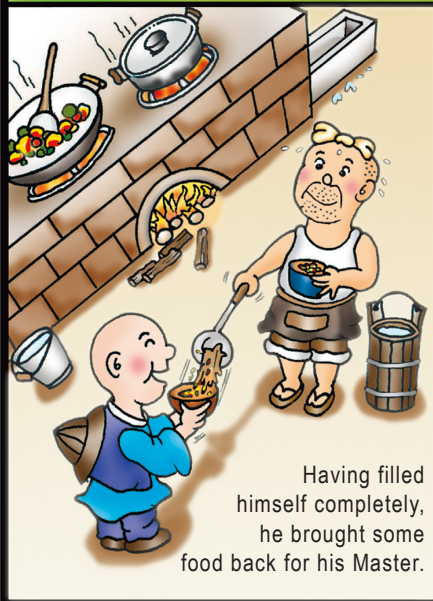
There was once a great Enlightened Master who often traveled with his disciple to share the Truth with people.



The Master was so honest and pure that he wouldn't even beg for food. Instead, he just lived on wild vegetables and fruits that were available. But after some time, his disciple couldn't stand it anymore!

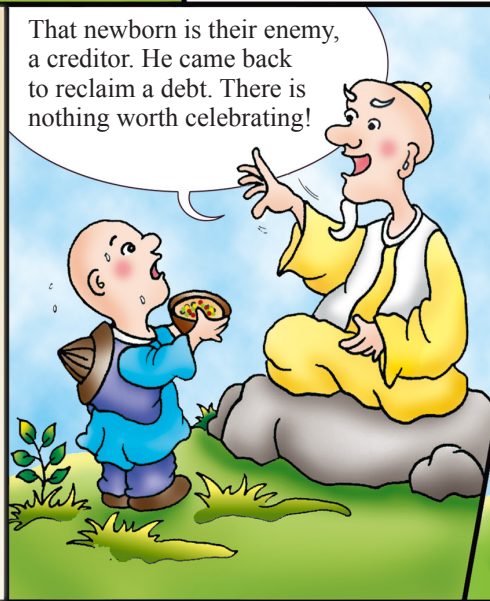


One day, the disciple went alone into town to beg for food. He found a family that was holding a party to celebrate the birth of their son.



Having filled himself completely, he brought some food back for his Master.

That newborn is their enemy, a creditor. He came back to reclaim a debt. There is nothing worth celebrating!



The family was so happy to have a baby! Why did Master say such things?





The next day, the disciple again went to the same household, hoping to get more food.



As soon as he stepped into the house, he saw that everyone was crying in confusion.



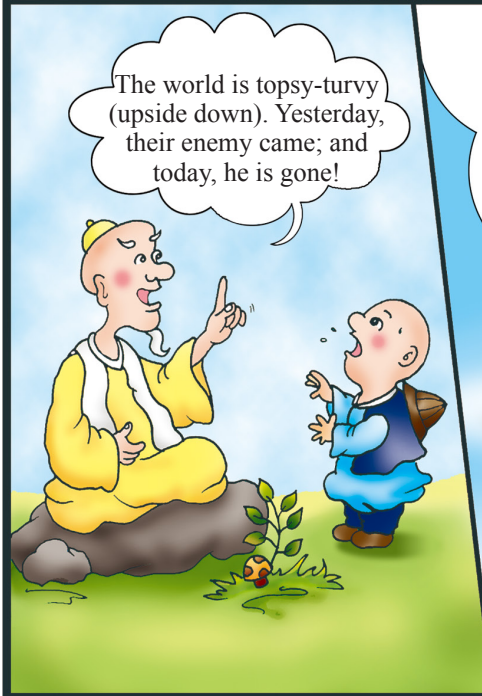
Master! Something bad has happened. The newborn baby is dead!



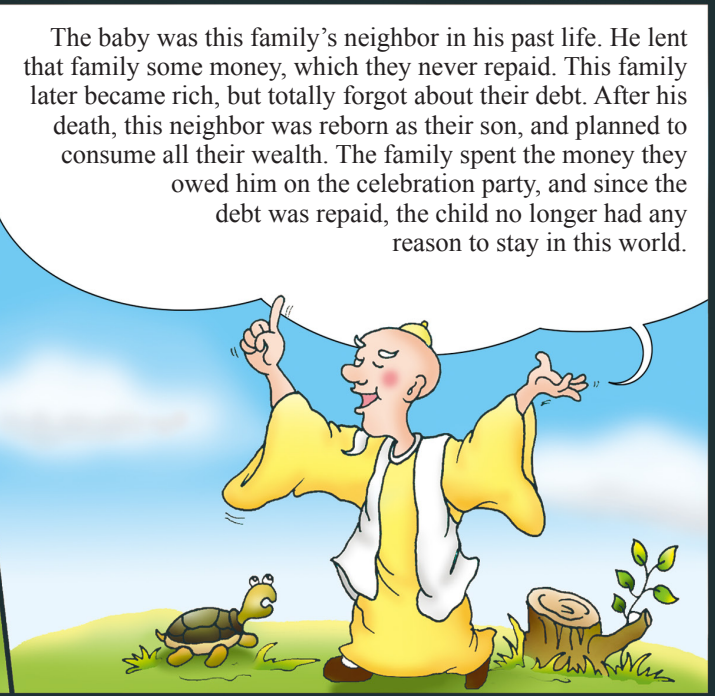
Ha!  
Ha!  
Ha!



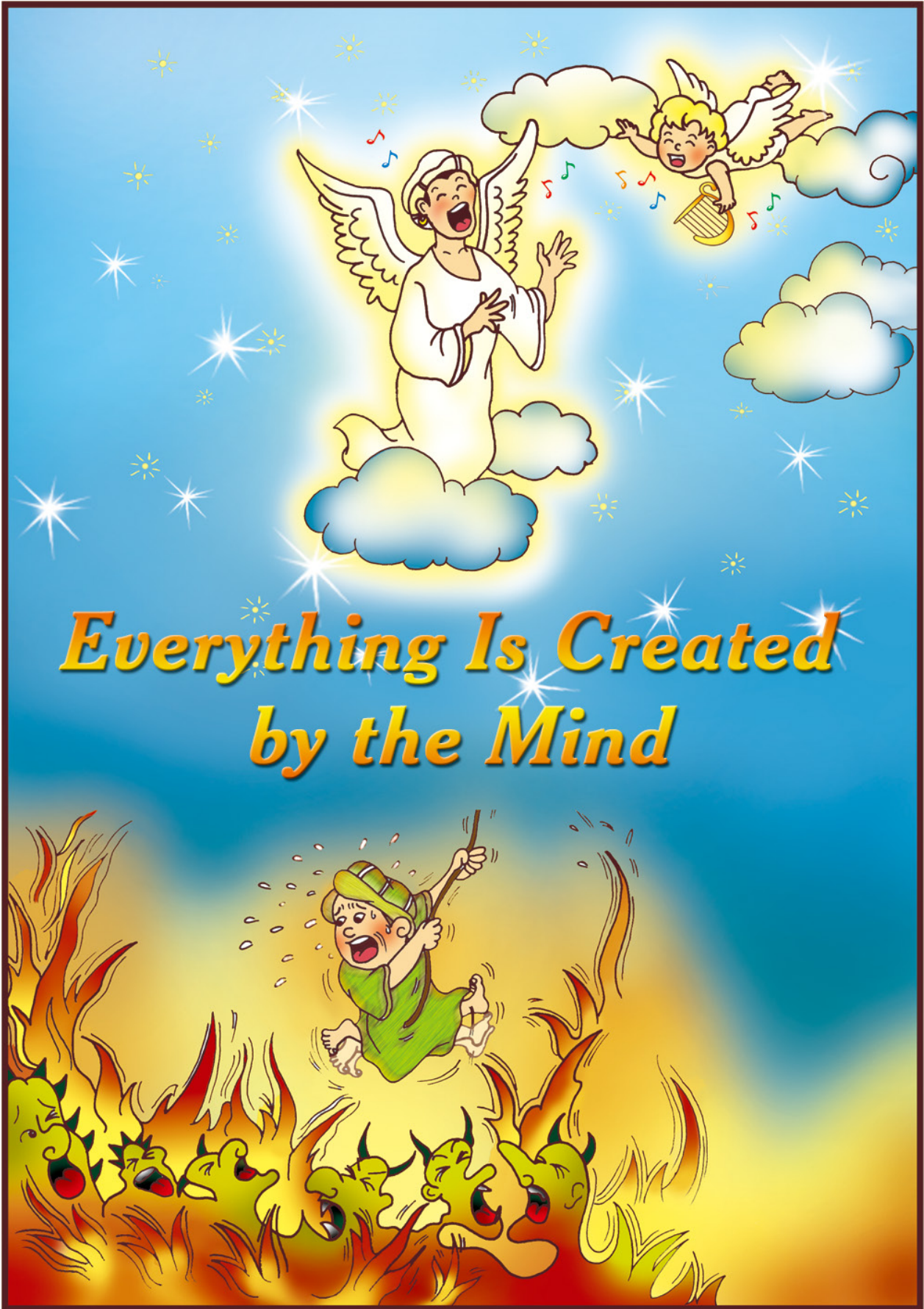
Master, why are you laughing? Why do you laugh when the people are mourning over the death of their baby?



The world is topsy-turvy (upside down). Yesterday, their enemy came; and today, he is gone!



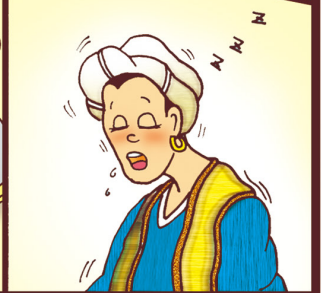
The baby was this family's neighbor in his past life. He lent that family some money, which they never repaid. This family later became rich, but totally forgot about their debt. After his death, this neighbor was reborn as their son, and planned to consume all their wealth. The family spent the money they owed him on the celebration party, and since the debt was repaid, the child no longer had any reason to stay in this world.



*Everything Is Created  
by the Mind*

Two friends were enjoying an outing together. While passing by a temple, they heard someone inside reciting the "Bhagavad Gita," a very famous Indian holy scripture.

Come on! Let's go inside and listen to the holy teachings.



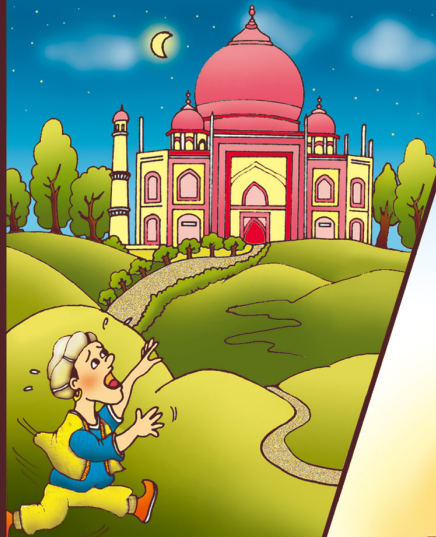
After listening for a while, one of them left.



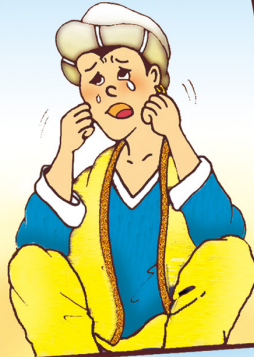
He went to a party to fool around with girls. Pretty soon, he became bored, and also he was feeling very regretful and ashamed.



He hurried back to the temple, but the recital of the scripture had already ended.



After he went home, he felt sorry and repented deeply for several days...



Meanwhile, his friend who had stayed in the temple couldn't concentrate on the scripture, for his mind kept wandering to his friend and the party.



Several years later, both of them died.



The one who went to the party was taken to Heaven...

While his friend who stayed in the temple and listened to the scripture was dragged down to hell by the death angels!



This happened because "Everything is created by the mind." God doesn't only observe our behavior, but He also looks into our hearts.

# Use Your Intelligence Well



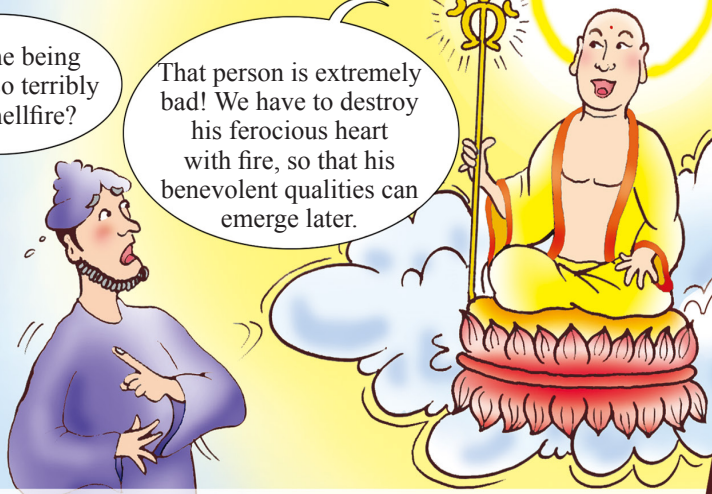


A spiritual practitioner visited hell, and there he saw a ghost being burned fiercely by the hellfire.

He asked the Earth Store Bodhisattva,\*

Why is he being punished so terribly by the hellfire?

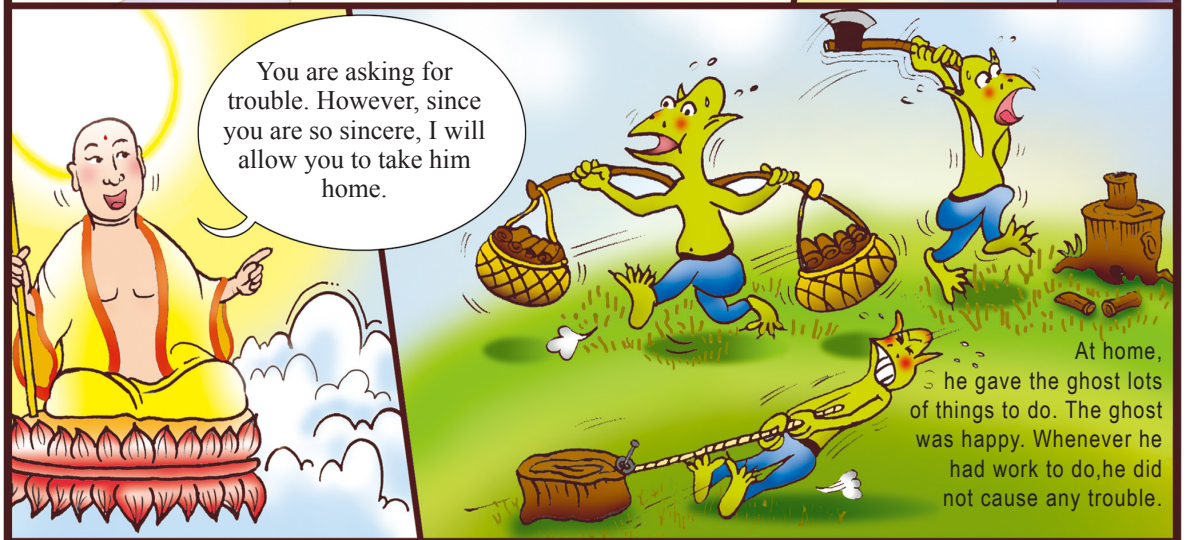
That person is extremely bad! We have to destroy his ferocious heart with fire, so that his benevolent qualities can emerge later.



The practitioner had great sympathy for the ghost, so he begged the Bodhisattva to let him take the ghost home and take care of him.



\*The Earth Store Bodhisattva is a legendary Buddhist saint who promised God that he would forever help relieve the suffering of beings in the hell realms.



You are asking for trouble. However, since you are so sincere, I will allow you to take him home.

At home, he gave the ghost lots of things to do. The ghost was happy. Whenever he had work to do, he did not cause any trouble.



However, all the chores were soon finished, and then he demanded more work from his master...

But there is nothing more to do!

Then the ghost quarreled with his master.

He even wanted to kill him. The ghost possessed such great power, but he didn't know how to use it.

Scared to death, the master fled to hell, begging the Bodhisattva to save him.

You made this trouble for yourself! Go home and tell him to build a huge tower with a very long and tall staircase.

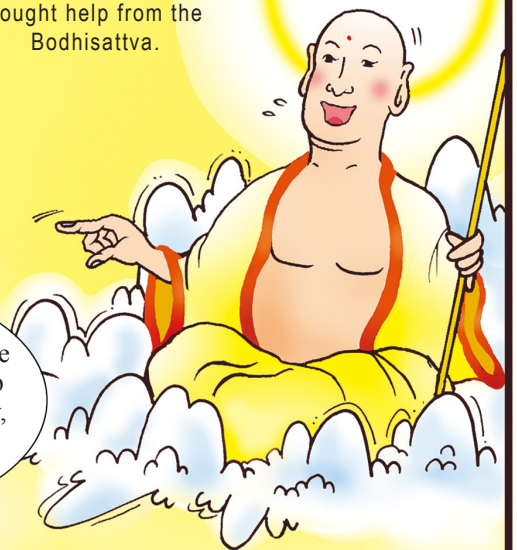




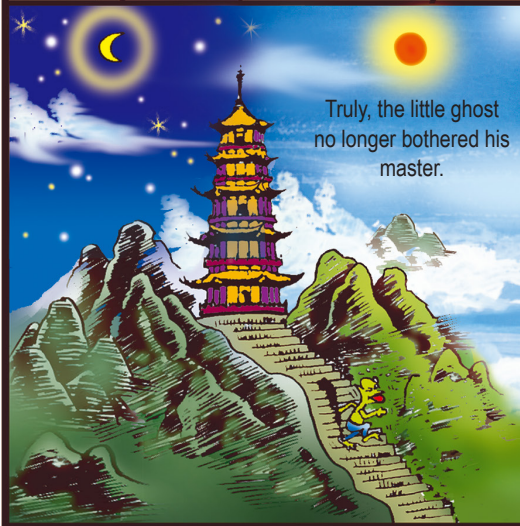
Again, he chased his master, trying to kill him and demanding more things to do.



The master again sought help from the Bodhisattva.



Tell him to climb from the lowest to the highest step of the staircase every day, and then run back down again!



Our brain is just the same. If it has no work to do, it will think nonsense. We should know our value and not waste it. We should choose work that serves society. Don't act on impulse and make the wrong choice, wasting your ability and power.



# The Ignorant Prince



Once upon a time, there was a prince who had the illusion that he was a chicken. Every day, he wore nothing, and hunted for food on the ground.

I am a chicken!



The king consulted many famous doctors, but none could cure the prince.

Ahhh!

One day, a spiritual practitioner came to see the king....

Can you cure the prince?

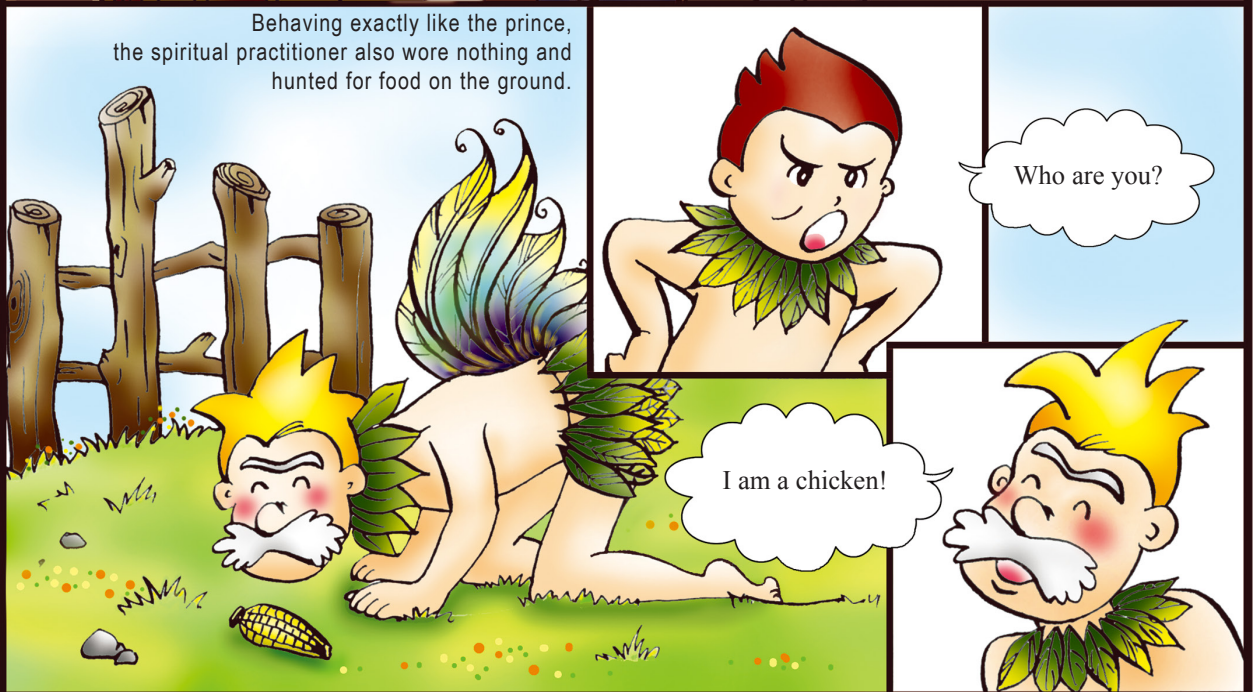
Yes, but you must entrust him entirely to me!



Behaving exactly like the prince, the spiritual practitioner also wore nothing and hunted for food on the ground.

Who are you?

I am a chicken!





They lived together every day, and the prince began to trust him more and more.

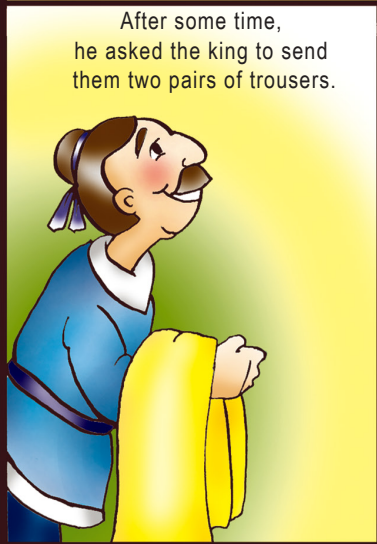


After some time, the practitioner asked the king to bring them two shirts.



Who said that a chicken cannot wear a shirt?

Well, if you wear a shirt, I also want to wear a shirt!



After some time, he asked the king to send them two pairs of trousers.



Who said that a chicken cannot wear trousers?

It's fun! I also want to wear trousers!

Not long afterwards,  
he asked the king to prepare a table filled with food.



Who said that we  
chickens cannot eat at a  
table with dignity?



Again, the prince followed  
his action.



Step by step, the prince slowly  
resumed the life of  
a normal person!

Similarly, an Enlightened Master must  
live among sentient beings and take the  
time to correct our misconceptions and  
bad habits. Then we can learn the  
superior qualities of the Saints.

# A Test of the Ego



A perfect and great Master one day instructed his disciple...

Go fetch two potatoes.

Yes, Master!

Now eat these two potatoes.

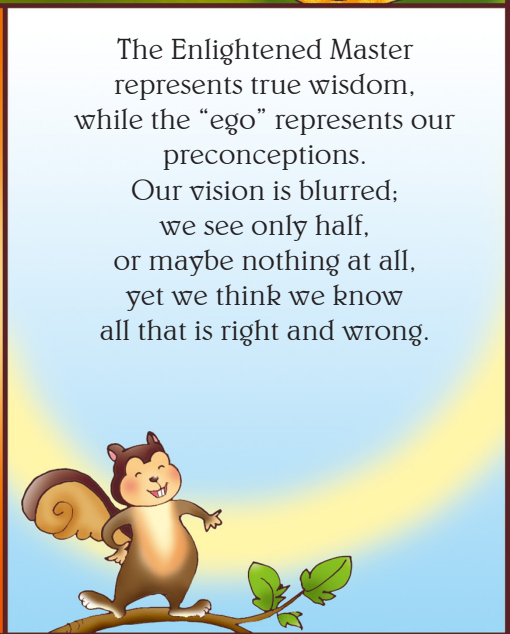
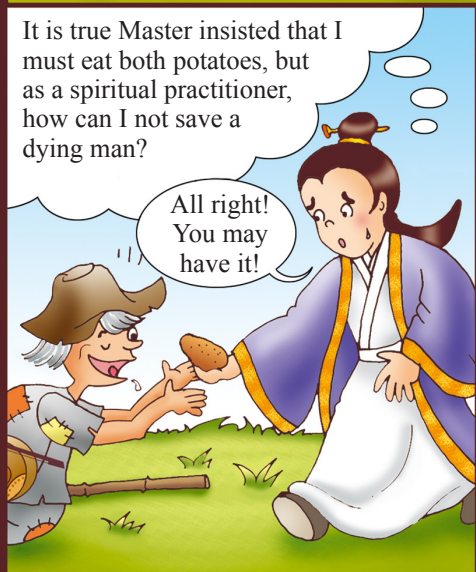
Yes, Master!

Make sure that you eat both of them!

It is very easy to eat two potatoes; this is not a difficult test!

He had followed his Master long enough to realize that everything the Master said was for a reason, and that he must obey.

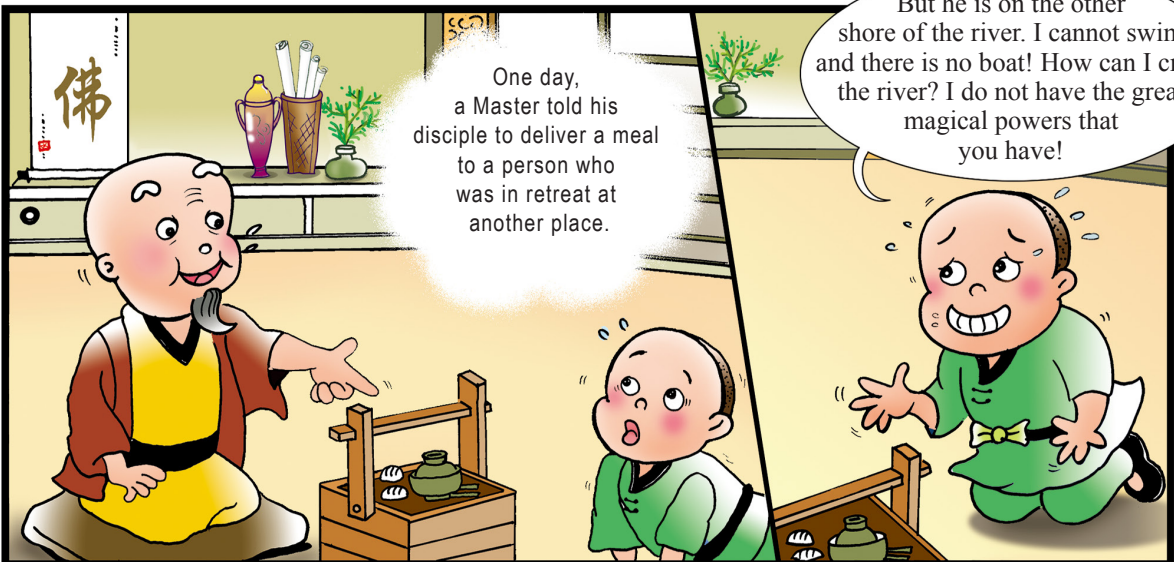
After he had eaten the first potato, a beggar came by.





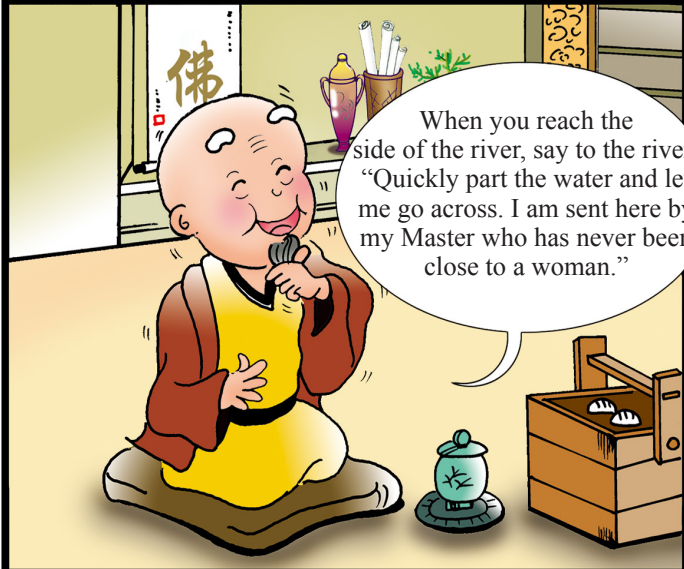
# *It Is Detachment that Counts*





One day, a Master told his disciple to deliver a meal to a person who was in retreat at another place.

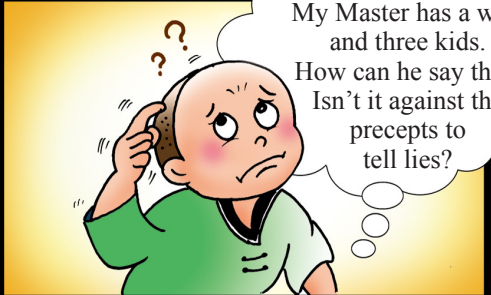
But he is on the other shore of the river. I cannot swim and there is no boat! How can I cross the river? I do not have the great magical powers that you have!



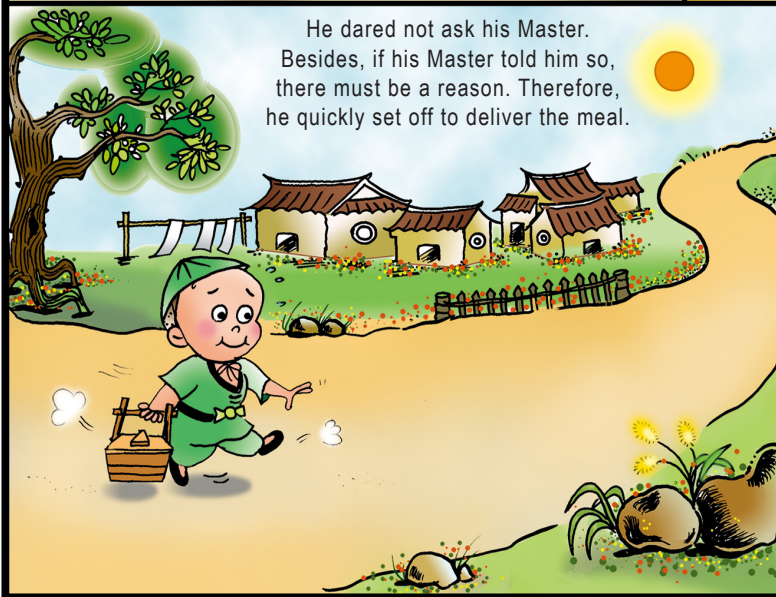
When you reach the side of the river, say to the river: "Quickly part the water and let me go across. I am sent here by my Master who has never been close to a woman."



Oh!



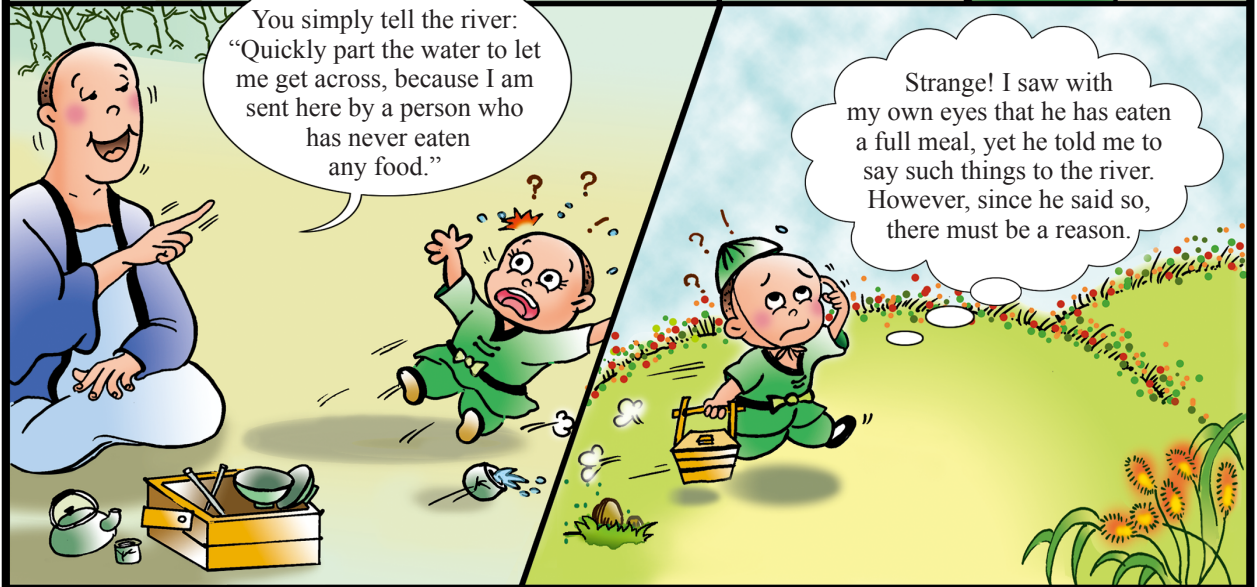
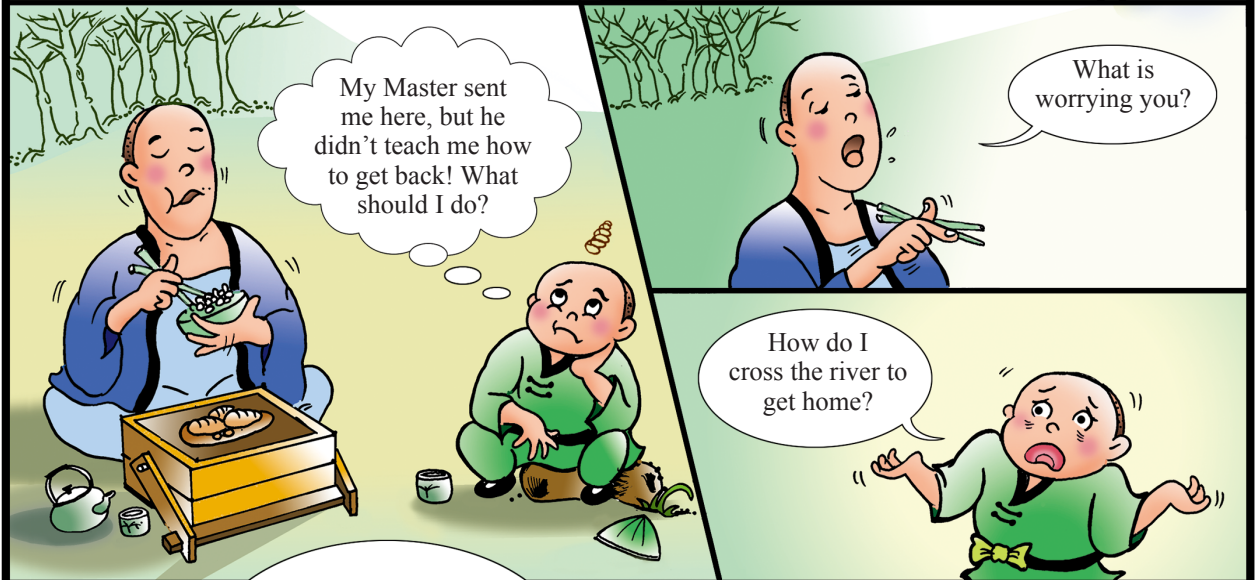
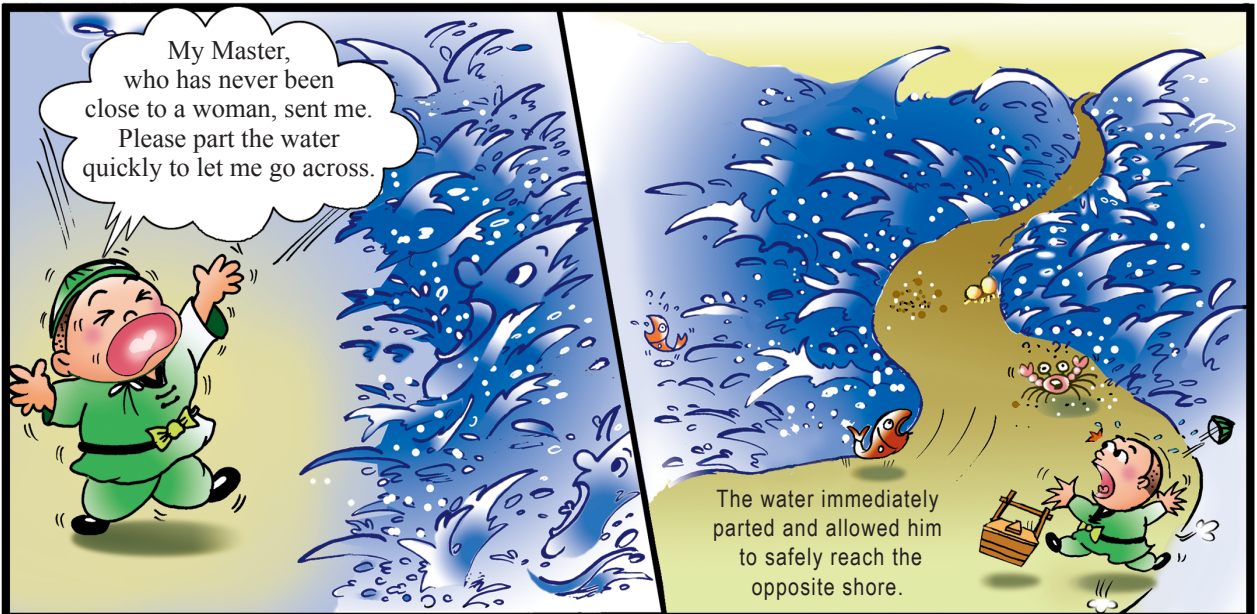
It is so strange! My Master has a wife and three kids. How can he say this? Isn't it against the precepts to tell lies?



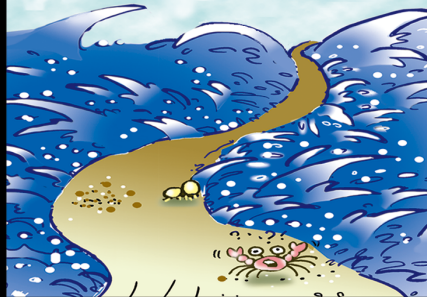
He dared not ask his Master. Besides, if his Master told him so, there must be a reason. Therefore, he quickly set off to deliver the meal.



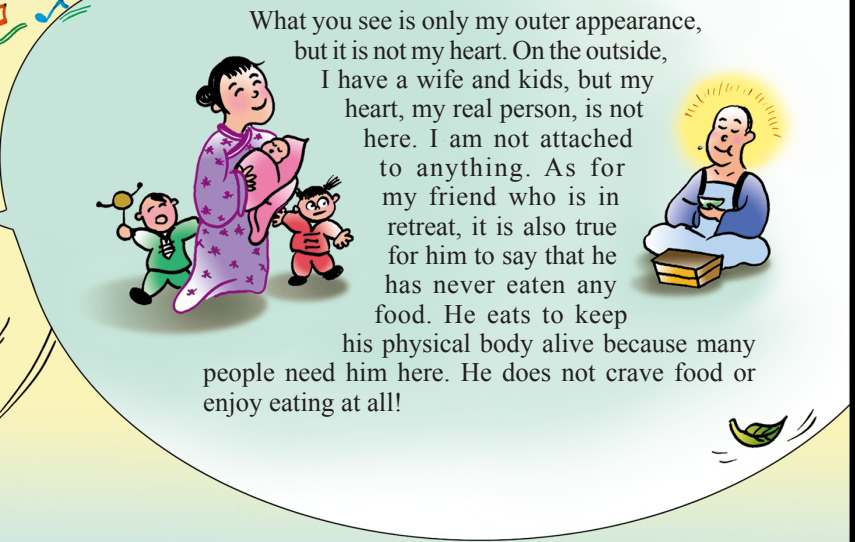
Arriving at the river's edge, he said to the river:



Accordingly, he yelled these words to the river, and the water parted again!



That was truly incredible to him. So when he returned, he asked his Master for an explanation.



What you see is only my outer appearance, but it is not my heart. On the outside, I have a wife and kids, but my heart, my real person, is not here. I am not attached to anything. As for my friend who is in retreat, it is also true for him to say that he has never eaten any food. He eats to keep his physical body alive because many people need him here. He does not crave food or enjoy eating at all!

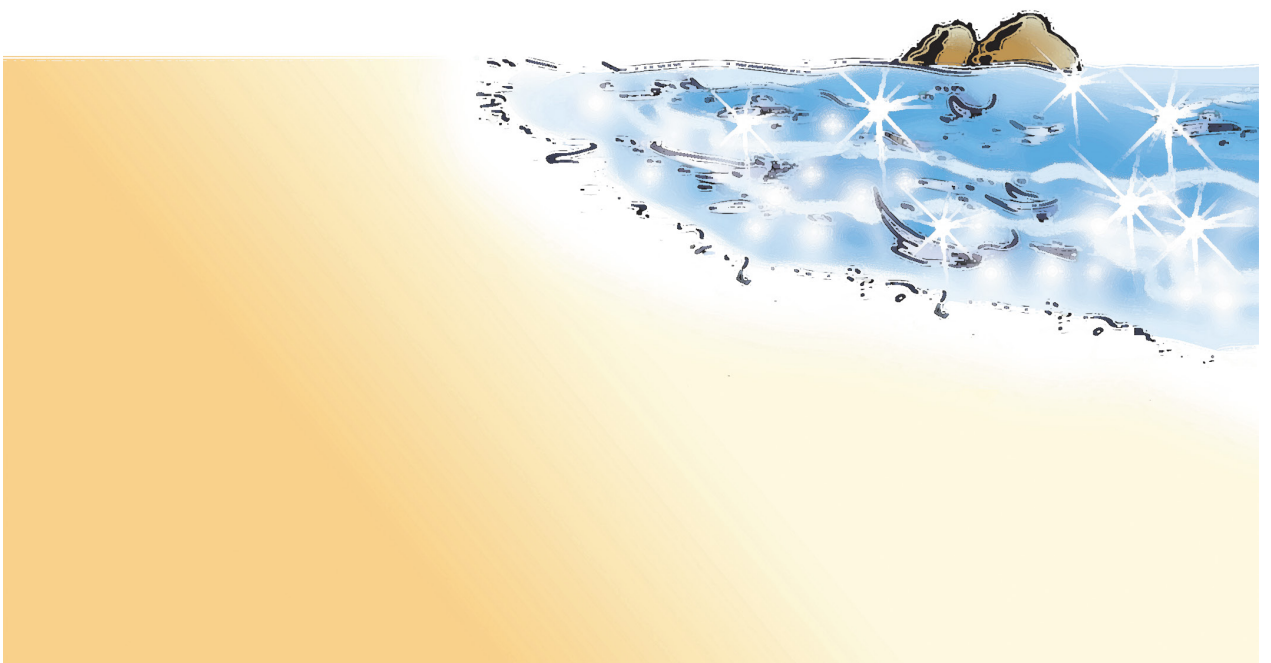
“There is power in the words I say because I only say things that are true. And because you followed my instructions, the power was transmitted all the same.”



Enlightened beings are forever with the “Tao” (Truth), which is always still. They do things just as ordinary people do, but in fact, they are only like observers who are watching at the side and are not related to the action.

*Why are the Enlightened Masters capable of doing anything?  
It is because They are always in a state of concentration,  
focusing Their acts, speech and thoughts on whatever They are doing,  
and at the same time being omnipresent.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*



# We Should Not Copy a Master's Outer Performance

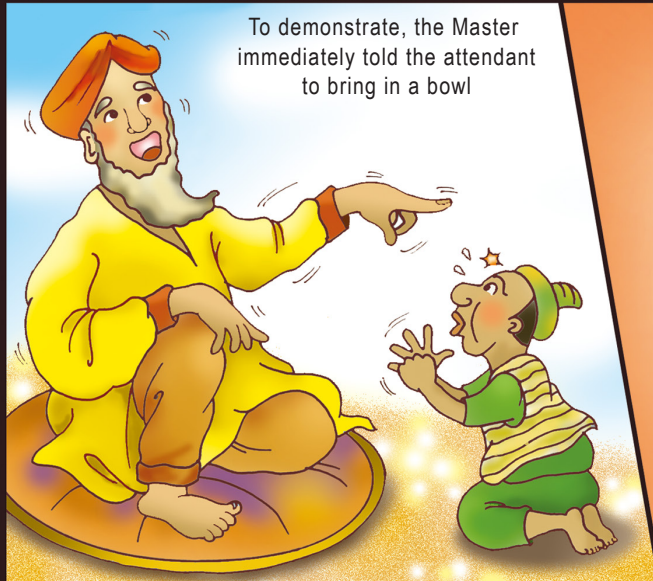


There was a Master who trained his disciples in wisdom.

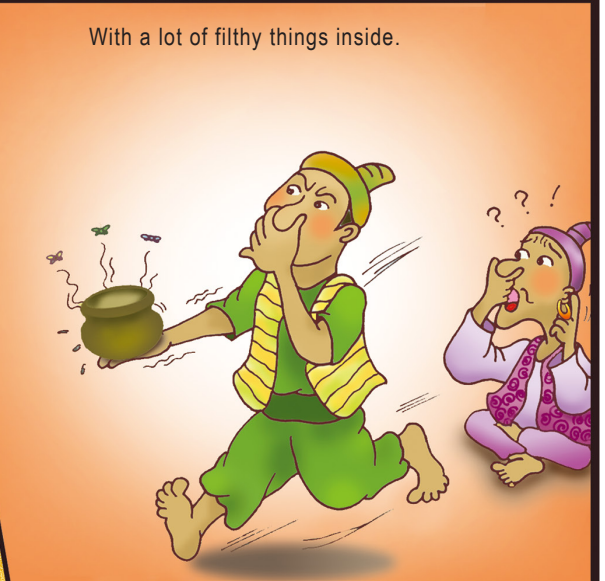
To be a future Master, a future Buddha, we must be endowed with at least two gifts. The first is the power of endurance. The second is the power of observation — look, look, look.



To demonstrate, the Master immediately told the attendant to bring in a bowl



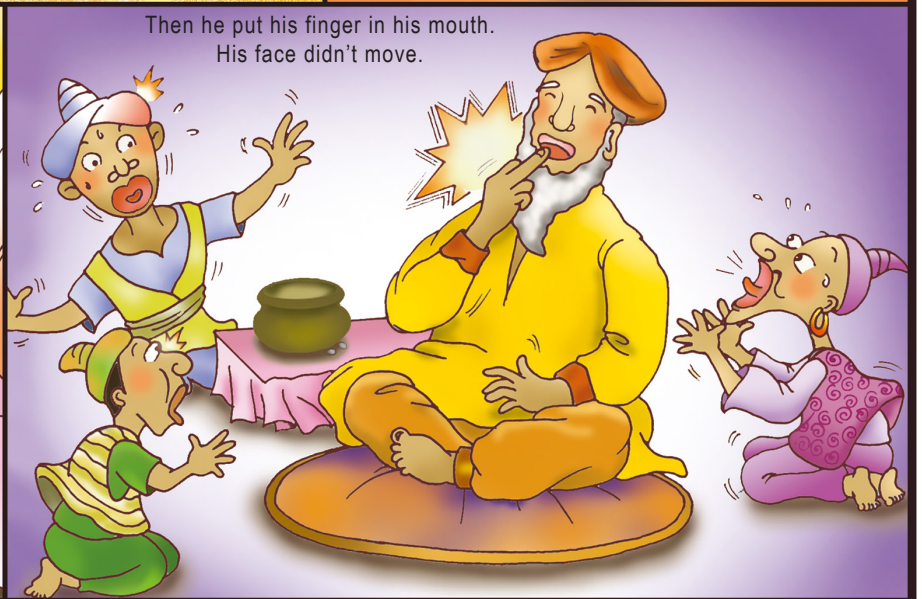
With a lot of filthy things inside.



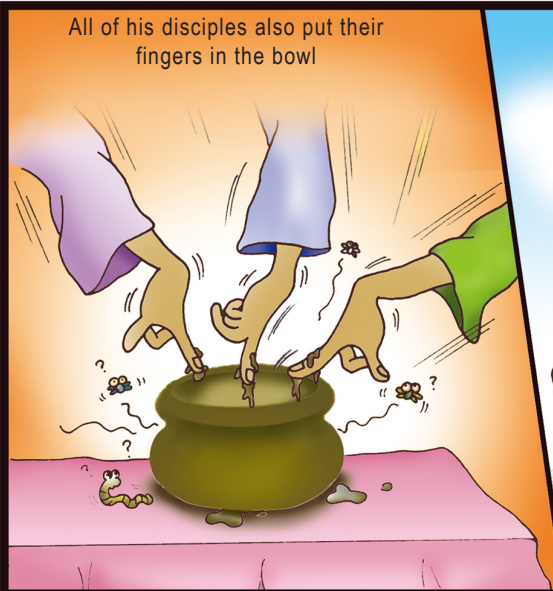
The Master put his finger inside the bowl.



Then he put his finger in his mouth. His face didn't move.



All of his disciples also put their fingers in the bowl



And then put them in their mouths, and also managed not to move their faces.



Congratulations, you have passed one test but not two, because you don't have the power of observation.



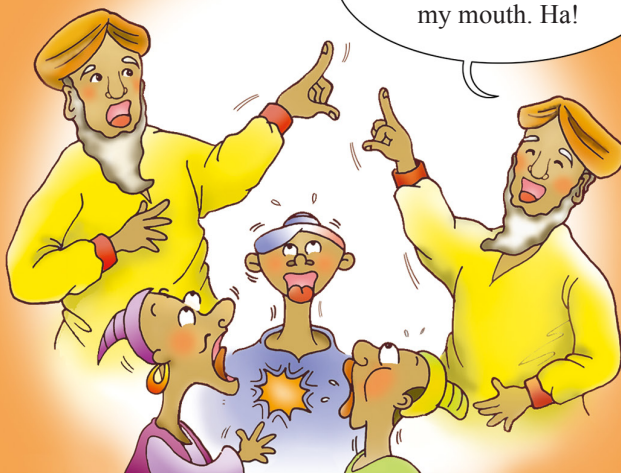
Why?

What?

Why?



I put my index finger in the bowl, but I put my middle finger in my mouth. Ha!



In our spiritual practice, we must always be vigilant. Sometimes, the Master does things very, very differently. The outer performance may be similar. But it is not the outer performance from which you can judge whether that person is a Master or not; it is something inside.





# *An Ingenious Way to Decline Visitors*



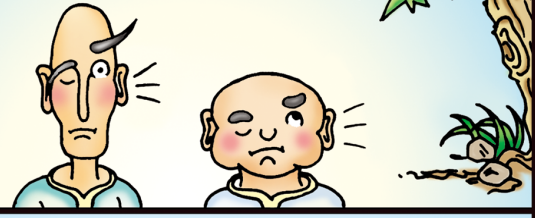
Two spiritual practitioners were practicing in seclusion deep in the mountains.



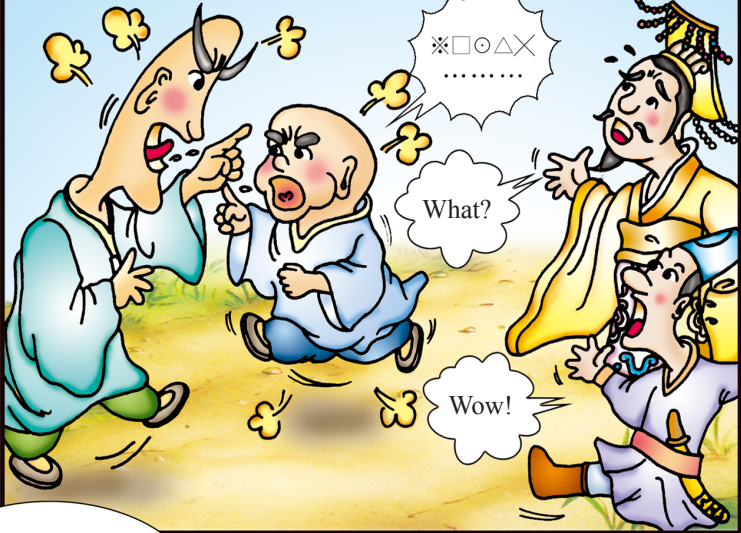
One day they learned that the king would come to visit them very soon.



Clip-clop! Clip-clop!



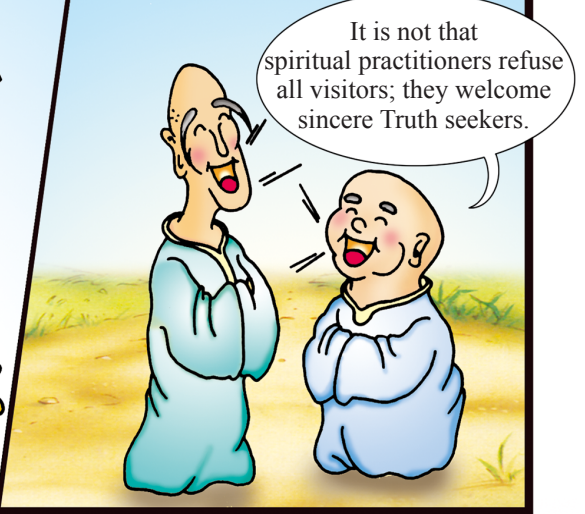
Hey! How about trying this trick?



Seeing is believing. They are not good spiritual practitioners. Let's go!



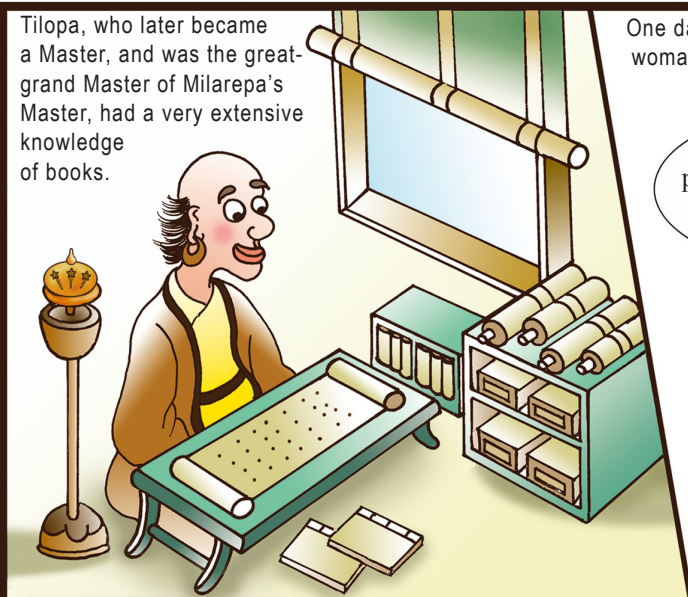
It is not that spiritual practitioners refuse all visitors; they welcome sincere Truth seekers.



# *The Wisdom of an Old Beggar Woman*

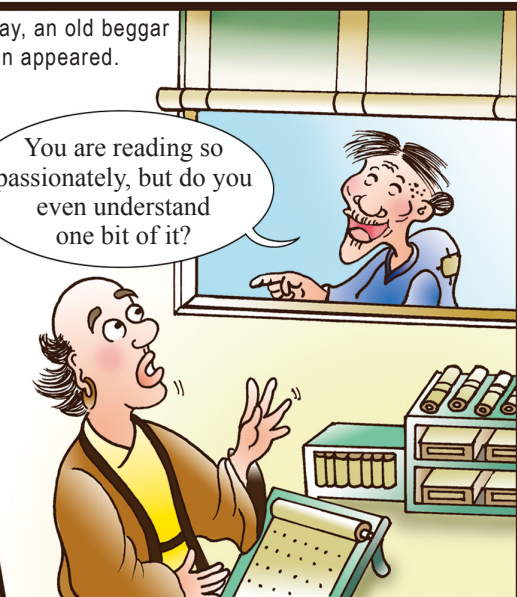


Tilopa, who later became a Master, and was the great-grand Master of Milarepa's Master, had a very extensive knowledge of books.

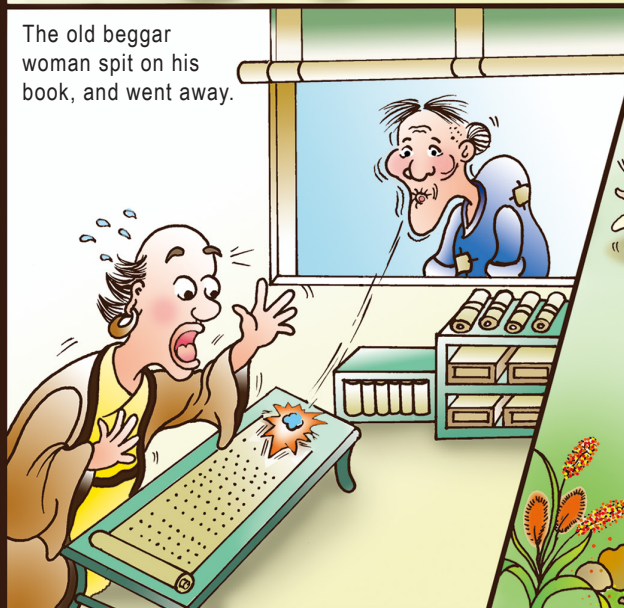


One day, an old beggar woman appeared.

You are reading so passionately, but do you even understand one bit of it?



The old beggar woman spit on his book, and went away.



Tilopa was angry and ran after her.

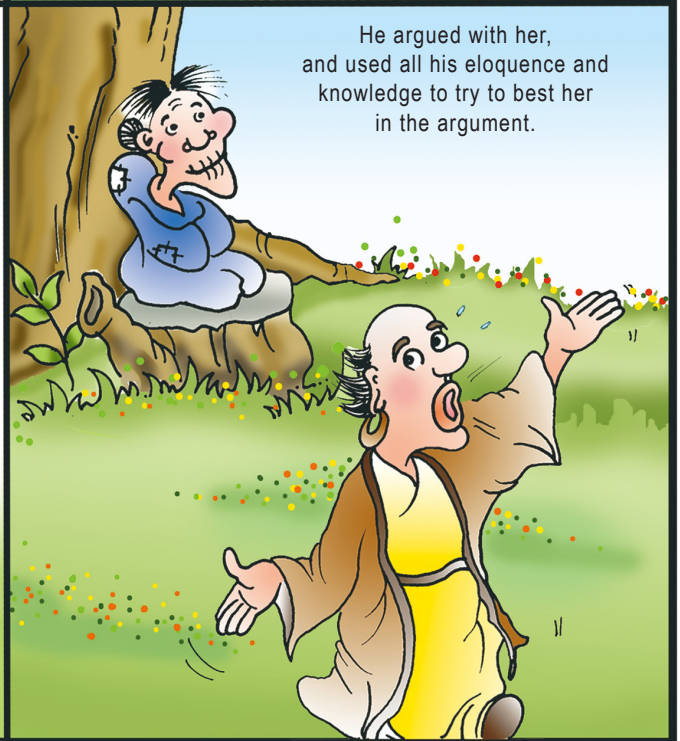
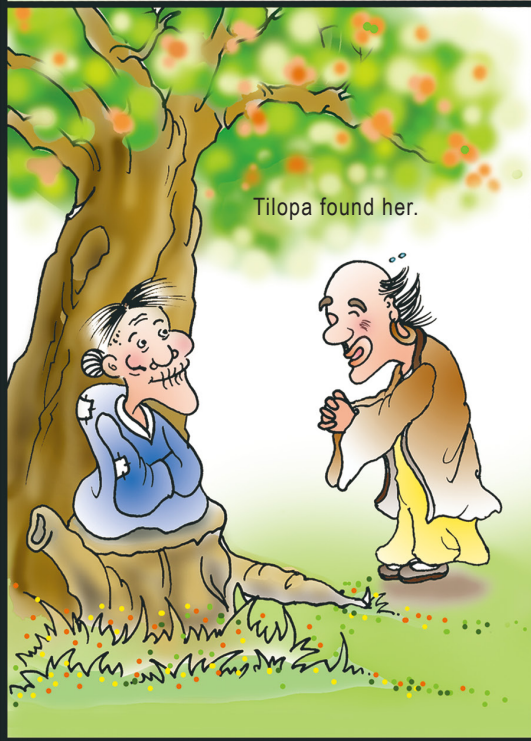
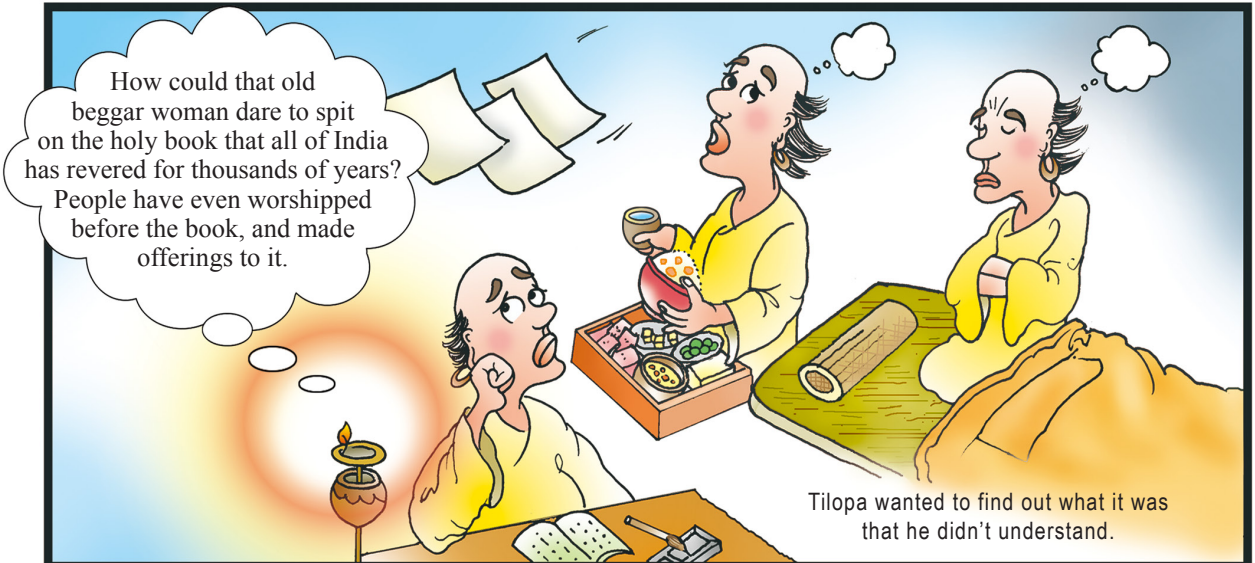


Maybe something is wrong with the way I am learning from these books.



The old beggar woman just murmured something in her throat, and suddenly Tilopa cooled down.





But the old beggar woman always won.



The wisdom I possess and understand is not in books. You cannot find it; therefore, you can never best me in an argument.



Finally he bowed to her and accepted her as his Master.

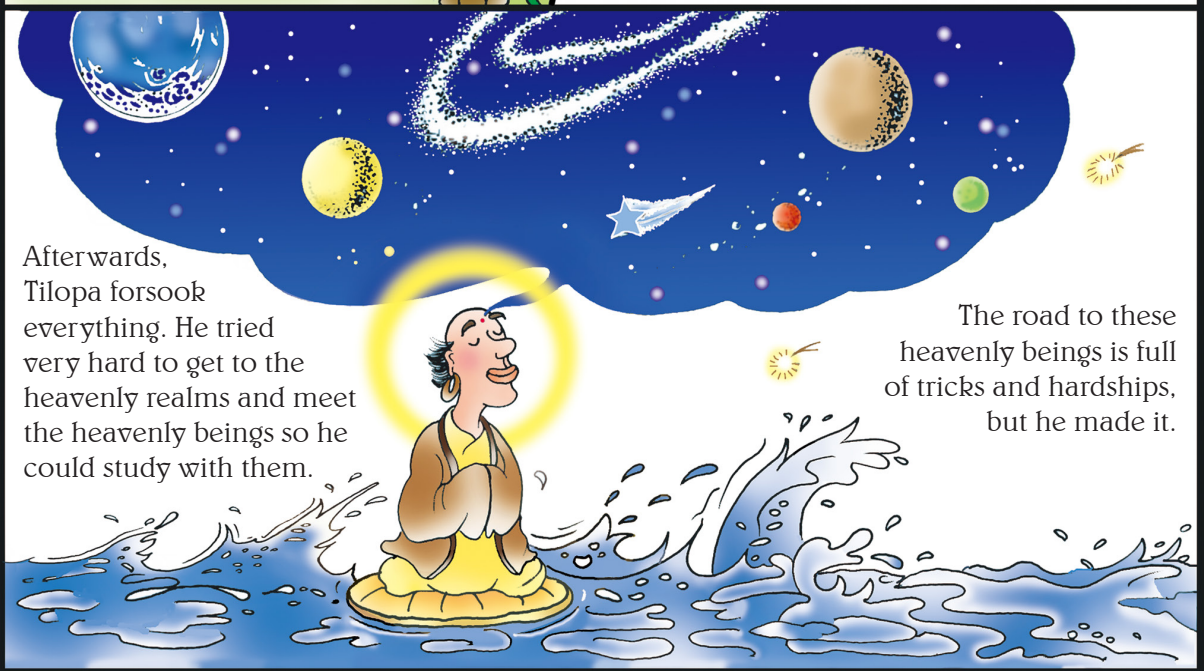


Whatever you want to know is not in books, and it's not in this world. You have to go inside to a higher level of consciousness to learn with the inner Master, the all-pervading Master. You must find heavenly beings to learn with. So, the way is initiation.



Afterwards, Tilopa forsook everything. He tried very hard to get to the heavenly realms and meet the heavenly beings so he could study with them.

The road to these heavenly beings is full of tricks and hardships, but he made it.

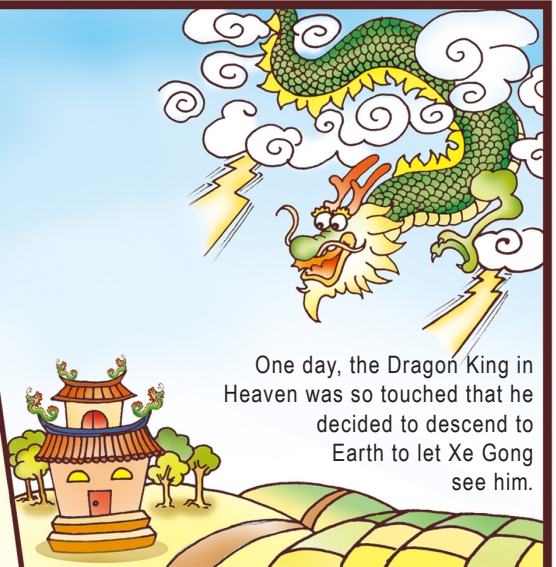




# *Xe Gong's Affection for Dragons*



Once there was a man named Xe Gong, who had an affection for dragons. In his house, everything, including furniture, ornaments and clothing, were all decorated with patterns of dragons.



One day, the Dragon King in Heaven was so touched that he decided to descend to Earth to let Xe Gong see him.

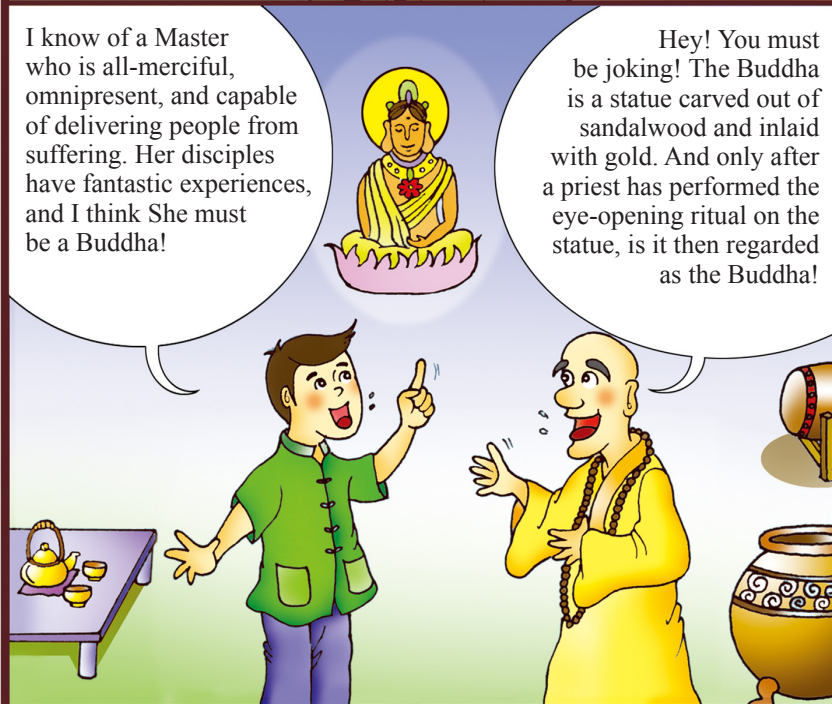


Hi!  
How are you?

Wah!



Xe Gong fainted in fear. So, what he loved was not the "real" dragon, but only "false" dragons in the images.



I know of a Master who is all-merciful, omnipresent, and capable of delivering people from suffering. Her disciples have fantastic experiences, and I think She must be a Buddha!

Hey! You must be joking! The Buddha is a statue carved out of sandalwood and inlaid with gold. And only after a priest has performed the eye-opening ritual on the statue, is it then regarded as the Buddha!

We all believe in Shakyamuni Buddha of 2,500 years ago, yet we cannot believe that a Buddha could manifest into different appearances and come to Earth to save sentient beings life after life. Is this not similar to Xe Gong's affection for dragons?







*After we know all the secrets of the universe, after we possess all the treasures of the Heavens, we desire nothing anymore. We become happy within ourselves; whatever comes, comes. We become like a child, and the desires of this world will not burn our hearts any longer, nor have anymore control over us. That is the advantage of becoming enlightened.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*





*I think a good and excellent child is not only good-looking or high ranking in school, but he or she must also have a beautiful heart – a loving heart, be patient with other people, endure humiliation, and have a spirit of humbleness and the attitude of sacrifice and dedication. A child like this is really good. She or he should remain smiling and obedient, no matter how badly his parents get angry at him or how the teachers treat her. She would not strike back and start a fight, no matter how the other students treated her. Instead, he would use love to move them. This is indeed a good child.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~*





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