

ILLUSTRATED CLASSIC CHINESE TALES
Fable Stories

AN IMPATIENT YOUTH

· 长竿入城 ·



寓言故事

中华传统经典故事绘本
附中文拼音



CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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Retold by Song Huaizhi
Translated by Liu Jun & Mark Bay



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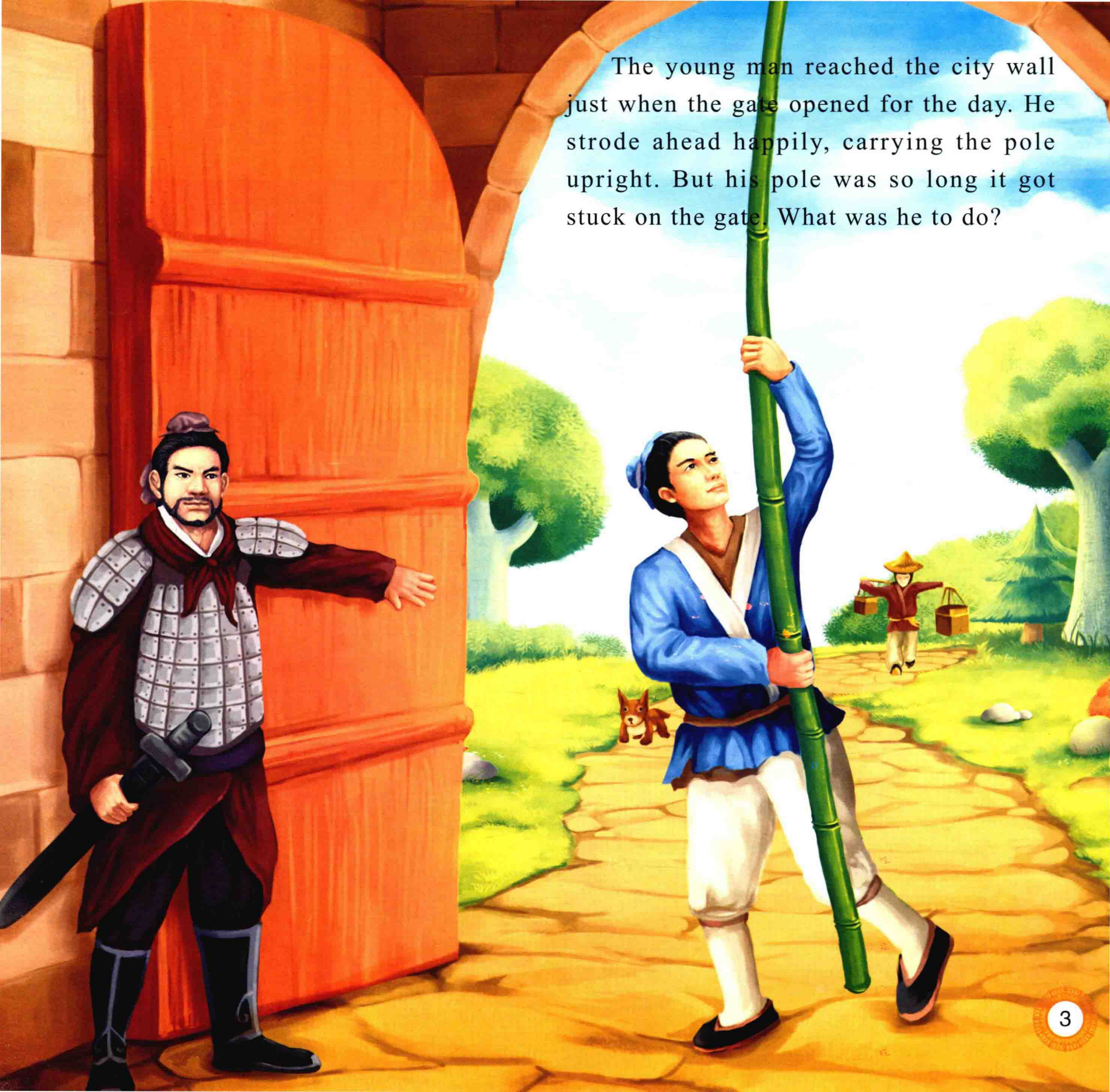


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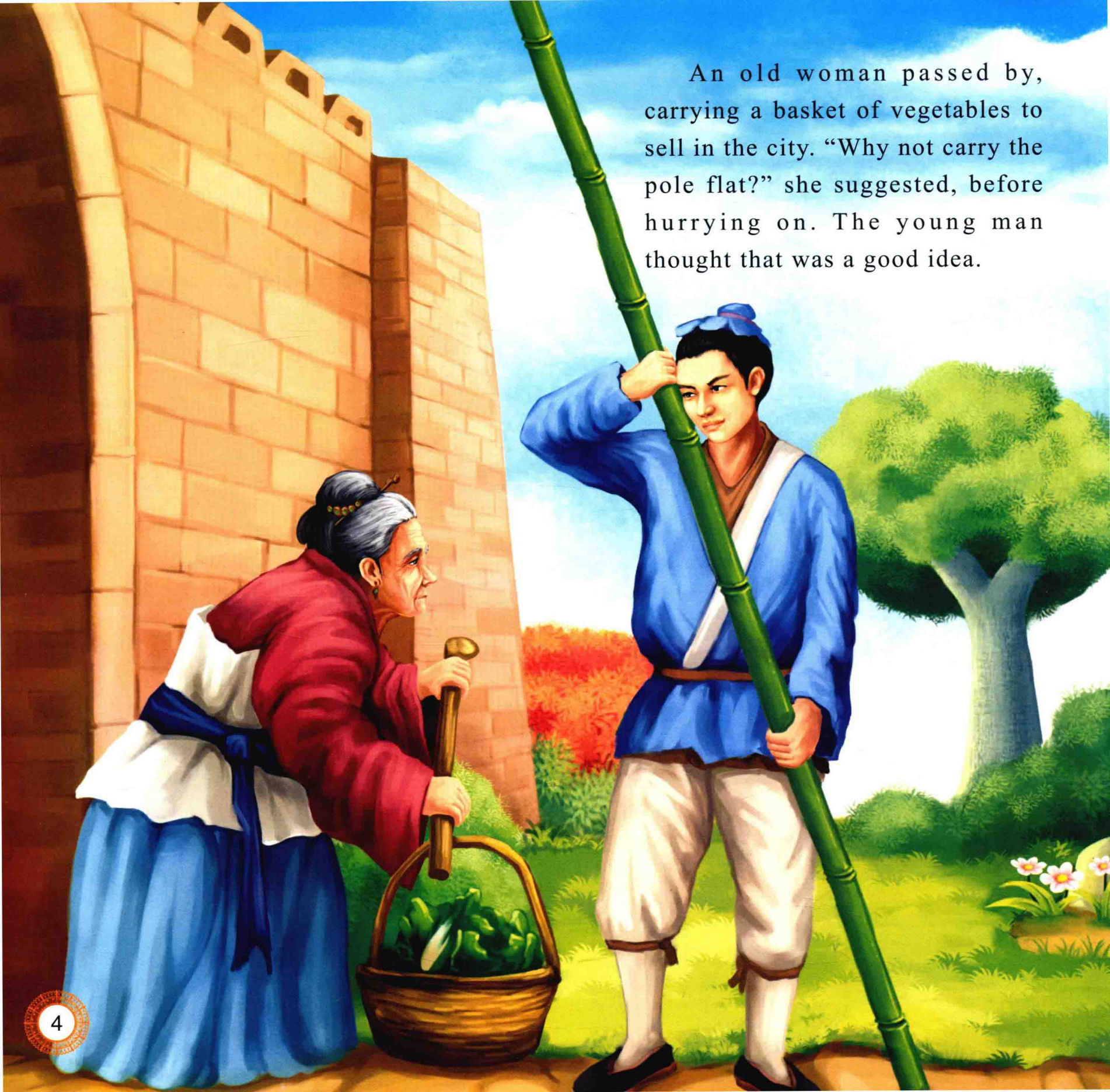


A long, long time ago, a young man of the Lu Dukedom went to the city to take a long bamboo pole to his uncle. He left home early in the morning and climbed over a mountain. In the distance, he could see the grand city.

The young man reached the city wall just when the gate opened for the day. He strode ahead happily, carrying the pole upright. But his pole was so long it got stuck on the gate. What was he to do?



An old woman passed by, carrying a basket of vegetables to sell in the city. “Why not carry the pole flat?” she suggested, before hurrying on. The young man thought that was a good idea.



He tried to enter the gate, but again the pole got stuck. The young man became anxious. He scratched his head and racked his brain for an idea. Yet nothing came up.

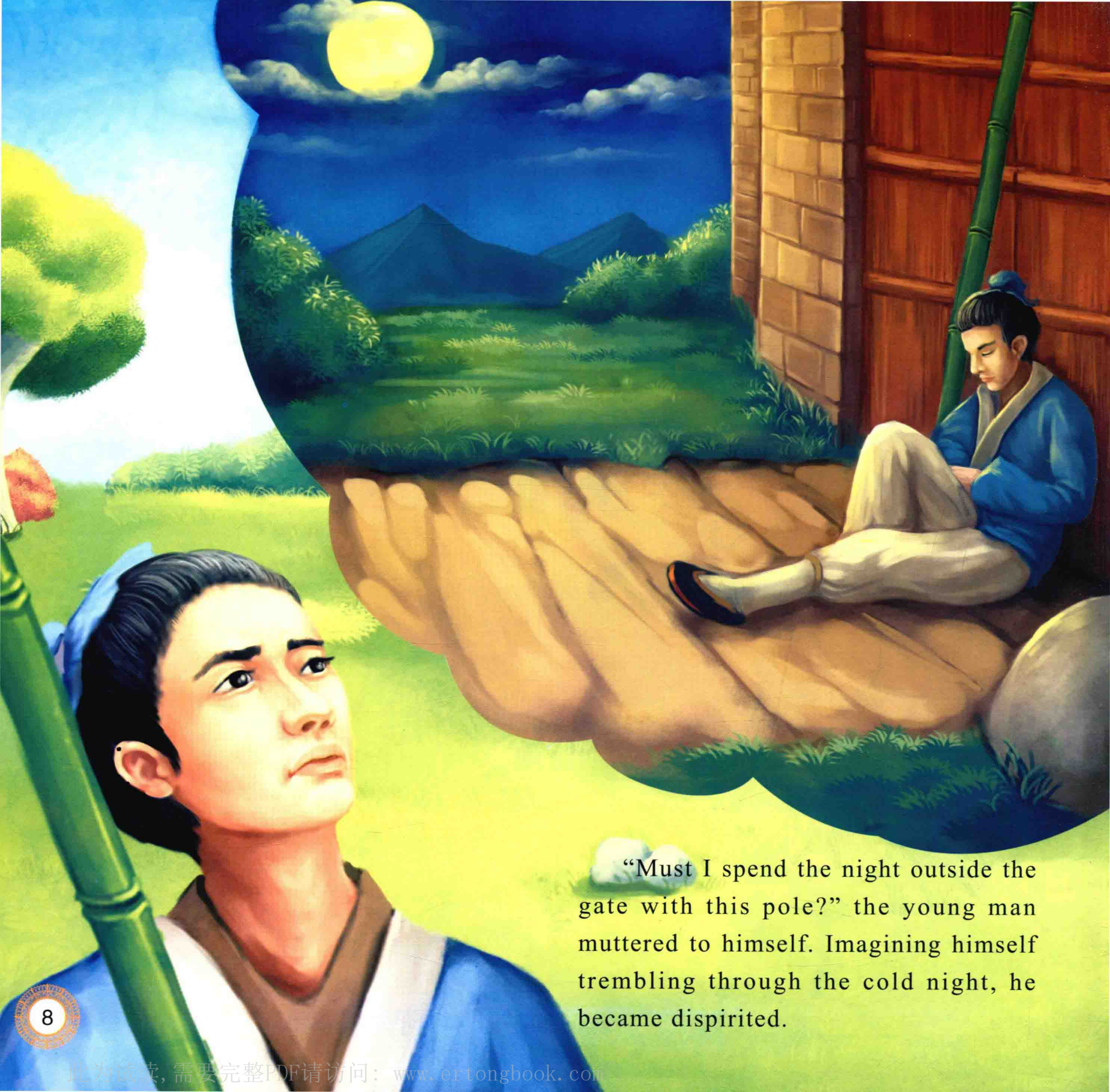




It was nearly noon. Inside the city, the young man's uncle had prepared some dishes and wine for his nephew's arrival. The dishes were getting cold, and there was no trace of his nephew.



Meanwhile, the city gate was bustling with people. Some shouldered bulky luggage, others carried small cases, and some pushed carts full of goods. All entered the city without any trouble.



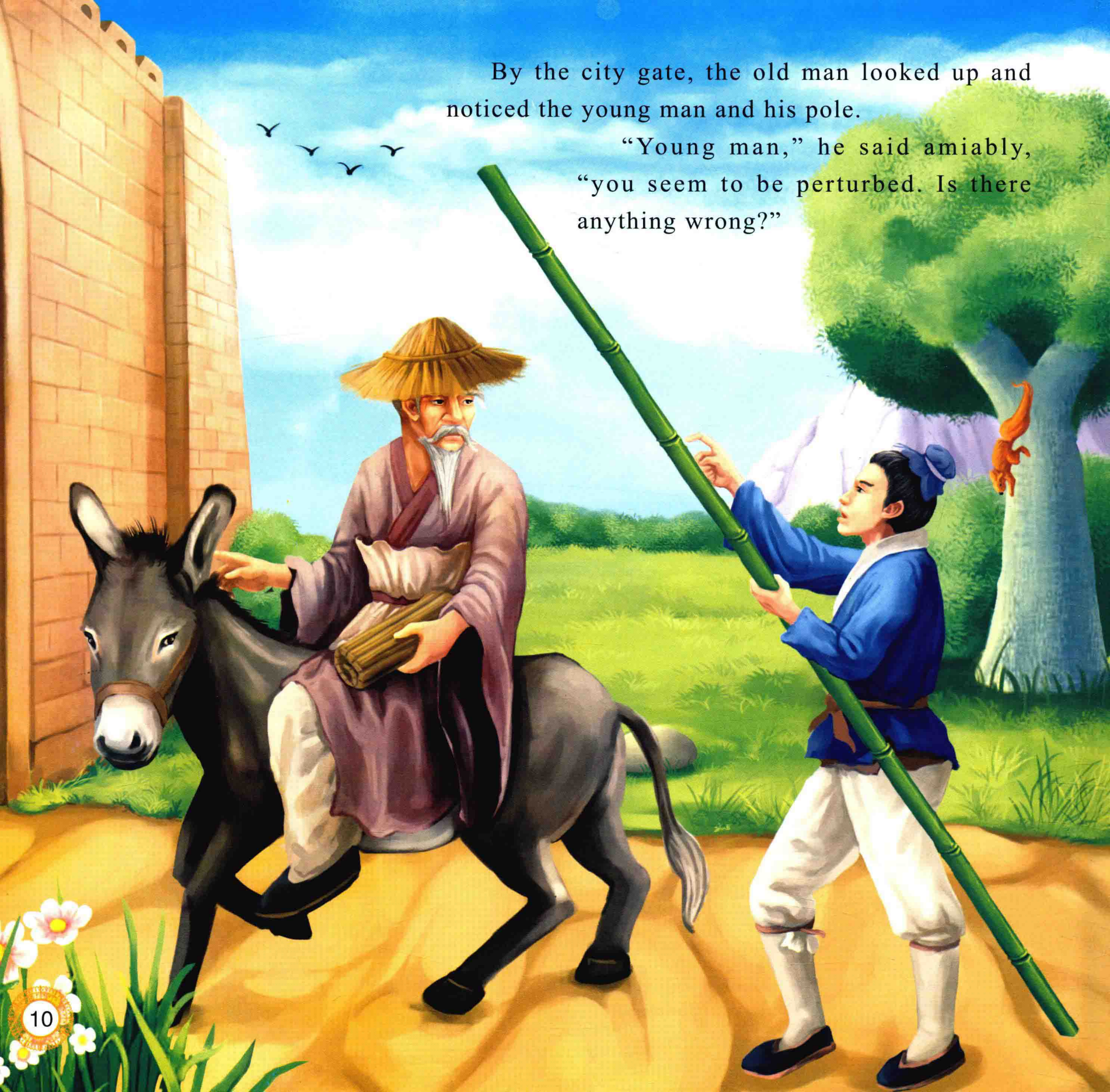
“Must I spend the night outside the gate with this pole?” the young man muttered to himself. Imagining himself trembling through the cold night, he became dispirited.

Just then, an old man from the south came past on a donkey. The elderly man was casually reading a bamboo scroll. It seemed he was a knowledgeable person.



By the city gate, the old man looked up and noticed the young man and his pole.

“Young man,” he said amiably, “you seem to be perturbed. Is there anything wrong?”

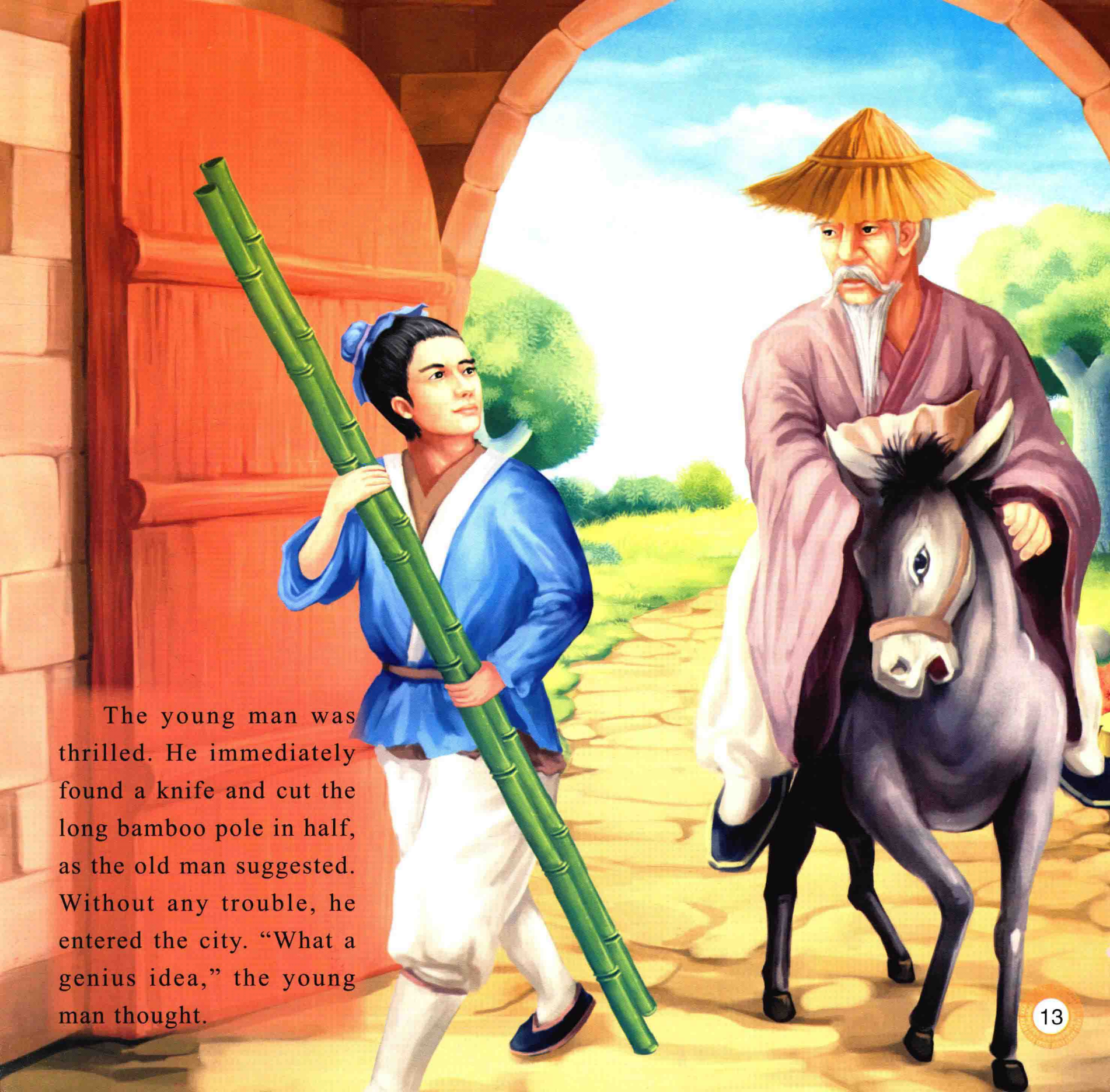


“I must take this pole to my uncle,” the young man replied. “But the pole is too long to pass through the gate. What shall I do?”



“I am no saint, but I’ve seen and heard a lot,” chuckled the old man, stroking his long silvery beard. “Why not cut the pole in half? Then you will surely be able to enter the gate.”



An illustration depicting a scene from a story. On the left, a young man with dark hair tied in a bun with a blue ribbon, wearing a blue tunic and white trousers, carries a long green bamboo pole diagonally across his body. He is walking towards the right. On the right, an old man with a long white beard, wearing a purple robe and a tall, conical straw hat, sits on a grey donkey. The donkey is walking towards the left. They are on a yellow path that leads through a large, arched stone gateway. The background shows a bright, sunny day with green trees and a blue sky with white clouds. The scene is set in a traditional East Asian style.

The young man was thrilled. He immediately found a knife and cut the long bamboo pole in half, as the old man suggested. Without any trouble, he entered the city. "What a genius idea," the young man thought.

Before dusk, the young man arrived at his uncle's house. He was almost starving. At dinner, he related the eventful trip to his uncle.

