

| 中国教子故事 |  
STORIES OF CHINESE  
CHILDREN EDUCATION

# 茅门立法

## *The Law of Maomen*

主编 / 赵镇琬



Edited by  
Zhao Zhenwan

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# The Law of *Maomen*

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## 前言



中国有很多古老美丽的故事和传说，这些故事都充满了纯真的思想和深邃的人文气息，因此便构成了中华民族的精神象征之一，这些故事更巩固了中国人的同源意识。

在这套“幼学启蒙丛书”中，内容涵盖了大家所熟悉的民俗故事、神话故事、节日故事、名胜传说与古代名医、贤哲、名相、名将、帝王、智童、科学家、智谋、诗书故事等等，总计八十册。为了让孩子们了解祖先们活动的广阔天地和历代的政治变迁、科学发展与文学艺术上的成就，我们运用最精炼的文字与生动的插画，将其一一呈现给中国儿童，并使得这些久远的历史人物，轻松地进入儿童的思想领域，与他们的血脉相连接。

身为中国人，对中华民族的认知，就好像一个做儿女的，应该了解他的大家庭一样，如此他才会对这个家庭有感情、有责任。我们希望这套书的出版，能够引导孩子在人生记忆力最好的时候，去了解祖国历史的脉络、认同中华民族的生活轨迹与精神内涵，从而拥有高瞻远瞩的智慧，成为一个心胸开阔、人格健全的人。

“幼学启蒙丛书”，是为中国儿童编辑的，为这一套丛书撰稿和绘图的儿童文学工作者，都以传统文学和艺术观点来诠释中国古老的神话、传说和历史，我们希望这套丛书能为每一个中国家庭，每一个中国儿童所喜爱。

赵镇琬

## Preface

China is a beautiful treasure-house of ancient tales and folklore. Here are stories filled with sincere reflection echoing the vast and deep spirit of our culture and civilization. These represent the best of Chinese culture—tales that uphold a people's sense of their common origin.

This collection of *First Books for Early Learning* offers stories familiar to all of us. Drawn from folklore and mythology, along with the origins of special days in the traditional calendar and of famous places, these eighty books also recall ancient physicians, philosophers and thinkers, figures famed for statecraft, generals, royalty, prodigies and scientists, remembered through tales of wisdom and great poetry.

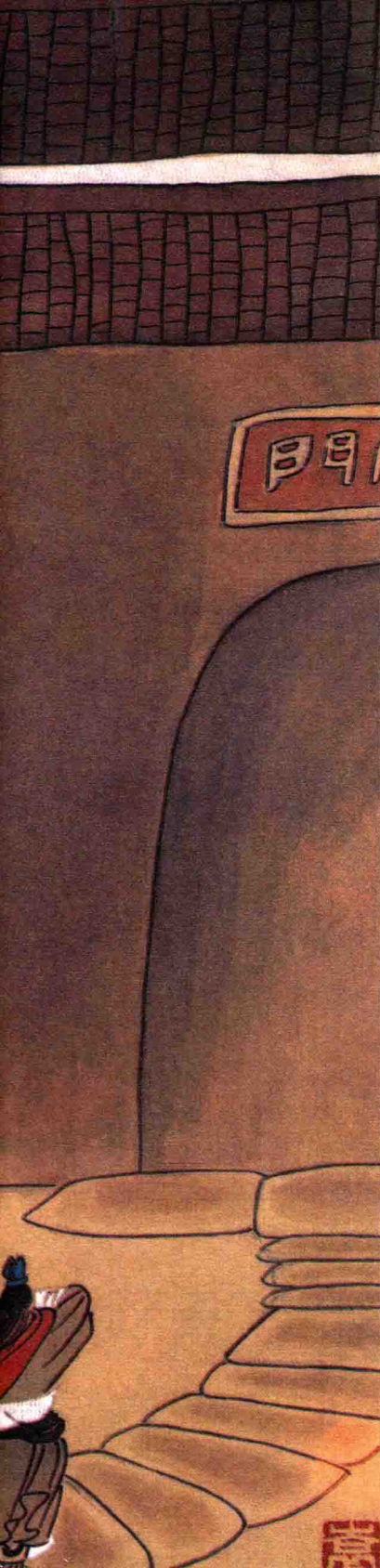
To give Chinese children all over the world an understanding of their ancestors' lives, and the changes through the different ages of China's history, scientific development and achievements in arts and literature, we have brought together concise language with most vivid illustrations. These ancient historical figures also give inspiration and ideas to children to connect with their own roots.

As Chinese, we know Chinese history well as a son or a daughter knows his or her family. Only with such knowledge can one possess a depth of passion and a sense of responsibility. It is our wish that this collection will guide children at an early age to learn from the history of our nation and to identify with the social progress and philosophical spirit of the Chinese people. We hope our children will develop wider horizons of wisdom to become open-minded yet with a rooted outlook on life.

*First Books for Early Learning* was originally compiled in Chinese for the children of China. The writers and artists who contributed to this collection have used the perspective of traditional literature and arts to interpret Chinese mythology, legends and history. We hope this collection will be enjoyed by Chinese people—and, now in translation, also by people all over the world—and all children who want to learn more about China.

Zhao Zhenwan





楚庄王是春秋五霸之一，他有一条法令叫做“茅门之法”。茅门就是宫门。这条法令规定：文武百官和王公贵族上朝时，必须在宫门以外停下马车，步行入宫，如果有人使马的蹄子践踏着宫门滴水檐下的接水沟槽，就要受到严惩。

King Zhuang of the State of Chu was one of the “Big Five” among the rulers of the states in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC). He laid down a law—“The Law of Maomen.” Maomen, or Gate Mao, was the name given to the grand entrance to his palace. This law stated that, when court officials, military leaders and all the nobility presented themselves at court, they had to dismount from their horses, carts or carriages and proceed on foot from that gate to the palace. If even a hoof of anyone’s horse ever touched the water channel for water dripping from eaves above the palace gate, the horseman would be severely punished.

庄王一向令出如山，赏罚分明，所以“茅门之法”一公布，没有一个敢违犯的。

King Zhuang was very strict and severe about his laws. He always carried out his rewards and his punishments very decisively and justly. For that reason, ever after he had pronounced “The Law of Maomen,” no one dared to violate it.

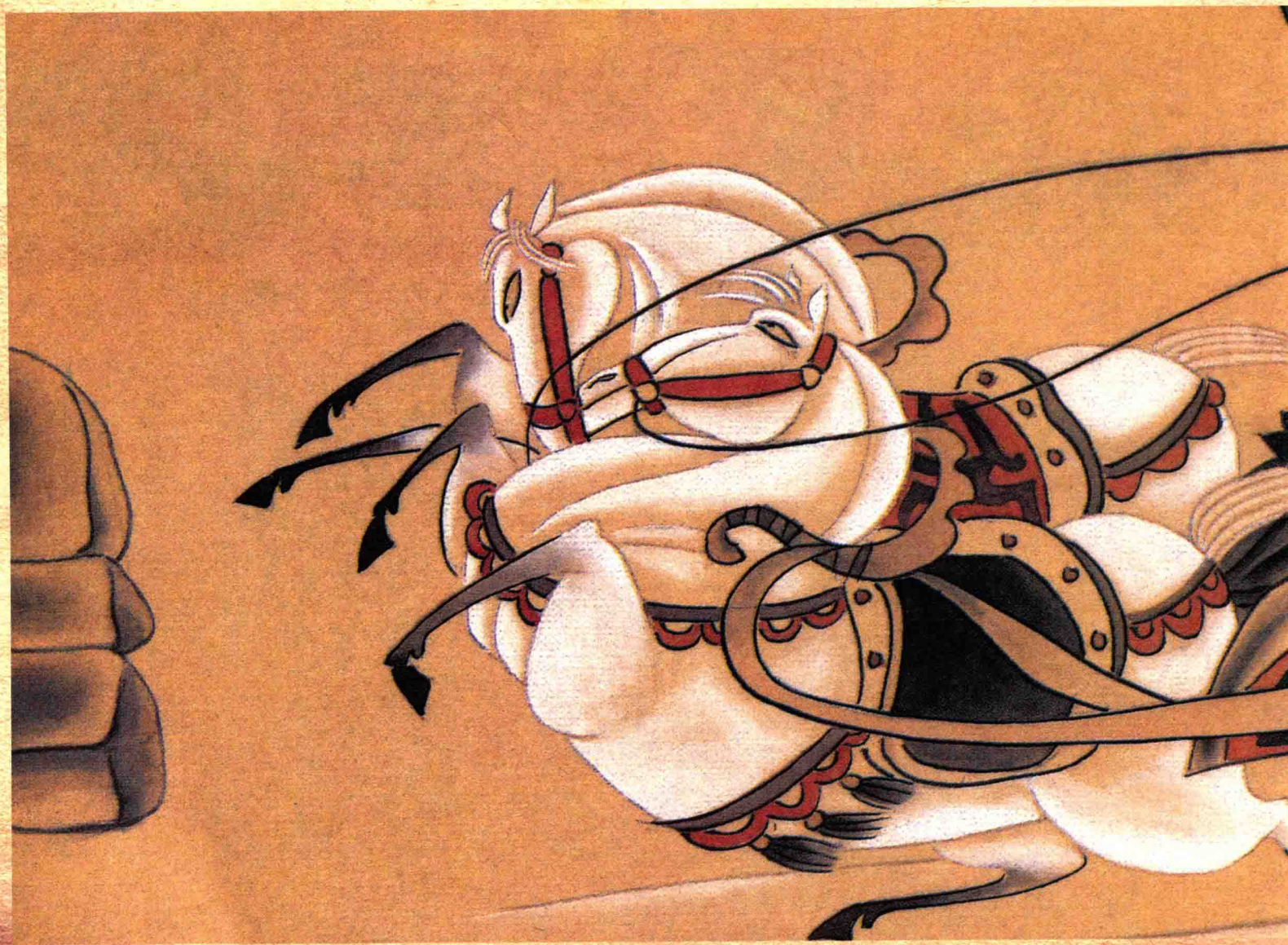




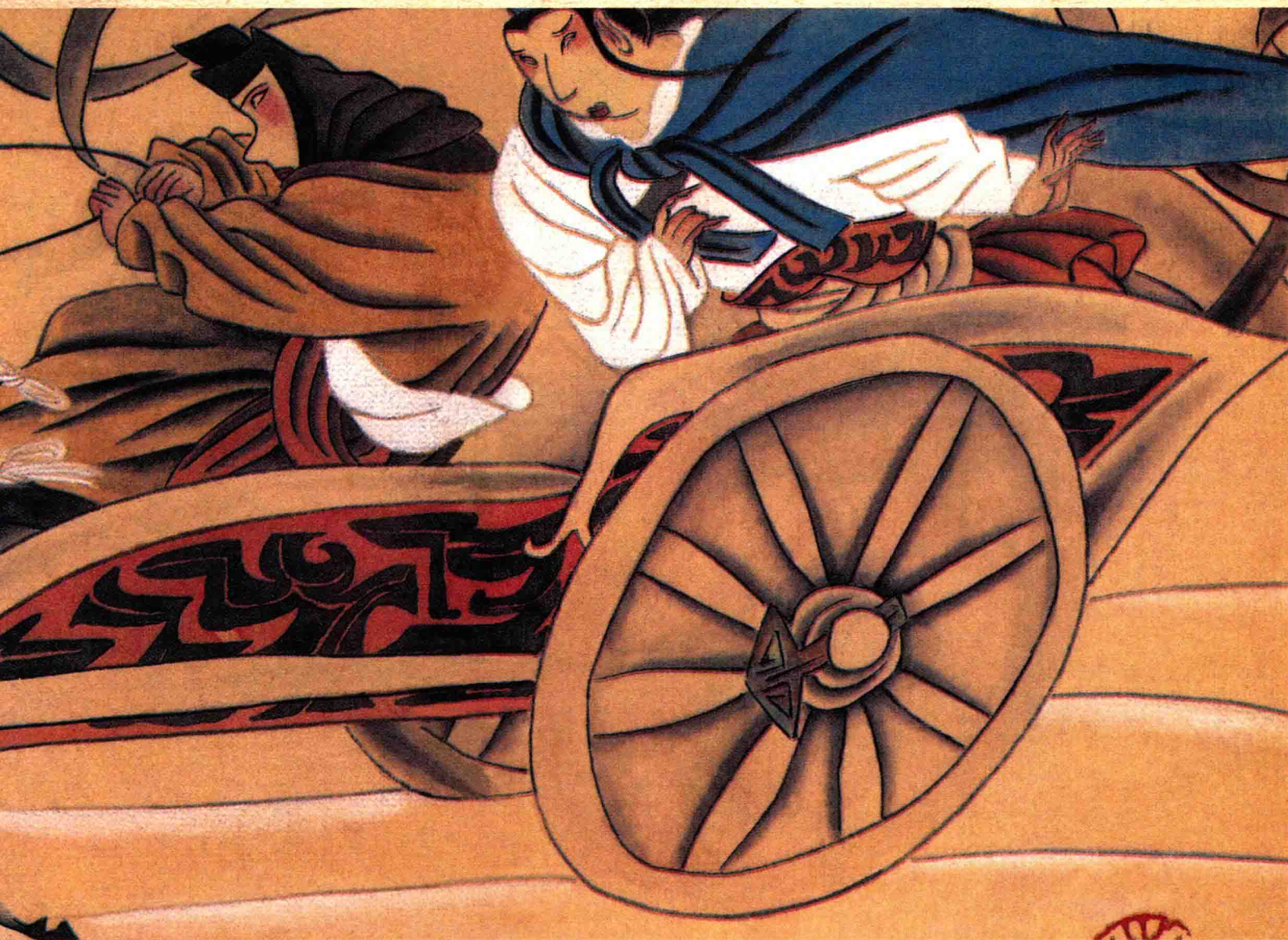
有一天，太子一大早就带领随从到城外射猎，直到傍晚才回城。他们猎获了许多野味。太子十分高兴，他一再催促驾车人快马加鞭，在苍茫的暮色中飞驰而归。

One day, the Prince had started out in the early morning with a large entourage for a hunting trip outside of the city. On returning in the evening they brought back a great amount of game. The Prince was in high spirits and pushing his wagon drivers to crack their whips to make the horses gallop swiftly in the dusk.

太子坐在车上一心想着回宫后怎样烹制野味，献给父王和赏赐臣妾，没想到当他猛一抬头时，马的前蹄已踏到了宫门的接水沟槽上。



Sitting inside his carriage the Prince had only one thought, of how—once he got back to the palace—the palace attendants would prepare all this game that had been caught, to present a great banquet for his king father and to offer to all the officials and courtesans. He was startled, to suddenly raise his head and find his horses' hooves already in the palace gate channel for collecting water.





这时只听见一声呐喊，守卫宫门的廷理率领卫士一拥而上，包围了太子的车马随从。他们不由分说，把太子从车上拉下来，劈碎了这辆装饰华丽的车子，拘捕了驾车人，并声称次日将其斩首。

All of a sudden, a thunderous shouting burst forth. The palace gate officer led his guardsmen to charge at and surround the Prince and his followers. Without any words spoken, they then pulled the Prince out of his carriage and smashed the luxuriously decorated vehicle. They arrested the driver and made it clear that the driver would be executed at daybreak the next day.

