



JOURNEY TO THE WEST SERIES 6

Monkey King and the Magic Fruit Tree



CHINA PICTORIAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

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GUANBIN CARTOON STUDIO



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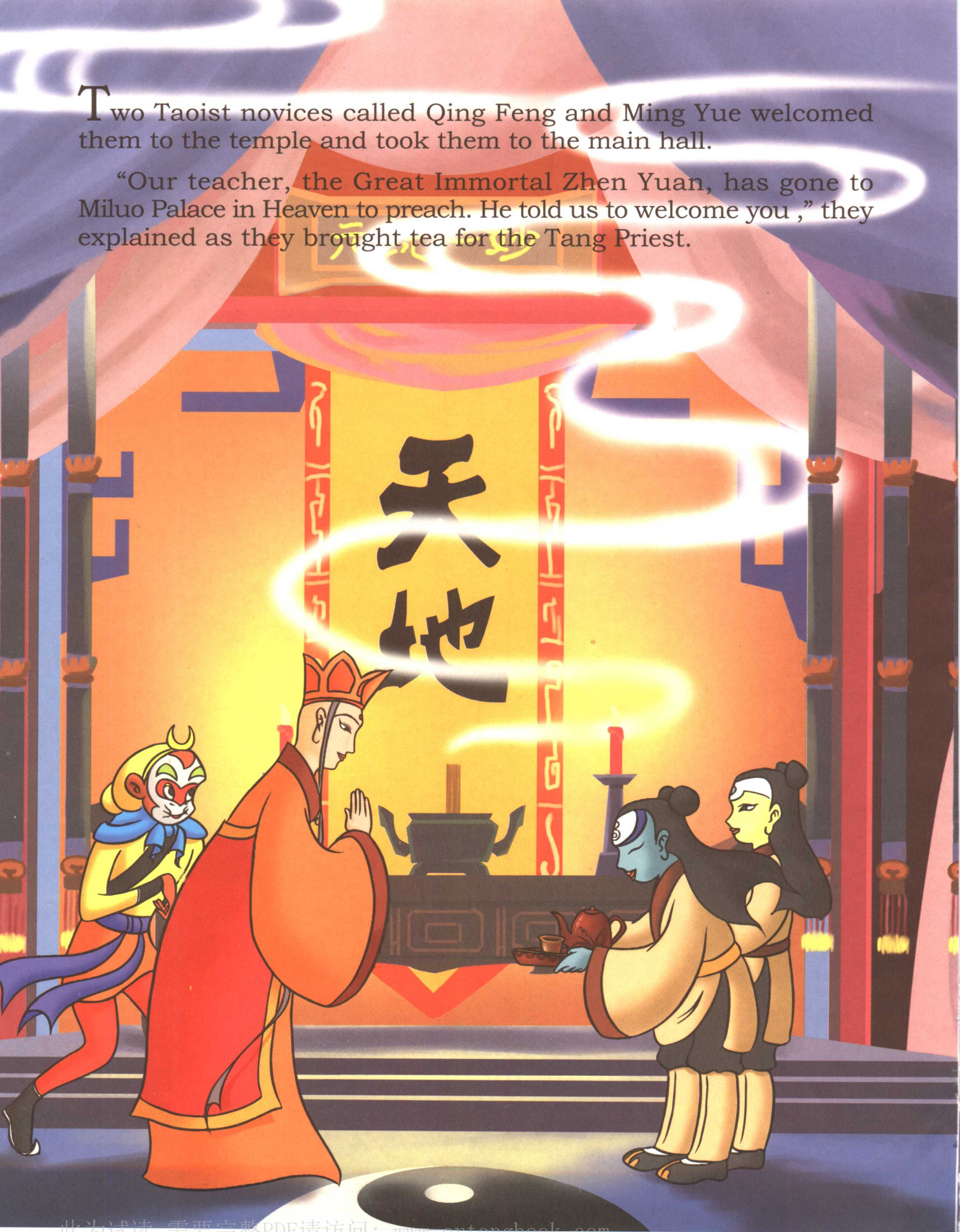
One day, on their way to the West to fetch the true Scriptures, the Tang Priest and his disciples, the Monkey King, Pig and Friar Sand, climbed a high mountain.

It was a very beautiful place with waterfalls, trees, bamboo and a Taoist temple with a stone tablet outside announcing: ***Mountain of Infinite Longevity: Five Village Temple.***



Two Taoist novices called Qing Feng and Ming Yue welcomed them to the temple and took them to the main hall.

"Our teacher, the Great Immortal Zhen Yuan, has gone to Miluo Palace in Heaven to preach. He told us to welcome you," they explained as they brought tea for the Tang Priest.



When he had drunk his tea, the Tang Priest started giving orders:

“Monkey! Take the horse to graze on the mountainside.

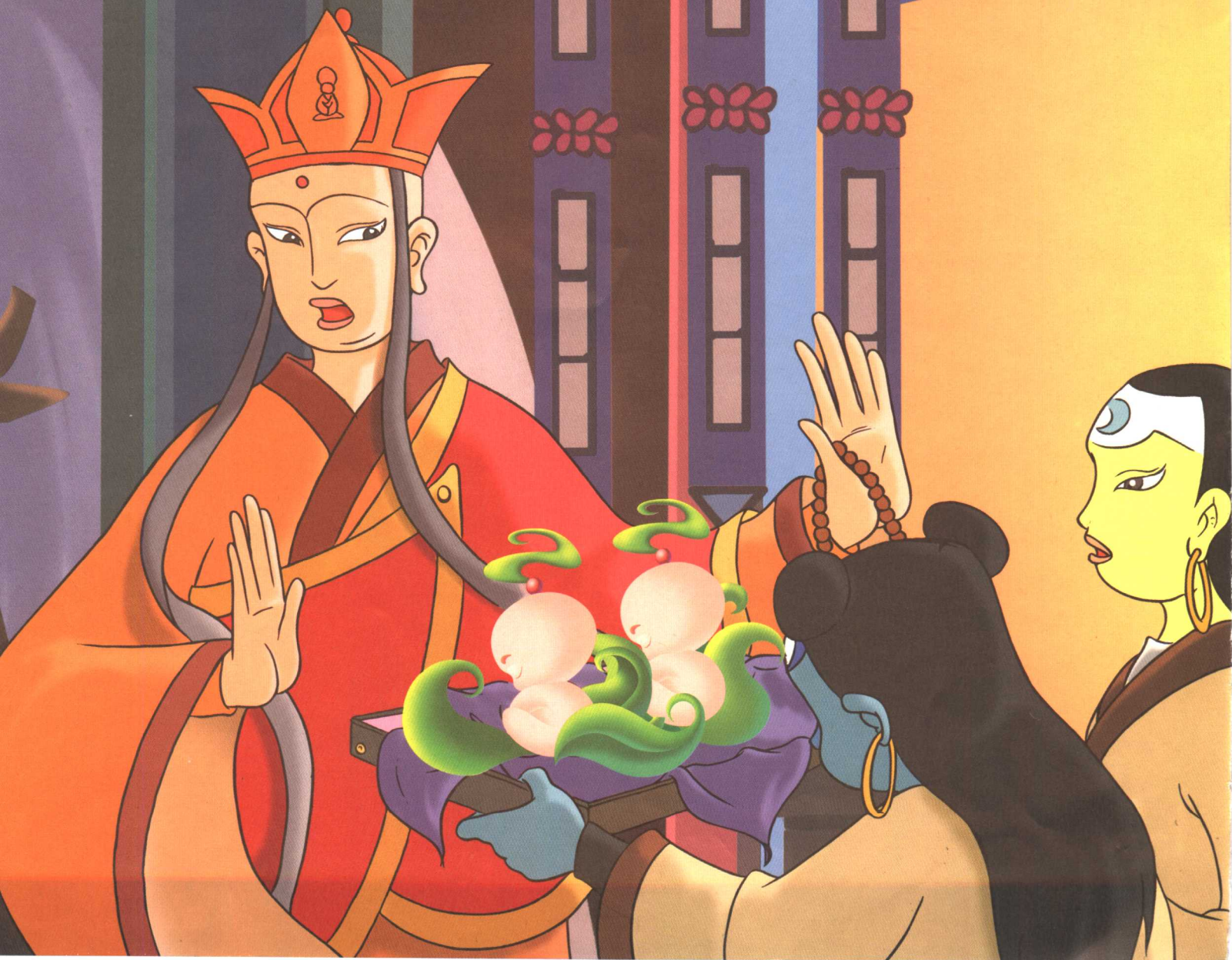
Friar Sand! Look after the luggage.

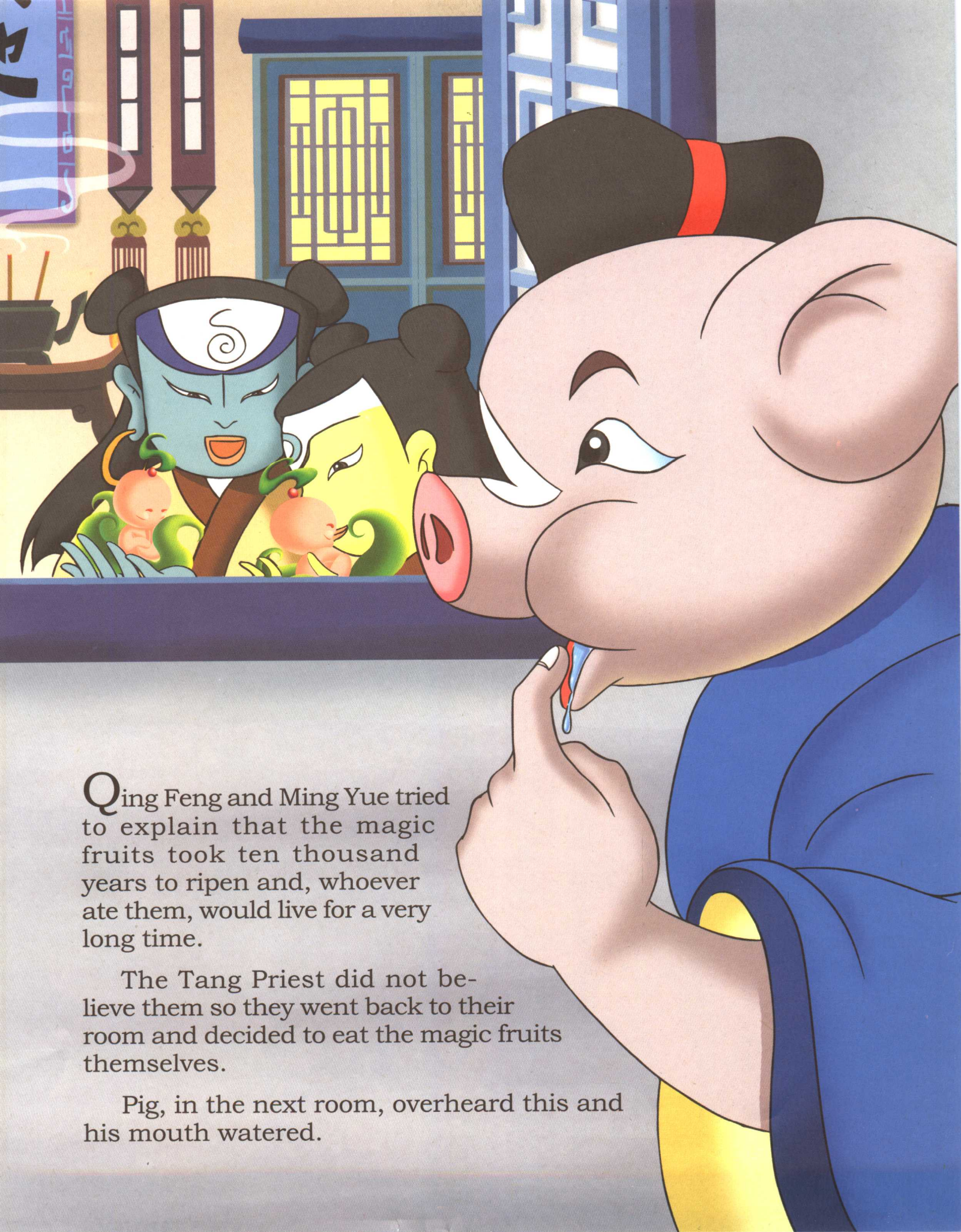
Pig! Cook the rice in the kitchen.”



The two novices slipped out to the back garden, climbed a great tree, knocked down two magic fruits with their golden hammer and then took the tray with the two magic fruits to the Tang Priest.

"I can't eat those," The Tang Priest exclaimed with horror, "they look like little human beings!"





Qing Feng and Ming Yue tried to explain that the magic fruits took ten thousand years to ripen and, whoever ate them, would live for a very long time.

The Tang Priest did not believe them so they went back to their room and decided to eat the magic fruits themselves.

Pig, in the next room, overheard this and his mouth watered.

When the Monkey King brought the horse back, Pig urged him to go and steal some of the magic fruits.

"It seems that you will need some kind of golden hammer to knock the fruit down," Pig added.

"I know. I know. It will be easy," said the Monkey King with a wink.





The Monkey King slipped into the novices' room, took the golden hammer and went out into the temple garden where he found a huge tree over a thousand feet tall.

On the sunny side of the tree he saw the amazing magic fruits.



“What marvellous fruits,” admired the Monkey King as he scrambled up the tree whistling. “They are fantastic!”

With the golden hammer he hit one of the branches several times and a couple of fruits tumbled down.

But, when he jumped down to the ground, the fruits were nowhere to be seen.

“How odd,” thought the Monkey King. He summoned the Garden God and asked, crossly, what had happened to the fruits.

“Only thirty fruits ripen every ten thousand years. If you eat one, you can live for forty seven thousand years. They only fall when touched by metal and must be caught on trays padded with silk,” explained the God.



The Monkey King climbed the tree again, hit the fruits with the golden hammer and, this time, caught them in his tunic.

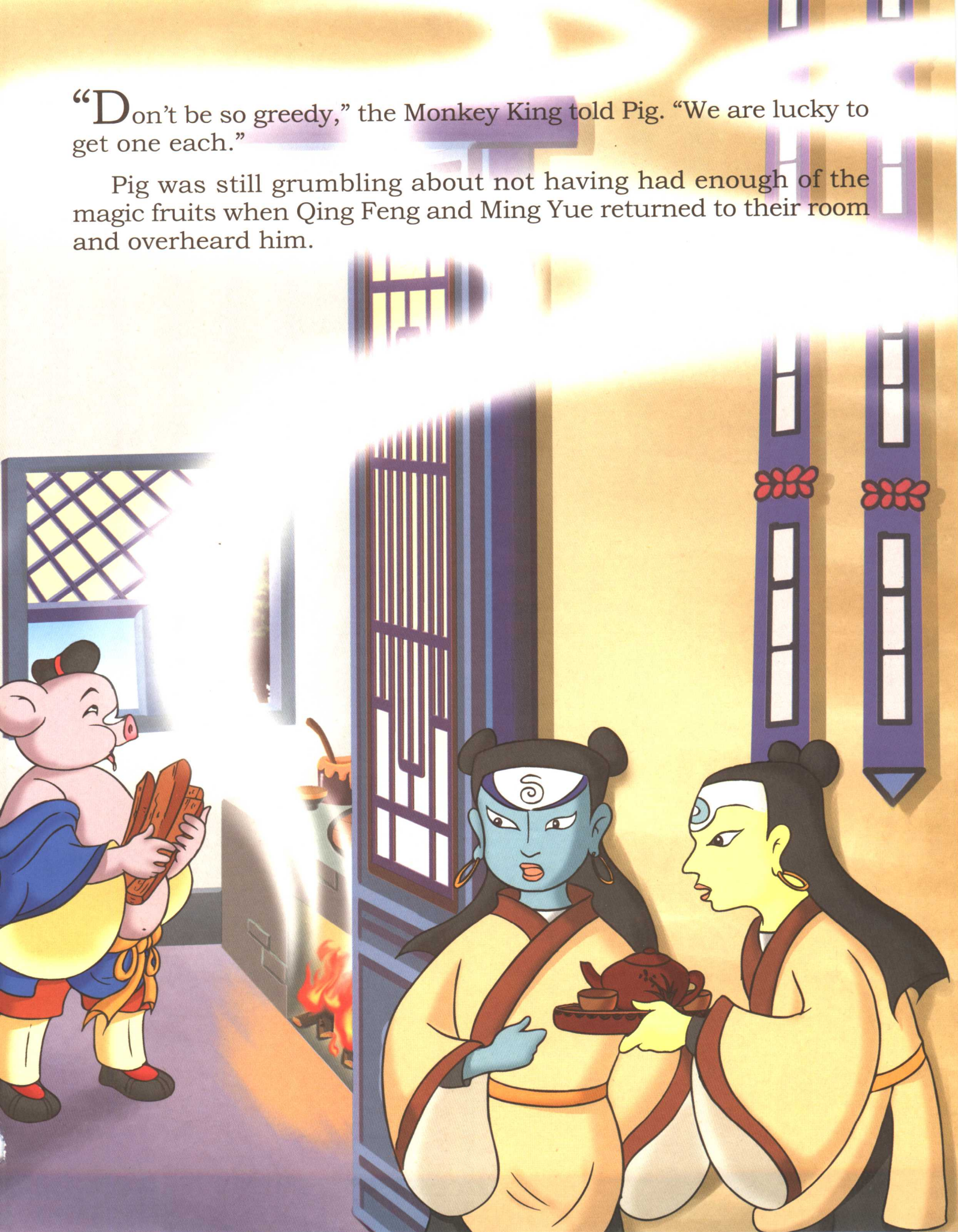
Back he went to the temple to share the fruits with Pig and Friar Sand.

Pig greedily swallowed his fruit whole and then complained that he hadn't tasted it. He wanted some more to savour slowly.



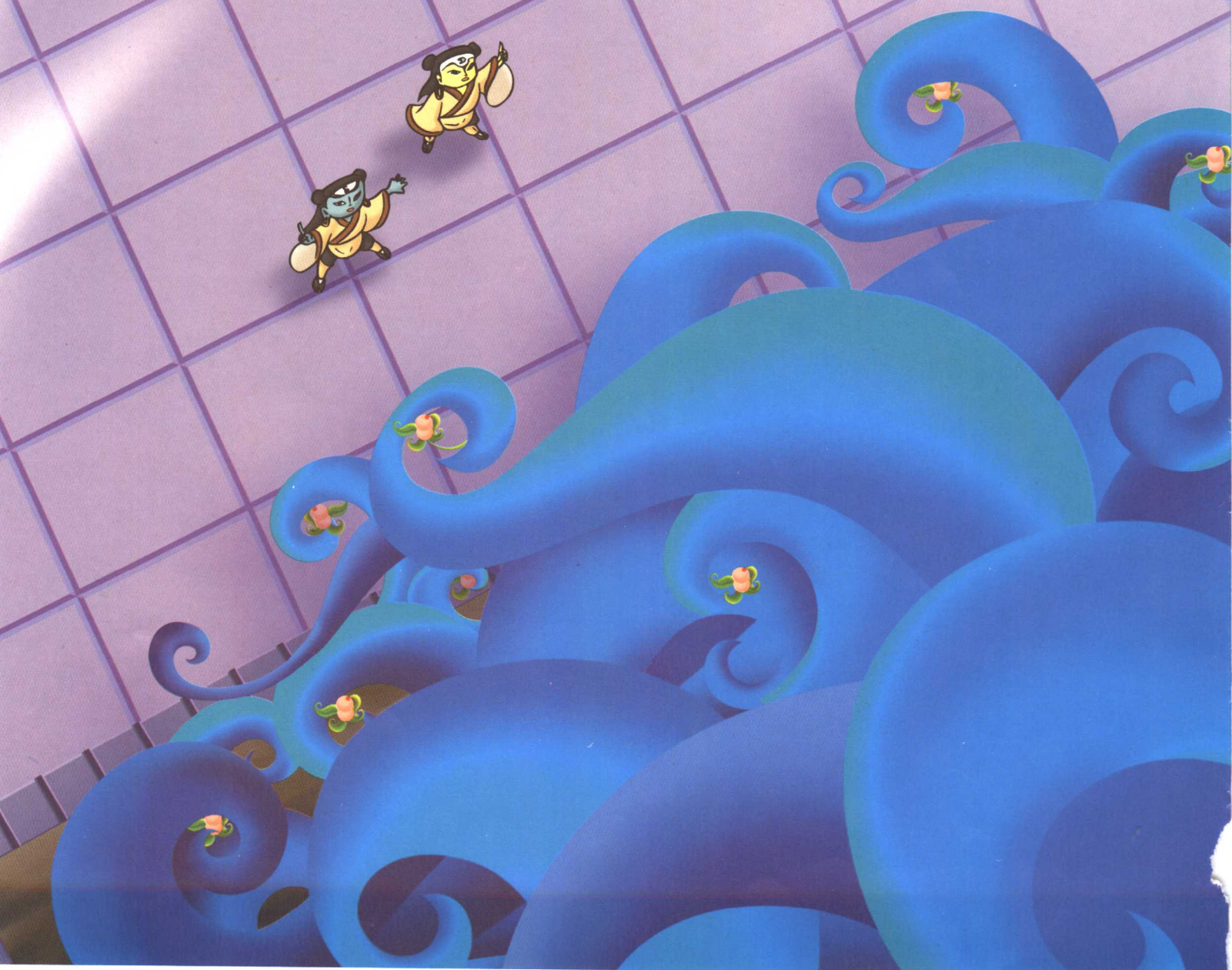
“Don’t be so greedy,” the Monkey King told Pig. “We are lucky to get one each.”

Pig was still grumbling about not having had enough of the magic fruits when Qing Feng and Ming Yue returned to their room and overheard him.



They hurried to the temple garden where they found the gate wide open. They counted the fruits on the tree over and over and discovered that they were five short.

"Ming Yue," said Qing Feng. "Those monks must have stolen the fruits. Come on! Let's go and confront them."

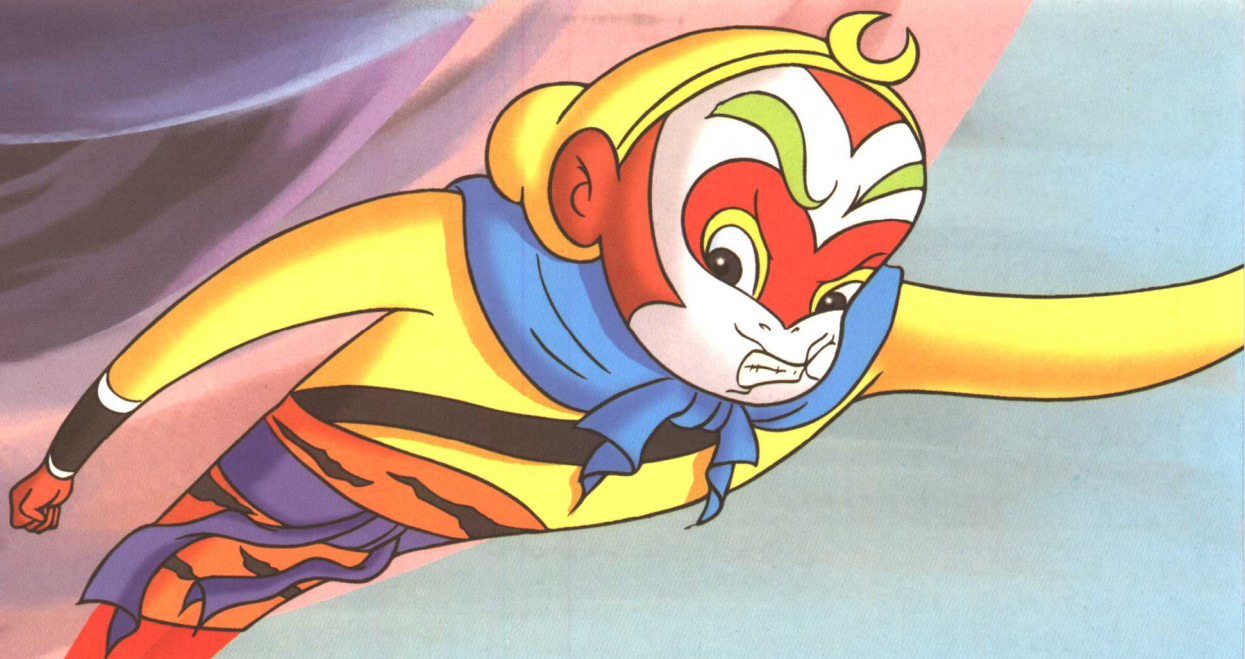




The novices rushed into the main hall and accused the Tang Priest of stealing the magic fruits.

"Calm down," insisted the Tang Priest. "I have not stolen your magic fruits. I can't bear the sight of them. I will question my disciples."

The Monkey King admitted that he had stolen three magic fruits, one each for Pig, Friar Sand and himself.



Qing Feng and Ming Yue started cursing furiously and this really annoyed the Monkey King. Pulling a hair from the back of his head, he blew a magic breath on it and said, "Change!"

It turned into a double of himself which he left standing there to be sworn at while the real Monkey King somersaulted away.

