



The Coming of Pig



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

猪八戒做女婿 (美猴王丛书) / 晨雪等改编; 刘积昆等绘画 / 北京: 外文出版社, 2007.10

ISBN 978-7-119-05062-1

I. 猪... II. ①晨... ②刘... III. 故事-作品集-中国-当代-英文 IV.I247.8

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 121908 号

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外文出版社出版

(中国北京百万庄大街 24 号)

邮政编码: 100037

外文出版社网页: <http://www.flp.com.cn>

外文出版社电子邮件地址: info@flp.com.cn

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北京外文印刷厂印刷

中国国际图书贸易总公司发行

(中国北京车公庄西路 35 号)

北京邮政信箱第 399 号 邮政编码 100044

2007 年 (16 开) 第 1 版

2007 年第 1 版第 1 次印刷

(英文)

ISBN 978-7-119-05062-1

09800

88-E-522P

《美猴王丛书》调整再版, 请失去联系的作者与我社联系, 我社将按国家标准支付相应报酬。

Monkey Series

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江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章



Foreign Languages Press

First Edition 2007

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ISBN 978-7-119-05062-1

© Foreign Languages Press, China, 2007

Published by Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Home Page: <http://www.flp.com.cn>

Email Address: inf@flp.com.cn

sales@flp.com.cn

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation

35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China

P.O. Box 399 Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China



Trouble on Black Wind Mountain

Trouble on Black Wind Mountain, tells how the Tang Priest's cassock is stolen by the Black Bear Spirit when Monkey shows it off at the Guanyin Monastery. To get it back, Monkey makes trouble on the Black Wind Mountain before the Bodhisattva Guanyin agrees to help subdue the Black Bear Spirit and get the cassock back.



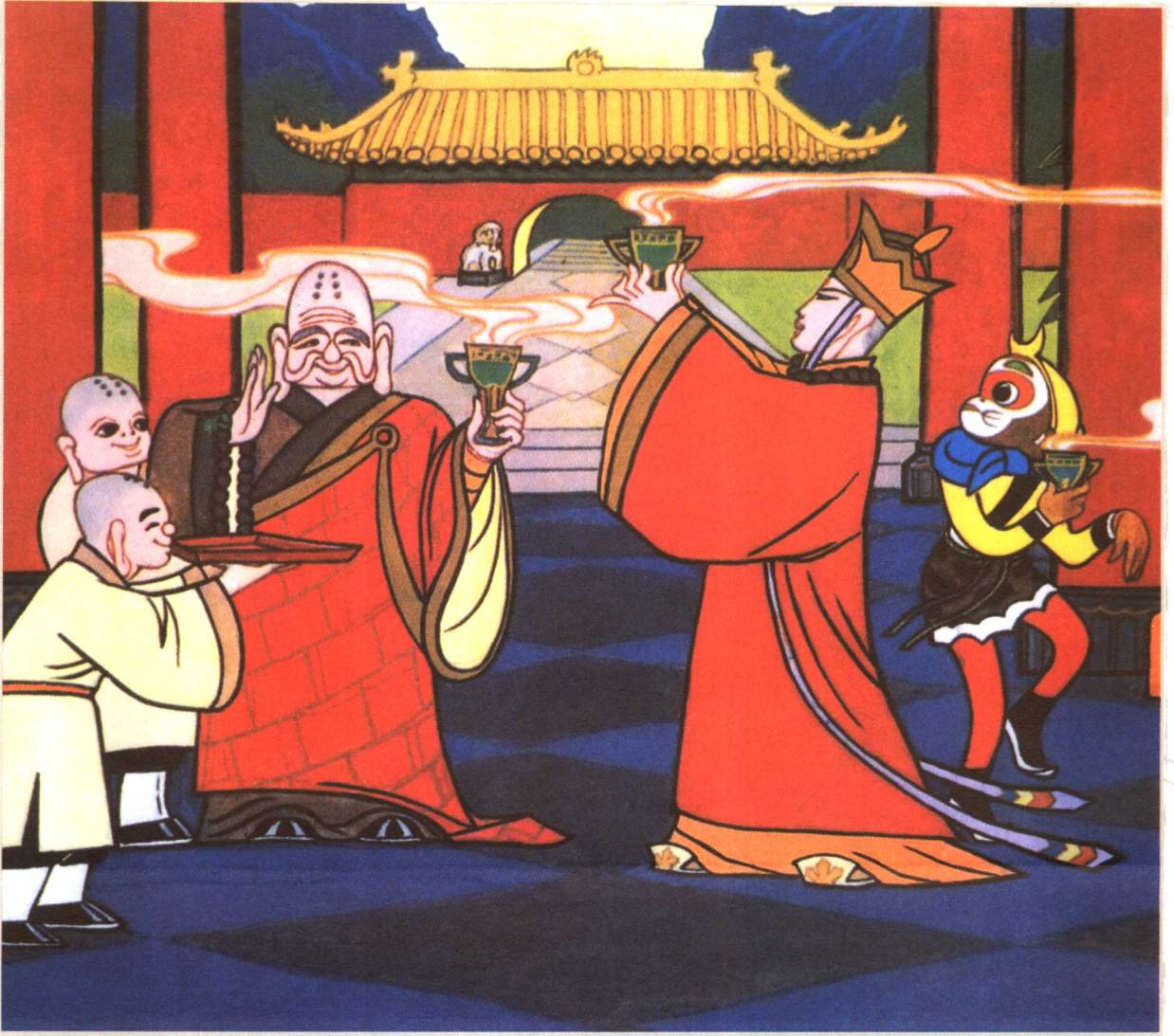
Trouble on Black Wind Mountain



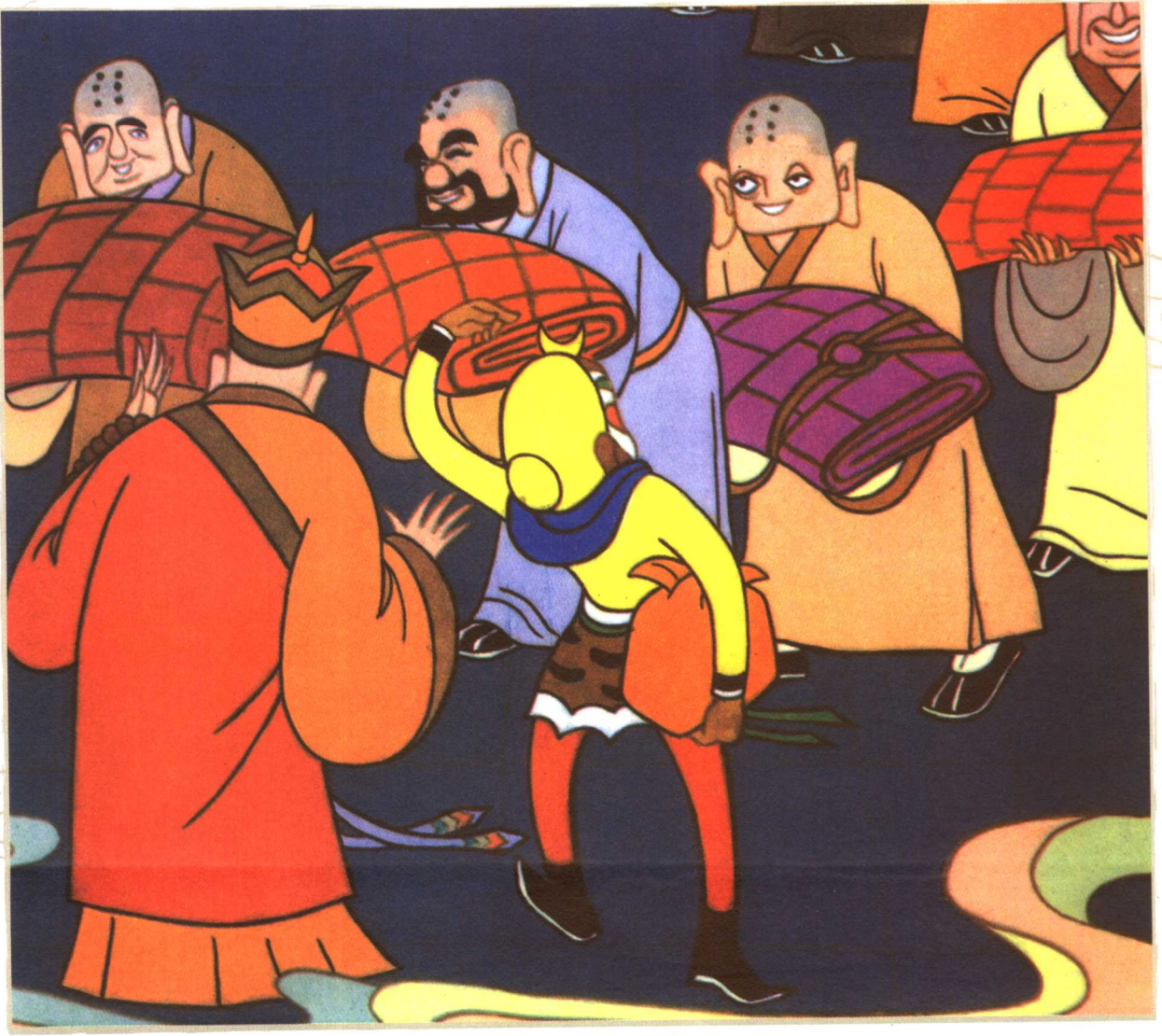
The Tang Priest Xuanzang (pronounced Sywanzang in two syllables) and Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, were travelling towards the West. Seeing that the sun was setting, Xuanzang asked Sun Wukong, "Where are we now?" Looking around, Monkey said, "There is a monastery in the valley. Let's go and stay there for the night."



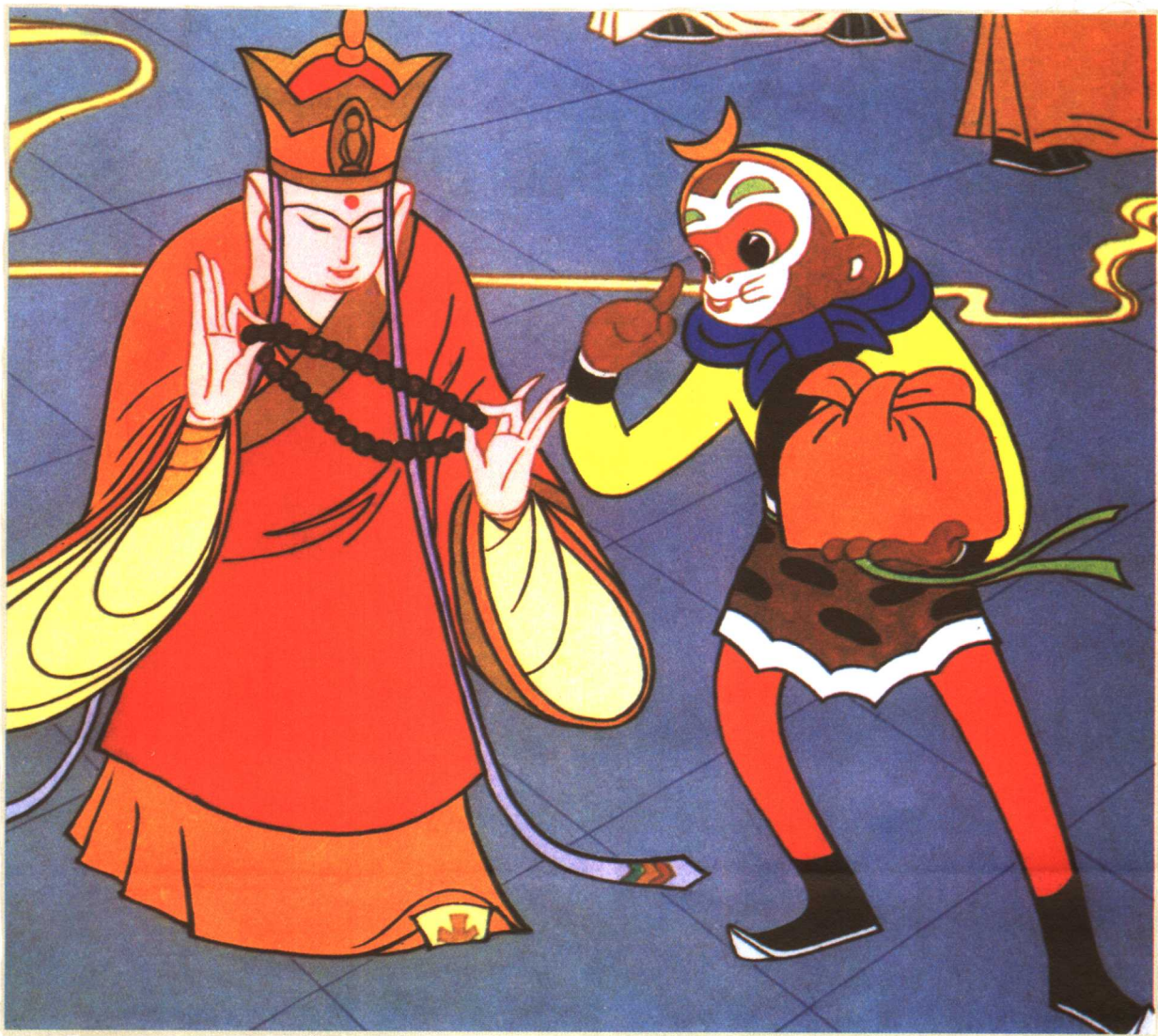
In the monastery, the Tang Priest bowed to the Buddha and saw two young monks come towards him supporting an older one, the Elder of the Golden Pool. He was the abbot of the monastery. Xuanzang hurried to bow to him and asked, "How old are you, Venerable Abbot?" "Two hundred and seventy years old," replied the old monk. "The young people told me you are from the Tang Empire in the East. Welcome."



A young monk brought in three cups of tea. Xuanzang kept saying how wonderful the China was. "But that should be nothing to you gentlemen," said the abbot. "You come from the Heavens and have seen all kinds of fantastic treasures. These things are hardly worthy of your praise. You must have brought some really splendid treasures with you. Could we have a look at them?"



"Yes, the cassock Master has in his bundle is really fantastic," said Sun Wukong. The old monk smiled, "Our Patriarch has seven or eight hundred cassocks I can show you." He ordered the young monks to bring out the cassocks. "That's enough," Monkey said after looking at some embroidered ones. "You should see ours."



Xuanzang drew the Monkey King aside and whispered, "Disciple, never try to compete over wealth. If greedy people see what is precious, they may become envious and do something bad." "Don't worry," replied Monkey, "I'll take care of it." Then he untied the bundle.



When Monkey took out the cassock, the room shone bright with its jewels and Buddhist treasures. All the young monks praised it.



After the abbot saw how splendid the cassock was, he was very jealous. "It was dark just now," he said to the Tang Priest, "and I couldn't see your treasure very clearly. May I ask the monks to take it to my room so I can have a better look at it?" Xuanzang was surprised and grumbled at Sun Wukong. "Don't be afraid of him," grinned Monkey, who handed the cassock to the Elder.



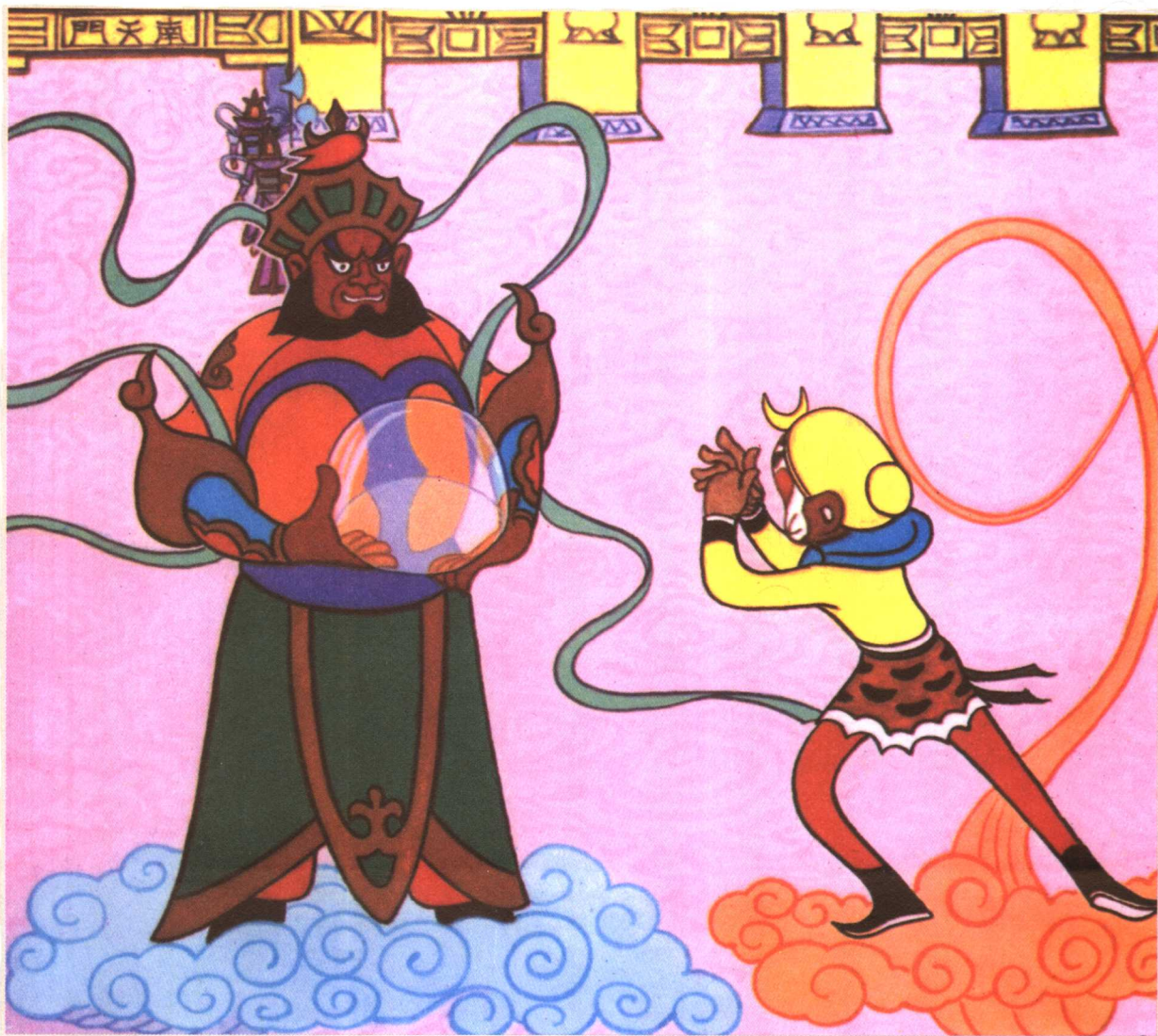
Once the abbot had tricked them into giving him the cassock, he talked with the young monks about how to keep it. "That's easily arranged," said a young monk by the name of Broad Plans. "After they go to sleep we can put wood and grass around their room and set it on fire. The two of them are bound to be killed. Nobody will know how it happened and the cassock will be yours." All the monks agreed with this plan.



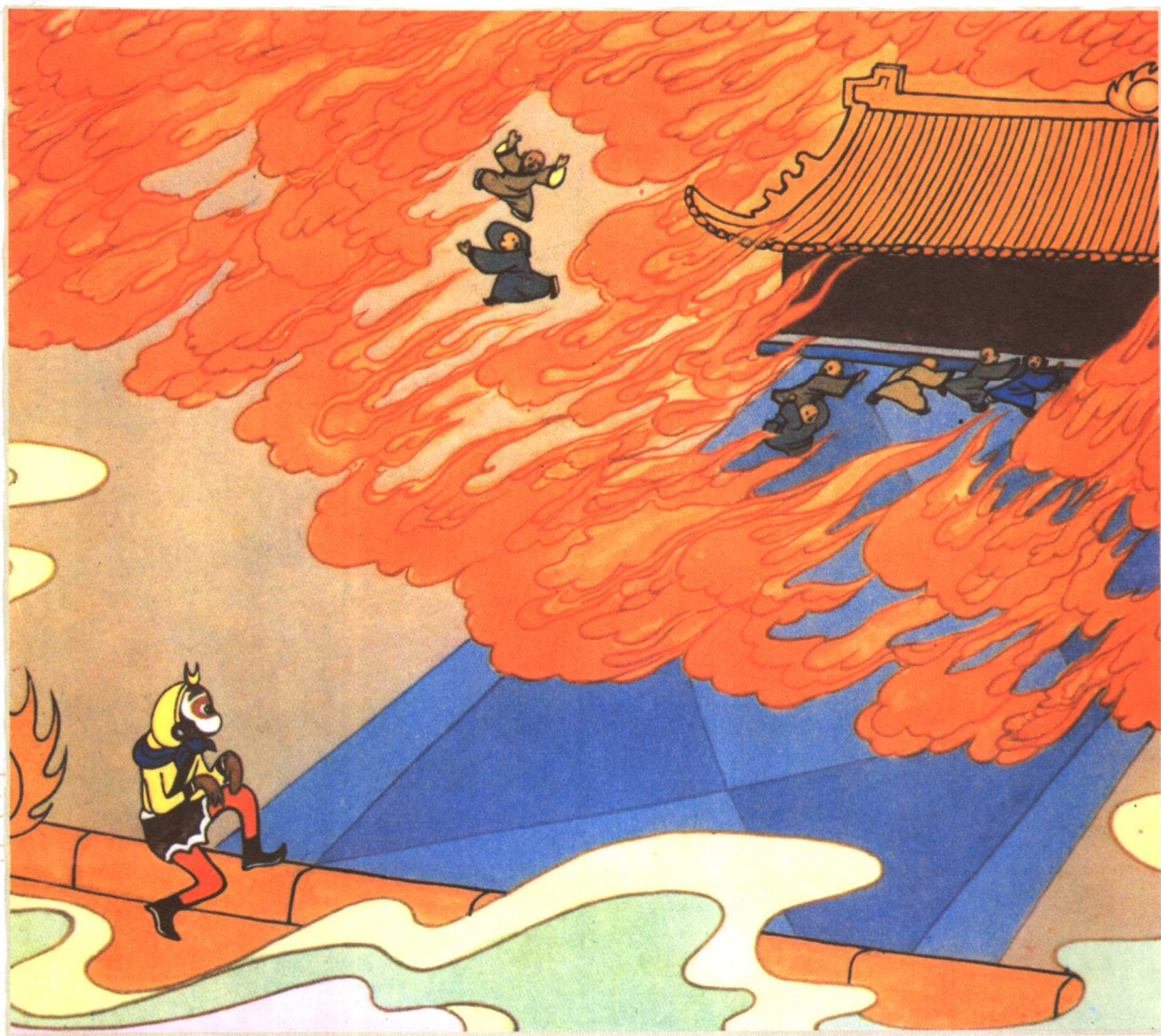
But the Monkey King was very clever. When he heard people walking about outside carrying wood in the middle of the night, he wondered what was up. "Could they be bandits trying to murder us?" he thought, and bounded out of bed disguised as a bee to go and have a look.



Monkey saw the monks piling wood and straw around their room, ready to set fire to it. "My master was right," he said to himself with a smile. "But if I killed all of them with my cudgel, the master would be angry with me for murdering them. Instead I think I'll let the old monk have a taste of his own medicine."



Sun Wukong jumped to the Southern Gate of Heaven with one somersault. When he saw the Broad-Visioned Heavenly King there, he told him, "The Tang Priest has met some villains who want to burn him to death. Please lend me your Anti-fire Cover so I can save him. It's urgent." The Heavenly King was unable to refuse and handed the cover to Monkey.



When the Monkey King returned to the monastery, he covered Xuanzang, the white horse and the luggage with the Anti-fire Cover and went to the abbot's room to protect the cassock. Soon the young monks started the fire. Sun Wukong used his magical powers to keep blowing wind at the fire, so that the flames grew bigger and bigger and the monastery became a sea of fire. All the young monks howled and wailed.