

ILLUSTRATED CLASSIC CHINESE TALES
Idiom Stories

NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND THE SHEEPFOLD

· 亡羊补牢 ·



成语故事

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 & Bruce Humes



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图书在版编目 (C I P) 数据

亡羊补牢: 汉英对照 / 宋怀芝主编; 刘浚译. —北京: 五洲传播出版社, 2016.3

(中华传统经典故事绘本·成语故事篇)

ISBN 978-7-5085-3354-4

I . ①亡… II . ①宋… ②刘… III . ①儿童文学—图画故事—中国—当代 IV . ① I287.8

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2016) 第 054520 号

策 划: 荆孝敏 段仁国

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亡羊补牢

出版发行: 五洲传播出版社

社 址: 北京市海淀区北三环中路 31 号凯奇大厦 B 座 7 层

邮政编码: 100088

发行电话: 010-82007837 010-82001477 010-82003137

制版单位: 北京快乐共享文化发展有限公司

印 刷: 北京画中画印刷有限公司

开 本: 787mm × 1092mm 1/12

印 张: 2

版 次: 2016 年 3 月第 1 版 2016 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5085-3354-4

定 价: 19.80 元

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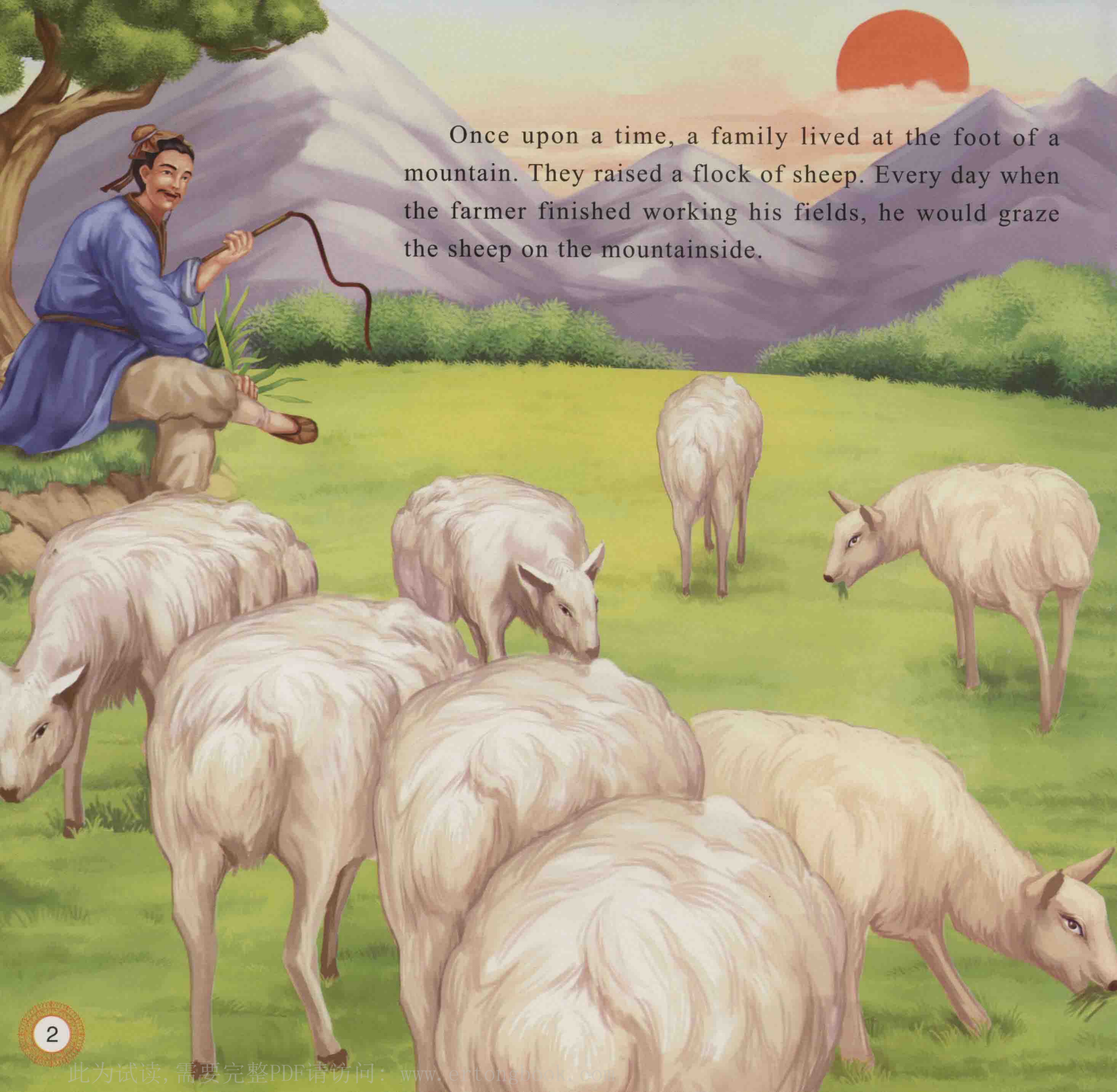
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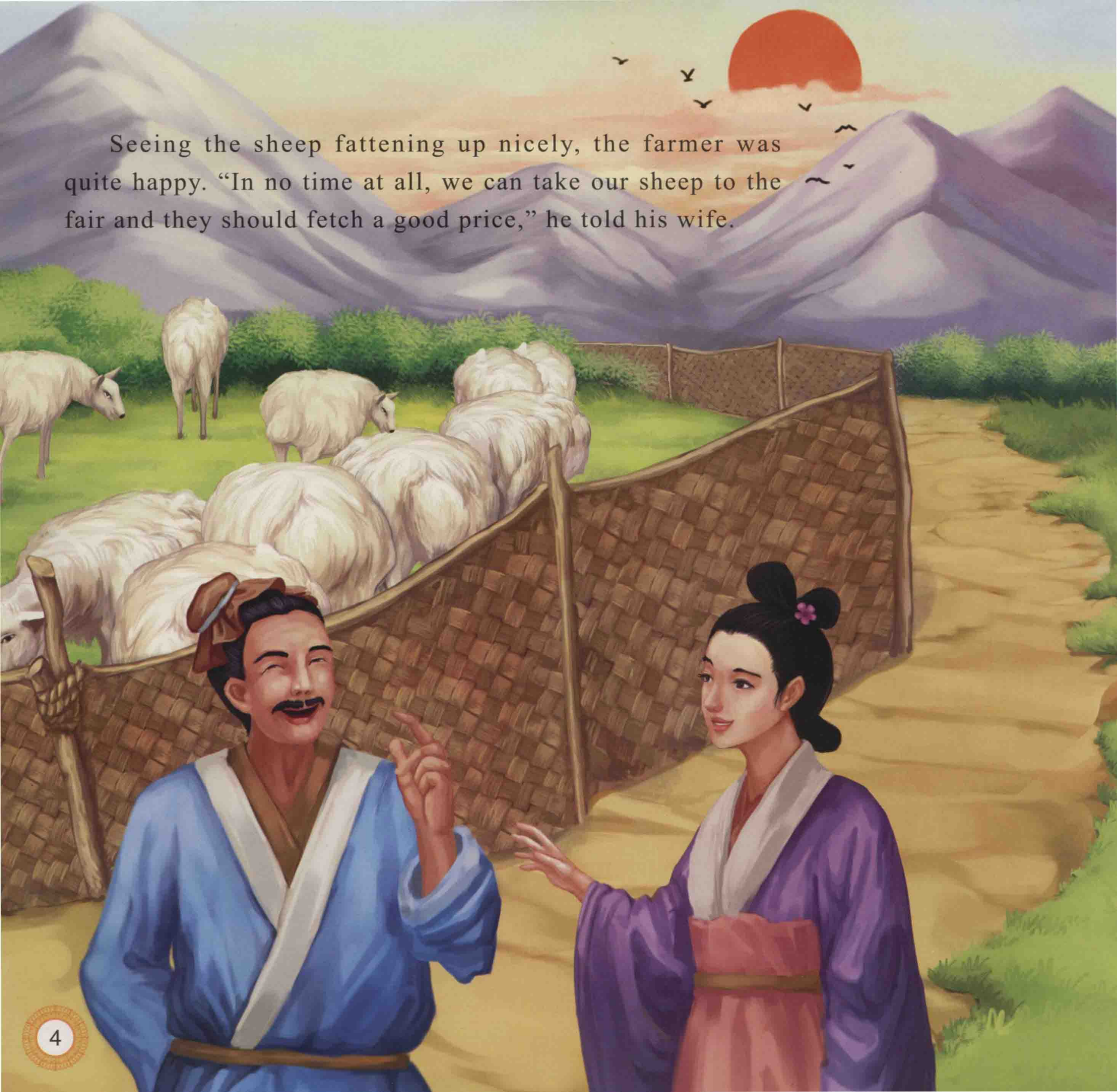
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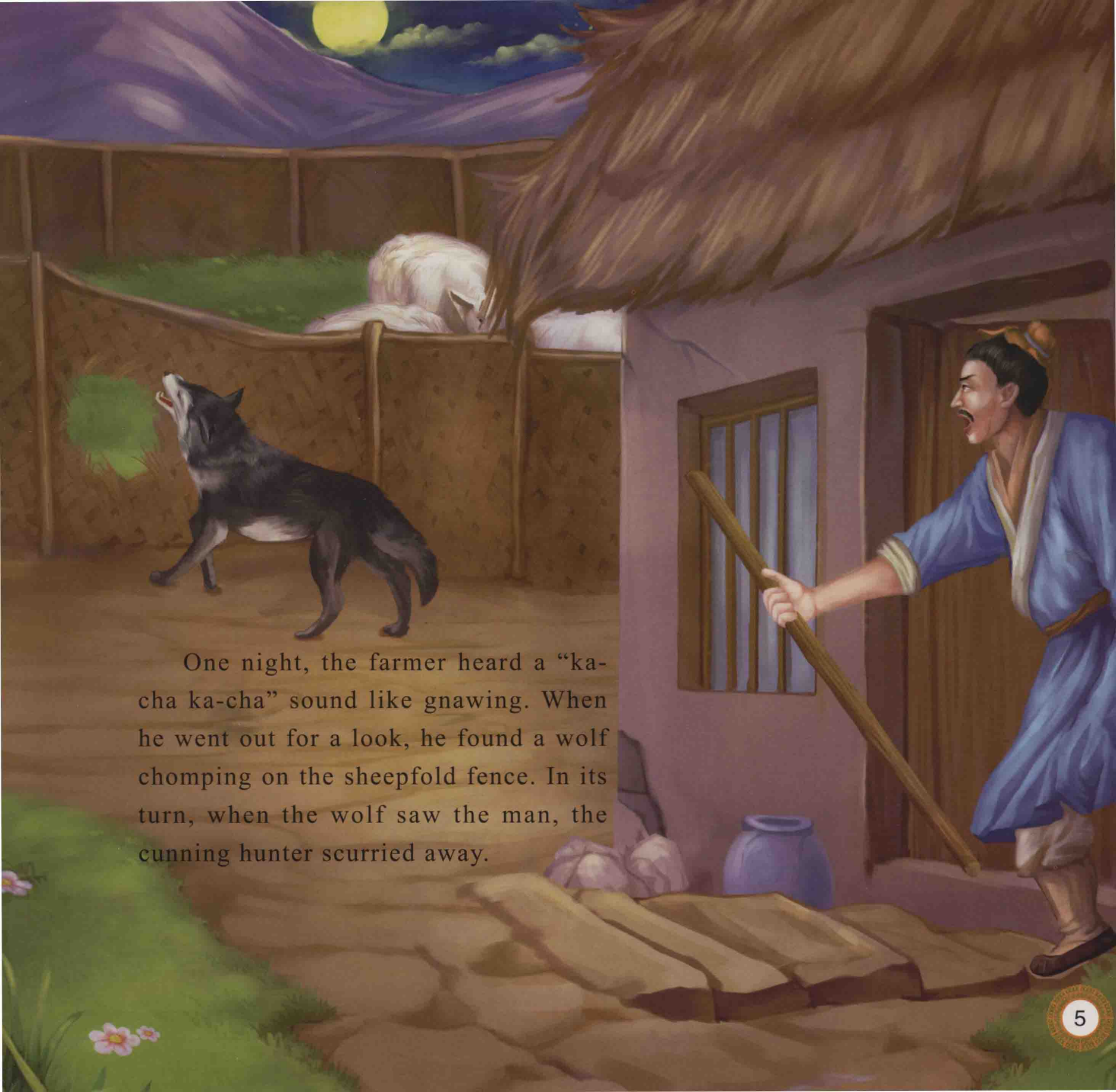
Once upon a time, a family lived at the foot of a mountain. They raised a flock of sheep. Every day when the farmer finished working his fields, he would graze the sheep on the mountainside.

The sheep grew day by day. To make things easier, the farmer built a sheepfold in the courtyard and herded the sheep there at night.






Seeing the sheep fattening up nicely, the farmer was quite happy. "In no time at all, we can take our sheep to the fair and they should fetch a good price," he told his wife.



One night, the farmer heard a “ka-cha ka-cha” sound like gnawing. When he went out for a look, he found a wolf chomping on the sheepfold fence. In its turn, when the wolf saw the man, the cunning hunter scurried away.



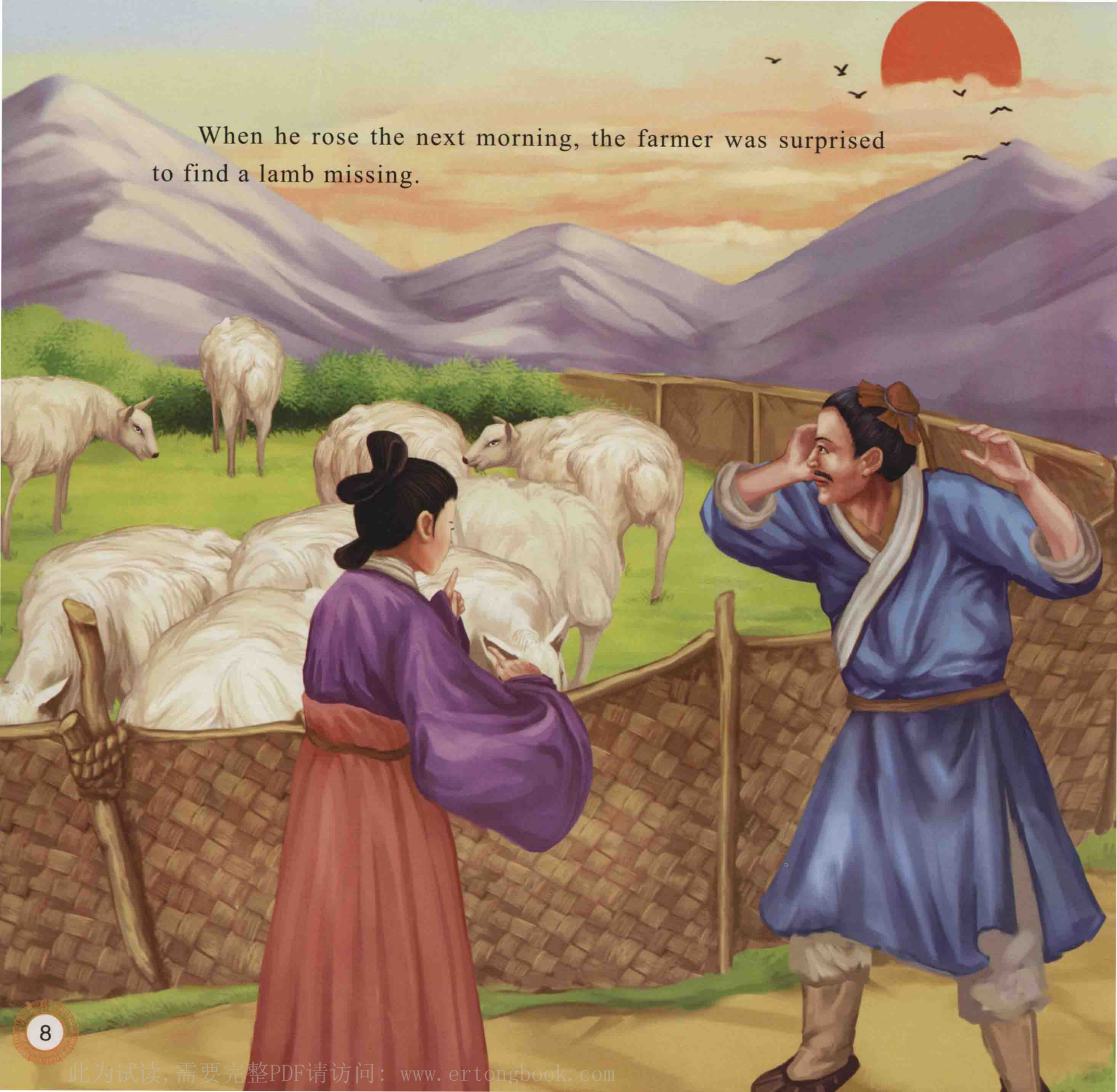
The next day, the farmer's wife noticed a gap in the sheepfold fence. "Let's fix the hole now," she said, "or we'll lose our precious sheep."

"Don't worry! Aren't all our sheep safe and sound?" replied the farmer, brushing her worries aside.

But that very night, the persistent wolf returned. It crawled through the hole, and escaped with a lamb dangling from its jaws.



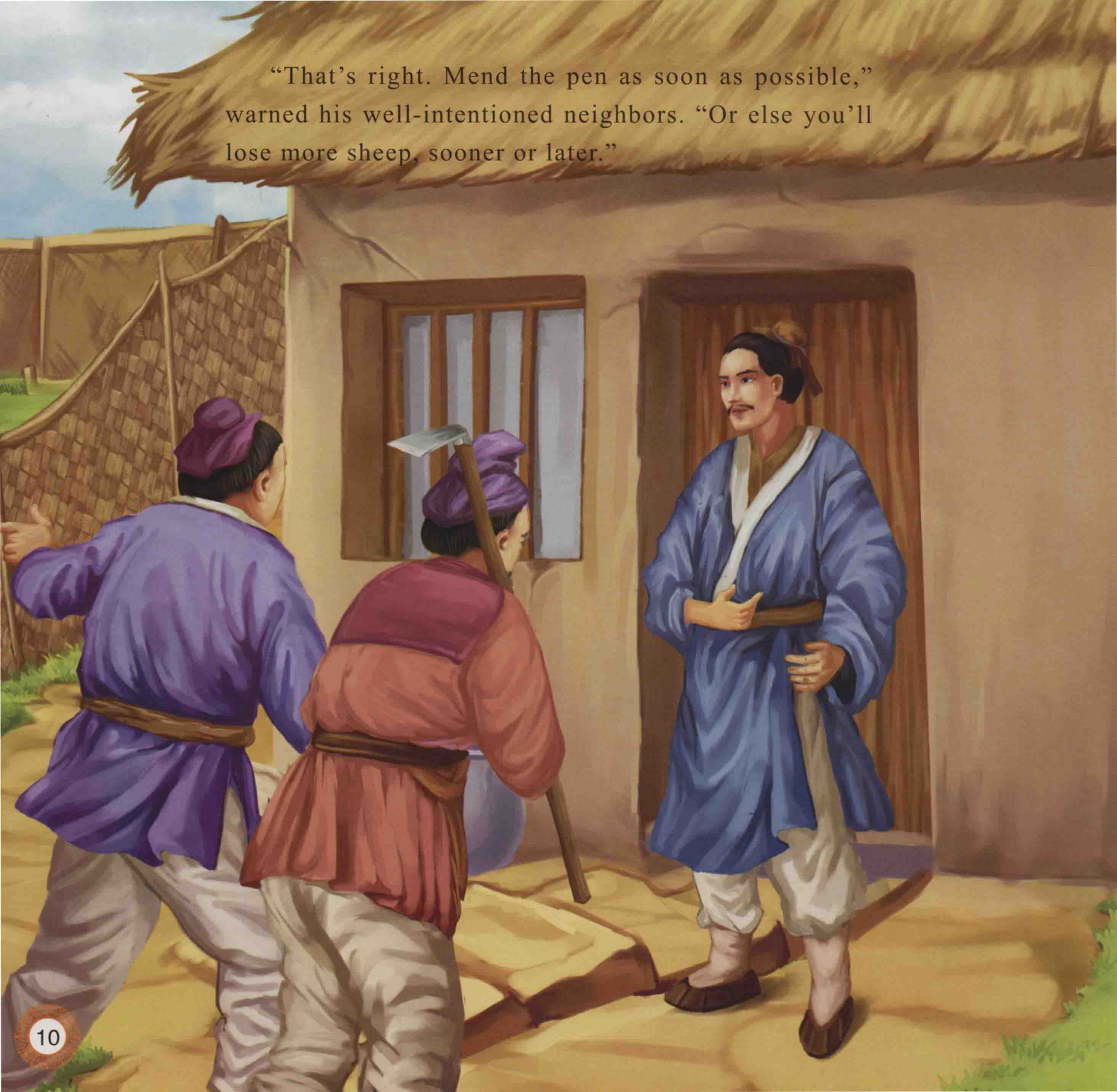
When he rose the next morning, the farmer was surprised to find a lamb missing.

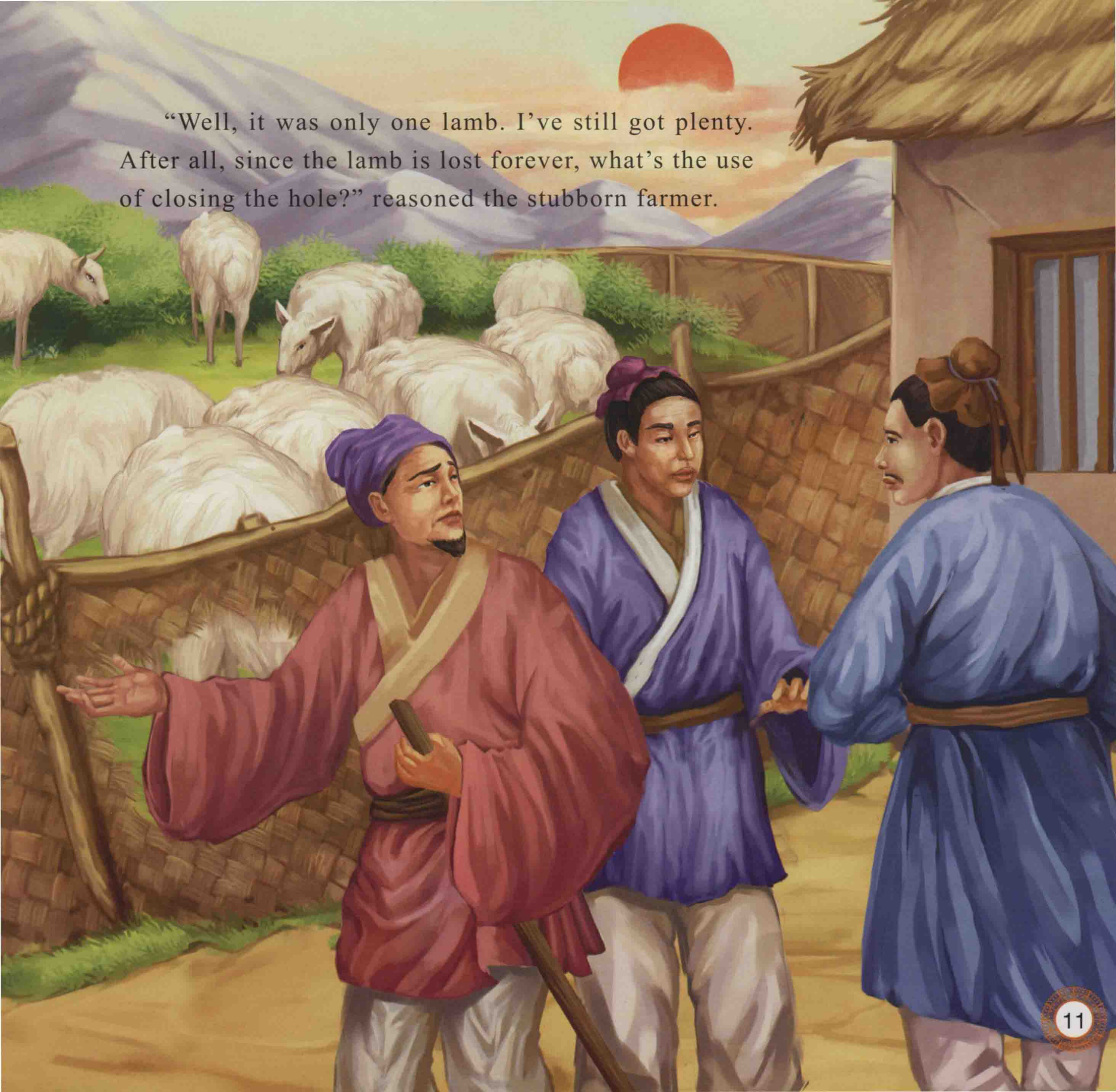




“Why not fix the hole right now? Or we’ll lose more sheep,” said his wife anxiously.

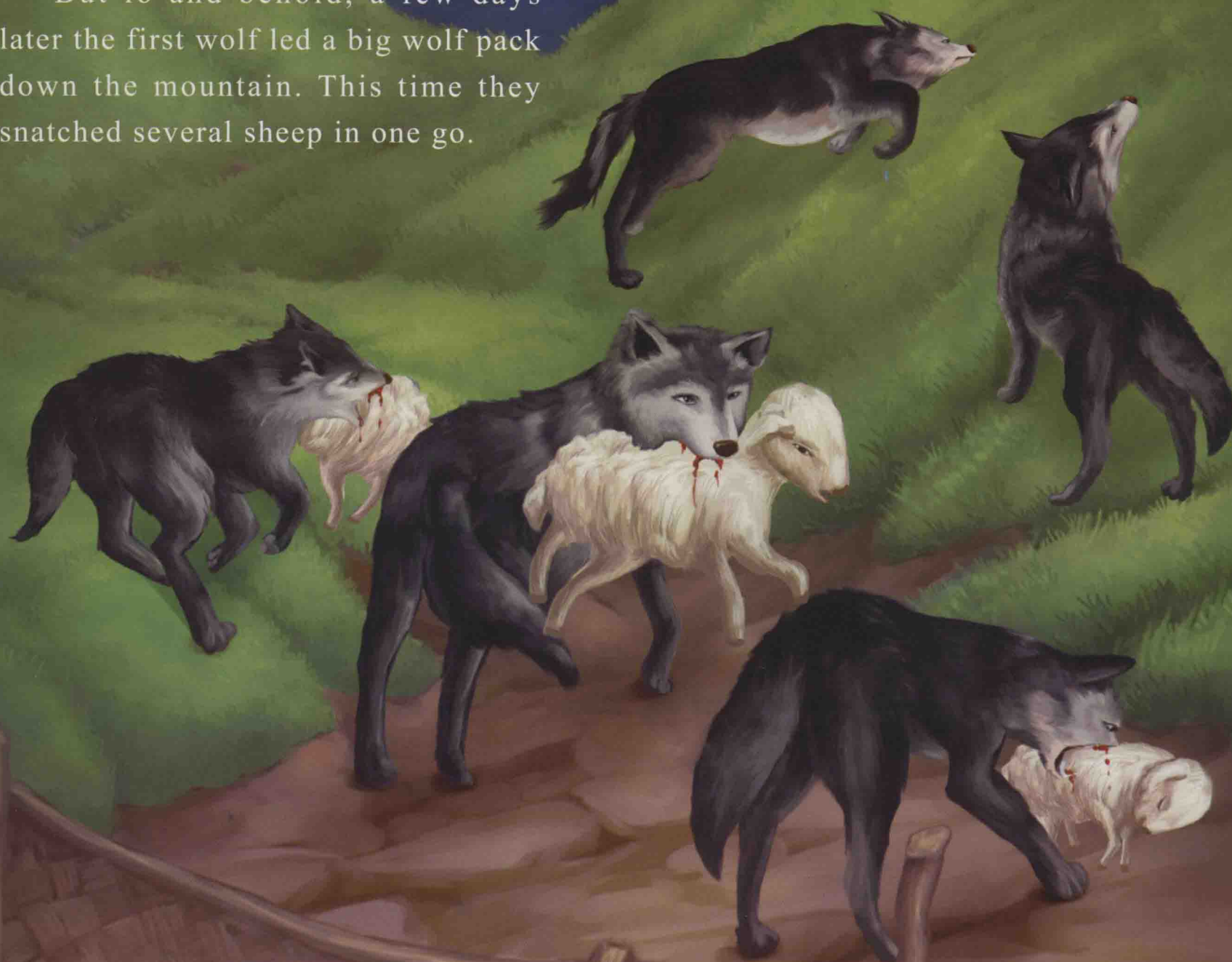
“That’s right. Mend the pen as soon as possible,”
warned his well-intentioned neighbors. “Or else you’ll
lose more sheep, sooner or later.”



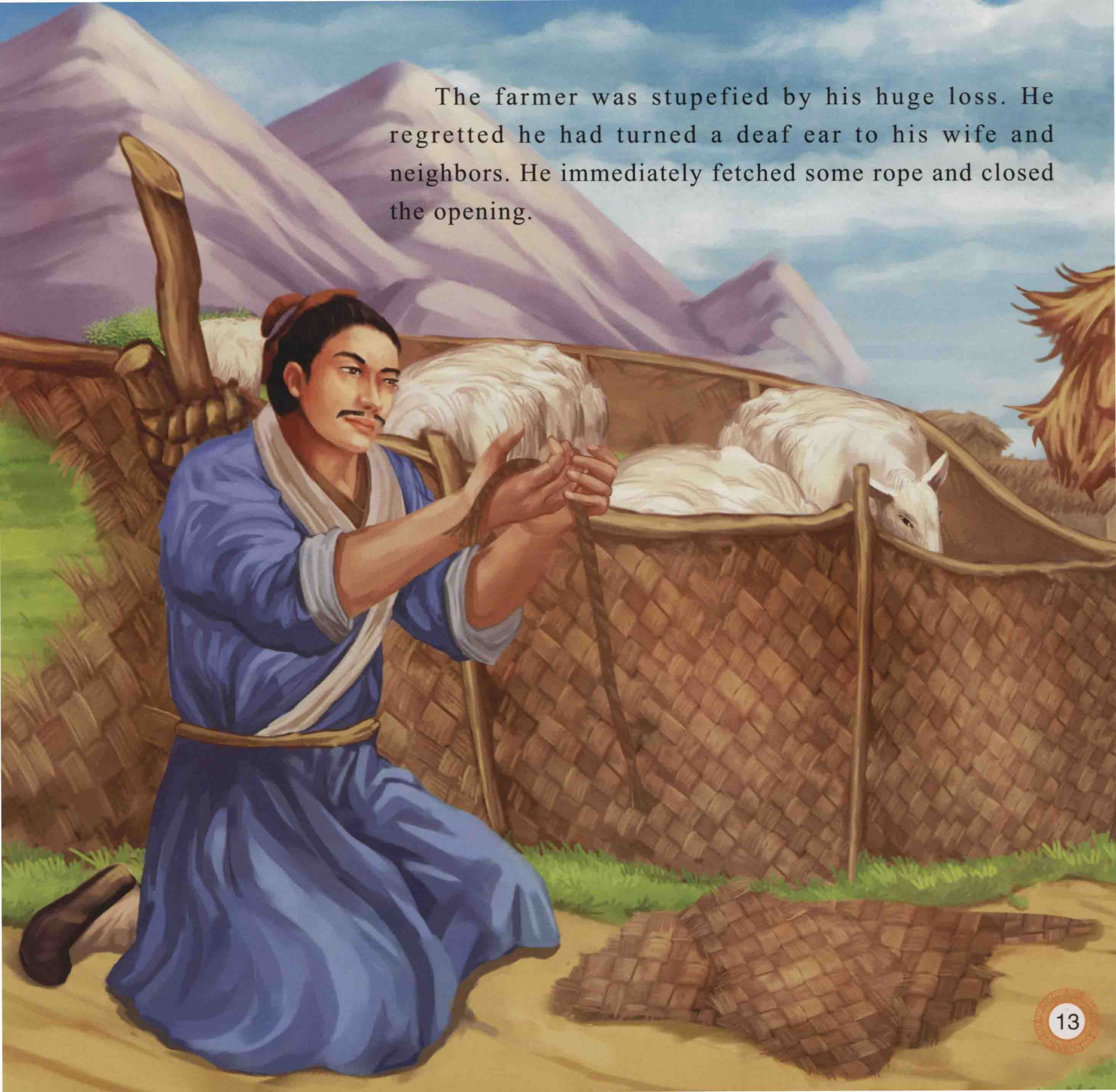


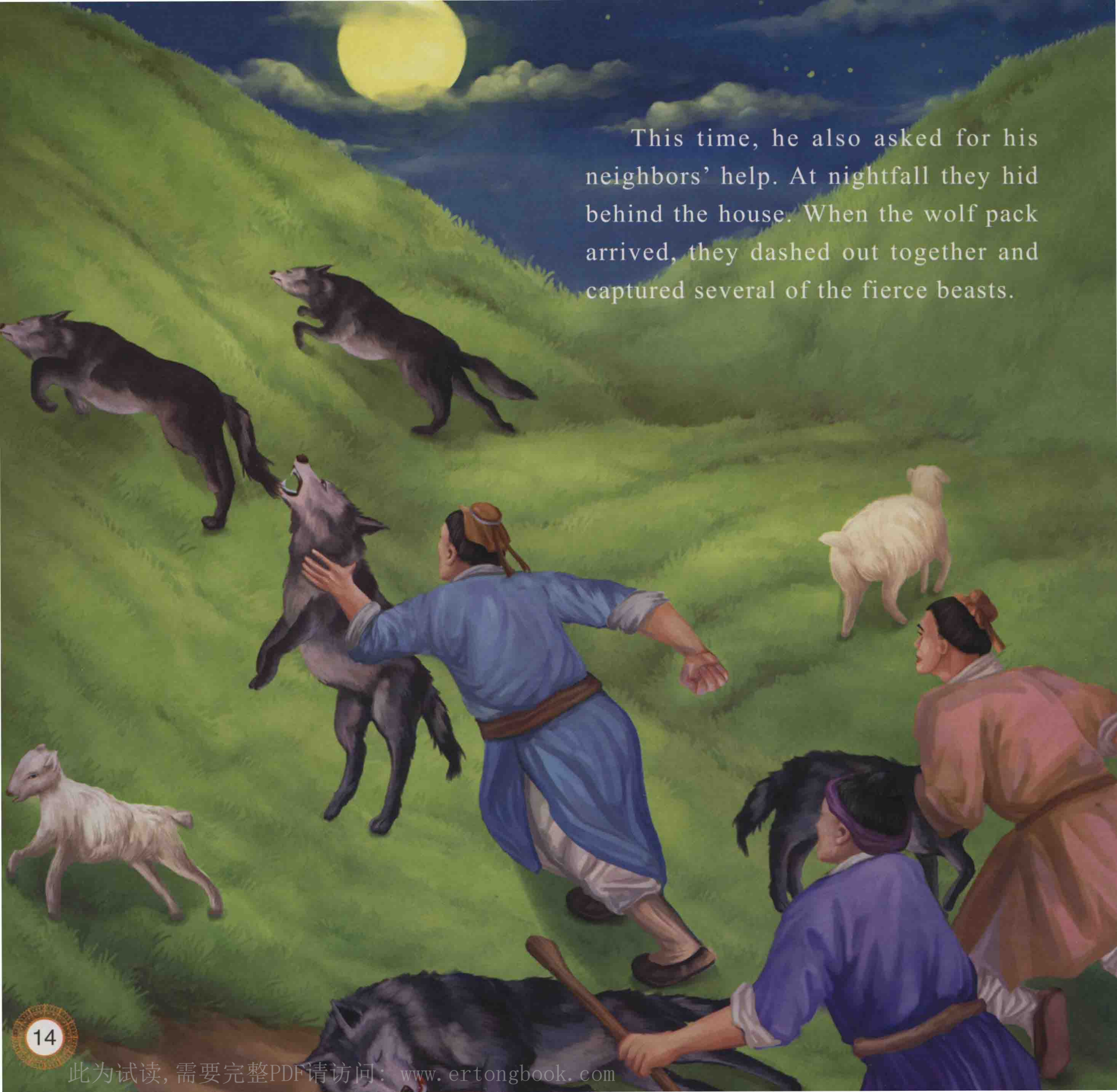
“Well, it was only one lamb. I’ve still got plenty. After all, since the lamb is lost forever, what’s the use of closing the hole?” reasoned the stubborn farmer.

But lo and behold, a few days later the first wolf led a big wolf pack down the mountain. This time they snatched several sheep in one go.



The farmer was stupefied by his huge loss. He regretted he had turned a deaf ear to his wife and neighbors. He immediately fetched some rope and closed the opening.





This time, he also asked for his neighbors' help. At nightfall they hid behind the house. When the wolf pack arrived, they dashed out together and captured several of the fierce beasts.