



Legends of Ten Chinese
Traditional Festivals

中国十个节日
传说



Spring Festival 春节

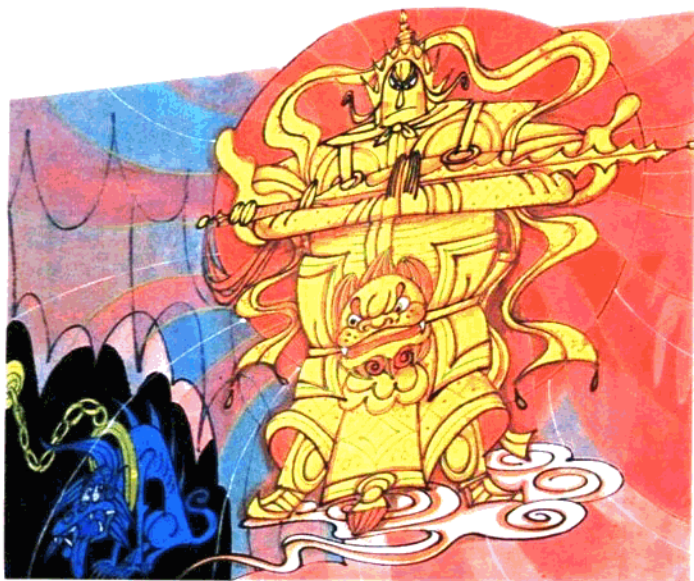


The Spring Festival is the lunar Chinese New Year. Every family sets off firecrackers and puts up couplets on their gates to usher in a happy life in the coming year.

春节是中国农历的新年,家家贴对联、放鞭炮,庆贺在新的一年里生活幸福。

Long, long ago, there was a ferocious demon called *nian*. It did evil things everywhere.

传说在很古很古的时候,“年”是一只凶恶的怪兽,到处作恶。



The Heavenly God locked this demon into remote mountains and only allowed him to go out once a year.

天神将“年”这个怪兽锁进深山,只准它十二个月出山一次。



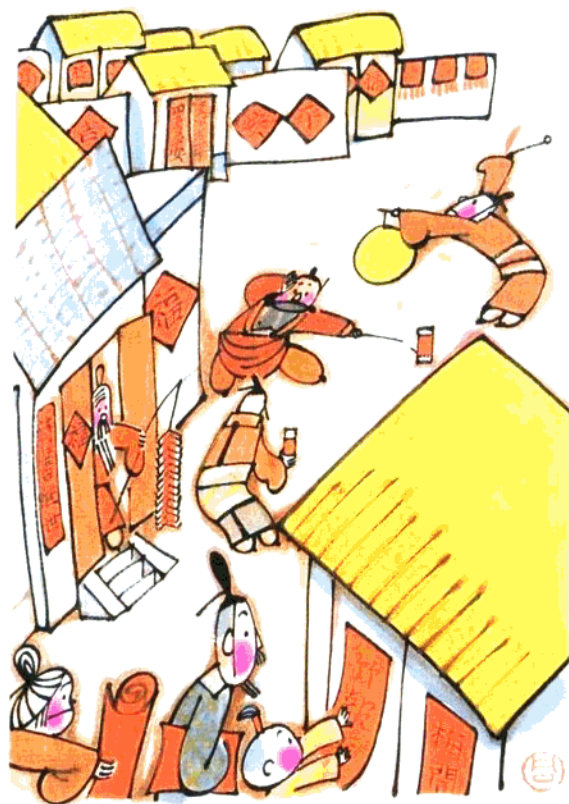
Shortly after twelve months had passed, *nian* came out of the mountains.

十二个月刚过完,“年”就出山来作恶。



Gathering together, people discussed how to deal with him. Some said that *nian* was afraid of the red color, flames, and noises.

大家商量对付它的办法。有人说“年”怕红颜色、怕火光、怕响声。



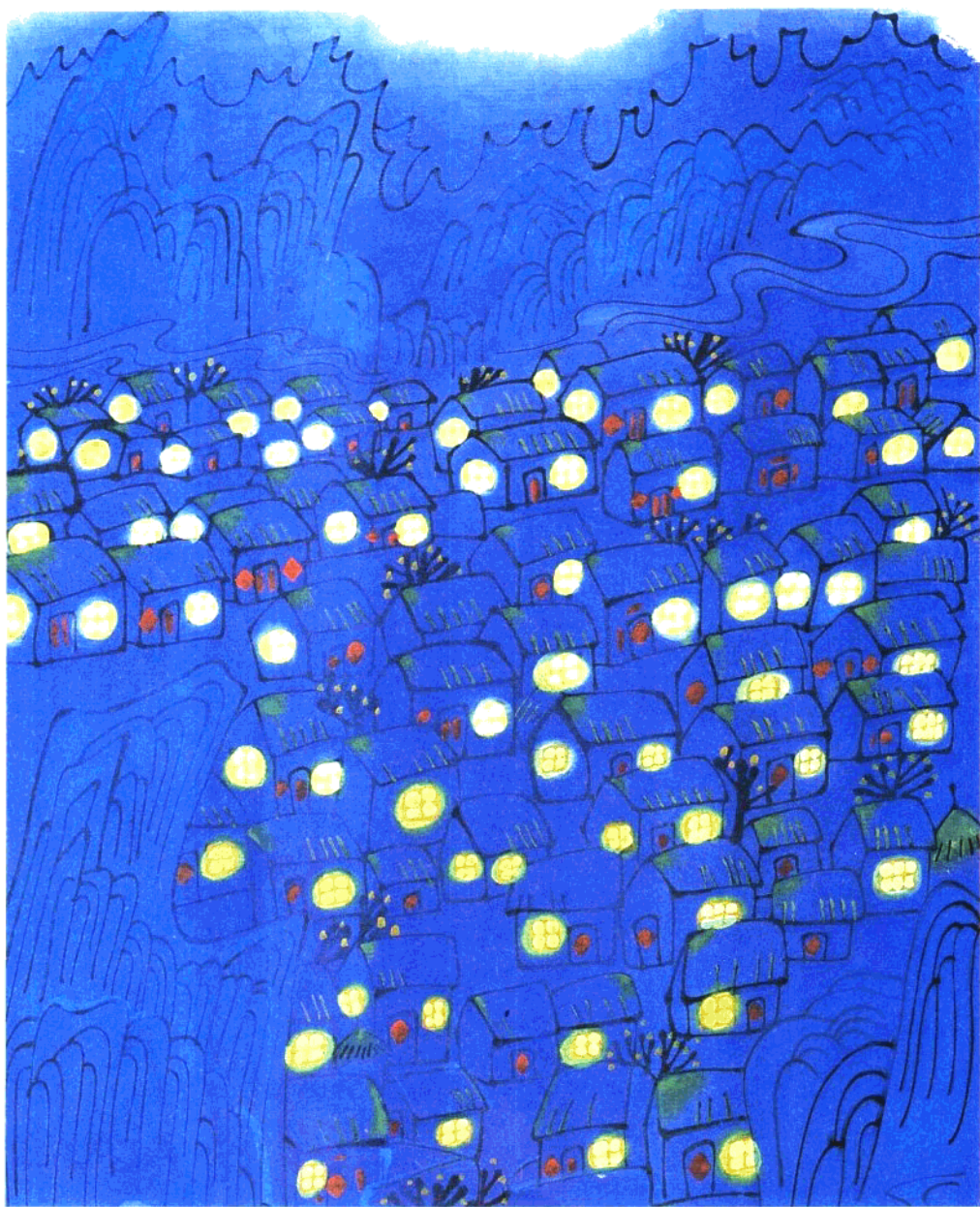
So people put up red couplets on their gates, set off firecrackers, and kept on beating gongs and drums.

于是人们在家门口贴红门联，放鞭炮，不停地敲锣打鼓。

The demon *nian* trembled with fear.

“年”吓得发抖。





Night fell and every house was brightly lit.
到了晚上,家家灯火通明。



Nian was terrified. He fled into the mountains and didn't dare to come out.

“年”吓得胆颤心惊，逃回山里，再也不敢下山。

Nian was thus subdued, and the custom of celebrating the lunar New Year was passed down from then.

“年”被制服了。但庆贺农历新年的习惯却流传下来，一直到现在。



Lantern Festival 灯节





The fifteenth day of the first lunar month is the day of the Lantern Festival. This festival dates back over 2,000 years.

农历正月十五是中国灯节。两千多年前就有这个风俗。

The Jade Emperor in Heaven lived comfortably, but he felt very lonely.

传说天宫里的玉皇大帝生活很舒适,但非常寂寞。



When he learned that people on earth lived happily, he got quite angry.

玉帝听说人间生活快乐、幸福,非常生气。



He decided to send the Magic Goose who could breathe out flames to burn up the world on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month.

因此他派会喷火的神鹅在正月十五日这一天晚上来到人间,要把人间烧光。



A kind-hearted maid of the Heavenly Palace went down to the world hurriedly and told everybody about the news.

天宫里一位好心的宫女赶快来到了人间，把这个消息告诉了大家。



A clever man got an idea. He called up his fellow citizens to make red lanterns immediately.

一个聪明人想了个办法，让大家赶快扎制红灯。



The maid also told people that once the Magic Goose was caged, it would no longer be able to breathe out flames.

宫女又告诉大家,只要把神鹅关在笼子里,它就不能喷火。

Shortly after it landed on the earth, and before it got the chance to start a fire, the Magic Goose was caught and caged.

神鹅刚刚着地,还没来得及喷火,就被人们捉进笼子里。



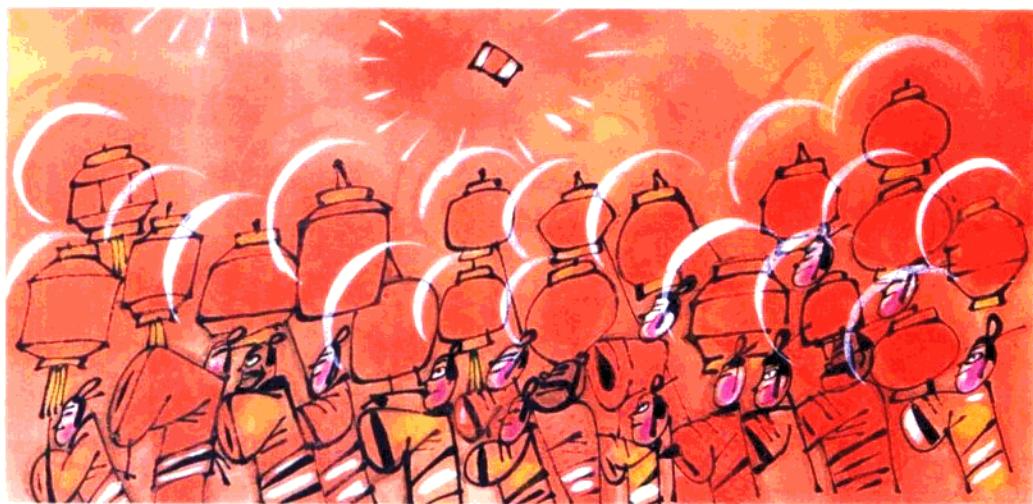


People then lit their lanterns and set off fireworks and firecrackers. When the Jade Emperor saw the flame, he thought it was the fire set by the Magic Goose, so he became very happy.

大家赶快点上灯,又燃放焰火、花炮。玉皇大帝看到人间四处是火光,以为神鹅放火了,心里十分高兴。

In fact, people were holding lanterns to celebrate their victory. Later, when this day came, every family made lanterns and held them. So the fifteenth day of the first lunar month became known as the Lantern Festival.

其实是人们举着灯在庆祝胜利。后来,每到这一天,家家挂灯、人人举灯,于是人们就把这一天叫作灯节。



Dragon Head Festival

龙头节

The Dragon Head Festival, celebrated in rural China, falls on the second day of the second lunar month. The Chinese proverb "on the second day of the second lunar month the dragon raises its head" has a story behind it.

农历二月二日是中国农村的“龙头节”。“二月二，龙抬头”。这个谚语说的是下面一个故事。

Long ago, in an ancient time, there was a drought along the Yellow River that lasted for three years. All the rivers had dried up and people suffered a lot.

古时候，黄河一带三年大旱，河水干涸了。人们痛苦极了。



There was a mountain called Dragon Ax on the bank of the Yellow River. At the foot of the mountain lived a young couple. The man was called Qiang Wa and the woman Long Hua.

黄河边上有一座龙斧山,山下住着小两口,男的叫强娃,女的叫龙花。



Both Qiang Wa and Long Hua were determined to look for sources of water to help their fellow villagers. An old man told them that they could find water at the bottom of the Golden Dragon Pond.

他们俩决心为人们找水源。有位老人告诉他们只有在金龙潭底才能挖出 waters.

Qiang Wa and Long Hua were not afraid of difficulties or hardships. They kept on crawling until they reached the bottom of the Golden Dragon Pond.

强娃和龙花不怕艰难,爬呀爬呀,一直爬到金龙潭底。





They didn't stop digging for forty-nine days. One day they dug out a white, round stone from the earth. With one roll, the stone suddenly turned into a white dove and flew up.

他俩在潭底挖了 49 天,挖出了一个白石头蛋。一翻滚,突然变成一只白鸽子飞了起来。

The dove landed on the side of the pond and turned into an old man with a white beard. The old man said, "Good children, hurry to the top of the Dragon Ax Mountain and try to get the mountain-cutting ax. With this ax you can cut through the mountain and let in the water." Having said this, the old man turned into a cloud of white smoke and disappeared.

白鸽飞到潭边,又变成一个白胡子老人。老人说:"好孩子,你们快去龙斧山寻找劈山斧,劈开山就有水了。"说完变成一股白烟消失了。

