

汉英双语

FAMOUS CHINESE MYTHS SERIES

Chang'e Flying to the Moon

Retold by Duan Lixin
Illustrated by Sang Yanbo

嫦娥奔月



CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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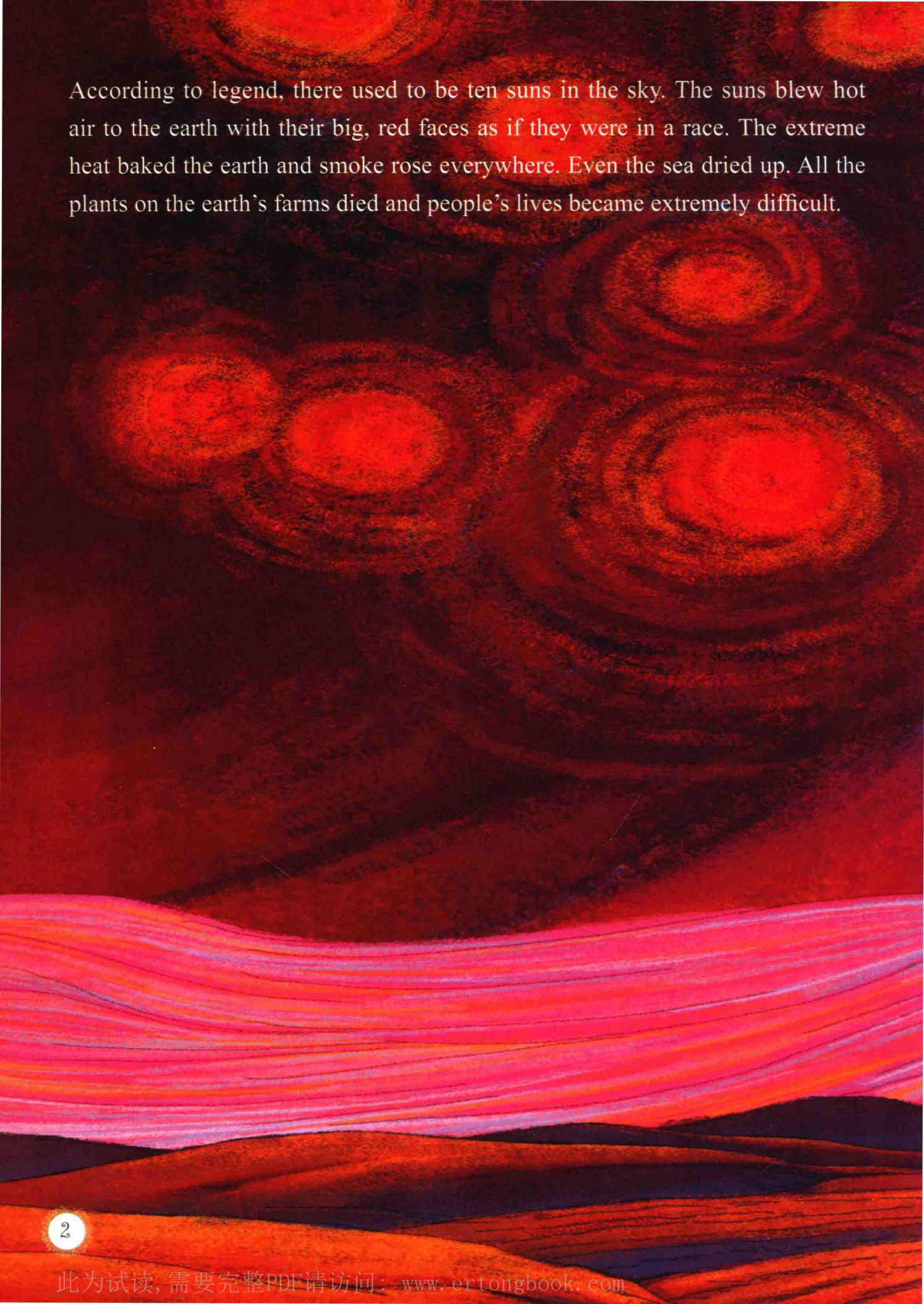


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According to legend, there used to be ten suns in the sky. The suns blew hot air to the earth with their big, red faces as if they were in a race. The extreme heat baked the earth and smoke rose everywhere. Even the sea dried up. All the plants on the earth's farms died and people's lives became extremely difficult.



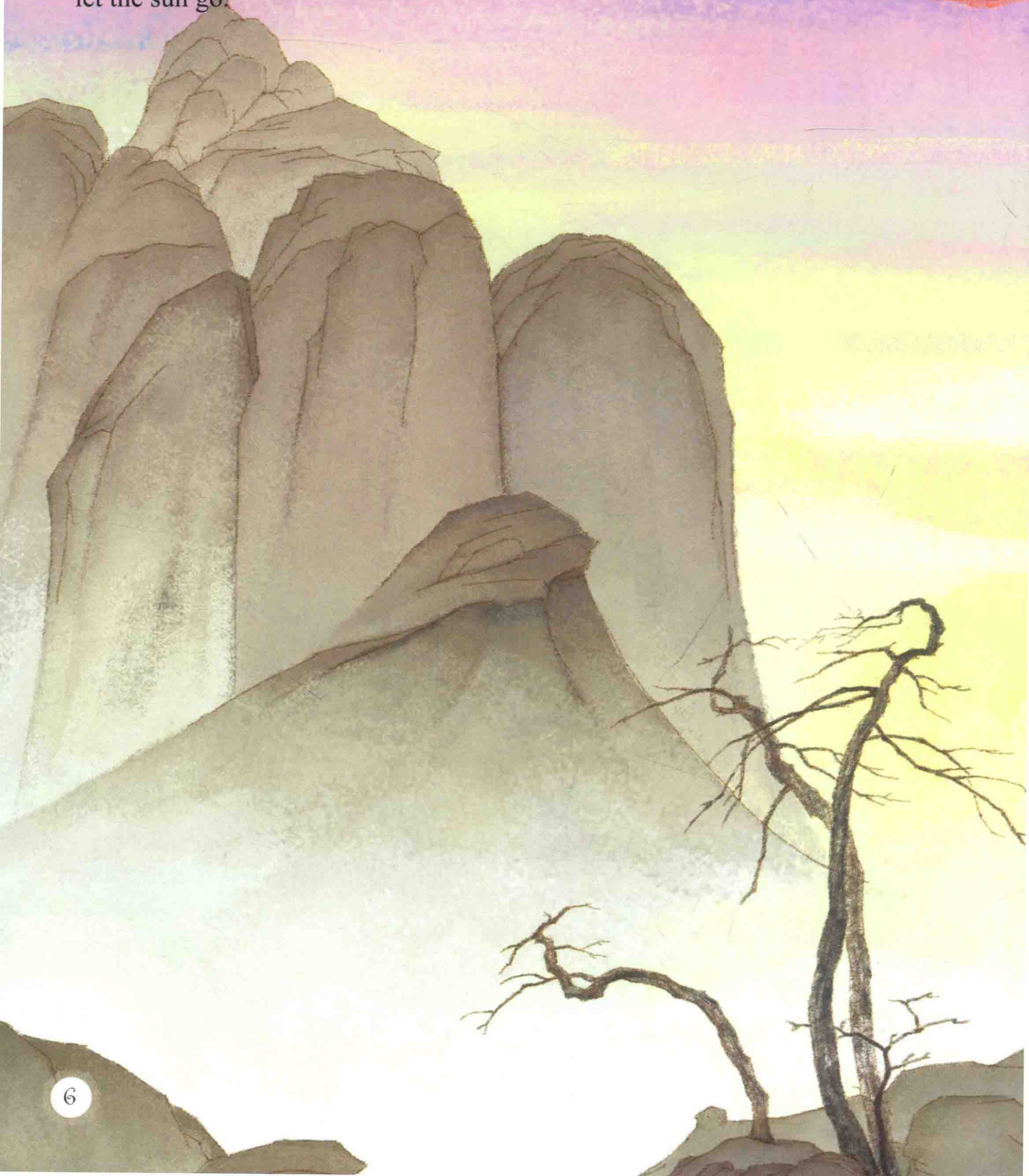


There was a marksman called Houyi. He was extremely strong with great kung fu skills. Seeing all the suffering of the people, Houyi was determined to save them from misery by shooting down the suns. He climbed over 99 mountains and passed through 99 valleys to reach the highest mountain at the edge of the East Sea! He took out his divine red bow and with his white feather arrows, Houyi shot down nine of the ten suns. Immediately, the earth no longer suffered from the extreme heat.



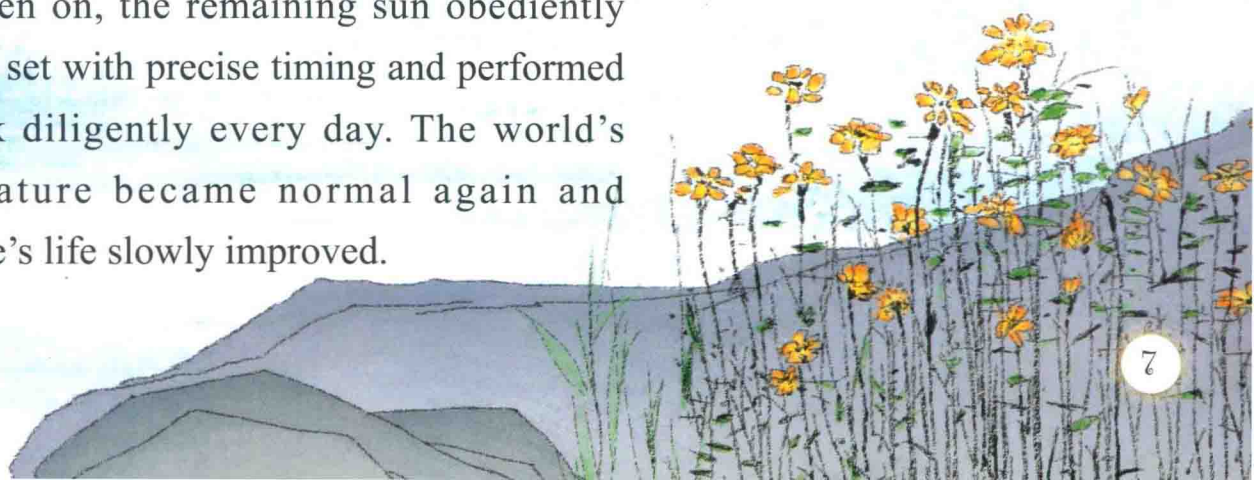


When the last remaining sun saw that nine of his brothers had been shot down, he was very scared. The sun was paralyzed in the sky and begged for forgiveness. Houyi didn't want the world to turn into complete darkness. He put away his bow and let the sun go.

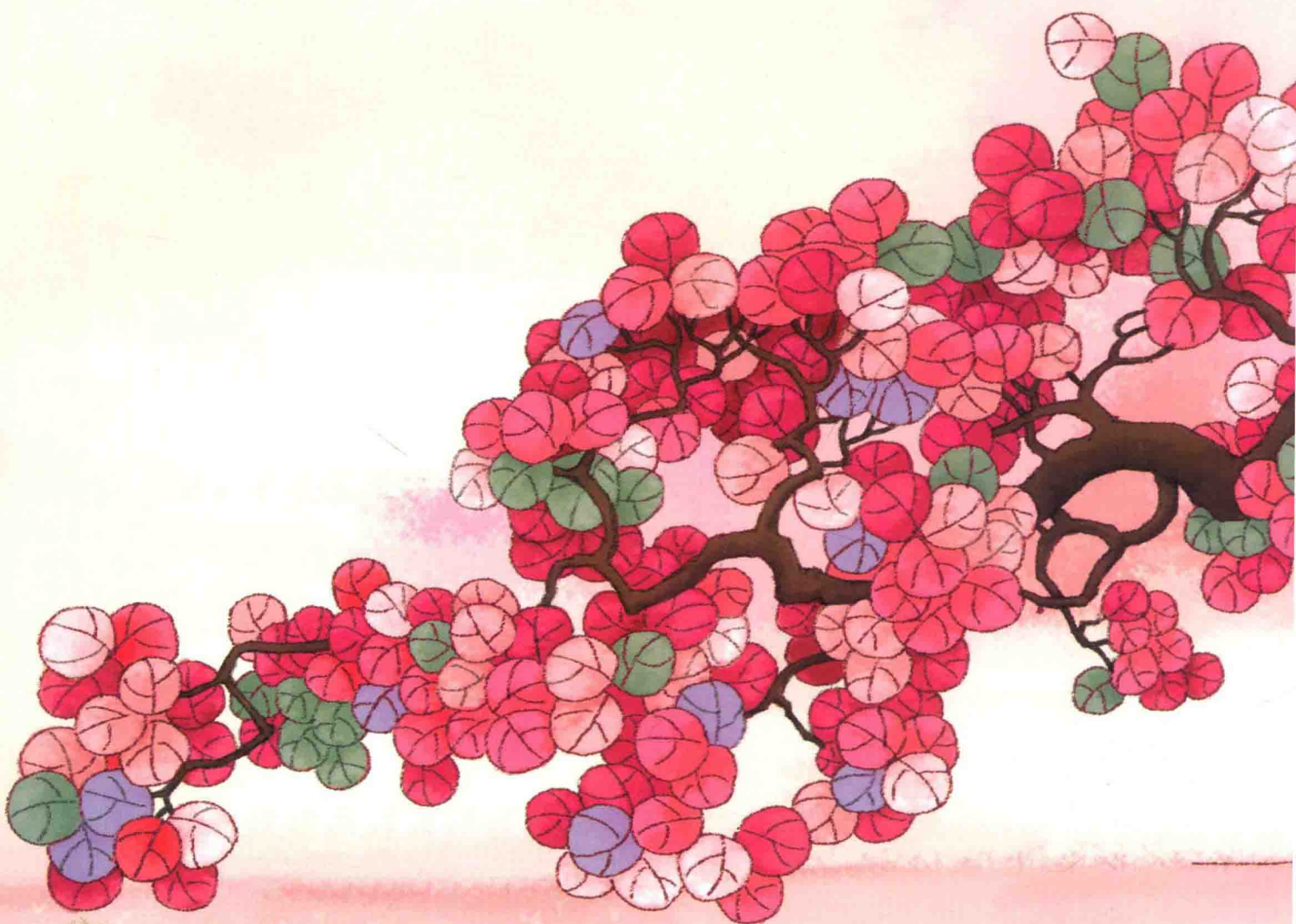




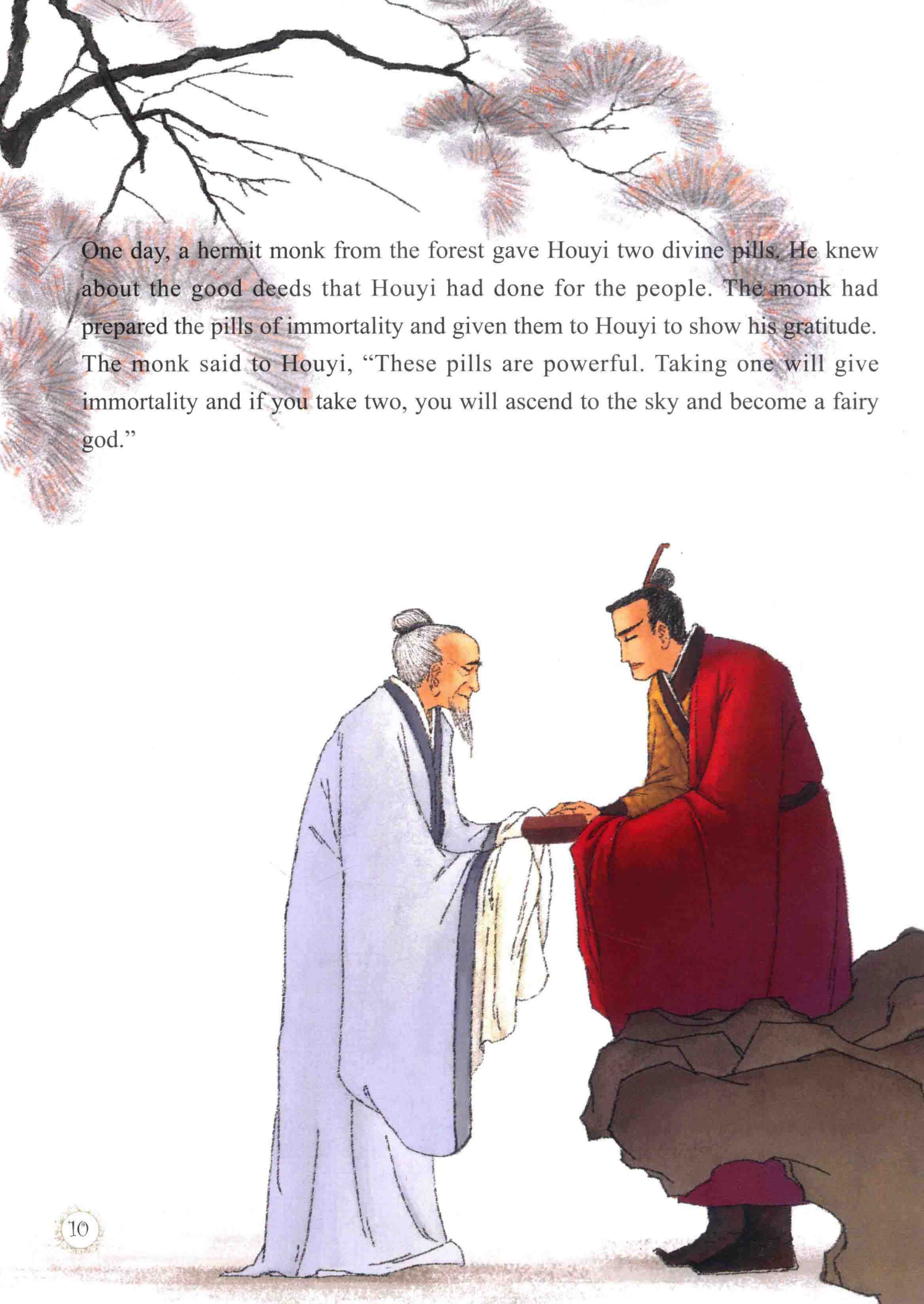
From then on, the remaining sun obediently rose and set with precise timing and performed its work diligently every day. The world's temperature became normal again and everyone's life slowly improved.



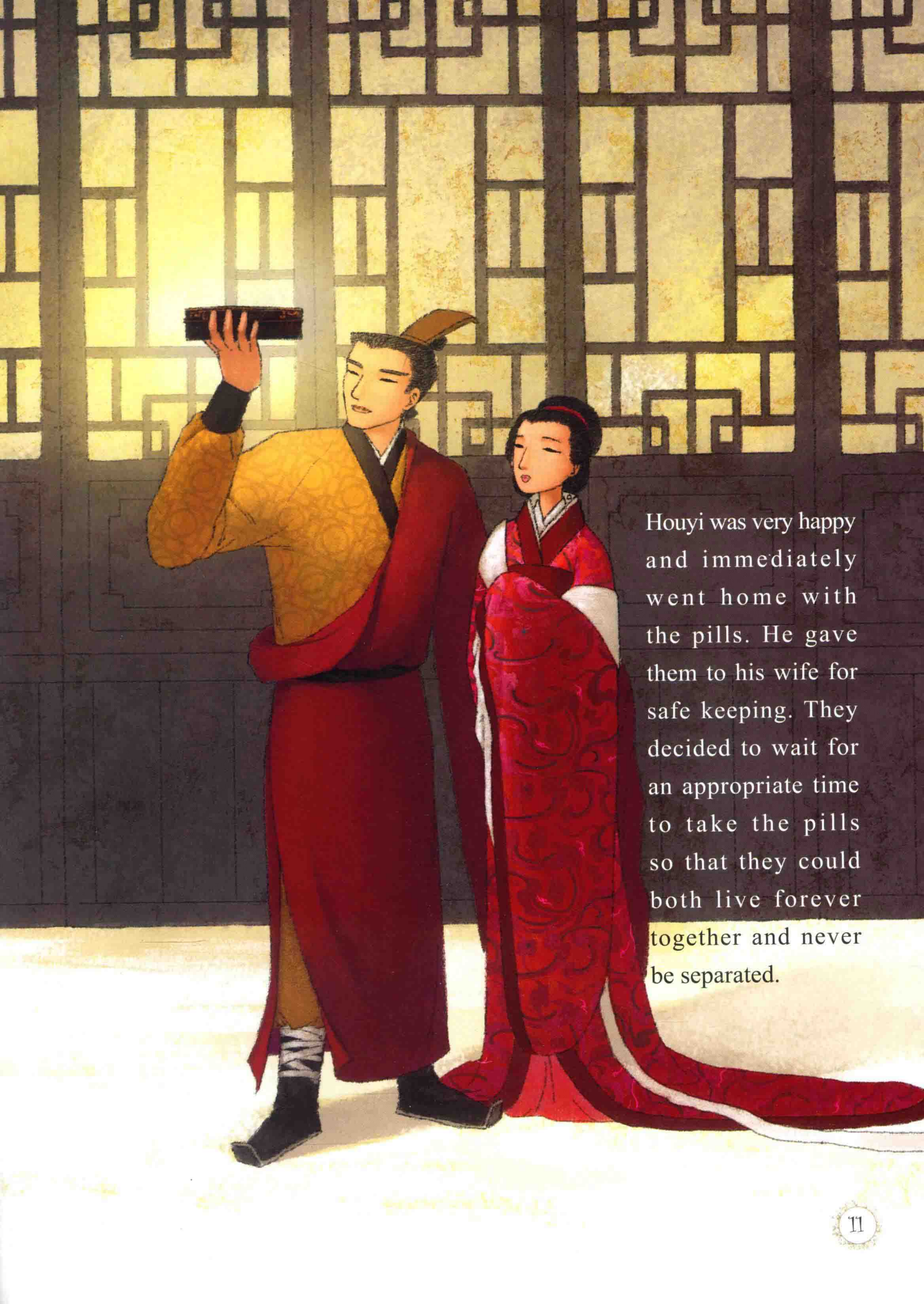
Houyi had provided the people with a prosperous life and everyone was grateful to him. They brought food from the harvest to his house. Houyi had a wife called Chang'e. She was a beautiful, talented and kindhearted woman. Visitors to her home would never leave empty-handed. She gave them her delicious home cooking and homemade dried fruits. All the people showed great respect to both Chang'e and Houyi.





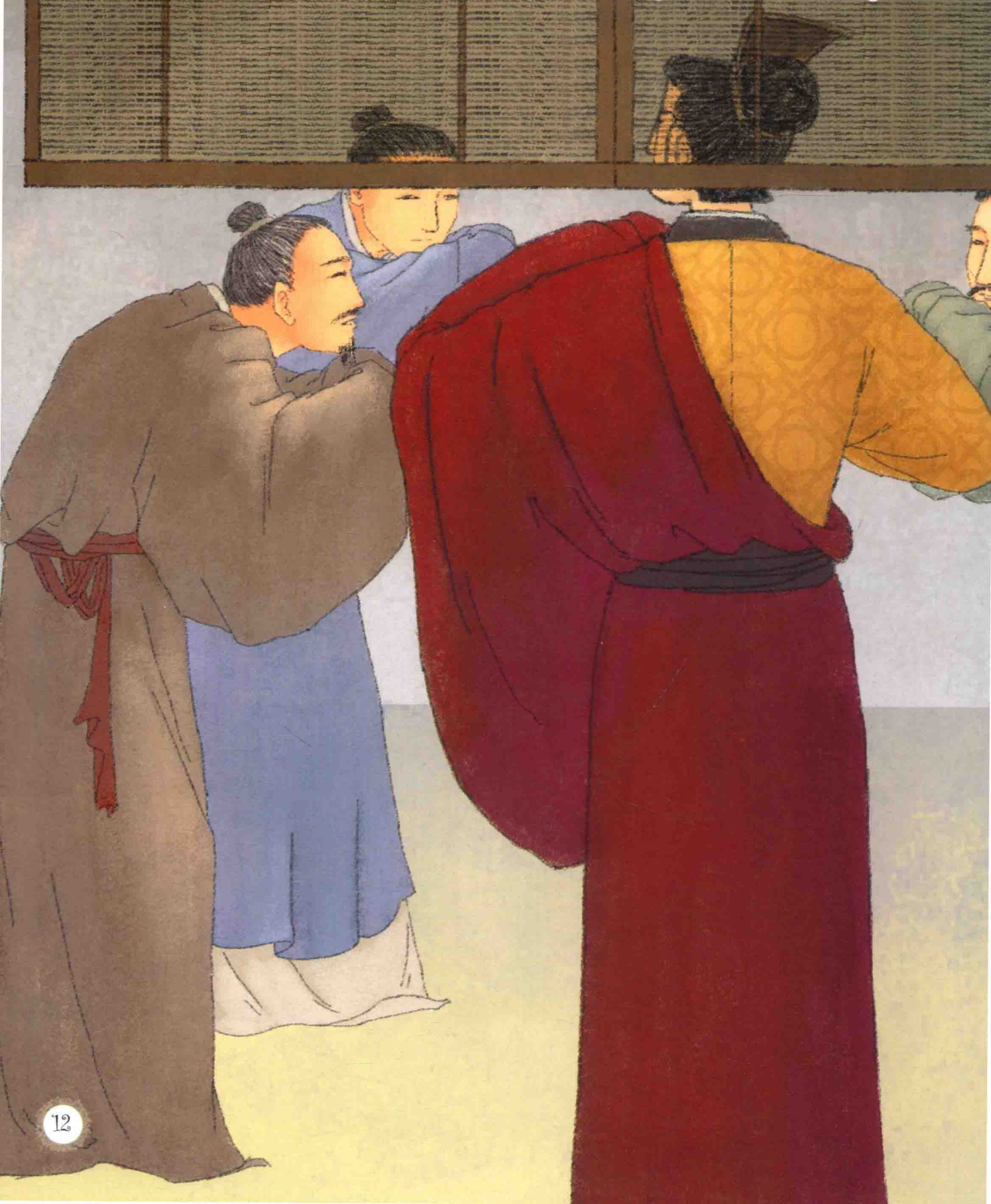


One day, a hermit monk from the forest gave Houyi two divine pills. He knew about the good deeds that Houyi had done for the people. The monk had prepared the pills of immortality and given them to Houyi to show his gratitude. The monk said to Houyi, "These pills are powerful. Taking one will give immortality and if you take two, you will ascend to the sky and become a fairy god."



Houyi was very happy and immediately went home with the pills. He gave them to his wife for safe keeping. They decided to wait for an appropriate time to take the pills so that they could both live forever together and never be separated.

Houyi had a student called Pang Meng. He was a clever but evil person. Although Houyi had taught him all his archery skills, Pang Meng was still jealous of his teacher's abilities. Pang Meng could not get over these feelings.





Houyi treated Pang Meng as his most favorite student. One day, Houyi casually mentioned the pills of immortality to his student. Pang Meng immediately formed an evil plan. "Houyi is very lucky," he thought. "Not only does he have a beautiful wife, he can also live forever. I must find a way to get the pills." When Pang Meng realized that Chang'e had the pills, he began to think of a horrible plan to get them.

