

汉英双语

FAMOUS CHINESE MYTHS SERIES

# Yu Leading the People in Curbing Floods

Retold by Duan Lixin  
Illustrated by Hua Meng Studios

大禹治水

CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS



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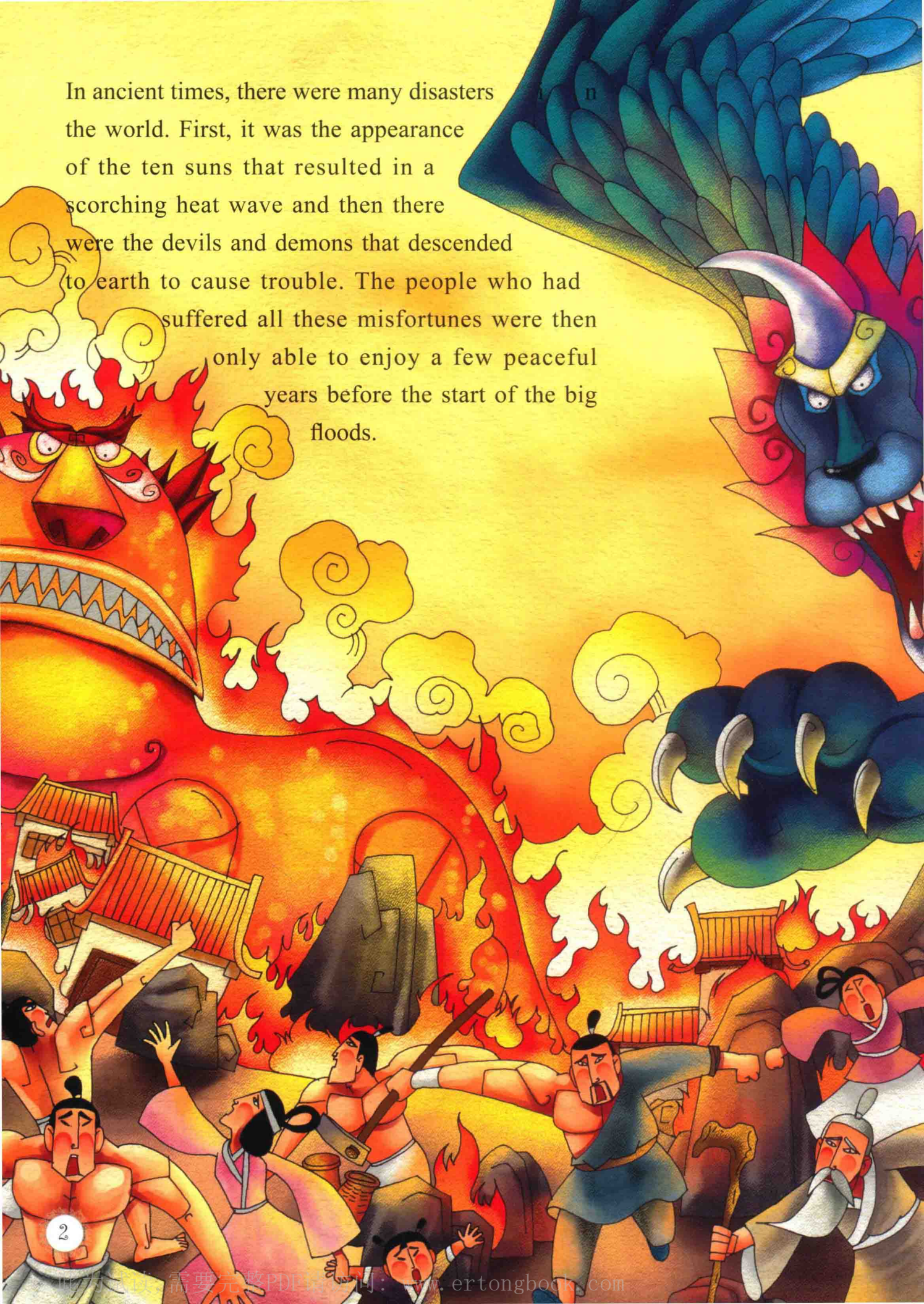
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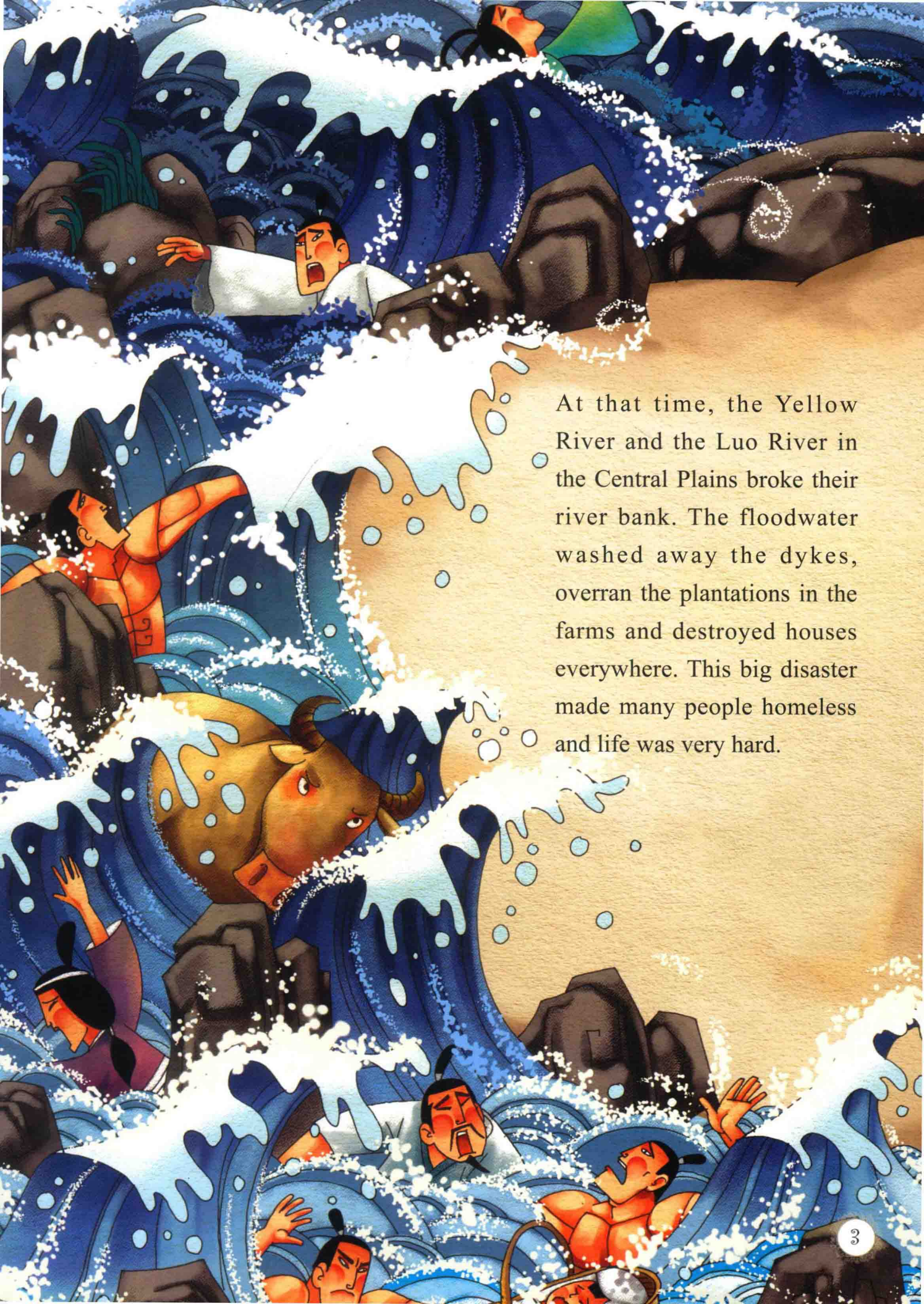
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In ancient times, there were many disasters the world. First, it was the appearance of the ten suns that resulted in a scorching heat wave and then there were the devils and demons that descended to earth to cause trouble. The people who had suffered all these misfortunes were then only able to enjoy a few peaceful years before the start of the big floods.



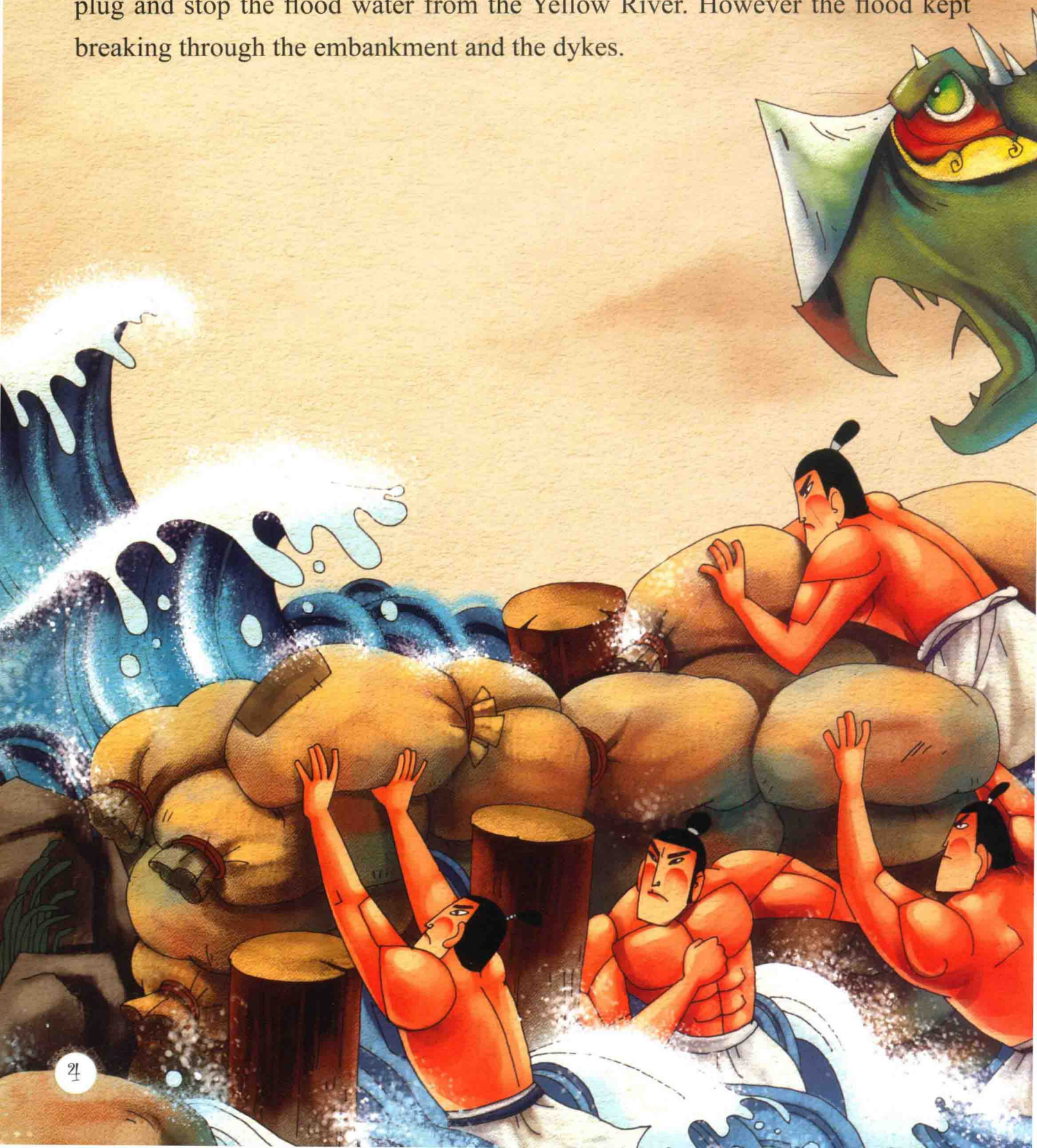




At that time, the Yellow River and the Luo River in the Central Plains broke their river bank. The floodwater washed away the dykes, overran the plantations in the farms and destroyed houses everywhere. This big disaster made many people homeless and life was very hard.



Yao, the reigning monarch of China, saw the hardship of the common people and immediately dispatched a great hero, called Gun, to assist in controlling the floods. Gun led a group of people to fight the flood water. They built dykes and high riverbanks to fence off the floodwater. Gun had a large divine tortoise that helped him in fighting the flood in the Central Plains. They were trying to plug and stop the flood water from the Yellow River. However the flood kept breaking through the embankment and the dykes.











For over nine years, Gun worked extremely hard to fight the flood. However, the water continued to flood everywhere.





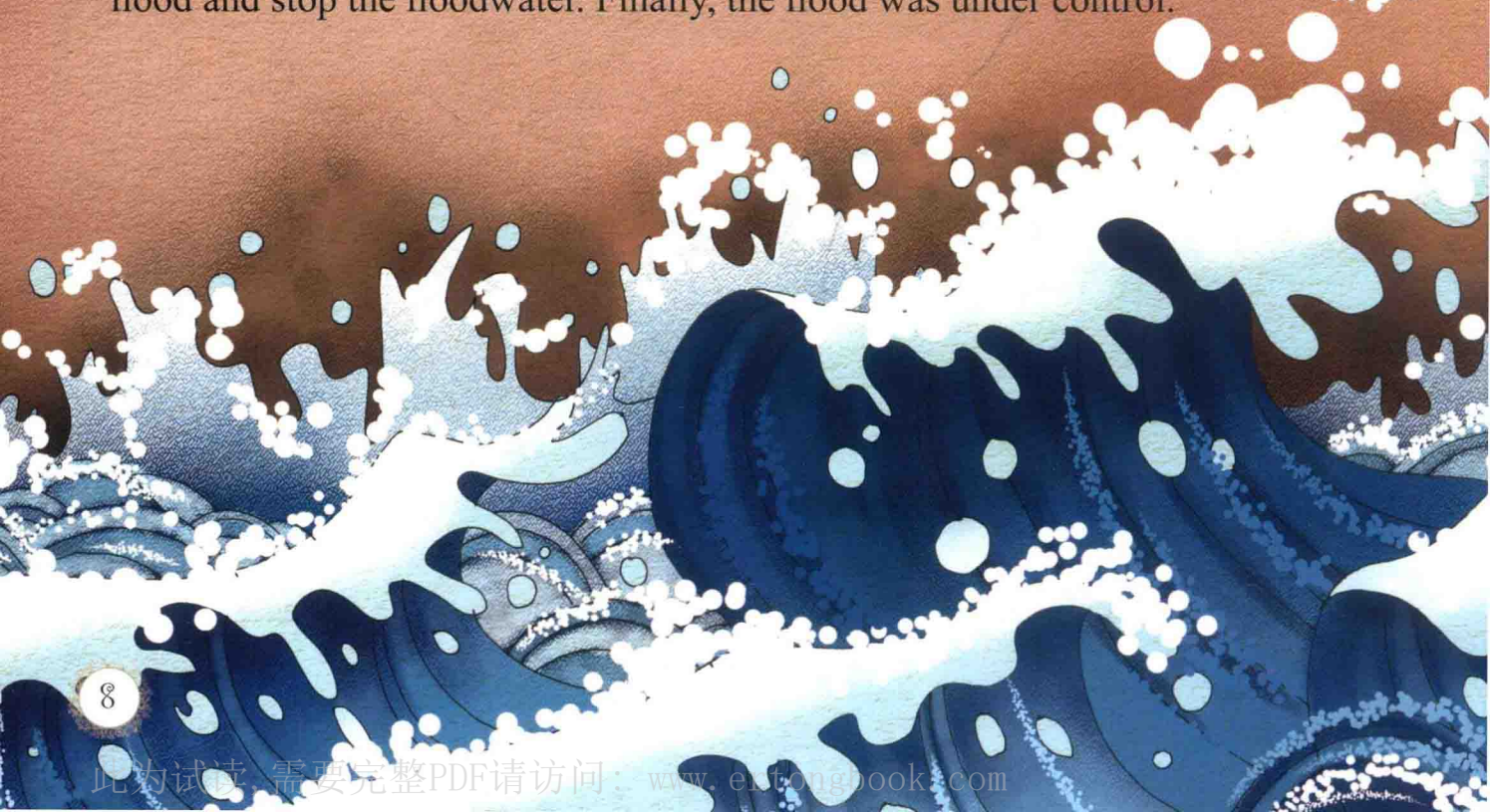
Gun saw that the people's lives were getting more and more difficult and he came up with an idea. One day, he slipped into heaven when the heavenly guards were not paying attention. He stole a treasure from the Emperor of Heaven. It was the *xirang*, a special kind of soil.



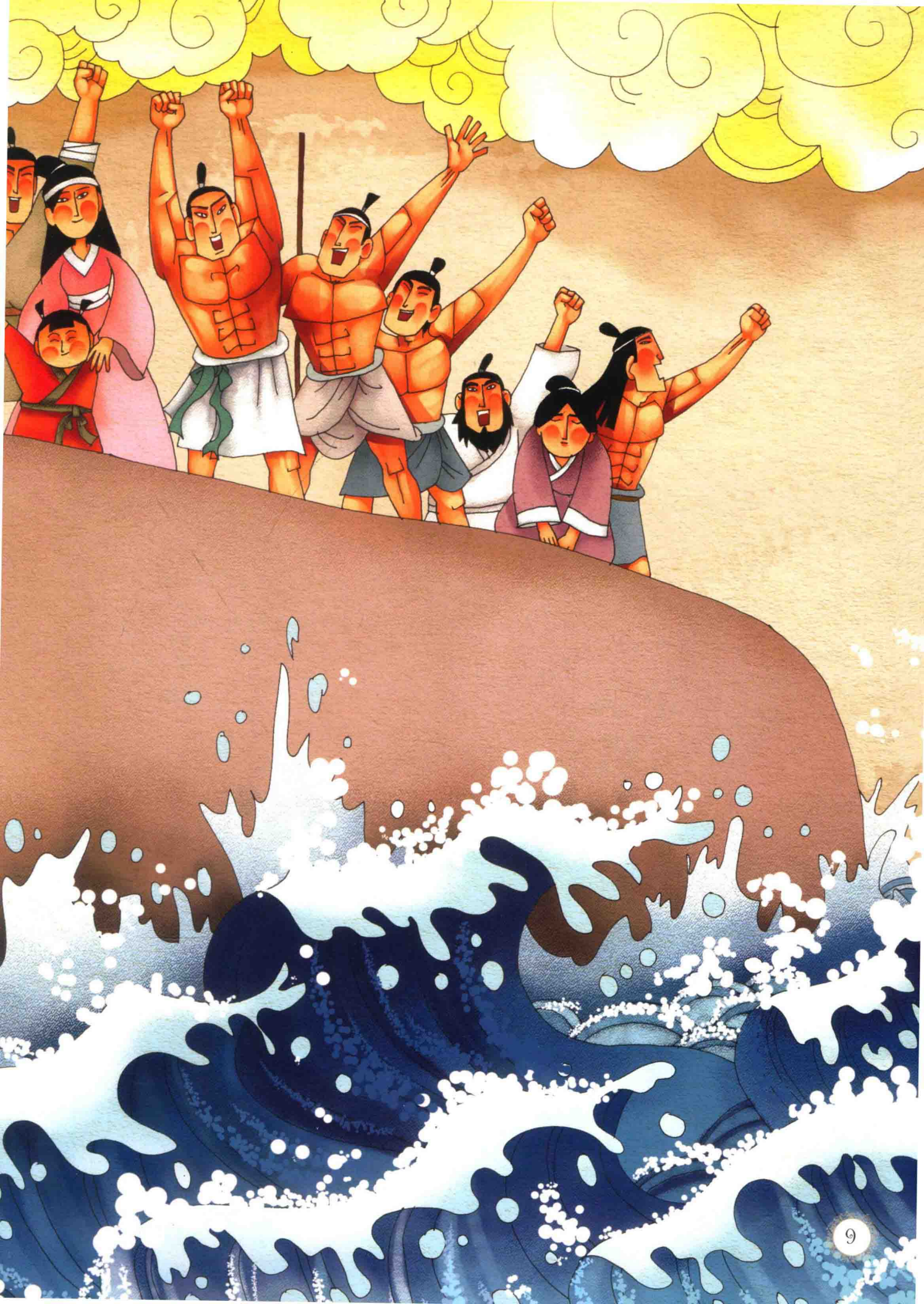




*Xirang* was a magical soil, which could grow by itself. Gun distributed the soil onto the flood areas and the *xirang* grew to form mountains tall enough to defend the river embankment. The *xirang* could always grow taller than the flood and stop the floodwater. Finally, the flood was under control.



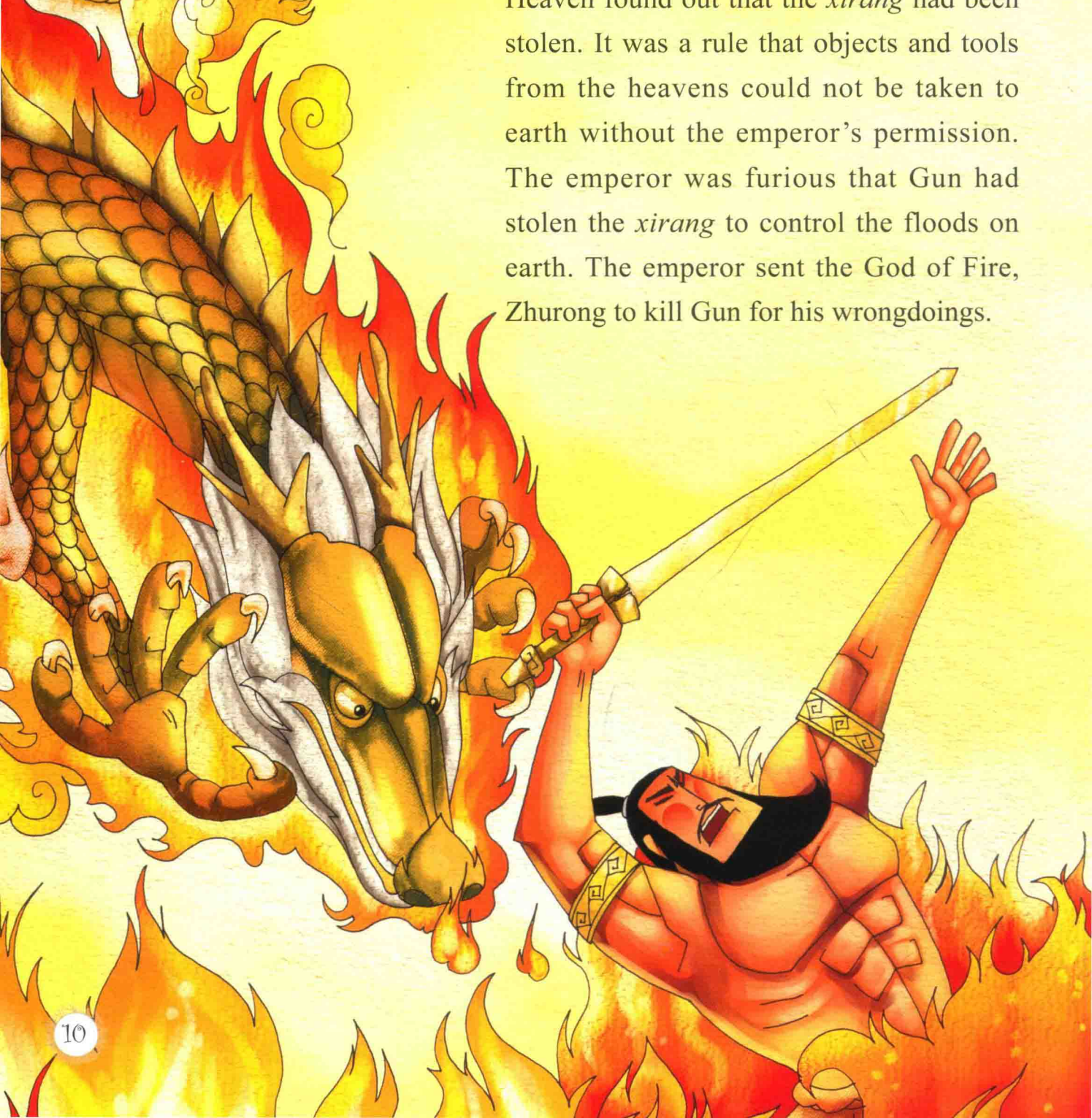








Gun didn't realize that the Emperor of Heaven found out that the *xirang* had been stolen. It was a rule that objects and tools from the heavens could not be taken to earth without the emperor's permission. The emperor was furious that Gun had stolen the *xirang* to control the floods on earth. The emperor sent the God of Fire, Zhurong to kill Gun for his wrongdoings.

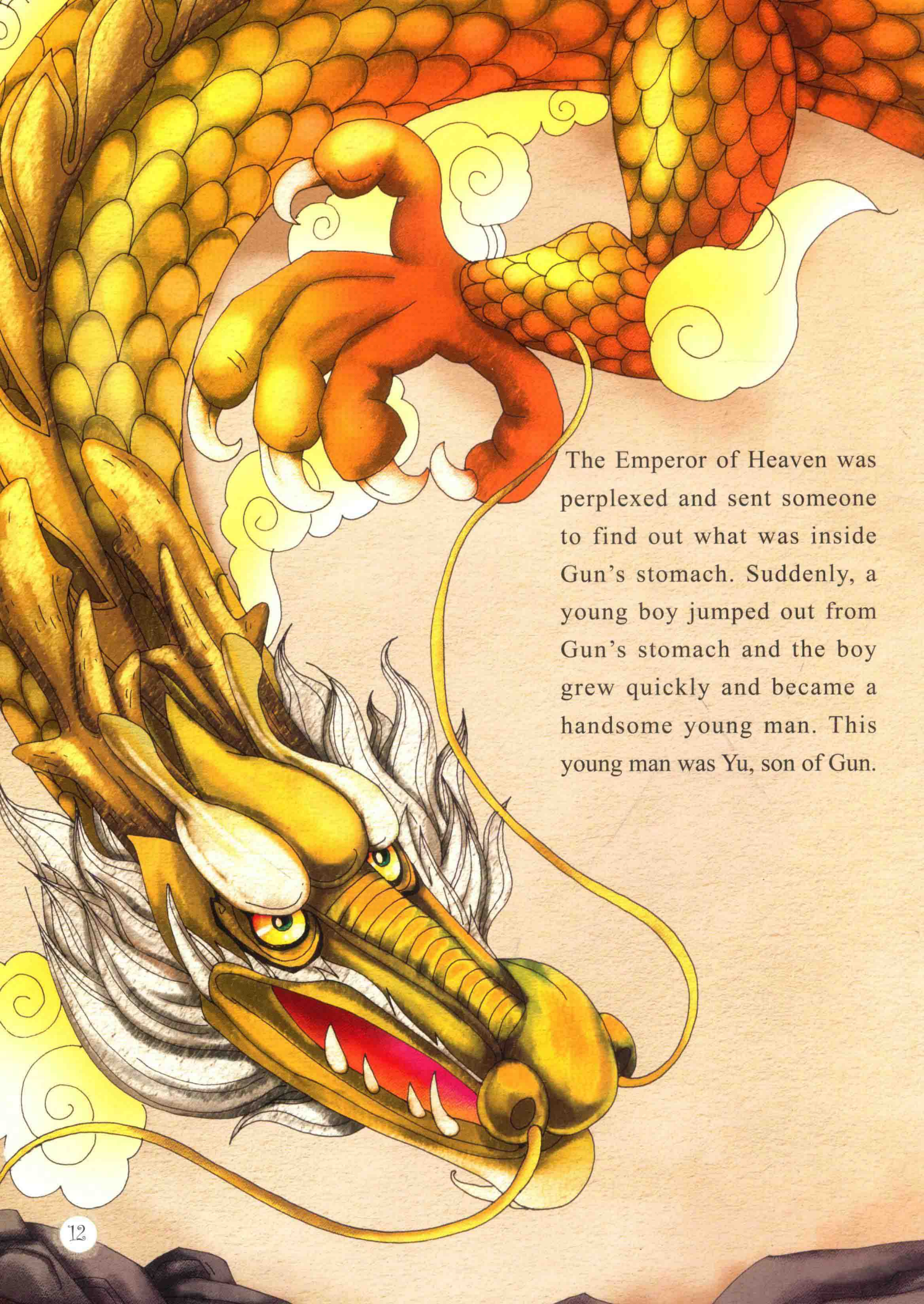




Bizarrely, Gun's body had remained in a good condition for three years and his stomach had only grown bigger and bigger.



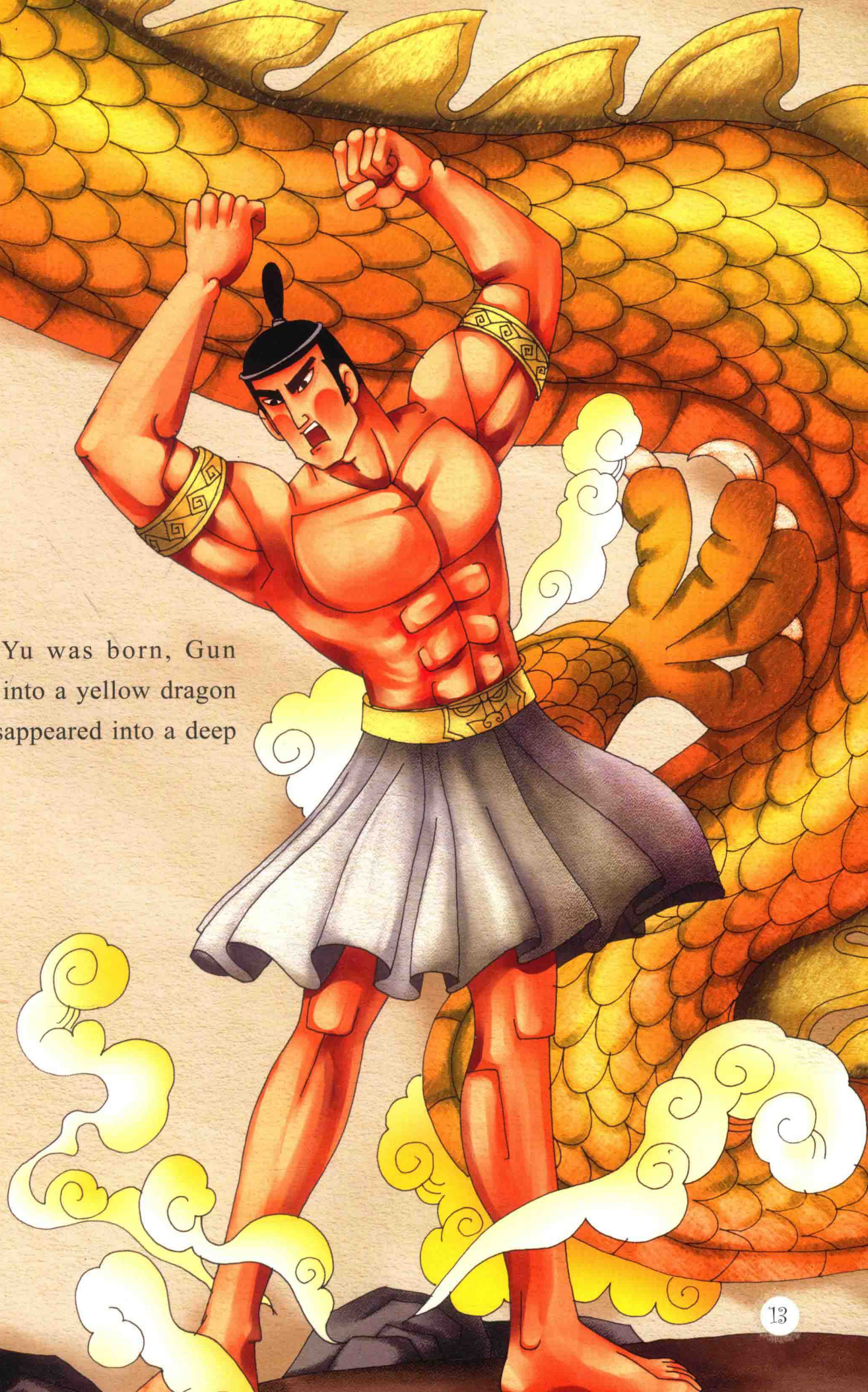




The Emperor of Heaven was perplexed and sent someone to find out what was inside Gun's stomach. Suddenly, a young boy jumped out from Gun's stomach and the boy grew quickly and became a handsome young man. This young man was Yu, son of Gun.



After Yu was born, Gun  
turned into a yellow dragon  
and disappeared into a deep  
valley.





The flood was still not fully under control but Yu had inherited his father's will to continue the difficult task of controlling the flood from the Yellow River. Apart from his father's method of blocking, Yu also intended to dredge the waterways so that the water might be finally led to the sea.

