



Chinese Tale Series



中国神话故事

Shen Nong's Miracle Herbs

神农鞭药



DOLPHIN BOOKS

海豚出版社



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

神农鞭药 / 王阳光改编; 李春明等绘; 刘永厚译.
北京: 海豚出版社, 2005.10
(中国神话故事)
ISBN 7-80138-569-1

I. 神... II. ①王... ②李... ③刘... III. 图画故事—中国—当代—英汉 IV. I287.8

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 115069 号

中国神话故事 神农鞭药

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社址: 北京百万庄大街 24 号 邮编: 100037

印刷: 北京画中画印刷有限公司

开本: 16 开 (787 毫米 × 1092 毫米)

文种: 英汉 印张: 3

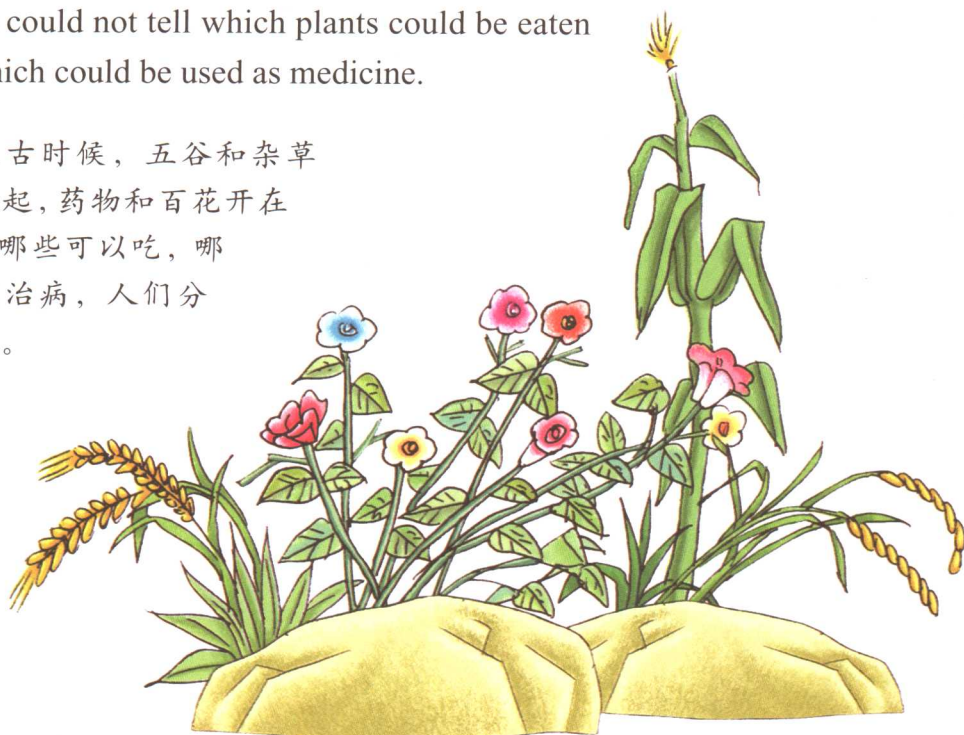
版次: 2005 年 10 月第 1 版 2006 年 2 月第 2 次印刷

标准书号: ISBN 7-80138-569-1

定价: 15.00 元

In ancient times, crops were mixed with weeds and people could not tell which plants could be eaten and which could be used as medicine.

上古时候，五谷和杂草
长在一起，药物和百花开在
一起。哪些可以吃，哪
些可以治病，人们分
不清楚。

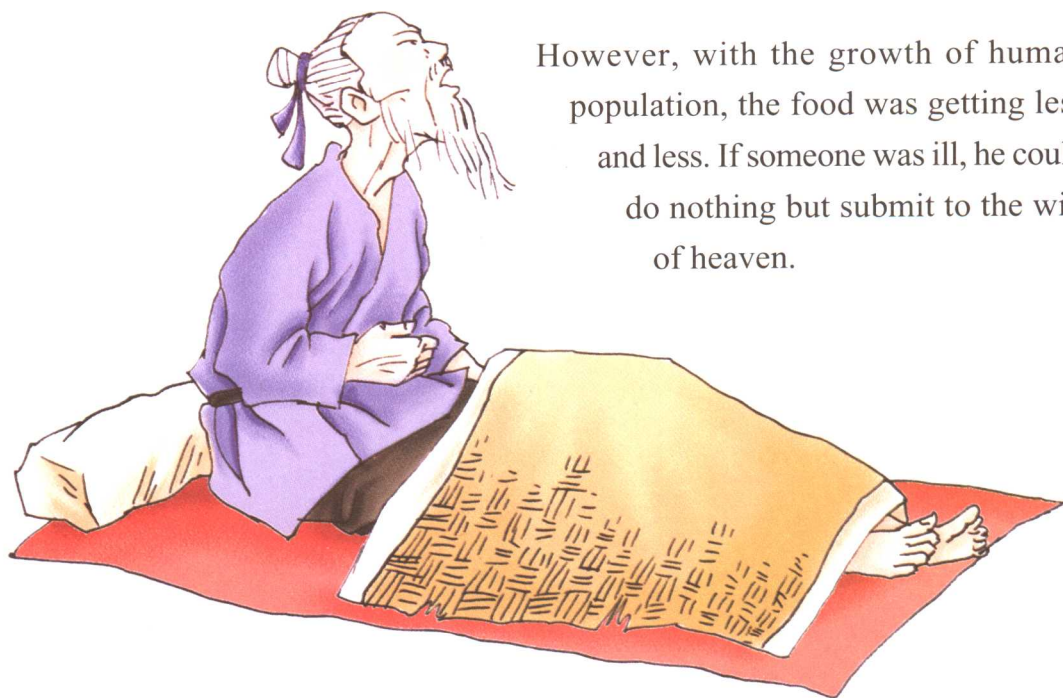


At that time, people lived on hunting, fishing and wild fruits.

当时人类还只是以打猎、捕鱼和采野果为生。

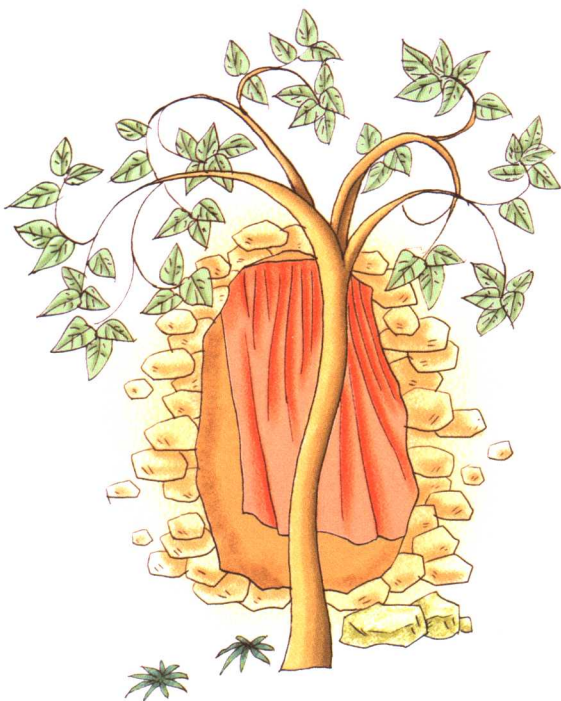


However, with the growth of human population, the food was getting less and less. If someone was ill, he could do nothing but submit to the will of heaven.



可是随着人口越来越多，可供食用的东西越来越少，人们就常常要饿肚子。要是谁生了病，更是没有一点办法，只能听天由命了。





One day, a little boy was born in a big stone cave.

有一天，一个小男孩在一个大石洞里出生了。



Strangely, this little boy had a pair of horns on his head.

奇怪的是，这个小男孩的头上长了一对角。



More miraculously, some water sprang from nine dry wells around the stone cave on the day the boy was born.

更神奇的是，在这个孩子出生的那一天，石洞周围早就干枯的九口井同时涌出了水来。



The child grew up as days passed by. Though he looked different from ordinary people, he was so bright that everybody liked him.

这孩子一天天长大，虽然他的相貌和一般人不一样，但是他聪明伶俐，很讨人喜欢。



Cold winter came and the food that people hunted became less and less. People huddled together around fires in caves, sharing the warmth and the inadequate meat. The cold winter seemed too long for the hungry people.

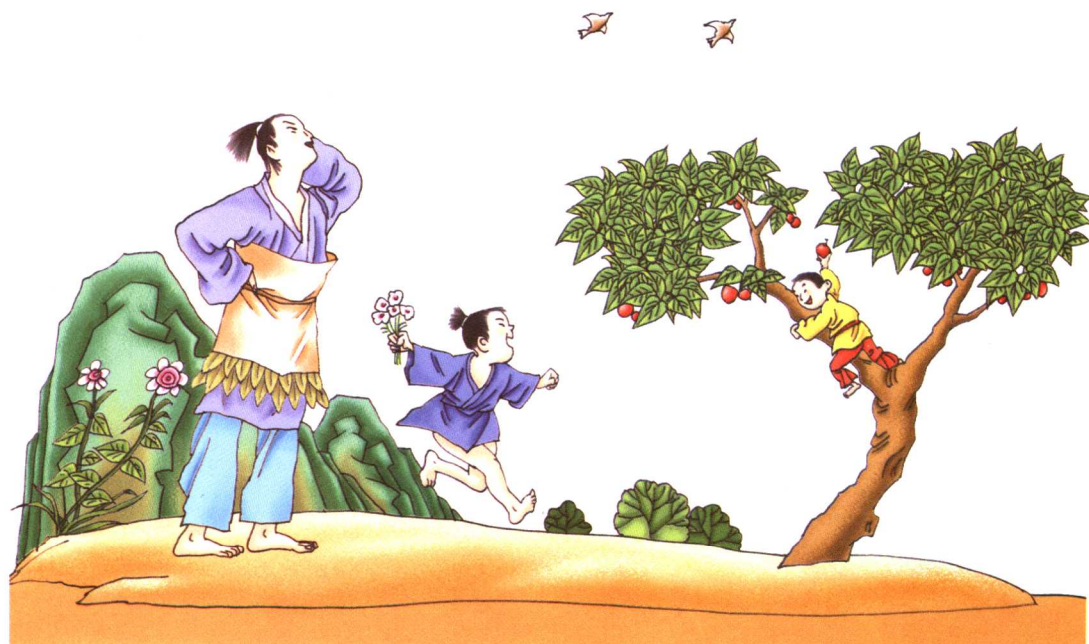


寒冬来了，人们能找到的食物越来越少。在山洞里，人们围在一起烤火，分着吃那一点点野兽肉。寒冷和饥饿威胁着人们的生命。这个冬天真是漫长啊！



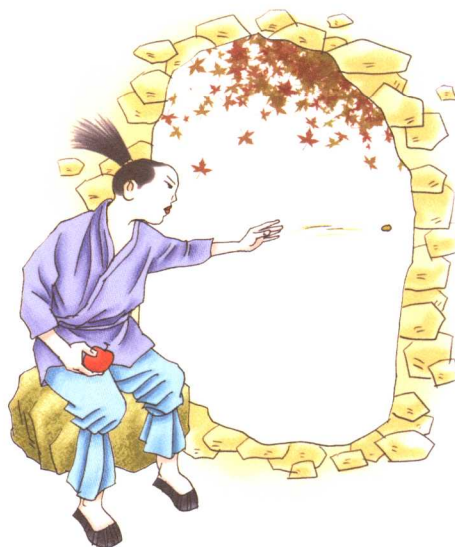
When the long-expected spring came, people rushed out of caves to look for edible wild fruits.

终于盼来了春天，人们纷纷跑出山洞，去寻找可以吃的野果。



People threw away the cores of wild fruits outside caves carelessly.

人们把吃完的野果的果核随手就扔到了山洞的外面。



The boy with horns on his head accidentally found many cores sprouting in fields .

这个头上长角的孩子无意中发现那些果核在地里发了芽。

Inspired by this discovery,
he gathered the seeds
and the cores and
then planted
them, which
soon started
sprouting.

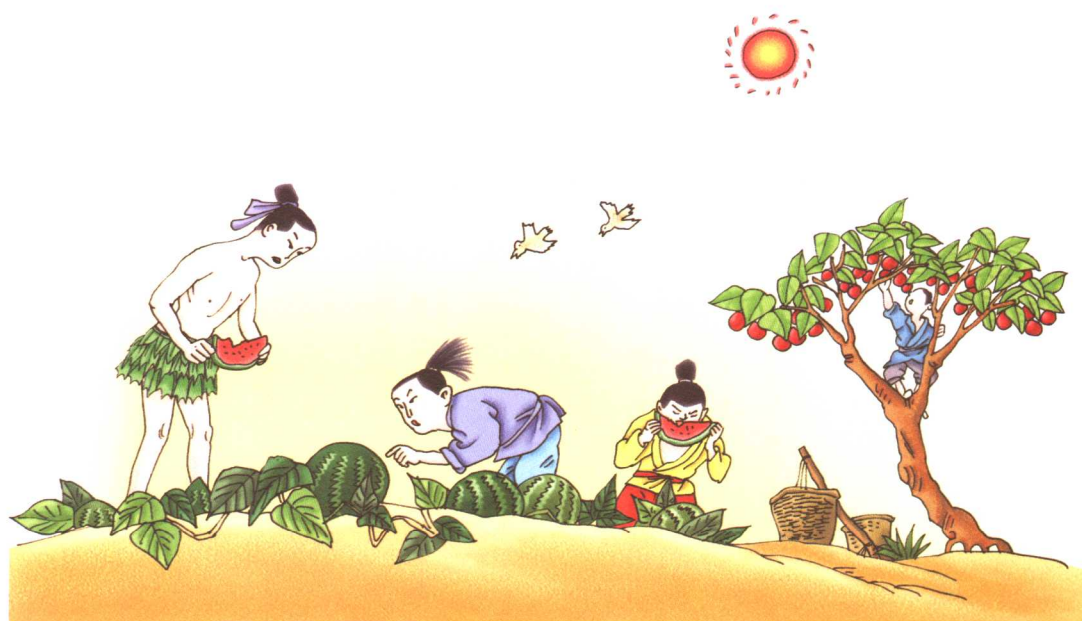


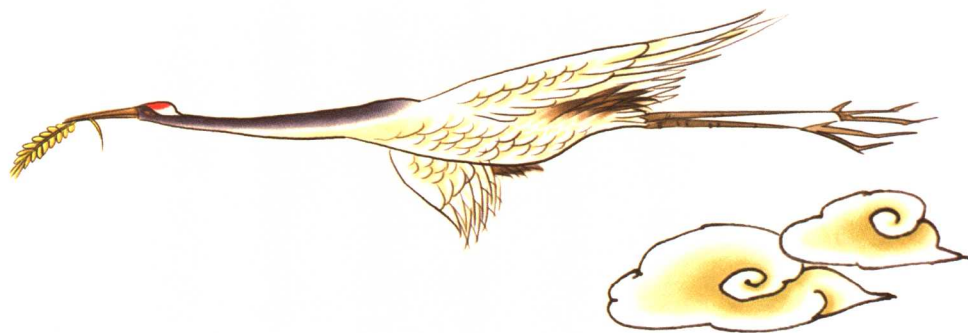
受此启发，他就把人们扔下
的瓜子、果核收集起来，种到地
里。不久，这些种子就发芽了。



In summer, big and sweet melons and fruits ripened in his field and they tasted better than the wild ones since they were better taken care of, and people could eat them for a long time.

夏天，地里长出了又大又甜的瓜果，足够让百姓吃很长时间了。这些瓜果都是经过精心的栽培和浇灌，味道比野生的好吃多了。

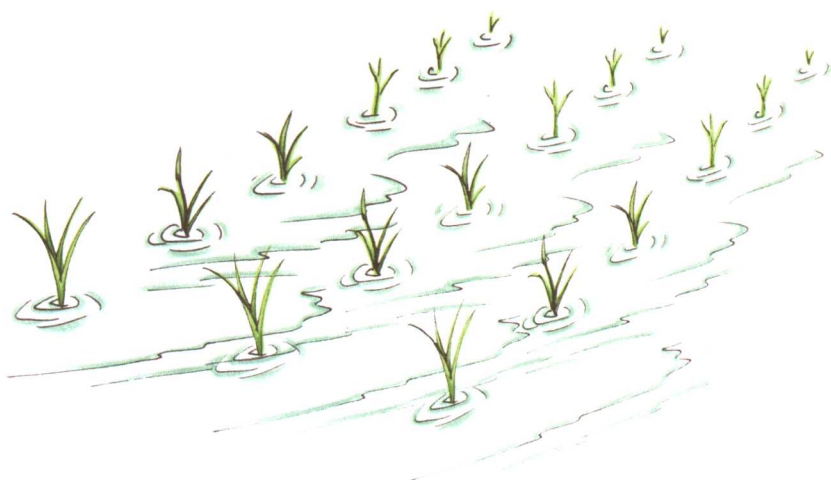




One day, a big bird came with rice fringes in its beak, and dropped the fringes to the boy, who accepted the gift.

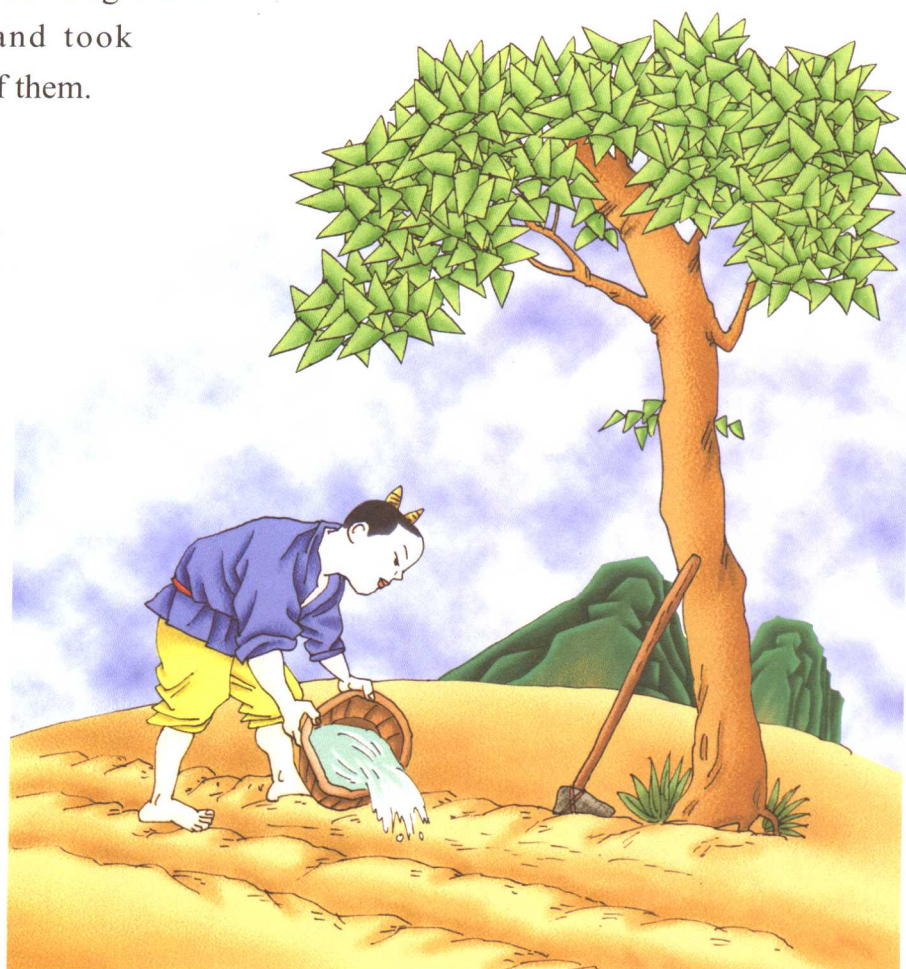
一天，天上飞来了一只大鸟，嘴里叼着稻穗。大鸟把稻穗送给了头上长角的孩子。





He planted the rice grains in
the field and took
good care of them.

小男孩
又把稻种撒
到地里，小
心培育着。





In autumn, the fields were covered with golden rice grains.

到了秋天，大地一片金黄，遍地的稻穗沉甸甸的。

