



Chinese Tale Series



中国神话故事

The Cowherd and the Girl Weaver

牛郎织女



DOLPHIN BOOKS
海豚出版社



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翻译 刘光第

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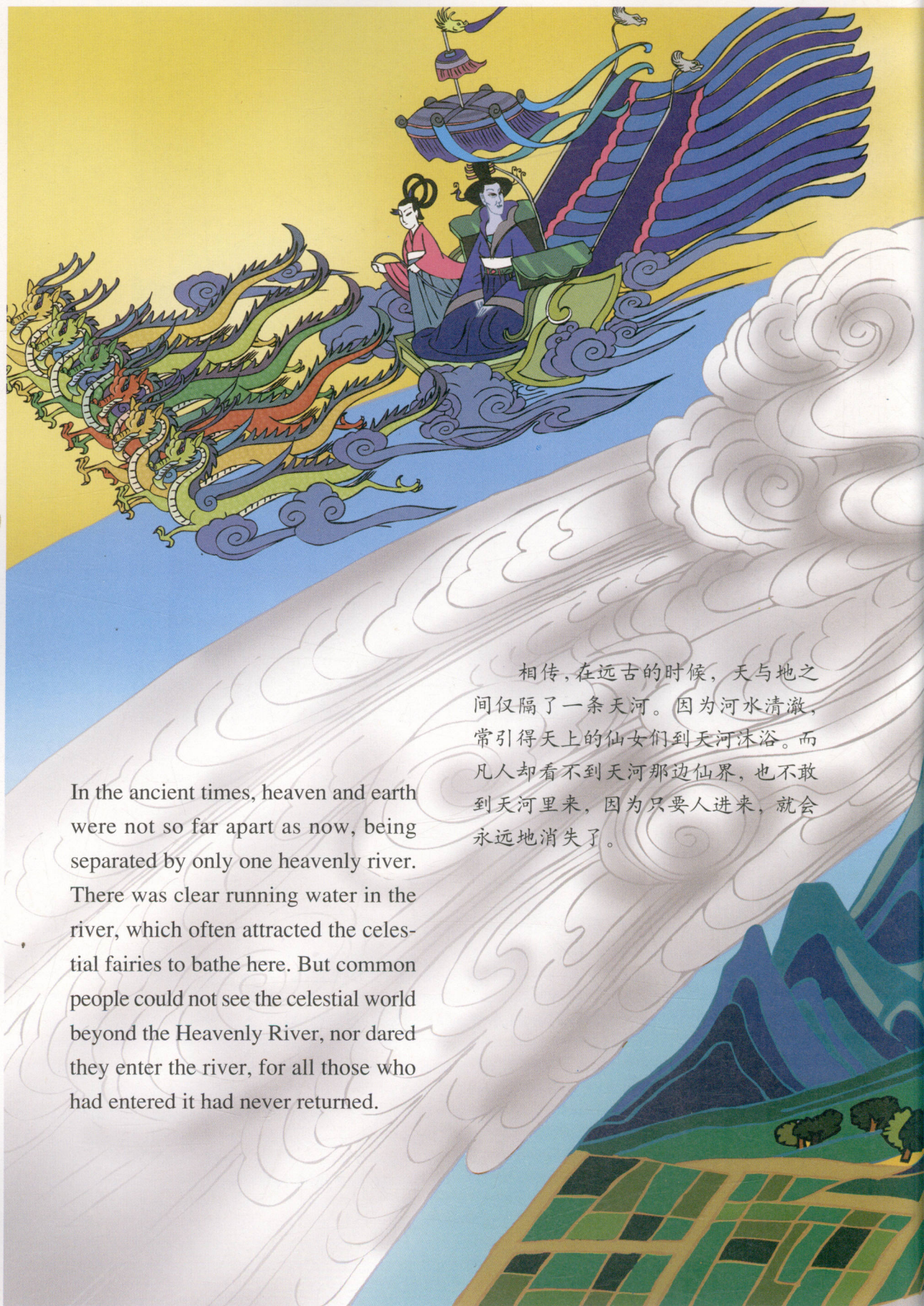
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On the summer night with an breeze blowing lightly, on the banks of the Milky Way in the sky, there are two brightest stars, just like a pair of sweethearts looking at each other across the river. The star on the farther bank of the Milky Way was called Vega (It is called “Star of the Girl Weaver” in China), named after the fairy maiden called “the Girl Weaver”. She is the most beautiful and clever daughter of God and the West Queen Mother. The one on the nearer bank of the Milky Way is called Altair (in Chinese, it is

called “Star of the Cowherd”), derived from the industrious and good-natured cowherd; the two small stars on the two sides of it are their children.

晚风吹拂的夏夜，在天上的银河两岸，有两颗最耀眼的星星，好像两个期待相会的恋人，隔河相望。银河对岸的那颗叫织女星，是天上的天帝和王母最漂亮、聪慧的女儿织女仙子化成的。银河的这边是勤劳、善良的牛郎化作的，在他的左右各有一颗小星星，是他们的一对儿女。



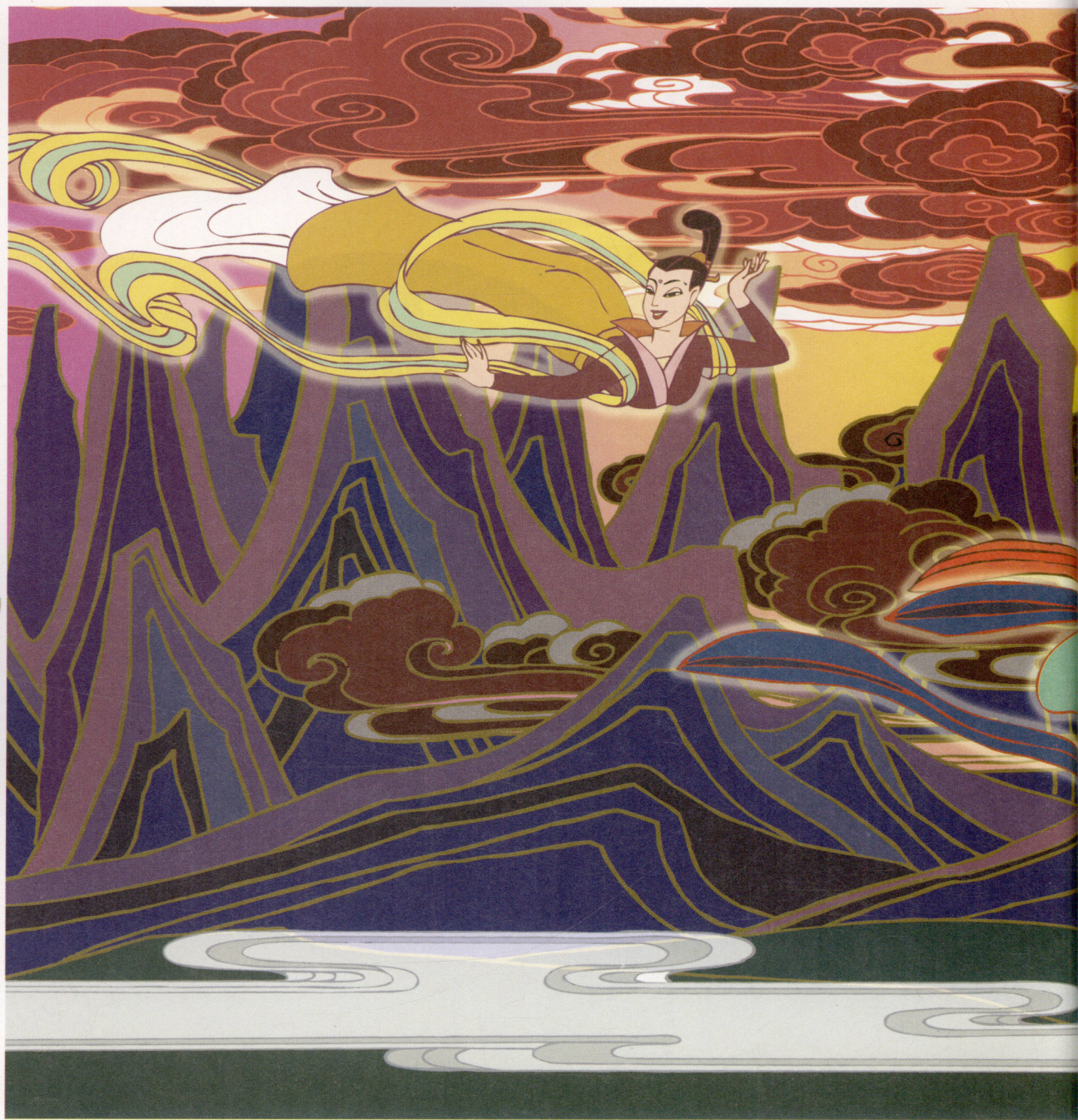
相传,在远古的时候,天与地之间仅隔了一条天河。因为河水清澈,常引得天上的仙女们到天河沐浴。而凡人却看不到天河那边仙界,也不敢到天河里来,因为只要人进来,就会永远地消失了。

In the ancient times, heaven and earth were not so far apart as now, being separated by only one heavenly river. There was clear running water in the river, which often attracted the celestial fairies to bathe here. But common people could not see the celestial world beyond the Heavenly River, nor dared they enter the river, for all those who had entered it had never returned.

God and the West Queen Mother had the supreme power in the two worlds. The West Queen Mother often rode her dragon cart to visit the places on the banks of the Heavenly River.

天帝和王母拥有两个世界的最高权力。王母常常驾着龙车巡视天河两岸。





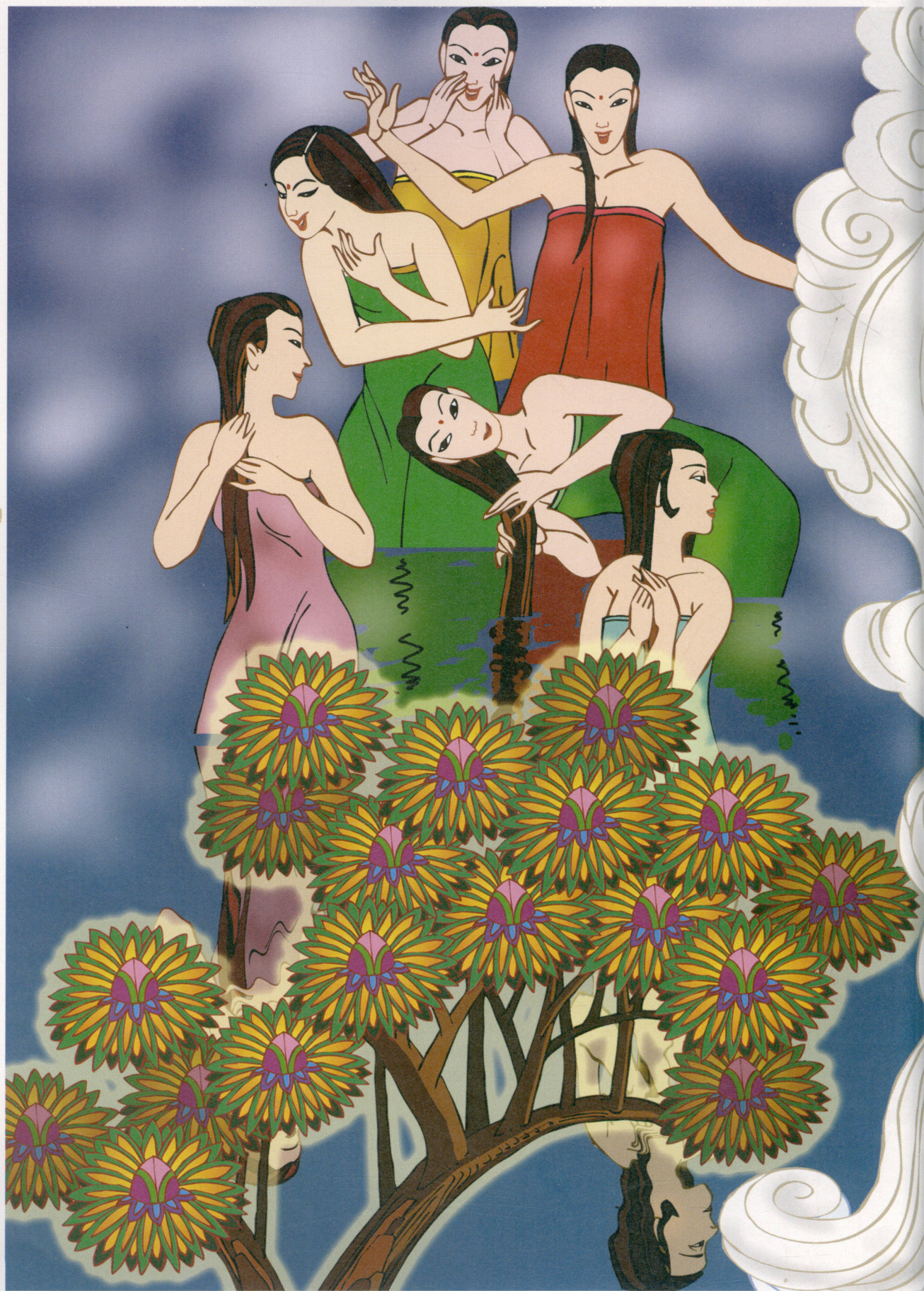
They had a daughter called “Girl Weaver”, with pink tender skin as smooth as silk, and fine hair like a black waterfall. She was not only pretty, but also diligent, intelligent, and very kindhearted.

他们有个十七岁的女儿，叫织女，肌肤粉嫩、光滑如脂，乌黑的秀发就像黑色的瀑布。她不仅漂亮，而且勤劳、聪慧，心地非常善良。



After weaving the cloud brocade and heavenly clothing every day, Girl Weaver would fly together with her fairy sisters to the Heavenly River for bathing. She yearned for the earthly life, but the heavenly law did not allow her to cross the Heavenly River freely.

织女仙子每天织完了云锦天衣，就和姐妹们一起在傍晚时飞到天河中沐浴。她非常向往人间的生活，但是天规不允许她擅自越过天河。





Girl Weaver fell in love with a boy in the human world who was about the same age as her. He got up early to work at sunrise and returned late at sunset. His name was Cowherd, with parents dead, only living with an old buffalo as his good companion.

His life was very hard, but Cowherd felt he was very free and happy. Sometimes, he could not help singing a joyful song. When Girl Weaver heard such a joyful sound, her mood became happy too. But Cowherd did not know a fairy see him every day and love him so deeply.

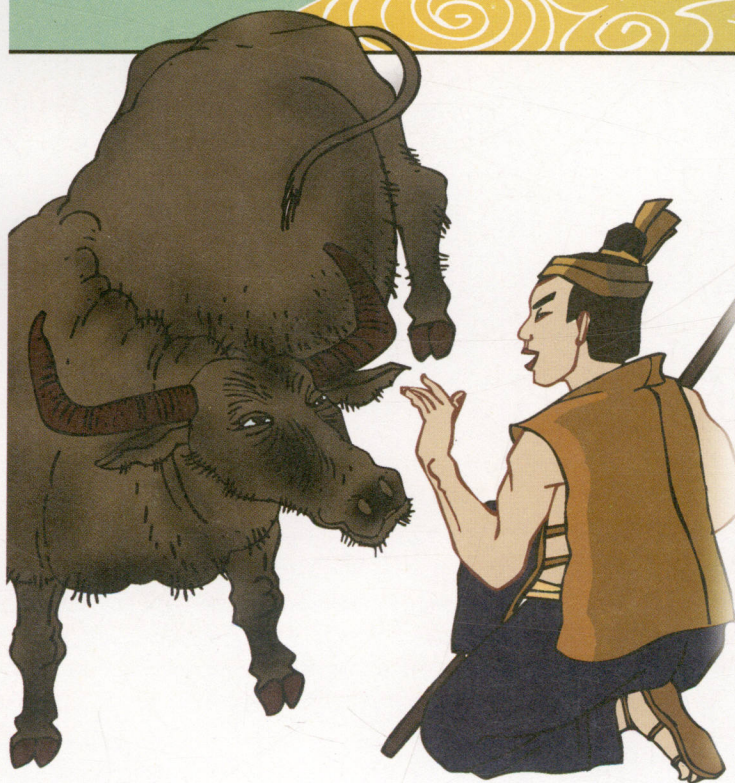
织女仙子爱上了一个年纪与她相仿的人间男子，他日出而作、日没而息，非常勤劳。他的名字叫牛郎，无父无母，只与一头老水牛相依为命。日子虽然艰苦，但是牛郎感到自己很自由、也很快乐，有时，他会情不自禁地唱起欢快的歌儿。织女听到这快乐的歌声，心里也快乐起来了。

但牛郎并不知道有个日日与他相见的天上仙女深深地爱着他。



Whenever Girl Weaver saw Cowherd walking along the Heavenly River every day, she would be reluctant to leave, yet, she could do nothing but sign helplessly.

织女仙子每天依恋地看着牛郎从天河走过，只能无奈地叹息。



The old buffalo living together with Cowherd was a treasure inherited from his ancestors. As it had eaten the godly grass called "glossy ganoderma" grown at the high mountains, it had acquired the intelligence of a god. It could see each and every move of the fairy Girl Weaver in the celestial world, and it told all it had seen to Cowherd.

跟随牛郎的老水牛是牛郎的祖辈传下来的，因为吃了高山灵芝，具有神的灵性。它能看到仙界织女仙子的一举一动，就把这些都告诉了牛郎。



Cowherd was attracted deeply by such a lovely girl. The old buffalo gave Cowherd several cucumber seeds and told him to sow them and put up some cucumber trellises near the Heavenly River.

听老牛说完，牛郎也深深地被这个可爱的女孩儿吸引了。老水牛给了牛郎几粒黄瓜子，嘱咐他在天河边上搭架种下。

By the evening of the next day, the seeds sown on the previous day had grown into cucumbers hanging all over the trellises. Following the old buffalo's suggestion, Cowherd hid himself under the cucumber trellises as early as he could.

The miracle occurred: Cowherd was able to see the celestial world beyond the Heavenly River! When the fairies flew to the Heavenly River and hung their clothes on a glazed tree on the other bank, Cowherd recognized the Girl Weaver mentioned by the old buffalo at first sight.

第二天傍晚，前一天种下的瓜子已黄瓜满架。牛郎依老牛所说的，早早地躲在了黄瓜架下。

奇迹发生了，牛郎居然能够看到天河那边的仙界！当仙女们又飞到天河，将衣服挂在对岸一颗琉璃树上的时候，牛郎一眼就认出了老牛说的织女仙子。





Girl Weaver also noticed the Cowherd hidden under the cucumber trellises immediately. While the sisters were absorbed in their bathing and playing, they two ogled at each other silently.

织女仙子也一眼就看见了藏在黄瓜架下的牛郎。趁着姐妹们沐浴嬉戏的时候，两人默默地凝视着对方。



