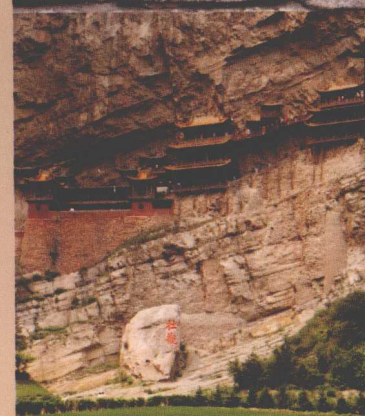


◆ 主编

张现彬 郭海波 李亚民

# 中国文化概略

A Brief Introduction to Chinese Culture



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# 前言

中华民族历史源远流长,传统文化博大精深,它足以使中国人、海外华人引以荣耀和自豪,它也吸引了大量的国外游客。他们来中国或为学术交流,或为贸易经商,或为寻幽览胜……,无一例外地被负载着中国五千年文化传统的宗教、哲学、文学、艺术、建筑、名胜等所倾倒。同样,在这个随时都有机会和外宾交流的时代,新一代年轻人,特别是大学生在与之交流本民族文化时却遇到了困难,非中文专业的学生对自己的文化所知甚少,遑论用英语地道流畅地表达本民族的文化精髓。当前,在全国各大图书馆和地方书店里,找一本理想而又通俗、概括而又不失全面的介绍中国文化的英语教材,真可谓“难于上青天”。诚然,国内出版的中国文化方面的书籍极其丰富多样,但都有着这样或那样的不足。有些综合类书籍内容不够全面;有的书籍对于普通读者来说不是过于晦涩,就是过于肤浅;还有的书籍装帧精美却价格昂贵……2003年为了找一本适合英语专业学生学习的、概略性的中国文化教材,我们跑遍了本市及周边城市的大小书店,却一无所获。这也在某种程度上激励我们编纂一本适合的教材,这就是《中国文化概略》的成书由来。

《中国文化概略》一书十二章,其中第1章神话,第2章哲学与宗教、第3章中国文学,第4章书画,第5章音乐,第6章民间艺术,第7章武术,第8章建筑,第9章旅游,第10章医药与针灸,第11章饮食文化,第12章传统节日与风俗。每章根据内容又具体分为几个小节进行详细阐述。

《中国文化概略》是各位编者夜以继日,历时四年呕心沥血的结果,后又经河北农业大学、中国地质大学长城学院试用修改,最终成稿付梓。编者希望本书不仅可供英语专业学生学习之用,也希望能够成为从事国际贸易、国内外旅游、处理外事事务,进行国际文化交流等人士的参考书,成为来华学习、工作或旅游的国际友人了解中国文化的案头必备。

本书在编纂过程中得益于学院领导、教师的宝贵建议和学生的学习反馈,更得益于上海外语教育出版社各位编辑的恳切帮助和支持。没有他们无私的帮助,本书也不可能在如此短暂的时间内成稿。在此,谨携《中国文化概略》全体编者对所有达人表示由衷的敬意和感谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中难免存在谬误之处,祈请读者不吝指正。

编者

2008年3月于  
河北农业大学



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## Chapter 1

# Chinese Mythology

Chinese **mythology** is the production of Chinese primitive society. In ancient times, the Chinese people had little knowledge about the nature and the society. Therefore, they attributed the changes and various **phenomena** of them which they could not explain to the right and thoughts of the gods. They created many gods according to their imagination and made up many legends and tales.

Chinese mythology reflects the thoughts of the ancient people. They **yearn** for peace and equality; they **aspire** after true love; they long for health and **longevity**; they wish to discover the origin of the world; they expect to challenge and conquer the nature. All of these could be found in the numerous legends and stories from which we could obtain some basic knowledge about society in their times.

### History of Chinese Mythology

The ancient Chinese mythology is rich, whereas, a great deal of the ancient Chinese mythology is lost due to many causes or **dispersed** in other forms of literature. Many fascinating stories about gods and ghosts of the pre-Qin period and the Han Dynasties are dispersed in *Zhuangzi* ①,

1 mythology [mi'thɒlədʒi] *n.* 神话, 神话学

2 phenomena [fi'nɒmɪnə] *n.* 现象

3 yearn [jɜ:n] *v.* 渴望, 想念

4 aspire [ə'spaɪə] *v.* 热望, 立志

5 longevity [lɒn'dʒevɪti] *n.* 长寿

6 disperse [dis'pɜ:s] *v.* 分散, 传播

① *Zhuangzi* 《庄子》, 相传为战国中期庄周和他的门人以及后学所著, 为战国中期到秦汉之间道家庄周学派的文章总集。

7 alchemist [ˈælkɪmɪst] n.

炼金术士

8 incorporate [ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt]

v. 合并

*Liezi*<sup>①</sup>, *Huainanzi*<sup>②</sup>, *the Chronicles by Zuo Qiuming*<sup>③</sup>, and above all the *Book of Mountains and Seas*<sup>④</sup>.

In the Wei and Jin Dynasties, various writers, influenced by the **alchemist's** ideas and Taoist and Buddhist superstitions, began to invent stories about gods and ghosts. Many of them show their unusual imagination and mastery of the written language. Of all the supernatural stories, *Records of Spirits*<sup>⑤</sup> (*Sou Shen Ji*) by Gan Bao<sup>⑥</sup> represents the highest achievement at that time. Complete natural stories also included *Later Records of Spirits*<sup>⑦</sup> (*Sou Shen Hou Ji*) by Tao Yuanming<sup>⑧</sup> and *the Gleaning*<sup>⑨</sup> (*Shi Yi Ji*) by Wang Jia<sup>⑩</sup>, etc.

This kind of practice was continued in the next period, the period of Southern and Northern Dynasties. In the middle of the Tang Dynasty, many well-known writers and poets went in for story-writing. Their stories **incorporate** a wide range of subjects and themes, reflecting various aspects of social life. In form, they are well-structured stories with interesting plots and vivid characters rather than short notes or anecdotes like the tales produced before them. Among them are many tales whose main characters are gods, ghosts or foxes. Chinese inventors of myths describe them as living things with human qualities and human feelings.

Mythical stories of the Song Dynasty show strong influence of Tang fiction, but hardly attain the Tang level. One achievement in the field of

① *Liezi* 《列子》,道教经典,又称《冲虚真经》。原为中国战国时道家著作,相传为列御寇所作。

② *Huainanzi* 《淮南子》,汉初黄老学派著作,共二十一卷,相传为西汉皇室贵族淮南王刘安招致宾客在其主持下编著。

③ *the Chronicles by Zuo Qiuming* 《左传》是中国古代一部编年体的历史著作,相传是春秋末期的史官左丘明所著。

④ *Book of Mountains and Seas* 《山海经》是中国先秦古籍。主要记述古代地理、物产、神话、巫术、宗教等,也包括古史、医药、民俗、民族等方面的内容,具有多方面的学术价值。

⑤ *Records of Spirits* 《搜神记》是中国古代志怪小说集。东晋干宝编撰。

⑥ Gan Bao 干宝,东晋史学家、文学家。字令升,新蔡(今属河南)人。

⑦ *Later Records of Spirits* 《搜神后记》又名《续搜神记》,是《搜神记》的续书。题为东晋陶潜撰。

⑧ Tao Yuanming 陶渊明,东晋文学家、诗人。

⑨ *the Gleaning* 《拾遗记》,前秦十六国前秦王嘉作,共十卷。

⑩ Wang Jia 王嘉,字子年,陇西安阳(今甘肃渭源)人。方士。初隐东阳谷,后居终南山。



fiction worthy of special mention is the **compilation** of the great *Taiping Guangji* or *Extensive Records Compiled in the Taiping Years*<sup>①</sup>. The stories included in this book were selected from over three hundred books, many of which have long been lost to us. In it, a large portion of the seven thousand stories are about gods, **deities**, fairies and ghosts. In Song times there appeared a new form of literature called “notes for storytellers”.

In the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, the best-known works of fiction were novels in the **vernacular**. *Romance of the Three kingdoms*<sup>②</sup>, *Water Margin*<sup>③</sup>, *Pilgrimage to the West*<sup>④</sup> by Wu Cheng'en, *the Scholars*<sup>⑤</sup>, and *Dream of the Red Mansions*<sup>⑥</sup>, *Strange Stories from Happiness Studio*<sup>⑦</sup> by Pu Songling<sup>⑧</sup> were the representative works in this period. After that, Ji Yun<sup>⑨</sup>, who ever presided over the compilation of the *Siku Quanshu*<sup>⑩</sup> (*Complete Collection of Written Works Divided into Four Stores*), wrote a book entitled *Notes from a Thatched House*<sup>⑪</sup>, which includes **anecdotes** and tales about gods, foxes and ghosts. After Ji Yun, many mythical stories were written in the ancient style but very few of them were influential.

## Features of Chinese Mythology

Many scholars have written about the special features of Chinese

9 compilation [ˌkɒmpɪˈleɪʃən] n. 编译, 编辑

10 deity ['di:ti] n. 神, 神性

11 vernacular [vəˈnækjələ] n. 本地话, 方言

12 thatch [tætʃ] n. 盖屋顶的材料, 用草盖的屋顶, v. 草

13 anecdote ['ænɪkdəʊt] n. 轶事, 趣闻, 秘史, 秘闻, 奇闻

- ① the compilation of the great Taiping Guangji 《太平广记》是宋代人编的一部大书。因为它编成于太平兴国三年(公元 978), 所以定名为《太平广记》。
- ② Romance of the Three kingdoms 《三国演义》。
- ③ Water Margin 《水浒传》。
- ④ Pilgrimage to the West 《西游记》。
- ⑤ the Scholars 《儒林外史》。
- ⑥ Dream of the Red Mansions 《红楼梦》。
- ⑦ Strange Stories from Happiness Studio 《聊斋志异》。
- ⑧ Pu Songling 蒲松龄, 清代文学家, 著作有《聊斋志异》等。
- ⑨ Ji Yun 纪昀, 清代学者、文学家, 字晓岚, 一字春帆。
- ⑩ Siku Quanshu 四库全书丛书名。1773 年开馆纂修, 经十年完成。共收书 3803 种, 79337 卷。以“经、史、子、集”四部分类, 是中国最大的一部综合性丛书。
- ⑪ Notes from a Thatched House 《阅微草堂笔记》。

mythology. The most obvious features are:

1. Mythical stories are entwined with history. The history of the long period before recorded history began is partly based on legend. Such ancient heroes and leaders as Fuxi<sup>①</sup>, Shennong<sup>②</sup>, Huangdi<sup>③</sup>, (the Yellow Emperor), Yandi<sup>④</sup> and Yu<sup>⑤</sup> are historical figures according to legend and important characters in mythical stories.

2. They sing the praises of labor and creation. We could find such figures in Chinese legends who are hardworking, kind and honest laborers as Lu Ban<sup>⑥</sup>, Dong Yong<sup>⑦</sup> etc.

3. They **extol** perseverance and self-sacrifice. One typical example is the story of Gun and Yu trying to tame the floods. Gun steals the “growing earth” from the Heavenly God with which to stop the floods, but the god has him killed. Out of his **belly**, Yu is born, who continues his father’s cause. Yu overcomes countless hardships, remains unmarried until he is thirty, and leaves his wife only four days after their wedding to fight the floods, and finally controls them.

4. They **eulogize** the yearning for true love. “The Cowherd and the Girl Weaver” is certainly one of China’s earliest love stories. Many of the mythical stories written by intellectuals are stories of how men and goddesses, fox fairies or ghost women love each other passionately and sincerely. Such stories reflect the yearning for true love when it was **stifled** by feudal **ethical** codes in an indirect way.

14 extol [iks'tɒl] v. 颂扬, 称赞

15 belly ['belɪ] n. 腹部, 胃

16 eulogize. ['ju:lədʒaɪz] vt. 称赞, 颂扬

17 stifle ['staɪfl] v. 使不能呼吸, 窒息, 抑制

18 ethical ['eθɪkəl] a. 伦理的, 民族的, 民族特有的

① Fuxi 伏羲, 中国神话中人类的始祖, 和“女祸”、“神农”并称太古的三皇。

② Shennong 神农, 传说中的太古帝王名。始教民为耒耜, 务农业, 故称神农氏。

③ Huangdi (the Yellow Emperor) 皇帝, 传说中的太古帝王名。

④ Yandi 炎帝, 传说中黄河流域姜姓部落首领。号烈山氏、厉山氏。原居西北高原姜水流域(今陕西岐山东), 后到达中原地区。曾与黄帝部落在阪泉(今河北涿鹿东南)大战。

⑤ Yu 禹, 传说中国夏代的第一个君主, 他曾经治过洪水。

⑥ Lu Ban 鲁班, 中国古代的建筑工匠。姓公输名般, 春秋时鲁国人, 般与班同音, 故称鲁班。

⑦ DongYong 董永, 传说为西汉千乘人(今淄博市高青县高苑城古城), 自幼丧母, 与老父相依为命。

## Selection of legends

### 1. The legends about origin of the world

Although there is no myth of a god having created the universe like in most other cultures and religions, we could find popular legends of persons that helped to build up and to repair the world during a time of chaos. These persons are by no means godlike. The most famous of these persons is Pangu<sup>①</sup>. But there are even smaller figures like Nüwa<sup>②</sup> and her brother or husband Fuxi who repaired the world. There is also a large group of inventors like Suiren<sup>③</sup> (Sui Ren), who first used the fire, Shennong (Shen Nong) the “**Holy** Peasant” — the person that introduced agriculture and the use of medical herbs.

#### Pan Gu Created the World

In the beginning, the universe was like an egg and there was only **chaos** in the egg. Pan Gu had slept in the egg for over 18,000 years. By separating the heaven and the earth from chaos, Pan Gu created the world. Then one day, he woke up and cracked the egg into pieces. By separating the heavy and light parts of the egg, he created the heaven and the earth. Pan Gu stood on the earth and held up the heaven using his hands, and then he had grown with the heaven until the form of the world for another 18,000 years. Upon his death, his body changed into various things: his arms and legs became the four poles of the earth and the five parts of his body became the five mountains, his breath the wind and clouds, his voice the thunder, his eyes the sun and the moon, his limbs the four **extremities** of the earth, his blood the rivers, his flesh the soil, his beard the **constellations**, his skin and hair the herbs and trees, his teeth, bones, and **marrow**, the metals, rocks and precious stones, his sweat the rain, and the insects creeping over his body human

19 holy [ˈhəʊli] *a.* 神圣的, 圣洁的

20 chaos [ˈkeɪs] *n.* 混乱

21 extremity [iksˈtremɪti] *n.* 极端, 极点, 困境

22 constellation [kɒnstəˈleɪʃən] *n.* 星座, 星群

23 marrow [ˈmæraʊ] *n.* 骨髓, 精华

① Pangu 盘古, 即盘古氏。中国神话中的开天辟地的人物。

② Nüwa 女娲, 中国古代神话传说中的女帝王。

③ Sui Ren 燧人, 中国古代传说钻木取火的发明者, 教人熟食。有圣人作, 钻燧取火以化腥臊, 而民说之, 使王天下, 号之曰燧人氏。



24 sculpt [ˈskʌlpt] *v.* 雕刻

25 abnormality [ˌæbnɔː-  
ˈmælɪti] *n.* 变态, 反常,  
异常, 畸形

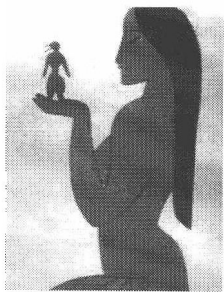
26 fiercely [ˈfɪəʃli] *ad.*  
猛烈地, 厉害地

27 turbulently [ˈtɜːbjələntli]  
*adv.* 狂暴地, 吵闹地

28 snap [snæp] *v.* 猛地吸  
住, 突然折断, 猛咬

beings.

### Nüwa Created Humans



Nüwa began creating men from yellow clay, **sculpting** each one individually. After she had created hundreds of figures in this way, she grew tired of the laborious process. Instead of hand crafting each figure, she dipped a rope in clay and flicked it, so blobs of clay landed everywhere each of these blobs became a person. In this way, nobles and commoners were created from the hand crafted figures and the blobs respectively. Another variation on this story relates that some of the figures melted in the rain as Nüwa was waiting for them to dry and in this way sickness and physical **abnormalities** came into existence.

Another version of the creation of human-being goes like: At the opening of the universe, there were a brother called Fuxi and a sister called Nüwa, living in Kunlun Mountain, and there were no ordinary people at that time. They wished to become husband and wife, yet, felt shy about it. Thus, the brother took his younger sister to the top of the mountain and swore: "If Heaven allows us to be husband and wife, please let the clouds gather; if not, please let the clouds scatter." Then, the clouds gathered together. The younger sister came to live with her brother. She made a fan with grass to hide her face. The present custom of women taking a fan in their hands originated from that story.

### Nüwa Mended the Firmament

In ancient times, the four columns supporting the heaven were broken, the sky collapsed and the earth cracked everywhere. The sky could not shelter people, and the earth could not support all the living things on it. Fire spread everywhere **fiercely**, water flooded **turbulently** like oceans, and wild beasts ate young and strong people while huge eagles **snapped** the old and weak. Seeing this, Nüwa collected the colorful stones and melted them to fill up the breaches of the sky with them. And

then she cut the four legs of the **mammoth** turtle and made them the four columns to support the fallen sky. And then she killed the black dragon to fill up the cracked earth and piled huge stacks of reed ash to absorb the flooded water. So, the sky was mended, the east, west, south and north poles were straightened, the flood faded away, the earth recovered its plains, and the wild beasts died and all the people had happy life again.

### The legend of Shennong

Shennong is the son of a holy dragon. He was **conceived** when his mother saw the head of this dragon. He was born with a human body, an ox head and horse legs. He started talking when he was born. In five days he was already running about. In seven days his teeth began to come out.

At that time, many people were starving for want of food. Shennong came out to teach them to farm and to sink water wells. Heaven was moved and sent them seeds. Shennong also taught farmers to trade. The market time was fixed at midday to avoid waste of time and confusion.

Shennong dedicated all his life to improving farming and medicine. He used his Magic Whip to beat the plants to test their properties and test various plants by himself. Sometimes, he would taste poisonous plants a dozen times a day. Fortunately, he had **antidotes** to **detoxify** the poison. Besides, his body was transparent. However, he tried some deadly poisonous plant. All his antidotes failed to eliminate the poison. He died in order to save mankind. Shennong is regarded as the legendary emperor and culture hero of Chinese mythology who is believed to have lived some 5,000 years ago and who taught the ancient peoples of Xia Dynasty of the practices of agriculture.

### The legend of Huangdi

Huangdi is a Chinese mythical character, a culture hero said in legend to be the **ancestor** of all Chinese people.

It is believed there were many tribes settled down near Yellow River

29 mammoth [ˈmæməθ]   
 *adj.* 长毛象似的, 巨大的

30 turtle [ˈtɜːtl] *n.* 海龟

31 conceive [kənˈsiːv] *v.*   
 构思, 以为, 怀孕

32 antidote [ˈæntɪdaɪt] *n.*   
 [医] 解毒剂

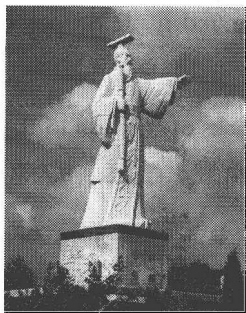
33 detoxify [diːˈtɒksɪfaɪ] *v.*   
 除去……的毒物

34 ancestor [ˈænsəstə] *n.*   
 祖宗, 祖先

35 utensil [ju(:)'tensəl] *n.*  
器皿

36 collaboration [kə'læbə-  
'reɪʃən] *n.* 协作

37 summon ['sʌmən] *v.*  
召唤, 召集, 振奋



and engaged in farming about 4,000 years ago. Huangdi was the chief of a large tribe. At that time, Yan Emperor disturbed the other tribes in the region and Huangdi defeated Yan Emperor. Later the tribes led by Huangdi killed Chiyu<sup>①</sup>, who was the chief of a large tribe in the east.

Then he became the leader of all the tribes.

It is also believed there were many inventions originated from the time of Huangdi, such as characters, ships and carts, medicines, music, and some daily **utensils**. Thus Huangdi was said to be the founder of Chinese civilization. Among his accomplishments, Huangdi has been credited with the invention of the principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The basic text on Traditional Chinese Medicine is the *Neijing Suwen*<sup>②</sup>. According to tradition, this foundational classic text was composed by Huangdi in **collaboration** with his minister Chi Pai.

When Huangdi was 110 years old, a yellow dragon appeared in the sky, **summoning** the emperor to heaven on behalf of the king of heaven. When the emperor riding on the back of the dragon was about to leave, his subjects, who were reluctant to let him go, dragged him back by his clothes. However, all that was left were only part of the emperor's clothes and hat.

#### The legend of Emperor Yao and Emperor Shun

Yao<sup>③</sup> was an emperor of the ancient legend of China. As an ancient emperor, Yao was very diligent and economical. He showed great concern for his people, thus was adored by them and regarded as an ideal emperor in people's mind.

Yao had a son named Dan Zhu<sup>④</sup>. Different from his father, Dan

① Chiyu 蚩尤, 传说中的古代九黎族首领。以金作兵器, 与黄帝战于涿鹿, 失败被杀。

② *Neijing Suwen* 《黄帝内经·素问》。

③ Yao 尧, 中国古代的皇帝陶唐氏之号。

④ Dan Zhu 丹朱, 尧子名。



Zhu was a brutal man. Yao invented Weiqi<sup>①</sup> to enlighten his son Dan Zhu. Unfortunately, Dan had no interest in anything else besides Weiqi. When Yao was advanced in age, he summoned the chiefs of the Four Mountains and said, "I have been on the throne of seventy years. Who can carry out the **mandate** of Heaven in place of me?" The chiefs of the Four Mountains all said, "We have no such virtues. We would only **disgrace** the throne. Your son is the right person to ascend the throne." Yao said, "I know him, he is mean and stupid." And Yao asked his officials to recommend someone else. Then the king was told that there was a poor young man named Shun. He was the son of a blind man. His father was **wicked**, his step mother deceitful and his brother **arrogant**, yet he was filial to them and lived with them in harmony. The king said, "That is the right person to be the new king. I will try him. I will wive him with my two daughters, and observe his behavior." So his two daughters, Owang and Nvyang<sup>②</sup>, came to the bend of the Gui River to be the wives of Shun. After three years' examination, he decided to choose Shun to **ascend** the throne. Yao was afraid that Dan Zhu disagreed to his decision, therefore he assigned Dan Zhu as a chief of a remote tribe. On hearing his father would ascend the throne to Shun, Dan Zhu was very angry and decided to attain the throne by force. He had a war with his father Yao at the Dan river. Having lost the war, he was **exiled** to Yan (Yan Zhu Cheng of Shandong).

As the legend goes, when Shun inspected the southern states, he became very ill and died in Xiang. His two wives followed his footsteps to Xiang and cried to death. Their tears dented the bamboo, which is the bamboo we have now in Hunan Province, called "tear bamboo".

## 2. The legends about the heroes

In the Chinese legends, we could easily find some heroes and

38 mandate [ˈmændət] *n.*  
命令, 指令,

39 disgrace [disˈɡreɪs] *v.*  
耻辱, 使……失体面

40 wicked [ˈwɪkɪd] *a.*  
坏的, 邪恶的, 缺德的

41 arrogant [ˈærəɡənt] *a.*  
傲慢的, 自大的

42 ascend [əˈsend] *v.*  
上升, 攀登

43 exile [ˈeksail, ˈegz] *v.*  
放逐, 流放

① Weiqi 围棋, 棋类游艺的一种。古代叫“弈”, 传为尧作。

② Owang and Nvyang 娥皇女英, 相传为尧女, 舜妻。

44 heroine ['herəʊn] *n.*  
女英雄, 女主角

45 reign [reɪn] *n.* 执政, 主  
权, 王朝

46 inundate ['ɪnʌdeɪt] *v.*  
淹没

47 betrothed [brɪ'traʊðd]  
*adj.* 已订婚者, 订婚  
了的

48 maiden ['meɪdən] *n.*  
年轻未婚女子, 少女,

**heroines** who ever changed, or conquered the nature. Those legends reflect the ancient people's ideas of conquering the nature and improving their living conditions.

### Yu, The Great, Conquered the Flood

When talking about Yu, Gun, Yu's father must be mentioned. He was one of grandsons of Huangdi. In the **reign** of Shun, a great flood **inundated** the valley of the Huanghe (Yellow) River. It covered even the hills, so that the people could find no food. In order to conquer the Flood, Gun stole a kind of magic earth which could grow by itself from Heaven. A handful of it grew into a dike which blocked the flood and absorbed the water. Refugees who had climbed up into the trees to escape the water came down and rebuilt their homes. They were most grateful to him. However, just as the flood was about to be brought under control, the Emperor of Heaven found out about the theft. In fury, he sent the God of Fire down to the world to kill Gun on cold, dark Mount Yu<sup>①</sup> and take back the magic earth. So the flood returned and swallowed up the people's new homes. After Gun was killed his body did not decay for three years and Yu grew inside it. When Yu grew up, King Shun ordered the Yu to control it. Yu received from the God of Rivers a map of the rivers which helped him draw up his flood-control plan. And he organized the princes who ruled various localities and the people in them to cut channels and build other projects to drain the waters away to the sea. He worked for 13 years before bringing the flood under control.

His **betrothed** was Nü Jiao<sup>②</sup> described as a quiet and beautiful **maiden**. While he was busy with his flood controlling work she sent her maid every day to the southern foot of Tushan Hill<sup>③</sup> to wait for him to pass, but he did not appear. So dedicated was he that, though in 13 years he passed

① Mount Yu 羽山, 在苏鲁交界处的山峰。

② Nü Jiao 女娇, 传说中的大禹的妻子。

③ Tushan Hill 涂山, 具体位置至今还存在争议, 有浙江的绍兴、安徽的巢县、陕西的旬阳和湖南的宛委, 以及安徽的怀远, 河南嵩山等几种说法。

her door three times, he did not stop. Finally he came home and they were married. But four days later he left again for his engineering projects.

After many years of working, Yu succeeded in conquering the flood. As a reward for his achievement, Shun passed the throne to Yu.

### KuaFu Chased the Sun

It is said that in **antiquity** a god named Kua Fu<sup>①</sup> determined to have a race with the Sun and catch up with him. So he rushed in the direction of the Sun. Finally, he almost ran neck and neck with the Sun, when he was too thirsty and hot to continue. Where could he find some water? Just then the Yellow River and Wei River came into sight, roaring on. He **swooped** upon them earnestly and drank the whole rivers. But he still felt thirsty and hot, thereupon, he marched northward for the lakes in the north of China. Unfortunately, he fell down and died halfway because of thirst. With his fall, his cane dropped down. Then the cane became a stretch of peach, green and lush.

### Houyi Shot the Suns

Houyi was the hero who was very good at **archery**. There were once ten suns in the sky, which made plants wither, and fierce beasts run wild to imperil people. It was too hot to live under the suns. To save the people, Yi started to shoot the suns. He shot down nine of them one by one, and he might have shot the last one if it was not called off by other gods. Thus the severe drought was gone. He also got rid of those fierce animals for the people.

### Chang'er flew to the Moon

Yi's wife, Chang'er, swallowed the **elixir** stolen from her husband, and she flew to the moon and became the goddess of the moon, who has lived in the palace on the moon ever since. Yi was killed by Feng Meng<sup>②</sup>, a disciple of Yi who learned to shoot from him.

49 antiquity [æn'tɪkwɪtɪ] *n.* 古代, 古老, 古代的  
遗物

50 swoop [swʊp] *vi.* 突然  
下降, 飞扑

51 archery ['ɑ:tʃəri] *n.*  
箭术

52 elixir [ɪ'lɪksə] *n.* 炼金  
药, 不老长寿药, 万  
能药

① Kua Fu 夸父, 中国神话人物, 炎帝的后裔。

② Feng Meng 逢蒙, 传说为后羿的徒弟。



53 drown [draʊn] *v.* 淹死

54 periphery [pə'rifəri] *n.*  
外围

55 li [li:] *n.* 里(中国的长度单位,相当于500米左右)

56 Prefecture ['prɪfektʃə, -tʃə] *n.* 任期,管区,县

### Jing Wei Attempted to Fill up the sea

In the Fa Jiu Mountains<sup>①</sup>, there was a thick forest. In the forest there was a strange bird. Her figure was like a turtle. She had on her head a striped pattern, and white break and red claws. Her cry was very pleasant. Originally she was the daughter of Yan emperor, one of the five August ones in ancient Chinese legends. Her name was Nü Wa<sup>②</sup>. Once when playing on the East Sea, she had been **drowned** and never returned. She had turned into Jingwei, and the bird would often carry bits of twigs and stones all the way from the west mountains to the east sea because she believed she could fill the sea up by doing so.

### The Foolish Old Man Removed the Mountains



The Taihang and Wangwu Mountains<sup>③</sup>, which had a **periphery** of seven hundred **li** and were a hundred thousand feet high, originally lay south of Jizhou<sup>④</sup> and north of Heyang<sup>⑤</sup>.

The Foolish Old Man of the North Mountain, nearly ninety years of age, lived behind these mountains. Unhappy about the fact that the mountains blocked his way to the south and he had to walk round them whenever he went out or came back, he called the whole family together to talk about the matter. "What would you say," he said to them, "if I suggest that all of us work hard to level the two mountains, so as to open a way to places south of Yu **Prefecture**<sup>⑥</sup> and the Han River<sup>⑦</sup>?" Many voices said they agreed to the idea.

① Fa Jiu 发鸠山,位于山西省长子县。

② Nü Wa 女娃,传说是炎帝的小女儿。

③ The Taihang and Wangwu Mountains ... 太行,王屋山,山名,就是太行山,位于山西省同河北、河南两省的交界地区。王屋山,山名,在山西省阳城县西南一带。

④ Jizhou 冀州,地名,包括现今河北、山西两省和辽宁、河南两省的一部分地区。

⑤ Heyang 河阳,地名,在现今河南省孟县境内。

⑥ Yu Prefecture 豫,音预,地名,现在的河南省。

⑦ the Han River 汉阴,汉,就是汉水;阴,山的北面或水的南面叫阴。