

THE CHINESE LEGENDS OF THE GODS  
百神傳奇

圖/文：董木雨彤  
英譯：胡素燕、羅伊·皮爾斯

THE RAIN GOD  
雨神赤松子

Written and Illustrated by Dong-mu-yu-tong



THE CHINESE LEGENDS OF THE GODS  
百神傳奇

圖/文：董木雨彤  
英譯：胡素燕、羅伊·皮爾斯

THE RAIN GOD  
雨神赤松子

Written and Illustrated by Dong-mu-yu-tong

SNOWFLAKE BOOKS LTD



A Snowflake Book  
Published by Snowflake Books Ltd  
The Midstall, Randolpfs Farm, Hassocks, West Sussex,  
BN6 9EL, UK  
[www.snowflakebooks.co.uk](http://www.snowflakebooks.co.uk)

First published 2011  
Copyright © Dong-mu-yu-tong and Snowflake Books Ltd. 2011

All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-908350-04-6

Printed in Taiwan by Choice Printing Group

THE RAIN GOD  
雨神赤松子



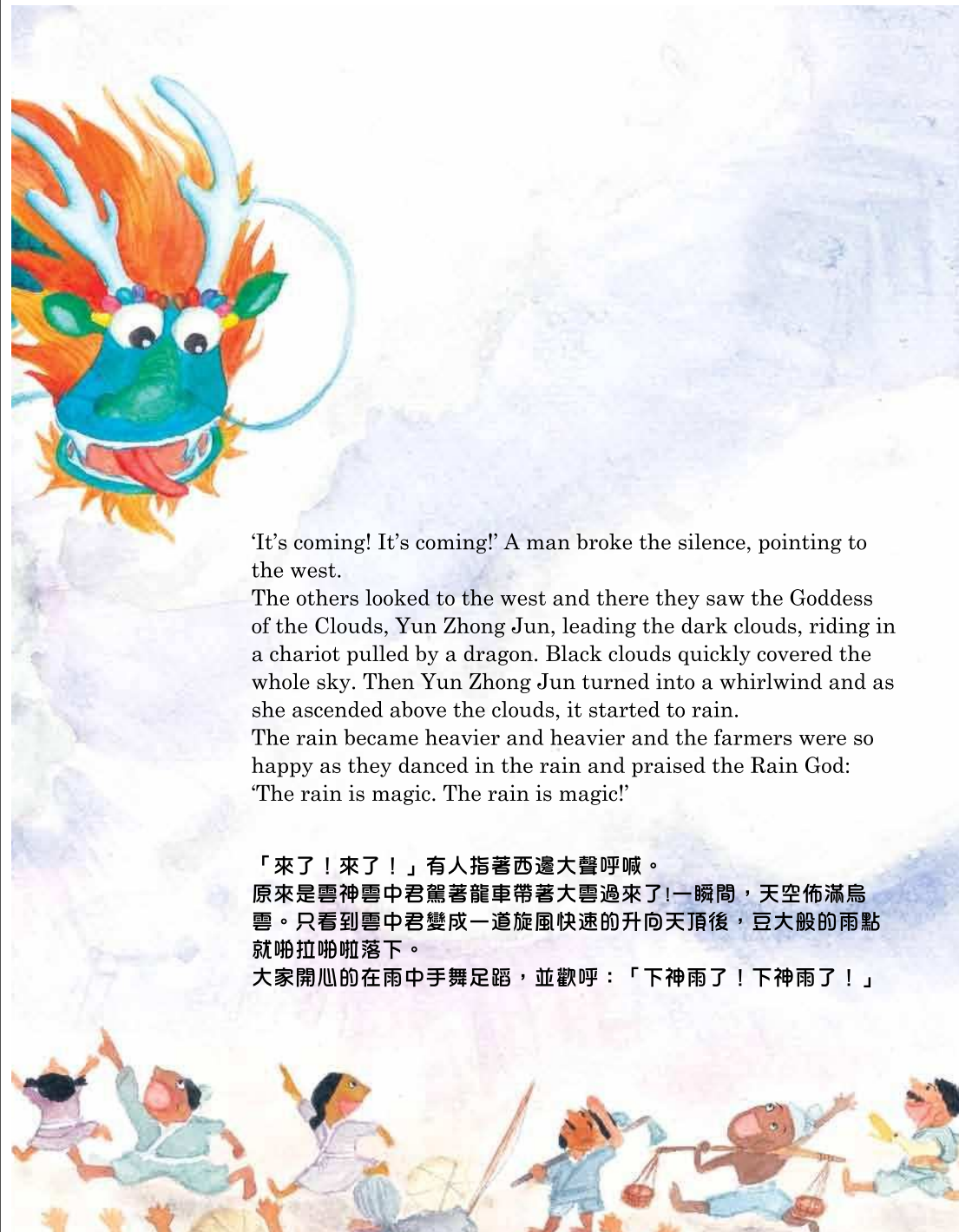
'Rain God! Oh! God of the Rain, please send us rain soon!  
Please!  
'All our lakes have dried out!  
'My rice field needs water!  
'All our animals are dying of thirst!'

The poor farmers prayed desperately to the Rain God in the heavens. After a while, dark clouds slowly gathered on the horizon and the colour of the sky changed from bright blue to dark purple. The crowd stopped praying and stared in silence at the clouds.

「雨神啊！拜託下下雨吧！」  
「湖裡的水都乾枯了！」  
「我的稻子都被曬乾了！」  
「所有的牲畜也都快渴死了！」

一群人朝著天空誠心的祈求；沒多久，遠方雲層漸漸聚集，天空變成一片紫霞，大家屏氣凝神的看著。





'It's coming! It's coming!' A man broke the silence, pointing to the west.

The others looked to the west and there they saw the Goddess of the Clouds, Yun Zhong Jun, leading the dark clouds, riding in a chariot pulled by a dragon. Black clouds quickly covered the whole sky. Then Yun Zhong Jun turned into a whirlwind and as she ascended above the clouds, it started to rain.

The rain became heavier and heavier and the farmers were so happy as they danced in the rain and praised the Rain God: 'The rain is magic. The rain is magic!'

「來了！來了！」有人指著西邊大聲呼喊。

原來是雲神雲中君駕著龍車帶著大雲過來了！一瞬間，天空佈滿烏雲。只看到雲中君變成一道旋風快速的升向天頂後，巨大的雨點就嘩啦啦落下。

大家開心的在雨中手舞足蹈，並歡呼：「下神雨了！下神雨了！」

The God of Rain, Chi Song Zi, was sitting on a cloud with Yun Zhong Jun, watching the farmers. Chi Song Zi was complaining: 'My tooth problem has come back again these days. My new teeth grew, but then they all fell out again as usual, and that's why I forgot to send the rain. How absent-minded I was.'

Yun Zhong Jun laughed: 'Your teeth are not happy because you eat too many crystals of the water-jade stone which is too hard even for gods.'

'But I can walk into the fire after I have had the crystals.' 'Come on, it's better for you to eat medlars.' Yun Zhong Jun put some medlars into Chi Song Zi's hands and then she disappeared into the clouds in her chariot.

在雲上，雨神赤松子苦惱的說：「這幾天牙齒毛病又犯了，剛生出來的竟然掉了，掉的地方又剛長出新牙，害我都忘了要下雨，真糟糕！」雲中君笑他：「你太愛吃水凝結成的玉，牙齒在抗議呢！」

「吃水玉可好著了！可以走進火中而不怕著火。」

「還是先安分點吃吃枸杞子吧！」雲中君把枸杞子塞入他手中後，駕著龍車消失在雲端。





Chi Song Zi travelled to his most favourite place in the Kunlun Mountains and lived there in a stone house. It didn't matter whether the rain was light or heavy, Chi Song Zi always had fun without getting wet. Chi Song Zi capered in a lively way and sang:

**'I was the best rain god;  
I sent rain for the water buffalo to bathe;  
I was fond of eating crystals, crunching hard;  
But all my teeth fell out!  
Yes, medlars are better.'**

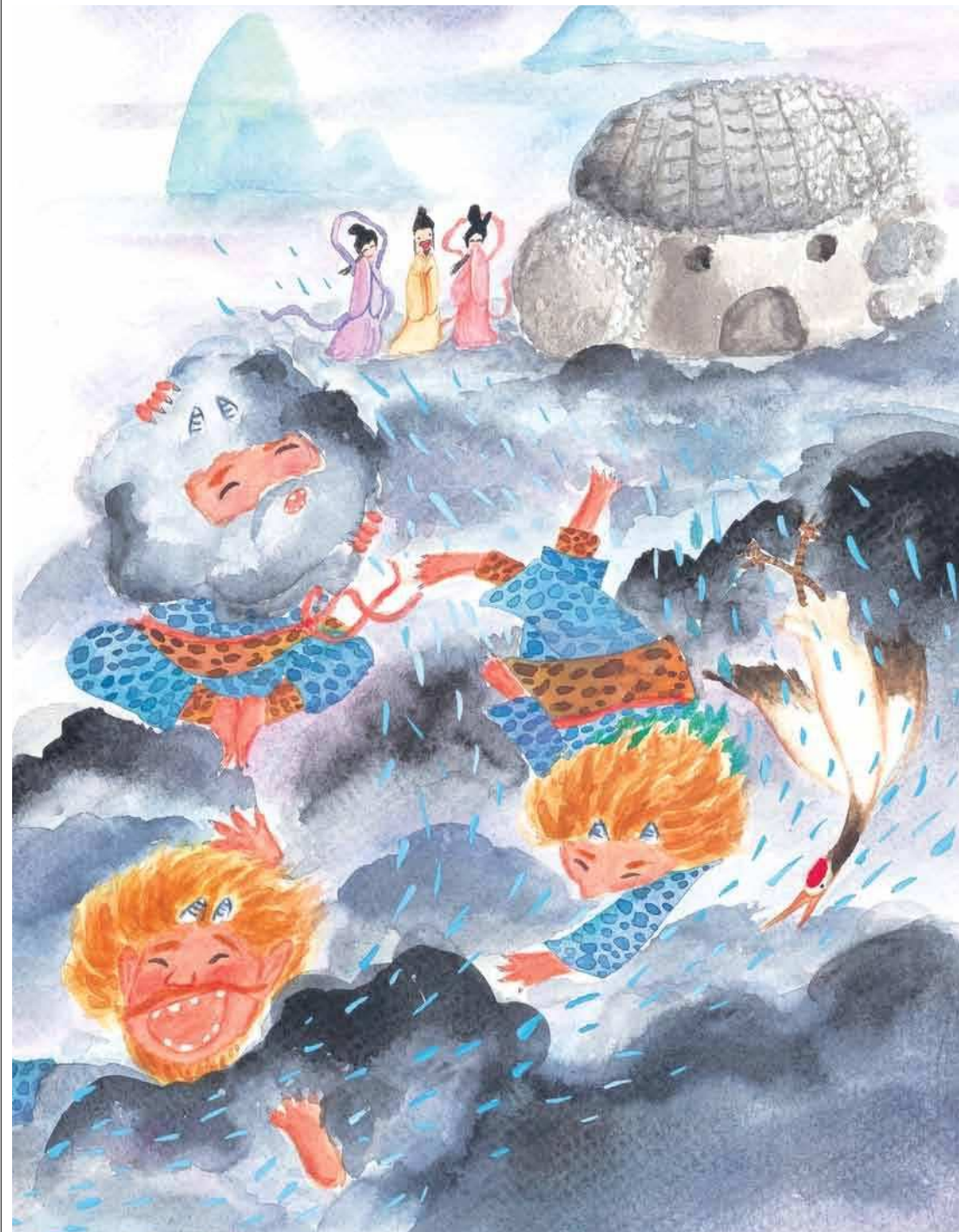
The other gods laughed heartily when they saw Chi Song Zi playing like a child.

赤松子游蕩到他最喜愛的崑崙山，住在石屋裡。不管天晴還是狂風暴雨，他都在外嬉戲遊玩，就算一整天待在雨中，也從不被淋濕。赤松子總是開心的邊跳邊唱著：

「我是最會下雨的赤松子，  
下大雨給水牛來洗洗澡，  
亮晶晶水玉吃的嘎嘎叫，  
牙齒掉光光，  
還是枸杞好。」

神仙們看到赤松子像小孩一樣貪玩，那瘋瘋癩癩的樣子逗得大家笑開懷。





## Background to the Book

The Warring States Period (403—221BC) is the name given to a time when many wars occurred between individual states because central power in China was weak.

The Story of the Rain God is set in an imaginary palace surrounded by a river. A bridge between the palace and the villages of ordinary people has been designed to show the kindness of the Emperor Ku and symbolises the happy atmosphere in this story. In reality, in the past, ordinary people were forbidden to go to any of the palaces of emperors.

The image of the Rain God, Chi Song Zi, is that of a deity from very ancient times, so his appearance was much like a wild animal having horns and sharp finger-nails, and wearing clothes with a grass collar and made of animal skin. The blue top with rain-like spots expresses the position of the Rain God.

The costume of Emperor Ku in this book shows the classical image of an emperor and the clothes he wore for important ceremonies or occasions in ancient China. A rectangular board on the top of the crown with hanging pearls was designed to remind emperors to stand or sit straight and always to look dignified; otherwise it would not be comfortable when those hanging pearls were swinging around too much against their heads.

The Dragon and the Phoenix are two of the four great lucky animals in Chinese culture. A Dragon is the symbol of authority and a Phoenix is the king of all birds. In ancient China, emperors wore golden dragon robes and Empresses wore phoenix robes; in the past, ordinary people were not allowed to wear any golden colour or any clothes displaying a dragon or a phoenix.

The story suggests several important truths: that beautiful music has a transcendent quality that can lift our lives above ordinary things; that while kindness is rewarded, further effort may be necessary to gain the reward; and that position is sometimes obtained by the hard work of other people.

## 故事賞析

故事朝代是中國的戰國時代，西元前403年～前221年，這一時期各國相互混戰，故稱之為戰國。本書故事場景設定為想像的水都宮殿，並設計了一座橋樑接通到平民的城鎮，藉此表達帝嚳的親民與故事中和樂的氣氛，事實上，皇帝的宮殿是嚴禁平民入內的。

赤松子是遠古時代的神仙，所以外表像原始的野獸；頭上長角，有著尖利的指甲，披著草做的領巾並繫著獸皮；水藍色上衣與雨點般的裝飾象徵赤松子的雨神形象。帝嚳的服裝為當時君王參加隆重的典禮時所穿的衣服。頭冠上有一塊長方形平板，前後都有成串的垂珠，用意是在提醒帝王要有端正的儀態，體態不正時，晃動的垂珠會造成不舒服的感覺。

龍和鳳凰是中國傳說四大大吉祥物的其中兩種。中國文化中，龍是權威的象徵，鳳凰是百鳥之王。在古代，帝王穿金黃色龍袍，皇后則著鳳袍，平民百姓是不被允許穿著金黃色或繡有龍鳳圖案的衣物。

這個故事包含了幾個有趣的道理：美妙的音樂具有幫助心靈昇華的效果，讓我們的精神暫時從現實的瑣碎雜事中脫離；善良親切的品德修養雖然令人敬佩，但依舊需要不斷的努力才能達到更高深的境界；而最重要的是，要達到那樣的境界往往不光憑自己努力，甚至需要更多旁人的全力幫助才能成功。