

**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™**

THE YU GREAT

CONQUERING THE FLOOD

**A
CHINESE
LEGEND**

PAUL D. STORRIE • SANDY CARRUTHERS

THIS PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK

YU THE GREAT

CONQUERING THE FLOOD

A
CHINESE
LEGEND



**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™**

**STORY BY
PAUL D. STORRIE**
**PENCILS AND INKS BY
SANDY CARRUTHERS**

M O N

C H I N A

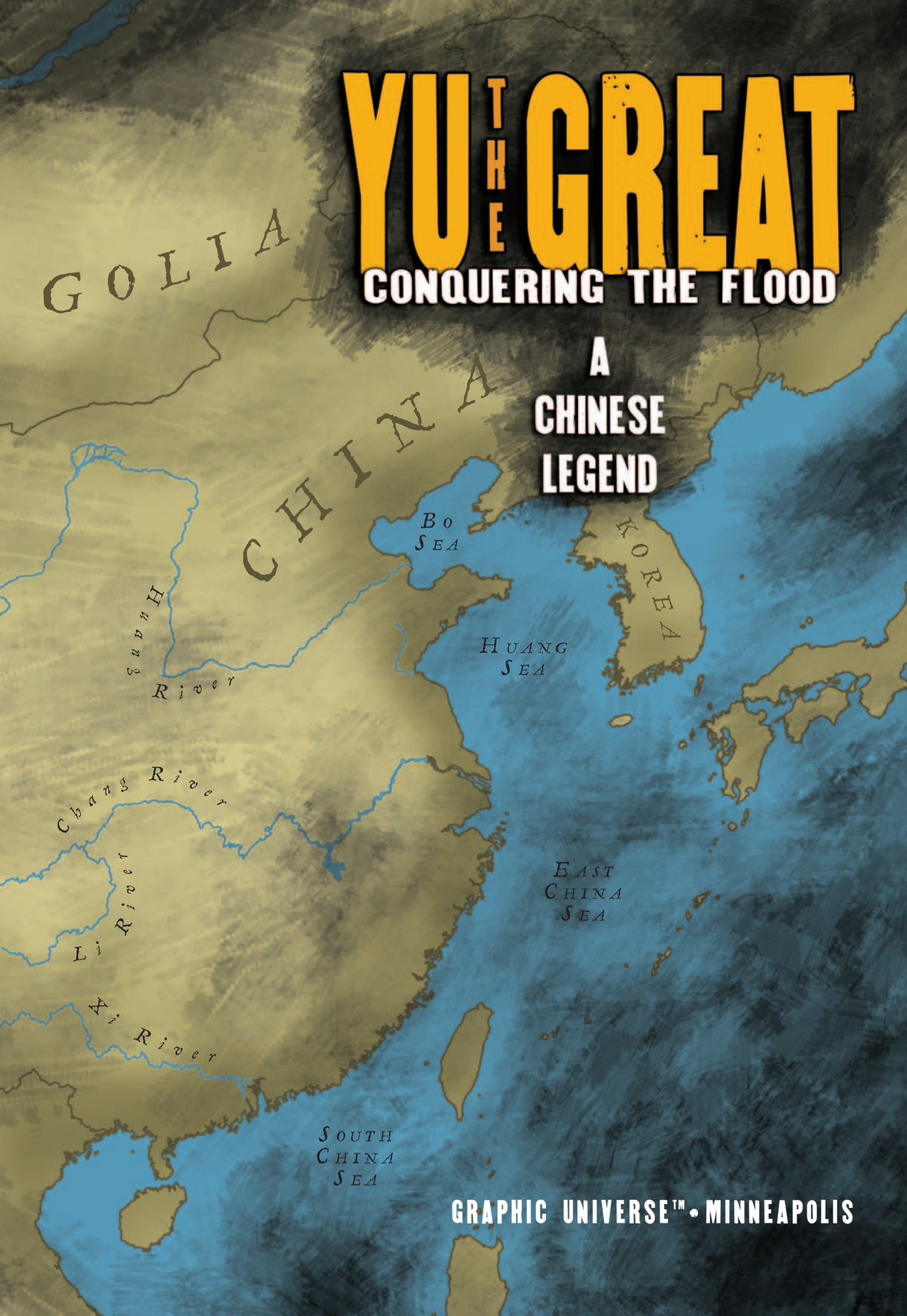
Chang River



YU THE GREAT

CONQUERING THE FLOOD

A
CHINESE
LEGEND



GRAPHIC UNIVERSE™ • MINNEAPOLIS

YU THE GREAT: CONQUERING THE FLOOD TELLS THE LEGENDARY BEGINNING OF THE XIA DYNASTY (CA. 2100–1700 B.C.) OF CHINA. THE XIA DYNASTY IS THE FIRST CHINESE EMPIRE (FAMILY OF RULERS) DESCRIBED IN HISTORICAL RECORDS. YU IS CONSIDERED THE FIRST XIA EMPEROR (RULER). YU'S LIFE STORY HAS FICTIONAL PARTS, BUT HE MAY HAVE BEEN A REAL PERSON. SOME LATER CHINESE TEXTS DESCRIBE YU AS A KIND AND STRONG EMPEROR WHOSE BUILDING PROJECTS SAVED CHINA FROM FREQUENT FLOODS. *YU THE GREAT* DRAWS ON *LAND OF THE DRAGON: CHINESE MYTH* (EDITED BY TONY ALLAN), *AN INTRODUCTION TO ORIENTAL MYTHOLOGY* (BY CLIO WHITTAKER), AND OTHER TEXT SOURCES, AS WELL AS MANY HISTORICAL ART RESOURCES, INCLUDING MORE MODERN MANCHURIAN ELEMENTS, TO MAKE YU A CHINESE HERO FOR THE AGES.

STORY BY PAUL D. STORRIE

PENCILS AND INKS BY SANDY CARRUTHERS

COLORING BY HI-FI DESIGN

LETTERING BY BILL HAUSER

**CONSULTANT: WANG PING,
MACALESTER COLLEGE**

Copyright © 2007 by Lerner Publications Company.

Graphic Universe™ is a trademark of Lerner Publications Company.

All rights reserved. International copyright secured. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of Lerner Publishing Group, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in an acknowledged review.

Graphic Universe™
An imprint of Lerner Publishing Group
241 First Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.

Website address: www.lernerbooks.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Storrie, Paul D.

Yu the Great : conquering the flood / by Paul D.

Storrie ; illustrations by Sandy Carruthers.

p. cm. — (Graphic myths and legends)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-8225-3088-6 (lib. bdg. : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-8225-3088-0 (lib. bdg. : alk. paper)

1. Folklore—China—Juvenile literature. 2. Da Yu, Emperor of China, d. 2197 B.C.—Folklore—Juvenile literature. I. Carruthers, Sandy. II. Title.

III. Series.

GR335.S712 2007

398.2'0951'02—dc22

2005001524

Manufactured in the United States of America
1 2 3 4 5 6 - JR - 12 11 10 09 08 07

eISBN-13: 978-0-8225-8794-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YU ANSWERS THE CALL . . . 6

THE STORY OF GUN . . . 8

YU AND THE TWO EMPERORS . . . 20

YU CONQUERS THE FLOOD . . . 26

THE WATER GOD . . . 31

THE MARRIAGE OF YU . . . 40

EPILOGUE . . . 45

GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE . . . 46

FURTHER READING AND WEBSITES . . . 47

CREATING *YU THE GREAT* . . . 47

INDEX . . . 48

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ARTIST . . . 48

YU ANSWERS THE CALL

LONG AGO, IN THE FAR-OFF LAND OF CHINA, THERE LIVED A MAN NAMED YU. FROM THE DAY HE WAS BORN, HIS LIFE WAS FULL OF WONDERS, BUT NOT ALWAYS HAPPINESS.

WHILE HE WAS STILL A YOUNG MAN, HE WAS SUMMONED BY THE EMPEROR SHUN. YU SET OUT AT ONCE BY BOAT TO THE EMPEROR'S PALACE.



YU HAD TO GO BY BOAT BECAUSE TERRIBLE RAINS HAD FLOODED ALL OF CHINA FOR MANY, MANY YEARS.

THE PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO SEEK HIGHER GROUND. SOME EVEN MADE THEIR HOMES IN THE TREETOPS THAT STILL STOOD ABOVE THE WATERS.



AS HE ARRIVED, YU WAS THINKING OF HOW HE WAS FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER, GUN.



THE STORY OF GUN

YEARS BEFORE, GUN HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY ANOTHER EMPEROR, THE EMPEROR YAO, FOR THE SAME REASON THAT SHUN HAD SUMMONED YU.

FOR TOO LONG HAVE THE FLOODWATERS COVERED THE LAND.

FOR TOO LONG HAVE THE PEOPLE SUFFERED.

SOME SAY THE FLOODS ARE A PUNISHMENT FROM HUANG DI, THE YELLOW EMPEROR, RULER OF THE HEAVENS.

SOME SAY THAT THEY ARE CAUSED BY THE WATER GOD, GONG GONG, SIMPLY FOR HIS PLEASURE.

WHICHEVER IS TRUE, THE FLOODS MUST BE TAMED FOR THE SAKE OF MY PEOPLE.

GREAT EMPEROR YAO, I HAVE ANSWERED YOUR CALL.

HOW MAY I SERVE YOU?



THE SOLUTION WAS BEYOND MY WISDOM, SO I SOUGHT OUT THE ADVICE OF THE IMMORTAL CALLED FOUR MOUNTAINS.



FOUR MOUNTAINS TOLD ME TO SEEK OUT GUN, THE GRANDSON OF HUANG DI.

HE SAID THAT YOU ARE AN IMMORTAL WHO CARES ABOUT THE SUFFERING OF MORTAL MEN.



WILL YOU HELP ME, GUN? WILL YOU TRY TO **SAVE** THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND?



I WILL DO ALL THAT IS IN MY POWER.

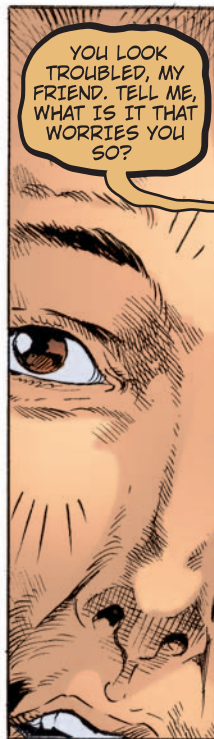
GO WITH MY BLESSING AND MY PRAYER THAT YOU MAY FIND SUCCESS.



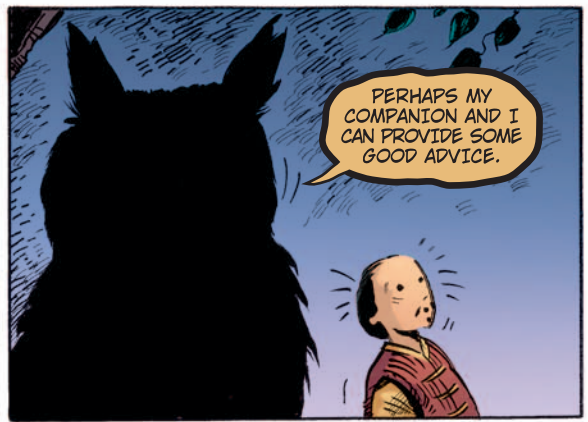
GUN SET OUT RIGHT AWAY, DETERMINED TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO THE EMPEROR.



BUT GUN SOON REALIZED THAT HE HAD NO IDEA HOW TO BATTLE THE FLOODS.



YOU LOOK TROUBLED, MY FRIEND. TELL ME, WHAT IS IT THAT WORRIES YOU SO?



PERHAPS MY COMPANION AND I CAN PROVIDE SOME GOOD ADVICE.



WHAT COMPANION IS THAT?



FORGIVE MY LATE ARRIVAL. I FEAR I TRAVEL SOMEWHAT MORE SLOWLY THAN MY WINGED FRIEND.

SOME SAY THAT THE HORNED OWL AND THE BLACK TORTOISE WERE SPIRITS IN ANIMAL FORM. SINCE THEY WERE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH GUN, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT WAS SO.



MY GREETINGS TO YOU BOTH, STRANGERS.

AS FOR WHAT TROUBLES ME, IT IS THE SAME THING THAT WORRIES THE WHOLE OF CHINA—THE FLOODS.

THEY HAVE BECOME MY SPECIAL CONCERN, BECAUSE I HAVE PLEDGED THE EMPEROR YAO TO END THEM.

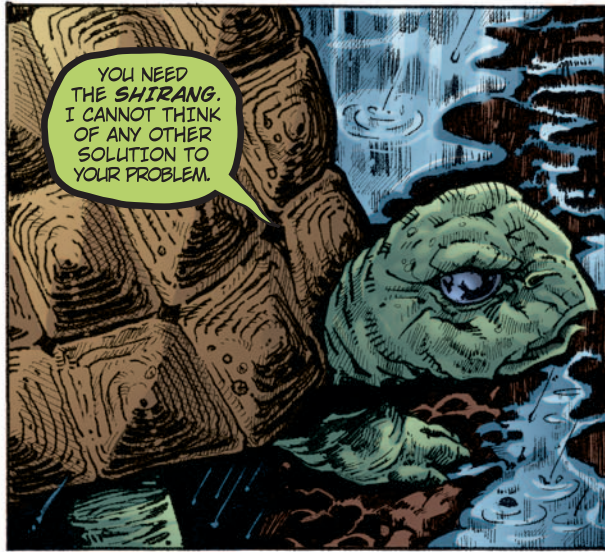
I'M SORRY TO SAY, I CANNOT THINK OF HOW TO DO SO.



A DIFFICULT TASK INDEED. THANKFULLY, WE KNOW A WAY TO CONQUER THE FLOODS.



HOW?



YOU NEED THE *SHIRANG*. I CANNOT THINK OF ANY OTHER SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM.



THE *SHIRANG*? WHAT IS THAT?



THE *SHIRANG*, THE SWELLING SOIL, IS A WONDROUS SUBSTANCE.

EVEN A SMALL CLUMP OF IT CAN MAGICALLY GROW TO SOAK UP A HUGE AMOUNT OF WATER. IT ONLY STOPS EXPANDING WHEN ORDERED TO BY THE PERSON WHO MAKES USE OF IT.



I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING!



NOT SURPRISING, I SUPPOSE. THE SHIRANG BELONGS TO YOUR GRANDFATHER, HUANG DI. HE KEEPS IT SECRET AND WELL GUARDED.



THAT IS UNFORTUNATE.

IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE AND MY GRANDFATHER ORDERED GONG GONG TO CAUSE THE FLOOD, HE WILL NEVER GIVE ME THE SHIRANG.



WELL THEN, YOU WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO TAKE IT.



AFTER ALL, THE PEOPLE NEED HELP.

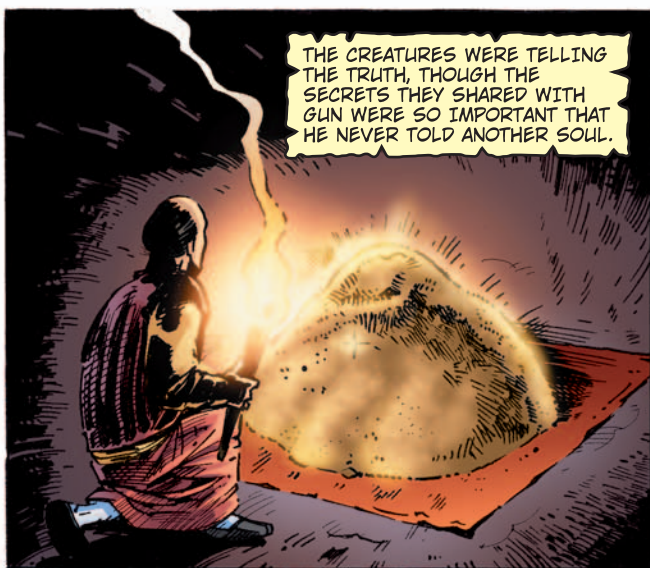


WHAT? DO YOU THINK I CAN BREAK INTO THE CELESTIAL PALACE AND MAKE OFF WITH SUCH A PRIZE?



NORMALLY, NO.

AS IT HAPPENS, THOUGH, WE KNOW A SECRET OR TWO THAT WILL HELP YOU.



THE CREATURES WERE TELLING THE TRUTH, THOUGH THE SECRETS THEY SHARED WITH GUN WERE SO IMPORTANT THAT HE NEVER TOLD ANOTHER SOUL.



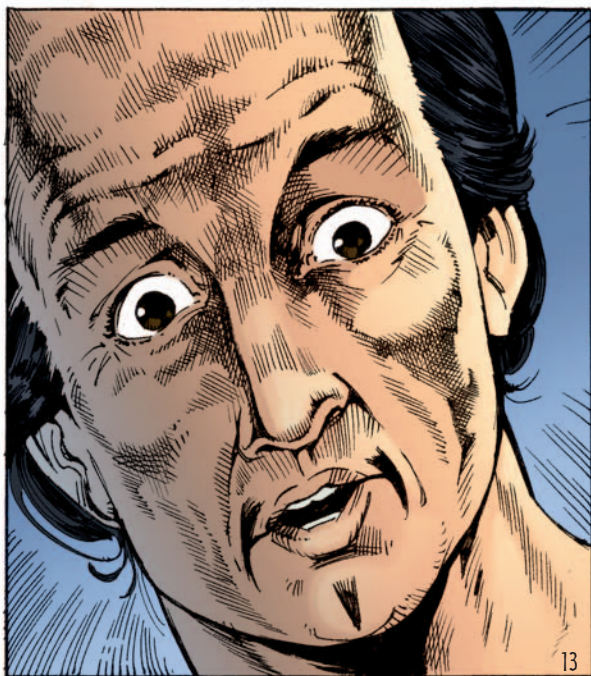
ARMED WITH THEIR ADVICE, GUN WAS ABLE TO SNEAK INTO THE CELESTIAL PALACE AND MAKE OFF WITH THE SHIRANG.



RETURNING TO EARTH, GUN WAS CERTAIN HE HAD WHAT HE NEEDED TO SAVE THE LAND.



IMMEDIATELY, HE SET ABOUT HIS TASK.



IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR THE SHIRANG TO WORK ITS MIRACLE.

STOP!
GROW NO
FURTHER!



GUN WAS THRILLED AT HIS SUCCESS. HE SET OUT ACROSS THE NEW LAND TO CONTINUE HIS WORK.



BEFORE LONG, THE PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO COME DOWN FROM THE HILLS AND TREES. SOON THEY BEGAN TO REBUILD THEIR HOMES.



THEN THEY REPLANTED THEIR FIELDS.



THE EMPEROR YAO PROCLAIMED GUN A HERO BEFORE THE PEOPLE.

HAIL GUN!!

HAIL GUN!!

HAIL GUN!!



BUT IN THE CELESTIAL PALACE,
HUANG DI, THE EMPEROR OF
HEAVEN, WAS NOT SO PLEASED.

NO MATTER WHAT THE
REASON, GUN HAD STOLEN
FROM HIM. SUCH AN INSULT,
EVEN FROM HIS GRANDSON,
COULD NOT GO UNPUNISHED.



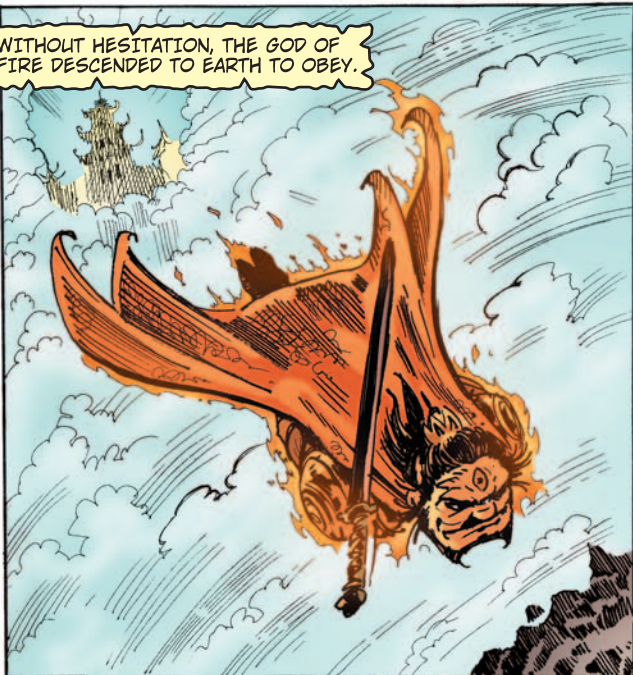
SEND
FOR
JURONG!

JURONG, THE GOD OF
FIRE, WAS HEAVEN'S
EXECUTIONER. IT WAS
HIS TASK TO PUNISH
ALL THOSE WHO
OFFENDED THE GODS.



I **COMMAND** THAT
YOU SEEK OUT GUN
AND **PUNISH** HIM
FOR **DARING** TO
STEAL FROM
ME!

WITHOUT HESITATION, THE GOD OF
FIRE DESCENDED TO EARTH TO OBEY.





MY
MESSENGERS
HAVE BROUGHT
ME TERRIBLE
NEWS.

HUANG DI
HAS SENT JURONG
TO PUNISH YOU
FOR DEFYING
HIS WILL.



I AM DEEPLY SORRY THAT I
CANNOT HELP YOU, GUN. YOUR
DEEDS HAVE GIVEN THE PEOPLE
BACK THEIR LAND, BUT I HAVE
NO POWER TO PROTECT YOU
FROM JURONG.

I UNDERSTAND.
I KNEW THAT
WHAT I DID
MIGHT ANGER
HUANG DI, BUT
THE PEOPLE
NEEDED MY
HELP.



SWIFTLY, GUN MADE HIS
WAY FROM THE PALACE.
HE HOPED TO TRAVEL FAR
ENOUGH TO ESCAPE
JURONG.



HIS HOPE WAS IN
VAIN. SOON AFTER HE
LEFT, THE GOD OF FIRE
FOLLOWED.



FOR NINE YEARS, JURONG TRACKED
GUN RELENTLESSLY ACROSS THE LAND.

WHILE GUN WAS BEING HUNTED, THE FLOODWATERS ONCE AGAIN ROSE UP AND SWALLOWED THE LAND. GUN WAS IN DESPAIR TO SEE HIS WORK LUNDONE.

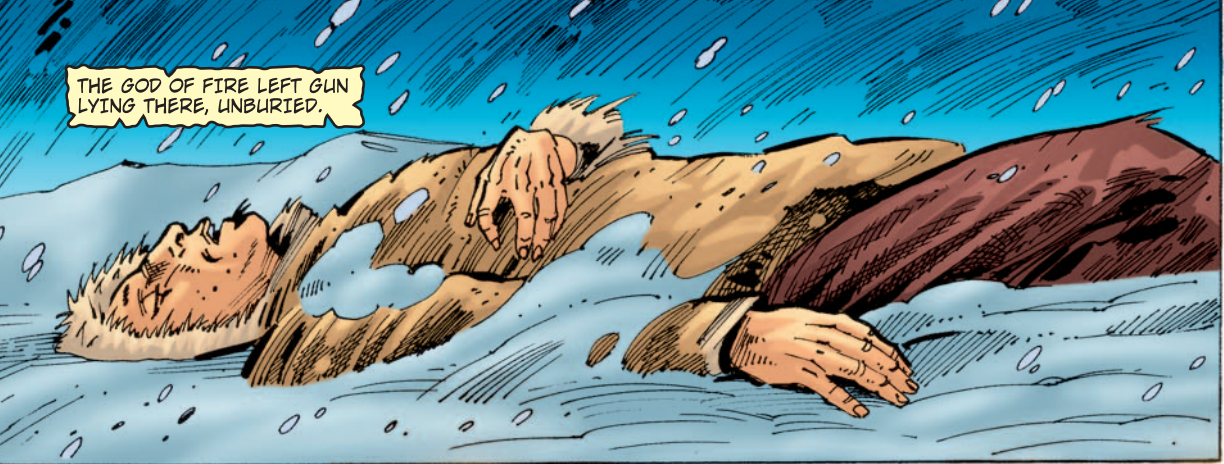
FAR TO THE NORTH, GUN CLIMBED THE SNOW-COVERED SIDE OF MOUNT FEATHER.

HE HOPED THAT THE ICY COLD WOULD PROTECT HIM FROM HIS FOE.

IT DID NOT.

THERE, ON MOUNT FEATHER, THE EXECUTIONER OF THE GODS CARRIED OUT HIS DUTY.

THE GOD OF FIRE LEFT GUN LYING THERE, UNBURIED.



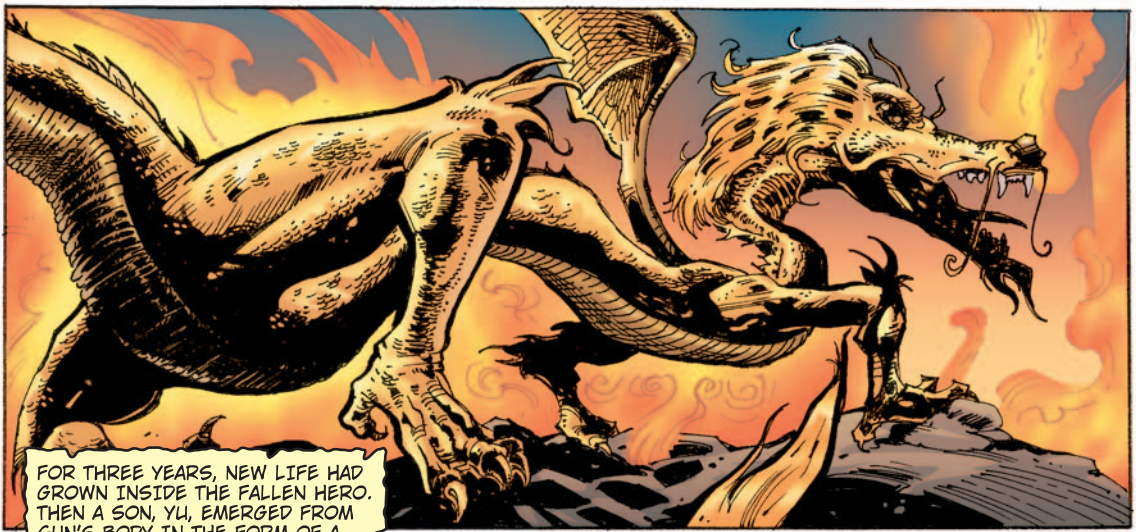
STRANGELY, NO ANIMALS DISTURBED THE BODY, AND IT SHOWED NO SIGN OF DECAY.

FOR THREE YEARS, GUN'S BODY LAY IN THE SNOW, UNCHANGED.



THEN, SOMETHING AMAZING TOOK PLACE...





FOR THREE YEARS, NEW LIFE HAD GROWN INSIDE THE FALLEN HERO. THEN A SON, YU, EMERGED FROM GUN'S BODY IN THE FORM OF A GOLDEN DRAGON.



WHEN YU GREW TO BE A MAN AND THE EMPEROR CALLED, HE KNEW WHAT HE MUST DO.



YU AND THE TWO EMPERORS

GREAT EMPEROR SHUN, I HAVE ANSWERED YOUR CALL. HOW MAY I SERVE YOU?

AS YOU KNOW, IT WAS NOT LONG AGO THAT I ASCENDED THE DRAGON THRONE.

ONCE I DID, I KNEW THAT I MUST FIND A WAY TO END THE FLOODS THAT HAVE BESET THIS LAND FOR SO LONG.


I ASKED MY ADVISERS WHAT I SHOULD DO. THEY TOLD ME THAT GUN, WHO HAD COME SO CLOSE TO ENDING THE FLOOD, HAD A SON.

THEY WERE CERTAIN THAT THE SON MIGHT SUCCEED WHERE THE FATHER FAILED.


I ADMIT I FEAR YOU MAY BE TOO YOUNG FOR SUCH A TASK, BUT THE CHOICE SHOULD BE YOURS.

YU, SON OF GUN, WILL YOU TAKE UP THIS BURDEN?

GREAT EMPEROR, IT IS MY DUTY TO TAKE UP THE UNFINISHED WORK OF MY FATHER.



YU KNEW THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO
DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN
HIS FATHER HAD.



AS AN IMMORTAL, A DESCENDANT
OF THE YELLOW EMPEROR
HIMSELF, YU WAS ABLE TO
ASCEND TO THE CELESTIAL REALM.

HE WENT OPENLY TO HIS
GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S PALACE.



BECAUSE OF HIS RELATION TO
THE YELLOW EMPEROR, YU WAS
ESCORTED AT ONCE TO HUANG
DI'S PRESENCE.



YU KNEW THIS WAS THE PATH HE MUST FOLLOW.
BUT HE WAS NERVOUS TO FACE THE ONE WHO SENT
JURONG TO PUNISH HIS FATHER.





HE HAD GOOD REASON
TO FEAR HUANG DI.

YU, SON OF
GUN, YOU ARE
EITHER VERY
BRAVE OR VERY
FOOLISH.

YOU **DARE**
TO COME INTO MY
PRESENCE AFTER THE
INSULT YOUR FATHER
MADE TO MY
AUTHORITY?



GREAT
HUANG DI, RULER
OF HEAVEN, I
UNDERSTAND YOUR
ANGER.

EVEN THOUGH I
ADMIRE MY FATHER FOR
TRYING TO BRING COMFORT
TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA, I
KNOW THAT HE CHOSE THE
WRONG PATH.



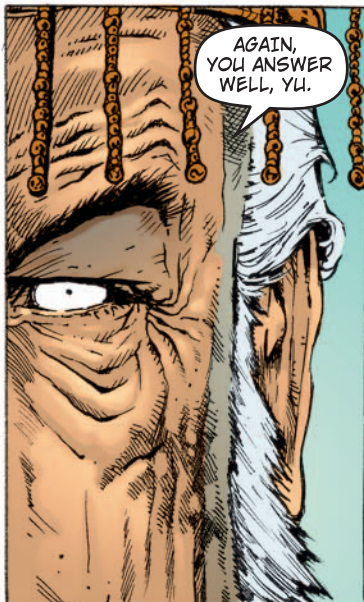
BUT I BEG YOU,
DO NOT HOLD HIS
MISTAKE AGAINST ME.
DO NOT HOLD HIS
MISTAKE AGAINST THE
PEOPLE OF CHINA.

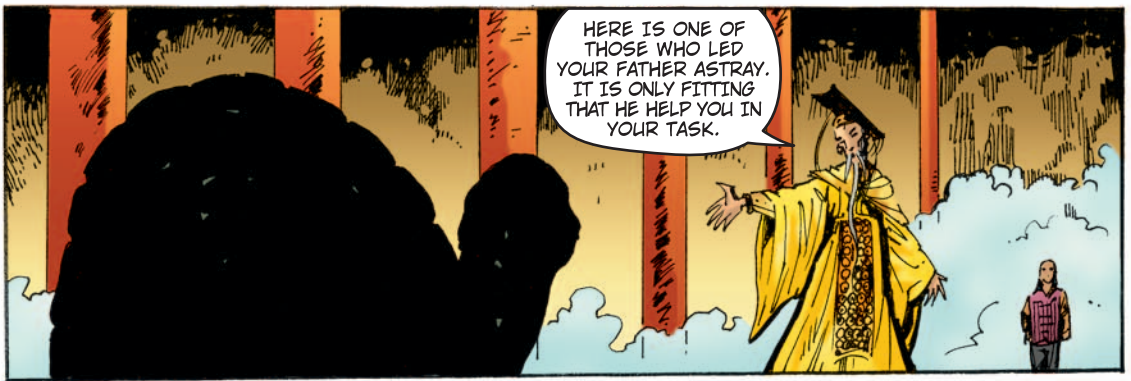
THEY HAVE
SUFFERED
GREATLY FOR
SO LONG.



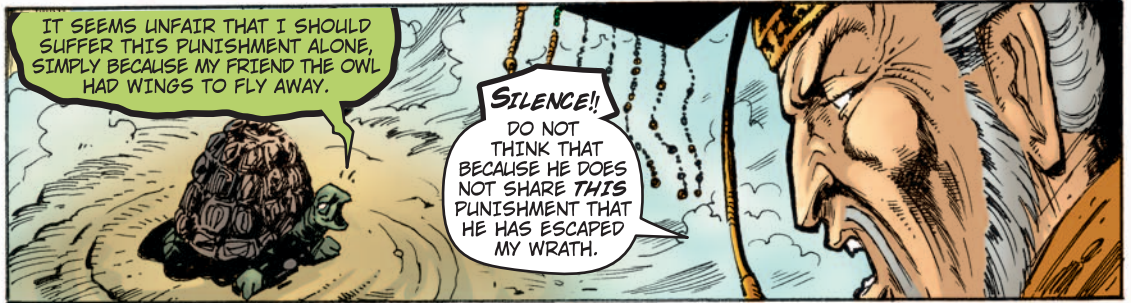
I SEE YOU HAVE
LEARNED FROM YOUR
FATHER'S MISTAKE. IT
IS GOOD THAT YOU
SHOW THE PROPER
RESPECT.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
OF ME?





HERE IS ONE OF THOSE WHO LED YOUR FATHER ASTRAY. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT HE HELP YOU IN YOUR TASK.



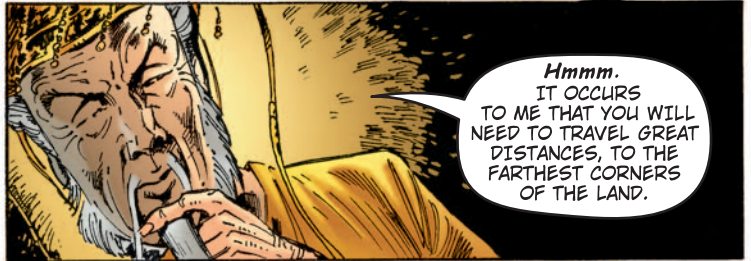
IT SEEMS UNFAIR THAT I SHOULD SUFFER THIS PUNISHMENT ALONE, SIMPLY BECAUSE MY FRIEND THE OWL HAD WINGS TO FLY AWAY.

SILENCE!!
DO NOT THINK THAT BECAUSE HE DOES NOT SHARE *THIS* PUNISHMENT THAT HE HAS ESCAPED MY WRATH.



I WILL GIVE YOU AS MUCH SHIRANG AS THIS TORTOISE CAN CARRY ON HIS SHELL.

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THE TASK BEFORE YOU.



Hmmm.
IT OCCURS TO ME THAT YOU WILL NEED TO TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES, TO THE FARTHEST CORNERS OF THE LAND.



I WILL ASSIGN THE GREAT WINGED DRAGON, YING LONG, TO HELP IN THAT REGARD.



YOU ARE MORE GENEROUS THAN I HAD DARED TO HOPE, GREAT EMPEROR.

GO ABOUT YOUR WORK WITH MY BLESSING, GREAT-GRANDSON.

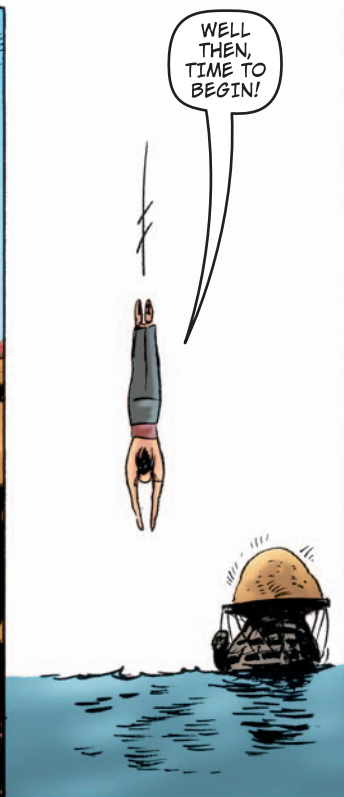
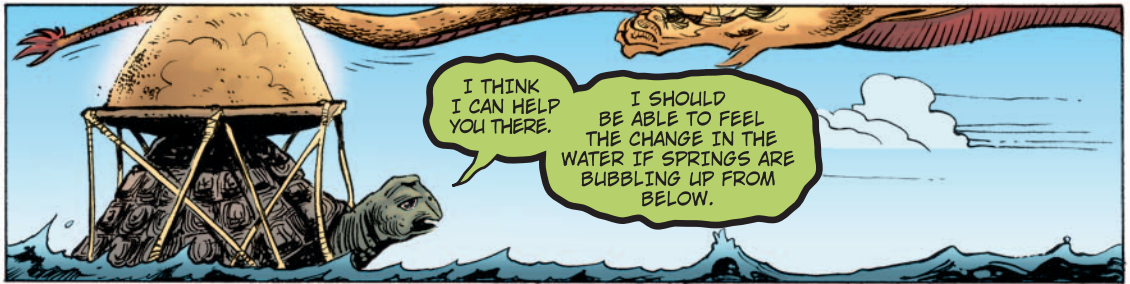
A large yellow dragon with red spikes along its back and tail is flying over a turbulent, blue sea. The dragon's head is at the top left, with its mouth open as if breathing fire. Its body curves across the sky, and its front legs are extended downwards. In the background, a dark, silhouetted figure is visible on a rocky outcrop. The scene is filled with white, stylized clouds and dark, swirling water, suggesting a storm or a powerful magical event. The overall style is that of a classic comic book illustration.

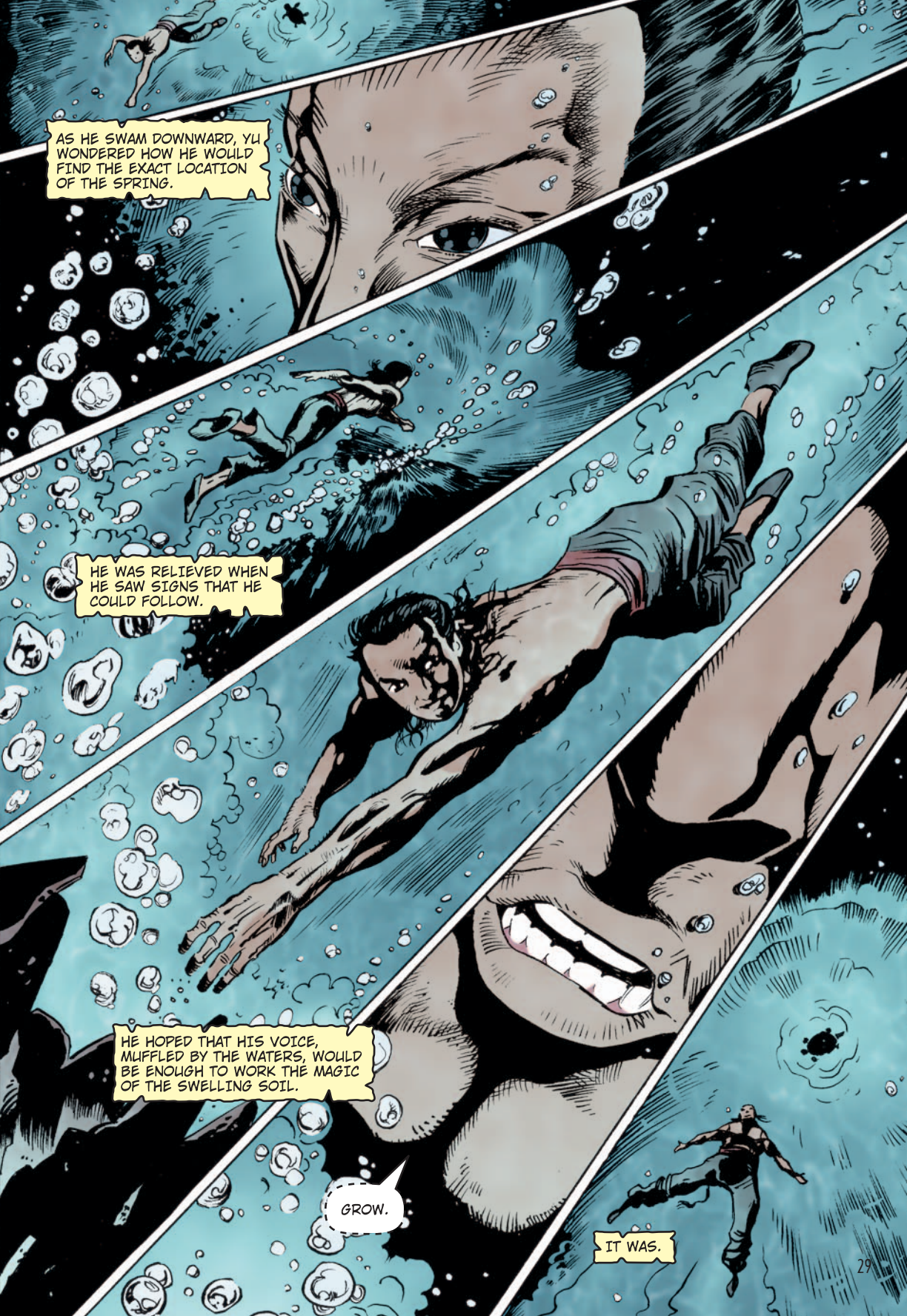
YU CONQUERS THE FLOOD

YU RETURNED FROM THE HEAVENS WITH HIS TWO COMPANIONS. HE IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT HIS FATHER'S UNFINISHED WORK.



YU HAD ALL THE SHIRANG THE TORTOISE CARRIED AND ALL THE POWER AND WISDOM OF YING LONG THE DRAGON. BUT EVEN SO, YU KNEW THAT HIS WORK WOULD TAKE A VERY LONG TIME.





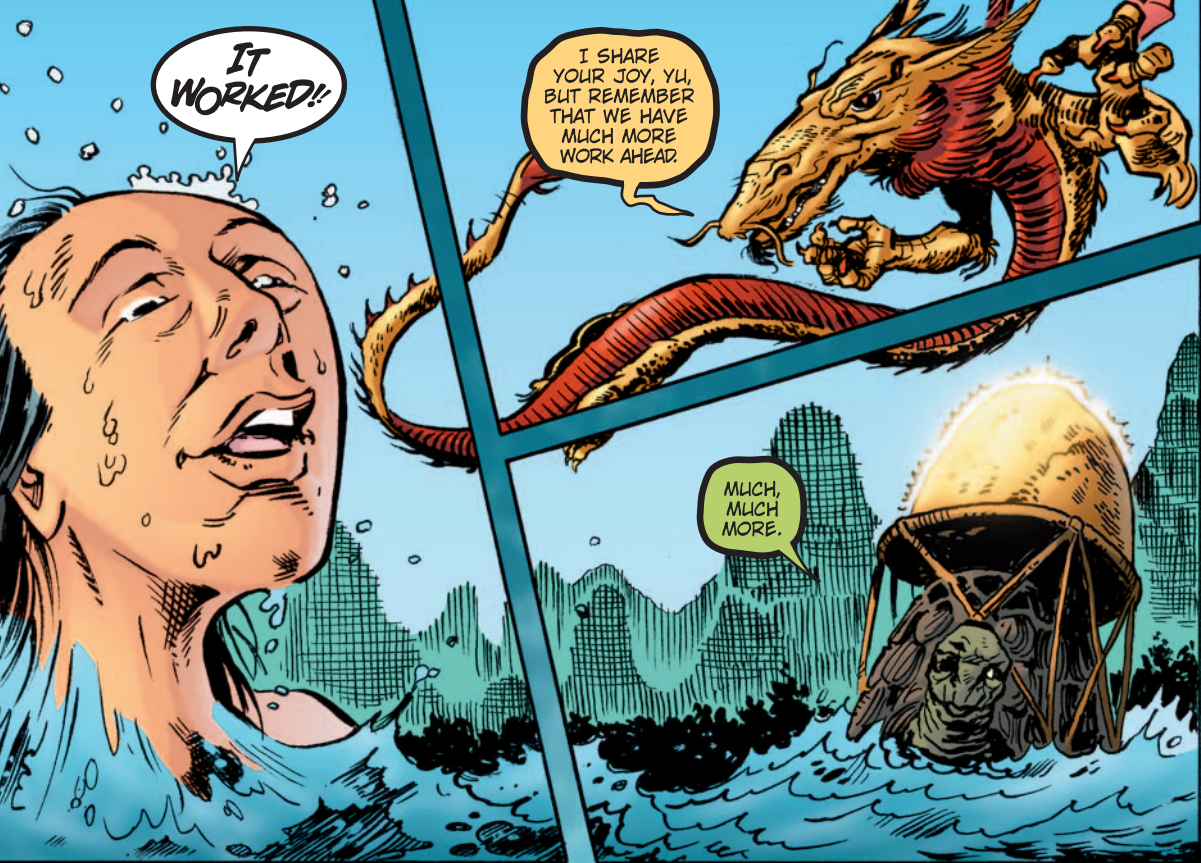
AS HE SWAM DOWNWARD, YU WONDERED HOW HE WOULD FIND THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE SPRING.

HE WAS RELIEVED WHEN HE SAW SIGNS THAT HE COULD FOLLOW.

HE HOPED THAT HIS VOICE, MUFFLED BY THE WATERS, WOULD BE ENOUGH TO WORK THE MAGIC OF THE SWELLING SOIL.

GROW.

IT WAS.



THE WATER GOD

WHAT IS THE MATTER, YU? OUR WORK GOES WELL. WE HAVE BLOCKED COUNTLESS SPRINGS.

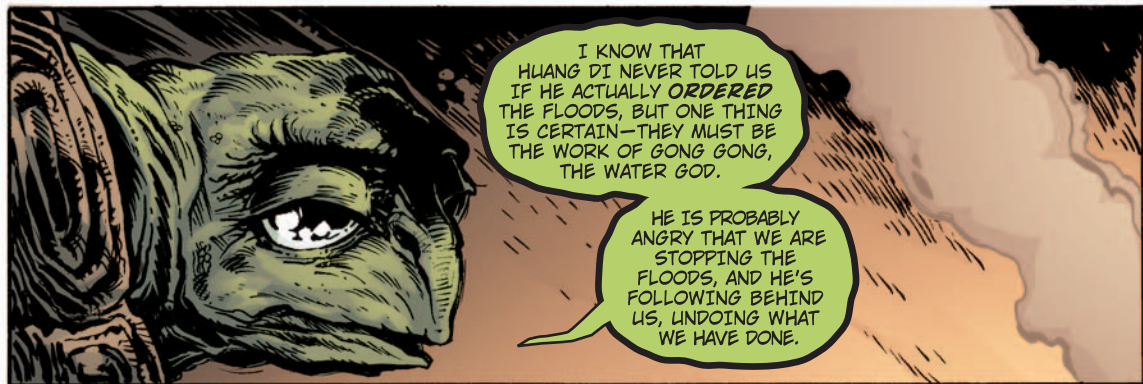
IN SOME PLACES, WE HAVE EVEN BEEN ABLE TO USE THE SHIRANG AS YOUR FATHER DID, TO SOAK UP THE FLOODWATERS AND LEAVE NEW, FERTILE LAND.

WHY ARE YOU SO TROUBLED?

I HAVE RECEIVED BAD NEWS FROM THE EMPEROR. IT SEEMS THAT IN SOME PLACES OUR WORK IS BEING UNDONE. THE FLOODWATERS ARE RETURNING.

Ugh!
I WAS AFRAID THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I KNOW THAT HUANG DI NEVER TOLD US IF HE ACTUALLY **ORDERED** THE FLOODS, BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN—THEY MUST BE THE WORK OF GONG GONG, THE WATER GOD.

HE IS PROBABLY ANGRY THAT WE ARE STOPPING THE FLOODS, AND HE'S FOLLOWING BEHIND US, UNDOING WHAT WE HAVE DONE.



WHETHER HUANG DI ORDERED THE FLOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE OR NOT, HE HAS GIVEN HIS BLESSING TO OUR WORK.

WHY WOULD HE LET GONG GONG INTERFERE?



PERHAPS HUANG DI WANTS US TO DEAL WITH GONG GONG AS PART OF OUR WORK.

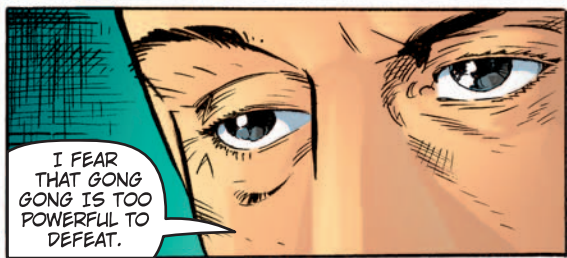


EVEN WITH YOUR HELP, YING LONG...

Ahem.



AND YOURS TOO, TORTOISE...



I FEAR THAT GONG GONG IS TOO POWERFUL TO DEFEAT.

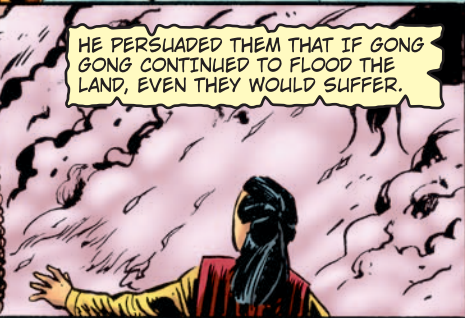


I THINK THAT IN THE MORNING, WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK FOR OTHER ALLIES!

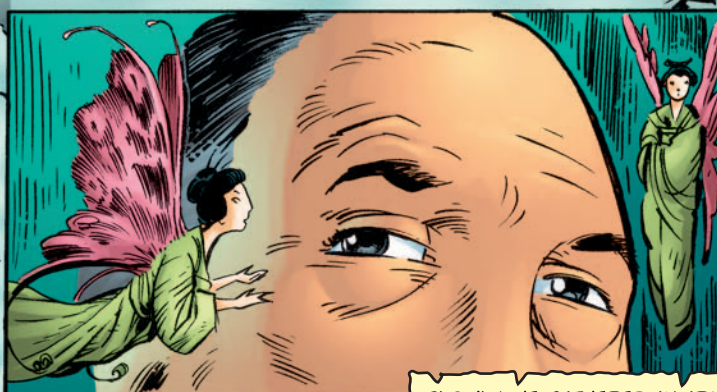
THE NEXT DAY, YU BEGAN TO SEEK OUT EVERY SORT OF MAGICAL CREATURE HE COULD FIND.



HE PERSUADED THEM THAT IF GONG GONG CONTINUED TO FLOOD THE LAND, EVEN THEY WOULD SUFFER.



MOST WERE NOT DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE.



SLOWLY, HE GATHERED AN ARMY.

THEY FOUND THE WATER GOD,
GONG GONG, ON MOUNT KHAN JI
AND CONFRONTED HIM THERE.

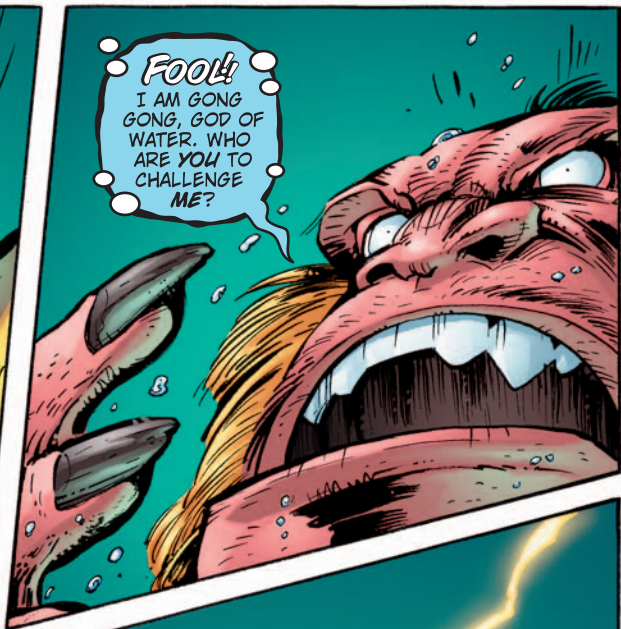
GONG
GONG!

THE
FLOODS
MUST
END!





IF YOU
DO NOT STOP
FLOODING THE
LAND, I WILL
DESTROY
YOU!



Fool!
I AM GONG
GONG, GOD OF
WATER. WHO
ARE YOU TO
CHALLENGE
ME?



I FIGHT THE
FLOODS WITH
THE BLESSING
OF THE YELLOW
EMPEROR.

I AM
YU, SON OF
GUN, GREAT-
GRANDSON OF
HUANG DI.

IF I
MUST KILL
YOU TO STOP
THEM, THEN
I WILL.



SOME SAY THAT
YU KILLED GONG
GONG THAT DAY.

OTHERS SAY THAT
GONG GONG RAN
AWAY FROM YU'S
GREAT ARMY.

AFTER ALL, THE RAIN STILL FALLS FROM
THE SKY AND THE RIVERS STILL FLOW
INTO THE LAKES AND THE SEA. HOW
COULD THE GOD OF WATER BE DEAD?



WHICHEVER IS TRUE, YU
SOON RETURNED TO HIS WORK.



AFTER YU CONFRONTED GONG GONG,
THE PLAINS THAT WERE FILLED WITH
THE SHIRANG DID NOT FLOOD AGAIN.



WHAT?
HAVE I DONE
SOMETHING
WRONG?



NO,
NOT AT
ALL.

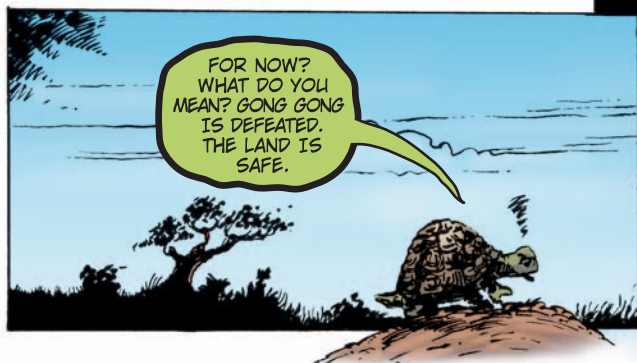
I WAS
JUST NOTICING
HOW LITTLE
SHIRANG WE
HAVE LEFT.

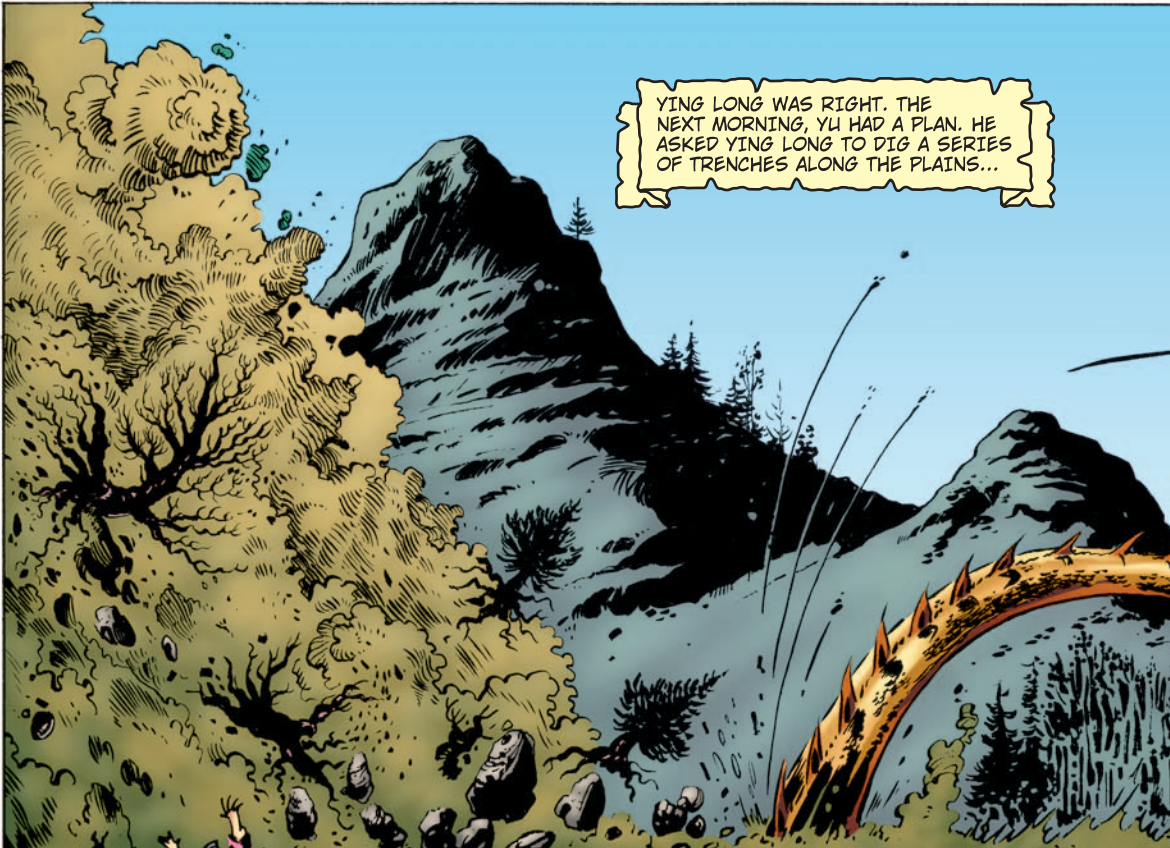


NOT TO
WORRY—THE
FLOODWATERS
ARE ALMOST
GONE.




FOR
NOW.

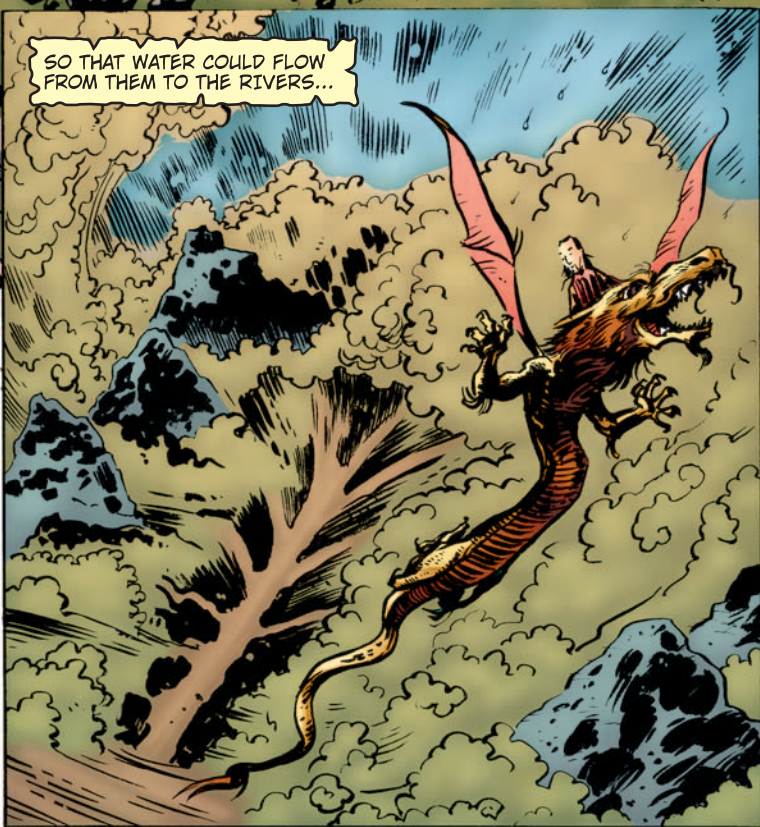


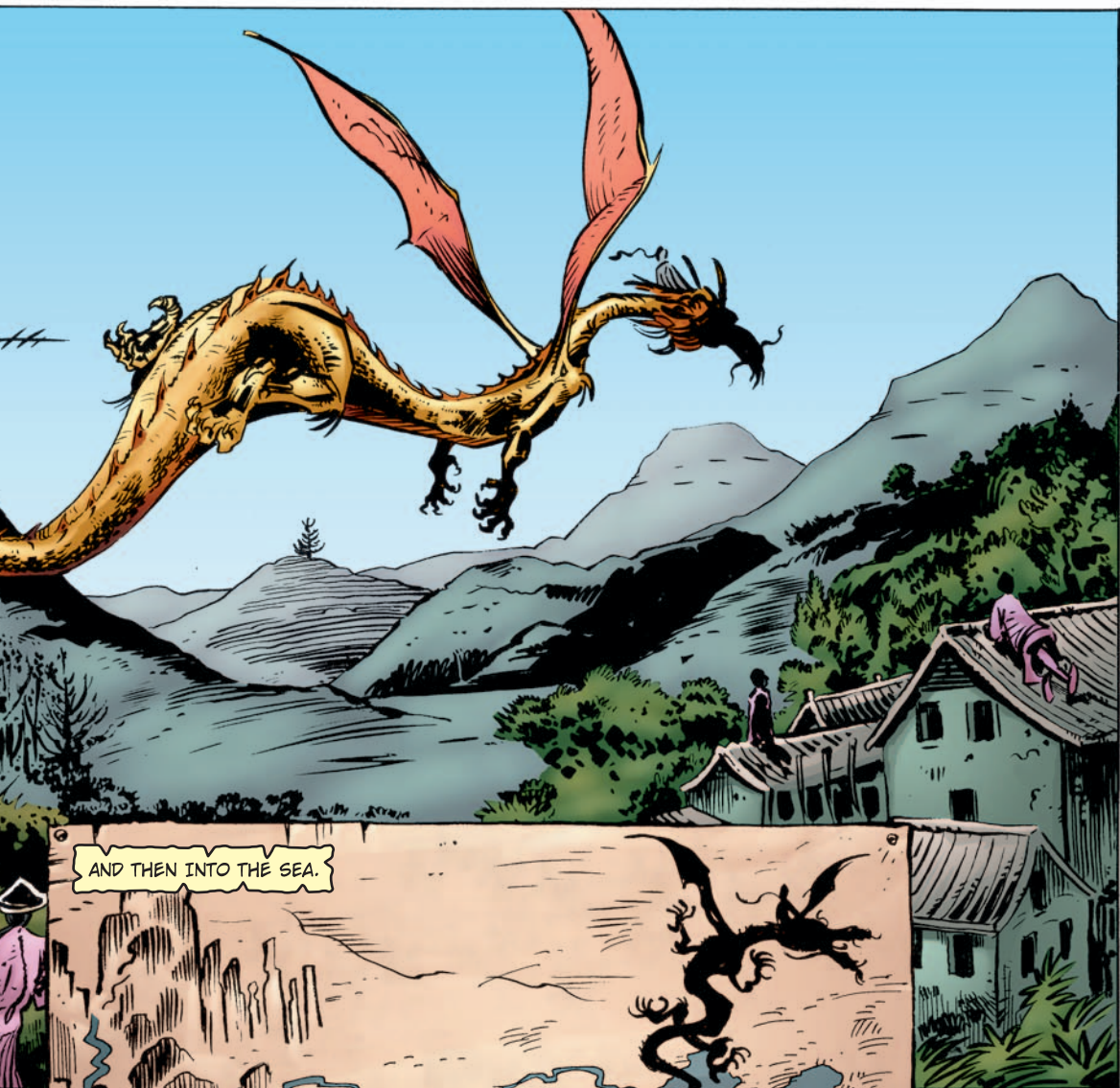


YING LONG WAS RIGHT. THE NEXT MORNING, YU HAD A PLAN. HE ASKED YING LONG TO DIG A SERIES OF TRENCHES ALONG THE PLAINS...

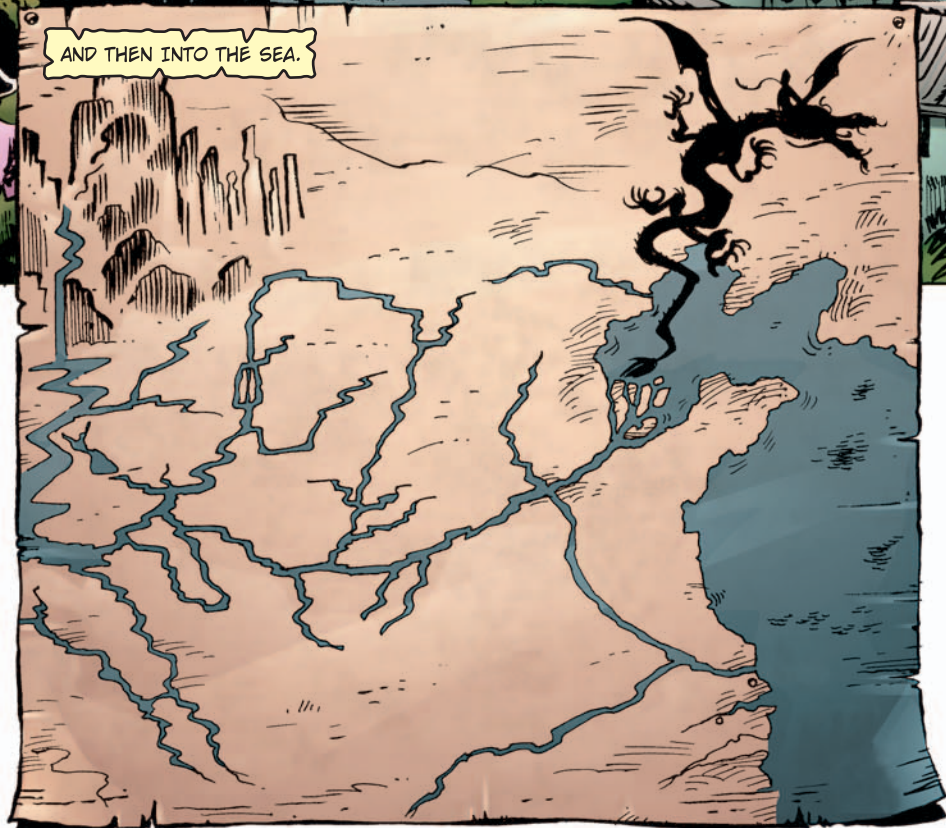


SO THAT WATER COULD FLOW FROM THEM TO THE RIVERS...





AND THEN INTO THE SEA.



THE MARRIAGE OF YU

MANY YEARS PASSED WHILE YU AND HIS COMPANIONS TRAVELED CHINA, CONQUERING THE FLOOD.

NOT LONG AFTER YU TURNED THIRTY, THE AGE WHEN MOST MEN OF HIS TIME MARRIED, HE SAW A STRANGE SIGHT.

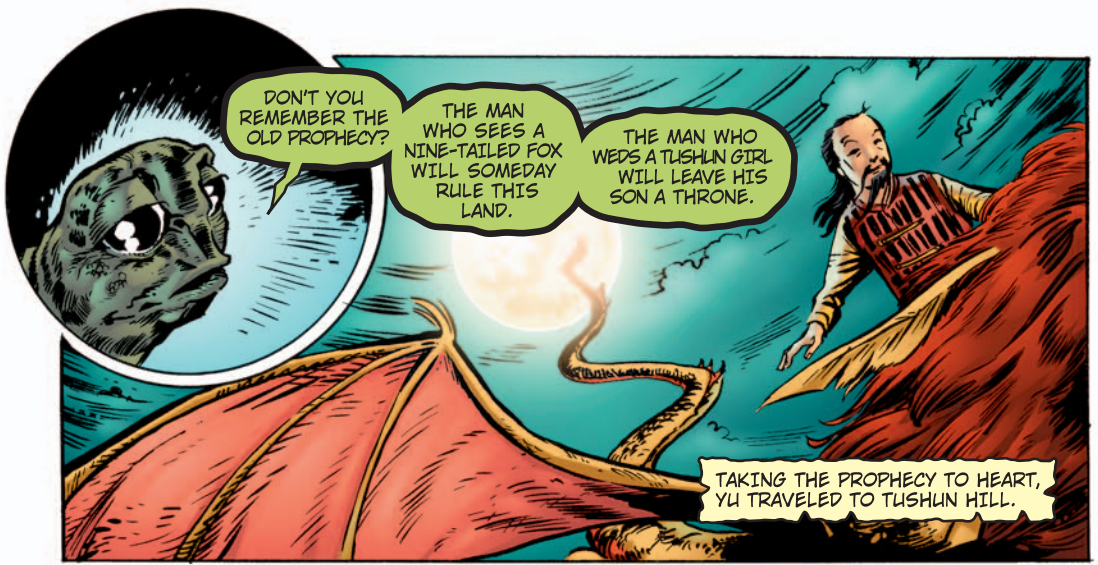


LOOK AT THAT! WHAT A REMARKABLE CREATURE!



WELL, MY FRIEND, IT SEEMS YOU ARE A FORTUNATE MAN.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE OLD PROPHECY?

THE MAN WHO SEES A NINE-TAILED FOX WILL SOMEDAY RULE THIS LAND.

THE MAN WHO WEDS A TUSHUN GIRL WILL LEAVE HIS SON A THRONE.

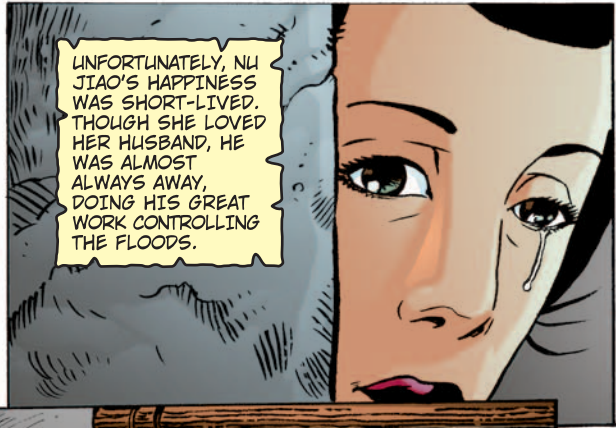
TAKING THE PROPHECY TO HEART, YU TRAVELED TO TUSHUN HILL.



THERE HE MET NU JIAO, THE DAUGHTER OF A LOCAL LORD. HE IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE.



HE ASKED FOR HER HAND IN MARRIAGE. BOTH NU JIAO AND HER FATHER WERE OVERJOYED AT THE IDEA.



UNFORTUNATELY, NU JIAO'S HAPPINESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. THOUGH SHE LOVED HER HUSBAND, HE WAS ALMOST ALWAYS AWAY, DOING HIS GREAT WORK CONTROLLING THE FLOODS.



BUT WHEN SHE REALIZED SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE YU'S CHILD, HER SADNESS MELTED AWAY. SHE WAITED FOR HIS NEXT VISIT SO SHE COULD TELL HIM THE WONDERFUL NEWS.

BUT YU DID NOT COME HOME. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS, NU JIAO SET OUT TO FIND HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD OFTEN SAID HIS TRIPS WERE TOO DANGEROUS FOR HER.

NU JIAO KNEW THAT YU WAS WORKING IN THE MOUNTAINS.



WHAT SHE DID NOT KNOW WAS THAT YU COULD STILL CHANGE HIS SHAPE, AS HE HAD WHEN HE CHANGED FROM A DRAGON INTO A BOY.

YU HAD TAKEN THE SHAPE OF A BEAR AS HE DUG CHANNELS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS TO HELP DRAIN AWAY MELTING SNOW.



AAAAA!!



NOT REALIZING THAT THE FEARSOME CREATURE WAS ACTUALLY HER HUSBAND, NU JIAO FLED AS FAST AS SHE COULD.



YU, FORGETTING THAT HE HAD CHANGED TO A BEAR, CHASED AFTER HER TO FIND OUT WHY SHE HAD RUN AWAY.

HE DID NOT REALIZE THAT HE WAS ONLY FRIGHTENING HER MORE.



NU JIAO GREW TOO TIRED TO RUN ANY FARTHER. EXHAUSTED, SHE COLLAPSED AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS.





WHEN YU FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HER, HER FEAR OVERWHELMED HER.



SO GREAT WAS HER TERROR THAT SHE TRANSFORMED INTO STONE.



NOOOOOOOO!!

NU JIAO!
FORGIVE ME.
I DID NOT
REALIZE...



EPILOGUE

...FOR EMPEROR SHUN DECIDED THAT YU SHOULD FOLLOW HIM UPON THE DRAGON THRONE.

THUS THE FIRST PART OF THE PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED—THAT THE MAN WHO SAW THE NINE-TAILED FOX CAME TO RULE THE LAND.

AND WHEN QI BECAME THE EMPEROR AFTER HIS FATHER, FOUNDING THE XIA DYNASTY, THE SECOND PART CAME TRUE AS WELL.



GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CELESTIAL PALACE: in Chinese myth, the home of the gods, or heaven

DRAGON: in mythology, a magical serpent, often very large. Dragons appear in myths from several countries, but they are very important in China. Dragons appear in Chinese art and literature, on building decorations, and in ceremonies and festivals.

DRAGON THRONE: the traditional seat of Chinese emperors

DYNASTY: a series of kings or emperors, all from the same family, who rule one after another

EMPEROR: the ruler of an empire, or a very large kingdom or territory. In Chinese history, the emperors were believed to be descended from the gods.

GONG GONG (gung gung): the Chinese water god, responsible for storms and flooding

GUN (guhnh): a Chinese hero, a grandson of Huang Di and the father of Yu

HUANG DI (hwong dee): the Yellow Emperor, the immortal ruler of heaven

IMMORTAL: a person or creature that lives forever. In Chinese myth,

immortals can travel between heaven and Earth.

JURONG (juh-rung): the Chinese god of fire

NU JIAO (noo je-ow): Yu's wife

PROPHECY: a prediction of something to come in the future

QI (chee): Yu's son

SHIRANG (shee-rang): in the Yu legend, a magical soil that swells to plug holes and absorb water. Yu uses the shirang to help stop China's floods.

SHUN (shuhn): a Chinese emperor

XIA (shee-ah): the first Chinese dynasty described in historical records

YAO (yow): a Chinese emperor

YELLOW EMPEROR: Huang Di, the ruler of heaven. In Chinese culture, the color yellow symbolizes power and authority.

YING LONG (ying long): the flying dragon given to Yu by Huang Di

YU (yoo): a Chinese hero, founder of the Xia Dynasty. He is often called Da Yu, a Chinese phrase meaning Yu the Great.

FURTHER READING AND WEBSITES

Behnke, Alison. *China in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2003. This book features information on the history and cultural life of China, from ancient times to the present.

Cheng, Sonia. *Myths and Civilization of the Ancient Chinese*. New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 2001. Cheng retells several major myths, adding historical and cultural details about ancient China.

Chinatown Online, “Yu the Great Conquers the Flood”

<http://www.chinatown-online.co.uk/pages/culture/legends/yu.html>

The culture section of this website looks at some of the historical roots of the Yu legend.

The National Palace Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

<http://www.npm.gov.tw/index.htm>

The museum’s website features online exhibits of Chinese painting, tapestry, ceramics, and other treasures. The website’s Explore and Learn section includes a kids’ corner, with interactive pictures of Chinese life.

CREATING *YU THE GREAT*

In creating this story, author Paul Storrie adapted traditional retellings found in *Land of the Dragon: Chinese Myth* (edited by Tony Allan), *An Introduction to Oriental Mythology* (by Clio Whittaker), and other sources on Asian myth. Artist Sandy Carruthers used details from Chinese art, mythology and folklore, museum exhibits, and traditional architecture to shape the story’s visual details—from the emperors’ robes to the number of toes on Ying Long the dragon. Wang Ping used her knowledge of Chinese culture and history to ensure accuracy.



original pencil from page 9

INDEX

Celestial Palace, 12, 13, 15, 16, 22

Celestial Realm, 8, 21

Gong Gong (water god), 8, 13, 32, 33, 37;
battle with Yu's army, 34-35

Gun: death of, 17-18; and Emperor Yao,
8-9; meeting owl and tortoise, 10-11

Huang Di (Yellow Emperor), 8, 9, 12,
21, 32, 35; and Gun, 15, 16, 23; and
Yu, 22-25

Jurong (god of fire), 15, 16-17, 18, 22, 28

Nu Jiao, 41-44

Qi, 44, 45

shirang, 11-12, 13, 14, 24, 28, 29, 31, 36

Shun (emperor), 6, 19, 20, 45

tortoise: meeting Gun, 10-11; helping Yu
with shirang, 27-29, 32

Xia Dynasty, 45

Yao (emperor), 8-9, 10, 14, 16

Ying Long (dragon), 25, 26-27, 28, 30,
31, 32, 37, 38

Yu: birth of, 19; and Emperor Shun, 6, 8;
and Huang Di, 22-25; marriage of,
40-41

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ARTIST

PAUL D. STORRIE was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He has returned to live there again and again after living in other cities and states. He began writing professionally in 1987 and has written comics for Caliber Comics, Moonstone Books, Marvel Comics, and DC Comics. His work includes *Hercules: The Twelve Labors*, *Amaterasu: Return of the Sun*, *Robin Hood: Outlaw of Sherwood Forest*, *Robyn of Sherwood* (featuring stories about Robin Hood's daughter), *Batman Beyond*, *Gotham Girls*, *Captain America: Red, White and Blue*, and *Mutant X*.

SANDY CARRUTHERS was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. His family moved to Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada, when he was young. His illustrated published works include *The Men in Black*, *Invaders from Mars*, *Alien Nation*, and *Captain Canuck*. His Web-published works at www.sandycarruthers.com include *The Ronin and the Lily* and *Canadiana: The New Spirit of Canada*. Carruthers currently resides in Charlottetown, PEI, with his partner, Holly; daughter, Eryn; and three cats, Max, Baby, and Harry. He teaches graphic design full-time at Holland College, PEI. Somewhere among all this, he does have a life and will continue his studies of dragons, thanks to Yu.