

皇帝的衣服

很久以前，中国有一个很自私的皇帝。他的地位很高，拥有很多资源。他的宫殿是整个国家最大、最舒服的房子。他吃着最美味的食物，并且拥有手艺最好的厨师。但是在他拥有的这些高级的东西里面，他最喜欢的就是他的衣服，都又舒服又好看，而且都五颜六色的。他每天花很多心思和精力在打扮上。不仅如此，他的衣服很特别——所有的都有龙。有些很大，有些很可怕，有些很漂亮。

因为所有的老百姓尊敬他们的皇帝，所以当它们看到他穿有龙的衣服以后，也开始穿有龙的衣服。皇帝很自私，当他看到平民也穿龙的衣服，他很生气，因为他不想别人跟他看起来一样。因此，他宣布了除了他自己能穿有龙的衣服之外，其他人都不可以穿。

可是，他忘了龙能带来吉祥。在他禁止人们穿有龙的衣服以后，他的国家开始变得不幸和贫穷。灾难接连而来，人们开始买不起菜，衣服，房子，等等，并且开始抱怨皇帝的政策。

这让皇帝很焦虑。某天晚上，龙突然出现在他面前，对他说：“皇帝！现在你的国家的问题这么多，都是因为你不想让你的老百姓穿有龙的衣服。”

皇帝回答说，“我知道！可是，他们应该对我和我的衣服感到敬畏。如果他们穿一样的衣服，我没办法彰显我的地位。”

龙告诉皇帝：“我明白你的问题，但是如果你想你的国家变好，而且禁止百姓穿有龙的衣服，那么就把你的财富分享给百姓。这样的话，他们才能避免灾难。”

皇帝接受了龙的建议，并且打开国库救济受灾的百姓。从此以后，这个国家一直都很幸福。

(Translation on the next page)

The Emperor's Clothing
By Alec Zbornak

A long time ago, China had a very selfish emperor. He had high status and possessed many natural resources. His imperial palace was the country's largest and most comfortable home. He ate the most delicious food and had the best chefs. But of all the high-grade things he had, his favorite was his clothing, all of which were comfortable and good looking and came in every color under the sun. Every day, he put a lot of thought and energy into dressing up. Not only that, but his clothes were very special; all of them had dragons on them, some big, some scary, some beautiful.

Because all of the citizens respected their emperor, after they saw his dragon clothing, they also started to wear dragon clothing. The emperor was very selfish; and when he saw the citizens wear dragon clothing, he was angry, because he didn't want other people to look like him. Thus, he declared, that other than him, no one else was allowed to wear dragon clothing.

But he forgot that dragons bring luck. After he prohibited people from wearing dragon clothing, his country became unfortunate and impoverished. Disasters came one after another. People started to be unable to buy food, clothing, homes, and more; furthermore, they started to complain about the emperor's policy.

This made the emperor very anxious. One evening, a dragon suddenly appeared in front of him and said to him, "Emperor! Right now, your country's problems are many, and all of them are because you don't let your citizens wear dragon clothing."

The emperor responded, "I know, but they should regard me and my clothing with respect. If they wear the same clothing as I, I can't express my status."

The dragon told the emperor the following: "I understand your problem, but if you want your country to be okay, and also want to prohibit your commoners from wearing dragon clothing, then you must share your wealth with the commoners. This is the only way to avoid catastrophe."

The emperor received the dragon's proposal, and, furthermore, opened the treasury to aid the disaster-stricken commoners. From then on, the country was very lucky!