

MIT China Care Club
Moon Festival Story-telling Script
Fall 2011

Casts:

Narrator (N)

Hou-Yi

Chang'E

The People

The Heavenly Empress

Peng Meng

N: Long time ago, there were ten suns in the sky, and it was so, so hot. It was so hot that all the plants and flowers and trees were dying. There was no water in the rivers or in the seas. The people were dying from thirst and hunger because there was no food to eat or any water to drink. Hou-Yi, who was an excellent archer, was very sad that so many people were dying, and so, he decided to save the people.

Hou-Yi: Ten suns in the sky... It is simply too hot and too bright to live anymore! Everyone is dying because there is no food or water to drink. I can't stand seeing my friends dying one after another anymore! – I must do something...

N: Houyi appeared deep in thought for a few seconds and then suddenly looked hopeful.

Hou-Yi: Hmn... I know! I shall go to the top of the Kunlun Mountain tomorrow, and shoot down the suns! With my archery skills, I should be able to save the people!

N: The next day, Hou-Yi hiked to the peak of the Kunlun Mountain, the highest mountain in the village. With his amazing archery skills, he successfully shot down nine of the ten suns one by one. He almost shot down the tenth sun. Fortunately, he was stopped by his friends. A few days later, plants and trees were growing again. The flowers were blossoming, and there was water in every river.

The people: Hou-Yi, you are our hero! All thanks to you, we don't need to starve anymore! Please – please take these gifts as our thanks and please teach us your great archery skills!

Hou-yi: My friends, you are being too kind! No, I cannot accept your gifts – it was my duty and my honor to be able to help others. But, I CAN teach you archery if you are willing to work hard!

The people: Yes, we will work very hard! To be able to learn from a hero is our honor!

N: Hou-Yi and the people were all celebrating. Suddenly, there came a bright light in the sky. When everyone looked up, they saw a majestic woman riding on a cloud, floating toward them. This woman was the Heavenly Empress – what was she doing here?

Heavenly Empress: Hou-Yi, the Heavenly Emperor and I both saw what you have done with the suns. We were very impressed with your great skills, and wish to award you for saving the people. Here is an elixir that allows one person, and one person only, to live forever, and I am giving it to you as an award.

N: After Hou-Yi received the elixir from the Heavenly Empress, she immediately disappeared. Hou-Yi was very happy and ran home to tell his beautiful wife, Chang'E, the news.

Hou-Yi: Chang'E, Chang'E! Come quick! I have something to show you!

Chang'E: (emerges from the house) What is it, my dear?

Hou-Yi: Look! (shows Chang'E the elixir) The Heavenly Empress awarded me with this elixir for saving the people! This elixir will allow the drinker to live forever!

Chang'E: (looks to the elixir with some concern on her face) Oh, that's wonderful, dear... But are you going to drink it?

Hou-Yi: (looks excited) Well, of cour---

N: Hou-Yi paused and looked to his beautiful wife seriously.

Hou-Yi: No, I will NOT drink it. I cannot bear see you dying if I were to live forever. We will always stay together. And what is the point of living if I were to live without you? Please, Chang'E, take the elixir away from me, (Hou-Yi hands the elixir to Chang'E) and hide it so that I will never find it.

Chang'E: Oh, Hou-Yi, I am touched! It is my good luck and fortune to have you as my husband! If we were to meet again in our next lives, I will still choose to be your wife ten thousand times! I will hide this elixir as you wish, and we shall always be together.

N: Chang'E successfully hid the elixir without Hou-Yi knowing. In the village, now that there was food and water again, everyone was living happily. As promised, Hou-Yi was giving the people archery lessons. However, one night, when Hou-Yi was out to hunt, one of Hou-Yi's students, Peng Meng, snuck into Hou-Yi's house to steal the elixir.

Peng Meng: (pointing a knife at Chang'E) Give me the elixir! I know you have it! Teacher told us that he has given it to you!

Chang'E: (gasps) Who are you! How did you get in here?! Help! Help!

N: Peng Meng quickly covered Chang'E's mouth and held her captive.

Chang'E: (muffled whimpers)

Peng Meng: You better give me the elixir now or I am going to hurt you!

N: Chang'E, realizing that she was no match for a brute like Peng Meng, weakly nodded, agreeing to his wish. Peng Meng released her. Chang'E went to her wardrobe and took out the hidden elixir.

Chang'E: Here is the elixir... But I will never let you have it!!

N: Before Peng Meng had time to react, Chang'E drank the entire elixir. Suddenly, Chang'E felt that she was light as a feather, and then slowly floated off the ground. She floated higher and higher until she reached the moon. When Hou-Yi came home and learned what had happened, he was shocked, sad, and then angry. He tried to hunt Peng Meng down but he had fled without a trace. Since then, Chang'E has been living on the moon. Soon afterwards, all the people knew about Chang'E's magical trip to the moon. On the day when the moon is the fullest, they placed pastries and fruits on an altar that is facing the moon outdoor. They prayed to have Chang'E bless the food, and bring them good luck and fortune. And so, every year, on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, when the moon is the biggest, we eat pastries and fruits, and gaze at the moon to look for Chang'E.