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Read the Stories Illustrated by Mr. Ren

Lu-sheng Chong

We live in the same universe. If the universe is harmony, the wind and rain would come in their time, and no natural disasters will be happening. In our Illustrated Education Stories the front and back covers are the universe in motion. Everything, includes animal and plant, will be harmonized, the ecological in earth will be balance without fighting. If human being can harmonize between cultural and national, the world will be universal harmony.

In order to realize my idea, I established the Center for Universal Harmony, working on enlightenment by education. I rewrote one hundred Educational Stories, of which almost all are published in my Web-site. It is Chinese-English bilingual material, teaching languages and morality which will give a ‘verbal education’. Since many years ago, I have been seeking for an artist to do the illustration. It was not until three years ago, I met Mr. Ren Zhixian. After a good talk, he was willing to do the job. He drew three illustrations as a sample which is a new creative picture-story book. An ‘aesthetic education’ adding to ‘verbal education’ is a more perfect complement to each other. We are realizing the promotion of educating human beings through ‘aesthetic education’ promoted by Mr. Cai Yuanpei, the formal president of Beijing University. The illustrated Educational Stories combine ‘verbal education’ and ‘aesthetic education’ reflecting each other. The source of our Educational Stories is taken from the good stories of ancient and

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modern China and other countries. The figure is international, the background is a natural world.

I am not an artist, but I love to watch and read paintings. When I read the paintings, I merge in author's work of art, the high mountains and flowing waters, the winds and clouds, the people activities, which gives me great feelings. I enjoy the sceneries of the natural world, I merge in when I watch them. When I see the hermits in ancient time wandering in the mountains and waters, I would enter in their ideas to talk with them, and at this time their philosophy will spring up in my mind. There are mountains and waters, and people activities show on Mr. Ren's illustration. It is a recreation from original stories, and not the contents presented by the original authors or my rewriting.

Language and writing have a limitation, but painting has a speciality for presenting the images. No matter the endowment is from inborn, or through meditation after born, or concentrates one's mind on art, all are able to produce inspiration. Mr. Ren's inspiration is from inborn and after born, when he has the artistic conception that appears in his mind, then transfers to the paper. Watching his paintings, one would feel a stream of Qi through it. There is a graceful temperament and vivid breadth of spirit when he paints people, and there is a scene of magnificent variety when he paints nature. View from the whole, it has a great spiritual energy over there, and it produces the result of 'spirit-resonance life-movement'. When I read his paintings, I enter his mind and transfer it from paper to his idea and philosophy.

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I would like to take one story as examples. The Winter Herb shows filial duty to an elder. This is just the beginning one, there will be more different stories to be continued.

This sample is aided financially by my older son, Pete Chong (Ph.D, Professor), but unfortunately he passed away on the last day of 2015. And it was aided financially by Pete's classmate and intimate friends Mr. and Mrs. Lue. I am very grateful for their help. We are hoping a publishing company, foundation, organization or individual would like to have a formal publication to achieve the educational goal in a relaxed and interesting situation.

The Winter Herb

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There was a cold winter, the snow-white covered over the mother earth, the snowflakes adorned trees here and there. There are two grass huts on the hillside, one is big and one is small. In the front, there is a path which is faintly visible. On both sides of the path there are a few sticks lined up. This is a beautiful Christmas picture as we have seen on the Christmas cards.

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We appreciate the great nature is one thing, but in real life is another thing. In the grass hut there lives a sick mother and two young daughters who take care of her. On the left-hand side of the picture, a doctor is explaining to the older sister what herbs should be used. On

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the right-hand side the mother and younger sister are hoping they could have good herbs to heal the sickness. There are a pot for decocting herbal medicine and a cup on the stool, and the younger sister holds a cup to serve her mother taking medicine. There is a little food which you could see on the table. It is very cold outside in winter, they use tree branches and grasses to heat the brick bed, the mother and daughters squeeze on one brick bed.

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The two sisters went to the mountain to pick up herbs disregarding the bitter cold. They wore thick cotton clothes, and put straw hats on their heads, scarfs on their necks, and stockings on their feet. They supported each other with each step leaving one print. It is not easy for them to see a cave, and in the front there are some herbs.

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The two sisters stepped on the stone path and walked to the front of the cave. A Daoist invited them to go in to get warmer. He wore a thick cotton gown, cloth shoes on his feet, hair worn in a bun on his head. His hair and beard are gray. He is gentle and kind, and explains earnestly how to cook the herbs.

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When the two sisters returned home, they were in a hurry to make medicinal herbs. On the lower of the stove there are two openings for putting tree branches and grasses in. On the top of the stove there

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are also openings with waks, one is big and one is small. The big one is for cooking rice, the small one is for cooking vegetables. After the medicinal herb was cooked, the mother drank it, her illness was recovered. After the mother got back her health, she went out the door to watch scenery, the older sister pointed to the beautiful scene, the younger sister supported her mother. The dog lifted up his head looking at them, the hen brought chicks to accompany them. The peach blossom was blooming not far away, the spring is coming.

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The last page is: Mr. Chong who rewrote the stories and Mr. Ren who illustrated the stories took a photo to celebrate the mother who recovered from illness, and praises the two sisters who fulfilled their filial piety.