

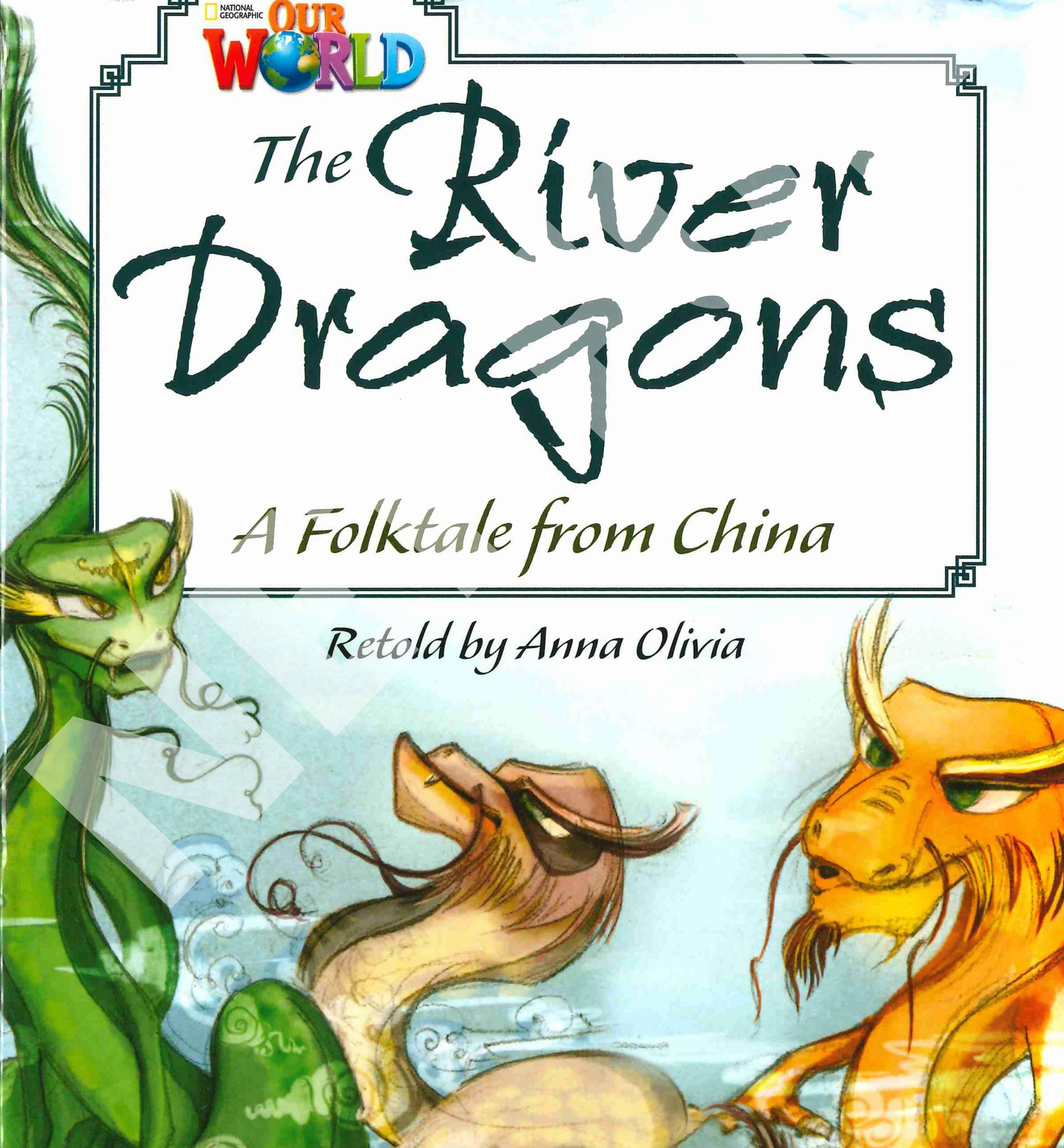
NET FUN

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# *The* River Dragons

*A Folktale from China*

*Retold by Anna Olivia*





At that time, the Eastern Sea was the home to four dragons. The dragons were big and frightening-looking, but they were actually very kind.

The dragons heard the people.

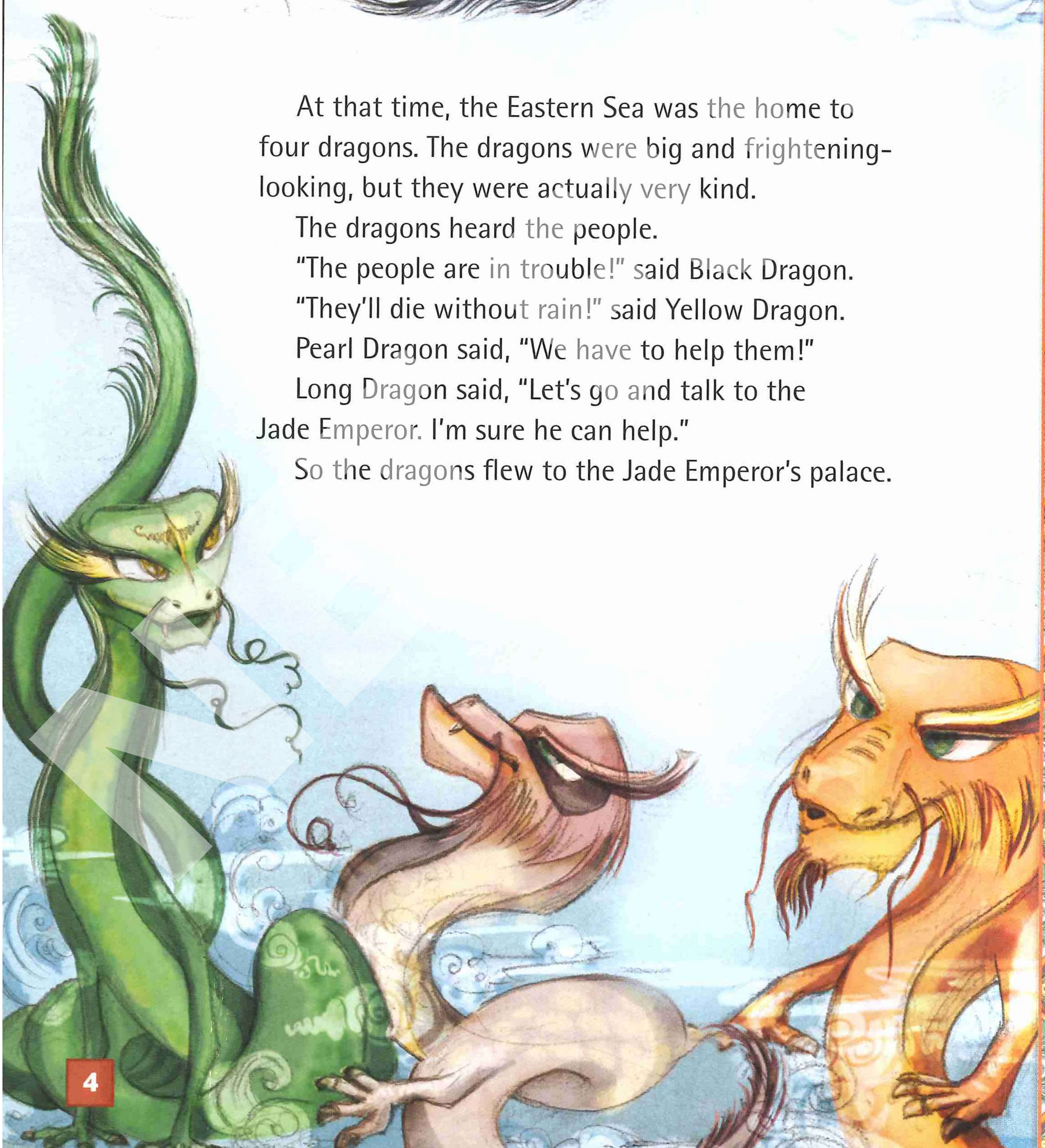
"The people are in trouble!" said Black Dragon.

"They'll die without rain!" said Yellow Dragon.

Pearl Dragon said, "We have to help them!"

Long Dragon said, "Let's go and talk to the Jade Emperor. I'm sure he can help."

So the dragons flew to the Jade Emperor's palace.





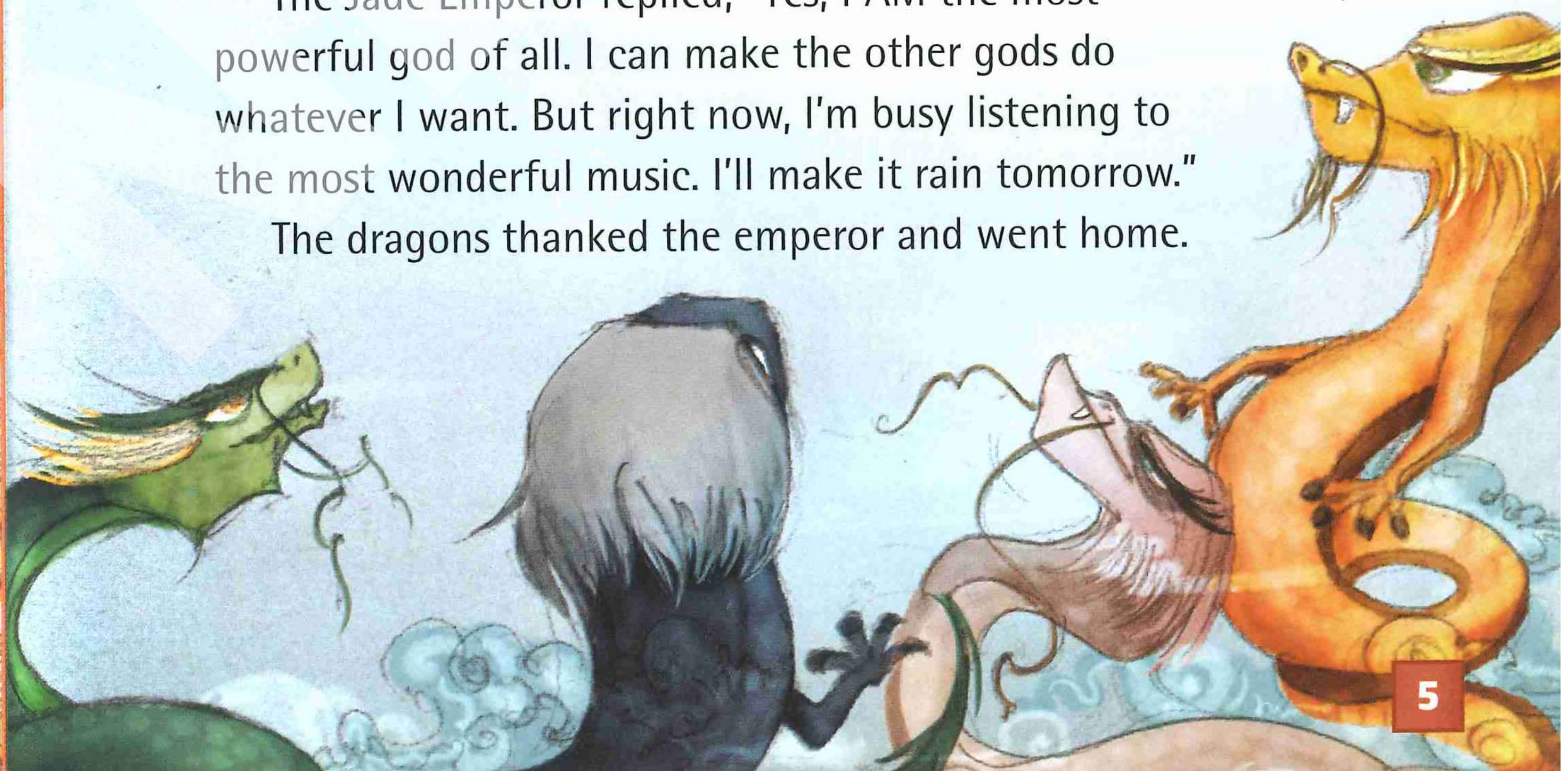
When the dragons arrived at the palace, the Jade Emperor was listening to music.


"Why are you interrupting my music?" yelled the Jade Emperor.

Long Dragon said, "Great Emperor, the rain gods are not doing their job. Without rain, the people on Earth will die! You are the most powerful god. Tell the rain gods to make it rain and save the people!"

The Jade Emperor replied, "Yes, I AM the most powerful god of all. I can make the other gods do whatever I want. But right now, I'm busy listening to the most wonderful music. I'll make it rain tomorrow."

The dragons thanked the emperor and went home.





But ten days passed, and no rain came.

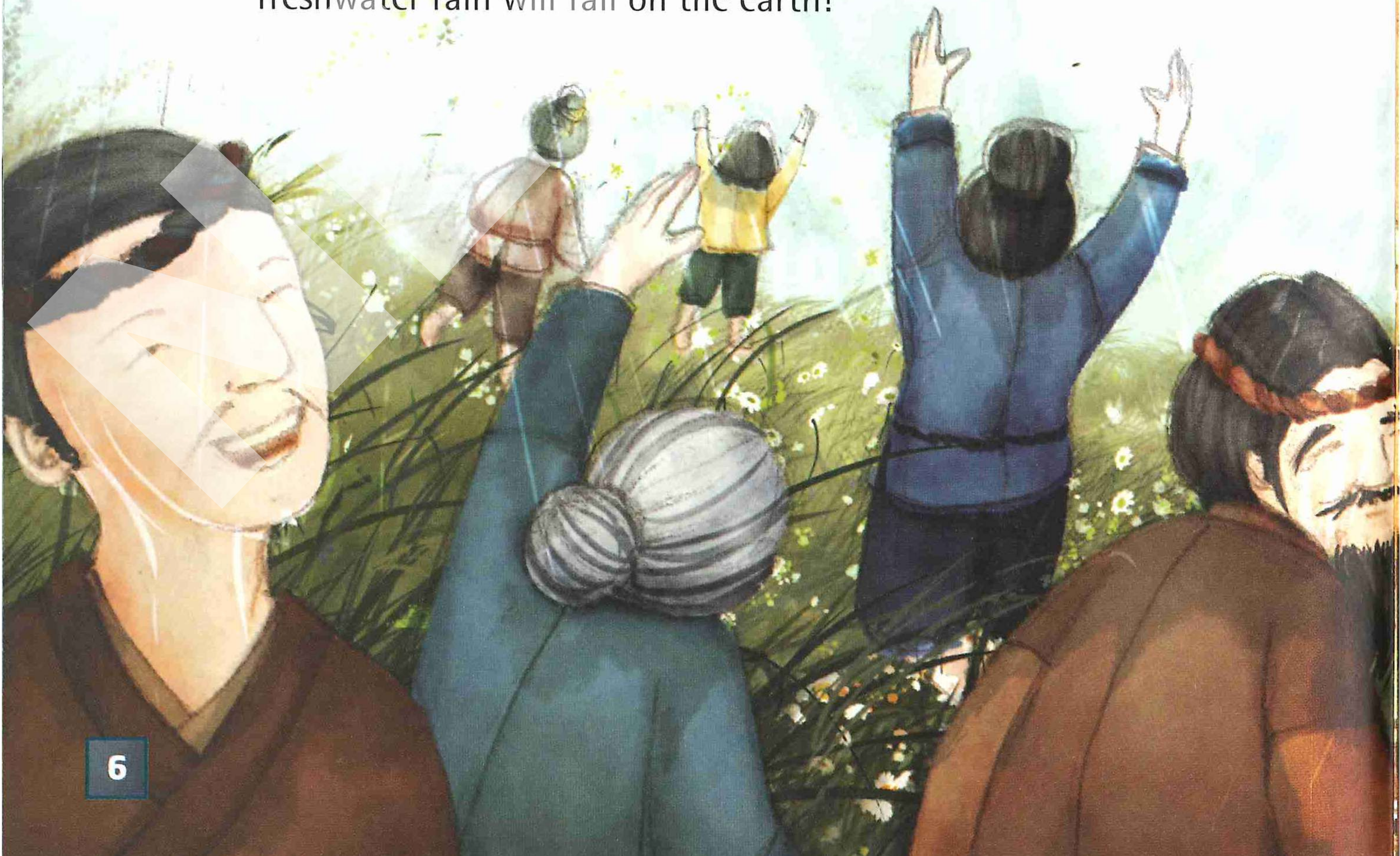
"The Jade Emperor hasn't done anything," said Black Dragon. "We have to help the people ourselves."

"How?" asked the other dragons.

Black Dragon had an idea. "There's plenty of water in the sea," he said. "We can fill our mouths with water and spray it into the sky. It will come down like rain."

Long Dragon shook his head. "But the sea is full of salt water!" he said.

"If we spray the seawater through the clouds," said Black Dragon, "the clouds will filter out the salt. Then freshwater rain will fall on the earth!"

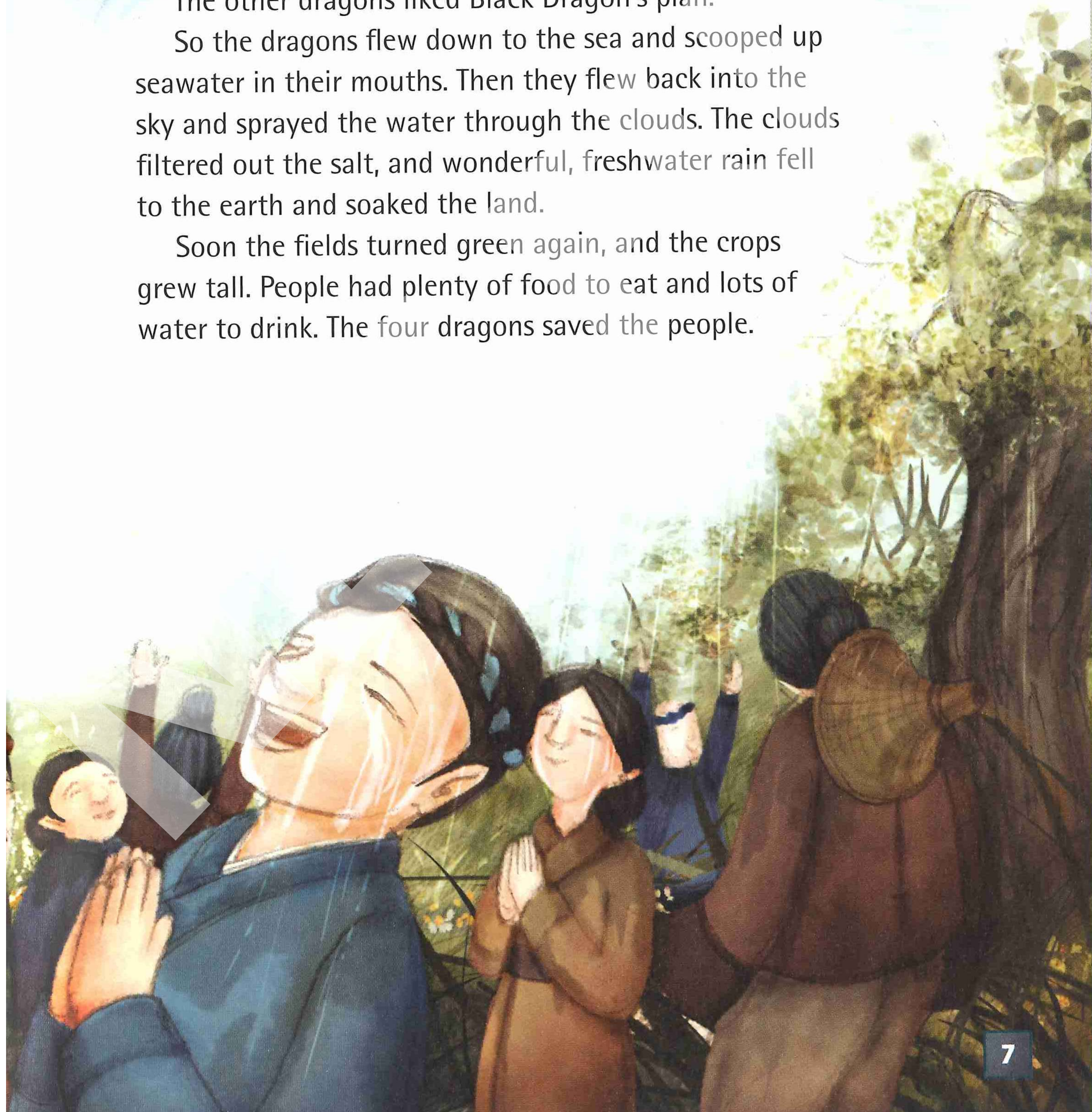




The other dragons liked Black Dragon's plan.

So the dragons flew down to the sea and scooped up seawater in their mouths. Then they flew back into the sky and sprayed the water through the clouds. The clouds filtered out the salt, and wonderful, freshwater rain fell to the earth and soaked the land.

Soon the fields turned green again, and the crops grew tall. People had plenty of food to eat and lots of water to drink. The four dragons saved the people.

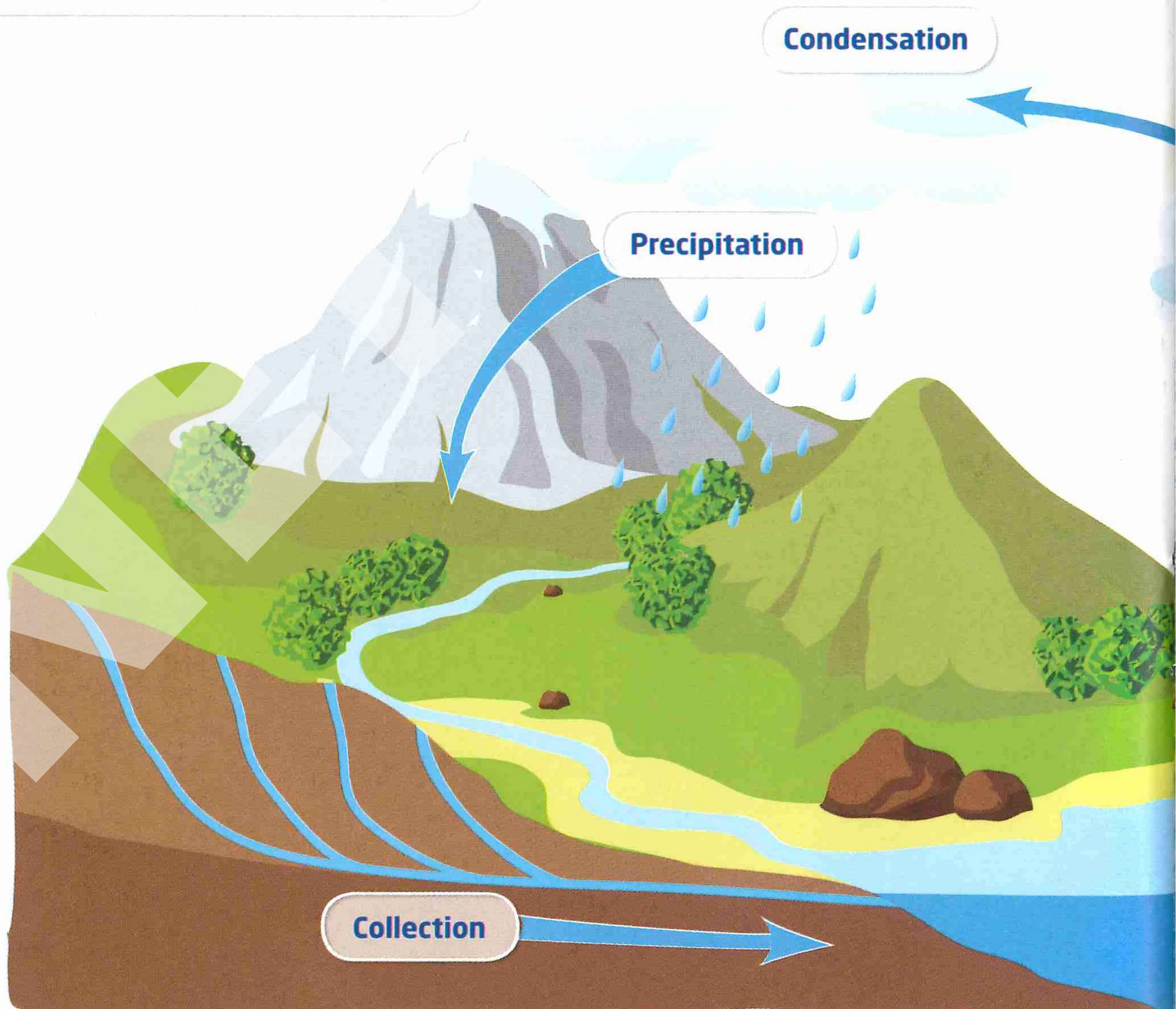


# Facts About the Water Cycle

The water you drank today may have fallen from the sky recently, but it is not new. That water has likely existed for as long as the earth has. It may be the same water a dinosaur drank millions of years ago. Or it may be the water that the explorer Marco Polo sailed on in the 1200s.

The earth has a limited amount of water. The same water keeps moving around again and again in an endless cycle called the "water cycle." It is the cycle water takes as it travels from the land to the sky and back again to the land. These are the stages of the water cycle.

## Stages of the Water Cycle





### **Evaporation:**

Evaporation happens when the sun heats the water in rivers, lakes, and oceans and changes the liquid water into vapor. This vapor rises up to the sky.

### **Condensation:**

Condensation happens when the vapor that rose up to the sky cools and returns to a liquid state. The droplets of water form clouds.

### **Precipitation:**

When enough droplets combine and they are heavy enough to fall, they return to earth as rain, or if they freeze, snow.

### **Collection:**

This water that falls back down to earth gets collected by bodies of water like oceans, lakes, and rivers. When it falls on the ground, it soaks into the earth and becomes water that plants and animals drink. Then the cycle begins again!

**THE RIVER DRAGONS**

Long ago, China had no freshwater rivers or lakes. The people had to depend on rainwater for drinking and for watering their crops. But one hot summer, no rain fell. Four kind dragons wanted to help the people. Can they figure out a way to bring water to the people?

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