

Sang tied a piece of string round the golden bird's neck, and set off back to the palace.

'That was easy!' he laughed.

'I will give the golden bird to my father – and he will give me the silver sword!'

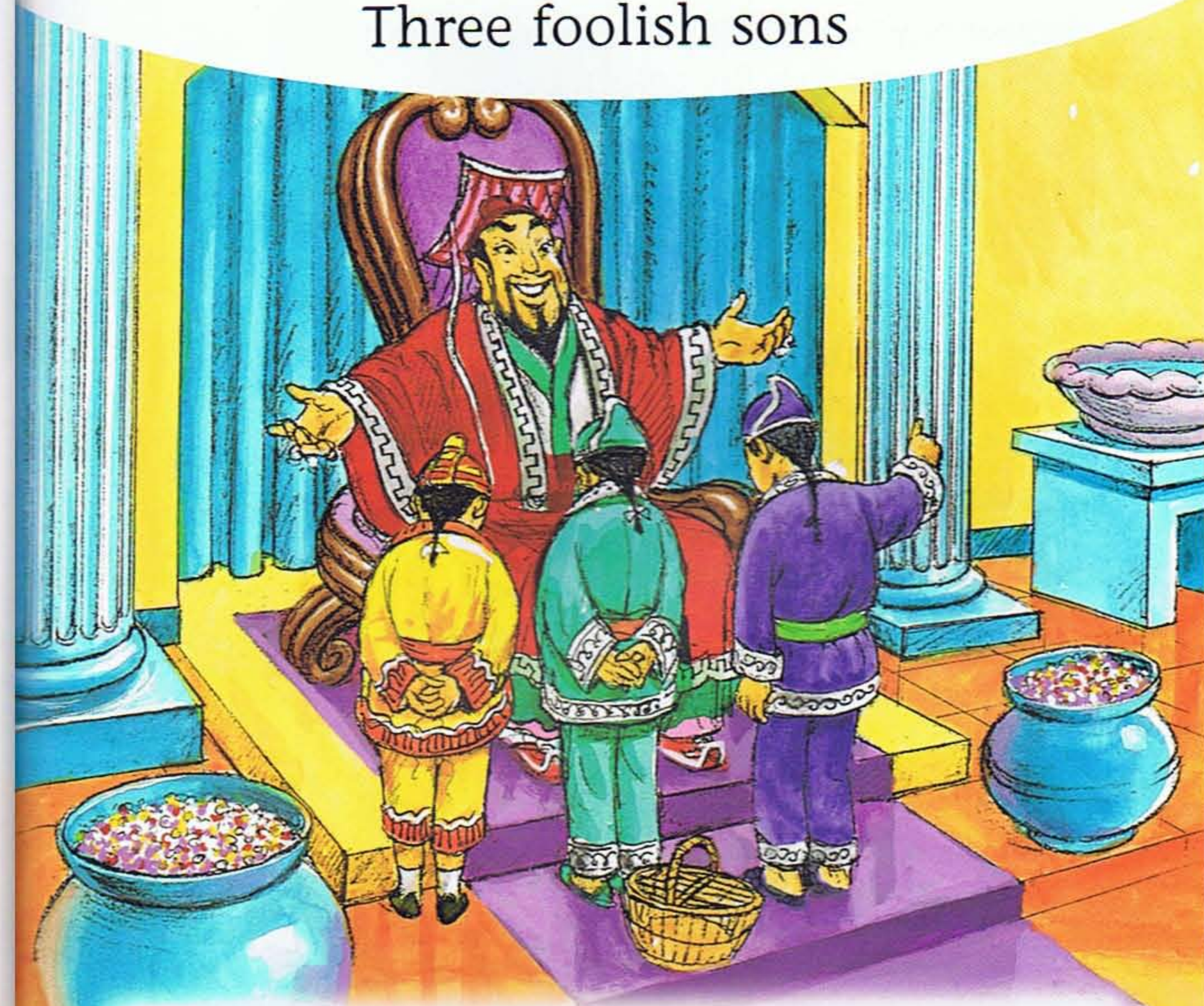
But then he heard the flute again.

The golden bird heard it, too.

In a flash of gold, it broke the piece of string – and flew away into the forest.



## Three foolish sons



The Emperor sent for his three sons.

He said, 'Today is a happy day.

Today the golden bird will be mine!

Now, which of my sons caught it for me?

Jing! Was it you?'

'No, Father,' said Jing. 'I put the bird under my arm – but when it heard the boy playing the flute, it flew away!'