

THE EMPTY POT

Once there was a very wise and old king. He did not have any children. He told all of his people to bring their children to the palace. He will choose the next king among the children. He gave each of them a seed and told them to plant the seed in a pot. When they come back in six months, the child with the best plant will be the next king.

One child named Ping carefully planted his seed and took care of it. Many weeks went by, nothing grew in Ping's pot. Six months later, all the children returned to the palace. Each child carried a pot with a beautiful plant in it. Except for Ping. He carried an empty pot.

The king quietly looked at each plant. When Ping stood in front of him, the king asked, "Why is there no plant in your pot?" Ping said, "I planted my seed. I watered it carefully, but it never grew." "Then you are the winner," the king said. Everyone looked at Ping with their mouth open. "I gave each child a boiled seed. None of the seeds could grow," the king explained. The king put his hand on Ping's head. "A good king must be honest at all times, even when it's not easy. Ping will be the next king!"