

# THE BAREFOOT KING

## 赤腳國王

In the Barefoot Kingdom, everyone – from newborn babies to white-haired old men, from commoners to royalty – goes barefoot all the time. And while it's lovely when you're bathing your feet in a stream or treading on lush grass, walking on sharp rocks and sun-baked roads can be excruciating! The king takes it for granted that everyone should go barefoot while he's walking on soft carpets, riding in carriages, or on horses. But one day, when his rickshaw driver gets injured and the king has to carry him down a muddy road, he realizes the truth, and gets a new idea...

The illustrator takes us on a barefooted journey through seasons and climes, luxury and difficulty, and makes us think twice about the shoes we so often take for granted.

### Tsao Jun-Yen 曹俊彥

Born in Taipei in 1941, professional children's book author Tsao Jun-Yen has worked as a printer, an art teacher, and a children's book editor. He has been making art for children's books for over fifty years, and has been involved in the production of over two hundred titles. He is known for his work in many prior publications, including *Blacky's Hide-and-Seek*, *The Rice Cave*, and many others.



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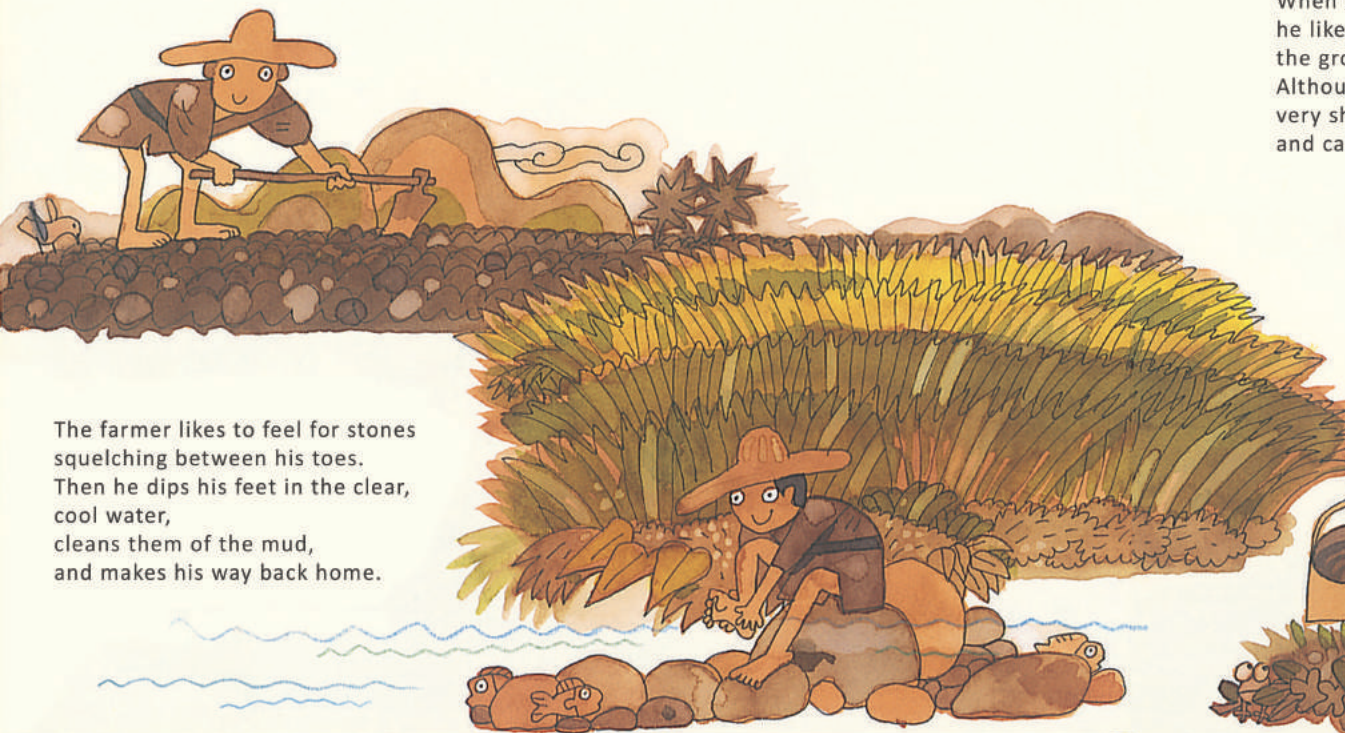
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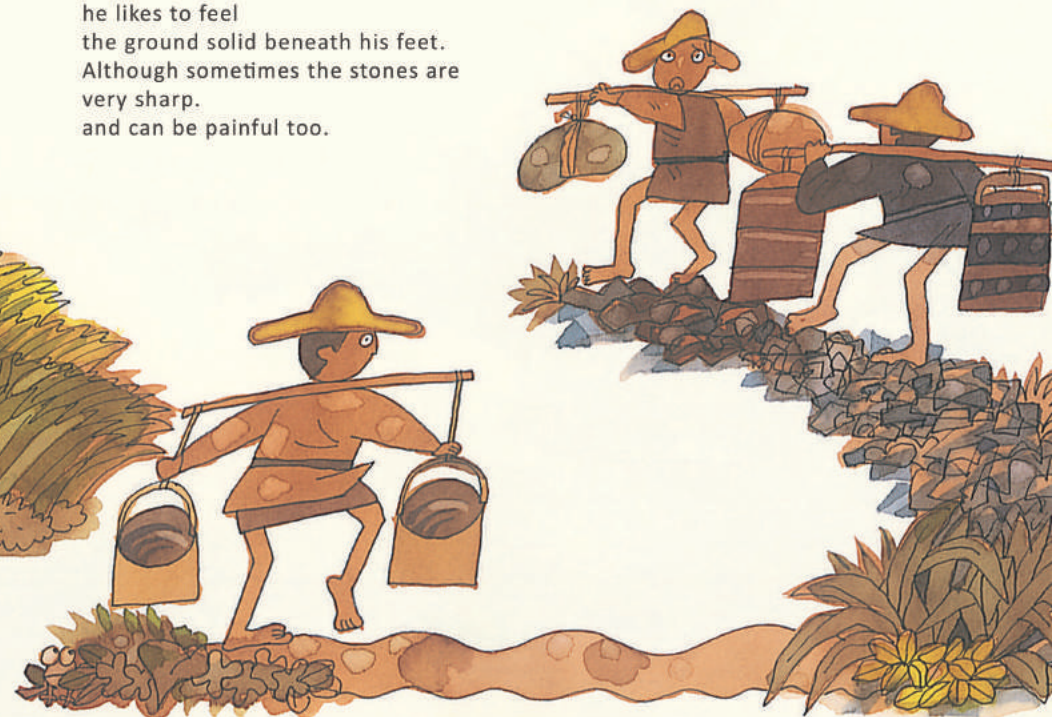
In Barefoot Kingdom there are no shoes.  
No shoes for cooing babies,  
or grandpas and their long, white beards.  
No shoes even for the King.



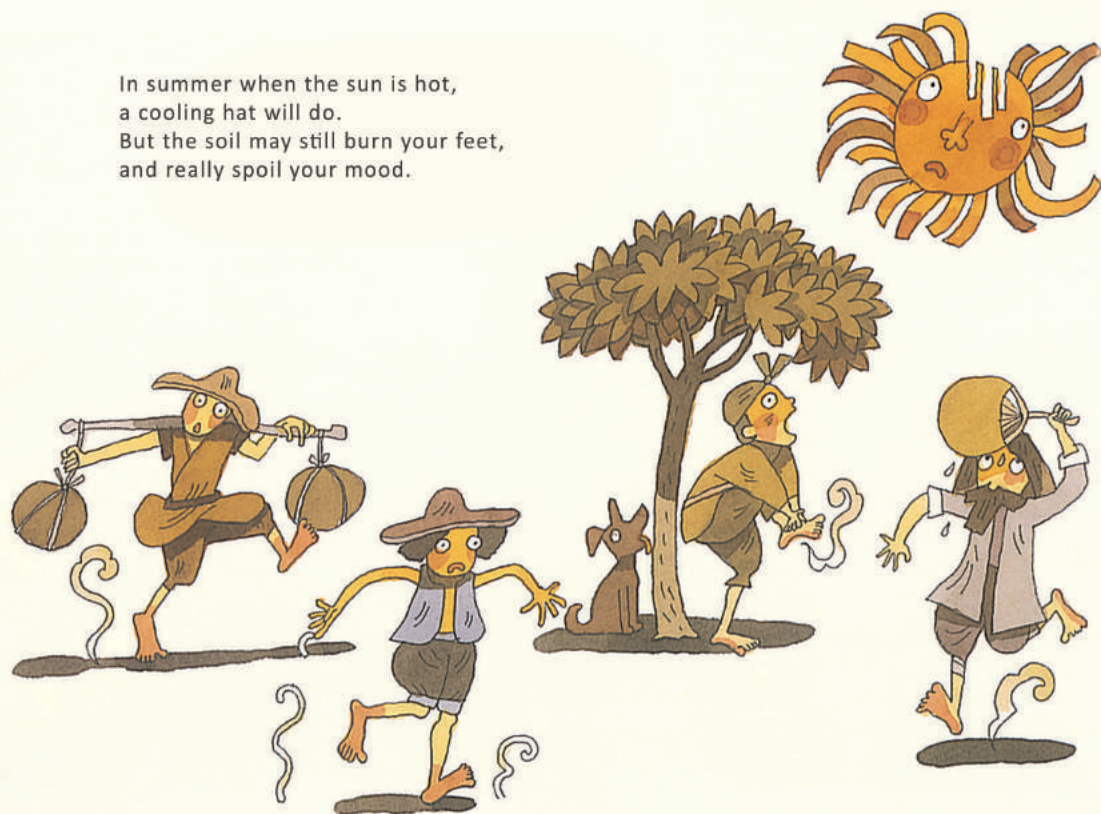


The farmer likes to feel for stones  
squelching between his toes.  
Then he dips his feet in the clear,  
cool water,  
cleans them of the mud,  
and makes his way back home.

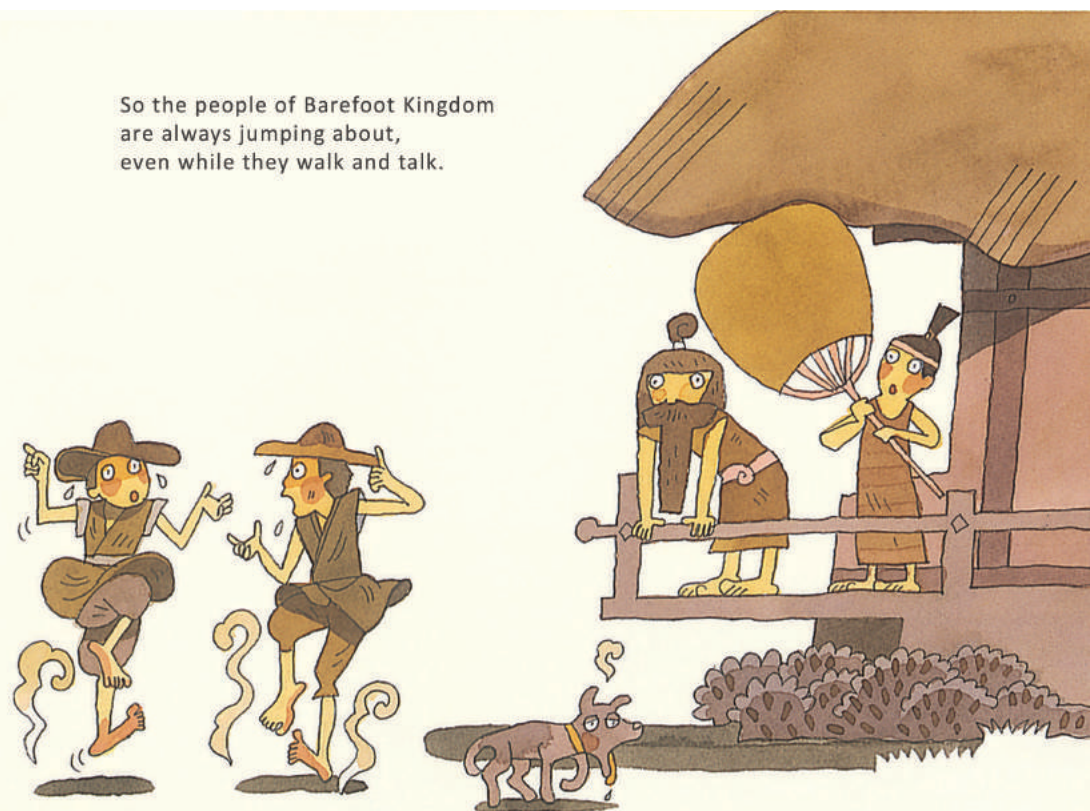
When carrying his heavy tools,  
he likes to feel  
the ground solid beneath his feet.  
Although sometimes the stones are  
very sharp.  
and can be painful too.

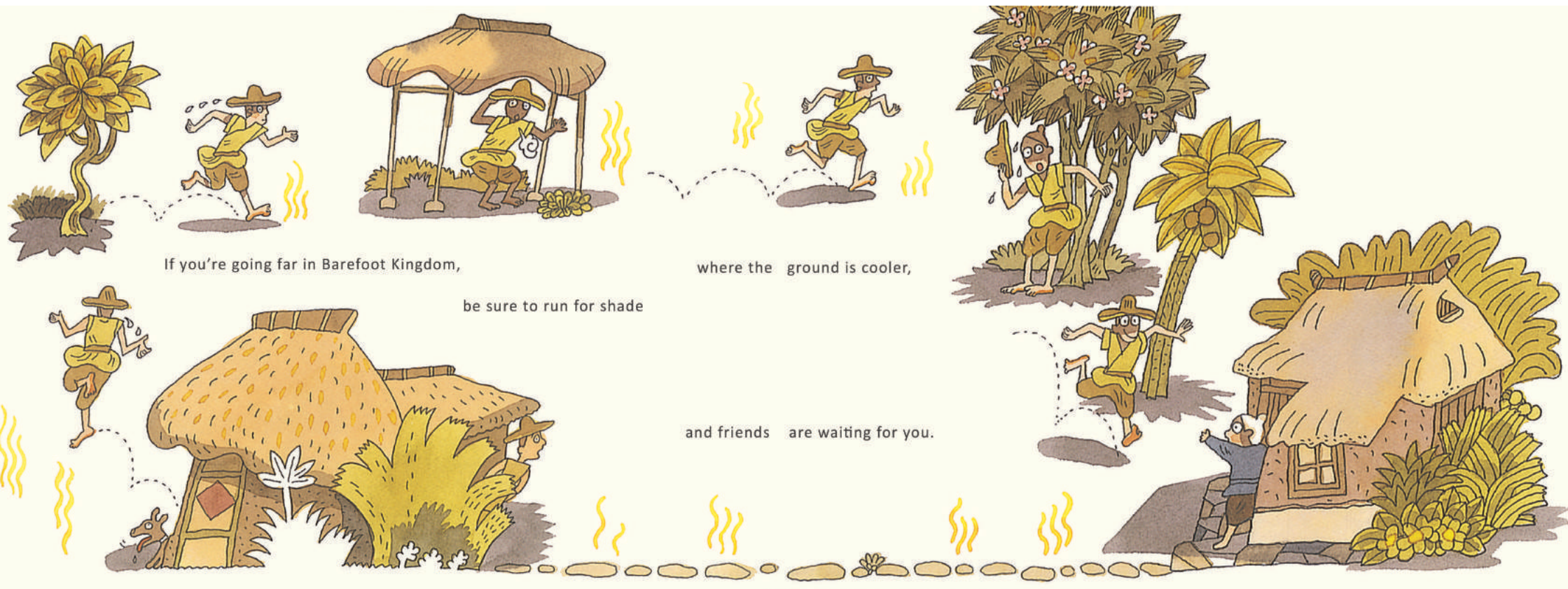


In summer when the sun is hot,  
a cooling hat will do.  
But the soil may still burn your feet,  
and really spoil your mood.



So the people of Barefoot Kingdom  
are always jumping about,  
even while they walk and talk.





If you're going far in Barefoot Kingdom,

be sure to run for shade

where the ground is cooler,

and friends are waiting for you.

But of these hardships the king knows nothing,  
because in his palace summer is nice and cool.  
And in the winter thick rugs cover the stones,  
so he feels toasty warm.

