



They were soon back at the cave. The little devils rushed in to report that the Old King had come. "You are very competent," said the evil spirit. He then ordered his commanders to parade his forces with their banners and drums to greet the Old King.



After kneeling before his father, the Red Boy described how he had caught the Tang Priest and defeated Monkey. "This demon is so cruel," Monkey thought to himself, then he said, "You are very able, my son, but I'm getting old and your mother keeps nagging at me to do some good deeds. I won't eat flesh until after the fast days."





This puzzled the demon. He thought, "My father usually lives on human flesh. Why is he so merciful now? It is very suspicious." He pretended to have some business to attend to and went out through the inner gates. He sent for the six little devils and asked them what had happened on their way. When he found out they had met the Bull Demon King halfway to his home, he said, "You must get ready. When you see my signal, go into action."



Then the demon went back, bowed to Monkey and said, "Old King, your son has recently forgot the date of his birthday. Can you remember it?" "Well, I'm getting old and in poor health these days," Monkey said. "I forget your birthday too. I'll ask your mother when I go home tomorrow."





Now the demon knew Monkey was a fake. He gave the signal and all the devils rushed on Monkey and stabbed at him with their swords and spears. Monkey returned to looking like himself and parried the blows with his cudgel. He said to the evil spirit, "You're at fault, my good fellow. It can't possibly be right for a son to attack his own father."