



A long time ago, two brothers lived in China. Wang, the elder, was the stronger and constantly bullied his younger brother. When their

father died, things did not get any better and life became unbearable for Wang the younger. Wang the elder monopolized all of his father's inheritance: the beautiful house, the buffalo, and all the property. Wang-cadet had nothing at all, and misery soon settled in his house.

One day, he had not even a single grain of rice left. So he had to go to his brother's house to avoid starving. When he got there, he greeted him and said, "Elder brother, lend me some rice. But his brother, who was very stingy, refused to help

him and the youngest left empty-handed.

How the sea water became salty - illustration 1

Not knowing what to do, Wang-cadet went fishing at the edge of the Yellow Sea. Luck was not on his side, for he did not manage to

catch a single fish. He was returning home empty-handed, with his head down and his heart heavy, when suddenly he saw a millstone in the middle of the road. "This will always be useful," he thought as he picked up the wheel and took it home.

As soon as she saw it, his wife asked him, "Did you fish well? Are you bringing in a lot of fish?"

- No, wife! There are no fish. I brought you a wheel of fish.

- Wang-cadet, you know that we have nothing to grind: there is not a

single grain left in the house."

Wang-cadet put the millstone on the ground and kicked it with his foot. The millstone began to turn and turn and grind. And salt came out, lots of salt. It spun faster and faster, and more and more salt came out.

Wang-cadet and his wife were very happy with this windfall as the millstone turned and turned and the pile of salt grew and grew. Wang-cadet began to be afraid and wondered how he could stop the millstone. He thought, thought, and

calculated, but he could not find a way. Suddenly, he had the idea of turning the wheel, and it stopped.

From that day on, whenever something was missing in the house, Wang-cadet would push the millstone with his foot and get salt, which he

exchanged with his neighbors for what he needed. Thus he and his wife lived without need.

But the elder brother soon learned how his younger brother had found happiness and was beset by envy. He came to his brother and said, "Brother

cadet, lend me your millstone. The younger brother would have preferred to keep his find to himself, but he had deep respect for his older brother and did not dare refuse.

Wang the elder was in such a hurry to take the millstone away that Wang the younger did

not have time to explain to him how to stop it. When he tried to talk to him, the latter was already far away, taking the object of his desire.

The older brother was so happy that he took the wheel home and pushed it with his foot. The millstone began to

turn and grind salt. It ground relentlessly, faster and faster. The pile of salt grew and grew. Soon it reached the roof of the house. The walls cracked. The house was about to collapse.

Elder Wang was afraid. He did not know how to stop the millstone. He

had the idea of rolling it out of the house, which was on a hill. The millstone rolled down the hill into the sea and disappeared into the waves.

Since then, the millstone has continued to spin at the bottom of the sea and

grind salt. No one has gone to turn it.

And that's why the water in the sea is salty.

