

M108

Ya-ya shoots the suns and moons.

Narrated by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that once upon a time there were, in the sky, seven suns and seven moons. The earth was sunned until it was all parched up. The heat was unbearable. So it was that Ya-ya went and cut down a mulberry tree and made a crossbow which he took to shoot the suns and moons. He shot them until only one was left, and this one was so frightened that it would not come out.

Now people were engulfed in darkness. They could not see, and the only way to do the farming was by torch-light. Eventually the people began seeking some way of calling the sun back. First they got the bull to call, but his voice was so loud that the sun did not come. Then they got the cockerel to call, and when the cockerel crowed, presently the sun came out. Thus, from of old until now, it is necessary that the cockerel should crow before the sun will rise. So it is.