

Teng Chieh

The Lantern Festival celebrates the first full moon of the New Year and the lengthening of the days as spring approaches. House and shop fronts are decorated with strings of lanterns of different designs and colours. This is both a Chinese cultural celebration and it is also celebrated by Chinese Buddhists



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What part of the story did you like?
What part of the story didn't you like?
Which was your favourite lantern picture?
- ③ Make some lanterns with the children. You'll find a lantern template within the Teng Chieh section on iChild.
- ④ Ask the children to draw their favourite animal.

Teng Chieh



Emperor Mingdi had a dream about a gold man in his palace.



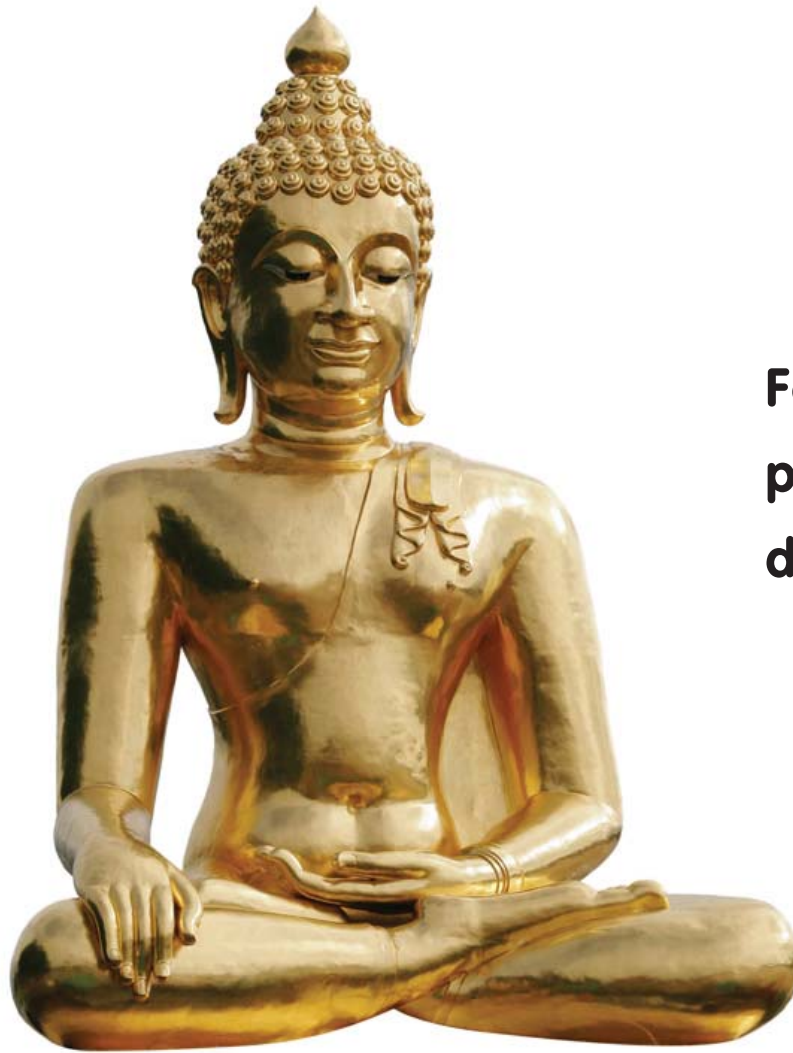
**At the very moment
when he was about
to ask the mysterious
figure who he was,
the gold man
suddenly rose to the
sky and disappeared
in the west.**

羅華其土衆生常以清旦各以衣被盛衆妙華供
萬億佛卽以食時還到本國飯食經行舍利弗
就如功德莊嚴復次舍利弗彼國常有種種大
鳥白鶴孔雀鸚鵡舍利迦陵頻伽共命之鳥是
六時出和雅音其音演暢五根五力七菩提分
是等法其土衆生聞是音已皆悉念佛念法念
勿謂此鳥實是罪報所生所以者何彼佛國土
利弗其佛國土尙無惡道之名何況有實是諸衆

The next day, Emperor Mingdi sent a scholar to India on a pilgrimage to locate Buddhist scriptures. After journeying thousands of miles, the scholar finally returned with the scriptures.



**Emperor Mingdi
ordered that a
temple be built to
house a statue of
Buddha, and serve
as a repository for
the scriptures.**



Followers believe that the power of Buddha can dispel darkness.



So, Emperor Mingdi ordered his subjects to display lighted lanterns during what was to become the Lantern Festival.



**This lantern festival starts
when the moon is full, just
before Chinese New Year.**



It is always fun to make lanterns.



**At this festival very
special lanterns
are made.**

A dragon lantern.



A bird lantern.



A flower lantern.



The light given
off from the lantern
is for good luck
and protection.