



Stories From Around the World

The Beggar and the Miser



Asian Folktale

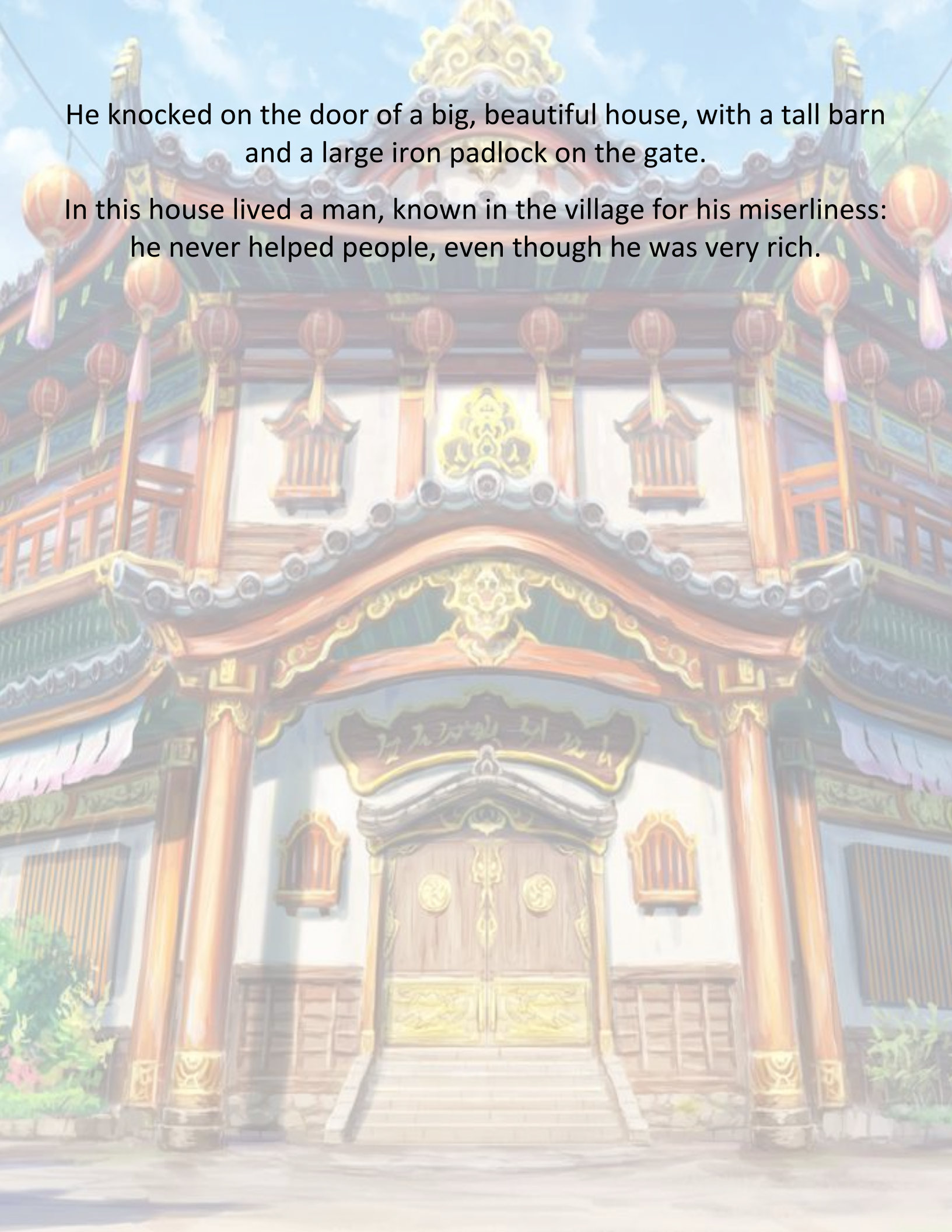
Many Years Ago...

An old beggar passed through an old village.



He knocked on the door of a big, beautiful house, with a tall barn and a large iron padlock on the gate.

In this house lived a man, known in the village for his miserliness: he never helped people, even though he was very rich.



'Please give me some meat or milk?' - asked the beggar.

The miser replied miserably:

'No, I can't! Go away!'



'Maybe you can give me some wheat or beans?' - asked the beggar; forced by hunger to humiliate himself.

'I don't have anything!' - shouted the miser.



'Then give me a piece of bread, and I will be grateful.' -
said the beggar.

'Go away, I don't have bread!' - was the miser's reply.



'At least give me some water. I'm very thirsty!'

'I don't have water.' - screamed the miser.



Then said the beggar:

'Oh, my son, why are you sitting here then? Stand up and start begging food from the good people. You are even poorer than I am!'

The End





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