

THE EMPEROR'S SEED

Chinese Folk tale - honesty and integrity

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The Emperor was getting very old.
He sent out messengers inviting
everyone, in his kingdom, to the palace.
He was choosing the next Emperor.



Lots of people went to the palace
in their VERY best clothes,
feeling VERY important and expecting
that THEY would be the next Emperor.



The Emperor made an announcement.
"I need to choose a new Emperor.
To help me find the best person I have
an important job for all of you to do.



I have some very special seeds.
Take only ONE seed each.
Plant it, water it and make it grow well.
Bring your plant back in one year."



Everyone lined up to get one seed.
A little boy lined up too.
Holding the special seed carefully
as he ran home to show his mother.



The boy planted the seed in a pot.
For one whole year
he took good care of it.
But that seed did NOT grow!



The next year, everyone took
their amazing plants to the Emperor.
The boy was the only one with an empty pot.
Then the Emperor stopped in front of the boy.



"You will be the next Emperor," he said.
"I boiled all the seeds. None could EVER grow.
You are the only honest person here.
You alone can be trusted with this important job."