

## E-plan Project – FJU 2011 Fall -- basic unit

### Episode 9:

#### Reading: 短文聽讀

In ancient Chinese folklore, there were ten suns in the sky. They would come out all together and burn people to death. Everywhere there was **famine** (饑荒), disease, and death, and all the water dried up from so much heat. One day, a skillful **bowman** (弓箭手) called **Ho Yi** (后羿) took up the challenge and managed to shoot nine of the suns. Because he had saved his people, he was made king and married a beautiful woman called **Chang'e** (嫦娥).

However, after years of living luxuriously, he became a **tyrant** (暴君). He became greedy and, not wanting to give up his power and his luxurious life, began to seek the means to achieve **everlasting life** (長生不老). His people suffered and died while he sought immortality. One day, Ho Yi found out that he could request **longevity pills** (長生不老的藥) from the **Goddess of Far East** (西王母娘娘), so he went to her. She gave him two pills, one for him, and one for Chang'e.

When Chang'e found out, she became worried. She feared that Ho Yi would create more trouble if he received everlasting life, and she came up with a plan. One night, under the **pretense** (藉口) of celebrating the attainment of everlasting life for Ho Yi, she **coaxed** (哄) Ho Yi into drinking too much wine. When he fell asleep, she took both longevity pills and swallowed them. Suddenly, her body became light, and she floated away into the sky and continued floating until she landed on the moon.

That is one version of the story of Chang'e Flying to the Moon. There are many other versions, and every one of them is an interesting read.

