

Time Travel: Peach Blossom Spring

A handscroll from the Wou
Lien-Pai Museum of Chinese
Art

Roderick Whitfield 7/11/11

During the period 376-396 of the Jin Dynasty . .



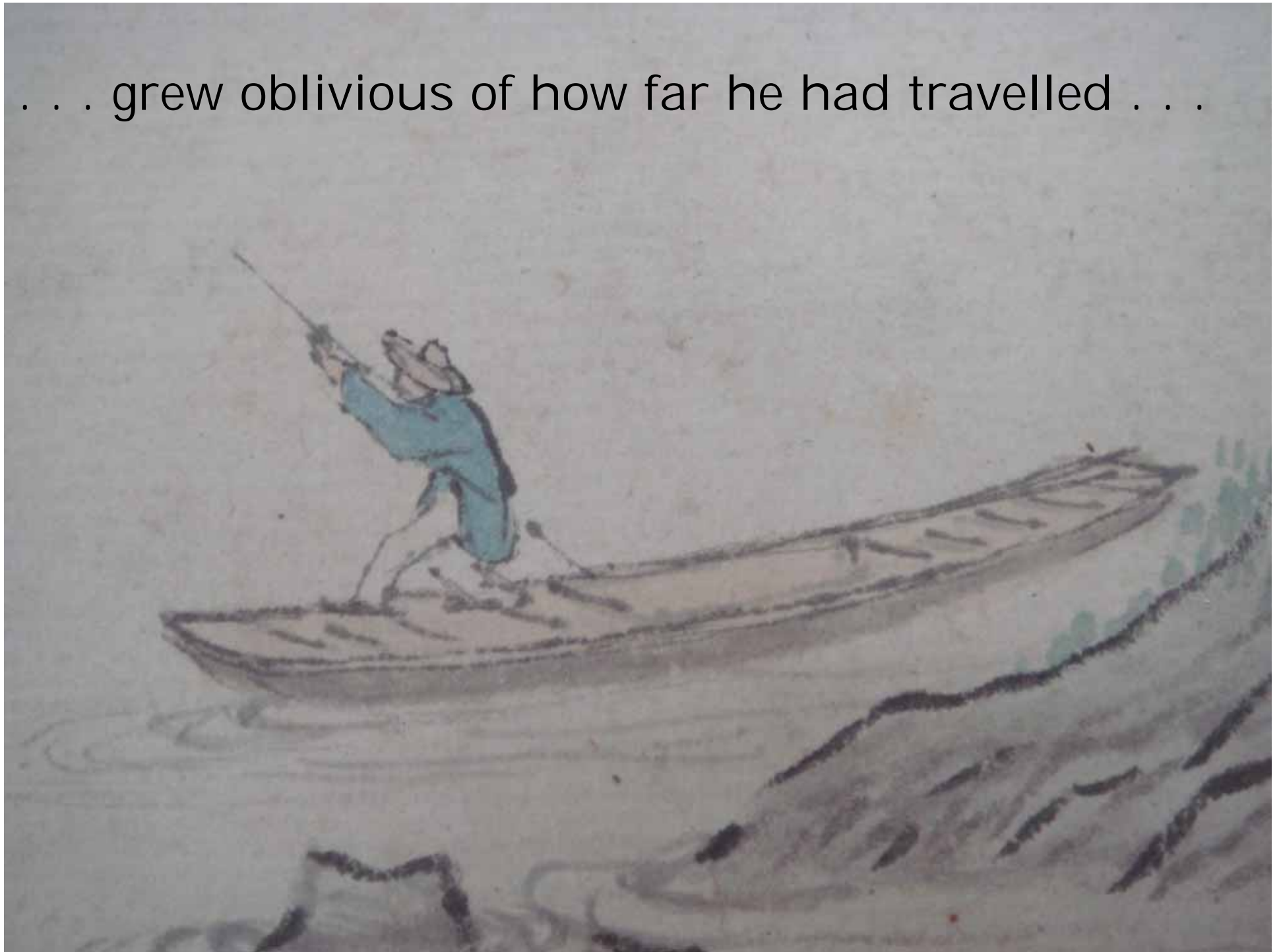
. . . a man from Warrior Mound



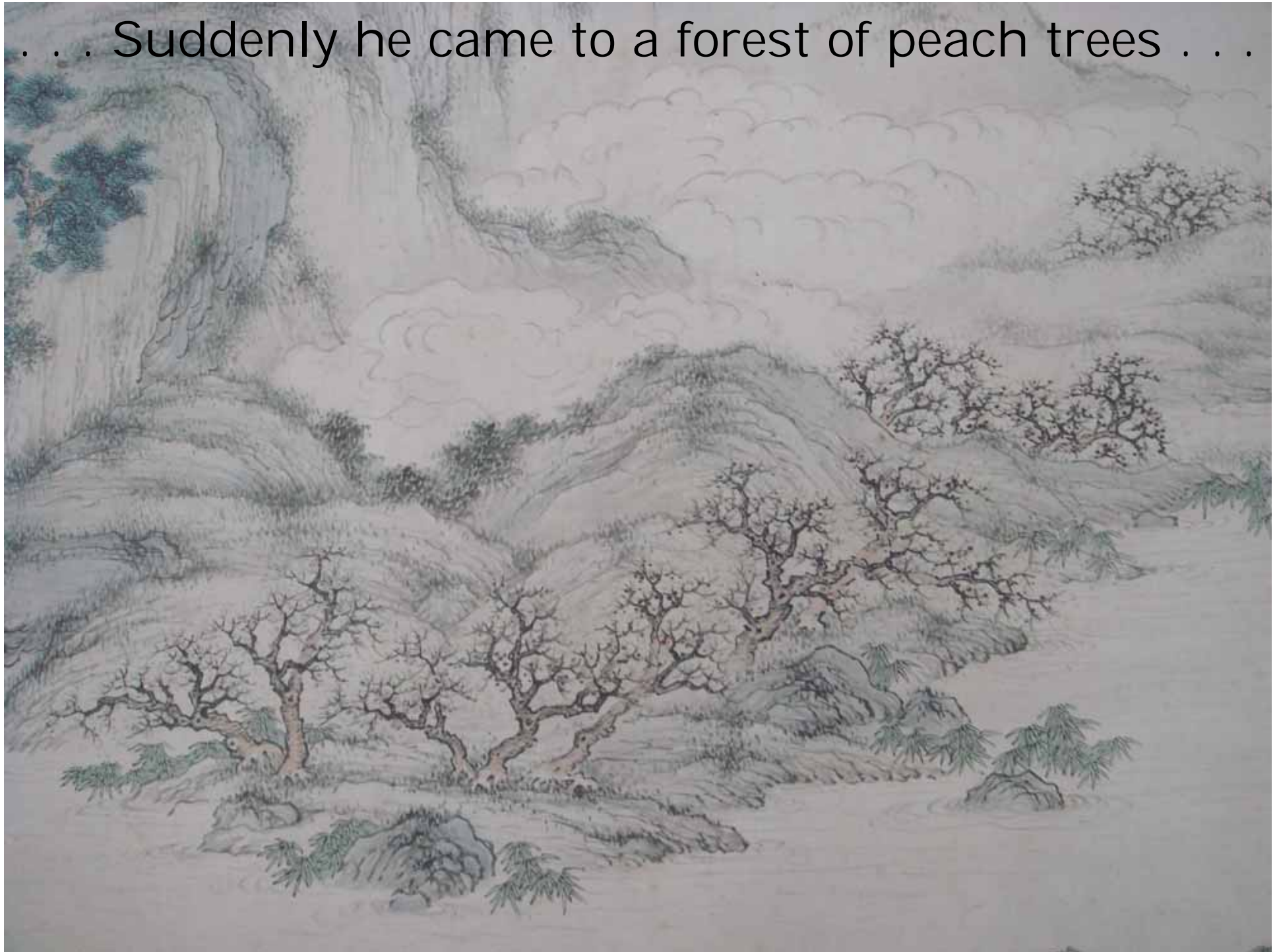


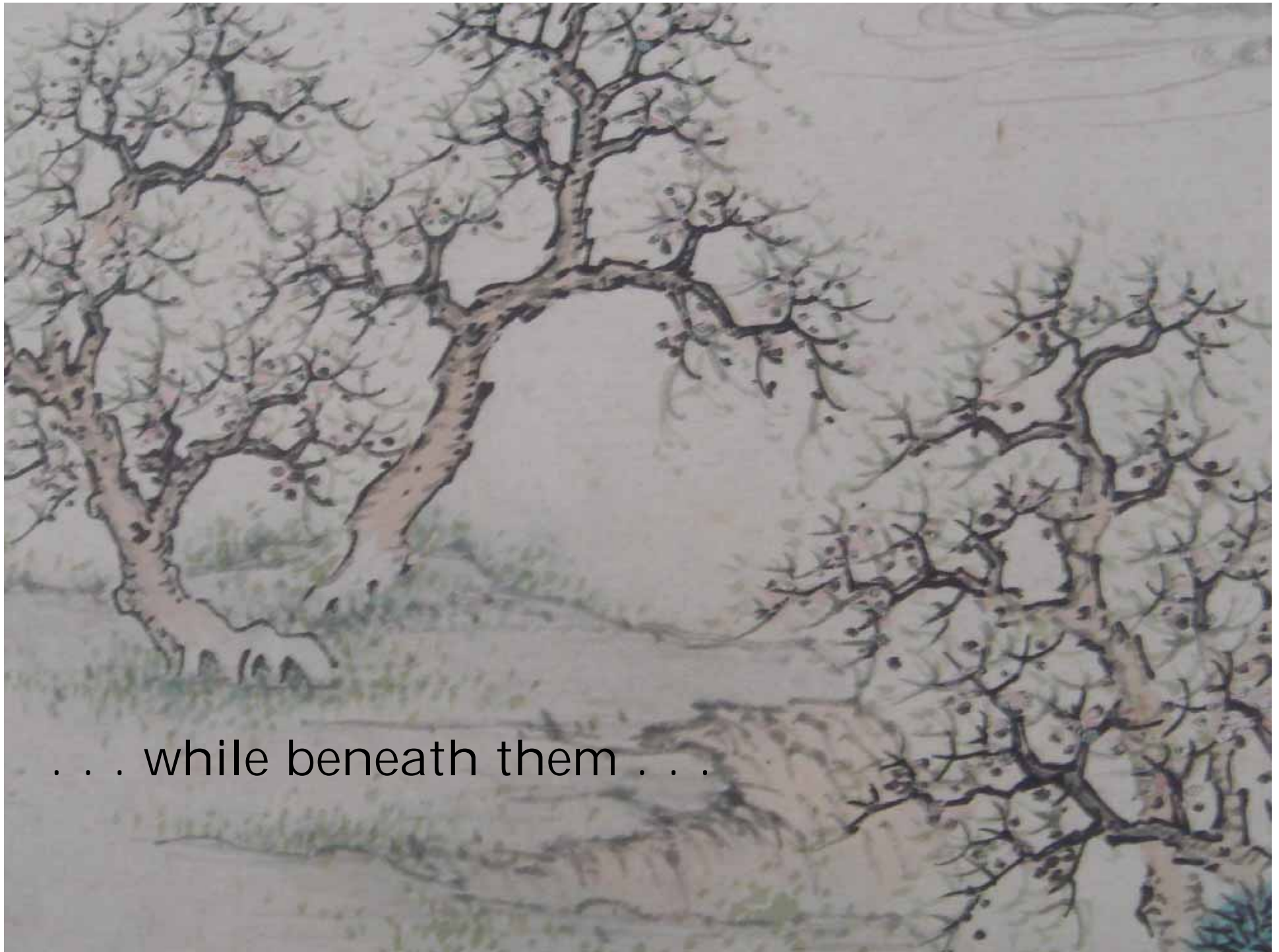
. . a fisherman by profession . . .

. . . grew oblivious of how far he had travelled . . .



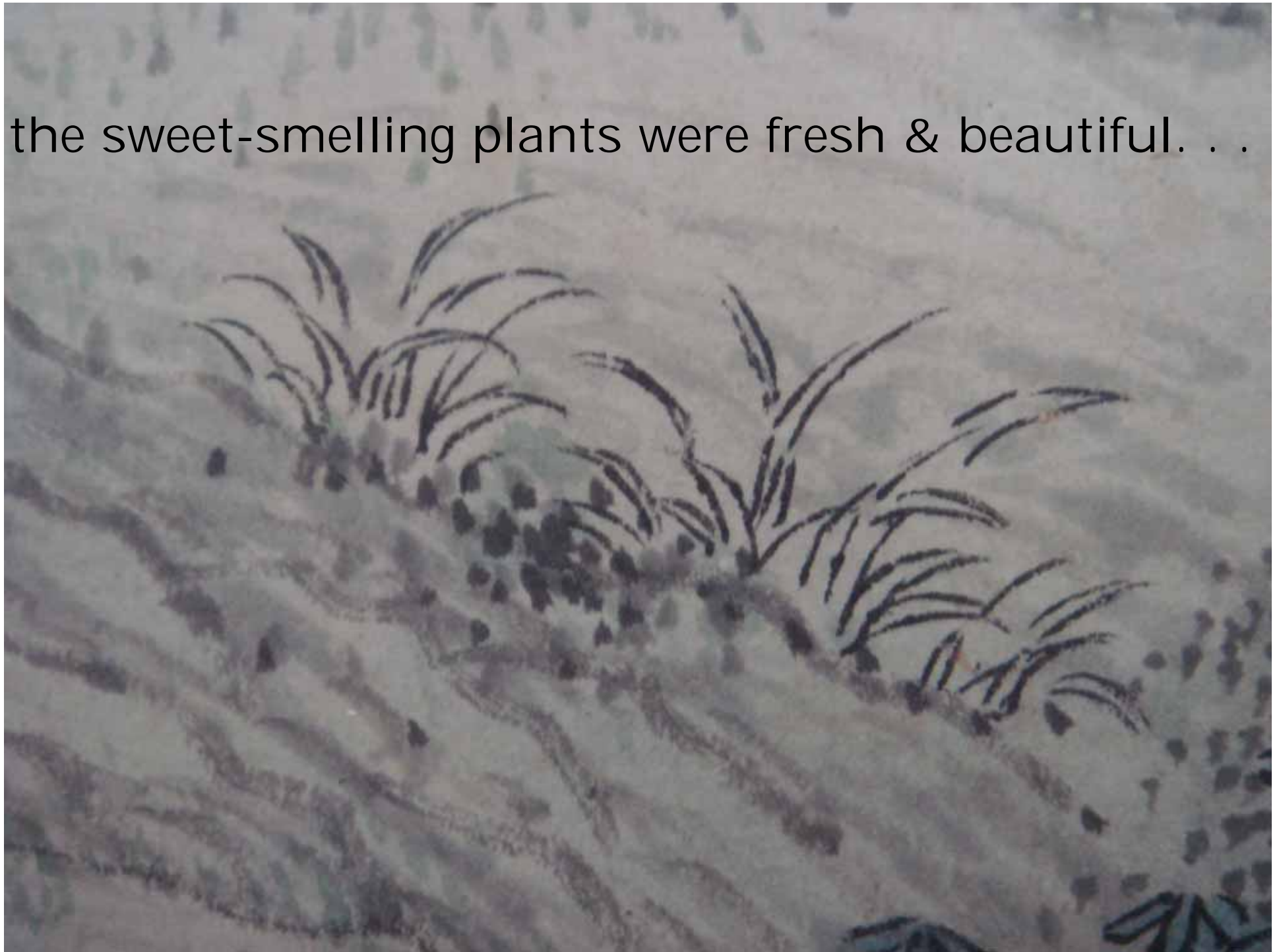
. . . Suddenly he came to a forest of peach trees . . .

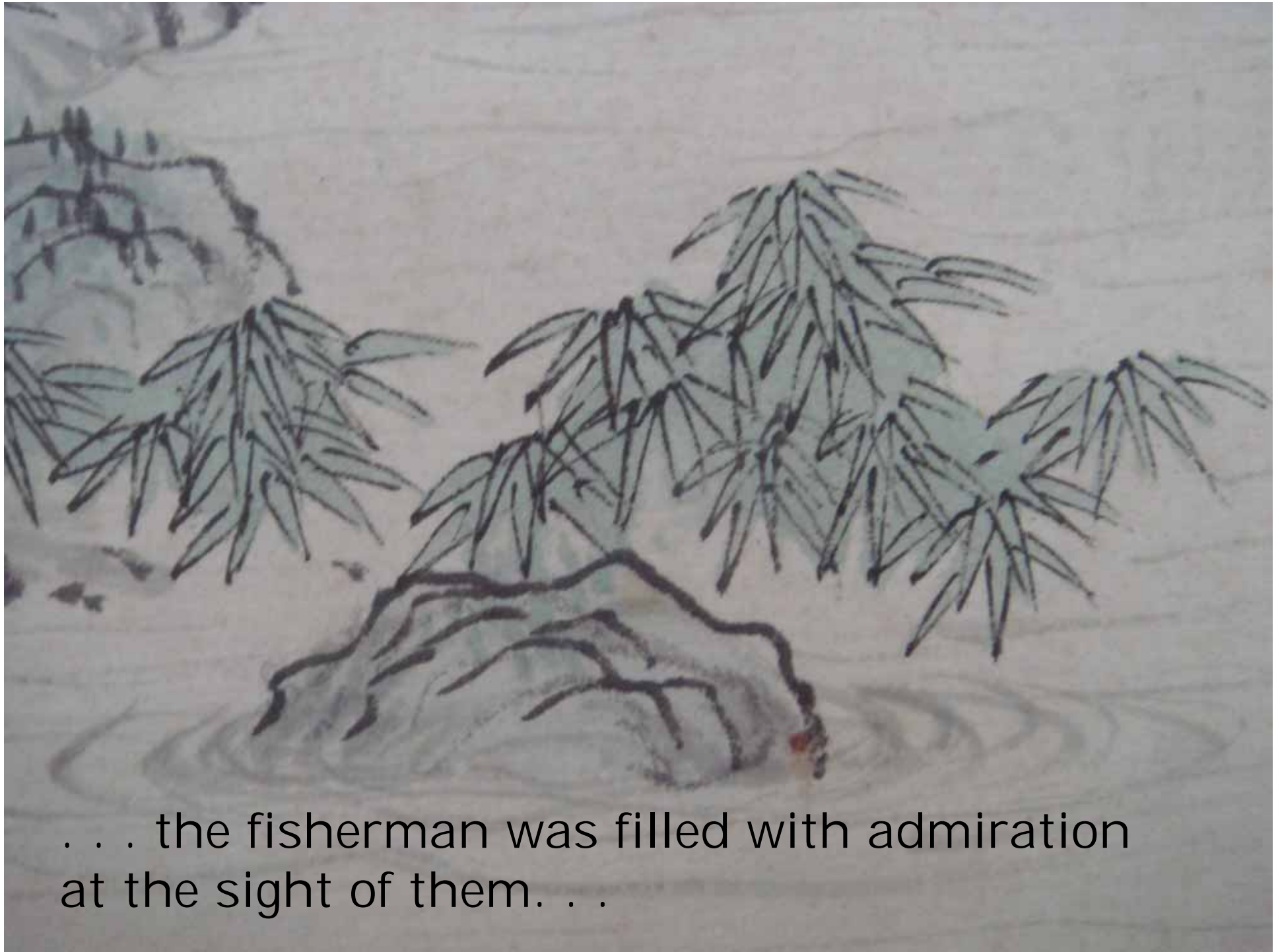




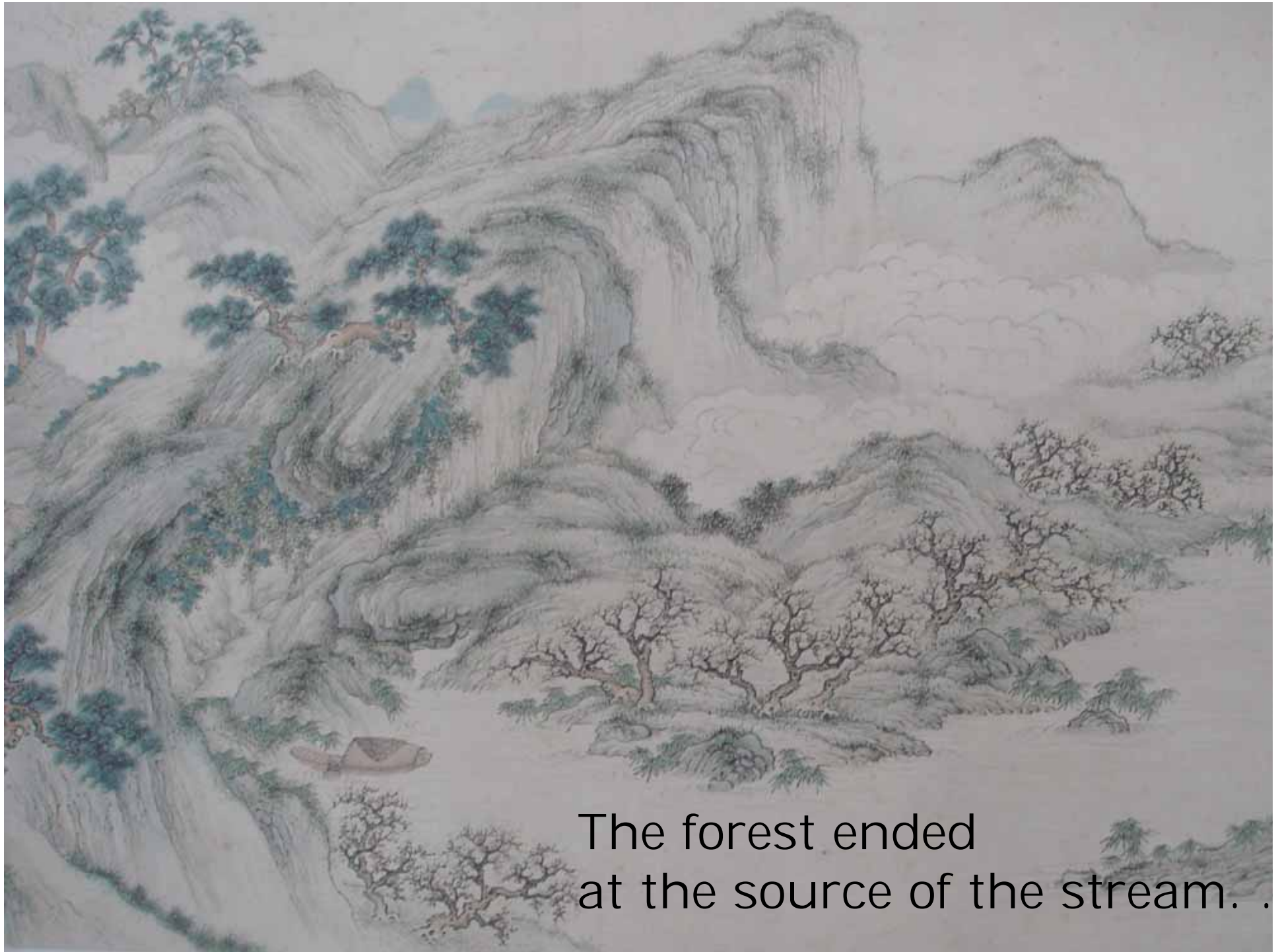
. . . while beneath them . . .

the sweet-smelling plants were fresh & beautiful. . .

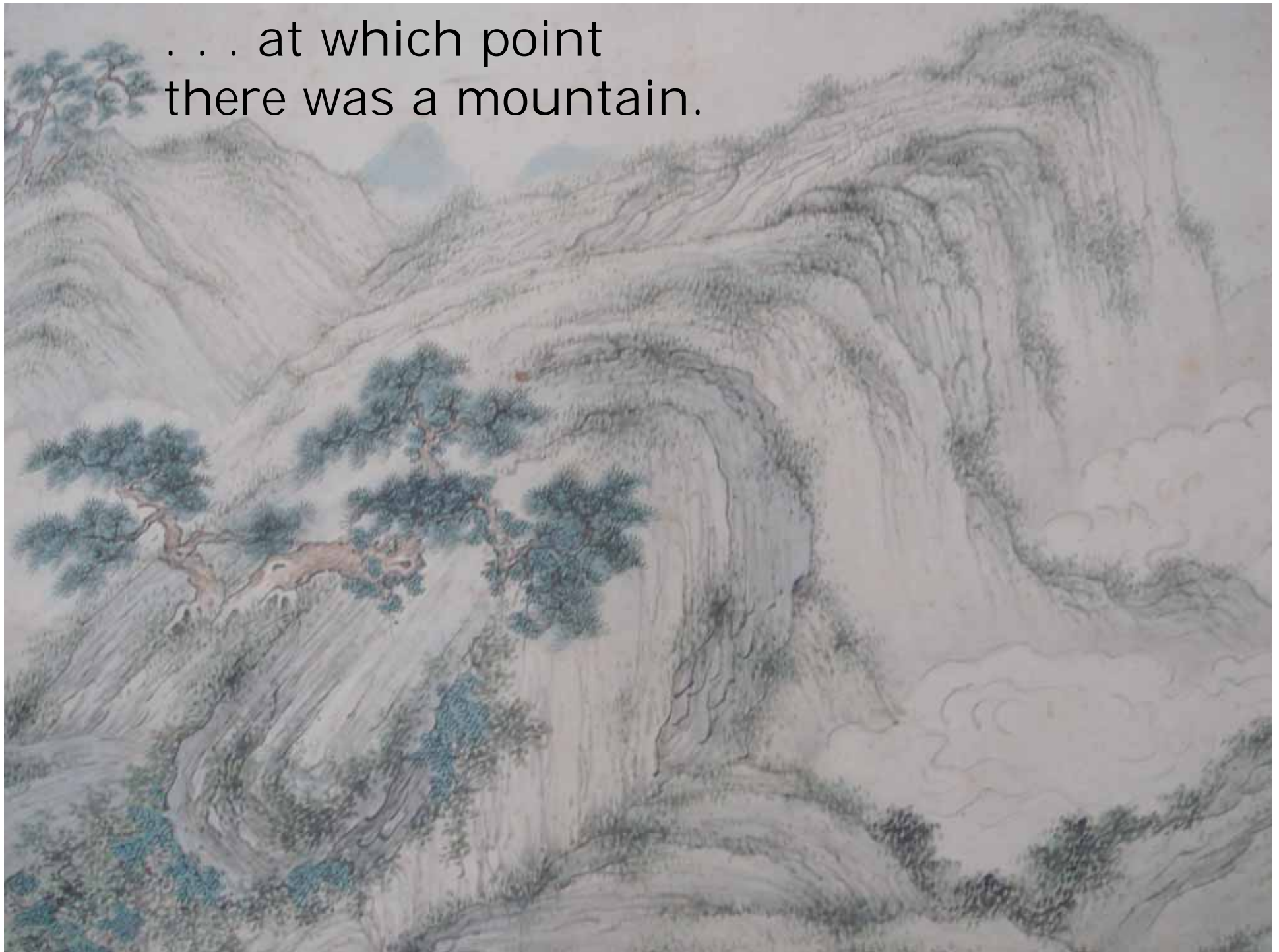




. . . the fisherman was filled with admiration
at the sight of them. . .



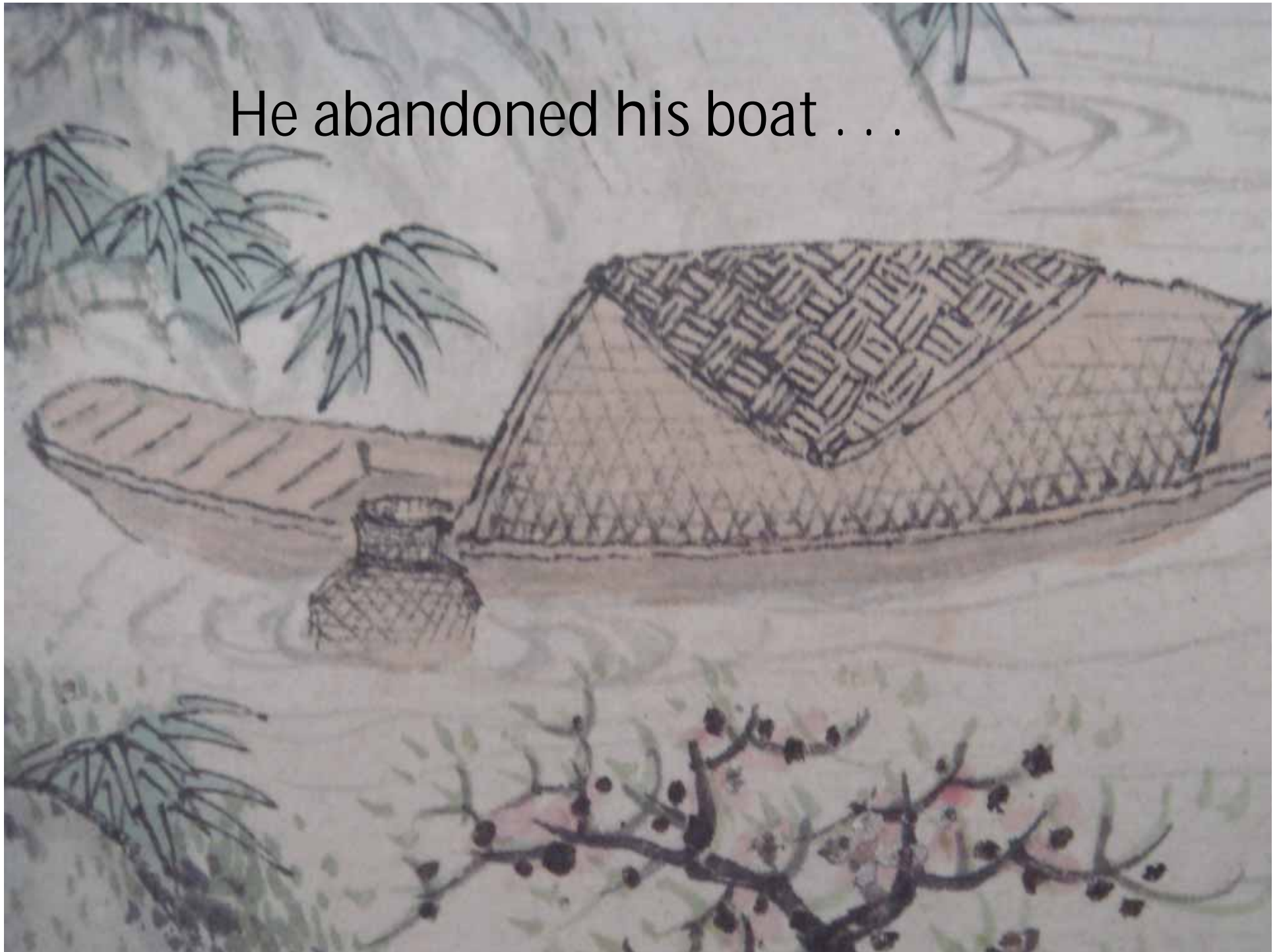
. . . at which point
there was a mountain.



In the mountain was a slight gap. . .



He abandoned his boat . . .



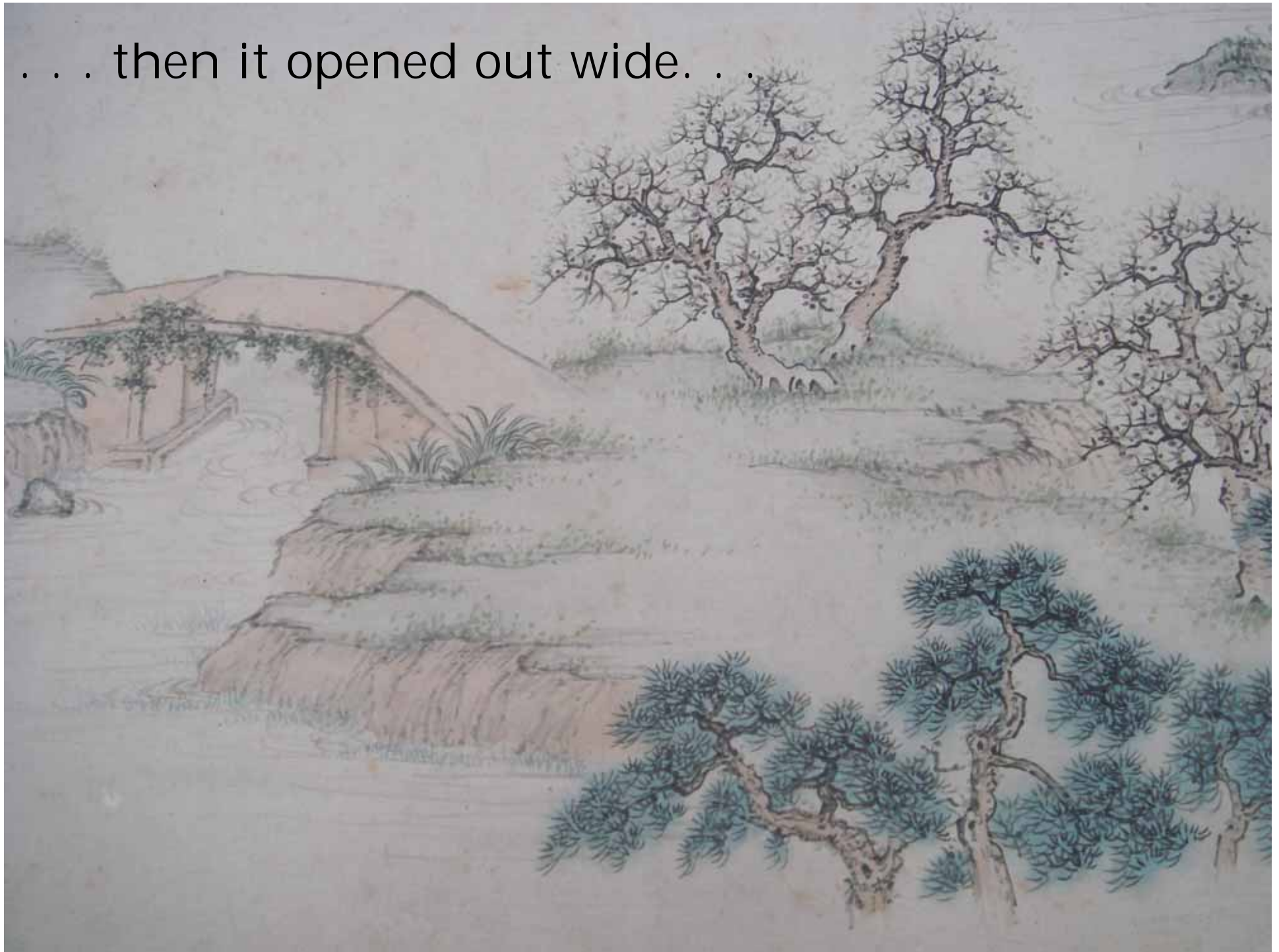


At first the path. . .

. . . was extremely narrow . . .



. . . then it opened out wide. . .

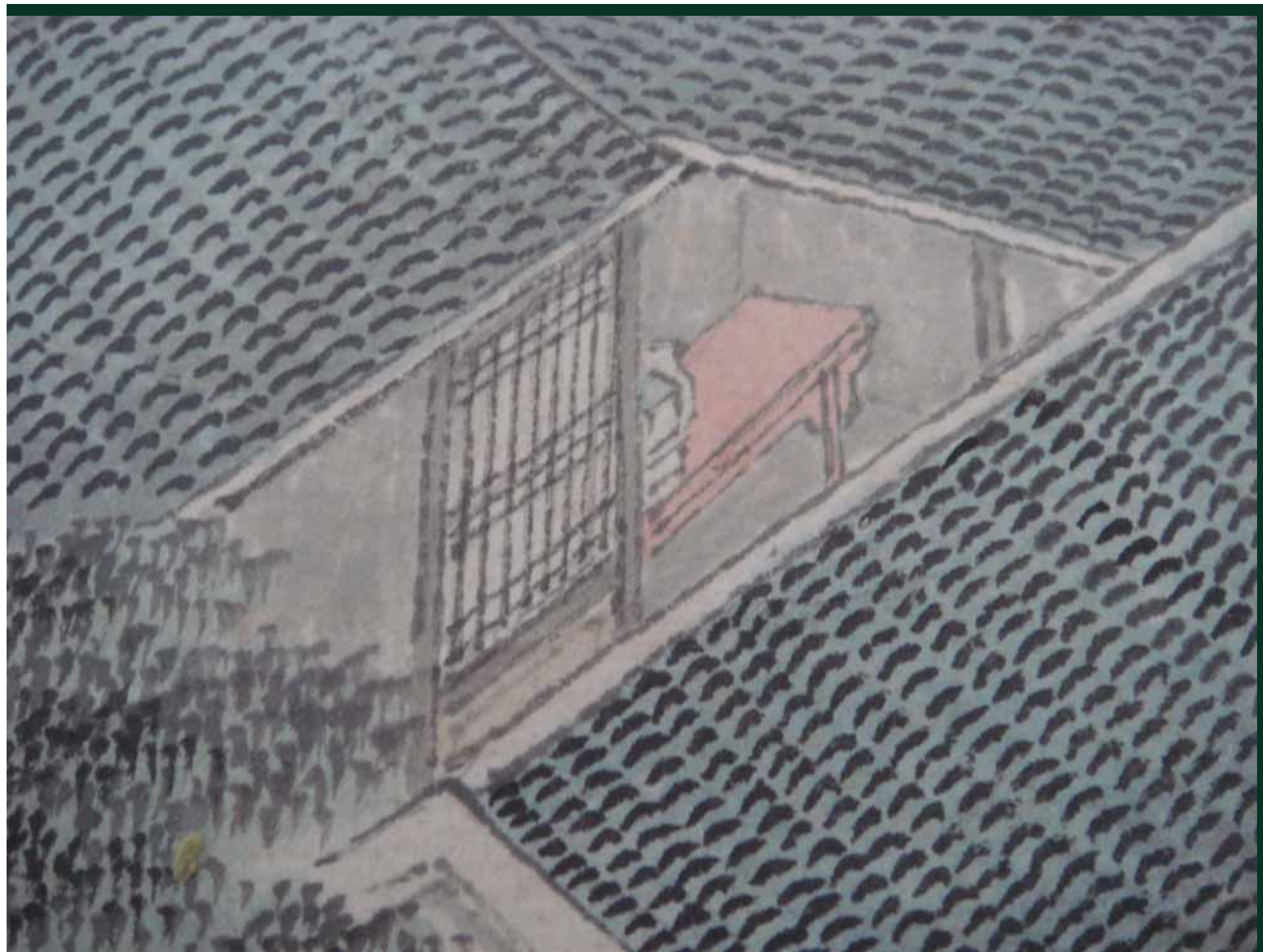




. . . with stately houses. . .



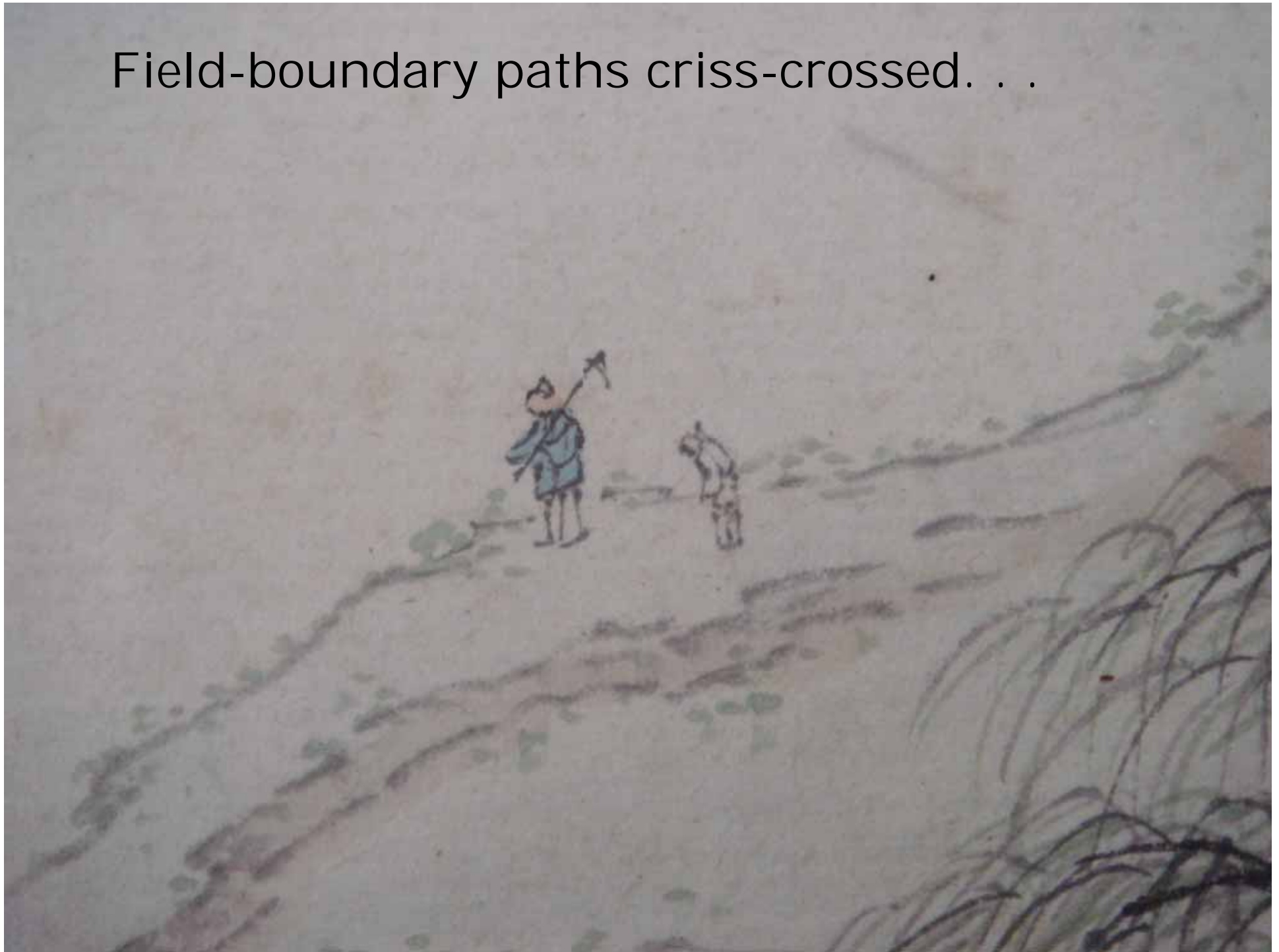


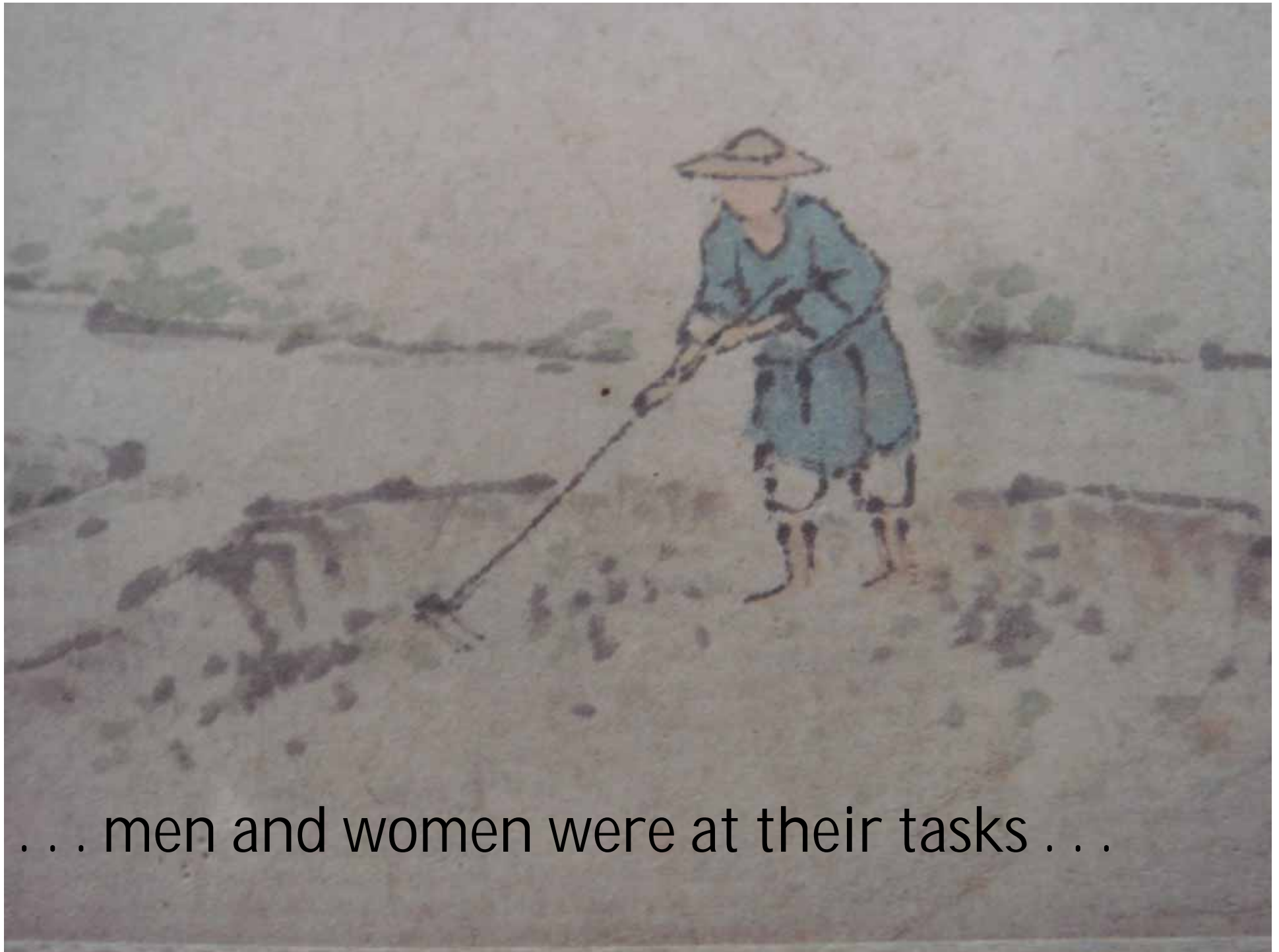






Field-boundary paths criss-crossed. . .





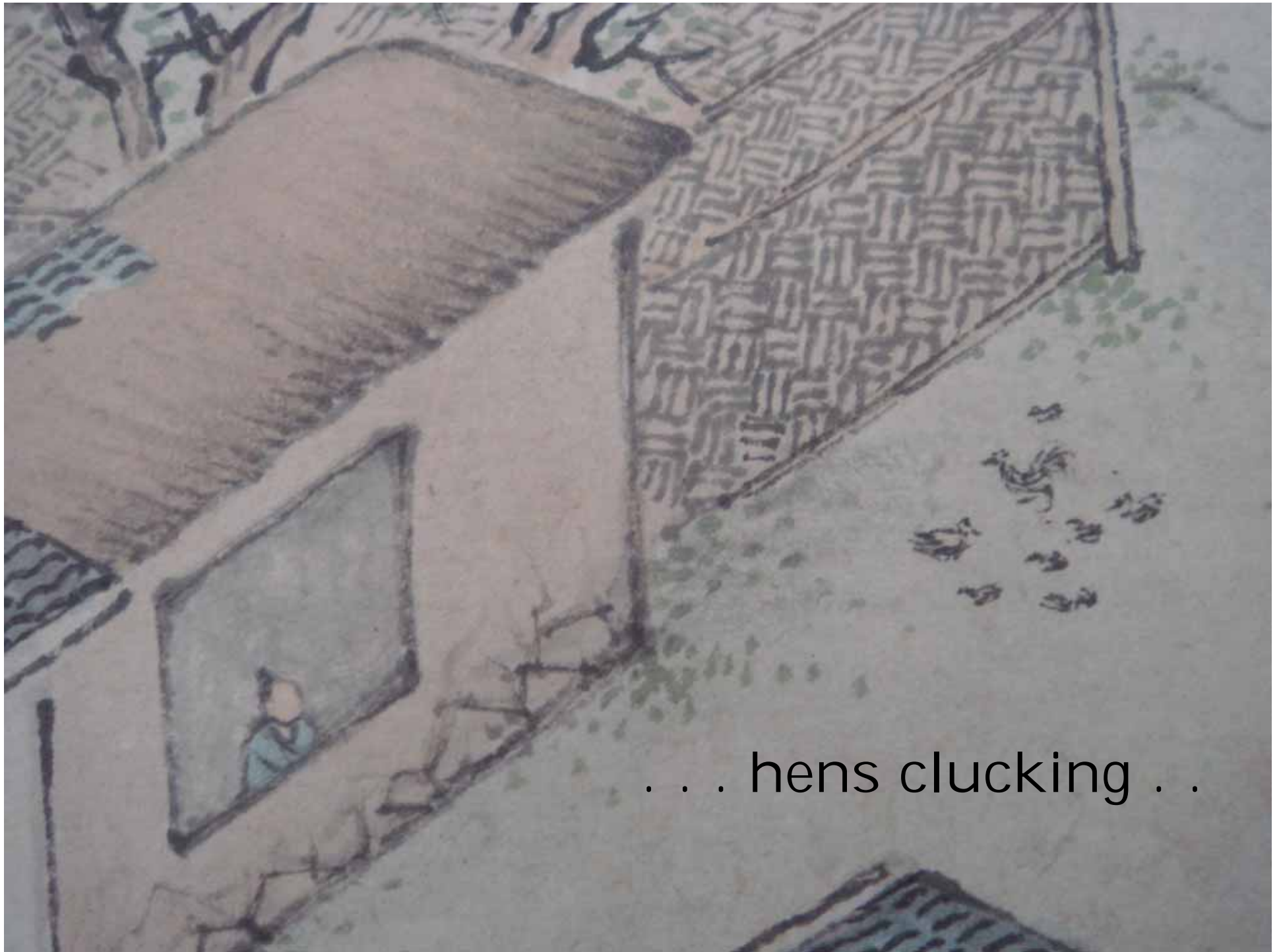
. . . men and women were at their tasks . . .



... going to and fro ...

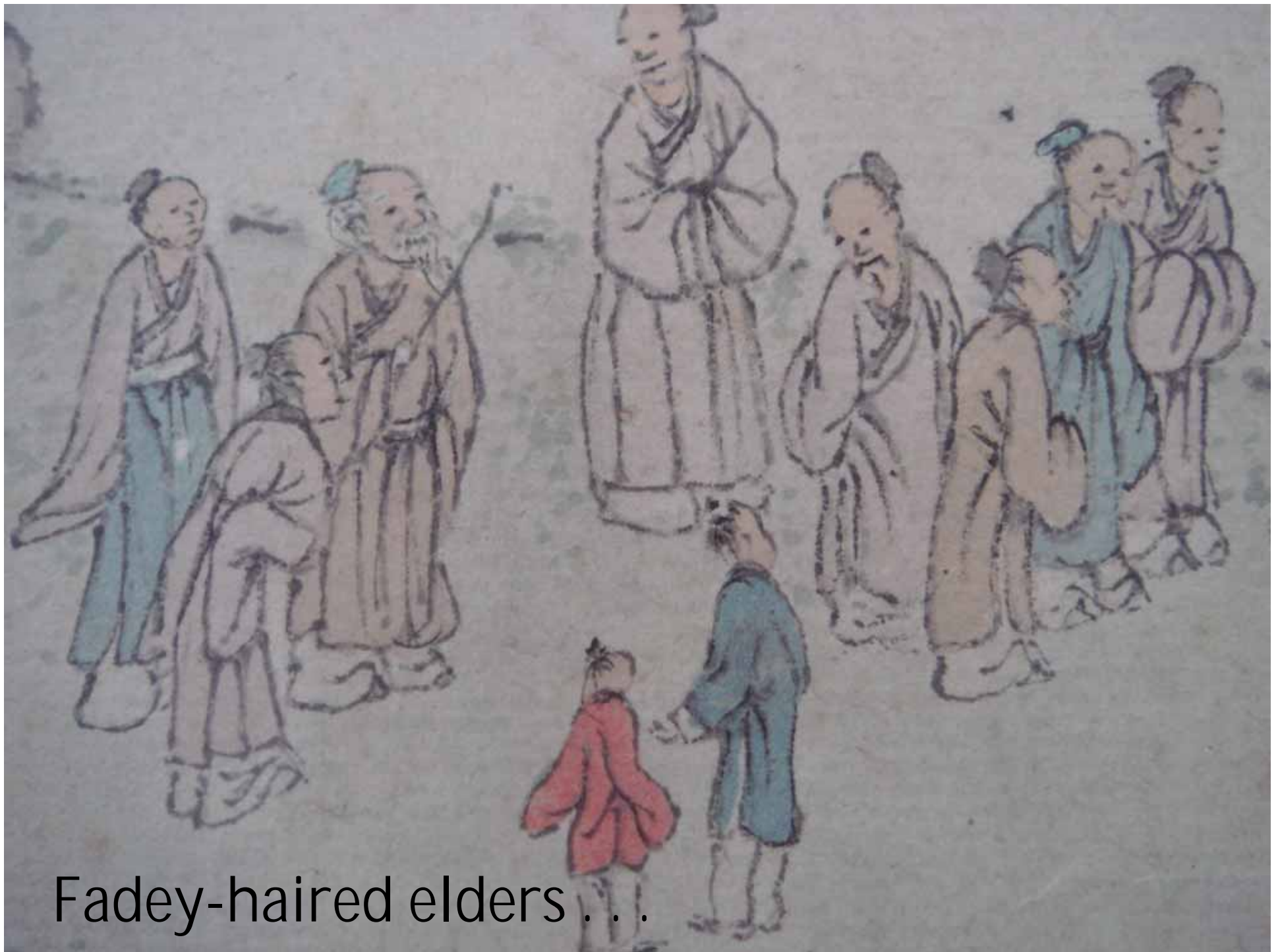
Dogs could be heard barking . . .



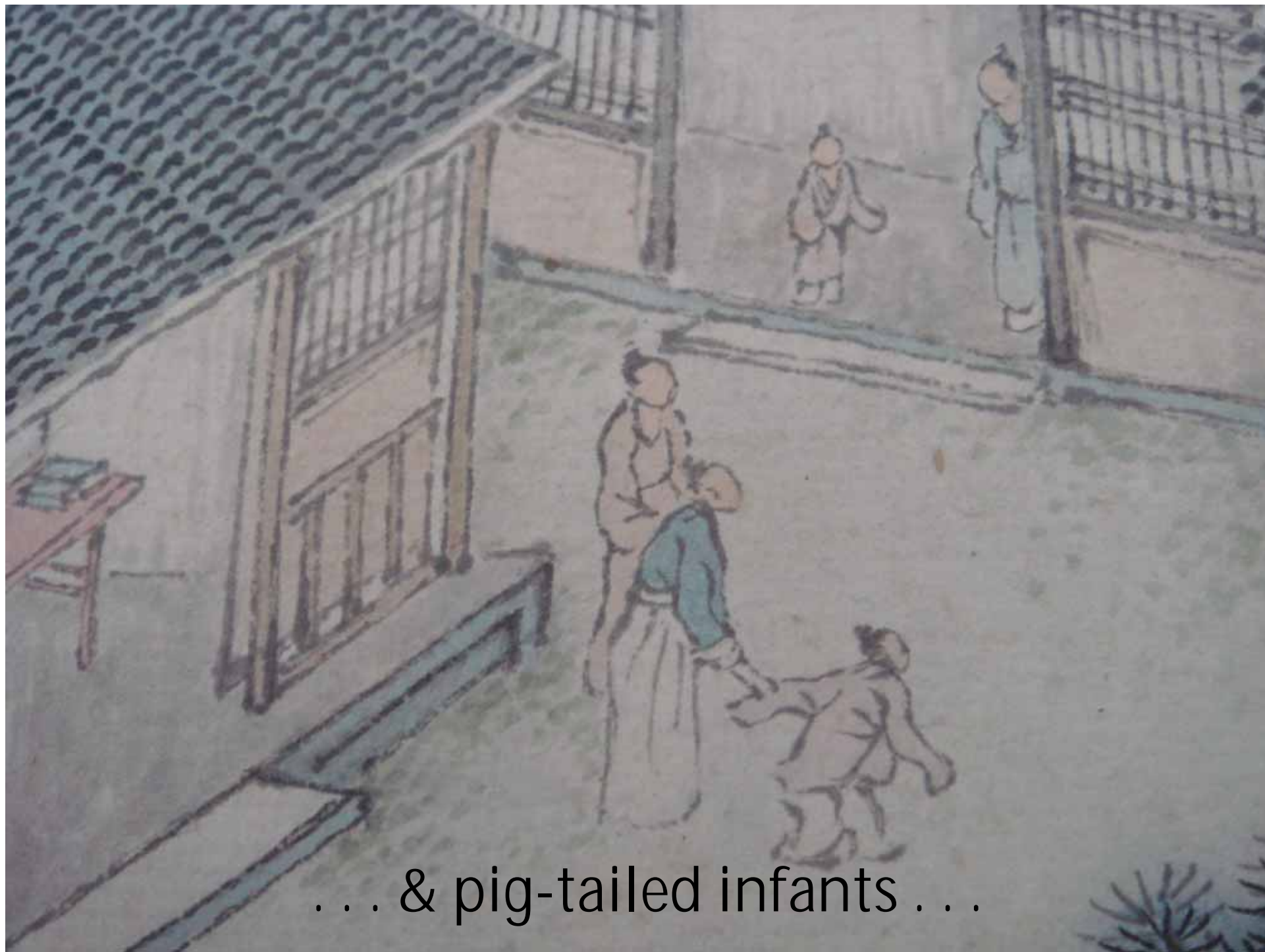


. . . hens clucking . .



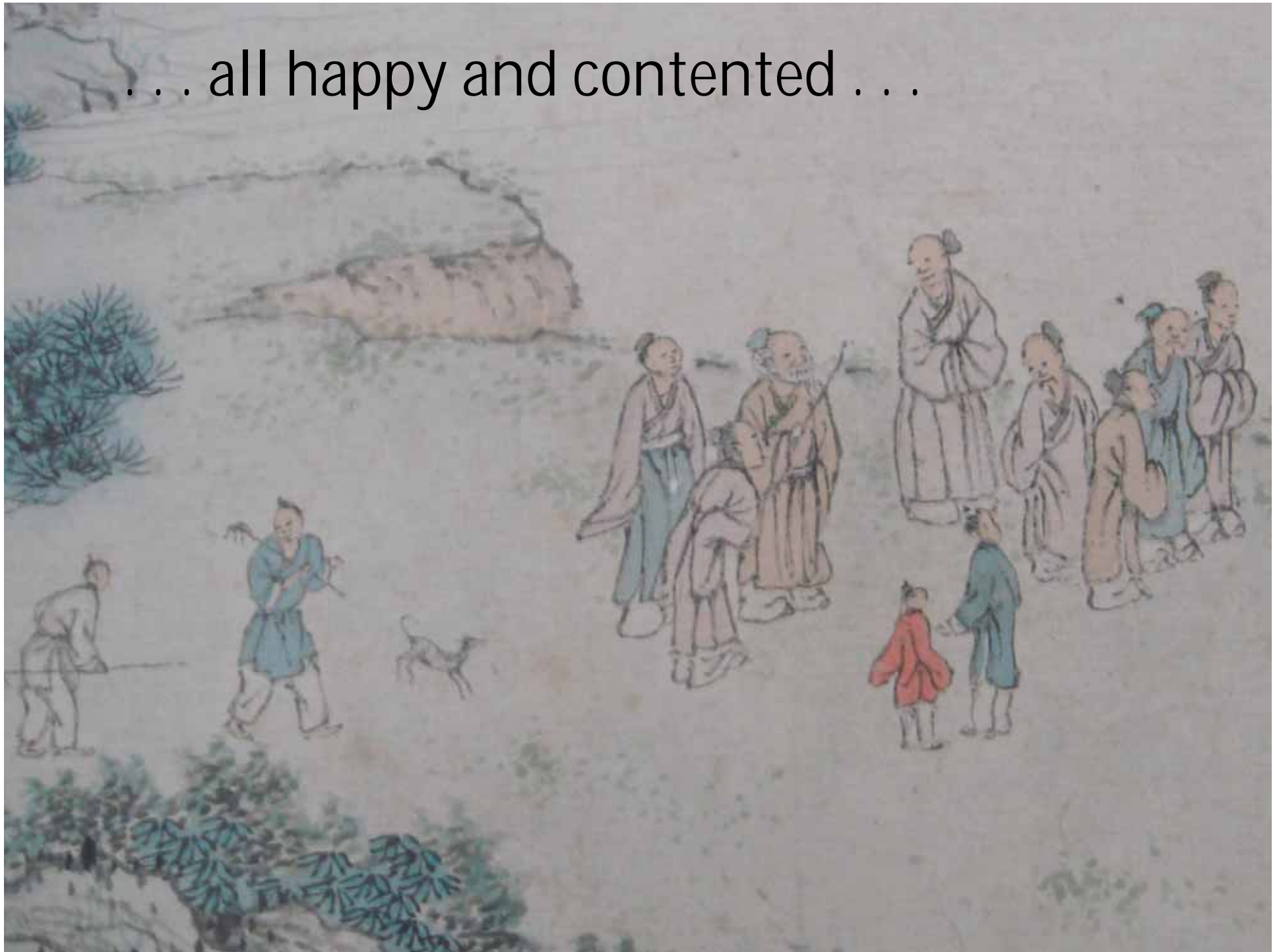


Fadey-haired elders . . .



... & pig-tailed infants ...

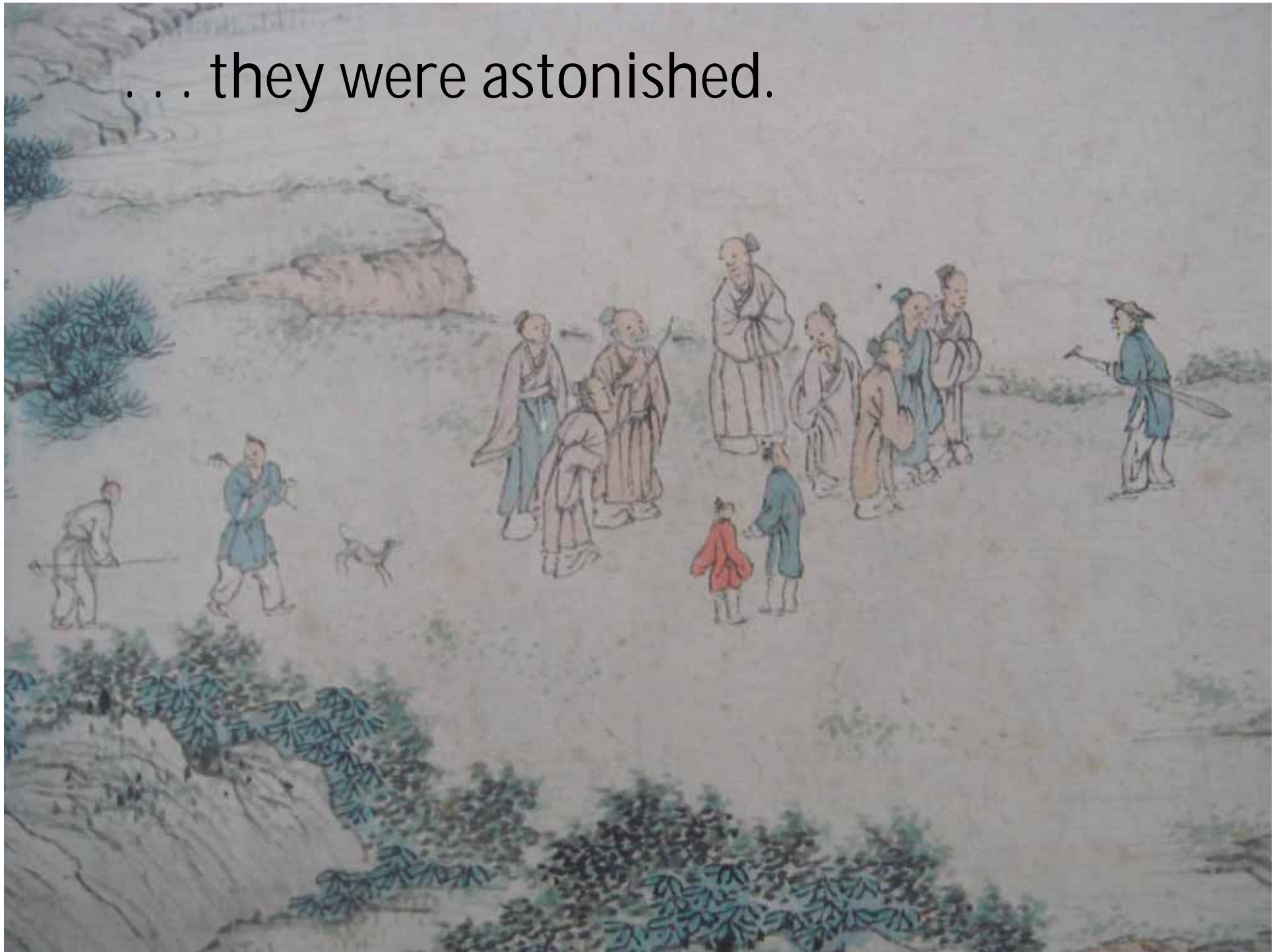
... all happy and contented ...

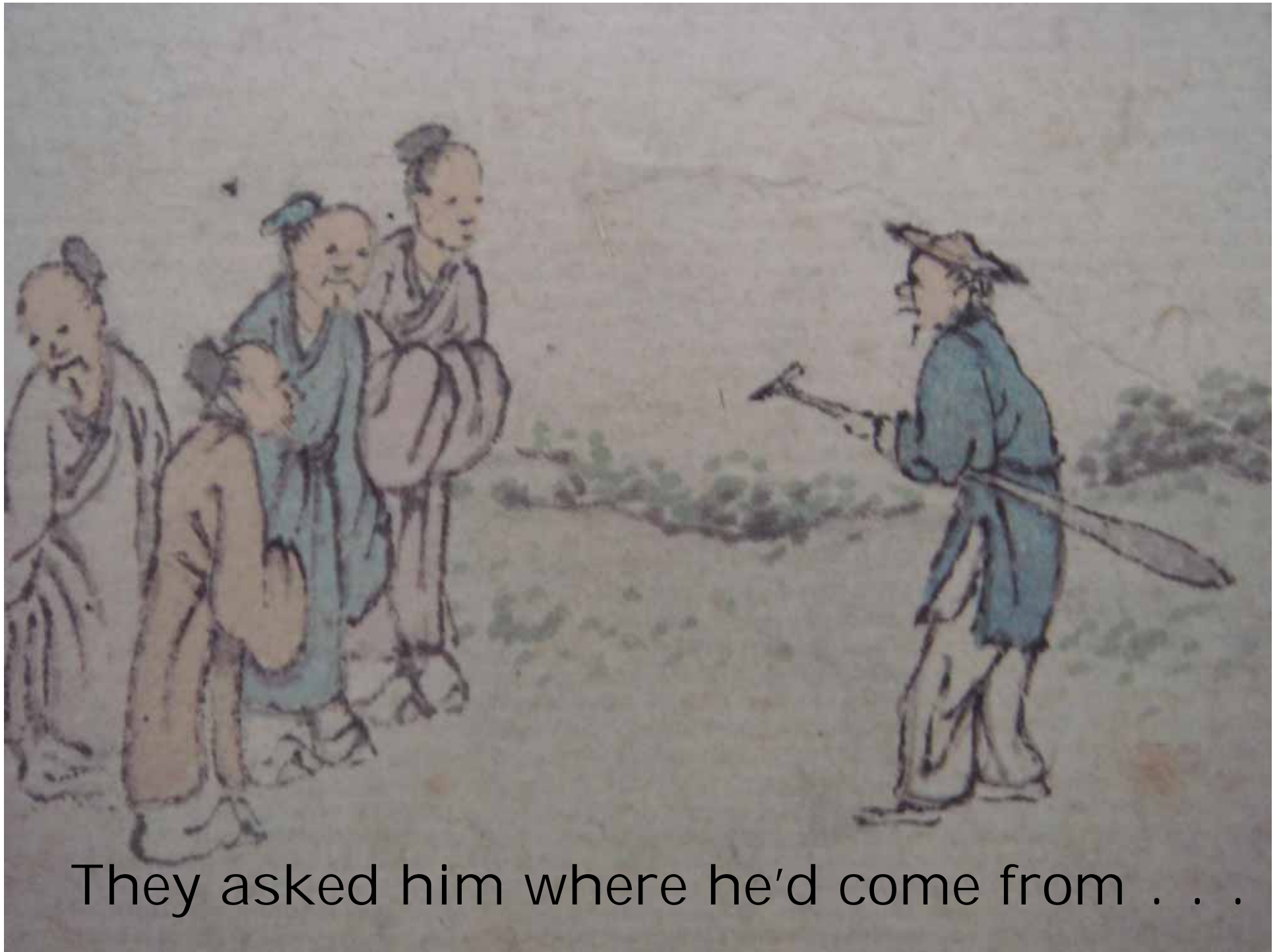


When they noticed the fisherman . . .

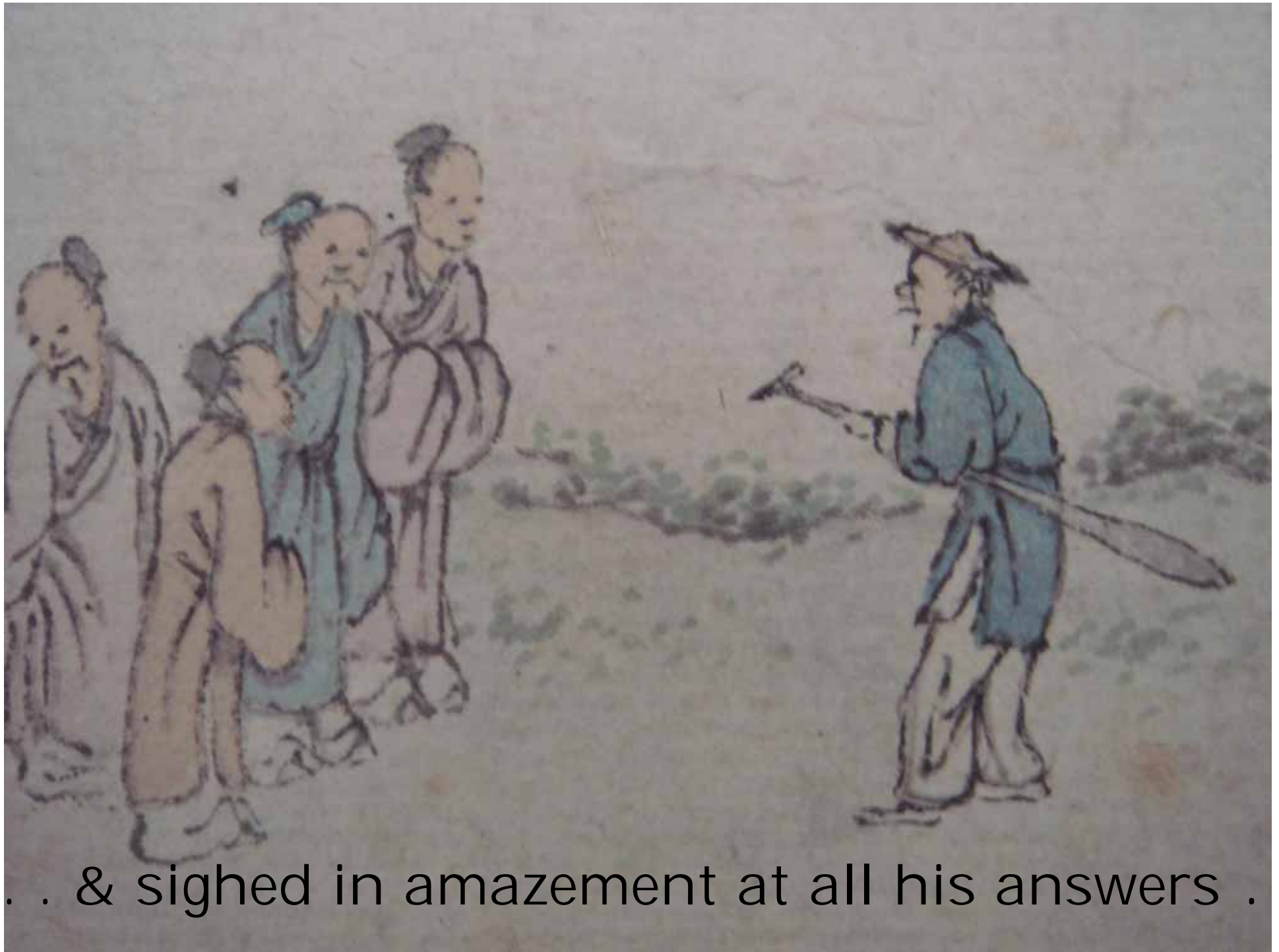


... they were astonished.





They asked him where he'd come from . . .

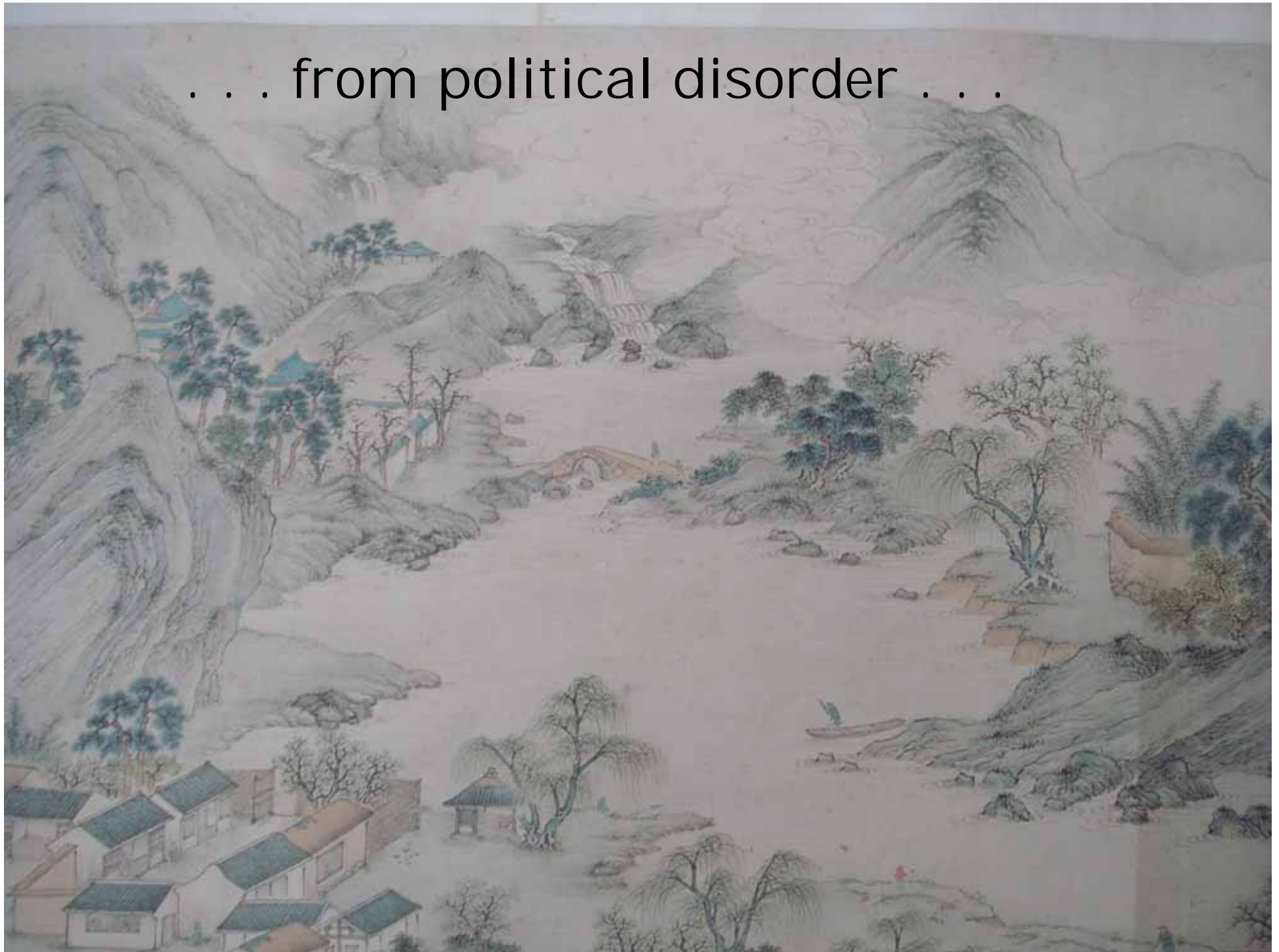


. . & sighed in amazement at all his answers .

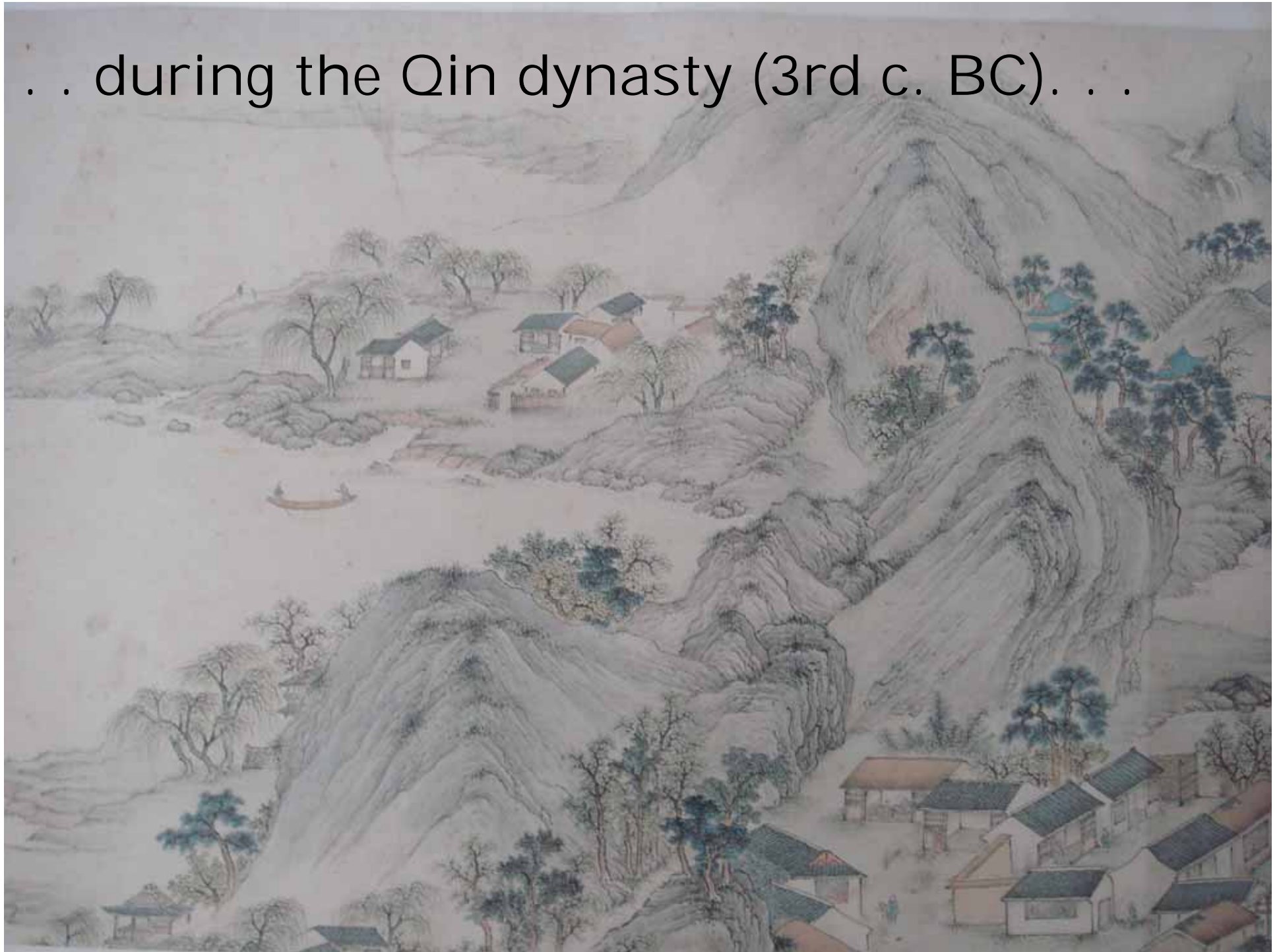


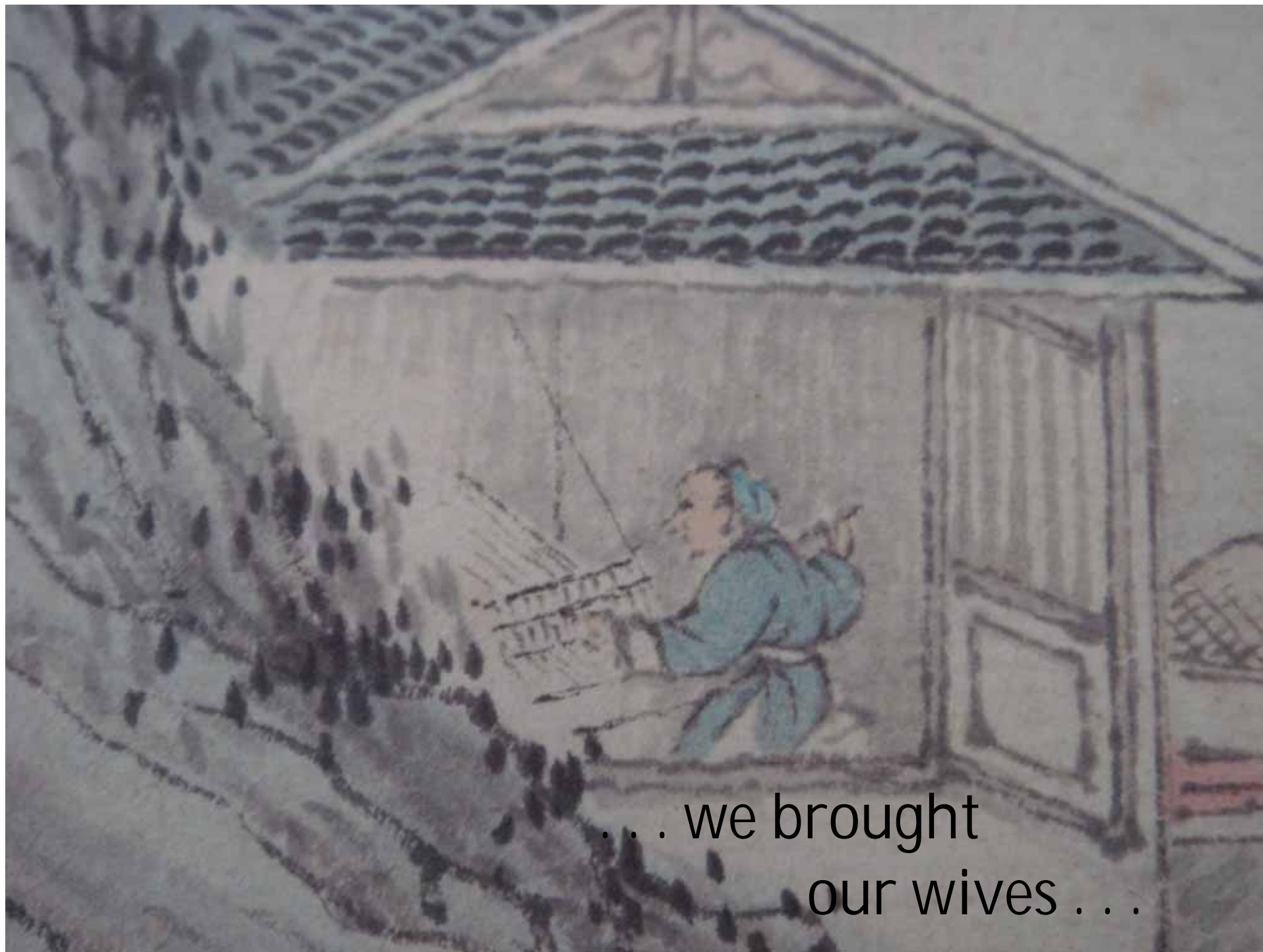
Our ancestors fled . . .

. . . from political disorder . . .



. . during the Qin dynasty (3rd c. BC). . .

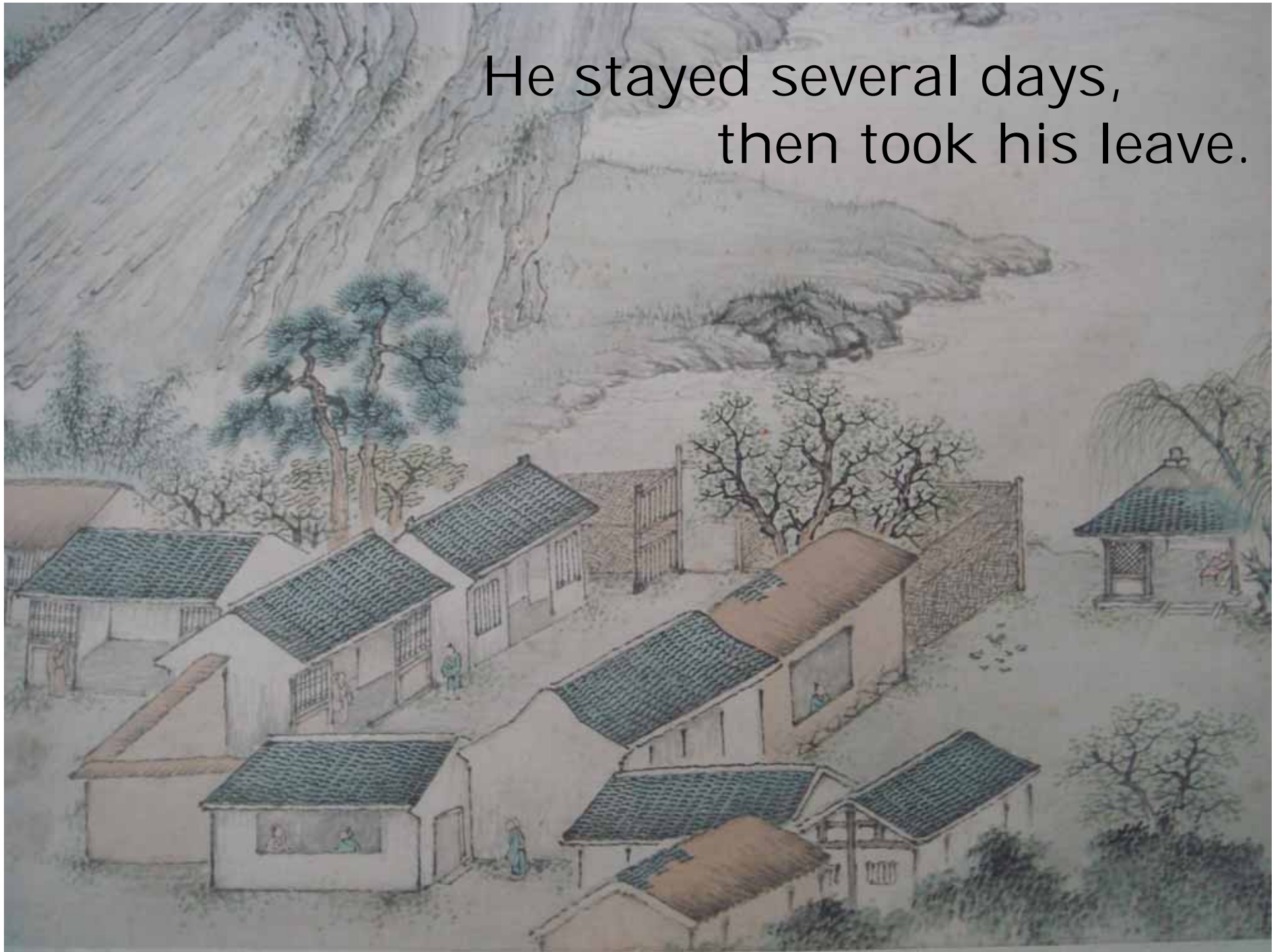


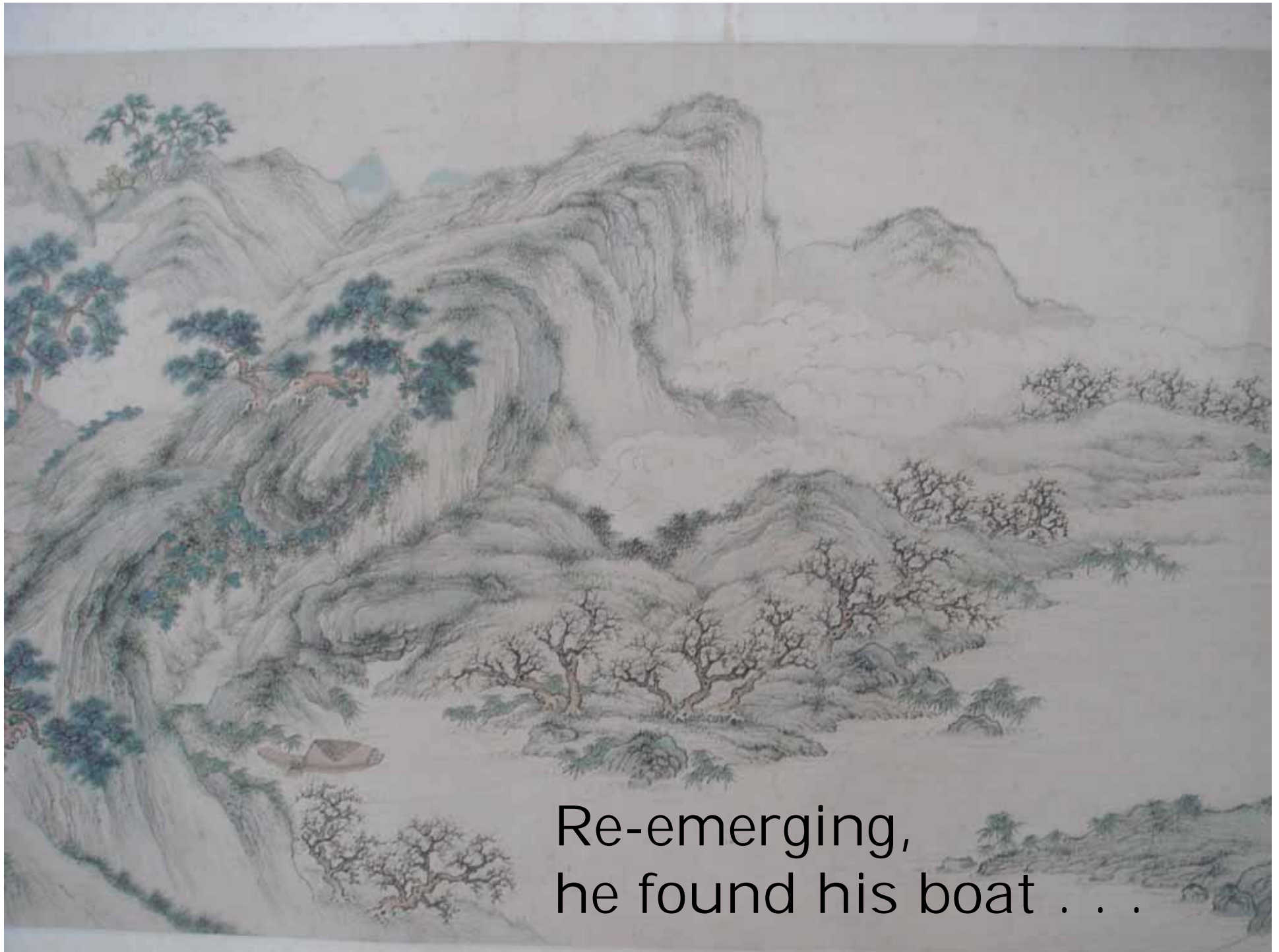


... we brought
our wives ...

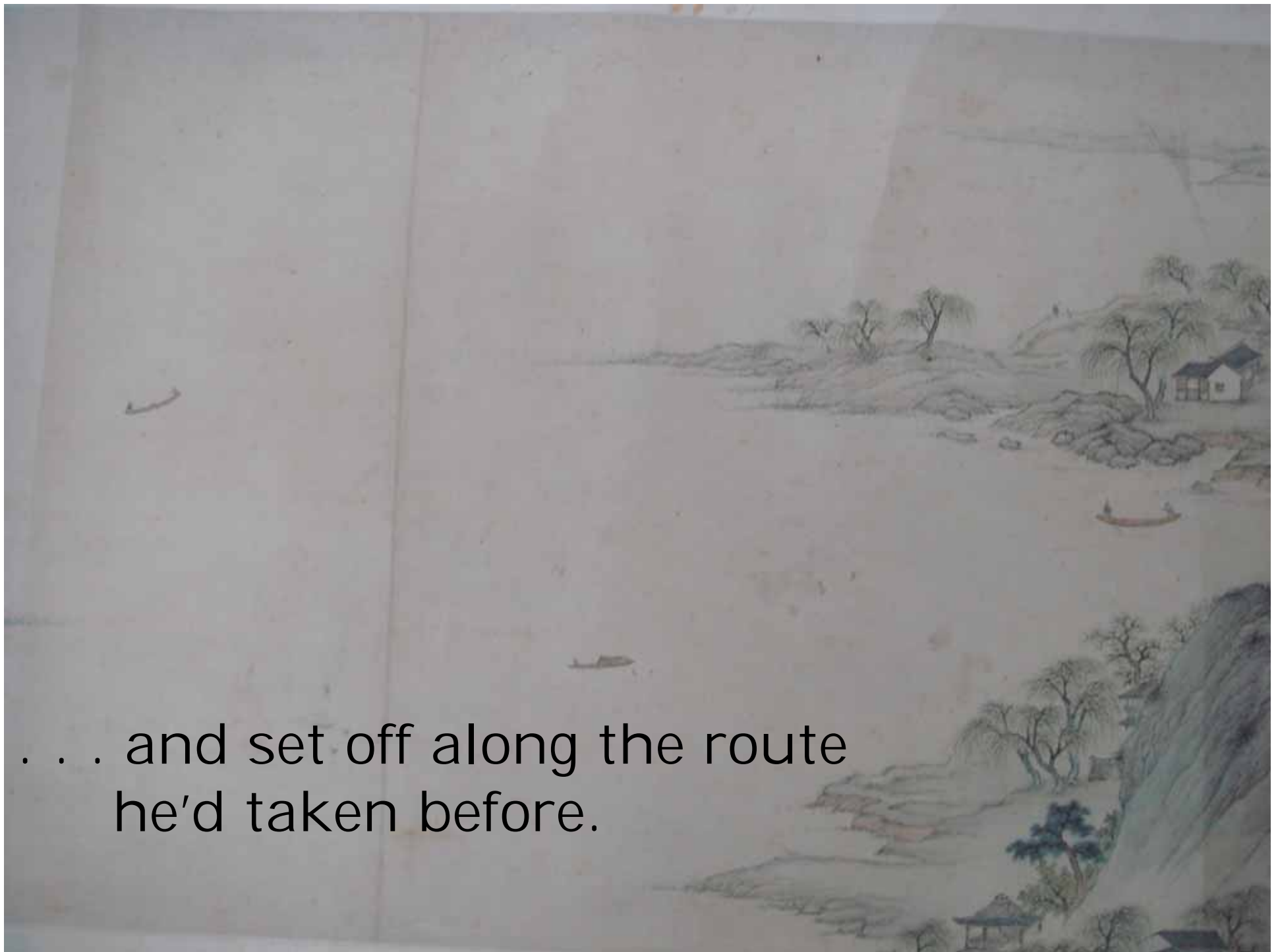


He stayed several days,
then took his leave.





Re-emerging,
he found his boat . . .

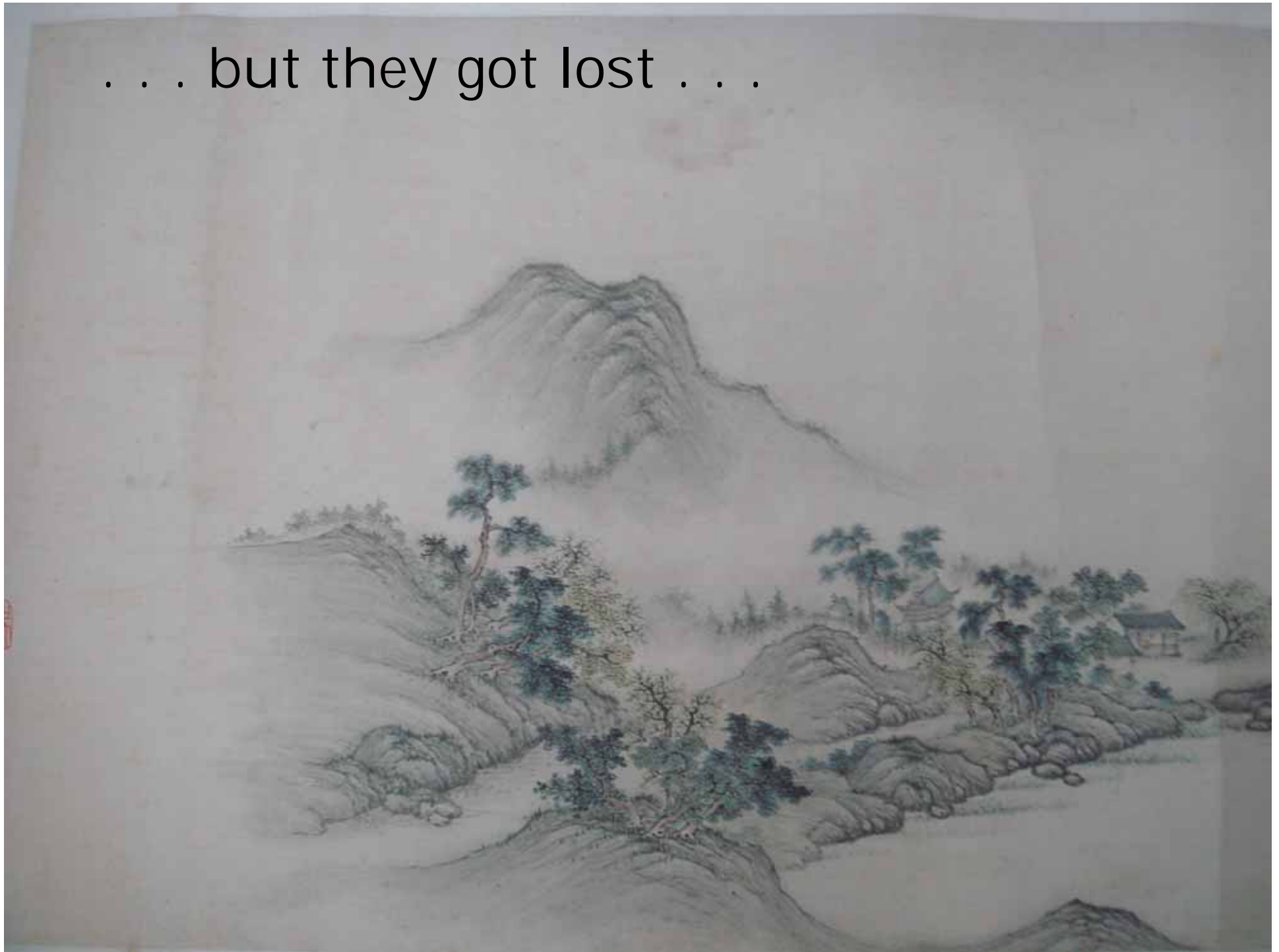


. . . and set off along the route
he'd taken before.

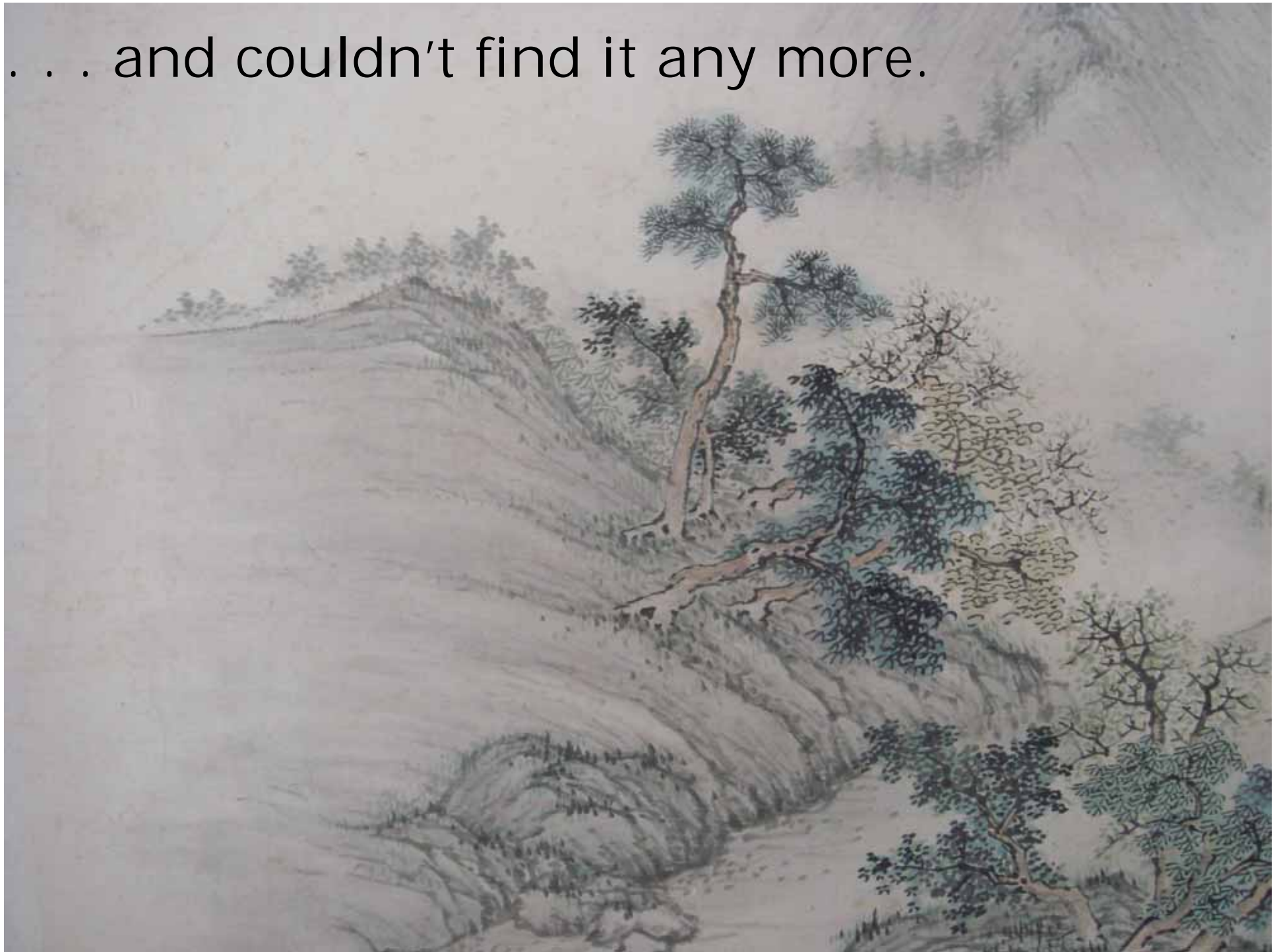
The governor sent men off . . .

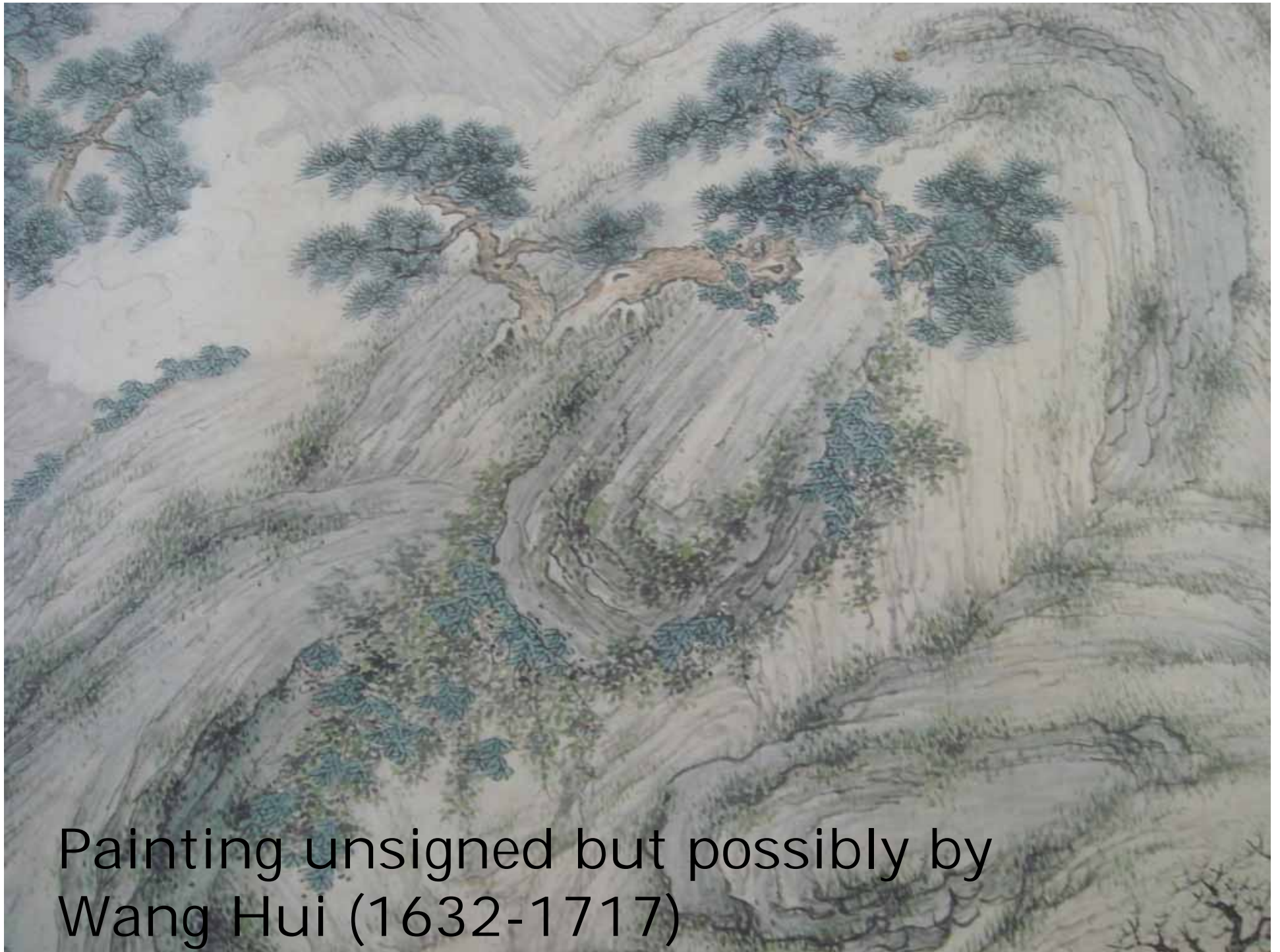


. . . but they got lost . . .



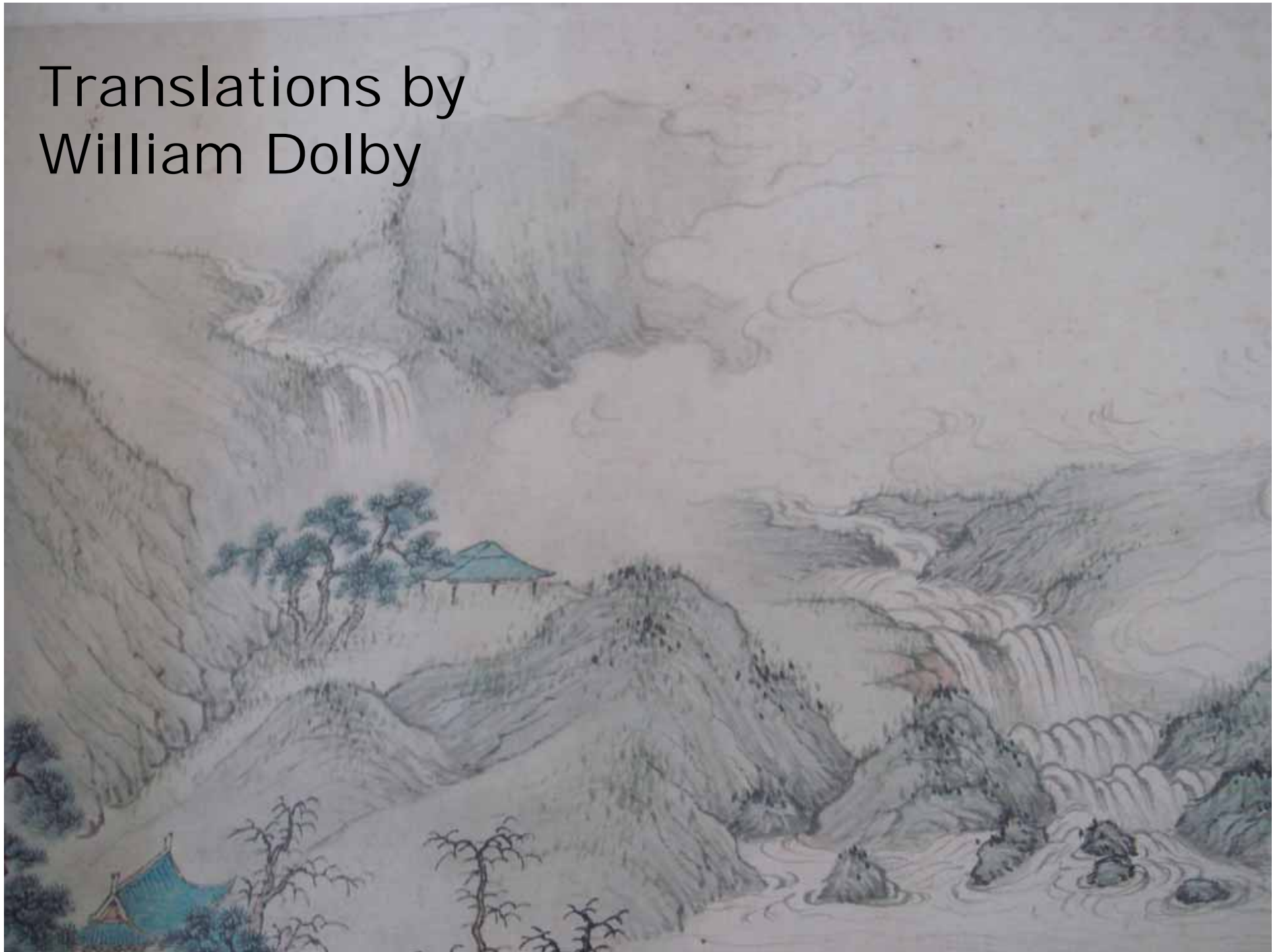
. . . and couldn't find it any more.



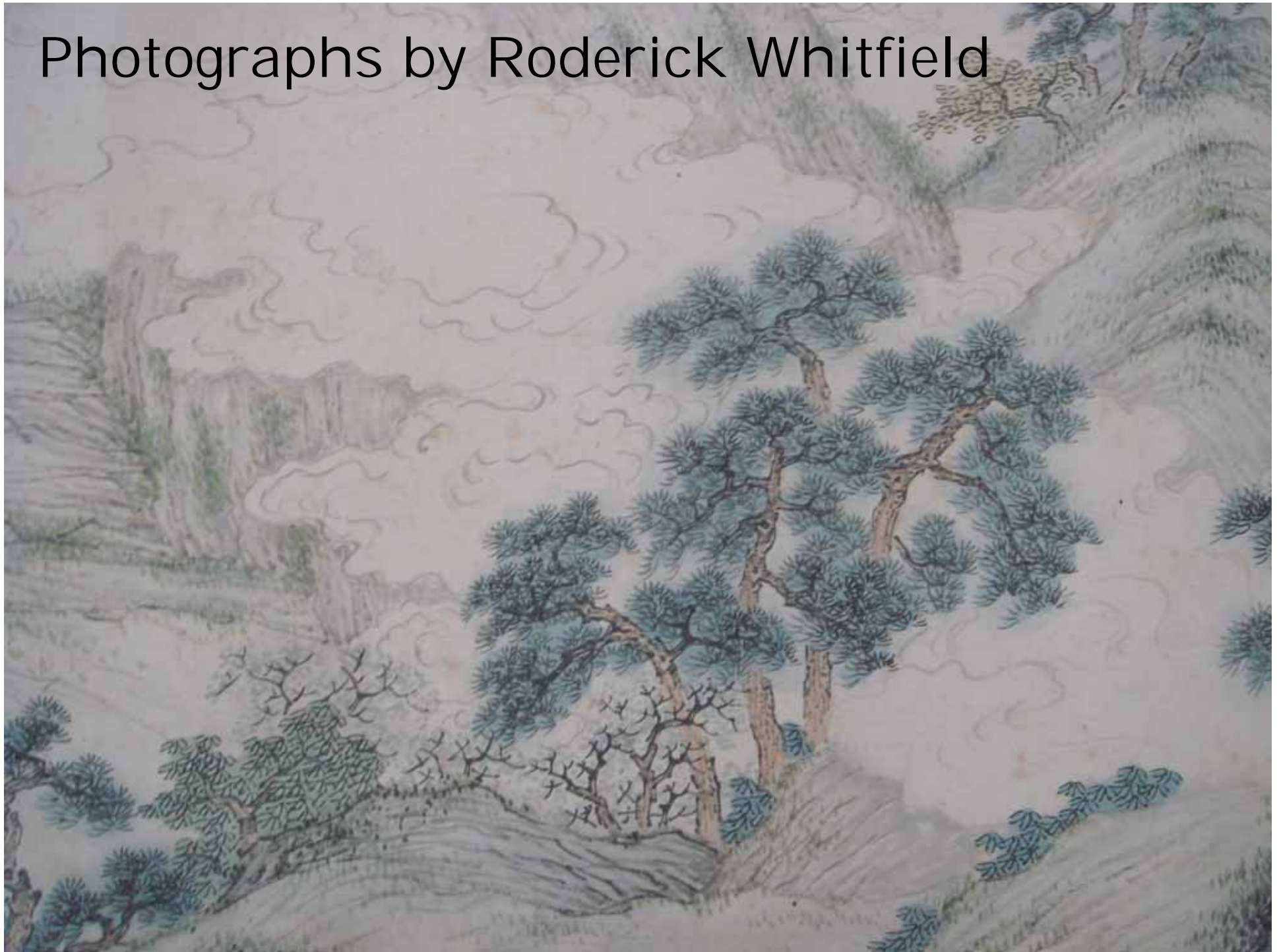


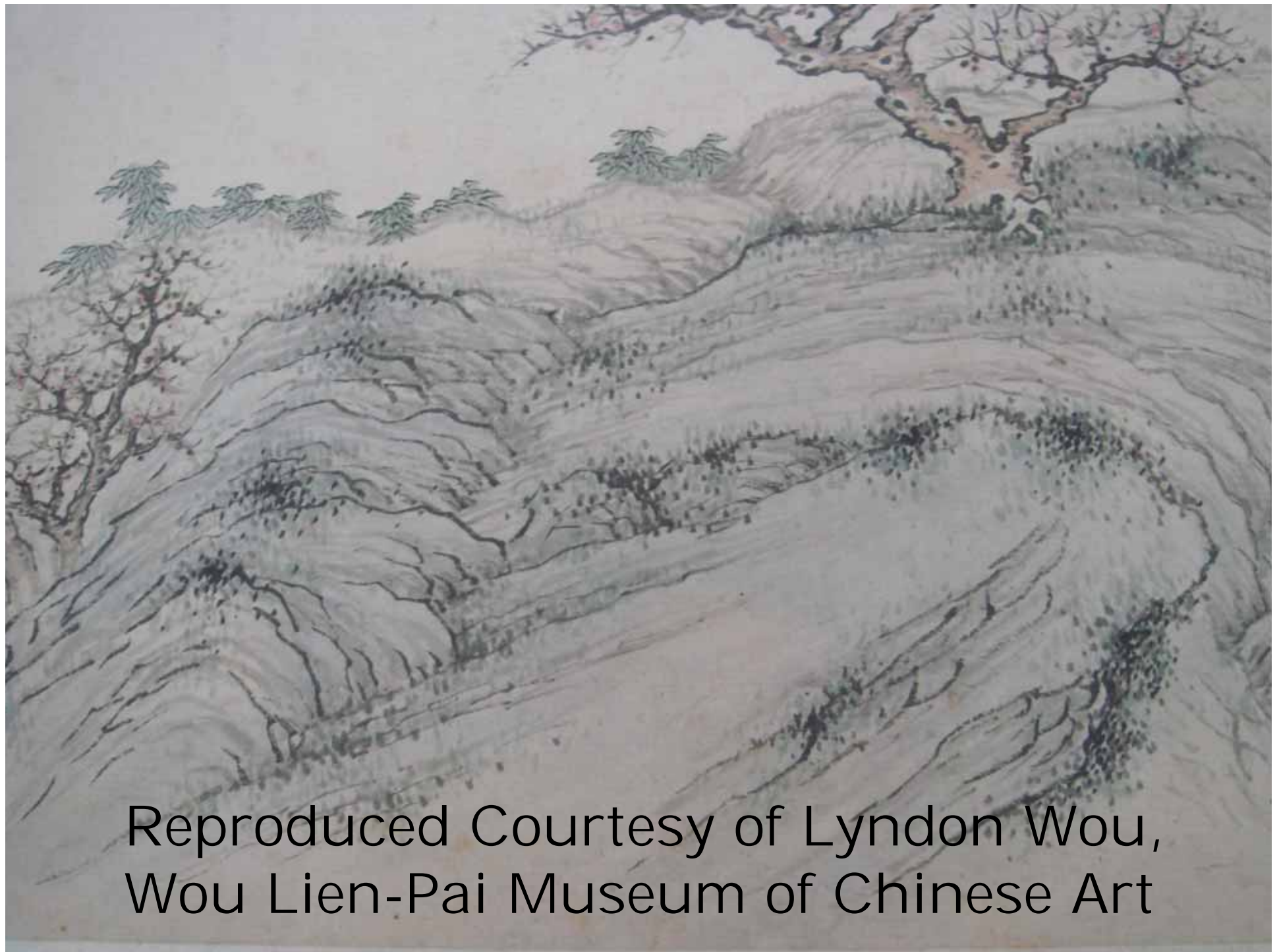
Painting unsigned but possibly by
Wang Hui (1632-1717)

Translations by
William Dolby

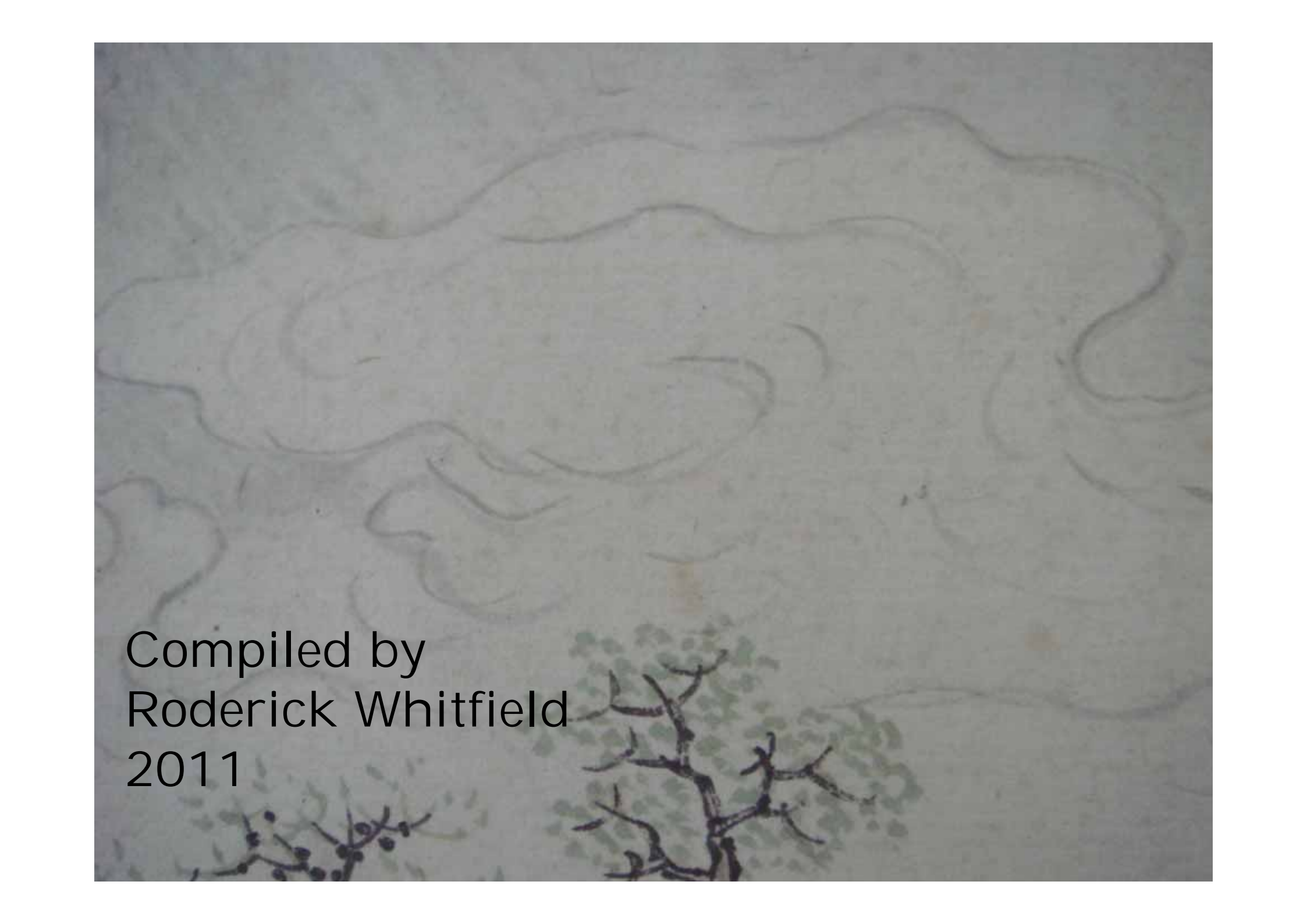


Photographs by Roderick Whitfield





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Wou Lien-Pai Museum of Chinese Art

The background of the slide features a traditional East Asian ink wash painting. It depicts a misty or rainy landscape with large, flowing, wavy lines representing clouds or rain. In the lower right corner, there is a dark, gnarled pine branch with some green foliage. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

Compiled by
Roderick Whitfield
2011