

Legends of China 04

- Here is the fourth legend. This continues the creation myth.
- This one includes the birth of gardening and husbandry.
- Can you find out more about it? Can you find different versions of this legend?

Shen Nong (Yen Di) and Herbs



Nv Wa's creations reproduced and populated the Earth, though they were innocent and lived in caves. Nv Wa was no longer with them, but the first of five great emperors of the Chinese people came. He was known as the "Housing Emperor." He taught the people how to build houses and shelter instead of living in caves. This gave them the knowledge to create housing anywhere.

Next was the "Fire Emperor." He taught the Chinese people how to create fire from sticks. Nv Wa's people no longer had to live like animals and eat raw food that they caught. With their new found skills of cooking food, Chinese cuisine started. Fire was great for creating delicious dishes, but the "Domestication Emperor" also taught the Chinese people how to fish and tame animals. After this, they didn't have to be nomadic.

Meat was important, but there was not enough to feed the whole population. The "Gardening Emperor" then taught the Chinese people how to plant and raise crops. At last they could settle down and develop a civilization. The "Gardening Emperor" (Shen Nong) became known as Yen Di, and was one of the founding fathers of the Chinese people. Shen Nong was the father of agriculture, and invented the wooden ploughs. He was also the inventor of Chinese herbal medicine and tea.

- The next project is about making presentations.
- What do you think about this topic?
- Would you like to make a presentation about Shen Nong?
- How about Gardening and Husbandry?
- How about Medicinal Herbs?
- We can use myths as interesting ways of introducing up-to-date topics.