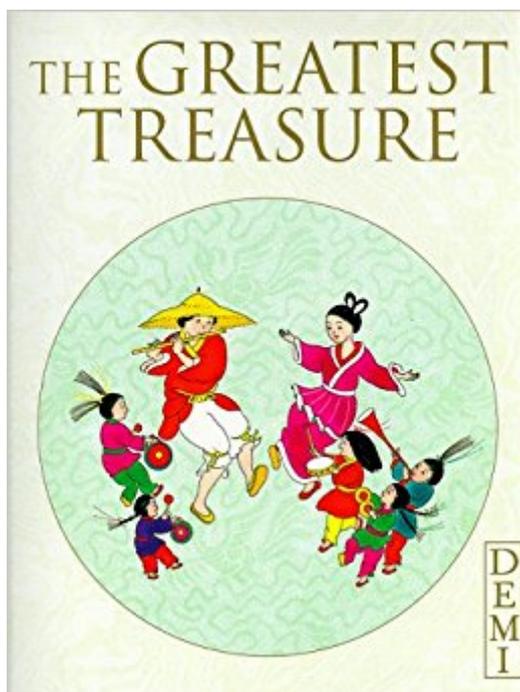


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# The Greatest Treasure



## Synopsis

In this elegant retelling of a traditional Chinese tale, adorned by Demi's exquisitely detailed artwork, a poor farmer discovers that life's greatest treasure lies in his own heart. Full color.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Lexile Measure: 590L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Scholastic (September 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590313398

ISBN-13: 978-0590313391

Product Dimensions: 11.8 x 9.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #889,869 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian](#)

## Customer Reviews

"He who has heaven in his heart is never poor," says a farmer's wife in this simple, graceful adaptation of a Chinese folktale. Pang, a rich man, spends all his time counting his money, neglecting his wife and five sons. Meanwhile Li, who is poor, often plays his flute for his wife and five daughters to dance to. When Li's playing interrupts Pang's counting, Pang gives Li a bag of money to keep him busy?and it works. But Li soon realizes what he?and Pang?are missing, and comes up with a solution that gladdens both families. Demi's (One Grain of Rice) playful illustrations employ a variety of media, from white ground oyster shell to black pine-soot ink, plus her characteristic gold metallic tone. The colors are unusually intense and the general effect lustrous. The circular compositions, set atop lightly figured backgrounds, possess a sheen that creates the effect of Chinese porcelain plates on damask cloth. Stylish and accessible. All ages. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 3-A picture-book adaptation of a Chinese folktale included in Wolfram Eberhard's scholarly collection *The Folktales of China* (University of Chicago, 1965; o.p.). Originally titled "Money Makes Cares," the story contrasts a wealthy man, Pang, with a poor one, Li. Pang is

so busy counting his money that he has no time to play with his five sons or enjoy life. Li, his neighbor, works his small farm, yet also plays the flute so that his five daughters can sing and dance. Pang, disturbed by their music and laughter, gives Li a bag of gold coins. As Pang expects, Li becomes obsessed with counting the money and thinking of ways to spend it. For a time, the music and laughter are stilled. Then Li's wife recalls a proverb, "He who has heaven in his heart is never poor," which inspires Li to return the money and give Pang another gift as well. A small note identifies the reteller's source as Leslie Bonnet's *Chinese Folk and Fairy Tales* (Putnam, 1958; o.p.) While the earlier tales portrayed the rich man as a workaholic manager, Demi casts him as a miser, downplays the role of his wife, and makes the children important supporting actors. Her small decorative figures enact the story inside one circular frame per page. The artwork, executed with Chinese brushes in bright colors, subtly evokes 18th-century European porcelain plates. Unfortunately, one or two images don't quite connect to a narrative event. This humorous celebration of family values and the simple life belongs in larger collections where more Chinese folklore is needed. Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A delightful book that is beautifully illustrated.

I bought this book because I love the work of Demi. This book is beautiful and special. I enjoy it very much myself, as I also enjoy reading it to my 4 year old.

Good condition and served its purpose well. The kids in my class loved this story

used this story during a children's moment at church and several adults commented on how much they enjoyed the story too!

Once upon a time in China, there was a rich man named Pang who spent all day worrying about his money, and a poor man named Li who worked on a small farm and played music on his flute in his spare time. Pang hated to hear Li's family dancing and laughing to Li's flute music, so he decided to give Li a bag of money. "If Li were rich, he would not have time to make so much noise," he thought. What will happen when Li is suddenly rich? Demi illustrates this traditional Chinese folktale picture book using Chinese brushes, paints, and inks. The fine detail enhances the simple story. Ages 3-8.

This is a story where a man learns the value of how music brings a family together more than hoarding money. It's a great lesson and the book is beautifully illustrated.

I loved this old Chinese tale about a rich man with lots of coins, and a poor man with a happy attitude. It's great to use in multicultural classrooms.

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