

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

Mending the Fold after a Sheep is Lost

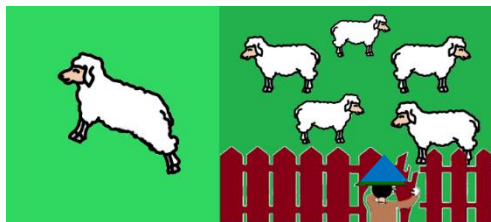
1. During the Warring States Period*, the State of Chu was weak. The King of Chu and the important court officials spent most of their time enjoying a luxurious life. Zhuang Xin, one of the ministers, knew that the State of Chu was in danger because a lot of enemies wanted to attack the territory.

2. One day, Zhuang Xin made up his mind and went to the King's palace. He sincerely hoped that the King of Chu would listen to his advice to pay more attention to guarding the territory. However, the King clenched his fists and yelled, "How dare you! You curse my territory! No one can take my power away!" Zhuang Xin was depressed and felt that the King was incompetent. He asked the King to let him leave. He then went to the State of Zhao and stayed there for a while.

3. Within six months, the King of Qin sent his troops to invade the State of Chu and occupied the territory. The King of Chu escaped to a smaller city "Yang". He remembered Zhuang Xin's words and was regretful for not taking his advice. He sent his officials to invite Zhuang Xin back to help him. When the King saw Zhuang Xin, he asked, "What can I do now? I lost my territory." Zhuang Xin replied, "Let me tell you a story. You may know what to do."

4. Zhuang Xin said, "A shepherd woke up one morning and found that there was a hole in his pen. When he counted his sheep, he realised that one of his sheep was lost. The shepherd immediately chased his lost sheep but forgot to block the hole. Fortunately, the shepherd's wife used her body to block the hole. When the shepherd returned with the lost sheep, he mended the hole in the fence at once."

5. "We did lose our territory but if we reform now and strengthen our army, we still have a chance to get it back," said Zhuang Xin. The King of Chu was very pleased and took Zhuang's advice. The next year, the King of Chu successfully won his territory back.



*The Warring States Period refers to a period of time (475 BC – 221 BC) in ancient history characterised by warfare.