

# POWERFUL RESPECT

## EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT A DRAGON LOOKS LIKE



**Cast:** H= Han, R= Ruler, M = Messenger, W= Wiseman, C=Captain, D=dragon

**Narrator:** We would like to present Everyone Knows What A Dragon Looks Like based on a story by Jay Williams

**H:** (whistling & sweeping) Good evening, Sir

**R:** You are an amazing boy, Han. Always so cheerful, even though you have no family and you are so poor. Here is your daily supper of rice.

**H:** Thank you, sir (goes back to sweeping and whistling).

**M:** Quick boy, take me to the ruler of the city. This city is in terrible danger!

**H:** Yes, sir. Come right this way.

**M:** Beware! The Wild Horsemen of the north are coming, a great army of them. They mean to destroy the city of Wu and bring war into the land of China.

**R:** Quick, Han. Get me the Wiseman and the Captain of the Guards.

**H:** Yes, sir.

**M:** The city is in great danger from the wild horsemen of the north.

**R:** What shall we do?

**W:** There are four things we can do. First, we can fight.

**C:** Our army is small. They know how to shout loudly, how to make threatening leaps and how to wave their swords in the bravest possible way. But they don't know much about fighting.

**W:** Well then, secondly we can run away from the city.

**R:** If we run into the land of China, the Emperor will cut off our heads.

**W:** Well then, thirdly, we can surrender.

**M:** If we surrender, the Wild Horsemen will cut off our heads.

**H:** What is the fourth thing?

**W:** We can pray to the Great Cloud Dragon to help us.

**R:** Ah, that seems most practical. (rings gong) Everyone – go to the temple to pray. Except for you, Han. You go to bed. You will have to get to work early again tomorrow.

**H:** (sleeps on the ground and then wakes up and begins whistling and sweeping)  
(Fat man appears)

**D:** Good morning

**H:** I hope your honorable stomach is happy, sir.

**D:** Will you take me to the ruler of the city?

**H:** Yes, of course I will take you to him but he is very busy this morning. We are expecting the enemy and the Ruler is praying to the Great Cloud Dragon for help.





D: I know. I am a dragon.

H: You don't look like one.

D: How do you know? Have you ever seen one?

H: No. Now that you mention it, I haven't.

D: Well, then...?

H: Well then, please come this way, Honourable Dragon!

R: Who is this person and why have you brought him here?

H: Sir, he is a dragon.

R: Don't be ridiculous! He's a fat man who is tracking dirt on my fine carpets. What do you want here, old man?

D: I have come to help you. But if you want a dragon to help you, you must treat him with courtesy. I have come a long, weary way. Give me something to eat and something to drink and speak to me politely and I will save the city.

W: Now, look here. Everybody knows what dragons look like. They look beautiful.

D: How do you know?

C: Everyone knows that dragons look fierce and powerful.

D: How do you know?

M: My lords, the enemy is coming! The Wild Horsemen are riding across the plain toward the city gates. What shall we do?

D: If you will treat me with courtesy, I will save the city. Give me something to eat and something to drink and speak to me politely. That is the only way to get a dragon to help you.

R: Nonsense! You are not a dragon! Everyone can see that you are only a dusty old wanderer. We have no time to give you free meals or to talk politely. Get out of the way.

(The ruler, wiseman, messenger, and captain all run into the audience and hide behind someone, shaking)

H: (bows) Well, I don't know if you are a dragon or not. But if you are hungry and thirsty, please do me the honour of accepting the food and drink I have.

D: I don't think much of the people of Wu, but for your sake I will save the city.

(little man disappears behind set and dragon emerges. Soldiers on horses appear, see the dragon, and run away screaming.)

(Han goes into the audience to gather the terrified ruler, wiseman, messenger and captain and bring them back to the stage.)

R: I guess you never can tell who someone is by the way that they look.

H: It pays to treat everyone with respect.

