Long ago it is said that the Huangdi

the first Chinese emperor in 2637 B.C. (the 14th century)

had created what is known today as the Chinese zodiac.

to determine a child’s future for the Zhou to act on.

The Emperor invited the entire animal kingdom to partake in a race!

The first 12 animals able to cross the river

would be assigned to a year of the Chinese zodiac system

in order of appearance.

The rat was the winner,

Though he was small and not a good swimmer,

but he had convinced the bull that if they worked together

they would have a better chance of winning the race.

The brawny bull carried the rat to the finish line.

As they got close, the rat jumped off the bull

and crossed the finish line first.

The next to cross the line was the towering tiger,

followed by the running rabbit

who was followed by the dreadful dragon,

then the slithering snake, hay-eating horse, galloping goat,

mindful monkey, and racing rooster,

The determined and driven dog became the 11th animal to cross the river

and following him was the pink pig.

This was true, but this is a full course poem

And the appetizer has just been finished.

There is still more to read.

The cat and rat were the best of friends,

They stayed by each other, until the end.

Both were exceptionally excited for the race

and talked tactics together.

Upon the arrival of the race, cat

needed some rest, so he asked the rat

to wake him when the race begins.

But all rat thought about was how he would win.

When the time came for the race to start,

the rat, instead of doing his part,

silently snuck out and headed for the shore.

Cat woke up to discover

that the race was already over.

The cat decided to never

Forgive the rat

and despise him forever.

And that is why the cat

chases the rat.

Huangdi = emperor