

Fig. 4



"HUALONG DIANJING"

is a Chinese expression meaning
"Dot the dragon's eye, and it comes to life."

The dragon on the left is lifeless without its eyes dotted. Such is detail. The proper detail in the appropriate place will make your story seem real. With its eyes dotted, the dragon on the right seems to be able to see and comes to life.

Use caution, however. Unnecessary detail is like adding scales to the dragon's tail and will only make the tale you tell longer.

For more discussion of "dot(ting) the dragon's eye..."
look for Jack Heffron's *The Writer's Idea Book*.