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# Hao men ye yan

By Gordon Chan

the once mighty empire of the Tang Dynasty  
has fallen into ruin  
Rebellion has spread across the land  
and its insurgents  
have proclaimed their own kingdoms  
This is the period known as  
the "Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms"  
It was an era plagued by widespread turmoil  
treachery amongst government officials  
and a bitter struggle for power  
within the imperial family  
Against this backdrop  
our story begins  
What blessed night is this?  
Drifting down the River Qian  
What auspicious day is this?  
Dreaming beside my prince  
A tender affection has blossomed between  
the maiden Little Wan  
and young Prince Wu Luan  
but his father, the Emperor,  
marries Little Wan himself  
Desperate, Prince Wu Luan disappears  
into the Southern heartlands  
seeking solace in the art of music and dance  
Three years later  
Prince Wu Luan's uncle has killed his brother,  
the Emperor  
and usurped the throne and the Empress  
Empress Wan secretly sends her messengers  
to warn Prince Wu Luan of the assassination  
and urge his return  
But she is unaware  
the new Emperor has already  
dispatched assassins  
to prevent Prince Wu Luan's return  
Trees live on mountains  
and branches live on trees  
My heart lives for your heart  
but you do not see me...  
From her Majesty the Empress  
to Prince Wu Luan  
Our country has suffered a great loss  
Your father, the Emperor, has passed away

Your uncle has usurped the throne  
Return at once on receipt of this  
Father...

This helmet does not sit well on you  
To call Your Emperor "you" is not appropriate  
The correct address is "Your Majesty"  
It is hard for me to adapt so quickly  
Brother-in-law  
Indeed this is not a good fit  
I shall have a new one made  
The kingdom shall not wait  
Seal the door  
Sister-in-law  
The correct address is "Empress"  
Your brother should not have trusted you  
The death of the late Emperor  
had nothing to do with me  
Is the Crown Prince still alive?  
Sister-in-law seems very concerned  
I am his step-mother after all  
He is 4 years older than you are  
Brother-in-law is familiar with the way  
I remove my make-up  
Not just your make-up  
but also the way you enter your bath  
Will brother-in-law let the Prince go free?  
Will you let my hand go free?  
This theater is under  
the Crown Prince's protection  
Stay your swords now  
Your servant Qing bows before Your Majesty  
Your Majesty  
Is this the red you had chosen?  
Hang it up  
This material  
was originally intended  
for your wedding to the Prince  
However  
it is now used in my coronation  
Why did you run all the way here?  
When I was summoned to the inner court  
I thought perhaps the Prince had returned  
I was just about to ask you  
Have you not heard from the Prince?

He never writes to me  
Then how do you communicate?  
Through dreams  
I dream of him every night  
And we talk to each other  
Did you dream of him last night?  
Yes  
What did he say to you?  
He told me not to eat too much sweets  
But then he also said  
young girls tend to like sweet things  
it is not really a bad habit  
I also used to like sweet things  
Brother-in-law really knows  
how to please a woman  
How do I compare with my brother?  
The late Emperor was a wise and valiant man  
You mean to say  
he was not very adept at pleasing you  
No...  
When he was willing  
he could be exceptionally virile  
But he was not often willing  
Am I right?  
The tug between power and love  
has tormented past emperors for centuries  
You do not seem to be tormented  
Before tonight everything was simple  
I cared only for my kingdom  
But after tonight  
when there is you, sister-in-law  
what need do I have of a kingdom?  
You certainly know how to flatter a woman  
I speak from the heart  
Why don't you give away the throne  
so we can retire to the woods  
and live like hermits?  
What do you think?  
Sister-in-law  
do you want me killed?  
I was only teasing  
If it is my life that you want  
you can have it  
You can have everything that is mine

Your Highness  
My father...  
How did he die?  
They say that  
while he was taking his afternoon nap  
he was stung by a scorpion  
There are scorpions in the palace?  
They say you can find everything in the palace  
Who are "they"?  
The people who live there  
Including her?  
She is about to be crowned Empress again  
By whom?  
Your uncle  
the new Emperor  
Wu Luan  
Yes  
You worried me to death  
Empress Mother  
You sound a little hoarse  
Why are you wearing such a strange mask  
and a battered old sword case?  
What has happened to you?  
This is a question  
I should be asking you  
What have you heard?  
Did I come back  
to grieve for my father  
or to congratulate my step-mother?  
Do not use such a cruel tone of voice  
against a helpless woman  
I have sacrificed more than enough  
for you and your father  
But  
my father's spirit  
still wanders restlessly outside the palace gate  
Empress Mother  
Look into my eyes and tell me  
Did my father  
really die  
from the sting of a scorpion?  
Wu Luan  
The pain in your eyes  
breaks my heart

Don't ask so many questions  
Don't think too much  
Promise me?  
The best way to soothe your father's spirit  
is to make sure we are both safe  
Especially you  
Your Majesty  
Forgive me  
My shabby clothes  
have soiled the Empress' bathrobe  
Show me what is inside your sword case  
The sword of the Yue Maiden  
best suited to close combat  
I only use it for paper cutting now  
When your father first taught us swordplay  
you were always the better pupil  
Is this your work?  
These are the words of a song from Yue  
Can you sing it for me?  
It is about a Prince sailing down a stream  
and the rowing girl falls in love with him  
She sings this song  
So it is a love song  
No  
it is a song about loneliness  
You can sing to your young friend Qing  
She would not understand  
No one can really understand another person  
If we did  
we would not feel so lonely  
When your father allowed you  
to pursue the arts  
I was against the idea  
To me, a man should not be  
a lonely musician  
a product of warm hills and soft streams  
A proper man is a prince  
who rules over his kingdom  
with strength and courage  
That is only your idea of a man,  
Empress Mother  
But you have responsibilities  
They're bestowed upon you  
by the heavens above

passed on to you by your ancestors  
expected of you by your people  
Hasn't my uncle assumed  
these responsibilities in me?  
He...  
His Majesty has commanded me  
to greet you here  
You have allowed the Prince to slip away  
insulting His Majesty with your incompetence  
What do you suggest you should do?  
We shall offer up our lives as penance  
Very good  
Your families will be spared  
We thank his gracious Majesty for his lenience  
Clean the bridge  
This palace is falling to ruin  
The late Emperor was a thrifty man  
but I am not going to suffer the way he did  
Pave the ceiling  
with flowers in gold leaf  
Yes, Your Majesty  
May I enquire  
should the central pillar be painted in vermilion  
or ink black?  
Vermilion is the color of blood  
and gold represents glory  
Which glorious dynasty  
has not been forged with blood?  
Minister Yin  
Your Majesty  
I envy you  
for having such a personable and astute son  
gifted in both cultural and military affairs  
Unlike my nephew  
your Crown Prince  
who only knows to sing and dance  
If Your Majesty does not like  
the snow leopard carving  
it can be replaced at once  
I like it  
When it snows  
this creature stays inside  
the cave to groom his fur  
When the sun comes out,

it emerges shiny and sleek  
it knows about changing with the weather  
This is a clever beast  
May your servant suggest that  
a tiger would be even more appropriate  
According to the Book of Change  
a great man descends from a tiger  
a gentleman from a leopard  
Your majesty is a great man  
The tiger has an appropriate air of majesty  
Governor Pei Hong of You Province  
Your Majesty  
Why are you silent?  
I was thinking, perhaps  
this snow leopard should be gifted  
to Minister Yin  
Why is that?  
Because he too knows how to change  
with the weather  
Governor Pei's suggestion is excellent  
We shall bestow on Minister Yin  
this beautiful carving  
My deepest gratitude to Your Majesty  
As for a replacement...  
let it be a tiger then  
Better still, carve a flying dragon  
Long live Your Majesty the Empress  
Your servant Pei Hong  
bows before the Empress Dowager  
Governor Pei greeted the Empress  
as Empress Dowager  
Did you all hear that?  
Yes  
What does this signify?  
Nobody dares speak?  
Then let me explain  
The late Emperor has ascended  
to the heavens  
if the Crown Prince succeeds the throne  
the Empress will become  
the Empress Dowager  
Thus, I am the usurper  
Have we understood you correctly,  
Governor Pei?



No wonder you are a respected scholar  
With three words  
you have rearranged the hierarchy of the court  
According to our ancestral customs  
the Emperor kneels to the Empress Dowager  
as a son to his mother  
But the Empress kneels to the Emperor  
as a wife to her husband  
Are you the Empress Dowager?  
Or the Empress?  
Should I kneel?  
Or should you?  
Please advise us  
Which is the correct procedure?  
Your humble consort kneels  
before Your Majesty  
Your Majesty  
Late Emperor  
did your spirit in heaven  
witness this vile exchange?  
General Yin  
Your Majesty  
The province of You is now yours to govern  
I am your servant, Your Majesty  
Imperial Guards  
Your Majesty  
Pei Hong is condemned to be beaten to death  
and his entire clan executed  
At once, Your Majesty  
What was it that you said we should carve?  
A flying dragon  
Let it be a dragon and a phoenix  
This is too brutal  
They say that Pei Hong himself invented this  
form of punishment  
for the late Emperor's use  
Pei Hong is dying because of me  
If you have any regrets  
I can pardon him at once  
No pardon  
I am grateful to you  
You don't have to be  
Did you help the late Emperor  
in this same way?

No

Then why are you being so generous with me?

You give me what the late Emperor

could never give

Lord Chamberlain

Present

I hereby proclaim

the Empress coronation will take place

on the fifteenth day of this month

Your Majesty

the traitor Pei Hong is dead

He has returned

He is not a threat to you

But you said that the people anticipate

his succession

Yin Sun

What do you think you're doing?

This gift from the Emperor

is an insult to father

It may be an insult

but more than that, it is a test

If your father had not been able to withstand

a little humiliation from time to time

he would never have reached his present rank

or been trusted by three successive emperors

What worries me is your little sister

She is far too innocent

I cannot get the eyes of the phoenix right

Imagine the eyes of Empress Wan

The Empress' eyes are

sometimes soft and charming

and sometimes frightening

A phoenix with a steady gaze

is what would please the Empress most

The coronation is only two days away

I fear this will not be ready in time

From now on

it is best if you stopped seeing the Prince

Why?

When the late Emperor was alive

this match was our family's blessing

Now that he is gone

I fear it may be our downfall

My heart will never change

Make it change  
Learn from the Empress  
Who cares about losing a kingdom  
when in the presence of such rare beauty?  
You can hardly be more secure on your throne  
I can't ruin you anyway  
Qing, why don't you leave us  
Yes, Your Majesty  
In the heart of hearts, do you not trust me?  
The person I do not trust is my dear nephew  
I wonder how his rehearsal  
for the coronation is going  
Your Majesty  
this rehearsal  
adheres to the usual rules  
only wooden swords are employed  
Please examine the weapons, Your Highness  
Thank you  
We have heard that Your Highness  
is an expert swordsman  
Mere childish endeavours  
I have not practiced in years  
It is the Emperor's wish  
that our performance at the coronation  
should impress the entire court  
Swordplay is always impressive  
and performance is my specialty  
In that case, please begin, Your Highness  
I am dead  
You really meant to kill him  
We would not dare  
He said he is dead  
What does the Empress think he died of?  
He...  
mistook a deadly combat for a show  
Precisely  
And I thoroughly enjoyed the show  
How did you manage to lose so badly today?  
Did you think I lost?  
I hope that you will do better  
at my coronation  
Why do you wear a mask when you perform?  
It transports an actor to the highest state  
of his art

Without a mask  
happiness, anger, sorrow and joy  
are simply written on his face  
But with a mask  
a great artist can convey to the audience  
the most complex and hidden emotions  
In that case, what do you see  
on my simple face?  
Six parts arrogance, three parts disquiet  
and one part guilt towards your late husband  
You are wrong  
It is disappointment... disappointment in you  
I no longer look to you to fulfill my dreams  
I can only pray to the heavens to have mercy  
and protect us both  
You are incapable of even  
the most basic play-acting  
Your sorrow, anger, bitterness and uncertainty  
are there for all to see  
You permit danger to follow you everywhere  
You think hiding behind a mask  
can elevate your art?  
The highest level is to use your own face  
and turn it into a mask  
You are here  
Yes  
This is what you asked for  
Do not smell it  
The poison  
is a thousand times deadlier than arsenic  
If I can't smell it  
how do I use it?  
You blow it into the ear with a quill  
What is it made of?  
Why is it so poisonous?  
It's made of Erysipelas from the Northeast  
ground together with  
black scorpions of the Northwest  
So nothing is more poisonous?  
No  
What can be more lethal than this?  
The human heart  
There aren't any...  
Any what?

There aren't any scorpions in the palace  
I hear you brought back a song  
I heard it from the Empress...  
Trees live on mountains  
and branches live on trees  
My heart lives for your heart  
but you do not see me  
How pitiful...  
Who?  
The boat girl  
She loves him  
but he does not see her  
No  
You are talking about me  
You think I'm pitiful  
She pities me too  
Both of you  
use my suffering  
to lure me into your embrace  
Is that not the case?  
No  
Admit it  
No  
I am not her  
You are her  
I am not her  
You are her  
I am not her  
You are her  
The coronation ceremony  
of Her Majesty the Empress Wan  
will now commence  
The Empress' Seal  
May the Emperor live ten thousand times  
ten thousand years  
May the Empress live a thousand times  
a thousand years  
A performance of swordplay  
by the Crown Prince Wu Luan  
and the Imperial Guards  
Uncle  
Empress Mother  
I wish you both everlasting happiness  
My apologies for being late

Please forgive me  
I am not going to play with you tonight  
Instead, I have prepared a play  
for your amusement  
Darkness has fallen  
My dear nephew  
I have been expecting you  
Won't you take off your mask  
and let me look at your face?  
Your are covered in sweat  
They are tears  
Come  
Let me wipe them away for you  
No  
Your sleeves are soaked with Erysipelas  
They reek of black scorpions  
Wu Luan, you are not acting in a play now  
What a talented artist  
I feel so gratified  
Quickly bow and thank His Majesty  
Thank you, Uncle  
How much you have grown  
in the last three years  
It's time to take on some serious  
responsibilities now  
Minister Yin  
Your Majesty  
What was in the dispatch sent by the Khitans?  
It says that to strengthen the trust  
between our two nations  
we should each send our Crown Prince  
to live in the other's country  
Have they sent their hostage yet?  
They have, Your Majesty  
But I hear  
he is in fact the son of a herdsman  
We shall not behave like the Khitans  
We are a great country  
and we live by our word  
We shall send a real prince  
No  
Why not?  
His nature is too gentle  
All the better

It will be honed by the sandstorms  
of the northern deserts  
He is too emotional  
He may offend the Khitan Khan  
It appears you are emotional now  
but am I offended?  
Your Majesty's magnanimity  
is vast enough to embrace oceans  
But I will not tolerate a grain of sand in my eye  
Lord Chamberlain  
Yes, Your Majesty

**Write this down:**

The Crown Prince Wu Luan  
is henceforth appointed Ambassador to Khitan  
He will be escorted by the Imperial Guards  
and will depart promptly today  
By command of the Emperor  
Imperial Guards  
Your Majesty  
Escort the Crown Prince  
Yes, Your Majesty  
His Majesty is doing this for your own good  
Go...  
Wait  
Your Majesties, the Emperor  
and Empress  
Your servant Qing begs  
to accompany the Prince  
For what reason?  
So that when he is lonely  
there will be someone to sing to him  
Who do you think you are?  
Lord Chamberlain  
Present  
Take her away  
and give her thirty lashes of the whip  
Empress Mother  
Does it hurt?  
Yes  
My dearest daughter  
you have to learn to endure the pain  
It hurts too much  
but I shall listen to you and try to bear it

Her Majesty the Empress approaches  
Does it hurt?  
No  
Look at you  
Tears are welling up  
and you still say it doesn't hurt?  
No, it doesn't  
Do you know why I punished you?  
Because you are jealous  
Qing  
Let her speak  
I like to hear the truth  
And why am I jealous?  
Because I have love  
And I don't?  
You only love yourself  
Nonsense  
Who does not love themselves?  
Let us take him as an example  
your father  
My father loves my brother and me  
more than anything in the world  
Really?  
Let us find out if this is true  
Guards  
Your Majesty  
Brand her face  
then have her exiled to the South  
Your merciful Majesty  
I always knew  
that the Minister was a man of wisdom  
Where are we?  
We are 350 miles past the province of You  
the Khitan boarder is just ahead  
Really?  
Why didn't you tell me  
when we passed You Province?  
I should have paid a visit to Yin Sun  
His Majesty commanded  
that there must be no delay  
Who is that?  
That is you  
The Prince  
The hostage



In which case  
I shall not reach Khitan  
No, you will not  
When do you plan to kill me?  
Now  
You think you are capable of killing me?  
It will be either your death or ours  
I am Yin Sun, Governor of You  
My greetings to Your Highness  
Why did you save me?  
It was an order from that woman  
Her?  
Her  
You follow her orders?  
My sister is in her hands  
I am sorry  
Don't be  
What will you say to my uncle?  
I shall report that  
all the envoys were slaughtered by the Khitans  
There is not one single survivor  
But I am alive  
You will have to hide  
I do not want to live like a mole  
This is only temporary  
Temporary?  
How long is that?  
Three years?  
Five years?  
Or until my hair turns gray?  
It is still better than returning  
and dying needlessly  
I am not afraid of death  
But you cannot let other people die  
because of you  
Will you not be satisfied until my sister  
my father  
and our entire clan  
have sacrificed themselves  
the way these poor guards have done  
so that you can play at your revenge?  
Will you not be satisfied until rivers flow  
with blood  
and the world is submerged in turmoil?

Looking at this mask  
what do you two see?  
Destiny at play  
Your Majesty is the true son of Heaven  
Nobody can oppose you  
But if I had not made the right move in time  
it would have been my blood  
you are staring at now, wouldn't it?  
You seem nervous...  
is the Minister not feeling well?  
Why are you sweating so profusely?  
Governor Yin  
Your Majesty  
Your father has worked too hard all his life  
Stay at home and keep him company  
My military duties  
keep me away from home, Your Majesty  
Your military duties?  
Without you,  
the sky is hardly going to fall down  
Your Majesty's kindness  
has moved your servant to tears  
We are most grateful  
for Your Majesty's consideration  
I have never liked masks  
You may leave  
Yes, Your Majesty  
Lord Chamberlain  
Present  
We shall give a banquet for the entire court  
The day after tomorrow is an auspicious day  
for feasting  
That would be too late  
make it tomorrow night  
Tomorrow is not auspicious  
for receiving guests  
I will not bow to superstition

**Write this down:**

Tomorrow at midnight  
all courtiers are invited to a royal banquet  
to be given in the hall of gold  
Yes, Your Majesty  
Anyone who fails to attend

will be executed  
Since the departure of the Crown Prince  
your sister has not touched  
a single grain of rice  
Then let me tell her  
that he is still alive  
No  
Give this to her  
Drifting down the river Qian  
What auspicious day is this?  
Dreaming beside my Prince  
Brother  
I dreamt of him again last night  
He was dancing somewhere white as snow  
There were a lot of people  
He even invited me to join him  
Little sister  
stop fooling yourself  
You are not in his heart  
I know  
But I promised I would wait for him always  
You are in your brother's heart  
I will not let anybody harm you  
Is there anything more poisonous than this?  
Yes  
What?  
The human heart  
Well said  
Why didn't the Prince take it with him  
on his last visit?  
He was not ruthless enough  
This is your payment  
Arsenic?  
There is not much  
but it should be enough for one  
His Majesty the Emperor approaches  
We have not played polo for a while  
Let us have a big match, you and I  
Your Majesty is throwing a banquet tonight  
Is there enough time to play?  
It is still early  
I have a headache  
Lord Chamberlain  
Present

Send for the Imperial Physician at once  
Yes, Your Majesty  
There is no need  
I just need to rest for a while  
Let me  
Your Majesty  
Don't move  
Look at you  
An Empress  
Mother to a nation  
And you still kick off your blankets  
when you sleep  
Did you catch cold last night?  
Your Majesty  
How long have we been together?  
Why do you ask?  
Including today  
it would be one hundred days exactly  
You have been counting  
But to me  
it feels like less than a single day  
One hundred days, but  
I have never surrendered all of myself before  
Even if you are a piece of ice  
you will eventually melt in my mouth  
What if the ice  
turns into fire?  
A globe of fire in your mouth  
Then I shall swallow it  
and it will warm my heart  
Do it now  
Swallow it now  
What did she say?  
The Empress said that  
her mind was made up  
the moment the Prince  
was sent away as hostage  
The Emperor is fickle and suspicious  
She may be his favorite now  
but sooner or later  
he will turn his attention elsewhere  
Rather than wait to be discarded  
she has decided to take the risk  
and strike first

She wants to rule herself?

Exactly

Once she has succeeded

she intends to denounce the Emperor  
as a fratricide and usurper

She will say that she is carrying out  
heavenly justice

on behalf of the late Emperor

She wants us to rally

and support her claim to the throne

This woman

Ah, this woman

Father

whose side should we take?

We have no choice,

she has planned everything perfectly

First, your sister is in her hands

Secondly, when she asked you

to save the Prince

it was not for personal reasons alone

It was to turn us into her accomplices

so that we have nowhere to stand except  
by her side

She knows that we have no option now

If this woman succeeds

we must denounce her straight away

as a traitor and an assassin

The person who deserves to ascend

the throne is not her

but you

Father

Are you afraid?

No

If Heaven bestows this gift upon me

to refuse would be

to disobey the gods

Ling

prepare the carriage

To the Minister of Law

Minister Yin and his son, Yin Sun

are guilty of the following crimes:

Deceit of the Emperor and tyranny

over the court

misuse of power and collusion of the enemy

They will be stripped of their titles  
and exiled to the South  
All their property will be confiscated  
and deposited in the national reserve  
By command of the Emperor  
General Yin  
General Yin  
My Lord Chamberlain  
Present  
I wish to say a few words  
Yes, Your Majesty  
Pour the wine  
Yes, Your Majesty the Empress  
Our ancestors used to roam the palace  
with candles by night  
but our most gracious Emperor  
throws brilliant banquets for his courtiers  
His hospitality surpasses all  
who came before him  
It is my privilege  
to thank His Majesty with this toast  
Also  
tonight  
I am going to take Your Majesty's life  
Excellent  
Esteemed courtiers  
Let us drink together  
To His Majesty  
Your servant Qing and my dancers  
beg permission to entertain Your Majesties  
with a performance  
Minister Yin  
Your Majesty  
Did you organize this surprise for me?  
Your Majesty  
this is Qing's own idea  
My father knows nothing about it  
Good  
What have you prepared for us?  
A song from Yue  
This sounds familiar  
It was the Crown Prince's favorite song  
To commemorate him  
I want him to know

that even if the whole world abandons him  
I shall never do so  
and my love for him will never die  
This is very touching  
Grant her some wine  
Yes, Your Majesty  
Take my cup  
let me join you in remembering  
the departed spirit of my dear nephew  
Such an honor is too great for Wu Luan  
Let us fetch another cup  
Lord Chamberlain  
Present  
There is no need  
Thank you, My Lord  
But I do not know how to drink  
You must not refuse His Majesty's gracious gift  
Then I shall have a little sip  
Sister  
What blessed night is this?  
Drifting down the river Qian  
What auspicious day is this?  
Dreaming beside my Prince  
Too bashful to stare  
A secret I cannot share  
My heart fills with longing  
to know you, dear Prince  
Trees live on mountains  
and branches live on trees  
My heart lives for your heart  
but you do not see me  
You do not see me  
Qing  
Wu Luan  
It's me  
It's me  
The moment the song started  
I could feel you near me  
My dearest Qing  
Your Highness  
do you still feel lonely?  
With you  
I shall never be lonely again  
Your brother loves you

No one can harm you  
You poisoned the wine?  
Yes  
You wanted me to die?  
Yes  
And all along I thought I was warming  
your heart  
It has been heated to the point of burning  
Lord Chamberlain  
Present  
Carry out this edict:  
Qing is to be given a lavish state burial  
Minister Yin  
What are you waiting for?  
You...  
venomous woman  
Where are the Imperial Guards?  
Imperial Guards  
Protect the Emperor  
Anyone who stands in my way will perish  
This man  
murdered my father like a coward  
This is a matter  
between the two of us  
It is nobody else's concern  
I don't want to kill the innocent  
Out of my way  
Such majestic demeanor  
as befits a nephew of mine  
I knew that if you were alive  
this day would come sooner or later  
And here you are  
Was it the desire for revenge  
that hauled you out of the valley of death?  
Or was it your melancholy  
that touched the hearts of women  
so that their tenderness  
wove a web of protection around you?  
Or perhaps  
a million calculations cannot compare  
with one pure heart?  
Or maybe it is you  
my brother  
who has been protecting your son all along



so that he can spill my blood  
and restore your honor?  
If this is what you want  
Brother  
then let me appease you tonight  
You offered me a toast  
How can I refuse?  
The Emperor is dead  
Your Majesty  
Your Majesty  
Do with me what you will  
Please do not lay this sinful title on me  
Would killing you  
bring Qing back to life?  
The blade is poisoned  
Wu Luan  
It is nothing  
You are going to be fine  
He was lying  
There is no poison  
The blade is not poisoned  
Wu Luan  
Imperial Physician  
Lord Chamberlain  
Ling, where are you?  
Wu Luan  
Where is everybody?  
Little Wan...  
Little Wan...  
Little Wan is here...  
Your Little Wan is here  
Look at me, look at me  
Your Little Wan is here...  
Little Wan is here  
It is so good  
to be able to die  
You cannot die  
You must not die  
Wu Luan  
May your majesty live ten thousand times  
ten thousand years  
Long live  
Long live  
Long live Your Majesty

Minister Yin conspired to usurp the Throne  
By law, he should be executed  
But considering his service  
to three successive emperors  
he will only be exiled to the far North  
and never to return  
By command of the Empress  
Little Wan  
When was it that I started to forget my name?  
Perhaps it was the day your father married me  
You left  
and nobody used my name anymore  
Gradually even I forgot what it was  
Then your uncle married me  
and again I was called the Empress  
But from now on  
nobody will call me Empress anymore  
Instead, they will call me  
Her Majesty, the Emperor  
Do you know why I like this particular red?  
Because it is the color  
of the flame of desire  
Yes  
desire  
How many lives  
have been consumed by this flame?  
Only I  
shall rise out of it  
like a phoenix  
The breathless whisper of a single verse  
And loneliness blossoms within my heart  
The shimmer of a single dream  
And my world is undone  
The memory of a single tenderness  
And the sting of love reignites my wounds  
In the moment when a single tear falls  
All hatred becomes a distant blur  
I can love you with all that I am  
But even this cannot return you to me  
From now on I will live as a shadow  
Forever in the past...  
Forever in the past...