

LÜ: Isn't this the Hua-jung Path?

KUO: Where is the Hua-jung Path?

(Lü weeps, and then laughs)

KUO: (to the audience) This Taoist priest must be a mad man. He asked me, "Isn't this the Wu River? Isn't this the Hua-jung Path?" Then he weeps and laughs, laughs and weeps. He is really crazy.

LÜ: Where are the heroes of the past now? This side of the Hua-jung Path is the relics of Ts'ao Ts'ao.⁴³ On the bank of the Wu River is King Pa's⁴⁴ old site. Ts'ao Ts'ao, a champion scoundrel, slept on a round pillow by night and gave poisoned wine to others by day.⁴⁵ King Pa, who divided the country into three, possessed earth-shattering bravery and mountain-moving strength. Where they are now? (Sings -- tune of *Huo-hsin-lang*)

Look! The dragons and tigers were fighting for the old land.

KUO: Whom are you laughing at?

LÜ: (sings)

I am laughing at the scoundrel hero, Ts'ao Ts'ao.

KUO: Then who are you crying for?

LÜ: (sings)

I am crying for the heroic King Pa!

KUO: Sir, why do you cry after you laugh, and laugh after you cry?

LÜ: (sings)

For rise and fall, I laugh, then I cry!

Suddenly the sun is again getting late.

The hundred years of a man are really within a snap of fingers.

KUO: I don't mind you enjoying yourself on the tower, but don't disturb my customers.

LÜ: (sings)

I hear the noise of the customers in front of the tower.

How can they compare with the leisure of wild gulls on a river.

Man of a hundred years is but an illusion...

(looks around)

KUO: (also looking around) I'll take a look as you do.

LÜ: (sings)

I see that you are a golden-threaded willow.

You still lean leisurely against twelve jade bannisters.

KUO: Sir, what do you come here for?

LÜ: I come here to beg a cup of tea from you.

KUO: To beg for a cup of tea you surely used nice sweet words. Well, for a man out of this world, I can always do some service. (to his wife) Wife, make some tea for this priest.

LÜ: I will not drink tea that way. You must follow my instructions. Come, make me a deep bow and say, "May I ask you, my dear sir, what kind of tea you desire?" Then I will tell you the name of the tea.

KUO: (to the audience) Did you see that? I see that he is not a man of this world, so I was nice to him and gave him some tea. But I never expected he is so fussy. Well, all right, I'll follow his instructions. Anyway, there aren't many customers now. He is crazy, and I am silly. We might as well play a little game. I will obey him, and make a deep bow. (to Lü) May I ask you, sir, what kind of tea do you desire?

LÜ: I'd like a quince tea.

KUO: Good Heavens! What a big mouth! Open your mouth a little wider, and you might dislocate your jaw! I asked, "What kind of tea do you desire?" He says, "I'd like a quince."

LÜ: Whom are you imitating, Kuo Ma-erh?

KUO: I'm imitating you.

LÜ: You would be doing all right if you could imitate me.

KUO: If I imitated you, I would have a dumb head the rest of my life. (to his wife) Wife, make some quince. (Lü drinks the tea) Give me the cup.

LÜ: I will not give you the cup.

KUO: Why don't you give me the cup?

LÜ: You must follow my instructions again. Make a deep bow and say, "May I ask you, my dear sir, how is the taste of the tea?" Then I will give you the cup.

KUO: All right, all right. I will obey. Say no more. My dear sir, I bow to you. How is the taste of the tea?

LÜ: The tea is no good.

KUO: That's just fine! You make a fine advertisement.

LÜ: For that you should be punished.

KUO: Why punish me?

LÜ: Ask me the proper way.

KUO: O.K. I bow to you. My dear sir, what kind of tea do you desire?

LÜ: I'd like a cream tea.