

KUO: What a tight lip. I asked him, "My dear sir, what kind of tea do you desire?" And he says, "I'd like a cream tea." First he drank a quince. Second, he asks for a cream tea. The guy has a small mouth, and then a big mouth.⁴⁶

LÜ: Kuo Ma-erh, I do have a small mouth and a big mouth.

KUO: A big mouth and a small mouth makes the character *Lü*. Add another mouth and the character is *p'in*, which means my tea is of excellent quality.⁴⁷ (to his wife) In that case, wife, make a cream tea for the priest.

LÜ: (takes the tea) Kuo Ma-erh, is this real cream in the tea?

KUO: What else could it be but real cream in the tea?

LÜ: It's goat's fat.

KUO: Goats' fat is used for candles. Where could I get goats' fat?

LÜ: If you would light like a candle, there would be plenty of goats' fat.⁴⁸

KUO: The way you talk, I must be a willow tree. (Lü drinks) Give me your cup.

LU: I will not give you the cup. You must ask me in the proper manner.

KUO: O.K. O.K. Sir, how is the taste of the tea?

LÜ: It is still no good.

KUO: This is the second time!

LU: You should be punished again. Come on! Ask me the same way as before.

KUO: O.K. Sir, what kind of a tea do you desire to drink?

LÜ: I will have an almond tea.

KUO: This guy really has taste. First he drank quince; then he drank cream tea. Now he wants almond tea. With some dry food given him, and he will be full for half a day.

LU: If it hadn't been for me, Ma-erh, you would have become a dry beam.⁴⁹

KUO: It seems I am just a block of wood. All right, all right. (to his wife) My dear, make an almond tea for the priest.

WIFE: I have almonds, but no boards.

KUO: (to Lü) Sir, we have almonds, but no boards.

LÜ: Did you say you have almonds but no boards? Thirty years ago, if you were cup up, there would have been plenty of boards.⁵⁰

KUO: Sir, I can't stand your saying one sentence after another. Wife, make an almond tea. (Lü drinks the tea) Give me the cup.

LÜ: I will not give you the cup. You should ask for it the same way as

before.

KUO: O.K. Sir, how is the taste of the tea?

LÜ: Kuo Ma-erh, this tea of yours . . .

KUO: Still no good, right?

LÜ: How did you guess?

KUO: I am learning your ways.

LÜ: I want you to learn my way.⁵¹ (Kuo licks the tea cup) Kuo Ma-erh, I have seen you lick it.

KUO: Lick what?

LÜ: Lick the bottom of the cup. Why?

KUO: Sir, you wouldn't know. My wife, Ho La-mei, and I have been married for several years. But we have no children. All merchants and travelers, whether from the north or south, buying or selling would come up my tower for tea. I drink the left-over tea. Do you know why? This is called stealing secret merits to accumulate my own blessings. Should we have a boy or girl, the Kuo family would have someone to continue burning the incense.

LÜ: Oh, I see. What would you say if I help you accumulate more secret merits?

KUO: That will be better.

LÜ: Get me a cup, Kuo Ma-erh. Drink up the tea I throw out. It will make you have a son. (Lü throws out the tea from his mouth)

KUO: (does not drink the tea; to the audience) When I take a look at his dirty face, I would rather be without heirs than drink his tea. Let me play his game and see what he has to say. (to Lü) Sir, if you eat the food I have left over, I will drink your tea.

LÜ: Then bring me your left-over food.

(Sings -- tune of *Wu-T'ung-shu*)

You said two cups of tea would make one perspire all over.

Have you not heard that one grain of rice can pass through the bowel three times?

Who cares about won-ton skin, bun stuffings or leftover rice . . .

Whenever there's food or wine, the teacher would eat.

(vomits again)

KUO: Oh, it's so dirty!

LÜ: If you drink my leftover tea, I'll eat your leftover food.

KUO: I'll tell you. I won't drink your tea and you need not eat my food. Wearing that half-piece of goatskin, you look as foul as a beggar.