

*Then I could not be found for my place is covered by white clouds.*

KUO: But my wife, where did you take her?

LÜ: She is not your wife.

KUO: Then is she your wife?

LÜ: (sings—tune of *Ch'en-tsui-tung-feng*)

*She is my destined companion since childhood.  
And as husband and wife, since we were kids.  
Oh, you fool! She is my wife.  
Can't you understand?*

KUO: You are not a man of this world. How can you have a wife?

LÜ: (continues singing)

*A Taoist monk should be matched with a Taoist nun.*  
(speaks) You dumb fellow.  
(sings again)

*We are a couple—my name is Lü.<sup>68</sup>*

KUO: Don't try to argue with me. I am going to sue you.

LÜ: (sings—tune of *Ch'i-ti-hsiang*)

*Go ahead, sue me at the highest authorities.  
"Don't you say, "Even one would wear out one's iron shoes,  
he could not find."  
Come to think of it, it would not take any time at all.  
You have just eaten half a bowl of spittle, in vain.*

(in the tune of *Mei-hua-chiu*)

*I think you are but a vulgar person.  
Who cannot tell the wise from the fool.  
You are a stupid person, a peasant.  
Don't you think I have evil magic tricks?  
I am holding the nose-bar myself.  
You are pulling my cloth robe.  
I am anxious to return.  
But you bother your teacher on the roads.  
Why I don't say anything.  
Think for yourself.*

(sing—tune of *Shou-chiang-nan*)

*I want to chant aloud flying over the Tung-t'ing Lake.  
You talk about honey and cream in your tea shops.*

(an official and his clerks enter)

Lü: (again singing)

*With his beard shaped like a round fan.*

*He is even crueller than the Tao-lu.<sup>69</sup>*

*No wonder the Taoist Ho Hsien-ku' was frightened.*

KUO: (to the officials) This Taoist monk has murdered my wife. Your honor, be my judge.

OFFICIAL: (to Lü) Hey, you Taoist—how dare you kill someone in broad daylight.

LÜ: Kuo Ma-erh accuses me of killing his wife. But his wife did not die.

OFFICIAL: Then where is Ho La-mei? Call her. Let me see her.

LÜ: She is right here. (making magic gestures) Quickly! (Ho enters)

WOMAN: Master, did you call? What can I do for you?

LÜ: Isn't this his wife?

OFFICIAL: (to Kuo) Kuo Ma-erh, you have accused this Taoist monk of killing your wife. Now your wife is here. Since you have wrongly accused an innocent man, you must suffer the same consequences. (to his clerks) Men, take him out and kill him. (the official and his group exit)

KUO: What shall I do?

LÜ: Kuo Ma-erh, you have accused me of killing your wife. Now your wife is here. As one who has wrongly accused an innocent person, you suffer the same consequences. Now they will kill you. Do you want me to save you?

KUO: You know I want you to save me.

(Chung-li and the other immortals enter)

CHUNG-LI: (to Kuo) Kuo Ma-erh, do you know who I am?

KUO: How come the official disappeared and his attendants also disappeared? And here is a group of immortals. Why! I have come to the Five Dragon Altar by mistake?

LÜ: Kuo-Ma-erh, do you recognize these immortals?

KUO: Who is the official with the beard?

LÜ: (sings—tune of *Shui-hsien-tzu*)

*This is Chung-li of the Han, who has charge of the register of all immortals.*

KUO: This one holds a cane in his hand. Is he a clerk?

LÜ: (sings)

*This is Li, who uses an iron crutch and whose hair is never combed.*

KUO: Oh, the one wearing a green robe, is he not an official?