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## 桃花扇

THE PEACH BLOSSOM FAN

I

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LIBRARY OF CHINESE CLASSICS

Chinese-English

# 桃花扇

## The Peach Blossom Fan

### I



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尚荣光 译

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*Translated by Shang Rongguang*

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## 试一出 先声

康熙甲子八月

### 【蝶恋花】

（副末毡巾、道袍、白须上）

古董先生谁似我？

非玉非铜，

满面包浆裹。

剩魄残魂无伴伙，

时人指笑何须躲。

旧恨填胸一笔抹，

遇酒逢歌，

随处留皆可。

子孝臣忠万事妥，

休思更吃人参果。

日丽唐虞世，

花开甲子年。

山中无寇盗，

地上总神仙。

老夫原是南京太常寺一个赞礼，爵位不尊，姓名可隐。最喜无祸无



## Prelude

## Early Sounds

1684, the 23rd year of the reign of Emperor Kangxi

*(Enter Narrator, wearing a white beard and a plain felt headscarf and a black robe)*

### NARRATOR:

*(In the Pattern of Dielianhua)*

Among the antiquated old fellows,  
Who else could be like me?  
My face is smooth and shining,  
Like a piece of well-polished bronze or jade.  
Still alive after so many vicissitudes,  
I am lonely and without company.  
But why should I hide  
From being mocked?  
Forgetting all my old hatreds,  
I sing when I drink,  
Never caring where I sleep.  
When sons treat their parents with filial piety,  
Ministers serve their emperor faithfully,  
And everything on earth is in harmony,  
Why does one yearn for the fruits of longevity?

**In the prosperous era of Emperors Yao and Shun,**

**Flowers bloomed in 60-year cycles.**

**Mountains were not refuges of thieves and gangsters,**

**Immortals were seen everywhere on land.**

This old man is the former Ceremony Master with the Court of

灾，活了九十七岁，阅历多少兴亡，又到上元甲子。尧舜临轩，禹皋在位；处处四民安乐，年年五谷丰登。今乃康熙二十三年，见了祥瑞一十二种。

（内问介）请问那几种祥瑞？

（屈指介）河出图，洛出书，景星明，庆云现，甘露降，膏雨零，凤凰集，麒麟游，蓂莢发，芝草生，海无波，黄河清。件件俱全，岂不可贺！老夫欣逢盛世，到处遨游。昨在太平园中，看一本新出传奇，名为《桃花扇》，就是明朝末年南京近事。借离合之情，写兴亡之感，实事实人，有凭有据。老夫不但耳闻，皆曾眼见。更可喜把老夫衰态，也拉上了排场，做了一个副末脚色，惹的俺哭一回，笑一回，怒一回，骂一回。那满座宾客，怎晓得我老夫就是戏中之人！

（内）请问这本好戏，是何人著作？





Imperial Sacrifices in Nanjing. Because my position is low, my name can be omitted. All I long for is a peaceful life free from disaster and suffering. Being ninety-seven years old, I have already lived through many ups and downs. This year is the first year of the one hundred and eighty-year cycle. The Emperors Yao and Shun are again in power, with Yu the Great and Gaotao the Judge carrying out their duties. People all over the country live in peace and happiness, and every year yields bumper harvests. In this, the 23rd year of Emperor Kangxi's reign, twelve auspicious signs have been revealed.

**OFFSTAGE VOICE:**

What auspicious signs?

**NARRATOR:**

*(Counts on his fingers)*

Pictures have appeared on the river, letters have emerged on a turtle's back, the star of *Jing* is shining, jubilant clouds float through the sky, sweet dew falls, it rains when we need rain, phoenixes gather, unicorns roam, the auspicious grass of *Ming* is lush and plentiful, *lingzhi* (tinder agaric) grows, the seas are calm, and the Yellow River has become clear. Everything is there. Isn't it wonderful? In this prosperous era, this old man travels around. Yesterday, in the Taiping (Peace) Garden, I saw a play of the newly published legendary story *The Peach Blossom Fan* about events in Nanjing during the late Ming Dynasty. The author expresses his feelings about the nation's fate through a chronicle of two lovers' separation and reunion. The story is based on real people and true facts, with reliable witnesses. Not only had I heard about them, I had even seen them with my own eyes. Surprisingly, the aging image of me has also been dragged in to play the role of Narrator. The choice was so offensive, I first cried, then laughed, then flew into a rage, and then cursed angrily. Not a single sepectator in this theater's full house knows I was actually one of the characters in the story.

**OFFSTAGE VOICE:**

May I ask who is the playwright of this excellent work?



(答)列位不知，从来填词名家，不著姓氏。但看他有褒有贬，作《春秋》必赖祖传；可咏可歌，正雅颂岂无庭训！

(内)这等说来，一定是云亭山人了。

(答)你道是那个来？

(内)今日冠裳雅会，就要演这本传奇。你老既系旧人，又且听过新曲，何不把传奇始末，预先铺叙一番，大家洗耳？

(答)有张道士的《满庭芳》词，歌来请教罢：

【满庭芳】

公子侯生，  
秣陵侨寓，  
恰偕南国佳人。  
谗言暗害，  
鸾凤一宵分。  
又值天翻地覆，  
据江淮藩镇纷纭。  
立昏主，  
征歌选舞，  
党祸起奸臣。  
良缘难再续，



评，是吸纳还是排斥，中西文化的交流产生了巨大的影响。随着先进的中国科学技术的西传，特别是中国的造纸、火药、印刷术和指南针四大发明的问世，大大改变了世界的面貌。马克思说：“中国的火药把骑士阶层炸得粉碎，指南针打开了世界市场并建立了殖民地，而印刷术则变成了新教的工具，变成对精神发展创造必要前提的最强大的杠杆。”英国的哲学家培根说：中国的四大发明“改变了全世界的面貌和一切事物的状态”。

### 三

大千世界，潮起潮落。云散云聚，万象更新。中国古代产生了无数伟大的科学家：祖冲之、李时珍、孙思邈、张衡、沈括、毕昇……产生了无数科技成果：《齐民要术》、《九章算术》、《伤寒杂病论》、《本草纲目》……以及保存至今的世界奇迹：浑天仪、地动仪、都江堰、敦煌石窟、大运河、万里长城……但从15世纪下半叶起，风水似乎从东方转到了西方，落后的欧洲只经过400年便成为世界瞩目的文明中心。英国的牛顿、波兰的哥白尼、德国的伦琴、法国的居里、德国的爱因斯坦、意大利的伽利略、俄国的门捷列夫、美国的费米和爱迪生……光芒四射，令人敬仰。

中华民族开始思考了。潮起潮落究竟是什么原因？中国人发明的火药，传到欧洲，转眼之间反成为欧洲列强轰击中国大门的炮弹，又是因为什么？

鸦片战争终于催醒了中国人沉睡的迷梦，最先“睁眼看世界”的一代精英林则徐、魏源迈出了威武雄壮的一步。曾国藩、李鸿章搞起了洋务运动。中国的知识分子喊出“民主





楼头激烈，  
狱底沉沦。  
却赖苏翁柳老，  
解救殷勤。  
半夜君逃相走，  
望烟波谁吊忠魂？  
桃花扇、  
斋坛揉碎，  
我与指迷津。

(内) 妙，妙，只是曲调铿锵，一时不能领会，还求总括数句。

(答) 待我说来：

奸马阮中外伏长剑，  
巧柳苏往来牵密线。  
侯公子断除花月缘，  
张道士归结兴亡案。

道犹未了，那侯公子早已登场，列位请看。