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桃花扇

THE PEACH BLOSSOM FAN
II



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Chinese-English

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The Peach Blossom Fan

II



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加二十一出 孤吟

康熙甲子八月

【天下乐】

(副末毡巾、道袍，扮老赞礼上)

雨洗秋街不动尘，
青山红树满城新。
谁家剩有闲金粉，
撒与歌楼照镜人。
老客无家恋，
名园杯自劝。
朝朝贺太平，
看演《桃花扇》。

(内问) 老相公又往太平园，看演《桃花扇》么？

(答) 正是。

(内问) 昨日看完上本，演的何如？

(答) 演的快意，演的伤心，无端笑哈哈，不觉泪纷纷。司马迁作史笔，东方朔上场人。只怕世事含黏八九件，人情遮盖两三分。

(行唱介)



Act 21 (Prologue)

Lonely Singing

8th lunar month, 1684

(Enter Ceremony Master, wearing a felt headscarf and Taoist monk's long gown)

CEREMONY MASTER:

(To the Tune of *Tianxiale*)

The rain has washed the autumn streets,
The green mountains and red trees have refreshed the city.
Which family has extra gold powder
To spread to the performers of *The Peach Blossom Fan*.
I am an old man who has no family,
So I choose to drink alone in a famous garden.
Everyday, I celebrate the arrival of peace,
While watching the performance of *The Peach Blossom Fan*.

OFFSTAGE VOICE:

Are you, sir, going to the Pacific Garden to watch "The Peach Blossom Fan"?

CEREMONY MASTER:

Yes, exactly.

OFFSTAGE VOICE:

You watched the first part of the performance yesterday. How was it?

CEREMONY MASTER:

It was wonderful. I laughed; I cried. In Sima Qian's *Records of the Historian*, Dongfang Shuo becomes one of the characters. Here 80 to 90 percent of the fact have not been verified, and 20 to 30 percent of the emotions have been invented.



【甘州歌】

流光箭紧，
正柳林蝉噪，
荷沼香喷。
轻衫凉笠，
行到水边人困。
西窗乍惊连夜雨，
北里重消一枕魂。
梧桐院，
砧杵村，
青苔虫语不堪闻。
闲携杖，
漫出门，
宫槐满路叶纷纷。

【前腔】

鸡皮瘦损，
看饱经霜雪，
丝鬓如银。
伤秋扶病，
偏带旅愁客闷。
欢场那知还剩我，
老境翻嫌多此身。
儿孙累，
名利奔，
一般流水付行云。

(*Walks*)

(*To the Tune of Ganzhou*)

Time flies like arrows,
It's the season that cicada chirp in willows,
Lotuses blossom in ponds, sending out fragrance.
Dressing for the heat with a sun helmet,
I feel sleepy when I reach the waterside.
An overnight rain beat against the western window,
I had a wonderful time seeing entertainment in the North Lane.
Chinese parasols grow in the yard,
I hear the pounding of washing clubs,
While insects in moss murmur their own words.
Casually I hold a walking stick,
Carefree I step out of the gate,
Leaves of Chinese scholar trees fall on the road.

(*To the previous tune*)

My skin wrinkles, my body shrinks,
They show the hardship I've experienced,
My hairs turn silvery on the brows.
In the gloomy autumn I fall ill,
As a traveler I'm in misery.
The only one remaining in entertainment circles,
This aging body becomes useless.
Neither for making sons and grandsons,
Nor for seeking fame and profit,
Which shall float away like water and clouds.





诸侯怒，
丞相嗔，
无边衰草对斜曛。

【前腔】

〔换头〕

望春不见春，
想汉宫图画，
风飘灰烬。
棋枰客散，
黑白胜负难分。
南朝古寺王谢坟，
江上残山花柳阵。
人不见，
烟已昏，
击筑弹铗与谁论。
黄尘变，
红日滚，
一篇诗话易沉沦。

【前腔】

〔换头〕

难寻吴宫旧舞茵，
问开元遗事，
白头人尽。
云亭词客，
阁笔几度酸辛。



All are gone,
Furious lords and angry ministers,
Rustling in the setting sun are withering grasses.

(To the previous tune)

I yearn for spring but cannot see it,
The splendid Han palace and pictures,
Have all turned to ashes.
Though the game of *Weiqi* (encirclement chess) is over,
It's hard to say who is the winner.
No Southern-dynasty temples, nor influential families' tombs,
Reflected in the river are only broken mountains with flowers and
willows.

No man is seen,
When smoke spreads at dusk,
Upright heroes and loyal service are no longer valued.
The yellow dusts are changing,
The red sun is rolling,
A legendary story will soon be forgotten.

(To the previous tune)

Nowhere can one find the dance floors of the Wu State.
None of the seniors who know the founding stories of the Ming,
Are still alive.
Depressed poets of the Cloud Pavilion
Stopped writing years ago.



声传皓齿曲未终，
泪滴红盘蜡已寸。
袍笏样，
墨粉痕，
一番妆点一番新。
文章假，
功业诨，
逢场只合酒沾唇。

【余文】

老不羞，
偏风韵，
偷将拄杖拨红裙。
那管他扇底桃花解笑人。
当年真是戏，
今日戏如真。
两度旁观者，
天留冷眼人。

那马士英又早登场，列位请看。

(拱下)



The singer has not yet finished the song,
But the red candle has burned to its end.
Dressed up in official costumes,
Wearing makeup for the stage,
Actors perform new pieces
Where all sincerity is fake,
And merits are ironic.
The play is simply for your entertainment.

(To the Tune of Yurwen)

Shameless at an old age,
I remain romantic,
Enjoying myself by being a womanizer.
I care about none of the figures involved in *The Peach Blossom Fan*.

**Originally it was indeed an opera,
Today the opera has become reality.
I have witnessed both,
Thanks to Heaven who keeps me alive as an observer.**

Now, Ma Shiying is again on stage. Please go on watching the show.
(Bows with cupped hands and exits)



第二十一出 媚座

甲申十月

【菊花新】

(净冠带扮马士英，外扮长班从人喝道上)

调和鼎鼐费心机，
别户分门恩济威。
钻火燃寒灰，
这燮理阴阳非细。

下官马士英，官居首辅，权握中枢。天子无为，从他闭目拱手；相公养体，尽咱吐气扬眉。那朱紫半朝，只不过呼朋引党；这经纶满腹，也无非报怨施恩。人都说养马成群，滚尘不定，他怎知立君由我，杀人何妨。

(笑介)这几日太平无事，又且早放红梅，设席万玉园中，会些亲戚故旧，但看他趋奉之多，越显俺尊荣之至。人生行乐耳，须富贵此时。

(唤介)长班，今日下的是那几位请帖？



Act 21 Fawning on the Superior

10th lunar month, 1644

(Enter Ma Shiying in an official suit with a hat and a belt, followed by his head servant shouting to clear the way for him)

MA SHIYING:

(To the Tune of Jubuaxin)

Cooking with the right seasonings requires intelligence.

To build my power I divide families into different groups.

Drilling into the cold ashes, I relight the fire,

Balancing conflicting forces, I rule the country in harmony.

I am Ma Shiying. As the No. 1 assistant to His Majesty, I hold crucial power in the national administration. When the Emperor does nothing, I follow suit, closing my eyes and cupping my hands. A gentleman should keep fit, waiting for a chance to show his talent. Among the court officials in purple gowns, half are as humble as I am. I employ my knowledge to get revenge against some, while showing mercy to others. People say that when you raise a herd of horses, there may be trouble. They don't know that since I can enthrone an emperor, I can also send someone to death.

(Laughs)

It has been peaceful these days, and the plums are ripe, so I've prepared a banquet in the Wanyu Garden for my relatives and old friends. The more they butter me up, the more distinguished my position. Life means seeking happiness, and it's the right time for me to enjoy a life of wealth and honor.

(Calls)

Head servant, whom do you plan to invite to today's party?



(外) 都是老爷同乡，有兵部主事杨文骢，佥都御史越其杰，新推漕抚田仰，光禄寺卿阮大铖，这几位老爷。

(净疑介) 那阮大铖不是同乡呀。

(外) 他常对人说是老爷至亲。

(净笑介) 相与不同，也算的个至亲了。

(吩咐介) 今日不是外客，就在这梅花书屋设席苏坐罢。

(外) 是。

(净) 天已过午，快去请客。

(外) 不用去请，俱在门房候着哩。只传他一声，便齐齐进来了。

(传介) 老爷有请。

(末、副净忙上)

闻人片语千钧重，

相府重门万里深。

(进见足恭介)

(净) 我道是谁？



HEAD SERVANT:

They are all from Master's province, such as Yang Wencong, chief of Military Affairs; Yue Qijie, the Imperial Procurator; the newly assigned Water Transportation Administrator Tian Yang; and Ruan Dacheng of the Guanglusi. That's all.

MA SHIYING:

(Suspicious)

But Ruan Dacheng is not a native of my province.

HEAD SERVANT:

He often tells others that he is your relative, Master.

MA SHIYING:

(Laughs)

Through a circuitous route, he could be considered a relative.

(Gives orders)

Since there are no outsiders among today's guests, we'll have dinner in the Plum Blossom Study.

HEAD SERVANT:

Yes, sir.

MA SHIYING:

It's already afternoon, go invite the guests.

HEAD SERVANT:

It's not necessary. They are all waiting outside the gate. If you call them in, they'll all be here.

(Calls towards the outside)

The Master invites you to come in.

(Enter Yang Wencong and Ruan Dacheng hurriedly)

YANG WENCONG and RUAN DACHENG:

Even the doorman's words sound authentic,
Making the Prime Minister's big house difficult to enter.

(Come in and greet Ma Shiyong)

MA SHIYING:

I was wondering who was outside.



(向末介) 杨妹丈是咱内亲，为何也不竟进？

(末) 如今亲不敌贵了。

(净) 说那里话。

(向副净介) 圆老一向来熟了的，为何也等人传？

(副净) 府体尊严，岂敢冒昧！

(净) 这就见外了。

(让净台坐，打恭介)

【好事近】

(净)

吾辈得施为，
正好谈心花底。
兰友瓜戚，
门外不须倒屣。
休疑，
总是一班桃李。
相逢处，
每把臂倾杯，
何必拘冠裳套礼。
俺肯堂堂相府，
宾从疏稀。

(茶到让净先取，打恭介)

(净) 今日天气微寒，正宜小饮。



(Turns to Yang Wencong)

Brother-in-Law Yang, we're relatives. Why didn't you come in directly?

YANG WENCONG:

Though we are relatives, I am intimidated by your powerful position.

MA SHIYING:

That's nonsense!

(Turns towards Ruan Dacheng)

Venerable Yuan, you often come here. Why were you, too, waiting to be called in?

RUAN DACHENG:

Your residence represents authority. I don't want to be rude.

MA SHIYING:

You're too polite.

(Offers Ruan Dacheng a seat and greets him)

MA SHIYING:

*(To the Tune of **Haoshijin**)*

We have the chance to get together,

Let's talk in the garden, heart to heart.

For you, my relatives and friends,

There should be no rituals at the gate.

Remember,

We come from the same roots.

Whenever we meet,

We drink to our hearts' content,

Why should we abide by official rites?

I don't want to see this Prime Minister's house

Separate me from my friends.

(As a gesture of politeness, when tea is served. Invites Ruan Dacheng to take a cup first)

It's a little bit cold today, a good day for a drink.