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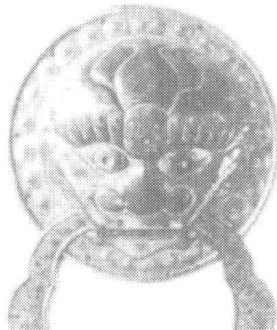
LIBRARY OF CHINESE CLASSICS

Chinese-English

牡丹亭

The Poeny Pavilion

II



[明] 汤显祖 著

汪榕培 英译

徐朔方 杨笑梅 点校

Written by Tang Xianzu

Translated by Wang Rongpei

Punctuated and Revised by Xu Shuofang and Yang Xiaomei

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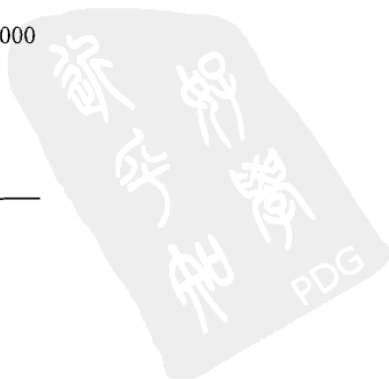
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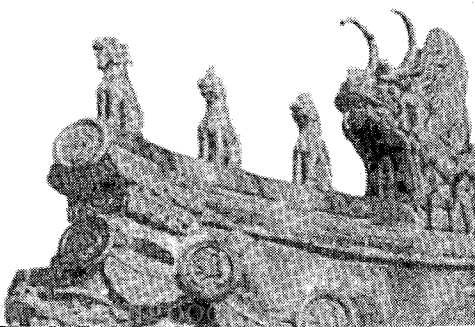
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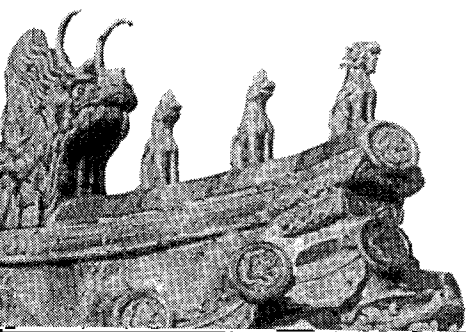
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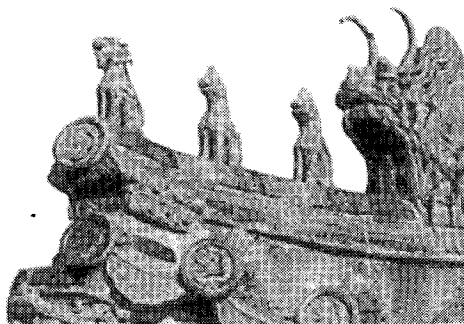
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第二十九出 旁 疑

【步步娇】

[净扮老道姑上]女冠儿生来出家相。

无对向、没生长。

守着三清像，

换水添香，

钟鸣鼓响。

赤紧的是那走方娘，

弄虚花扯闲帐？

“世事难拼一个信，人情常带三分疑。”杜老爷为小姐创下这座梅花观，着俺看守三年。水清石见，无半点瑕疵。止因陈教授老狗，引下个岭南柳秀才，东房养病。前几日到后花园回来，悠悠漾漾的，着鬼着魅一般，俺已疑惑了。凑着个韶阳小道姑，年方念八，颇有风情，到此云游，几日不去。

Scene Twenty-nine ***The Nun's Suspicion***

(Enter Sister Stone)

Sister Stone:

(To the tune of Bubujiao)

I have been born to be a nun,

Without a spouse,

Without a son.

I tend the shrine of gods in heaven and hell,

Adding water and joss-sticks to the shrine,

Beating drums and striking the bell.

But now I must watch this roaming nun,

Who has lewd looks and a wagging tongue.

"There is not any genuine trust on earth;

Suspicion proves to be a thing of worth."

Since Prefect Du established this Plum Blossom Nunnery, I have been looking after it for three years. Everything has been in good order and above suspicion, except for the young scholar Liu Mengmei from Lingnan. He was brought here by the old scamp Mr Chen and was put up in the eastern guestroom for recovery from illness. When he came back from the back garden a few days ago, he seemed to be in a trance, as if he were haunted by ghosts. I began to have suspicions at once. It happens that a young nun from Shaoyang travelled to this place and has stayed here for a few days. Twenty-eight years of age, she has an attractive face. At night I hear people chatter





夜来柳秀才房里，唧唧啾啾，听的似女儿声息。敢
是小道姑瞒着我去瞧那秀才，秀才递来顺受了。俺
且待他来，打觑他一番。

【前腔】

[贴扮小道姑上]俺女冠儿俏的仙真样。

论举止都停当，

则一点情抛漾。

步斗风前，

吹笙月上。

[叹介]古来仙女定成双，

恁生来寒乞相？[见介]

[贴]“常无欲以观其妙，

[净]常有欲以观其窍。”小姑姑你昨夜游方，游到
柳秀才房儿里去。是窍，是妙？

[贴]老姑姑这话怎的起？谁曾见来？

[净]俺见来。

【剔银灯】

你出家人芙蓉淡妆，

翦一片湘云鹤氅。

玉冠儿斜插笑生香，



in Mr Liu's room and it seems that there is a female voice. I guess that the young nun is visiting him behind my back and Mr Liu has accepted her offer. I'll try to find out the truth when she comes back.

(Enter Young Nun)

Young Nun:

(To the previous tune)

A nun as pretty as a fairy maid,
I'm well behaved,
Although my sweetness would not fade.
I've worshipped gods and prayed
And hoped to turn into a fairy maid.

(Sighs)

A fairy maid will have her mate,
But why should I be in this wretched state?

(Greets Sister Stone)

"Remain dispassionate to watch the soul;

Sister Stone:

Remain passionate to watch the body hole."

Young sister, did you roam to the young scholar's room last night to watch his soul or his hole?

Young Nun:

What are you driving at, old sister? Who saw me going there?

Sister Stone:

I did.

(To the tune of Tiyingdeng)

As a nun, you paint your face
And wear a simple Taoist cloak.
With adorned hair you smile from place to place,



出落的十分情况。

斟量，敢则向书生夜窗，

迤逗的幽辉半床？

[贴]向那个书生？老姑姑这话敢不中哩。

【前腔】

俺虽然年青试妆，

洗凡心冰壶月朗。

你怎生剥落的人轻相？

比似你半老的佳人停当！

[净]倒栽起俺来。

[贴]你端详，

这女贞观傍，

可放着个书生活长？

[净]哎也，难道俺与书生有账！这梅花观，你是云游道婆，他是云游秀才，你住的，偏他住不的？则是往常秀才夜静高眠，则你到观中，那秀才夜半开门，唧唧啾啾的。不共你说话，共谁来？扯你道录司告去。[扯介]

[贴]便去。你将前官香火院，停宿外方游棍。难道



So appealing to the folk.

I can imagine

How you went to the scholar's room

And shared the bed with him in the gloom.

Young Nun:

Which scholar do you mean? You're simply talking nonsense.

(To the previous tune)

Although I am still young,

I have a crystal heart.

You accuse me with a vicious tongue

But I have played a better part!

Sister Stone:

You are turning the slander on me!

Young Nun:

Just consider

How there can be a scholar's face

In this sacred Taoist place.

Sister Stone:

Alas, are you alluding that I have an affair with the young scholar? In this Plum Blossom Nunnery, you stop over as a travelling nun and he stops over as a travelling scholar. Why can I put you up but not him? He used to sleep well all through the night; however, since you came here, he has opened his door at night and whispered all night. Who is he whispering to but you? I'll bring the case against you in the Taoist court.

(Grabs at Young Nun)

Young Nun:

Off we go! You put up a wandering vagabond in the nunnery established by the former prefect. Do you think they'll easily



偏放过你?[扯介]

【一封书】

[末上]闲步白云除，

问柳先生何处居？

扣梅花院主。

[见扯介]呀，怎两个姑姑争施主？

玄牝同门道可道，

怎不韞椟而藏姑待姑？

俺知道你大姑他是小姑，

嫁的个彭郎港口无？

[净]先生不知。听的柳秀才半夜开门，不住的唧唧啾啾。俺好意儿问这小姑：“敢是你共柳秀才讲话哩？”这小姑则答应着“谁共秀才讲话来”，便罢；倒嘴骨弄的说俺养着个秀才。陈先生，凭你说，谁引这秀才来？扯他道录司明白去。俺是石的。

[贴]难道俺是水的？

[末]禁声，坏了柳秀才体面。俺劝你，



let you go?

(Grabs at Sister Stone)

(Enter Chen Zuiliang)

Chen Zuiliang:

(To the tune of Yifengshu)

I go to the nunnery alone

To meet the young scholar Liu

And visit Sister Stone.

(Sees the two nuns grabbing at each other)

Oh,

How can two nuns fight for a single man?

Both disciples of Tao,

Why don't you quietly spend your life span?

You are older and she is younger now,

Who are you seeking after in your clan?

Sister Stone:

Let me tell you, Mr Chen. I heard the scholar open his door at night and whisper all the time. When I asked the young nun politely, "Have you chatted with him", it was all right that she answered, "Who has chatted with him?" It was too much for her to say that I kept a scholar under my roof. Tell us, Mr Chen, who brought him into my nunnery! Take her to the Taoist court to get the truth out of her. I'm Sister Stone, with a heart of stone.

Young Nun:

Do you mean to say that I am as frivolous as water?

Chen Zuiliang:

Shut up, both of you! You are ruining the reputation of Mr Liu.

Now, listen to me.



【前腔】

教你姑徐徐。

撒月招风实也虚？

早则是者也之乎，

那柳下先生君子儒，

到道录司牒你去俗还俗，

敢儒流们笑你姑不姑。

[贴]正是不雅相。

[末]好把冠子儿扶水云梳，

裂了这仙衣四五铢。

[净]便依说，开手罢。陈先生吃个斋去。

[末]待柳秀才在时又来。

【尾声】

清绝处，再踟躇。

[泪介]咳，糝东风穷泪扑疏疏。

道姑，杜小姐坟儿可上去？

[净]雨哩。

[末叹介]则恨的锁春寒这几点杜鹃花下雨。[下]



(*To the previous tune*)

Do not draw conclusions in haste.

Are you sure you know the truth?

A man of lofty taste,

Mr Liu is an honest youth.

If the court should know you are not chaste,

You'll be dispelled and sneered for sooth.

Young Nun:

Indeed we'll make a show.

Chen Zuiliang:

Arrange your hairpins and comb your hair;

Your cloak has gone through wear and tear.

Sister Stone:

All right, let's forget about it. Mr Chen, let's go and have a vegetarian dinner.

Chen Zuiliang:

No, thanks. I'll come again when Mr Liu is in.

(*To the tune of Coda*)

In this holy place,

I lag my pace.

(*Weeps*)

Alas,

Against the wind I shed large drops of tear.

Sister Stone, shall we go to Miss Du's grave?

Sister Stone:

It's raining.

Chen Zuiliang:

(*With a sigh*)

How I hate the rainfall here!