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## 红楼梦

## A DREAM OF RED MANSIONS





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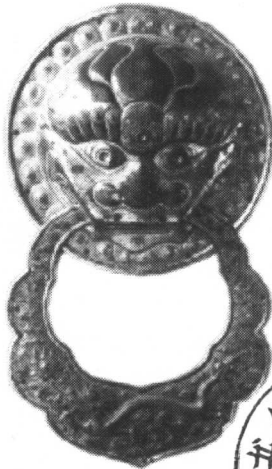
LIBRARY OF CHINESE CLASSICS

Chinese-English

# 红楼梦

## A Dream of Red Mansions

### III



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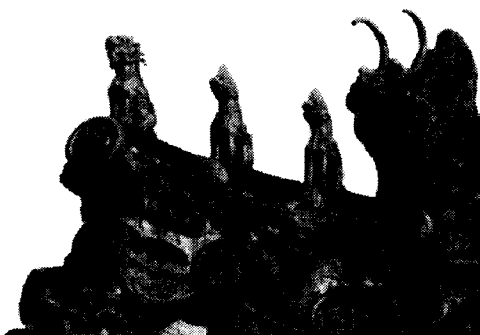
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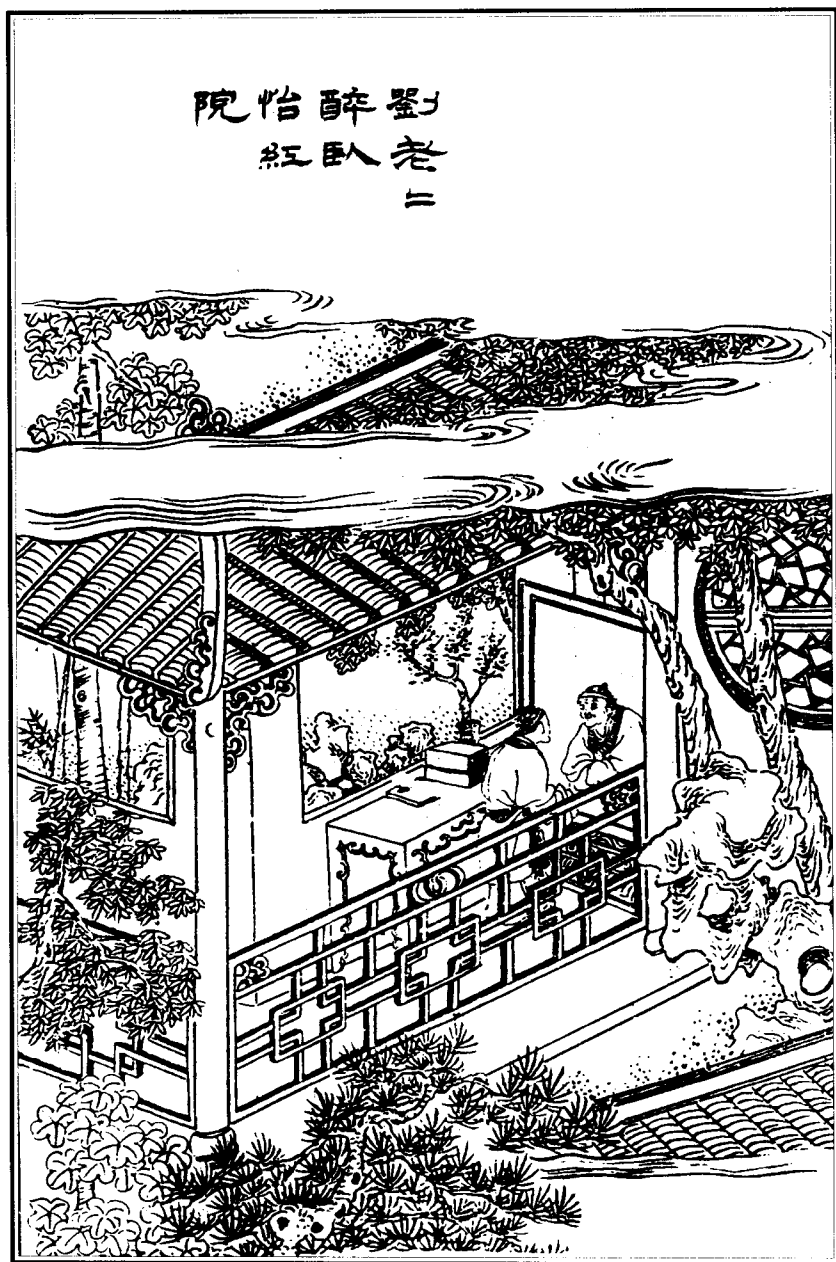
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## 第四十一回

贾宝玉品茶栊翠庵 刘姥姥醉卧怡红院



话说刘姥姥两只手比着说道：“花儿落了结个大倭瓜。”众人听了哄堂大笑起来。于是吃过门杯，又逗笑道：“实告诉说罢，我的手脚子粗笨，又喝了酒，仔细失手打了这瓷杯。有木头杯取个子来，便失手掉了地下也打不了。”众人听了，又笑将起来。凤姐听如此说，便忙笑道：“果真要木头的，我就取了来。可有一件先说下：这木头的可比不得瓷的，那都是一套，定要吃遍一套方使得。”刘姥姥听了，心下掂掇道：“我方才不过是趣话取笑儿，谁知他果真竟有。我时常在村庄乡绅大家子也赴过席，金杯银杯倒都也见过，从来没见有木头的。哦，是了，想必是小孩子们使的木碗儿，不过诓我多吃两碗。别管他，横竖这酒蜜水儿似的，多喝点子也不怕。”想毕，便说：“取了来再商量。”凤姐乃命丰儿：“到前面里间屋，书架子上有十个竹根套杯取来。”丰儿听了，答应着才要去，鸳鸯笑道：“我知道你这十个杯还小些。况且你才说是木头的，这会子又拿了竹根子的来，倒不好看。不如把我们那里的黄杨根整抠的十个大套杯拿来，灌他十下子。”凤姐儿笑道：“更好了。”鸳鸯果命人取来。刘姥姥一看，又惊又喜：惊的是一连十个，挨次大小分下来，





## Chapter 41

### Baoyu Sips Tea in Green Lattice Nunnery Granny Liu Succumbs to Wine in Happy Red Court

Granny Liu's gestures and response, "A huge pumpkin forms when the flowers fall," caused a fresh glae of mirth. After tossing off the cup of wine, in the hope of wine, in the hope of raising another laugh she observed:

"To tell the truth, I'm clumsy. And now that I'm tipsy, unless I'm very careful, I may smash this porcelain cup. If you'd given me a wooden one it wouldn't matter even if I dropped it."

Once more everybody laughed.

"If you really prefer wooden cups I'll fetch some," offered Xifeng. "But first I must warn you that the wooden cups aren't like porcelain ones; they come in a set, and you must drink from every cup in the set."

The old woman thought: I was only trying to raise a laugh, but it seems they really do have them. When I've dined with the village gentry I've seen plenty of gold and silver cups, never any made of wood. I know! These must be wooden bowls that the children use. She just wants to fool me into drinking more. Never mind, this wine's no stronger than mead anyway, so I needn't be afraid of drinking a bit extra.

So she said, "Fetch them, and we'll see."

Xifeng told Fenger: "Bring that set of ten cups carved out of bamboo root on the bookshelf in the inner room."

The maid assented, but as she was about to go on this errand Yuanyang put in with a smile:

"I know that set, it's too small. Besides, you just said wood and it won't look right if now you produce bamboo. Better fetch from our place that large set of ten cups made out of boxwood roots. Let her drink from those."

Xifeng thought this a better idea, so Yuanyang sent someone to fetch



那大的足有小盆子大，第十个极小的还有手里的杯子两个大；喜的是雕镂奇绝，一色山水树木人物，并有草字图记。因忙说道：“拿了那小的来就是了，怎么这么些个？”凤姐儿笑道：“这个杯没有喝一个的理。我们家因没有这大量的，所以没人敢使他。姥姥既要使，好容易寻了出来，必定要挨次吃一遍才使得。”刘姥姥唬的忙道：“这可不敢。好姑奶奶，竟饶了我罢。”贾母、薛姨妈、王夫人知道他有年纪的人，禁不起，忙笑道：“说是说，笑是笑，不可多吃了，只吃这头一杯罢。”刘姥姥道：“阿弥陀佛！我还使小杯吃罢。把这大杯收着，我带了家去慢慢吃罢。”说的众人又笑起来。鸳鸯无法，只得命人满斟了一大杯，刘姥姥两手捧着喝。贾母薛姨妈都道：“慢些吃，不要呛了。”薛姨妈又命凤姐儿布了菜。凤姐笑道：“姥姥要吃什么，说出名儿来，我拣了喂你。”刘姥姥道：“我知什么名儿，样样都是好的。”贾母笑道：“你把茄胗拣些喂他。”凤姐听说，依言拣些茄胗送入刘姥姥口中，因笑道：“你们天天吃茄子，也尝尝我们的茄子弄的可口不可口。”刘姥姥笑道：“别哄我了，茄子跑出这个味儿来了，我们也不用种粮食，只种茄子罢了。”众人笑道：



them. These cups when brought filled Granny Liu with amazement and admiration. Amazement because all ten fitted into each other, the largest being the size of a small basin and even the smallest as big as the cup in her hand. Admiration at the fine landscapes, trees and figures carved on them, as well as the seals and inscriptions.

“Just give me that small one,” she said hastily. “I can’t use so many.”

“No, you can’t just have one,” chuckled Xifeng. “None of our family has ever ventured to use this set, not having a big enough capacity for it. As you asked for it, granny, and we went to all the trouble of fetching it, you must drink from each cup in turn.”

“I daren’t!” exclaimed Granny Liu in consternation. “Dear madam, do let me off.”

The Lady Dowager, Aunt Xue and Lady Wang, knowing that she was too old to stand this, made haste to intervene.

“She mustn’t drink too much,” they said. “It’ll do if she just empties the biggest cup.”

“Amida Buddha!” cried the old woman. “Let me use the small one, and put that big one aside. I’ll take it home to drink up little by little.”

All Yuanyang could do was to have one large cup filled, and Granny Liu raised this in both hands to her lips.

“Go easy,” warned both the Lady Dowager and Aunt Xue. “Mind you don’t choke.”

Aunt Xue urged Xifeng to give her some food with the wine.

“What would you like, granny?” Xifeng asked. “Just name it and I’ll feed you some.”

“How can I tell what these dishes are?” said Granny Liu. “They all look good to me.”

“Give her some fried egg-plant,” proposed the Lady Dowager with a smile.

Xifeng did so, picking up the food with her chopsticks and putting it into Granny Liu’s mouth.

“You must eat egg-plant every day,” she remarked. “Taste this of ours and see how you like it.”

“Don’t try to fool me,” cackled Granny Liu. “If egg-plant tasted like this, we’d stop growing other crops — just stick to egg-plant.”



“真是茄子，我们再不哄你。”刘姥姥诧异道：“真是茄子？我白吃了半日。姑奶奶你再喂我些，这一口细嚼嚼。”凤姐儿果又揀了些放入口内。刘姥姥细嚼了半日，笑道：“虽有一点茄子香，只是还不像是茄子。告诉我是什么方法弄的，我也弄着吃去。”凤姐笑道：“这也不难。你把四、五月里的新茄包儿摘下来，把皮和穰子去尽，只要净肉，切成头发细的丝儿，晒干了，拿一只肥母鸡，靠出老汤来，把这茄子丝上蒸笼蒸的鸡汤入了味，再拿出来晒干，如此九蒸九晒，必定晒脆了，盛在瓷罐子里封严了，要吃时拿出一碟子来，用炒的鸡瓜子一拌就是了。”刘姥姥听了，摇头吐舌道：“我的佛祖！倒是十几只鸡来配他，怪道这个味儿！”一面说笑，一面慢慢的吃完了酒，还只管细玩那杯。凤姐笑道：“还是不足兴，再喝一杯罢。”刘姥姥忙道：“了不得，那就醉死了。我因为爱这样儿，亏他怎么作来着。”鸳鸯笑道：“酒吃完了，这到底是什么木的？”刘姥姥笑道：“怨不得姑娘不认得的，你们在这金门绣户的，如何认得木头！我们成日家和树林子作街坊，困了枕着他睡，乏了靠着坐，荒年间饿了还吃他，眼睛里天天见他，耳朵里天天听他，口儿里天天讲他，所以好歹真假，我是认得的。让我认一认。”一面说，一面细细的端详了半日，道：“你们这样人家断没有那贱东西，那容易得的木头，你们也不收着了。我掂着这杯体沉，断乎不是杨木的，一定是黄松的。”众人听了，哄堂大笑起来。



"It really is egg-plant," they assured her. "We're not fooling you."

"Really egg-plant, is it?" marvelled the old woman. "All this time I'd no idea. Give me some more, madam, to chew more carefully."

Xifeng accordingly fed her another mouthful.

After savouring it slowly Granny Liu said, "It does taste a little like egg-plant, but still it's quite different. Tell me how you prepared this, so that I can cook some for myself."

"It's quite simple," replied Xifeng, twinkling. "Pick some early egg-plant and peel it, keeping only the best part, which must be cut into small pieces and fried with chicken fat. Then get some chicken breast, fresh mushrooms, bamboo shoots, dried mushrooms, spiced dried beancurd and various kinds of preserved fruit. Dice these too and boil them with the egg-plant in chicken soup, then add sesame oil and pickles and store it in a tightly-sealed porcelain jar. That's all."

Granny Liu shook her head and stuck out her tongue in amazement.

"Gracious Buddha! No wonder it tastes so good, cooked with a dozen chickens."

While talking she had slowly finished the wine and now she started examining the cup.

"You haven't drunk enough yet," said Xifeng. "Have another cupful."

"Not on your life! It would kill me. It's just that I admire pretty things like this. What workmanship!"

"Now that you've finished drinking from it," put in Yuanyang, "tell us what wood it's made of."

"I'm not surprised you don't know, miss." Granny Liu smiled. "Living behind golden gates and embroidered screens, what should you know about wood? But we hobnob with wood all day long, sleep on wooden pillows, rest on wooden stools and even eat the bark of trees in time of a famine. Seeing it and hearing and talking about it all the time, I can naturally tell good wood from bad and true from false. Well now, let me see what this is." She was scrutinizing the cup carefully as she spoke. "Such a family as yours would certainly have nothing cheap, nor would you use any wood that's easily come by. Judging by the weight of this, it can't be fir, it must be pine wood."



只见一个婆子走来请问贾母，说：“姑娘们都到了藕香榭了，请老太太的示下，就演罢还是再等一会子？”贾母忙笑道：“可是倒忘了他们了，就叫他们演罢。”那婆子答应着去了。不一时，只听得箫管悠扬，笙笛并发。正值风清气爽之时，那乐声穿林度水而来，自然使人神怡心旷。宝玉先禁不住，拿起壶来斟了一杯，一口饮尽。复又斟上，才要饮，只见王夫人也要饮，命人换暖酒来，宝玉连忙将自己的杯捧了过来，送到王夫人的口边，王夫人便就他手内吃了两口。一时暖酒来了，宝玉仍旧归坐，王夫人提了自己的暖壶下席来，众人皆出了席，薛姨妈也立起来，贾母忙命李纨、凤姐二人接过壶来：“让你姑妈坐下，大家才方便。”王夫人见如此说，方将壶递与凤姐，自己归坐。贾母笑道：“大家吃上两杯，今日着实有趣。”说着拿杯让薛姨妈，又向湘云宝钗道：“你两个也吃一杯。你妹妹虽不大会吃，也别饶他。”说着自己径干了，湘云、宝钗、黛玉也都干了。当下刘姥姥听见这般音乐，且又有了酒，越发喜的手舞足蹈起来。宝玉因下席过来向黛玉笑道：“你瞧瞧刘姥姥的样子。”黛玉笑道：“当日圣乐一奏，百兽率舞，如今才一牛耳。”众姐妹都笑了。

须臾乐止，薛姨妈出席笑道：“大家的酒想也都有了，且出去散散再坐罢。”贾母也正要散散，于是大家出席，都随



The whole party had exploded in fits of mirth when a serving-woman came in to tell the old lady:

“The young actresses have all gone to Lotus Fragrance Anchorage and are waiting for Your Ladyship’s instructions. Should they start their performance now or wait a while?”

“Yes, we’d forgotten them,” chuckled the Lady Dowager. “Tell them to start.”

Soon after the serving-woman left on this errand they heard the lilting strains of flutes and pipes. The breeze was light, the air clear, and this music coming through the trees and across the water refreshed and gladdened their hearts. Baoyu could not resist filling his cup with wine, which he tossed straight off. He had just poured himself another cup when he saw his mother, who also wanted a drink, send for freshly-heated wine. He promptly took his cup over and held it to her lips. She took two sips.

When presently the heated wine arrived, Baoyu returned to his place while Lady Wang rose from her seat, holding the wine-pot. At this all the rest, including Aunt Xue, stood up. At once the Lady Dowager told Li Wan and Xifeng to take the pot.

“Make your aunt sit down,” she said. “Let’s not be so formal.”

Lady Wang relinquished the pot then to Xifeng and resumed her seat.

“How pleasant it is today,” remarked the Lady Dowager cheerfully. “Let’s all have a couple of drinks.” Having urged Aunt Xue to drink she said to Xiangyun and Baochai, “You two must drink a cup too. And even though your cousin Daiyu can’t take much, we won’t let her off either.”

With that she drained her own cup so that Xiangyun, Baochai and Daiyu had to follow suit.

Now the music, on top of the wine, set Granny Liu waving her arms and beating time with her feet for sheer delight. Baoyu slipped across to whisper in Daiyu’s ear:

“Look at Granny Liu!”

“When the sage king of old played music, all the hundred beasts started dancing,” quipped Daiyu. “Today we’ve just this one cow.”

The others tittered.

Presently the music stopped and Aunt Xue rising from her seat suggested, “We’ve all had enough to drink, haven’t we? Let’s go for a



着贾母游玩。贾母因要带着刘姥姥散闷，遂携了刘姥姥至山前树下盘桓了半晌，又说与他这是什么树，这是什么花，这是什么石。刘姥姥一一的领会，又向贾母道：“谁知城里不但人尊贵，连雀儿也是尊贵的。偏这雀儿到了你们这里，他也变俊了，也会说话了。”众人不解，因问什么雀儿变俊了，会说话。刘姥姥道：“那廊下金架子上站的绿毛红嘴是鹦哥儿，我是认得的。那笼子里黑老鸽子怎么又长出凤头来，也会说话呢。”众人听了又都笑将起来。

一时，只见丫鬟们来请用点心。贾母道：“吃了两杯酒，也就不饿了。也罢，就拿了这里来，大伙儿随便吃些罢。”丫鬟便去抬了两张高几来，又端了两个小捧盒来。揭开看时，每个盒内两样：这盒内是两样蒸食，一样是藕粉桂糖糕，一样是松穰鹅油卷；那盒内是两样炸的，一样是只有一寸来大的小饺儿，贾母因问什么馅儿，婆子们忙回是螃蟹的。贾母听了，皱眉说道：“这会子腻腻的，谁吃这个！”又看那一样是奶油炸的各色小面果，也不喜欢吃。因让薛姨妈吃，薛姨妈只拣了一块糕；贾母拣了一个卷子，只尝了一尝，剩的半个递与丫鬟了。刘姥姥因见那小面果子都玲珑剔透，各式各样，便拣了一朵牡丹花样的笑道：“我们乡里最巧的姐儿们，拿剪子也不能铰出这么个纸的来。我又爱吃，又舍不得吃，包些家去给他们做花样子去倒好。”众人都笑





stroll before sitting down again.”

As this suited the Lady Dowager, they all got up and she led the way outside. In the hope of some fresh diversion, she took Granny Liu to a grove at the foot of a hill and led her to and fro, telling her the names of the different trees, flowers and rocks.

After digesting all this information the old woman remarked, “Fancy, in town it’s not only the people who have class, the birds are high-class too. Why, when they come to this place of yours, they grow so clever they can even talk.”

Baffled by this the others asked, “What birds have grown so clever they can talk?”

“I know that green bird with the red beak on the golden perch in the corridor,” she said. “He’s a parrot. But how come that black crow in the cage has grown a phoenix-like crest and learned to talk too?”

This provoked a fresh burst of laughter.

Soon some maids came to ask if they would take some refreshments.

“After all that wine, we’re not hungry,” replied the Lady Dowager. “Still, bring the things here and those who want to can help themselves.”

The maids fetched two teapots and also two small hampers. These when opened were seen to contain two different confections each. In one were cakes made of ground lotus-foot flavoured with fragrant osmanthus, and pine-kernel and goose-fat rolls. In the other were tiny fried dumplings no more than one inch long.

“What’s the stuffing in these?” asked the Lady Dowager.

Some servants told her, “Crab-meat.”

The old lady frowned. “Who wants anything so greasy?”

The other confection, small coloured pastries fried with cream, did not appeal to her either. Aunt Xue took a roll when she was pressed, but after one bite she handed it to a maid.

Granny Liu was struck by the daintiness and variety of the small pastries. Selecting one shaped like a peony she said:

“The cleverest girls in our village couldn’t make scissor-cuts as good as this. I’m longing to try one, but it seems a shame to eat them. It would be nice to take some back as patterns for the folk at home.”

Everyone laughed.