

IDtPS a2 s55-57: Of His Soul Defraud

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SCENE 55

ACCOMPLICE loses his nerve and runs out. CHEN GONG throws a dagger into ACCOMPLICE's back.

SCENE 56

SHIN rushes out, trying to find ISEUL. The palace is silent, as ISEUL has allowed all to celebrate the New Year. ACCOMPLICE runs into him, crying out that CHEN GONG is killing the king. Horrified, SHIN follows the blood trail.

ACCOMPLICE

My tongue a wounding message brings
... the king ...

SHIN

The shade of death hangs on the
eaves, on wings barred yellow and
black. At this news I tremble as a
rock riven asunder!

SCENE 57 Of His Soul Defraud

SHIN comes upon a frightful scene of blood. He and Chen Gong fight a terrible battle, worse than any SHIN has ever fought. At last, he manages to deal a fatal blow to CHEN GONG. SHIN then rushes to ISEUL, who is breathing his last.

SHIN cries out to the gods to save ISEUL. A Chinese goddess, CHUN HUA, responds, warning him to keep an oath to obey her.

SHIN

Never have I been so repulsed and
baffled by a foe since the demise
of my master! Ah, Yong, the force
of your keen reproach I feel for
having laid to the wayside
admonitions told at the last hour!

Shin fights with renewed vigor. After several more exchanges, Shin at last prevails.

SHIN

Foul the atmosphere with emitted
uncouth grunts and groans, if so
means hell has come to seize you.
Die in the death-throe spasms of
savage beasts, and still the
glut of vengeance remained
unassailed in me!

(beat)

Iseul!

ISEUL

Shin ...

Iseul feebly stretches his fingers toward Shin, then falls still and silent.

SHIN

Surely I would barter this wretched
plight for drudgery.

(beat)

Smite flat the thick rotundity of
the world, tear the cordage binding
me to life's calamitous mooring,
but save this innocent youth! I,
honor razed low, in vassalage bow
to you, pleading for mercy.

Chun Hua makes an appearance, a slender gold-white
crescent
in the bloodied darkness of the chamber.

CHUN HUA

To answer this disconsolate call I
forsook the skies.

(beat)

Sooner would I have believed the
pure lustrations woven into the
fabric of the dark sky rent from
their tailoring. Thought you, by
glorious boasting brandished round,
to threaten the omnipotence of
heaven, whose mounted brazen dome
gilds the earth with distinguished
rays? And only through tears of
celestial trickle falls the rain!

SHIN

'Twas in mad ambition-driven temper
of a man who in forehead resembled
a dog, in heart a deer. I admit to
this, that I am sore smitten and
defeated, raving in no slight
disorder of soul.

CHUN HUA

Then, a life-long humour. Give I as
a gold-gushing fount in liberal
dispensation?

(beat)

This to remembrance keep: heed my
call that you may avert wasteful
woe, lest in fury I impregnate the earth's
womb with still-born corpses.

SHIN

I know this: at the moment the
goddess Chun Hua crooks a finger,
the high heaven trembling the awful
signal takes, to the centre shaken
with fear.

(beat)

I do swear this tremendous oath, to
carry out your bidding, Goddess
Chun Hua, whatsoever it may be.
Should I balk in disobedient
insubordination ...

(beat)

For to expose myself to peril means
nothing.

CHUN HUA

Be it so.

Exit Chun Hua. Iseul makes a movement. Shin clasps him
close, weeping in relief.

SHIN

I give thanks to the especial
interposition of Providence!

DA JI wakes up and crawls toward SHIN and ISEUL, sobbing
quietly.

