

# 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.

