

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1970

NEWS FROM

# HSINHUA NEWS AGENCY

CHINA

Telephone: 01- 242 9217

76 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

Printed and published by S. CHINQUE — Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

BANNER BOOKS & CRAFTS  
90 CAMDEN HIGH STREET  
LONDON - N.W.1. (ENGLAND)  
TEL: 01-387 5488

THE RED LANTERN  
(MAY 1970 SCRIPT)

a quotation from chairman mao

thousands upon thousands of martyrs have heroically laid down their lives for the people; let us hold their banner high and march ahead along the path crimson with their blood exclamation

080503 -- modern revolutionary peking opera: "the red lantern"

peking, august 5 (hsinhua) -- hsinhua editor's note: in order to meet the requests of readers abroad for the contents of china's model revolutionary theatrical works produced under the guidance of chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line in literature and art, we released on june 20 of this year the english translation of the modern revolutionary peking opera "taking tiger mountain by strategy" (october, 1969 stage version). following is the full text of the libretto of another modern revolutionary peking opera, "the red lantern" (may, 1970 stage version):

the red lantern

(may 1970 script)

revised collectively by the china peking opera troupe

characters

li yu-ho	switchman, member of the communist party of china
tieh-mei	li's daughter
granny li	li's mother
liaison man	liaison man from the pine peak base area of the eighth route army
knife-grinder	platoon leader of the guerrillas of the eighth route army in the cypress mountains
hui-lien	li's neighbour
aunt tien	hui-lien's mother-in-law
guerrilla leader	leader of the eighth route army in the cypress mountains
several guerrillas	
woman gruel-seller	
cigarette girl	

workmen a, b, c and d customers at the gruel stall

hatoyama	chief of the japanese gendarmerie
wang lien-chu	puppet police, inspector, an underground communist who turns traitor
auxiliary hou	auxiliary gendarme of the japanese gendarmerie
sergeant	sergeant of the japanese gendarmerie
bogus liaison man	spy for the japanese gendarmerie
cobbler	spy for the japanese gendarmerie
several japanese gendarmes	and spies

scene one

contacting the liaison man

an early winter night during the war of resistance against japan. north china. near the lungtan railway station. the railway embankment is visible. undulating hills loom in the distance.

(as the curtain rises, the north wind is howling. four japanese gendarmes march past on patrol. a signal lantern in his hand, li yu-ho, vigorous and calm, enters with firm steps.)

li (sings "hsi pi san pan" /note/):  
 red lantern in hand, i look round;  
 the leadership is sending a man here to lungtan;  
 the time fixed is half past seven.  
 the next train should bring him.  
 (the wind whistles. enter tieh-mei with a basket, heading into the wind.)  
 tieh-mei: dad exclamation  
 li: well, tieh-mei exclamation (realizing that she must be cold, he takes off his scarf and wraps it round her neck.) how was business today?  
 tieh-mei: humph exclamation the gendarmes and their thugs kept searching and pestering everybody. people were too jittery to buy anything.  
 li: those bandits exclamation  
 tieh-mei: do be careful, dad.  
 li: right. go home and tell granny that an uncle is coming.  
 tieh-mei: an uncle?  
 li: yes.  
 tieh-mei: what does this uncle look like, dad?  
 li: don't ask such questions.  
 tieh-mei: i'll ask granny then.

li: what a girl exclamation  
(exit tieh-mei.)

li (gazing at her retreating figure, very pleased): she's  
a good girl exclamation  
(sings "hsi pi yuan pan")

she peddles goods, collects cinders,  
carries water and chops wood.  
competent in all she does, a poor man's child  
soon learns to manage the house.  
different trees bear different fruits,  
different seeds grow different flowers.

(center wang.)

wang: old li, i've been looking for you for quite a while....  
(li alertly signals wang not to speak, then looks around.)

wang: the japanese posted a tighter guard today, old li.  
they must be up to something.

li: i know. we should meet as seldom as possible in the  
future. i'll contact you when necessary.

wang: all right. (exit.)

(a train whistle sounds in the distance. li goes off.  
lights fade.)

(a train roars past. shots are heard.)

(lights brighten. liaison man "somersaults" down the  
embankment and passes out.)

(li rushes in.)

li (murmurs on seeing the man): a glove on the left hand....  
(gunshots. wang runs back.)

wang: who's that?

li: one of ours. i'll carry him away, you cover us.

wang: right.

(exit li with liaison man on his back.)

(shouts of the pursuing japanese gendarmes. sound of  
shooting. wang fires two shots in the direction opposite  
to that taken by li. the japanese gendarmes can be heard  
approaching. in order to save his own skin, wang shoots  
himself in the arm while shivering all over. he falls.)

(center sergeant with japanese gendarmes.)

sergeant (to wang): did you see the man who jumped off the train?

wang: eh?

sergeant: where's the man?

wang: oh exclamation (points towards the opposite direction.)  
over there.

sergeant (in alarm): hit the ground exclamation

(all the japanese gendarmes throw themselves down.)

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

note: "hsi pi san pan" and other similar terms found in the text,

such as "hsi pi yuan pan", "hsi pi liu shui", "erh huang  
kuai san yen", "hsi pi yao pan", "hsi pi erh liu", "erh  
huang yuan pan", are various styles of singing in peking  
opera. each has its own fixed tune, structure, mode, rhythm  
and tempo. modern revolutionary peking opera has critically  
assimilated various styles of singing from traditional peking  
opera with many creative improvements to suit the  
portrayal of proletarian heroes.

scene two

accepting the task

immediately after the last scene. li's house, interior and  
exterior view. the door opens on to a small lane. a table  
and several chairs in the middle of the room. a red paper  
butterfly pasted on the window pane. on the right, towards the  
the rear, an inner room, with a curtain hanging over the doorway.

(as the curtain rises, the north wind is roaring. it's dim in  
the room. granny turns up the lamp wick and the room becomes  
brighter.)

granny (sings "hsi pi san pan"):

fishermen brave the wind and waves,  
hunters (switching to "yuan pan") fear neither tigers nor  
wolves;

the darkest night must end at last  
in the bright blaze of revolution.

(center tieh-mei with a basket.)

tieh-mei: granny.

granny: tieh-mei.

tieh-mei: dad told me an uncle is coming soon. (puts down the  
basket.)

granny (to herself, expectantly): ah, an uncle is coming soon  
exclamation

tieh-mei: how is it i have so many uncles, granny?

granny: your father has many cousins, so of course you have  
many uncles. (mending clothes.)

tieh-mei: which one is coming today?

granny: don't ask. you'll know when he comes.

tieh-mei: even if you won't tell me, granny, i know.

granny: do you? what do you know?

tieh-mei: granny, just listen

(sings "hsi pi liu shui")

i've more uncles than i can count;  
they only come when there's important business.

though we call them relatives, we never met before,  
yet they are closer to us than our own relatives.  
both dad and you call them our own folk;  
i can guess part of the reason why:  
they're all like my dad,  
men with red, loyal hearts.

(li hurries in, carrying liaison man on his back. he pushes  
the door open and walks in. he signs to tieh-mei to close  
the door and keep an eye on the outside, then helps  
liaison man to a chair and gives him a drink of water.)

Liaison man (recovering): can you tell me if there's a switchman  
here named li?

li: that's me.

(li and liaison man exchange passwords.)

Liaison man: i sell wooden combs.

li: any made of peach-wood?

Liaison man: yes, for cash down.

li: fine, wait a minute.

(li signs to granny to give the lamp test.)

granny (holds up a kerosene lamp and looks at liaison man):  
neighbour....

Liaison man (realizing the method of identification is wrong):  
thank you for saving my life. i must go.

li (holds up the red lantern): comrade exclamation

Liaison man (excitedly): i've found you at last exclamation  
(tieh-mei takes the red lantern, becomes aware of its  
significance.)

(granny signs to tieh-mei to go out with the basket and  
keep watch.)

Liaison man: old li, i'm the liaison man from the pine peak  
base area. (takes a document out of the sole of his shoe.)  
this is a secret code.

(li takes it carefully.)

Liaison man: get it to the guerrillas in the cypress mountains.  
tomorrow afternoon, at the gruel stall in the junk market,  
a knife-grinder will contact you. same password as before.

li: same password as before.

Liaison man: old li, this is a difficult task exclamation

li: i guarantee i'll do it without fail.

Liaison man: fine. but time is pressing, old li, i must go  
back at once.

li: comrade, can you manage?...

Liaison man: a moment ago i passed out simply from the fall.  
i'm all right now, i can manage.

li: wait a minute, you'd better change your clothes.  
(helps liaison man change a jacket.)

li (with great concern): the enemy is searching everywhere.  
so things are very tight. be careful on your way back.

Liaison man: i will, old li.

li: comrade....

(sings "erh huang kuai san yen")

be on guard as you go --

mountains are high, torrents swift.

follow small lanes and short bridges,

the quiet and safe paths.

to the revolution we offer our loyal hearts.

(sees liaison man off. tieh-mei enters.)

(continues to sing)

shouldering the heavy task i'll stand up to any test  
in the fire.

bursting with strength, i'll be worthy of the trust of  
the party.

no difficulty in the world can daunt a communist.

(the siren of a police car wails. with presence of mind,

li motions to granny to blow out the lamp. with the

secret code in his hand, li strikes a dramatic pose.)

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

### scene three

#### narrow escape at the gruel stall

the next afternoon. the gruel stall in the junk market.

(as the curtain rises, workman c is sitting at the counter  
eating gruel. workmen a and b walk in and sit down  
at the gruel counter. cigarette girl sits not far  
away from the stall. li enters with his lantern in one  
hand and lunch box in the other, calm and watchful.)

li (sings "hsi pi yao pan"):

seeking my comrade in the junk market,

i have hidden the code in my lunch box.

no obstacles whatever can stop me,

i must get it to the cypress mountains.

workman c (stands up): old li exclamation

li (with concern): ah, old chang, has your wound healed?

workman c: it's much better.

li: watch out for yourself in the future.

workman c: yes. (to himself.) what kind of times we live  
in exclamation

the japanese devil rides in my rickshaw and won't pay, and  
even beats me up. what a world exclamation (exit.)

(li walks to the gruel stall and hangs the red lantern  
on a post.)

workmen a and b: hello, old li, come here and sit with us.

Li (warmly): let's all sit down.  
gruel-seller: a bowl of gruel, old Li exclamation  
Li: yes, please. how is business?  
gruel-seller: so-so. (she serves him.)  
(center workman d.)  
workman d: a bowl of gruel, please. (takes the bowl, about to eat.) what's this? it's mouldy exclamation  
workman a: it's rationed mixed stuff.  
gruel-seller: we can do nothing about it.  
workman b: hey exclamation (crunches bits of stone, spits them out.) nearly broke my teeth exclamation  
workman a: it's full of grit.  
workman b: they just don't treat us like human beings.  
workman a: hush exclamation don't ask for trouble.  
workman b: how can we eat such swill? we just can't live exclamation  
Li (sharing their feelings, sings "hsi pi liu shui"):  
so many compatriots are suffering and fuming with discontent,  
struggling under iron heels they seethe with wrath.  
spring thunder will rumble when the time comes,  
the brave chinese people will never bow before the butcher's knife.  
may our comrades come soon from the cypress mountains exclamation  
(center knife-grinder.)  
knife-grinder (sings "hsi pi yao pan"):  
looking around for my comrade,  
i see the red lantern hanging high to greet me.  
i cry: any knives or scissors to grind?  
Li (sings "hsi pi yao pan"):  
the knife-grinder fixes his eyes on my red lantern  
and he raises his left hand to hail me.  
through a chat i'll try the password on him.  
(before Li can speak to knife-grinder, a siren wails and japanese gendarmes charge in. knife-grinder deliberately overturns his bench to draw the enemy's attention.)  
Li (continues to sing):  
he draws the wolves to himself in order to cover me.  
(as he sings he coolly and resourcefully empties his gruel into the lunch box.)  
Li: another helping, please.  
(Li lets gruel-seller fill his lunch box.)  
(the gendarmes finish searching knife-grinder, angrily wave him away and turn towards Li.)  
(Li deliberately holds out his lunch box for search. the japanese push the smelly gruel away. after searching him they gesture for him to go.)  
(Li picks up his lunch box and lantern, and breaks into a serene smile. having fooled the enemy, he walks

calmly to the centre of the stage.  
then he turns round and, head high, strides off victoriously.  
(lights fade.)

(curtain)

scene four

wang turns traitor

afternoon. hatoyama's office.

(as the curtain rises, hatoyama is talking on the telephone.)

hatoyama: oh, oh exclamation... what, the trail lost?...  
eh, don't worry,  
i promise to get the code.... the case must be cleared up before the deadline exclamation yes, yes, sir exclamation (puts down the receiver and speaks to himself.) the communists are really sharp exclamation just when the headquarters gets on their trail, they shake us off. they're hard nuts to crack, those communists exclamation (sergeant and hou enter.)  
sergeant: reporting exclamation we searched everywhere, but found no trace of the man who jumped off the train. we've arrested a few suspects.  
hatoyama: what's the use of suspects? this fellow from the train is a liaison man of the communists. he has a very important secret code with him. if it reaches the guerrillas in the cypress mountains, it will spell big trouble for our empire.  
sergeant: yes, sir.  
hatoyama: where is inspector wang?  
hou: he's here.  
hatoyama: bring him in.  
hou: yes, sir. (calling to the inside.) inspector wang. (enter wang with a wounded arm in a sling.) (exit hou.)  
wang: captain. (salutes.)  
hatoyama: ah, brave young fellow, you've been working hard exclamation on behalf of the headquarters, i present you this medal, third class. (pins the medal on wang's chest.)  
wang: thank you, captain.  
hatoyama (sings "hsi pi san pan"):  
if you serve the empire loyally  
you have every chance to rise high;  
as the saying goes: the bitter sea has no bounds,  
repent and the shore is at hand.  
now everything depends on whether you are sensible

(sneers.) or not.

wang: i don't follow you, captain.

hatoyama: you ought to. tell me, how could it be that the man who jumped off the train fired at you from a distance of only three centimetres?

wang: captain....

hatoyama: out with it, young fellow. who was your accomplice?

wang (inadvertently): accomplice exclamation

hatoyama: exactly exclamation without one accomplice to help him and another to cover his escape, could the man who jumped off the train have grown wings and flown away?

wang: i was shot and fell to the ground, captain. how do i know how he escaped?

hatoyama: you know all right. why else should you shoot yourself?

(wang is taken aback.)

hatoyama (presses harder): tell me the truth, quick, young man. who's in the underground communist party? who was your accomplice? where's the liaison man hiding? who's got the secret code now? better make a clean breast of it. i have plenty of medals and rewards for you.

wang: your words make my brain whirl, captain.

hatoyama: in that case we shall have to sober you up exclamation sergeant exclamation

sergeant: yes, sir.

hatoyama: take this man out and sober him up.

sergeant: yes, sir. guards exclamation

(two gendarmes enter.)

sergeant: take him away exclamation

wang (begs for mercy): captain....

sergeant (grimly): bah exclamation (kicks wang to the ground.) (the gendarmes press wang down hard.)

wang: i... i'm innocent.

hatoyama: beat him up exclamation

sergeant: take him away exclamation take him away exclamation

(crying repeatedly "i'm innocent," wang is dragged out by the gendarmes. sergeant follows.)

hatoyama: let torture open his mouth and make him tell who his accomplice was.

(center sergeant.)

sergeant: reporting, sir, he has confessed.

hatoyama: who was his accomplice?

sergeant: li yu-ho, the switchman.

hatoyama (reflectively): li yu-ho exclamation?

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

scene five

recounting the family's revolutionary history

dusk. li's house, interior and exterior view.

(as the curtain rises, granny is waiting anxiously for li.)

granny (sings "hsi pi yao pan"):

it's dusk, but my son still hasn't come back.

(tieh-mei walks out of the inner room. a police siren wails.)

tieh-mei (continues the singing):

there's such commotion in the streets,

i'm worried about dad.

(lunch box and red lantern in hand, li enters and knocks at the door.)

li: tieh-mei.

tieh-mei: dad is back exclamation

granny: open the door, quick.

tieh-mei (opens the door): dad exclamation

granny: yu-ho.

li: mother exclamation

granny: you're back, at last. have you got in touch with him?

(takes the red lantern and lunch box from him.)

li: not yet. (throws off his overcoat.)

granny: anything wrong?

li: mother exclamation

(sings "hsi pi liu shui")

i was trying to contact the knife-grinder at the gruel stall when a police car came and the japanese started a search, to protect me the knife-grinder drew away the wolves, seizing the chance i concealed the code in the lunch box, they didn't find the code hidden under the gruel.

tieh-mei: how good uncle knife-grinder is exclamation

granny: where is the code, yu-ho?

li: mother exclamation

(continues to sing in an affectionate and low voice)

i've put it in a safe place to guard against any accident.

tieh-mei: you're resourceful, dad.

li: you know everything now, tieh-mei. the code is more important than our lives. we must keep it a secret even if it costs us our heads. understand?

tieh-mei: yes.

li: hah, so you understand exclamation what a smart daughter

i've got exclamation

tieh-mei: dad....

li: ho exclamation ...

(it is getting dark. granny brings a kerosene lamp.)

granny: just look at you father and daughter....  
 li: i've got something to do, mother, i must go out again.  
 granny: be careful exclamation and don't be too late.  
 li: i won't.  
 tieh-mei: take this, dad. (she wraps the scarf round his neck.)  
 do come back early.  
 li (affectionately): i will. (walks out of the door. exit.)  
 (tieh-mei closes the door.)  
 (granny polishes the red lantern with loving care. tieh-mei watches attentively.)  
 granny: come here, tieh-mei. i'll tell you the story of the red lantern.  
 tieh-mei: fine. (happily walks over to the table and sits down beside it.)  
 granny (seriously): for many years this lantern has lighted the way for us poor people, for us workers. your grandfather used to carry this lantern, and now your dad carries it. you saw what happened last night, child. we can't do without it at crucial moments. remember, this red lantern is our family treasure.  
 tieh-mei: our family treasure?  
 (Looking at tieh-mei confidently, granny goes into the inner room.)  
 (tieh-mei picks up the lantern, examines it and falls in deep thought.)  
 tieh-mei (sings "hsi pi san pan"):  
 granny has told me the story of the red lantern,  
 the words are few, but meaning is deep.  
 why are my father and uncle (switches to "yuan pan")  
 not afraid of danger?  
 because they want to save china,  
 save the poor, defeat the japanese invaders.  
 i realize i should act as they do,  
 and be a person like them.  
 i am seventeen, no longer a child,  
 i should share my father's worries.  
 if he's carrying a thousand-pound load,  
 i should carry eight hundred.  
 (granny comes out.)  
 granny: tieh-mei, tieh-mei exclamation  
 tieh-mei: granny exclamation  
 granny: what are you thinking about?  
 tieh-mei: nothing.  
 (a child cries next door.)  
 granny: isn't that lung-erh crying?  
 tieh-mei: yes.  
 granny: their grain has run out again exclamation we have some corn meal left. give it to them.  
 tieh-mei: all right. (gets it.)  
 (hui-lien enters, knocks at the door.)  
 hui-lien: granny li exclamation  
 tieh-mei: it's sister hui-lien.

granny: open the door. quick.  
 tieh-mei: en. (opens the door. hui-lien comes in.) sister hui-lien.  
 granny (with concern): is lung-erh any better, hui-lien?  
 hui-lien: no. how can we afford to see a doctor? fewer and fewer people ask me to mend and wash clothes for them these days. we live from hand to mouth, never knowing where our next meal is coming from. right now, we've nothing in the pot.  
 tieh-mei: take this home, sister hui-lien. (gives her the corn meal.)  
 hui-lien (greatly moved): ....  
 granny: take it. tieh-mei was just going to send it over to you.  
 hui-lien (takes the corn meal): you're so kind to us.  
 granny: don't mention it. with the wall between us we're two families. if we pulled it down, we'd be one.  
 tieh-mei: we are one family even with the wall.  
 granny: that's true.  
 (the child cries again, louder.)  
 aunt tien (offstage): hui-lien, hui-lien exclamation (aunt tien enters.)  
 tieh-mei: aunty exclamation  
 granny: please take a seat.  
 aunt tien: no, thank you. the child is crying, hui-lien. go back and look after him. (sees the meal in her hand, moved.) ....  
 granny: take it home and make some food for the child.  
 aunt tien: but you don't have much yourselves.  
 granny (warmly): don't say yours or ours. we are one family.  
 aunt tien: we must be going now.  
 granny: don't be upset. watch your step in the dark. (aunt tien and hui-lien go out.)  
 tieh-mei (closes the door): they are having a very hard time, granny.  
 granny: yes. hui-lien's father-in-law was a railway transport worker and was killed by a train. the japanese wouldn't pay any compensation. what's more, they seized her husband to work as a coolie. tieh-mei, we two worker families endure the same suffering and feel the same hatred for the enemy. we must do our best to help them.  
 (bogus liaison man enters, knocks at the door.)  
 tieh-mei: who's there?  
 bogus liaison man: is this master li's house?  
 tieh-mei: someone wants dad.  
 granny: open the door.  
 tieh-mei: right. (opens the door.)  
 (bogus liaison man comes in and shuts the door behind him quickly.)  
 granny: you are....  
 bogus liaison man: i sell wooden combs.

granny: any made of peach-wood?  
 bogus liaison man: yes, for cash down.  
 tieh-mei: good. just a minute.  
 (bogus liaison man turns around and puts down his bag.)  
 (tieh-mei is going to pick up the red lantern when granny hurriedly stops her and takes up the kerosene lamp to put him to the test. tieh-mei gets the hint.)  
 bogus liaison man (turning round, sees the lamp): thank goodness, i've found you at last. it's been so difficult to contact you. (tieh-mei's amazement turns to anger. she is burning with indignation.)  
 granny (realizing that he is a fraud, calmly): let's see your wooden combs, master, so that we can make a choice.  
 bogus liaison man: i've come for the code, ma'am.  
 granny: what is he saying, tieh-mei?  
 bogus liaison man: this is no time for jokes, ma'am. the code is a very important communist party document. the revolution depends on it. give it to me quickly.  
 tieh-mei (angrily): none of your nonsense. get out exclamation  
 bogus liaison man: now, now....  
 tieh-mei: get out exclamation  
 (tieh-mei pushes him out, tosses his bag after him and bangs the door shut.)  
 tieh-mei: granny exclamation  
 (granny quickly stops tieh-mei from speaking.)  
 (bogus liaison man signals to two plain-clothes men, indicating that they should watch the house. then they go off in different directions.)  
 tieh-mei: he nearly fooled me, granny.  
 granny: child, someone must have turned traitor and let out the secret.  
 tieh-mei: what's to be done, granny?  
 granny (whispers): tear off the sign at once.  
 tieh-mei: what sign?  
 granny: the red paper butterfly on the window pane.  
 tieh-mei (suddenly understands): ah exclamation (about to tear it off.)  
 granny: tieh-mei, open the door to screen the window. you tear off the sign while i sweep the floor to distract attention. quick.  
 (tieh-mei opens the door. li strides in and closes the door behind him. tieh-mei is startled. the broom drops from granny's hand.)  
 li (senses something wrong): what's happened, mother?  
 granny: there are dogs outside exclamation  
 (showing no fear, li makes a quick appraisal of the situation.)  
 granny: son, son exclamation  
 li: mother, it looks like i'll be arrested. (seriously.)  
 i've put the code under the stone-tablet beside an old locust tree on the west bank of the river. you must do

everything to deliver it to the knife-grinder. the password is the same.  
 granny: the password's the same exclamation  
 li: yes, but you must be careful.  
 granny: i know. don't worry.  
 tieh-mei: dad....  
 (hou enters, knocks at the door.)  
 hou: is master li in?  
 li: they've come, mother.  
 tieh-mei: dad, you....  
 li: open the door, tieh-mei.  
 tieh-mei: yes.  
 hou: open the door exclamation  
 (tieh-mei tears off the red paper butterfly while she opens the door.)  
 hou (entering the house): are you master li?  
 li: yes.  
 hou: captain hatoyama invites you to have a drink. (presents an invitation card.)  
 li: so captain hatoyama invites me to a feast?  
 hou: yes.  
 li: ha exclamation what an honour exclamation (throws the invitation card on the table scornfully.)  
 hou: he just wants to make friends with you. come along please, master li.  
 li: after you. (to granny, firmly and gravely.) mother, take good care of yourself. i'm going.  
 granny: wait a minute exclamation tieh-mei, bring some wine.  
 tieh-mei: yes. (fetches some wine.)  
 hou: don't bother, ma'am. there's plenty at the feast for him to drink  
 granny: bah exclamation ... the poor prefer their own wine. each drop of it warms the heart. (takes the bowl of wine from tieh-mei and, gravely and with deep feeling, she bids li a hero's farewell.) son, take this bowl and drink it exclamation  
 li (taking the bowl solemnly): with this wine to put heart into me, mother, i can cope with whatever wine they give me. (drains the bowl at one gulp.) thank you, mother. (heroically, sings "hsi pi erh liu")  
 i drink the wine mother gives me at parting,  
 i'm filled with courage and strength.  
 hatoyama is giving a feast to make "friends" with me,  
 even a thousand cups i can handle.  
 the weather is treacherous, with sudden wind and snow,  
 be prepared always for unexpected changes.  
 tieh-mei: dad. (rushes over to li, sobbing.)  
 li (kindly and meaningfully, continues singing):  
 dear tieh-mei,  
 when you are out selling wares, keep an eye on the weather



and remember well all the "accounts."  
beware of curs lurking outside  
when you feel drowsy;  
listen for the magpie's lucky song  
when you feel low.

you must run errands for the family  
and share your granny's burdens and cares.

tieh-mei: dad exclamation (clasps him and sobs.)

hou: let's go, master li.

li: don't cry, child. always do as granny says.

tieh-mei: i will.

granny: open the door, tieh-mei, so your father can go to the  
"feast."

li: i'm going now, mother.

(li and granny clasp each other's hands firmly, encouraging  
each other to be staunch in the fight.)

(tieh-mei opens the door. a gust of wind. li strides out  
into the wind, head high. hou follows.)

(tieh-mei runs after li with the scarf, crying: "dad exclamation"  
spies a, b and c rush in and bar her way.)

spy a: stop exclamation go back.

(he forces tieh-mei back. the spies come into the room.)

tieh-mei: granny exclamation...

spy a: make a search exclamation stay where you are exclamation  
(they rummage the house. one of them comes out of the inner  
room with an almanac, leafs through it, then tosses it away.)

spy a: let's go.

(they go off.)

tieh-mei (closes the door, draws the curtain and looks around  
the room):

granny exclamation (falls into granny's arms and sobs. a pause.)  
will dad ever come back, granny?

granny: your dad....

tieh-mei: dad....

granny: tieh-mei, tears cannot save your dad. don't cry now.  
it's time to tell you everything about our family.

tieh-mei: what, granny?

granny: sit down. i'll tell you.

(granny looks at the scarf. revolutionary memories float  
before her eyes; hatred, old and new, for the enemy comes  
to her mind.)

(tieh-mei gets a stool and sits down beside her.)

granny: tell me, child, is your dad a good man?

tieh-mei: of course.

granny: but...he's not your own father.

tieh-mei (startled): ah exclamation what are you saying, granny?

granny: neither am i your granny.

tieh-mei: granny, granny exclamation are you out of your mind?

granny: no, child. we three generations are not from the same  
family. (stands up.) your surname is chen, mine is li  
and your dad's is chang.

(sings "erh huang san pan")

for seventeen storm-tossed years i've kept quiet,  
several times i wanted to speak,  
but i was afraid you were too young for the truth.

tieh-mei: tell me, granny. i won't cry.

granny (sings "erh huang man san yen"):

it's most likely your father will not return,  
and granny may be jailed too.

then the heavy burden of revolution will fall on you.

when i tell you the truth, tieh-mei,

don't cry, don't break down, be brave and staunch,

learn from your father his loyalty, courage, and iron will.

tieh-mei: granny, sit down and tell me everything. (helps  
granny to a seat.)

granny: it's a long story. your grandfather was a maintenance  
man in the kiangan locomotive depot near hankow. he had  
two apprentices. one was your own father, chen chih-  
hsing.

tieh-mei: my father, chen chih-hsing?

granny: the other was your present dad, chang yu-ho.

tieh-mei: oh, chang yu-ho?

granny: at that time, the country was torn by strife among war-  
lords. then, chairman mao and the communist party led the  
chinese people in waging revolution. in february 1923,  
workers of the peking-hankow railway set up a federation  
of trade unions in chengchow. one of the warlords, wu pei-  
fu, a stooge of the foreign invaders, tried to ban it. at  
the call of the federation, all the workers on the line  
went on strike. more than ten thousand in kiangan took to the  
street and demonstrated. that was another cold, dark  
night. i was so worried about your grandfather i couldn't  
sit still or go to sleep. i was mending clothes by the  
lamp when i heard someone knocking at the door, calling,  
"aunty, aunty, quick, open the door." i did, and in rushed  
a man.

tieh-mei: who was it?

granny: your dad.

tieh-mei: my dad?

granny: yes, your present dad. he was covered with wounds,  
and in his left hand he held this very signal lantern....

tieh-mei: the signal lantern?

granny: in his right arm he held a baby.

tieh-mei: a baby...

granny: a baby less than one year old.

tieh-mei: that baby....

granny: that baby was none other than....

tieh-mei: than who?

granny: than you.

tieh-mei: me?

granny: hugging you tightly to his chest, with tears in his

eyes your dad stood before me and shouted, "aunty, aunty...."  
 for several minutes he just stared at me and couldn't  
 go on. terribly worried, i urged him to speak. he ...  
 he said, "my master and brother chen... have been murdered.  
 this is chen's child, a future successor to the revolution.  
 i must bring her up to carry on the revolution."  
 he added, "aunty, from now on i am your own son and this  
 child is your own grand-daughter." then i took you  
 and held you tight in my arms.

tieh-mei: granny exclamation (buries her head in granny's  
 arms.)

granny: be brave and listen.

(sings "erh huang yuan pan")

in the strike those devils murdered your father and mother,  
 li yu-ho worked untiringly for the revolution;  
 he swore to follow in the martyrs' steps, to keep  
 the red lantern burning;  
 he staunched his wounds, buried the dead and went  
 on with the fight.

now the japanese brigands are burning, killing and looting,  
 before our eyes your dad was taken away to prison;  
 remember this debt of blood and tears,  
 be brave and determined to settle accounts with the enemy,  
 a debt of blood must be paid with blood.

tieh-mei (sings "erh huang yuan pan"):

granny tells a heroic and stirring episode of the revolution,  
 now i know i was raised in wind and rain.  
 dear granny, for all those seventeen years,  
 your kindness to me has been vast as the sea.  
 now with high aims i see my way clear.  
 blood must pay for our blood,  
 successors must carry forward the cause of our martyrs.  
 here i raise the red lantern, let its light shine far.  
 dad exclamation (changes to "erh huang kuai pan")  
 my father is as steadfast as the pine,  
 a communist who fears nothing under the sun.  
 following in your footsteps i shall never waver.  
 the red lantern we hold high, and it shines  
 on my father fighting those wild beasts.  
 generation after generation we shall fight on,  
 never leaving the field until all the wolves are killed.

(tieh-mei and granny hold high the red lantern in a  
 dramatic pose. it casts a radiant red light.)  
 (lights fade.)

(curtain)

scene six

struggling against hatoyama at the feast

immediately after the previous scene. hatoyama's reception room.  
 a feast is laid.

(as the curtain rises, hou enters.)

hou: please come in, master li.

(li enters calmly and with firm steps. exit hou.)

li: (sings "erh huang yuan pan"):

a poisoned arrow is hidden in the invitation card,  
 sudden burst of a storm means traitors lurking,  
 i laugh at his feast spread amid swords and axes,  
 with revolutionary righteousness in my heart,  
 i will face the enemy with composure, firm as a mountain.

(enter hatoyama.)

hatoyama: ah, my old friend. i trust you've been well?

li: ah, mr. hatoyama. how are you?

(li ignores hatoyama's extended hand. hatoyama withdraws  
 it in embarrassment.)

hatoyama: so we meet again after all this time, eh? do you  
 remember i once treated you in the railway hospital?

li: in those days you were a rich japanese doctor and i was  
 a poor chinese worker. we were like two trains running  
 on different tracks, travelling in different directions.

hatoyama: no matter how you put it, we're not strangers, right?

li (pretending a civility): then i'll expect you to be "helpful."

hatoyama: that's why i've invited you for a good chat.

please sit down. this is a private feast, old friend.

we'll talk of friendship and nothing else, all right?

li (sounding the enemy out coolly): i am a poor worker and  
 like to be straightforward. anything you have in mind,  
 just speak out.

hatoyama: quite frank exclamation come on, old friend,  
 drink up.

li: it's very kind of you, mr. hatoyama. sorry, i don't drink.  
 (pushes the cup away, takes out his pipe and lights it.)

hatoyama: you don't drink? there's an old chinese saying,  
 "life is but a dream." it passes in a flash. therefore,  
 as is well said, "enjoy wine and song while we can, for  
 tomorrow we die."

li (blowing out his match contemptuously): yes, listening to  
 songs and drinking the best wine is the life of an  
 immortal. i hope you always lead such a life and i wish  
 you "long life," mr. hatoyama. (throws away the match  
 sarcastically.)

hatoyama: hah... (forcing a smile.) old friend, i am a  
 believer in buddhism. a buddhist sutra tells us, "the  
 bitter sea has no bounds, repent and the shore is at  
 hand."

Li (counter-attacking): i don't believe in buddhism. but i've heard the saying, "the law is strong, but the outlaws are ten times stronger exclamation" /note 1/  
hatoyama: well said, my friend. but this is only one kind of creed. as a matter of fact the highest human creed can be condensed into two words.  
Li: two words?  
hatoyama: right.  
Li: what are they?  
hatoyama: "for myself."  
Li: for yourself, eh?  
hatoyama: no, every man for himself.  
Li (pretending not to understand): "every man for himself"?  
hatoyama: right. old friend, you know the saying, "heaven destroys those who don't look out for themselves."  
Li: oh? heaven destroys those who don't look out for themselves?  
hatoyama: that's the secret of success in life.  
Li: so there's such a thing as a secret of success in life?  
hatoyama: there's a secret for doing everything.  
Li: mr. hatoyama, for me your secret is like trying to blow up a fire through a rolling-pin. it just doesn't work. (hatoyama is taken aback.)  
hatoyama: no more joking, old friend. now i'd like to have your help.  
Li: how can a poor worker help you?  
hatoyama: let's stop this shadow-boxing now. hand it over exclamation  
Li: what?  
hatoyama: the secret code.  
Li: ha.... a colt? i don't have anything to do with such things. all i know is to work switches.  
hatoyama (threateningly): if you want to do it the hard way, friend, don't blame me if we get rough.  
Li (unruffled): as you like. (at a sign from hatoyama, wang lien-chu enters.)  
hatoyama: look, my old friend, who is this?  
(wang cringes and trembles beneath li's piercing gaze.)  
(hatoyama indicates for wang to persuade li.)  
wang: old li, you mustn't be too....  
Li: shut up exclamation  
wang: old li, you mustn't be too pig-headed....  
Li (pounds the table and jumps to his feet. pointing at wang, he denounces): shameless traitor exclamation (sings "hsi pi kuai pan")  
only a coward would bend his knees, afraid of death and clinging to life. how often did i warn you against enemy threats and bribes?

you swore you would gladly die for the revolution; how could you sell out and be their pawn?  
they are treating you like a cur, yet you count disgrace an honour, the day will come when the people bring you to trial, your betrayal is an unpardonable crime.  
(terrified by li's revolutionary integrity, the traitor hides behind hatoyama.)  
hatoyama (quite pleased with himself): keep cool, my friend. ah.... (waves wang away.) i didn't want to play my trump card but you forced me to. i had no alternative.  
Li (in sharp retort): i expected as much. your trump card is nothing but a mangy dog with a broken back. you'll get no satisfaction out of me, hatoyama.  
hatoyama (frustrated, reveals his true colours): you know very well what my job is, li yu-ho. i'm the one who issues passes to hell.  
Li (giving tit for tat): and you know very well what my job is. i'm the one who will demolish your hell.  
hatoyama: you ought to know my torture instruments are hungry for human flesh.  
Li (contemptuously): i am no stranger to those gadgets of yours.  
hatoyama (menacing): take my advice and recant before your bones are broken.  
Li (overwhelming the enemy): i'd sooner have my bones broken than recant.  
hatoyama: our gendarmes are pitiless. once in the torture chamber you won't come out alive.  
Li (categorically): we communists have a will of steel. we look on death as nothing exclamation hatoyama exclamation (denouncing the japanese bandits, sings "hsi pi yuan pan")  
the japanese militarists are wolves hiding their savagery behind a smile. you kill our people and invade our land (switches to "kuai pan")  
in the name of "co-prosperity in east asia." the communist party and chairman mao are leading the people's revolution; we have hundreds of millions of heroes fighting against japan to save our country. your reliance on traitors is of no more use than fishing for the moon in the lake.  
hatoyama: sergeant exclamation (sergeant and two gendarmes enter.)  
hatoyama (sings "hsi pi san pan"):  
i'll let you taste all of my torture instruments. (militantly, li throws open his coat in a dramatic pose.)  
Li (smiles sardonically): huh exclamation ...  
sergeant: get moving.  
Li (sings "hsi pi san pan"): you can only limber up my joints.  
sergeant: take him away.

(the gendarmes seize li.)

li: i don't need your help.

(li flings out his arms and they stagger backwards.)

(calmly, li buttons his coat, picks up his cap, flicks the dust off it and holds it behind his back. turning round, he strides off in a manner that overwhelms the enemy.)

(sergeant and gendarmes follow.)

hatoyama (crestfallen and helpless): he's a hard one exclamation (recites "pu teng ngo" /note 2/)

what makes a communist tougher than steel?  
my persuasion and threats are of no avail,  
i hope torture will make him speak.

(enter sergeant.)

sergeant: reporting exclamation li yu-ho would rather die than speak.

hatoyama: rather die than speak?

sergeant: let me take some men to search his house again, captain.

hatoyama: forget it. communists are very vigilant. he must have put the code somewhere else.

sergeant: yes, sir.

hatoyama: bring him in.

sergeant: bring li yu-ho here exclamation

(two japanese gendarmes drag li in. blood-stained and covered with wounds, li advances militantly on hatoyama. then, turning round in a dance movement, he stands erect, supporting himself on a chair.)

li (sings "hsi pi tao pan"):

you beast with the heart of a wolf exclamation

hatoyama: the code. give me the code.

li: hatoyama exclamation

(continues to sing, switching to "hsi pi kuai pan")  
no matter how cruel your tortures,  
pure gold fears not tempering in fierce fire.  
no matter what, i'll never bow my head exclamation

ha....

(the enemies are terrified by his heroic spirit.)

(li strikes a dramatic pose.)

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

time, but it is the revolutionary people who are really strong. the japanese bandits are doomed. the chinese people are sure to win.

note 2: a recitative accompanied rhythmically by percussion instruments.

scene seven

help from the masses

one morning several days later. li's house, interior and exterior view.

(as the curtain rises, cobbler, a spy in disguise, is sitting not far from the door watching the house.)

(knife-grinder cries offstage: "any knives or scissors to grind?" he enters repeating his cry while warily looking around. he sees that the red paper butterfly on the window pane is gone and notices the spy. he decides to make contact some other time.)

(granny and tieh-mei come out of the inner room and look out of the window.)

(knife-grinder leaves, calmly uttering his cry. the spy looks at him but sees nothing unusual.)

granny: that knife-grinder probably came to contact us, tieh-mei.

tieh-mei: i'll run after him with the lantern and see whether he's our man or not.

granny: it won't do, child, not with that dog outside. you can't go.

tieh-mei: then, what shall we do? (meditating.) granny, i have an idea. i'll go out through hui-lien's house exclamation

granny: how can you do that, my child?

tieh-mei: the other day, in the inner room where our bed stands the stone at the foot of the wall came loose. when i was helping dad repair the wall i pulled it out and crawled through for a visit.

granny: what, you crawled through?

tieh-mei: yes, hui-lien's room is right on the other side.

granny: let's ask their help, then. you can go out through their house. do you remember the password your dad told you, tieh-mei?

tieh-mei: yes, i do.

granny: if you catch up with the knife-grinder, and he gives the right password in reply, go to the west bank of the river and get the code from under the stone-tablet beside an old locust tree.

note 1: here "law" means the reactionary ruling class while "outlaws" means the revolutionary spirit of rebellion of the proletariat and revolutionary people in their struggle against the reactionaries. in striking back against hatoyama, li yu-ho uses this saying to imply that the japanese bandits may ride roughshod for a

tieh-mei: under the stone-tablet by an old locust tree?  
 granny: didn't you hear your dad mention it? you must be very careful, child.  
 tieh-mei: don't worry, granny.  
 granny: look out exclamation  
 tieh-mei: i will.  
 (taking the red lantern, tieh-mei goes into the inner room. exit.)  
 cobbler throws away an empty match-box, walks over and knocks at the door to ask for a match.)  
 cobbler: open the door.  
 granny: who's there?  
 cobbler: me. the cobbler.  
 granny: wait a moment. (opens the door.)  
 cobbler (enters): ma'am.  
 granny: what do you want?  
 cobbler: i want a match.  
 granny: there are some on top of the cupboard.  
 cobbler: thank you. where's the girl? (lights his cigarette.)  
 granny: she's not well.  
 cobbler: not well? where is she?  
 granny: in bed in the inner room.  
 cobbler: oh exclamation thank you. (exit.)  
 granny: filthy dog.  
 (two spies enter at cobbler's signal. they whisper together. as granny closes the door they push into the house.)  
 granny: who are you?  
 spy b: we are checking up.  
 spy a: where's your grand-daughter?  
 granny: she's ill.  
 spy b: ill? where is she?  
 granny: in bed in the other room.  
 spy b: tell her to get up exclamation  
 granny: she's ill. let her rest.  
 spy b: get out of the way exclamation (pushes granny aside and reaches to lift the door curtain.)  
 (voice from behind the curtain: "granny, who's there?")  
 granny: police checking up.  
 (looking at each other helplessly, the spies go out. granny closes the door behind them. she turns round and stares in surprise.)  
 (hui-lien comes out of the inner room.)  
 granny: ah exclamation what brings you here, hui-lien?  
 hui-lien: granny li exclamation  
 (sings "hsi pi liu shui")  
 tieh-mei has slipped away through our house,  
 my mother-in-law sent me to let you know.  
 when i heard those spies questioning you  
 i pretended to be tieh-mei lying ill in bed.  
 when tieh-mei returns, she can come through our house,

with me helping, you don't have to worry.  
 granny (gratefully): you've been a tremendous help.  
 (tieh-mei comes out of the inner room.)  
 tieh-mei: granny exclamation sister hui-lien exclamation  
 hui-lien: so you're back, tieh-mei.  
 granny: if it weren't for hui-lien we'd have been in serious trouble.  
 hui-lien: it's good you're back. i must be going now.  
 tieh-mei: thank you.  
 (hui-lien enters the inner room. exit.)  
 granny: go and put the stone in place, tieh-mei.  
 (tieh-mei goes into the inner room. granny hangs up the lantern. tieh-mei enters again.)  
 granny: did you find the knife-grinder?  
 tieh-mei: i searched several streets but couldn't find him.  
 i hurried back for fear those spies might discover that i was out.  
 granny: you did right exclamation  
 (enter hou. he sends cobbler away and knocks at the door.)  
 tieh-mei: who's there?  
 hou: captain hatoyama is coming to pay you a visit.  
 tieh-mei: granny exclamation  
 granny: if i am arrested, tieh-mei, you must try your best to deliver the code to the cypress mountains.  
 tieh-mei: don't worry exclamation  
 hou: open the door exclamation  
 granny: go and open the door.  
 tieh-mei: yes. (opens the door.)  
 (hatoyama enters and comes into the house. hou follows and stands by.)  
 hatoyama: how are you, madam?  
 granny: so you are mr. hatoyama?  
 hatoyama: yes, i'm hatoyama.  
 granny: just a minute, please. i'll tidy up and go with you.  
 hatoyama: oh, that's not what i came for. li yu-ho said that he left something with you, madam.  
 granny: left what?  
 hatoyama: the code.  
 granny: what does he mean, child?  
 hatoyama: it's a book.  
 granny: a book?  
 hatoyama: that's right.  
 granny: mr. hatoyama.  
 (sings "hsi pi yuan pan")  
 my family has always suffered from hunger and cold,  
 none of us three knows how to read.  
 what would we want with a book in our home?  
 hatoyama (continues the singing):  
 since li yu-ho has told me about that book,  
 why try to hide it and fool me?  
 tieh-mei (continues the singing)

Let my dad come and find it,  
why trouble yourself?

hatoyama: now, now. if you give me that book i'll send  
li yu-ho straight home and make him a vice-section chief.  
i promise all of you wealth and fame.

granny: hum exclamation

(continues to sing)

i look upon wealth and fame as dust,  
we poor people find coarse food very tasty.  
since you have taken such trouble to come for it --

(to tieh-mei.) go and find it for him.

(tieh-mei goes into the inner room and brings out the  
almanac which she hands to granny.)

granny (to hatoyama, continues to sing):

so that you will not have come for nothing.

(hands the "book" to hatoyama.)

hatoyama: that's it. that must be it. an almanac? (leafing  
through it.) i'll take it with me and study it. what  
about going to see your son, madam?

granny: very well exclamation look after the house, tieh-mei.

hatoyama: no exclamation the girl must come too exclamation

tieh-mei: let's go, granny exclamation

(sings "hsi pi san pan")

filled with courage and strength like dad,  
i have nothing to fear --

(granny and tieh-mei leave the house.)

(hatoyama follows. hou orders the spies to seal the door.)

granny (continues the singing):

revolutionaries can stand the collapse of heaven and  
earth exclamation

(granny and grand-daughter walk straight forward, then  
strike a dramatic pose.)

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

### scene eight

struggle on the execution ground

night. a corner of the prison in the headquarters of the  
japanese gendarmerie.

(as the curtain rises, sergeant and hou stand waiting.  
enter hatoyama.)

hatoyama: it seems direct questioning won't get us the

secret code. the hidden microphone?

hou: already installed.

hatoyama: good. we'll hear what they say when the old woman  
meets her son. perhaps we'll find out something this way.  
bring the old woman in.

hou: yes, sir. (to offstage.) come along exclamation

(enter granny.)

hatoyama: do you know this place, madam?

granny: it's the gendarme headquarters.

hatoyama: this is where your son will ascend to heaven exclamation  
when a man has committed a crime and his mother refuses to  
save his life when she has it in her power, don't you think  
she is cruel?

granny (sternly, putting the vile enemy on trial): what kind of  
talk is that exclamation you've arrested my son for no  
reason. now you want to kill him. you are the criminals,  
it's you who are cruel. you kill the chinese, and you want  
to shift the blame on to the chinese people, on to me,  
an old woman?

hatoyama: all right exclamation go and see your son exclamation  
(granny walks off resolutely. hatoyama signs to hou to  
follow her.)

hatoyama: take li yu-ho there.

sergeant: bring li ... yu-ho exclamation ...

(dark change.)

(a corner of the execution ground: a high wall, a steep  
slope, a sturdy pine reaching to the sky. in the  
distance a high mountain pierces into the clouds.)

li (offstage, sings "erh huang tao pan"):

at the gaoler's blood-thirsty cry...

(enters and strikes a dramatic pose.)

i stride forth from my cell.

(two japanese gendarmes push him. with a strong sense  
of righteousness, li stands chest out, undaunted. then  
he performs a series of characteristic peking opera  
dance movements: moving briskly sideways on both legs,  
backing a few steps on one leg, a pause; turning round  
on one leg and then swinging the other and striking a  
dramatic pose. he advances boldly, forcing the two  
japanese gendarmes to retreat.)

(li rubs his wounded chest, then places one foot on a rock  
and nurses his knee. he casts a contemptuous glance  
at his chains and fully displays his noble spirit.)

li (sings "hui lung"):

though heavy chains shackle me hand and foot,

they cannot fetter my spirit that storms the heavens.

(feeling a sharp pain in his wounded legs, he backs a few  
steps on one leg, nurses his knees and finally stands  
on one leg in a dramatic pose.)

li (sings "yuan pan"):

that villain hatoyama used every torture to get the code,  
my bones are broken, my flesh is torn,  
but my will is firmer than ever.

walking boldly to the execution ground, i look afar:  
the red flag of revolution is raised on high,  
the flames of resistance spread far and wide.

japanese bandits, let's see how much longer you can  
rage exclamation

once the storm is past (changes to "man san yen")

flowers will bloom,  
new china will shine like the morning sun,  
red flags will fly all over the country.  
this thought heightens my confidence  
and my resolve strengthened.

(changes to "yuan pan")

i have done very little for the party,  
i'm worried that the code hasn't got to the mountains.  
wang's only contact was with me,  
the wretch can betray no one else;  
my mother and daughter are as firm as steel.  
hatoyama, try and get the secret code exclamation  
you may ransack heaven and earth  
but you will never find it.  
revolutionaries, fear nothing on earth,  
they will for ever march forward.

(enter granny.)

granny: yu-ho exclamation

li (looks back): mother exclamation

granny (runs over to support li, sings "erh huang san pan"):  
again i live through that day seventeen years ago,  
and burn with hate for the foe of my class and country.  
these...japanese devils, cruel and treacherous,  
have beaten you black and blue,  
my son, my son exclamation

li: don't grieve for me, mother exclamation

granny (continues to sing):

with such a fine son ... i shouldn't grieve.

li: my good mother exclamation

(sings "erh huang erh liu")

brought up by the party to be a man of steel,  
i fight the foe and never give ground.  
i'm not afraid  
to have every bone in my body broken,  
i'm not afraid  
to be locked up until i wear through the floor of my cell.  
it makes my heart bleed to see our country ravaged,  
i burn with anger for my people's suffering.  
however hard the road of revolution,  
we must press on in the steps of the glorious dead.  
my only regret if i die today  
is the "account" i have not settled.  
(gestures to indicate the secret code.)

i long to soar like an eagle to the sky,  
borne on the wind above the mountain passes  
to rescue our millions of suffering countrymen --  
then how gladly would i die for the revolution exclamation

(enter hou followed by two japanese gendarmes.)

hou: old woman, captain hatoyama wants to have a talk  
with you.

granny (to li): son, i know what he is going to say.

hou: come on.

(granny goes out fearlessly, followed by the two japanese  
gendarmes.)

hou: bring li tieh-mei here exclamation

(tieh-mei runs in.)

tieh-mei: dad exclamation

(exit hou.)

tieh-mei (sings "erh huang san pan"):

day and night i've been longing to see you again,  
and now you...so battered and covered with blood....  
dear father exclamation

li: you mustn't cry, child exclamation (strokes tieh-mei's  
hair lovingly, with determination.) be brave, daughter  
exclamation (helps tieh-mei to her feet, with feeling.)  
my child exclamation

(continues the singing)

one thing i have wanted to tell you many times,  
it's been hidden in my heart for seventeen years.  
i....

tieh-mei (quickly stopping him): don't say it, dad, you are my  
own father. (kneels.)

(sings "erh huang kuai pan")

don't say it, father,

i know the bitter tale of these seventeen years.

(li helps tieh-mei to her feet, his feelings like turbulent  
waves.)

li (sings "erh huang yuan pan"):

people say that family love outweighs all else,

but class love is greater yet, i know.

a proletarian fights all his life for the people's liberation

making a home wherever i am,

i have lived in poverty all these years.

the red lantern is my only possession,

i entrust it to your safe keeping.

tieh-mei (sings "erh huang kuai san yen"):

dad has given me a priceless treasure

to light my path forward for ever.

you have given me your integrity

to help me stand firm as a rock;

you have given me your wisdom

to help me see through the enemy's wiles;

you have given me your courage

to help me fight those brutes.  
 this red lantern is our heirloom.  
 oh dad, the treasure you leave me is so vast,  
 that a thousand carts and ten thousand boats  
 cannot hold it all.

i give you my word i will keep the lantern always safe.

li (sings "erh huang san pan"):

as wave follows wave in the great yangtse river,  
 our red lantern will be passed on from hand to hand.

(to tieh-mei.)

if some day to home you return,  
 find our relatives, make a living, clear that "account,"

(gestures to indicate the code.)

i'll have no worries.

(japanese gendarmes enter pushing granny. enter sergeant.)

sergeant: captain hatoyama gives you five more minutes to think

it over. if you still refuse to give up the secret code,  
 you will all be shot. (drags tieh-mei away.) only five

minutes left, girl. give up the code and save the whole family.

understand? speak up exclamation

(firmly, tieh-mei walks back to her dear ones.)

sergeant: where is the code?

tieh-mei: i -- don't -- know exclamation

sergeant: shoot them all.

gendarmes: yes.

li: no use baring your fangs exclamation tieh-mei, let's  
 take granny's arms and go together.

("the internationale" is played. bravely and firmly,  
 the three walk arm in arm up a slope with their heads high.)

(enter hatoyama.)

hatoyama: wait exclamation i give you one more minute to  
 think it over.

li (with a spirit that shakes the universe): hatoyama, you can  
 never kill all the chinese people, all the chinese communists.

you must think of the end in store for you scoundrels

exclamation

hatoyama: terrible exclamation (to sergeant.) act according to  
 plan exclamation (exit.)

sergeant: shoot them exclamation

(to the militant strains of "the internationale," the  
 three revolutionaries of three generations, heads high,  
 walk up the slope, defying death. they go out.)

(japanese gendarmes follow.)

(silence. offstage, li shouts: "down with japanese  
 imperialism exclamation" "long live the chinese communist  
 party exclamation" the three of them shout with their arms  
 raised: "long live chairman mao exclamation")

(a volley of shots. two japanese gendarmes drag tieh-mei  
 in and throw her down.)

tieh-mei (standing up, turns to call): dad exclamation

granny exclamation

(center hatoyama with hou and sergeant.)

hatoyama: give me the code, li tieh-mei.

hou and sergeant: speak up exclamation

(tieh-mei glares at hatoyama.)

hatoyama: let her go exclamation

sergeant: yes, sir. get out exclamation

(sergeant pushes tieh-mei away. they go out, followed by  
 the gendarmes.)

hou: why did you let her go, sir?

hatoyama: it's called using a long line to catch a big fish.

hou: right exclamation

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

scene nine

advancing wave upon wave

immediately after the last scene. dawn. li's house, interior  
 and exterior view.

(as the curtain rises, tieh-mei enters the room, leans  
 back against the door. looking around, full of sorrow  
 and hatred, she thinks of her martyred father and  
 grandmother.)

tieh-mei: dad exclamation granny exclamation (rests her  
 head on the table and sobs. a pause. slowly rising, she  
 sees the red lantern, hurries over and takes it.)  
 granny, dad, i know what you died for. i shall carry on  
 the task you left unfinished and be the successor to the  
 red lantern. i'm determined to deliver the code to the  
 cypress mountains and avenge your bloody murder. hatoyama,  
 you may arrest me or release me at will, but you'll never  
 get the secret code exclamation

(sings "hsi pi tao pan")

i burst with anger when i think of the foe exclamation  
 (changes to "kuai san yen")

repressing my rage i grind my teeth.

using every trick to get the code,

hatoyama has killed my granny and dad exclamation



(changes to "erh liu")

biting my hate, chewing my rage,  
i force them down my throat,  
let them sprout in my heart.  
i'll never yield, i'll never retreat,

(changes to "kuai pan")

no tears shall wet my cheeks,  
let them flow into my heart  
to nourish the bursting seeds of hatred.  
flames of rage, ten leagues high,  
will burn away this reign of the forces of darkness.  
i'm prepared: arrest me, release me,  
use your whips and lash, your locks and chains.  
break my bones, you will never get the code.  
just wait, you villain hatoyama,  
this is tieh-mei's answer exclamation

i'll go now exclamation (picks up the red lantern, ready to leave.)

(hui-lien comes out of the inner room.)

hui-lien: tieh-mei exclamation

tieh-mei: sister hui-lien exclamation (puts down the lantern and bolts the door.)

hui-lien, my mother has come to see you.

(aunt tien emerges from the inner room.)

aunt tien: tieh-mei exclamation

tieh-mei: aunty.... (runs into her arms.)

aunt tien: child, we have heard what happened to your dad and grandma. we'll see how much longer those beasts can ravage our land exclamation there are spies outside, tieh-mei, you mustn't leave by this door. slip out through our house. hurry, change jackets with hui-lien.

tieh-mei: no, aunty, i mustn't get you into trouble.

aunt tien: my child exclamation (while helping tieh-mei to change jackets with hui-lien she sings "hsi pi san pan")

none but the poor help the poor,  
we are two bitter gourds on the same vine;  
we must save you from the tiger's jaws,  
so that you can go forward on your course.

tieh-mei: but what if something happens to you?

aunt tien: we are both working-class families. we have shared bitterness and hatred for many years. no matter how risky it is, i must see you safely away.

tieh-mei: (with gratitude): aunty....

aunt tien: hurry up, child exclamation

hui-lien: be quick, tieh-mei exclamation

tieh-mei: i shall never forget you, sister and aunty.

aunt tien: go quickly.

(picking up the red lantern, tieh-mei goes into the inner room. exit.)

aunt tien: be very careful, hui-lien.

(aunt tien goes into the inner room. exit.)

(hui-lien wraps tieh-mei's scarf round her head, covering the lower part of her face. she steps out of the house with the basket and closes the door behind her. exit.)  
(spies b and c emerge from behind an electric pole and trail her.)

(lights fade.)

(curtain)

scene ten

ambushing and annihilating the enemy

immediately after the last scene. on the road leading to the cypress mountains.

(as the curtain rises, enter knife-grinder with two guerrillas dressed as peasants. enter tieh-mei. they meet.)

tieh-mei: uncle knife-grinder exclamation (takes out the red lantern from the basket and holds it aloft.)

knife-grinder: tieh-mei exclamation (turns to the guerrillas.)  
keep guard exclamation

tieh-mei: i've found you at last, uncle exclamation  
my dad and granny....

knife-grinder: we know everything. don't grieve, tieh-mei.  
turn your sorrow into strength. we'll be avenged exclamation  
have you got the code with you?

tieh-mei: yes.

knife-grinder: that's fine.

tieh-mei: uncle, my neighbour hui-lien helped me. she disguised herself as me and led the spies off after her.  
that's how i was able to get the code and bring it here.

knife-grinder: the enemy must be suspecting hui-lien's family.  
(to guerrilla a.) old feng, help the tiens move as quickly as possible.

guerrilla a: right exclamation (exit.)

(a police car siren is heard.)

guerrilla b: the enemy's coming, old chao.

knife-grinder: you take tieh-mei up the mountain. we'll deal with them.

(guerrilla b leads tieh-mei off.)

(wang shouts offstage: "halt exclamation" japanese gendarmes enter, with hatoyama and wang in the lead. knife-grinder blocks their way. hatoyama shouts: "take him exclamation"  
knife-grinder snatches wang's pistol and kills a japanese gendarme. then he strikes wang with his bench.)  
(the guerrillas jump out of a grove. dramatic pose.)

(on the crag a guerrilla kills a japanese gendarme.)  
(hatoyama and wang run off, knife-grinder and the guerrillas pursue them.)  
(the guerrillas dash down from the crag and chase the enemy.)  
(a guerrilla with a red-tasselled spear fights two japanese gendarmes. they flee, followed by the guerrilla.)  
(knife-grinder chases wang. they lock in struggle.)  
(enter hatoyama with japanese gendarmes. fighting at close quarters. the guerrillas wipe out all the enemies, shooting down the traitor wang, and running hatoyama through with a sword.)  
(the ambush has been a great success. the guerrillas form a tableau of heroes, in a valiant dramatic pose.)  
(lights fade.)

(curtain)

scene eleven

forward in victory

immediately after the last scene. the cypress mountains.

(as the curtain rises, red flags flutter against a clear blue sky. the guerrilla leader walks down the hill slope. knife-grinder enters with tien-mei. all the guerrillas enter. solemnly, tien-mei hands the code to the guerrilla leader. brandishing their rifles and swords, all rejoice in their victory. tien-mei holds aloft the red lantern while crimson light radiates. the curtain slowly falls.)

(the end)