

Wu Song Fights the Tiger, Secret Script for Famous Actor, First Part

Intro:

An imposing spirit / In the whole world there is nobody like him

Speaking:

A hero born with tremendous courage./ I joined the fraternity of the Liangshan Mountain./ Fighting injustice is our common cause./ Who has not heard of *me*,¹ Wu Song?

Sheng speaking: *I*, Wu Song live in Qinghe District of Shibapu. I am a native of Wu Family Village. Unfortunately my parents have passed away, leaving behind them us two brothers. My elder brother's name is Wu Qiao. His arms and feet are crippled. He married Lady Pan, my sister-in-law, and now they live together in their home. *I*, Wu Song, have been travelling across the country, making good friends everywhere. Now, this morning, as I have nothing particular to do, why don't I go into the streets of Qinghe town to amuse myself.

Wu Song was born with tremendous courage./ Across the five lakes and the four seas.../
Wu Song was born with tremendous courage./ Across the five lakes and the four seas he roams to visit friends.

Today there is nothing to take care of at home./ He wants to take a stroll in the streets to cheer up a bit./ Starting to speak he calls nobody else./ he calls his sister-in-law, the powdered beauty/

"I 'll take a stroll outside to amuse myself./ When I return, I'll wait upon my elder brother./ Excuse me, sister-in-law," he says, and sets off./ walking past the two screens of his home./

Following the South Gate highway./ he rushes ahead in a tiger's gait./ Before long he arrives./ Qinghe Town is already in sight./

He steps in through the city gate./ at the street market there is a hubbub./ He doesn't care about the market scenery./ Better look for some friends in the tavern./

¹ In the present text Wu Song sometimes refers to himself alternatively with the pronouns *wo* 我, *zan* 咱, and *za* 咱. The latter two forms are used in emphatic positions, marked in the translation by italics, *I* or *me*.

He walks straight over to the tavern,/ and calls: “Xiao’er (waiter)! Listen carefully!/
Hurry up and bring me a bottle of wine,/ and take with you some snacks to go with it.”/

After finishing the wine, he pays his bill./ In the tavern he puts a lot of cash on the
table./ Why not take a rest in the tavern/ and wait to see who will turn up./ <page 1>

Wu Song takes a rest in the tavern./ The salt-seller *speaking*: “Here I am, just arrived at
the avenue!” /The salt-seller has arrived and he is as busy as ever./ He wants to take a
stroll at the avenue./

Placing his carrying pole on his shoulder,/ he walks out the door of his home and moves
ahead./ He wanders through streets and alleys./ Carrying the pole, his body is soaked in
sweat./

Walking along he raises his head and sees,/ a crowd of people at the crossroad junction./
In haste he lays down his pole,/ and starts selling right there.

The salt-seller stops on the avenue./ *Sheng continues*: “Here I am in the tavern!”./ Wu
Song has drunk and eaten all the wine and food./ He is dizzy and drunk./

Starting to speak he calls nobody else/ he calls: “Xiao’er, listen well!/
Hurry up and take the money for the wine./ I’ll go outside to cheer up a bit.”

Saying so he sets off,/ and is out of the tavern in a blink./ As soon he is out in the street,/
he rushes ahead in a tiger’s gait

Walking along he raises his head and sees/ at the crossroad junction there is a hubbub./
He raises his head to look carefully: “It’s indeed the salt-seller who is out doing evil
business.”/

That moment Wu Song is filled with rage,/ and curses the salt-seller: “You son of a
bitch!/
You won’t engage in fair trade./ Cheating and bluffing like this, you have no
moral!/
/

Today, you criminal have fallen in *my* hands./ Thinking of escape is useless.”/ He shouts
to the mass of people to back away./ Wu Song’s eyes are red with anger./

He steps forward and takes hold of the man,/ beating and kicking him without halt./
After beating him for a while,/ My God! The salt-seller is not breathing anymore!/
/

That moment Wu Song stands firm,/ he shouts: “People, listen to me,/ in my drunken state I have had an accident,/ and beat the salt-seller to death.”

Honest people do not conceal the truth./ So he goes himself to hit the [Yamen] drum and report the case./ He strides forward, fast as a shuttle./ The District Yamen is soon in sight/

With his two hands he grabs the drum stick,/ and beats the big drum, thump-thump-thump./As Wu Song beats the drum,/ one can hear inside the district court./ <page 2>

The Magistrate of Qinghe District *speaking*:

“The drum sounds in the district court, / that means a new case to handle/

From a young age one should study hard,/ through mastering the skills of essay-writing one can get a career./ All other things are worthless,/ compared to academic studies./

I am the humble official Chen Ying from Qinghe District. Today I was sitting at the midday session of the court when I heard someone beating the drum. Let me call my assistant.” Runner *speaking*: “Here, sir.” The Magistrate *speaking*: “Quickly bring in the man who is beating the drum.” Runner *speaking*: Well. Who are you? The master calls you inside.” Sheng *speaking*: I pay homage to you, respected District Magistrate.” The Magistrate *speaking*: “Who is that, kneeling?” “It is *me*, Wu Song.” The Magistrate *speaking*: “For what reason did you beat the drum?” Sheng *speaking*: “I have a bad temper. Because I had drunken wine, I accidentally beat the salt-seller to death on the street. Honest people do not conceal the truth, so I came myself to report the case and admit my guilt.” Magistrate *speaking*: “Listen, Wu Song! A person like you are a hero and a good fellow, but killing people cannot go unpunished. I’ll send you to prison today and the hearing will be tomorrow at court.” Runner *speaking*: “Yes, Your Excellency!” The Magistrate *speaking*: “Boys, get my sedan chair ready!”

‘I, The Magistrate opened the court today,/ Wu Song plead guilty and was sent to prison./ I ordered the Yamen runners to get the sedan chair ready,/ and I’m going to the street to inspect the dead body./

The boys heard the order and did not delay,/they got the sedan chair ready./I, the Magistrate entered the sedan chair,/and my boys lifted it up and hurried forwards/

Just a short while later we arrived in haste,/ reaching the mortuary./ I called the sedan carriers to a halt,/and ordered the coroner² to inspect the wounds of the dead./

It took some time for the coroner to inspect the dead body all over,/ then he concluded that the man had been beaten to death./ I gave orders that the body should be laid in a coffin,/with the lid on top, but without locking it with nails/

The coffin was temporarily placed under the eaves of the hall,/ waiting for the relatives to claim the dead soul./ Then I ascended the sedan chair and we returned to my office./

Tomorrow I'm going to hold a session and convict the suspect."/

When the Magistrate had finished these words, he returned to his office. *Enter the Magistrate of Yanggu District.* <Page 4>

Intro:

Enjoying the Emperor's salary,/ a gentleman is obliged to respond with magnanimity./

The great golden seal as big as a bucket,/ the white jade hall reaching to heaven./
Without studying ten thousand volumes/ how can one face the sovereign?/

Sheng speaking: "I am an humble official, my family name is Liu and my first name Xiong. In Yanggu District I serve as a district magistrate. Today I am preceding over the court." *Boy speaking:* "I shall report to you, Your Honour!" The Magistrate *speaking* "What is it?" The runner *speaking:* "On Jingyang Ridge there has recently appeared a mottled fierce tiger, insatiably devouring humans, both travellers and local people have suffered much harm. Your Honour, please, take action!" Magistrate *speaking:* "Is this true?" The runner *speaking:* "Who would dare to tell lies here?!" The Magistrate *speaking:* "If it's true, call the local functionary to see me!" Before he had uttered this sentence, the local functionary came forward. *Chou speaking:*

"Locals we are, locals we are/ each of us has his special function./ If you don't show up on order, /your behind will suffer a spanking!/"

I'm an old local functionary, my name is Zhang De. Your Honour, the Magistrate, called me. In which way can I serve you?" Magistrate *speaking:* "I called you especially for one thing: On Jingyang Ridge there has appeared a mottled fierce tiger, and ordinary people have suffered much harm. Take this gong and go into the streets and villages, beat the gong and announce the fact. Here you also have a heap of proclamations, take them and put them up everywhere: The local people of Jingyang Ridge and travellers are only allowed to pass between the hours

² 件作:舊時官府檢驗命案死屍的人.

of nine in the morning and three in the afternoon, between three in the afternoon and nine in the morning nobody is allowed to cross the ridge. This is in order to prevent that more people shall be attacked by the big beast. If there is someone who is capable to capture the fierce tiger, he will be awarded a thousand taels of gold. Keep this in mind!” *Chou speaking*: “Getting an order like this is always tough!”

When the local functionary hears this order,/ he is scared out of his wits./ In great haste he takes the gong in his hand/ and steps out of the Yamen with the proclamations under his arm./

Without a word and saying no more,/ he puts up the proclamations everywhere and cries out the contents./ He walks straight into the streets and lanes,/ and beats his big gong with a loud clamour./ <page 5>

He yells into the to the streets and lanes. / He yells: “Hear me, all you people!/ Before sunset you must shut your doors,/ everybody in your family, young and old, must stay indoors./

There is a mottled tiger on Jingyang Ridge./ The tiger devours human beings./ Many travellers were killed by it./ We must prevent the big beast from coming down to the foot of the mountain./

If someone is capable to capture the fierce tiger,/ a thousand taels of gold will be awarded him./ If you don’t believe me,/ please, look at the proclamation on the wall.”/

Shouting this out for more than an hour,/ I make sure that all families have truly heard the message./ After these words I continue on my way,/ according to my mission I set out from the avenue to the countryside./

There I’ll visit the farm houses one by one,/ making sure each family is informed./ Now I’m on my way down the avenue.”/ *Sheng continues singing*: “Listen, now, to what is going on at the Yamen,/

I, Liu Xiong, am preceding over the court./ Everywhere the common people are handing in complaints:/ On Jingyang Ridge a fierce tiger has appeared./ Day after day it has eaten lots of people./

So many residents are killed,/ so many travellers are swallowed up./ The local families cannot do anything about it,/ so they come to the district court and hand in a petition./

When the district Magistrate has read the complaints about the tiger,/ he tells the crowd to go back home./ The Magistrate issues an order to capture the tiger,/ and do away with the evil for the common people./

After hearing this the crowd is dismissed./ But I, the official, how can I take things easy at this moment./ Immediately I call the runner./

Runner *speaking*: “What do you want me to do, Your Honour? ”

Magistrate *singing*:

“You must call together some hunters,/ bringing crossbows and poisoned arrows,/ and immediately get off into the mountain forest./

If you can catch the evil beast, you'll earn great merit./ Do away with the evil for the people of the hamlets and wilds,/ and I guarantee everyone of you a promotion./

This is an order from me, the Magistrate./ Hurry up and go hunting the tiger./ ” After saying this he withdraws to the back./ Runner *continues singing*: “*On our side* we runners are scared to death./

When we Yamen runners hear this order,/ we feel like sitting in a sinking boat./ A fierce tiger moves faster than the wind,/ how can we catch it and stay alive?! **<page 6>**

Far from ordering us to catch the tiger,/ we are clearly ordered to feed the tiger!/ Thinking back and forth, we see no way out./ We must get going and make this trip.”/

Walking out the Yamen,/ we call some hunters to follow us./ Bringing torches and poisoned arrows,/ we hurry forward to capture the tiger./

Travelling a short while, we soon arrive,/ the old South Gate road appears in front of us./ According to our mission we proceed from the South Gate,/ how would we dare to take a rest and delay the expedition! ”/

The group of Yamen boys are about to enter the wilderness,/ every one is scared out of his wits./ “Let’s take a break in the wilderness,/ let’s have a small break before we go further.”/

The Magistrate of Qinghe District *speaking*: “My boys, please, summon Wu Song to the court for me! Runner *speaking*: “Yes!” They run quickly to the jail behind the court, and in haste

they take Wu Song with them and escort him to the court. *Sheng* speaking: “Your Excellency, the Magistrate! I, Wu Song bow to Your Honour.” Magistrate *speaking*: “Wu Song, because of your hot temper and your drunken state, you accidentally killed a salt-seller, for which you should be punished. But since you came here and reported yourself to us and did not put the blame on anybody else, I appreciate that and consider you a good fellow. I will pardon your death penalty and banish you to Yunnan Province.” *Sheng speaking*: “I am most grateful!” Magistrate *speaking*: “My men are equipped with an official document and they will serve as your guard. You must take good care of Wu Song on your journey, remember that!” Runner *speaking*: “Yes!” *Sheng speaking*: “What a mess!”

Wu Song looks disappointed,/ because he is sent to Yunnan to serve in the army./
Turning round he leaves the court,/ and follows his guard striding forward./

Out in the street he opens his mouth,/ shouting: “Guard, please listen to me!/ Now I am leaving for Yunnan,/ but I have not given my family information./

Can we go to the hut of my home first,/ to visit my elder twin brother./ First I want to take leave of my elder brother,/ and also ask my sister-in-law, the powdered beauty, to take good care./

The guard replied: “Well, well, well!! Second Master, you can go where you want!”/
Hearing this, Wu Song doesn’t delay one moment,/ fast as the wind he leaps forward like a tiger./ <page 7>

On his way he lifts his head and looks up:/ “My home is already right in front.”/ He stops walking and comes to a halt,/ shouting: “Elder brother, open the screens!/
Standing in front of the gate he knocks and shouts three times./ *Dan continues*: “Even my incense room is shaking!/ I, Pan Jinlian, just went upstairs to the incense room,/ when I heard somebody shouting outside./

Is it The Elder who is back home for a break?/ Or the neighbour looking in?/ I cannot stay in the incense room,/ I must go out and see who it is.”/

Moving along on her nimble lotus feet, she is soon there./ In front of her is the main door./ Coming to a halt she opens her mouth,/ asking: “Who is knocking at the door?”/

Sheng speaking: “It’s your brother-in-law back home!

Dan singing: “I hear it’s my brother-in-law who is back home.”/ Lady Pan opens the door without delay./ “Brother-in-law, please wait a short while./

Your sister-in-law is opening the mandarin-duck door for you.”/ She releases the two wings of the door,/ and her relative, her brother-in-law, steps inside./ She lifts her head and stares at him./

Constables are following right behind him./ Inviting only her brother-in-law to enter/ the sister-in-law locks the two wings of the door./ They walk over to the thatched hall./

Then they sit down on the chairs,/ and Lady Pan raises her eyes and takes a good look at him./ *Look how* her brother-in-law is wearing iron chains!/ As soon as she notices this, she opens her mouth in haste,/

saying reverently: “Dear brother-in-law, please, listen to me!/ The other day you went happily out in the streets to amuse yourself./ But after you left, we didn’t hear from you for days./ Today you are back in the hut of our home again./

But why are you cuffed?/ What is the reason and what is the cause?/ Please, tell me everything from the beginning,/ please, tell me the true circumstances./

Only then, your sister-in-law, can feel reassured.”/ She asks him in a calm and patient voice./ *Sheng continues singing:* “I, Wu Song step forward,/ and having heard the question I feel worried,/

saying reverently: “Dear sister-in-law, please listen to me:/ If you hadn’t asked, I wouldn’t tell./ Let *me* explain shortly./ When I went out in the streets to amuse myself/

I stayed in a tavern to see some friends./ But because I had too many glasses of wine,/ I got involved in a fight on the street./ By accident I killed the salt-seller./ <page 8>

Then I gave myself up to the district office./ I am in great debt to the Magistrate who helped me./ changing my death penalty into army service./ Today I came back to the hut of our home,/

to ask my sister-in-law a favour before I leave./ Since I am heading to Yunnan area now,/ could you please take care of my elder brother./ He is disabled./

Being a cripple he is not much use./ Everything will be depending on you, my sister-in-law,/ that you as husband and wife live happily together./ If my brother offends you,/

then let *me* Wu Song take care of everything./ Wait until *I* come back./ Then I shall repay you, beautiful lady./ This is my only request today./

Please, remember this in your heart when I am far away./ Now I have told you everything from beginning to end.”/ *Dan continues singing: On my side I am scared to death./ Then Pan Jin Lian replies,*

saying reverently: “Dear brother-in-law, please listen,/ you may set your mind at rest!/ I am going to take over the heavy task./ You just go to Yunnan and serve your military duty,/

You don’t need to worry about anything back home./ There is a long journey ahead for you,/ please, take good care of your own health./ Your brother is disabled,/

How can I neglect a person like him?/ Although your sister-in-law cannot read and write,/ I know those moral codes for women well:/ Once married, my husband is my master for the rest of life./

Being a couple they are obliged to think like one person./ Even if your brother is rude to me,/ I will forgive him just for your sake, brother-in-law. / You can be totally reassured./

Your sister-in-law is not a silly person.” She tells him so in a calm and patient voice./ *Sheng continues singing: “I hear your words./ After listening to this, I feel very happy./*

I admire your virtue, powdered beauty!/ From now on you will take care of my elder brother.”/ Wu Song is not stupid./ It’s getting dark outside./

“I have to set off now./ I really wanted to wait for my brother,/ but I am a criminal now and they won’t allow me./ We have a deadline for arriving at the army,/

I can’t stay home and delay our trip.”/ After these words he is about to leave./ *Dan continues singing: On my side I’m coming*./ Lady Pan steps forward and says:/

<page 9>

“Brother-in-law, I call you one more time,/ please wait a moment here.³/ Let your sister-in-law bring wine to send you off.”/ Saying so, she acts without delay,/

³ ‘Here’, *zhekuai*, dialectal form of the Jiang-Huai dialects.

rushes to the kitchen./ She steps into the kitchen,/ cooks some dishes and prepares the wine in great haste./ She washes the pot and cooks some rice./

The egg soup is soon wisped./ In another pot she cooks fresh fish,/ on top of the rice she steams salted meat./ A moment later she brings a jug of warm wine./

Carrying trays and small cups she hurries to the thatched wing./ Just a short while later she arrives in haste,/ the thatched wing is already in front of her./ Quickly she serves the dishes and wine,/

and invite the two security guards to eat with them./ The handcuffs of her brother-in-law are removed./ She lifts the jug and pours the wine,/ standing beside them Lady Pan opens her mouth:/

“Honourable security guards,/ today you have come under my humble roof,/ I can only serve you plain wine and simple dishes./ Now that you are going to Yunnan together,/

please, do not neglect my brother-in-law./ On the road you are responsible for everything./ When you arrive at public stations, please, act according to religious conduct./ I have ten taels of silver ready here,/

that I want to give to you two guards./ Please, take it for travel expenses,/ and buy some wine in the streets on your way./ If my brother-in-law comes back one day,/

I will repay your kindness./ After three cups of wine and tasting of the five flavours,/ the three men were eager to fill their rice bowls./ In a hurry they finished the wine and food./

The security guards were eager to leave./ Hearing this Lady Pan opened her mouth/ and cried: “Brother-in-law, listen to me!/ Today you are sent to Yunnan Province./

You are leaving your elder brother and sister-in-law at home./ Please, do not delay today!/ The earlier you get off, the earlier you will arrive, and the earlier you may return! We shall wait for your return, Second Brother, my brother-in-law./

Only then shall we feel at ease again.”/ Lady Pan keeps talking standing beside them./ *Sheng continues singing:* “I hear your words.”/ Wu Song steps forward and says,/

in a reverent tone: “Sister-in-law, please listen to me:/ You do not need to urge me./ I⁴
shall remember everything deep in my heart./ What I⁵ told you today,/ <page 10>

please, don’t forget like wind in your ear./ You just stay at home in the hut,/ I, Wu Song,
excuse me for leaving now.”/ In a hurry he puts on his handcuffs,/

follows the guards passing the screen,/ and steps outside the main gate./ There he meets
his elder twin brother./ He walks over to him and opens his mouth:/

Elder brother, please, listen to me!/ Because I drank some wine in the street,/ I
happened to beat up the salt-seller and send him to death./ I am in great debt to the
Magistrate who helped me,/

sending me to Yunnan to serve in the army./ The reason I came back to the hut of our
home,/ was to urge my sister-in-law, the powdered beauty./ Since I am now leaving for
Yunnan,/

I wanted her to take good care of you, elder brother./ Your silly younger brother is
leaving now,/ be tolerant and patient in all matters!/ I’ll return when my duty is over./

Then we brothers shall meet again.”/ They want to talk a few more words,/ but the
guards are impatient and press them hard./ So he takes leave of his elder brother and
departs./

He rushes ahead in a tiger’s gait./ Walking along he raises his eyes and sees/ the South
Gate road appears in front of their eyes./ They walk down the South Gate road./

Chou continues singing: On my side I’m crying bitterly./ When The Elder hears the story,/
his soul is torn and his mind upset./ ‘In the hut of our home we had a peaceful life,/

but suddenly misfortune enters our door./ Today Second Brother committed a crime,/
handcuffs and heavy chains are wrapped tight round his wrists and ankles,/ and he is
sent to Yunnan to serve in the army./

Who knows when he is able to return?/ I’m disabled and not much use,/ who will
protect the house and manage the home?/ He thinks it over and over,/

⁴ Here Wu Song uses the dialectal first person pronoun (Shandong dialect) ‘I’ *an* 俺 referring to himself.

⁵ Here Wu Song again uses *za* referring to himself.

all he can do is to return back home and wait for news./ Just a short while later he arrives in haste, / the main door is already in front of him./ He raises his head and takes a good look./

Lady Pan is just about to shut the second door./ He hurries forward and opens his mouth:/ “Dear wife, please hold on!”/ The Elder shouts as he runs over towards her./

Dan continues singing: “*On my side, I hear you!*”/ As Lady Pan is about to shut the main door,/ she watches her husband arriving./ In haste she stops and waits./ **<page 11>**

‘I let my husband come inside:’/ “Please, my husband walk in front of me!”/ Then she shuts the double door after him./ The couple walks over to the rear wing together./

The thatched hall is not far and they soon approach it./ They step into the thatched hall,/ and without resting, Lady Pan/ moves a chair over for her husband to sit down./

The wife repeats a couple of times to her husband:/ “While you have been out on business,/ do you know⁶ what has happened to our family?/ When Second Master went out in the street to amuse himself,/

he was drunk and killed a man by accident!/ Just because he killed the salt-seller,/ he was sent to Yunnan to serve in the army./ Who knows if it’s for good or for bad?/

Who knows when he will return?/ It’s such a long journey all the way to Yunnan,/ how can we husband and wife stop worrying?"/ The more she talks, the sadder she feels./

All they can do is to sit at home and wait for news./ “You should go back to your business,/ I will stay and wait for time to pass./ If one day my brother-in-law returns,/

only then shall we feel at ease again.”/ The couple stay in their home./ *Sheng continues singing:* Here we are at the South Gate road!/ Wu Song is in a great hurry,/

catching up with the escort to go to the army./ He walks ahead in a tiger’s gait ./ Through winding lanes he hurries on./ Walking along he raises his head and sees,

the old South Gate road appears in front of him!/ He marches forwards from the South Gate,/ full of strength like a stretched string he rushes off./ After three miles he passes Peach Blossom Tavern,/

⁶ ‘Do you know?’, *ke zhi*, 可知 (*ke V?*) is a dialectal question type, found in the Jiang-Huai dialects, corresponding to Mandarin *zhidao bu zhidao*, 知道不知道 (*V bu V?*).

and after another five miles he passes Apricot Blossom Grove./ He hardly notices the mountain scenery./ nor the fishermen who ferry him over the rivers./ Opening his mouth he does not swear at others./

he swears at his guards: “You, sons of a bitch!/ If I end up in this stream,/ be sure you’ll suffer for it!”/ The bitterness in his heart is not relieved in one outburst./

but proud and stern he strides forward./ Walking along they hear people mumbling,/ a big beast has appeared on Jingyang Ridge./ He raises his head to look carefully./

There is a huge mountain peak in the front./ On top of the mountain the trees look beautiful./ Crowds of people are milling around,/ so they prefer to take a rest at the Mountain God Temple./ **<page 12>**

Waiting for somebody to ask,/ the good fellow Wu takes a rest at the Mountain God Temple./

Chou speaking: “I am an old local official, Zhang De. On Jingyang Ridge there has recently appeared a fierce tiger, insatiably devouring humans. Because of this I received orders from the Magistrate to warn and take care of the villagers in the valleys here around. All you people here, please listen to me! You capable men and hunters, follow me and let’s go and catch the tiger! Let’s set out immediately!” They travel faster than fast. In no time Jingyang Ridge rises in front of them. *He continues saying:* “*Just look:* three men are resting on a rock in front of the Mountain God Temple. Let’s go over and talk to the three men: “Listen, your guts must be bigger than the sky! On Jingyang Ridge there has appeared a fierce tiger, insatiably devouring humans! Why are you waiting here, and why don’t you run away?” *Sheng speaking:* “Where are you from?” *Chou speaking:* “I am sent by the Magistrate of Yanggu District to capture the tiger. But I do not know where the big beast is hiding.” *Sheng speaking:* “You people are afraid of the tiger, but I would love to catch a tiger without problem!” *Chou speaking:* “Are you serious?” *Sheng speaking:* “Who’s joking with you!” *Chou speaking:* “Since that is the case, listen, my fellows! Fire your guns and bombs!” *Chou:* “Listen strong fellow! Now the tiger will come out!” *Sheng speaking:* “Get out of the way, all of you, let me handle it!”

Singing: Wu Song is in a rage,/ and runs to the top of the mountain./ Wu Song is in a rage, and runs to the top of the mountain to catch the big beast./

Ridding himself of the handcuffs and foot chains,/ he spends all his strength and climbs the mountain peak./ In top of the mountain he stops, /waiting for the tiger to attack./

Just as Wu Song stands there and waits,/ a stinking gust of wind attacks his nostrils./
Then several gusts of fierce wind follow one after another,/ as if the earth was going to
fall apart and the mountain was going to explode./

‘At the this sight I know,/ for sure a fierce tiger is on its way down the mountain.’/ A
few moments after the wind is gone,/ *just look* how ferocious that big beast looks!/

It’s mouth is like a basin of blood and its teeth like swords./ Its bulging eyes shine like
lanterns./ It’s claws are like steel hooks and its tail like an arrow./It presses down it’s
paws and springs towards Wu Song./ <page 13>

When Second Master sees it, he is enraged./ He dodges to the other side./ The evil beast
jumps off again towards him./ But its two feet are obstructed, and it lands on nothing./

The damned monster shakes its hairy neck and roars./ Once again it dashes toward
Second Master./ Wu Song swiftly turns round,/ leaping and bouncing with all his
might./

Skipping and jumping back and forth for ten rounds and more,/ Wu Song turns out to be
the toughest./ Right now he is fighting and it takes a while,/ but obviously Second
Master is tremendously awe-inspiring./

Three times he yells with a frightening voice,/ sounding like thunder and large bronze
bells./ In the heat of fighting Wu Song gains more and more strength./ Why should he
worry about the tiger?/

The monster is constantly missing its aim./ I step forward to grab its hairy head, and then with
one hand I grasp it by the neck./ Holding it firm he kicks it on the spine,/ concentrated he
withholds his breath,/

aiming at his evil enemy he attacks,/ aiming at his evil enemy: three heavy strokes of
his fist./ Fresh blood covers the mouth, eyes and flanks of the evil beast./ Second
Master looks it over and observes it carefully:/

It is the end of the mottled tiger./ Wu Song is still not quite assured,/ lifting the tiger
with his two hands, he smashes it on the mountain rock./Second Master is soaking wet./

From the top of the mountain he shouts with all his might,/ he shouts: “You people!
Hurry up and come over here!// The tiger is killed, and I did it!”/Wu Song shouts again
and again./

The crowd continues singing: From the foot of the mountain the sound is heard./ The crowd hears the shouting./ With a loud yell they hurry forward./ The whole flock climbs up the mountain./

Lifting their eyes, they scout about,/ *just look how* Second Master stands valiantly before them./ The fierce tiger has met its fate./ The crowd of local people hails the hero,/

everybody sticking out their tongues in admiration./ The common people hurry forward to bring their thanks: "Please, tell us your name, great hero,/ and where is your home, in which region and district?/"

Where were you born and brought up?/ Please, tell me where your hometown is, / and I shall go to the Magistrate and report your merit!"/ So they ask the hero in a calm and patient voice./

I, Wu Song step forward,/ walk over in front of the people and talks to them,/ shouting: "Everybody, listen to me!/ My home is not far away from here./ **<page 14>**

I am not a person without a name./ My home is at Shiba Pu,/ Wu Family Village in Qinghe District./ Both my parents already passed away./

They left my elder brother Wu Qiao and *me*, Wu Song./ I was born with a bad temper,/ in a drunken state I committed a crime./ Because I killed the salt-seller,/

I am sent to Yunnan to join the army./ Passing the Jingyang Ridge,/ we heard about the nasty big beast./ Now I have done away with the evil for you ./

beating the nasty beast to death./ Today I killed the tiger,/ let's hurry up and go to the district court to report the deed./ Then I'll tell what happened from beginning to end."/

Chou continues singing: *On my side*, I step forward./ The local official listens to his speech,/ calling him again: "Strong fellow! Please, stand here for a little while,/

let me gather some local people,/ to carry the dead tiger./ Then we can leave for the district court."/ When the locals hear this, they are not slow to act./

They lift up the dead tiger and set out right away./ Second Master walks in front,/ the local official and the people follow him./ Just a short while later they arrive in haste./

the District *Yamen* is already in front of them./ They dropped the dead tiger outside the district court./ The local official steps inside to report the news./ He hurries forward and kneels./

reporting what he knows to the Magistrate./ The local official cannot stop, but reports, and reports and reports./

Chou speaking: “I have something to report to you, Your Excellency.” *Magistrate speaking*: “What is it?” *Chou speaking*: “It is that the fierce tiger at Jingyang Ridge has been killed by Wu Song on his way over the ridge.” *Magistrate speaking*: “Really?” *Chou speaking*: “How would I dare to tell you lies!” *Magistrate speaking*: “Where is he now?” *Chou speaking*: “Just outside the *Yamen*.” *Magistrate speaking*: “Bring the tiger-killer to me!” *Chou speaking*: “But he is a criminal.” *Magistrate speaking*: “What kind of crime?” *Chou speaking*: “He killed a man.” *Magistrate speaking*: “In this case, his good deed redeems his crime.” *Chou speaking*: “Yes!” In the twinkling of an eye, he hurries outside: “Second Master Wu, the Magistrate summons you!” *Sheng speaking*: “Here I am, Your Excellency.” *Magistrate speaking*: “Wu Song, since you killed the tiger at Jingyang Ridge, <page 15> you have made a great contribution. Your previous crime is redeemed. During three days we shall parade you through the streets dressed in red silk and flowers.” *Sheng speaking*: “Thank you, Your Excellency!” *Magistrate speaking*: “Is there anything else at court?” *Runner speaking*: “Nothing!” *Magistrate speaking*: “Court adjourned!” *Sheng speaking*: “Local official, will you order your men to carry the evil beast! Bring me red silk and flowers, and let your people lead the parade.” *Runner speaking*: “Yes, yes!” *Sheng speaking*:

‘Let people clear the road,/ dressed in red silk and flowers.../

Let people clear the road,/ dressed in red silk and flowers I look so majestic/

The mottled tiger is carried in the front,/ I, the good fellow Wu Song, follow right after./ Martial and majestic I march forward,/ under the eyes of the inhabitants of Yunyang Town./

As we parade through the streets, / there is a stir among the local people, ending in a great hubbub. / Everybody is shouting bravo for me, / every family burns incense to show their respect to me.’/

“Were it not for this hero who has done away with the evil,/ how could we live in safety?” ‘So one of them says to another ten people, and those ten tell it to another hundred people./ Thousands and ten thousands know about my deed now./

As my reputation is spreading,/ everybody knows about this Hero the Second.’/ Wu Song enters the district court three times during the parade,/ and then he meets the district governor Liu./

He stops and stands there,/ reporting to the district court:/

Sheng speaking: “Your Excellency, I Wu Song have obeyed your command and returned.”
Magistrate speaking: “Listen, Wu Song! I admire you as a hero and a good fellow. Your martial art skills are outstanding. I want to give you the title of Captain of the police forces. Do you accept?” *Sheng speaking:* “Why should I not accept?” *Magistrate speaking:* “If that is the case, tell me when you want to take office?” *Sheng speaking:* “After I have visited my home.” *Magistrate speaking:* “Where is your home?” *Sheng speaking:* “I live in Qinghe District of Shibapu, a native of Wu Family Village. I have a brother and a sister-in-law. I will come back to take office after I have been back home and brought them with me to Yanggu District.” *Magistrate speaking:* “How many days will that take?” *Sheng speaking:* “Your Excellency, I am afraid that it is not so easy for me. After I killed a salt-seller in a drunken fit, **<page 16>** I was exiled and sent away to join the army, and my case has not been settled.” *Magistrate speaking:* “Wu Song, I have a document here for you. You just take it to the Magistrate of Qinghe District. Your case will surely be positively treated.” *Sheng speaking:* “I am deeply grateful to Your Excellency.” *Magistrate speaking:* “The sooner you leave, the sooner you’ll be back! Runner! If there is nothing else, beat the drum! Court adjourned!” *Runner speaking:* “Yes, yes!” *Sheng speaking:* “Guards, let’s go back together.” *Runner speaking:* “Yes!” *Sheng speaking:* “Please, lead the way.”
Sheng singing:

The guard leads the way,/ followed by Wu Song.../

The guard leads the way,/ followed by the good fellow, the famous Wu Song./

This time he is not going anywhere else,/ he is heading home to meet his elder brother./
He leaves the district *yamen*,/ fast as the wind he leaps forward like a tiger./

As soon as he is out in the streets,/ the local people welcome him and bow to him./
Every family and home is stricken/ with admiration for the hero, Second Master./

He walks straight into the streets and lanes/ and rushes forward, followed by the
guards./ Walking along he raises his eyes and sees,/ South Gate appears in front of his
eyes./

He marches forwards from the South Gate./ Marching by day and sleeping by night he
travels fast./ The people on their way have heard the news,/ and all along there is a
hustle and bustle./

They travel as fast as they can,/ and soon arrive in front of the administration of Qinghe
District./ They enter the street,/ and in no time stand right outside the door of the district
yamen./

‘Let’s take a rest outside the district court,/ while the guard enters to report our arrival.’/

Sheng speaking: “May I oblige you, my guards, to enter and report to the Magistrate that we are here with a document from Yanggu District!” *Runner speaking*: “Second master, please wait a moment.” In the twinkling of an eye, he hurries into the district court and reports to the Magistrate. *Magistrate speaking*: “What is the matter?” *Runner speaking*: “Here is a document from the Magistrate of Yanggu District.” *Magistrate speaking*: “Show it to me!” *Runner speaking*: “Please, have a look, Your Excellency!” *Magistrate speaking*: “I tear the letter open and read as follows: “In fact, Wu Song, exiled to join the army, has on the way while passing Jingyang Ridge killed a fierce tiger and thus earned great merit. **<page 17>** I, Magistrate of Yanggu District has offered him the title of Captain of the police forces.” Who would have thought he was so capable?” “Alright, tell him to come in!” *Runner speaking*: “With this order, I return’: “Second Master, the Magistrate wants to see you!” *Sheng speaking*: “It’s me! Wu Song present! Wu Song is facing you, Your Excellency!” *Magistrate speaking*: “Wu Song, why do you not dare to lift up your head when you see me?” *Sheng speaking*: “Because I am guilty of a crime.” *Magistrate speaking*: “I pardon you. Just lift up your head and stand up to talk.” *Sheng*: “Thank you, Your Excellency.” *Magistrate speaking*: “Wu Song, your good deed of killing the tiger in Yanggu District redeems your crime. You have been offered the post of Captain of the police forces by the Magistrate of Yanggu District. Please, take office and proceed accordingly!” *Sheng speaking*: “Yes, thank you!” *Magistrate speaking*: “Your case is finished and you may leave.” *Sheng speaking*: “Accepted!” *Magistrate speaking*: “If there is nothing else, court adjourned!” *Runner speaking*: “Yes, yes, Sir!” *Sheng singing*:

Excited Wu Song leaves in haste,/ says goodbye to the Magistrate.../

Excited Wu Song leaves in haste,/ says goodbye to the Magistrate and steps out of the *yamen*./

This time he does not go anywhere else,/ but directly back home to see his elder brother./ His steps are fast like flying darts. / Soon he faces the door of his home./

Slowing down his tiger’s gait, he comes to a halt,/ shouting “Elder brother, please, open the gate!”/ He shouts three times, waiting outside the door./ *Dan continues singing*: She hears something from her incense room./

Lady Pan is sitting in the incense room,/ she hears a loud noise from outside./ She cannot remain sitting in the incense room,/ but must go out and see in detail./

Moving along on her nimble lotus feet, she is soon there,/ the main door is already in sights./ Stopping up, she stands there and hurriedly opens her mouth:/ “Who is knocking on the “mandarin duck” door?”/

Sheng speaking: "I, Wu Song am back home now!" Dan singing:

Hearing her brother-in-law is back home,/ it is as if she suddenly discovers a piece of gold./ She exclaims: "Brother-in-law, please, wait a moment,/ let your sister-in-law open the "mandarin duck" lock and let you in."/ <page 18>

She opens the two wings of the door with her hands,/ and her brother-in-law, Second Brother Wu, marches in./ Expediently she shuts the doors after him./ Brother and sister-in-law walk side by side over to the thatched hall./

"Second brother-in-law, please, walk in front of me!"/ The powdered beauty, Lady Pan, follows behind./ They walk straight over to the thatched hall,/ Lady Pan moves forward in a fluster./

She places a chair for her brother-in-law to sit down./ "Your sister-in-law wants to ask your explanation./ You were sent to Yunnan to join the army, / so why are you back home after just a few days?/"

Was there somebody who helped you to escape?/ Or the road was blocked and you couldn't go further?/ Please tell me the truth./ Your sister-in-law is very worried about you."

She asks her brother-in-law in a calm and patient voice./ *Sheng continues singing: On my side, I hear...*

[End of the first part]

Translated by Feng Yining and Vibeke Børdahl