

## Act 13 Killing the tiger and meeting the people on Jingyang Ridge

*(Enter hunters, singing)*

*(Shui Hong Hua)* <31 The local authorities have placed a bounty on the head of the Lord of the Mountain. This is an urgent affair, and we hunters are hard up. We have suffered to no avail, hesitating how to go about this difficult task. If we turn back, we are in danger of violating the strict deadline. If we press forward, we are in danger of loosing our lives. We are surely risking our lives here. 31> *(Speaking)* <31 We are hunters from Yanggu District. Since a tiger with slanting eyes and white forehead has turned up on Jingyang Ridge 31>, which has eaten numerous people, our district magistrate has ordered us to come and catch the tiger. But this damned monster is ferocious, <31 how can we capture it? 31> *(One of the hunters)* Brother, you and I can only <31 hide <page 2> at the foot of the hill, and set up crossbows with poisoned arrows all around. Then we just have to wait until it succumbs to its death.31> *(All hunters)* <31That makes sense. On a narrow path there is no way back. Since we are on official charge, we have no choice.31> *(Exit. Enter Wu Song)* <31In daytime the road used to be full of horses and carriages. I have traveled a long way, that goes without saying. Still I do not know for whom I shall devote my life. This moment reminds me of Ping Yuan Jun. I, Wu Song, have stayed long at the residence of Lord Chai, a relative of the Emperor.31> I happily met Song Gongming there, so I stayed a

few more days with them. Since I miss my elder brother a lot, I must now take farewell and <31travel to Yanggu District to visit my elder brother31>. (*Singing*)

(*Xin Shui Ling*)<34, 31What a hard lot Heaven had in store for this hero!34,31> <31  
My first twenty years passed like a dream.31> <34,31Unable to raise in the world,  
riding the clouds and roaming through the nine myriads of space, ending up floating about on  
thousands of waves and ripples of the stormy sea, 34,31> <31 wandering about, here  
today gone tomorrow. <sup>1</sup> <page 3> Sun and moon<sup>2</sup> handle my life in vain.31>  
(*Speaking*) After the long walk<sup>3</sup>, I already arrive at Jingyang Ridge. There is a tavern  
ahead, let me see...it is <31 advertised by a wine-banner with the words “Three bowls  
and you cannot cross the ridge”. What does that mean? Let me go in and sit for a little  
while 31>. “Is there a waiter?” (*Enter waiter*) <34, 31 Wine! Wine! Wine! Here!  
Here! Here! Want to buy on credit? Leave! Leave! Leave! 34, 31> Dear guest, are you  
having some wine here? <31 Please come inside and sit! 31> (Wu Song) Your wine-  
banner reads “Three bowls and you cannot cross the ridge”, what does that mean?  
(Waiter) Tut-tut! Good guest, our wine is very strong. After three bowls you will get  
drunk and cannot cross this Jingyang Ridge. Therefore, we call it “Three bowls and  
you cannot cross the ridge”. (Wu Song) Tut-tut! Bring your wine here and <31 see if I  
can cross this ridge or not after drinking 31> several bowls! (Waiter) Dear guest,  
<page 4> please don’t talk big now. Wait until I bring you some here, and don’t you

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<sup>1</sup> See notes in text 31.

<sup>2</sup> 烏兔： a term for the sun and moon, respectively.

<sup>3</sup> 施： To walk out. 一路。

imagine it is just a single small bowl, either! (Wu song) Bring the wine! (Waiter) Dear guest, don't you just drink the wine. Let me slice some beef for you to go with the wine. (Wu Song and the waiter sing together)

(*Zhe Gui Ling*) <34, 31 No need to roast phoenix or cook dragons.34, 31> (Wu Song, *speaking*) Bring the wine! (Waiter) No more! There's only three bowls in the mug. (Wu Song)<34 How come it's already finished when I just began to drink? 34> (Waiter) Dear guest, you really can drink. Let me bring this squat jar for you to drink until you get blushed all over. (Wu Song) None of your business, you just pour me the wine. (Waiter) Dear guest, look at this amber color! (Wu Song *singing*) <34, 31 Wine is bubbling in the parrot cup, with a rich shine of amber. I didn't realize that<sup>1</sup> five gallons of wine will sober you up, and three cups <page 5> after another will work wonders! 34, 31> (Waiter, *speaking*) Dear guest, this wine is very tasty and it's hard to drop the bowl. But you'd better stop drinking. (Wu Song) Bah! Why do you care so much about other people's drinking? (*Singing*) <34, 31 Why do you need to worry? 34, 31> (Waiter, *speaking*) This jar is finished. Do you want me to bring you another jar? (Wu Song) No, that's enough. (Waiter) Tut-tut! (Wu Song) <31 After the long journey, there is not much left of the silver that Mr. Chai gave me the other day.31> Waiter, there is about four-five ounces of silver in the bundle. Take my bundle! (Waiter) You drunk a mug and a whole jar, four-five ounces silver is not enough! (Wu Song) If it is

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<sup>1</sup> 却不道：“却没想到”的意思？。See also in text 31.

not enough, tut-tut, then I will leave my bundle here as a pawn, too. (Waiter) No one would come back to redeem that junk. (Wu Song) I will pick it up another day. <page 6> (Singing) <31 I feel ashamed to have so little money.31> (Pose of Wu Song leaving, waiter) Where are you going (dialectal? *luoli = nali?*), dear guest? (Wu Song) I'm crossing the ridge. (Waiter) You are not going there! (Wu Song) Why not? (Waiter) Don't you know that recently there has arrived this tiger with slanting eyes and white forehead which has eaten numerous travelers? The local magistrate has ordered to put notices everywhere, warning that all single travelers must not cross the ridge alone because of the danger. (Wu Song) Hey, Waiter, <34, 31 had you not brought the wild tiger into the conversation, I might not have wanted to leave.34, 31> <31But since you have mentioned this tiger killing people, I suddenly feel myself full of energy, even my hairs stand up.31> (Pose of Wu Song shouldering his bundle) (Waiter) You will be the laughing stock of that tiger! (Wu Song) I'm going no matter what! (Waiter) Then go and serve him yourself as a snack! (Wu Song singing) <31 I cannot hold my towering rage.31> (Speaking) <page 7> Let go! (Waiter tumbles down, Wu Song singing) <31 I am in a great hurry to leave. While this sunset is fading, with drunken, drowsy eyes, 31> (Speaking) here is already the ridge. <31 Why is that big beast nowhere to be seen? So this jerk was just trying to fool me. Even the government notice is rubbish.31> Yah! <31 I start to feel the effect of the wine, and must take a nap 31> on this rock. (From *backstage* the sound [*pose*] of a tiger

roaring<sup>1</sup>) <31 Yah! There really comes a big beast! 31> (*Enter the tiger, pose of the tiger jumping*) (Wu Song *singing*)

(*Yan Er Luo*) <34, 31 Watching from here—its hairy body looks strong and fierce.34, 31>

(*Pose of fighting, singing*) <34, 31 Now this wolf-teeth cudgel of mine got broken first!

Here am I, dodging back and forth for ever. That damned monster is flaunting its claws and baring its teeth. 34, 31>

(*De Sheng Ling*) <31Yah! When I dodged, 31> <34, 31 it turned round and jumped into the air, in the twinkling of an eye it lost the track. <page 8> This is surely a man-slaughtering tiger. 34,31> Hey, Tiger! Today you are meeting with your enemy! <34, 31 If you want to display your prowess, then your blows must come down with a weight of a thousand pounds.34, 31> <31 Today you have come to the end of the road. How much it resembles the flowers that can not bloom for more than a hundred days, the flowers can not bloom for more than a hundred days.31> (*Pose of beating the tiger to death. Speaking*) Now the tiger is dead. I'd better cross the ridge <31while the wine still has its effect 31>. (*Enter the hunters. Wu Song, speaking*) Yah! Look! <31 There are two more tigers coming! I'm dead this time! 31> (*Singing*)

(*Gu Mei Jiu*) <31 I can only fight with the evening wind with my last energy. Fight with the evening wind with my last energy. Yah! Those are moving with two legs! 31>

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<sup>1</sup>叫: To call, to summon.叫。

(Hunters, *speaking*) Tut! Are you a man or a ghost? How could you dare to travel alone at this time! (Wu Song *singing*) <31 I am the world's greatest hero, called Wu Song.31> <page 9> (Hunters, *speaking*) <31 Did you meet a big beast? 31> (Wu Song) The tiger? (*Singing*) <31 Allow me to say it was indeed ferocious.31> (Hunters, *speaking*) <31 Please, tell us about it? 31> (Wu Song *singing*) <31 While prowling in the thicket, it was already awe-inspiring.31>

(*Tai Ping Ling*) <31 When it sprang, it was like a mountain falling down. When it swung its tail, it was like a sharp steel knife upright in the air. Its mighty roar could scare a thousand people away. Even from a distance ordinary people would feel like being hurt already.31> (Hunters, *speaking*) <31 Then why weren't you killed by it? 31> (Wu Song *singing*) Me?! Heh...<31 with my guts and great strength, I managed to finish off that big beast with my bare fists.31> (Hunters, *speaking*) It was killed by you? Thank you, strong fellow! (Wu Song *singing*) <31 Yah! Let everyone praise me then! 31> (Hunters, *speaking*) To tell you the truth, <31 we are hunters from Yanggu District. The local authorities have set up a deadline for us to capture <page 10> this big beast.31> But we couldn't even get close to it. Was it really killed by you? We don't believe it! (Wu Song) You don't believe me? Follow me and I'll show you! (*Singing*)

(*Yuan Yang Sha*) <31 Just here by the cliff, wasn't this the place where the tiger

succumbed and I displayed my great courage? 31> (Hunters, *speaking*) <31 Such a big beast was beaten to death by your powerful fists, even Bian Zhuang and Cun Xiao are no comparison to you.31> (Wu Song *singing*) I laugh at them, Bian Zhuang and Cun Xiao were no use! (Hunters, *speaking*) Strong fellow, <31 since you came here, we can't let you go! 31> (Wu Song) Why is that you can't let me go? (The hunters) <31 We must send you to the Magistrate to ask for the reward.31> (Wu Song *singing*) <31 I was just trading at the inn. Who would have imagined that now I'm getting credits for my merits here? 31> (Hunters, *speaking*) <31 You have to go with us31>, strong fellow! <page 11> (Wu Song) But if I go with you, (*Singing*) <31 I'm afraid of those six alleys and three streets with crowds of people milling around in a hubbub.31> (Hunters, *speaking*) What are you talking about! (Wu Song *singing*) <31 How humiliating to the Yanggu people! 31> (Hunters, *speaking*) You can not say that! Let the local people recognize you, the good fellow who killed the tiger!

(Wu Song) Alright then, I have to go to Yanggu District to look for my elder brother anyway. (*Singing*) <31 I have to follow them.31> (*Speaking*) Let's carry this big beast! (The hunters) Strong fellow, please! (Wu Song) If you have to be so polite, I'm not going! (*Singing*) <31 How can I accept all these flattering words? 31> (The hunters obediently follow<sup>1</sup> Wu Song, *exeunt*. Yamen runners leading the Magistrate *enter, singing*) ...

[This is the first half of the act, dealing with the 'fighting of the tiger'. The following part is about Wu

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<sup>1</sup>遜: Humble. To be obedient, to accord.

戲曲，忠義璇圖，第十三出，景陽崗斃虎遇凡

33 Drama, The Jade Chart of the Noble Knight-errants, Act 13, Killing the Tiger and Meeting the People on Jingyang Ridge (part one), Feng Yining trans, revised by VB 15 February 06

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Song's meeting with the authorities, the glorious procession and his encounter with his elder brother in the street.]

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