

**Pan Jinlian and Wu the Elder**

*Pan Jinlian yu Wu*

*Dalang*

◆ 潘金蓮與武大郎

During the time when Wu Song was away from home, his elder brother, Wu the Elder, married the most beautiful girl in town, Pan Jinlian [Golden Lotus]. She is a highly talented servant girl from a well-off merchant family, while Wu the Elder is a poor and ugly dwarf who earns his living as a street vendor. The following episode tells how this strange marriage came about....

## **Pan Jinlian and Wu the Elder**

*Told by*

*Ren Jitang* 任繼堂

In Qinghe District in Guangping Prefecture of Beizhi there was a very rich man. The surname of this rich man was Pan and he was called Pan Big Door. The wealth of this family was enormous and they kept a lot of bondservants and maids—they sure had a lot of servants. Since his family was so wealthy, people called him Pan Big Door. About ten years earlier he had bought a small servant girl from somewhere else. He had bought her at the age of five. When she was bought into his household, the only thing they cared about was to bind her feet carefully, because formerly the women in the feudal society of China were forced to get their feet bound. Her feet were bound into extremely small size. How small were they? They measured less than three inches.

In the feudal society of former times such small

