

E4 - Ghost King of Hua Cheng

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[00:43] ---

Wait! Come back!

[00:54] ---

Why did he run off?

[00:56] ---

Your Highness still has some makeup on.

That's probably what scared him off.

[01:02] ---

What's wrong?

[01:04] ---

He... has the face sickness.

[01:06] ---

How could that be?!

Are you sure that's what you saw?

[01:09] ---

Face-sickness victims often try to
burn off the affected part of the skin.

[01:15] ---

His face was disfigured by burn marks.

[01:18] ---

But the sickness should have died out
hundreds of years ago when Xian Le fell!

[01:22] ---

Besides, the face sickness
is highly contagious.

[01:25] ---

But there've been no reports
of it anywhere near Mt. Yujun...

[01:30] ---

I know what I saw.

[01:32] ---

He must have recovered already.
His scars are long healed.

[01:39] ---

You're saying he's hundreds of years old?

[01:44] ---

Quite possibly.

[01:47] ---

This whole affair is suspicious.

We'd better go back and inform Ling Wen,

[01:50] ---

then expand our search and find
the boy as quickly as possible.

[03:55] ---

I see. The face sickness...

That's no trifling matter.

[04:00] ---

Don't worry, Your Highness. We'll do
all we can to help you find that boy.

[04:08] ---

Is something else worrying you?

[04:12] ---

This face sickness, could it be...

[04:15] ---

No use worrying yet, Your Highness.

[04:17] ---

Let's wait for the outcome
of the investigation.

[04:20] ---

All right.

[04:21] ---

There's something else I need
to tell you about Mt. Yujun...

[04:24] ---

Let's talk about it in
the Telepathic Matrix.

[04:27] ---

Everyone is already
there discussing this affair.

[04:33] ---

Now he's gone and done it!

[04:35] ---

You're far too forgiving.

[04:36] ---

I've had enough! Xuan Ji refuses
to tell us where the Green Demon is.

[04:39] ---

She insists on seeing Pei Ming.
Get her out of here!

[04:42] ---

General Nan Yang, the other
heavenly officials' palaces are all full.

[04:45] ---

Yours has just been renovated.

[04:47] ---

Won't you let her stay just a few days,

[04:48] ---

until we can find a
mountain to imprison her in?

[04:50] ---

Can we hurry this up? Does my Nan Yang
Palace look like a loony bin to you?

[04:54] ---

General Pei the Younger,
do you have a spare room somewhere?

[05:00] ---

Xuan Ji has always
been fierce and stubborn.

[05:03] ---

Only General Nan Yang
can handle her, I'm afraid.

[05:06] ---

Ming Guang Palace is
really in for it this time.

[05:09] ---

It's hard enough to deal
with Xuan Ji alone

[05:11] ---

without adding the Sad-faced
Green Demon to the mix...

[05:13] ---

The Sad-faced Green Demon
is certainly one of a kind.

[05:15] ---

Sad-faced... Green Demon?

[05:17] ---

Could this have anything to do with the
Forest of Hanging Corpses on Mt. Yujun?

[05:20] ---

Was that his doing?

[05:24] ---

Late as usual, Your Highness.

[05:28] ---

Sorry, I had some business to attend to.

[05:31] ---

Hm. The Green Demon
never came to Mt. Yujun.

[05:34] ---

Xuan Ji made the Forest of

Hanging Corpses as an offering to him.

[05:37] ---

That forest again! Sad-face's style
is as distasteful as ever.

[05:43] ---

Even his fellow demons find him tacky.

[05:46] ---

Who gives a shit if he's tacky or not?
Is old Pei back yet?

[05:49] ---

We need to find out where the Green Demon
is and send that crazy woman away!

[05:51] ---

What a mess. General Pei's little fling
is causing him a lot of trouble.

[05:57] ---

That Xuan Ji was head over heels for him.
Maybe he should come out and meet her.

[06:00] ---

That's right! And spare us all this fuss!

[06:04] ---

It's no use meeting with her.
It would only drive her madder.

[06:07] ---

Is Xuan Ji under the
Green Demon's command?

[06:09] ---

Yes. For centuries after her death,
she nursed a bitter grudge

[06:13] ---

but couldn't stir up too much trouble.

[06:18] ---

It wasn't until the Green Demon
took her under his wing

[06:21] ---

that she became a real problem.

[06:22] ---

That's true.

[06:23] ---

Xuan Ji had an obsessive grudge,
but not much power to go with it.

[06:25] ---

If it hadn't been for Sad-face, she would
never have been able to hurt anyone.

[06:29] ---

It's too bad Old Pei isn't here,
but at least we've got young Pei with us!

[06:32] ---

Hold on, we'll track down Sad-face,

[06:34] ---

but Ming Guang Palace
still ought to pull its weight!

[06:37] ---

Silence!

[06:38] ---

We couldn't have handled the
Mt. Yujun affair without Xie Lian,

[06:42] ---

and without help from Generals
Xuan Zhen, Nan Yang, and Ming Guang.

[06:47] ---

Thank you, everyone!

[06:49] ---

Your Highness, as the official
in charge of this matter,

[06:52] ---

is there anything you want to add?

[06:53] ---

There must be a child spirit on Mt. Yujun.

[06:55] ---

I heard it singing when
I was on the sedan chair,

[06:58] ---

but the two junior officials
with me didn't hear a thing.

[07:01] ---

It must be very powerful.
Has anyone heard of such a spirit?

[07:04] ---

A child spirit?
We came across nothing of the sort.

[07:07] ---

So Your Highness was
the only one who heard it...?

[07:10] ---

Could it be that you imagined it?

[07:12] ---

This matter is highly suspicious.

[07:14] ---

Ming Guang Palace should
really be taking the lead on this one.

[07:16] ---

To hell with the child spirit!
Can't we get rid of that she-demon first?

[07:20] ---

We have to find a
suitable mountain first--

[07:25] ---

I'll look into this child spirit.
Was there anything else?

[07:30] ---

One more thing.

[07:32] ---

On the mountain, I came upon a youth
who could control silver butterflies.

[07:34] ---

Who was he?

[07:35] ---

What did you say, Your Highness?

[07:38] ---

He said he came across
Hua Cheng (Flower City).

[07:42] ---

Hua Cheng? His name is "flower city"?
It suits him well.

[07:49] ---

Has Your Highness never heard
of the Four Calamities?

[07:54] ---

You can't blame His Highness for that.

[07:56] ---

He's spent the last few centuries
honing his art in the mortal realm.

[07:59] ---

He was preoccupied with making a living,
so it's no surprise he's ill-informed.

[08:04] ---

So... what are the Four Calamities?

[08:09] ---

Four demon kings.
The Green Demon, or Green Light

[08:14] ---

Night-stalker, is one of them.

[08:16] ---

But he's the weakest of the four,
not even Devastation-level.

[08:20] ---

And he really has awful taste.

[08:21] ---

He only cares for shock value,
and stirs up trouble everywhere.

[08:23] ---

Then there's the Black Demon,
or Black Water Boat-sinker.

[08:26] ---

He rarely appears, and few of us in the
heavenly realms have crossed his path.

[08:30] ---

We know only that he is
a great water-demon.

[08:33] ---

And then there's the White-clad Calamity.

[08:36] ---

He has another name as well:
Bai Wuxiang (White No-form).

[08:50] ---

He destroys kingdoms and
leaves chaos in his wake.

[08:53] ---

The very first kingdom
he annihilated was--

[08:56] ---

Something wrong with your
throat today, Lord Ling Wen?

[08:58] ---

Your Highness, Bai Wuxiang
has been dead for centuries.

[09:04] ---

I know. Don't worry about me.

[09:09] ---

Even if he were still alive,
we wouldn't have time to deal with him.

[09:14] ---

The silver butterflies Your Highness saw
are known as Dead Soul Butterflies.

[09:18] ---

Their master is one whom we
would do well not to anger:

[09:22] ---

Hua Cheng, also known as the
Blood Rain Flower-seeker.

[09:27] ---

Hua Cheng is likely not his real name, and
what you saw was not his true appearance.

[09:31] ---

That's not the point. He once challenged
33 heavenly officials in a row.

[09:36] ---

After that, no one would forget his face.

[09:38] ---

Thirty-three in a row?

[09:41] ---

That was the year that
Hua Cheng rose to infamy.

[09:43] ---

He threw down the gauntlet
before 35 heavenly officials.

[09:47] ---

If Hua Cheng lost, he was
to offer his ashes up to heaven.

[09:50] ---

But if a heavenly official lost, they'd
have to return to earth as a lowly mortal.

[09:54] ---

And 33 fools accepted his challenge!

[09:57] ---

In the end, the martial
officials couldn't outfight him,

[10:00] ---

and the scholarly officials couldn't
outwit him. It was a total defeat.

[10:02] ---

Hua Cheng called on them
to fulfill their half of the bargain.

[10:05] ---

But they thought he was only bluffing and
would never dare go against all of heaven.

[10:10] ---

So they all twiddled their thumbs.

[10:11] ---

Then Hua Cheng burned down
all their temples in the mortal realm.

[10:15] ---

And since temples and worshippers
are the source of heavenly power,

[10:19] ---

those 33 officials were never seen again.

[10:26] ---

On top of that, thinking they'd
show off their heavenly might,

[10:28] ---

those fools put a vision of the battle
in their worshippers' dreams.

[10:31] ---

When they lost, their followers

began to worship Hua Cheng instead!

[10:35] ---

The heavenly realm lost
every bit of face it had.

[10:38] ---

What a maniac!

[10:39] ---

He's a cunning one.

[10:41] ---

The martial gods were all slashed
to bits by Hua Cheng's scimitar.

[10:44] ---

Everyone's still traumatized.

[10:47] ---

The scholarly gods were hardly any better.

[10:49] ---

He insulted them up and down,
inside and out.

[10:53] ---

They were so furious,
they were all but spitting blood!

[10:57] ---

And then there were those
crazy silver butterflies!

[10:59] ---

That's right!

[11:00] ---

Some of the officials still
have nightmares about them.

[11:04] ---

I thought the silver butterflies
were kind of cute.

[11:19] ---

So, Hua Cheng challenged 35 heavenly
officials, but only 33 accepted?

[11:23] ---

What happened to the other two?

[11:27] ---

By the way, Xuan Zhen, Nan Yang,
how do you know all these inside details?

[11:32] ---

How do they know?
It's pretty obvious!

[11:35] ---

Your Highness, are you sure the person
you encountered was Hua Cheng?

[11:39] ---

Do you remember anything else about him?

[11:41] ---

He was wearing a red robe and
black boots, and he had an umbrella.

[11:45] ---

And what did he do when he saw you?

[11:47] ---

He crushed Xuan Ji's magical formation
and even guided me along the path.

[11:51] ---

That's it?

[11:53] ---

That's it.

[11:54] ---

Well...

[11:55] ---

That's not like him. Could it be a ploy?

[11:57] ---

What is he really up to?

[11:58] ---

I don't know.

[12:00] ---

Listen, if two of the
Four Calamities have appeared,

[12:02] ---

that means they're probably
plotting something.

[12:04] ---

If we are easily fooled by appearances,
we'd be playing right into their hands.

[12:09] ---

Yes, Hua Cheng is far too devious.
We need more than just wild guesses.

[12:15] ---

I think our first priority
should be to find out

[12:17] ---

what's really going on
instead of pointing fingers.

[12:19] ---

Ming Guang Palace
will do its best to help.

[12:22] ---

Lord Ling Wen, what do you think?

[12:24] ---

I agree.

[12:25] ---

This has gone beyond our meeting agenda.
I have to inform His Imperial Majesty.

[12:30] ---

Everyone, let's call it a day.

[12:33] ---

Thank you, Your Lordship.
Your Highness. I'll take my leave.

[12:38] ---

See you all later.

[12:39] ---

I'll head out as well, then.

[12:42] ---

I'm leaving as well.

[12:45] ---

I still have to deal with Xuan Ji.

[12:47] ---

Nan Yang.

[12:50] ---

Xuan Zhen.

[12:58] ---

Those two junior officials you sent
were a great help. Thank you.

[13:08] ---

Your Highness should really
worry about yourself first.

[13:10] ---

Do you really think you can pay back
the 8.88 million merit points you owe

[13:14] ---

with nothing but the
offerings from Mt. Yujun?

[13:17] ---

What do you think, General Nan Yang?

[13:36] ---

I need a few people
to help me over here.

[13:38] ---

Yes, sir.

[13:42] ---

These must be carefully inspected.

[13:57] ---

Ling Wen, can I talk to you for a second?

[14:01] ---

It's about those 8.88 million merits.

[14:06] ---

Perfect timing, Your Highness.
I have something to tell you, too.

[14:11] ---

Congratulations, Your Highness!

[14:13] ---

The worshippers on Mt. Yujun
have fulfilled their vows with offerings!

[14:19] ---

With all the merits you received,
your debt has more or less been repaid.

[14:23] ---

Really? All of it?

[14:25] ---

But the merits from Mt. Yujun
couldn't have been enough...

[14:29] ---

I said you're in the clear.

[14:30] ---

There's no need for Your Highness
to ask too many questions.

[14:34] ---

Thank you.

[14:37] ---

Anyway, what exactly did you find out?

[14:50] ---

After our meeting the other day,

[14:52] ---

I reported the Hua Cheng
affair to His Imperial Majesty.

[14:54] ---

Now we're conducting a full investigation.

[14:58] ---

Your Highness has no idea how
much trouble Hua Cheng caused

[15:00] ---

while you were living in the mortal realm.

[15:04] ---

It must have been hard for you.

[15:06] ---

Anyway, does Your Highness
have any plans for the future?

[15:09] ---

Actually, that's why I'm here.

[15:13] ---

I've ascended to heaven three times,

[15:14] ---

yet I still don't have a
single temple or follower.

[15:17] ---

That must be a headache
for you and His Imperial Majesty.

[15:21] ---

So I did some thinking, and I've decided
to pull myself up by the bootstraps.

[15:25] ---

Since I've got nothing but time now,

[15:27] ---

I thought I'd go down to the mortal
realm and build a temple to myself!

[15:33] ---

Huh?

[15:35] ---

See you around!

[15:37] ---

Wait!

[15:48] ---

What?

[15:49] ---

Someone moved into that abandoned
house by the village entrance?

[15:51] ---

It's a temple now!

[15:52] ---

Who could've pulled that off?
Let's go take a look!

[16:00] ---

Welcome, everyone.

[16:05] ---

Master, whom is your
temple dedicated to?

[16:09] ---

To the Crown Prince of the
Kingdom of Xian Le.

[16:12] ---

Who's that?

[16:13] ---

He was a crown prince.

[16:15] ---

What can he do?

[16:17] ---

He protects his worshippers.

[16:18] ---

Can this crown prince bring us wealth?

[16:22] ---

I'm afraid not, sorry.

[16:24] ---

What about political
careers and promotions?

[16:25] ---

He can't do that either.

[16:31] ---

Then this god is useless.
No wonder he's so poor.

[16:34] ---

Men are afraid of getting the wrong job,

[16:35] ---

women are afraid of
marrying the wrong man,

[16:36] ---

and priests should be afraid
of worshipping the wrong god.

[16:39] ---

How about dedicating your temple
to the Water God instead?

[16:41] ---

He brings wealth!
You'd get a lot of incense offerings!

[16:43] ---

Uh...

[16:45] ---

Or to Lord Ling Wen! He might bless
our village with a Number One Scholar!

[16:49] ---

Well...

[16:51] ---

Or you could worship...

[16:54] ---

Yes?

[16:56] ---

General Big Wang.

[17:03] ---

Think about it!
Oh, if only it were Lord Ling Wen.

[17:06] ---

General Big Wang isn't bad either.

[17:07] ---

Yes, yes, yes!

[17:12] ---

It's all right, I've got plenty of time.

[17:14] ---

There'll be worshippers
and incense someday.

[17:23] ---

I do need to pay for renovations.

[17:26] ---

So...

[18:32] ---

Gossip about gods and immortals,
tales of the demon world.

[18:35] ---

Not bad at all.

That should be enough for renovations.

[18:39] ---

Building the temple cost me money,
but collecting junk got me paid.

[18:43] ---

Turns out collecting junk is a
better deal than ascension!

[18:51] ---

Hm?

[18:52] ---

This one's about me.

[18:55] ---

The Crown Prince of Xian Le
ascended to heaven three times.

[18:57] ---

He is the god of martial arts,
pestilence, and junk-collecting.

[19:02] ---

Well, at least I'm a god.

[19:04] ---

Whether of martial arts or junk-collecting,
there's really not much difference.

[19:07] ---

All gods are equal,
as are all living creatures.

[19:10] ---

Is that so?

[19:12] ---

People like to talk about equality.
But if they really got their equality,

[19:16] ---

would there still be a place
for all the gods in heaven?

[19:35] ---

That's true.

[19:36] ---

Wu Du, the Water God,
is in charge of water and wealth.

[19:40] ---

If he's already a Water God, why does
he need to control wealth and fortune too?

[19:43] ---

Merchants often ship goods by water,

[19:46] ---

so they usually go to the Water God's temple
to pray for safe passage before traveling.

[19:49] ---

As this became custom, the Water God
gradually began to handle wealth as well.

[19:54] ---

This Water God must
be quite powerful, then.

[19:57] ---

Yes, a real Water Tyrant.

[19:59] ---

Water Tyrant?

[20:00] ---

If you don't give him an offering,
he'll capsize your boat.

[20:04] ---

Hence, a Water Tyrant.

[20:06] ---

I see. You look quite young,
but you seem to know a lot.

[20:12] ---

I've got plenty of spare time,
so I observe things around me.

[20:22] ---

You know a lot about gods,
but what about demons?

[20:27] ---

Which ones?

[20:39] ---

The Blood Rain Flower-seeker, Hua Cheng.

[20:46] ---

Wait a moment, Your Highness.

[20:49] ---

It might be bad luck to say this, but...

[20:52] ---

When you journey through the mortal realm,
you may well encounter Hua Cheng again.

[20:56] ---

So please remember this:

[20:59] ---

He comes from Mt. Furnace,

[21:02] ---

where thousands of demons fight
to the death to become kings.

[21:05] ---

Any demon king who survives that ordeal
must be cunning, ruthless, unpredictable.

[21:12] ---

He might have been kind to you,
but you should never let your guard down.

[21:17] ---

Avoid him if you can.

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