

ERHA

Episode 1

"This Venerable One Dies and lives Again"

SAMPLE

Written by

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Based on, "The Husky and His White Cat Shizun" by Rou Bao Bu Chi
Rou

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 1

A group of rebels varying in age run through the trees together.

2 INT. WUSHAN PALACE - THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME 2

TAXIAN-JUN (male, Chinese, 35, violet eyes, dressed in purple) sits on his throne, pale and weak.

A metal wine cup is on a table next to him with a skull of death carved onto it. A drop of green poison falls from the rim of the cup onto the table.

3 EXT. FOREST 3

The group of rebels stop just beyond the tree line, Wushan Palace up ahead covered in fog.

Superimpose titles:

SISHENG PEAK

WUSHAN PALACE

XUE MENG (male, Chinese, age 35, dressed in blue) stands at the front of the group, eyes on the palace.

REBEL 1

Alright, what now?! Do we charge--

REBEL 2

Don't be an idiot. Mo Weiyu's stronger than us! Stick to the plan. We wait until--

Xue Meng whirls around.

XUE MENG

Gonna sit and waste time?! I'll go up the mountain myself!

REBEL 2

Young Master Xue! Pardon me, but are you crazy!? Just wait a moment--

XUE MENG
You know why I'm here!

The rebels shift uncomfortably.

XUE MENG (CONT'D)
I've waited a decade! Ten long
years! Look where it's got me! I'm
not waiting any longer!

REBEL 2
But Master Xue, the plan--

XUE MENG
Just stay here and wait for my
signal!

Xue Meng whacks the tree leaves as he sprints towards the
palace.

REBEL 1 (male, late 40's) holds his head in his hands.

REBEL 1
What do we do? Are we following?

REBEL 2
No... Just wait.
(whispered)
We've got too many influential
people in our group. We can't risk
them getting killed. Let him go.

REBEL 1
Influential--?! What about the
Young Master!?

4 EXT. WUSHAN PALACE - FRONT - MOMENTS LATER 4

Xue Meng sprints to the closed front doors of the palace.
He unsheathes his sword, walking inside and--

5 INT. WUSHAN PALACE - THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME 5

WHAM! THE DOORS EXPLODE OPEN. THE HINGES CREAK.

Taxian-Jun sits calmly on his throne with his eyes closed.
His face is a light shade of green.

Xue Meng steps inside the room.

TAXIAN-JUN
 (slurred)
 Who's there?

Xue Meng raises his sword, trembling. When no one answers, Taxian-Jun sighs.

TAXIAN-JUN (CONT'D)
 (muttering)
 Did I imagine it?

XUE MENG
 ... What's the matter with you?

TAXIAN-JUN
 (hoarse)
 Xue Meng? Is that you?

Taxian-Jun slowly sits up, slouching over. His yellow and bloodshot eyes open tiredly.

XUE MENG
 (cold)
 Where's Master?

TAXIAN-JUN
 ... What?

XUE MENG
 You heard me.

TAXIAN-JUN
 I'm afraid I didn't--

XUE MENG
 (shouting)
 I said, where's Master!? Yours,
 mine, our master!?

TAXIAN-JUN
 Oh, right...

There's a long pause. Xue Meng steps closer, raising his sword higher.

XUE MENG
 Well!? I'm prepared to fight you
 for him! Get up!

TAXIAN-JUN
 It's been two years since you last
 saw each other... Do you miss him?

XUE MENG

Quit the act. Let's fight, come on!
If I win, you give him back to me!

TAXIAN-JUN

Give him--? Why?

XUE MENG

What do you mean why!?! You've had
him chained here for ten years!
Don't you think that's enough!?

TAXIAN-JUN

You know how much we hated each
other.

The purple in his eyes brighten.

TAXIAN-JUN (CONT'D)

(cold)

What, did you think I would just
let him live?

XUE MENG

YOU--

Xue Meng takes multiple steps back, his arms lowering. The
tip of the sword scrapes the floors.

XUE MENG (CONT'D)

(weak)

You can't have... You couldn't...

TAXIAN-JUN

I couldn't what?

XUE MENG

You...

Blood seeps from Taxian-Jun's mouth.

TAXIAN-JUN

(angrily)

Me! What?! Tell me! Why couldn't
I?!

XUE MENG

How could you kill your own master?

Xue Meng sobs.

XUE MENG (CONT'D)

Mo Ran... Mo Weiyu... are you even
human? He once...

TAXIAN-JUN
(slurred)
He once what?

XUE MENG
You know how he treated you...

Silence. Taxian-Jun then laughs hysterically for a few moments, before stopping abruptly.

The purple in his eyes shines again.

TAXIAN-JUN
How did he treat me? Nicely? With love?

XUE MENG
I--!

TAXIAN-JUN
I don't need to remind you, do I?

XUE MENG
Well... He--

TAXIAN-JUN
He once beat me so bad my body was covered in blood. He embarrassed me in front of hundreds of people over and over again because I didn't follow some silly rules.

He gestures around the throne room.

TAXIAN-JUN (CONT'D)
Even when I got to the very top, he kept coming in and trying to ruin *everything*.

He leans forward.

TAXIAN-JUN (CONT'D)
I'll ask you again. Why would I let him live?

XUE MENG
H-He had a horrible temper. His words were... harsh, I know. But he... he treated you so well--

TAXIAN-JUN
(soft)
He killed the only person I ever loved.

XUE MENG

(pause)

Shi Mei never would've wanted--

Taxian-Jun leans back, coughing weakly.

TAXIAN-JUN

Still. Master's corpse is resting
in the Red Lotus Pavilion.

(dazed)

It's like he's asleep.

(pause)

His body is still there because of
my spiritual powers. Go see him now
before I die.

He coughs again, more blood spewing from his mouth.

TAXIAN-JUN (CONT'D)

Go. If I die before you get there,
he'll turn into dust.

He shuts his eyes.

Xue Meng turns and exits.

Taxian-Jun reopens his eyes and slowly gets up.

TAXIAN-JUN (CONT'D)

You... deserve to see him one last
time.

He staggers out of the palace.

6

EXT. HEAVEN-PIERCING TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

6

Taxian-Jun stumbles up to a dreary tower that is built on a
barren field. Three graves are in a line in front of it.

The first on the far left is covered in old and dried up
dirt. It reads: *"Grave of the Steamed Consort Chu."*

The grave in the middle is covered by fresh dirt. It states:
"Grave of the Deep Fried Empress Song."

The grave on the right is recently dug out and empty. There
is nothing written on the tombstone behind it. A small pot of
pear blossom wine is next to it with a bowl of, now cold,
spicy wontons.

Taxian-Jun sits down at the edge of the empty grave, and--

He hops inside.

He lays down, facing the sky. He holds his shaking hands together, shedding a few tears. He chokes on his blood. His movements still.

All is quiet for a few seconds before--

A tree branch snaps. Leaves crunch as a CLOAKED MAN (shadowed face, black robes) walks to Taxian-Jun's grave.

He stops to look down at him.

CLOAKED MAN
(voice distorted)
How the hell did you manage to do
this?

The cloaked man raises his hands, holding them together. A blue crystalized light forms in between them.

Once enough energy builds, his hands separate. A blue transparent clock appears in between them, ticking rhythmically clockwise.

He takes the hour hand, forcing it counter-clockwise and--

The ticking clicks faster as the sun sets and rises in the opposite directions as the seasons change rapidly.

The bottom of the cloaked man's face is uncovered as the sun rises.

He smiles.

CLOAKED MAN (CONT'D)
(voice distorted)
It's fine. I'll right your wrongs.
We're not done.

CUT TO BLACK.