ERHA

Episode 1
(SAMPLE)

"METEMPSYCHOSIS"

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. WUSHAN PALACE - NIGHT 1

Superimpose titles:

SISHENG PEAK

WUSHAN PALACE

Wushan Palace is covered in fog. It's towering walls are draped with vines, cracked and weathered.

With sweeping eaves that have upturned corners, the roof made of glazed green tiles, and the wooden pillars with dragons carved into them, the palace is old, but told everyone in sight someone royal lived inside it.

It's silent. Not even the crickets sing. There's not one whistle of wind.

2 INT. THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME 2

The throne room is lifeless, its purple tapestries and banners tattered and covered in dust. Not a soul roams.

3 INT. WUSHAN PALACE - KITCHEN 3

TAXIAN-JUN (mid 30's, Chinese, male, violet eyes) stands at the counter. In front of him, a metal cup filled with wine. Next to that, a bottle of poison.

On his head is a minguan (crown), and he wears purple robes that are embroidered with dragons, fit for a king.

4 EXT. WUSHAN PALACE - COURTYARD 4

The hanging silk lanterns are not lit, the small pavilions and gazebos surrounded by plum trees and bamboo are covered in spider webs.

Peonies, lotuses, and chrysanthemums by the stone pathways are wilted and dead. Weeds grow from the soil.

The ponds and water basins are filled with dead fish and other amphibians.

TAXIAN-JUN (V.O.)
The blue hair ties. The one's the disciples of Sisheng Peak used to wear. Are there any left in the palace?

5 INT. WUSHAN PALACE - KITCHEN 5

Taxian-Jun picks up the bottle of poison, pulling out the cork, and pouring the entire thing into the wine cup.

LIU-GONG (V.O.)
There are. When you ascended the throne, you put the entire uniform in safe keeping. Would you like me to get them for you?

TAXIAN-JUN (V.O.)
Yes. Bring the whole set. The hair ties too.

6 EXT. BAMBOO FOREST - DAY (FLASHBACK) 6

Taxian-Jun stands surrounded by the bamboo forest, his servant LIU-GONG (male, Chinese, late 70's) standing beside him. Clouds are rolling in, making everything dark and muggy.

Taxian-Jun wears his old uniform awkwardly, pacing back and forth. His muscles bulge in weird places, the uniform tight and uncomfortable.

TAXIAN-JUN
Why doesn't it fit?! They're my old clothes, they're mine! Is this the right set!? You didn't get the right set!

LIU-GONG
(sad)
Your Majesty -

TAXIAN-JUN
Why doesn't it fit?!

His shout echoes. Liu-Gong stands in silence for a moment.

LIU-GONG
(soft)
Your Majesty... Let it go. You're not that young man anymore.

Taxian-Jun stares at the ground, shutting his eyes. After a moment, he lifts his head and his eyes open. They are now filled with sadness.

TAXIAN-JUN
(voice breaking)
I'm not?

7 INT. WUSHAN PALACE - BEDROOM (PRESENT) 7

The bedroom is dark, the bed made. On the cabinets and bedsheets is a large layer of dust.

LIU-GONG (V.O.)
No. You're not.

TAXIAN-JUN (V.O.)
I can't go back?

8 INT. WUSHAN PALACE - KITCHEN 8

Taxian-Jun picks up the now poisoned wine, stares at it for a moment, before drinking the entire thing.

LIU-GONG (V.O.)
No. You can't go back.

It takes a second for things to kick in, but the pain is swift. Shocked, Taxian-Jun drops the cup, the clank of it hitting the floor sounding more like a shriek. The entire world spins, his vision blurring.

He coughs up blood, hands on his stomach as he staggers out of the kitchen through a back door.

9 EXT. HEAVEN-PIERCING TOWER - MOMENTS LATER 9

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.

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER