

The Legend of The Red Dragon

by Timothy Martin

Introduction/Preliminary Statement

This is a play, wrote from the fiction story, The Legend of the Red Dragon, by author Timothy Paul Martin. The setting of the play is ancient China and the characters portray Chinese people.

Act 1

An old Chinese woman is layed up in her bed coughing, she appears to be ill or sick. A beautiful young woman enters the room, wearing a pretty pink silk khamana, and her voice breaks the silence like a cool, soft breeze blowing through a hot humid room on the hottest day in summer. "Grandmother," she says to the old woman, "Are you feeling any better?" she asks as she steps to the bed and takes the old woman's hand.

The old woman, the young woman's grandmother, had said simultaneously, as the young woman entered, "Oh, Tang, my beautiful grand daughter, please come in, sit down, visit awhile."

The young woman, now known by the name of Tang, says, "I hope you are feeling better today," and her grandmother says, "Oh no Tang, I'm doing terrible, so bad, my old bones ache, I feel so bad, I've never been so sick in my life," and then Tang says, "I'm sorry, I don't know what to do, you need medication but we have no money;" then, her grandmother says, "There is a herb that will cure me, you know, I told you, but you have to buy it from the talisman."

Tang replies, "Herbal medication? The Talisman?" and her grandmother says: "Tang, I told you already, I don't know how

many times, the Talisman is the only one, he knows the spells and he has the potion that can break the hold the evil spirits have on my health. The Talisman can make the evil spirits let go of my health, then I will feel better and be alright."

That's when Tang says, "Yes, I understand about the Talisman grandmother, but we need money to pay the Talisman for the herbs and for a ceremony," and then Tang's grandmother says, "Oh Tang, we have to do something," her voice sounds very rusty and crackles and she coughs.

Tang suggests, "We must find a way to get some money. Do you know anyone who could lend us the money?"

Tang's Grandmother suggests, "Oh Tang, let your grandmother think" and there is a pause for a few seconds, while Tang having been holding her grandmother's hand, suddenly, releases her hand and takes a new position of holding her Grandmother as if hugging her, and Tang lays her head to rest on her Grandmother's chest.

After a few seconds pass, Tang's grand mother says, "The pearl of wisdom, the pearl of wisdom, I know, I know, the pearl, the pearl," she must struggle to speak at all.

Then, Tang inquires, so sincerely, "What about the pearl of wisdom? Tell me!"

This is when Tang's grandmother explains to Tang about the pearl of wisdom: "The pearl of wisdom was stolen from our dynasty's ancient temple under the watch of our emperor Wang Chow, we should of known, every since Wang Chow seized power of the ~~Chang~~ Yang dynasty, we've had nothing but

problems, we haven't seen a day of peace or happiness, and now this, the pearl of wisdom was stolen, it was his duty to keep the pearl of wisdom safe, the Yang dynasty will never be the same."

Then, Tang inquires, "Who stole the pearl of wisdom grandmother?"

That was when Tang's grandmother tells Tang, "A red dragon was chained to the wall outside the gate. The red dragon was a guardian of the backgate to the temple, but the red dragon broke its chain, one night, and flew over the wall and flew into the temple through a big open window. The red dragon kept through a hall to the room where the jewels were kept and got the pearl of wisdom and flew away."

That was when Tang inquired, "But why Grandmother? Why would anybody want to steal the pearl of wisdom?" "I can't understand how any person or thing, even a dragon could steal," and Tang's grandmother replied, "That's life Tang, sometimes people steal, sometimes they need to steal to ~~prove~~ survive, sometimes they get greedy for money or they steal out of spite, hatred, jealousy or envy to hurt somebody by taking advantage from them."

Then, Tang asks, "But why would a dragon steal a pearl of wisdom?" "Because," her grandmother replies, "because whoever possesses the pearl of wisdom is blessed with wisdom and, dragons are constantly in search of wisdom, dragons hunger for wisdom like a person hungers for food, they have to have wisdom or their minds will starve."

That was when Tang said, "So the red dragon stole the pearl of wisdom, but what did the dragon do with the pearl?"

"The red dragon took the pearl and flew over the wall and out into the mountains and hid in a cave. The emperor's army has tried to kill the dragon but the dragon chases them away everytime." This is when the curtain slowly closes and act 1 of the play ends.

"Act Two"

The curtain slowly opens and the emperor's army appears on stage, it is the army for the Yang dynasty, they are wearing gold looking helmets and have otherwise fine red clothing and carry gold looking shields and have either swords, bows and arrows or long ~~staves with points on them~~ spears of various kinds. The general of the army, Zao-My, shouts out, "When we get to the cave, go inside and aim your arrows at the dragon and open fire and kill it."

Zao-My is the most prominent figure on stage, he has a dark black mustache that is real long and hangs down in the fashion of a Foo Man Chew. He wears his gold helmet as well as gold wrist amulets and coat of arms complete with gold shin guards and gold knee guards.

Zao-My waves his sword as he shouts out his order to his army of about 15 soldiers who carry shields, swords, bows and arrows and spears.

After the general shouts out his order, that is when one of the soldiers, a Captain, steps forward, ~~he~~ and says, "But general, Sir, may I make a suggestion," and then the general says, "Yes Captain, Lee Ho speak your mind," and Lee Ho says, "We have already attempted to kill the dragon three times with bows and arrows but everytime, the dragon defeats the arrows, the dragon has thick skin and the arrows, can not pierce the dragon's skin," then, the general replies, "What do you suggest Captain Lee Ho?" and Lee Ho says, "I suggest we

try to poison the dragon", and the general asks, "But what if the dragon will not eat and can not be poisoned?" and Lee Ho says, "Then, we must march on the dragon as well, we set traps at night, poisoned Lamb outside his cave," and the general replies, "That sounds good Captain Lee Ho, send your soldiers tonight, but tomorrow we march up the mountain to the cave and if the dragon refused to eat our bait, then we wage all out war on the dragon run inside on it and kill it and take back the pearl of wisdom."

After this, the curtain closes.

Act 3

The curtain opens and the setting is inside the temple of the emperor of the Yang dynasty. There is a group of approximately fifteen people who have gathered before a throne set atop a platform descended by five steps.

A man announces, "Silence, the emperor of the Yang dynasty is entering now," and suddenly there comes the sound of drums rolling as well as a horn tooting, and, this is when a white haired man with a white mustache and wearing a gold crown atop his head appears to be entering, as emperor, he wears a red velvet robe, and he announces for all to hear, "By my authority, as the emperor for the Yang dynasty, I hereby declare that whoever returns the pearl of wisdom to me will be issued a reward to include a large castle, land and 700,000 yuan."

Then, the people having heard the emperor's words, gasp in astonishment and their mouths drop open as if in awe, their eyes become wide, and they look around at one another exclaiming their surprise and amazement."

Then, the emperor, standing beside his throne, speaks, "I have been the emperor of the Yang dynasty for over twenty years and my duty has been to protect and guard the pearl of wisdom, the pearl is priceless and irreplaceable, whoever possesses the pearl of wisdom has the world at their command. The pearl has been in the possession of the Yang dynasty for over a hundred years, it has always been sought after by dragons and now the worst thing has happened, the pearl has been stolen by a red dragon that was acting as a guardian of a gate to the temple. The red dragon broke its chain, flew over the wall and went inside the temple and found the pearl in the treasure room, then the dragon escaped to the mountains where it may be hiding in a cave. Once again, I issue this decree to all of the world, I repeat, whoever returns the pearl of wisdom to the Yang dynasty will be rewarded generously." Then, the curtain closes.

Act four

The curtain opens, the setting is inside the temple of the Yin dynasty and there is a crowd of about 15 people gathered before a throne setting atop a platform descended by stairs. Then, a man announces, "Silence! The emperor of the Yin dynasty will enter now, Gao-Dong!", and that is when the emperor enters from a door behind the throne, he is bald headed and wears a gold crown as well as a ~~red~~ black velvet robe. This is when he announces, "By my authority as emperor of the Yin dynasty, I hereby declare that whoever brings me the pearl

of wisdom will be given all of the gold in the Yin dynasty" and then the crowd of people, having heard these words, become surprised and express amazement and awe, and one woman says, "Oh, that is allot," and a man says, "That's enough to buy all the rice in China", and then the emperor says, "The pearl of wisdom is surrounded by the caos of this worlds good and evil, originally, over a hundred years ago, the Yin dynasty possessed the pearl, but by cunning and deceit, through the greatest of deceptions, the pearl of wisdom was taken away from the Yin dynasty by the Yang dynasty and the Yang dynasty has possessed the pearl of wisdom for the last hundred years. It is the Supreme Will of the red dragon for the pearl of wisdom to be taken from the Yang dynasty and given back to the Yin dynasty. The dragon has taken the pearl away from the Yang dynasty and awaits for destiny to take the pearl back to the forces of good being represented by the Yin dynasty at this time. It is apparent that the pearl of wisdom represents the most supreme positive forces of good in the world, and the red dragon is apparently a guardian of good attributed with positive energy and both the pearl and dragon were attracted to one another by and through the positive energy they both have, while all at the same time, the negative energy of the evil Yang dynasty has pushed the positive pearl of wisdom away from it, the red dragon is the carrier of this destiny and now because the Yin dynasty is representing good and positive energy, now the Yin dynasty's positive energy ~~positive~~ will attract the positive energy of the pearl.

This is destiny, and whoever brings the pearl of wisdom to the Yin dynasty will be rewarded with all of our gold", then the curtain closes.

Act Five

The curtain opens, the setting is inside the old woman's house/hutong, and the old woman is layed up in her bed and is coughing and there is knocking on the door to the room, and the old woman says, "Yes Tang, come in", and the door opens and Tang enters the room and goes to embrace her grandma and asks, "How are you feeling today?" and the old woman says, "My old bones ache, I feel so bad, I've never felt so bad in my life", and then Tang says, "I hope you get to feeling better soon, we must find a way to get you some medication," and then the old woman says, "Oh Tang, my dear, by the way, the young man who lives next door, Mo Lin, has come asking about you again, earlier today while you were away," and then Tang replies: "Yes, but Mo is a soldier for the Yang dynasty, and as long as he supports the Yang dynasty and is willing to fight for the Yang dynasty, then I refuse to have anything to do with him, and he knows that. The Yang dynasty is the reason why you don't have the medication you need, because emperor Wang takes all the money and wastes it on his luxuries instead of taking care of his people," and then there is a momentary pause and Tang sighs and says, "Oh, grandmother, I am so confused, I need some time alone to be by myself so I can think," and then the curtain closes and Act five ends.

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Act Six

The curtain opens and the setting is of a garden, a small bridge over a stream of water and a small pool of water where Koi fish swim, and Tang thinks aloud to herself, "I will walk in the garden closest to heaven's heart and I will look into the pool of water for a reflection of where my troubles end and the future begins, the Koi fish will bring me good luck", and then Tang looks into the water and thinks aloud, "Oh, there they are, the Koi fish, the bringers of Luck" and then Tang contemplates aloud and to the Koi fish swimming in the pool of water, "The emperor of the Yin dynasty has issued a reward for the return of pearl of wisdom, all of the gold in the Yin dynasty, I need all of the luck I can get, I must go to the cave in the mountains where the dragon hides and I must get the pearl of wisdom and take it to the emperor of the Yin dynasty, then I will get the reward and I can use the gold to pay the Talisman to give my grand mother the herbal medicine to cure her," and then suddenly a handsome young man enters from the side of the stage, and he speaks to Tang, "Imagine this," he says as he approaches Tang, "Finding a beautiful lady like you, in a beautiful garden of flowers, like this, but you are far more beautiful than any flower." Then Tang becomes surprised and turning to the man says, "No, your words are cut so fine from a stone heart, like diamonds cut from a rock, all you care about is yourself," and Mo replies, "No Tang, listen to me, you know in your heart that you are my only dream, don't close your heart to me, you are my only dream, my china doll, the red rose of china," and Tang interrupts Mo,

"Stop", Tang says, and Mo having taken her into his arms by this time, says, "Don't let the war over the pearl of wisdom come between us, the pearl has nothing to do with either you nor I, this war started before we were ever born," and Tang struggles away from Mo and says, "No, no, I know what is right, you have to go, I need time alone, I have to do something," and Mo says, "Tang, I need you to see," and Tang says, "Mo, go, until you renounce the Yang dynasty, I can not love you because you don't love me," and Mo says, "No, you don't understand," and he grabs her hand, and she jerks away and says, "leave me alone, all you care about is yourself," and he says, "Fine, I'll leave you alone," and he turns and starts walking away, then suddenly stops, turns back to her and says, "But, I can only hope that someday you would be my wife," and after these words, Mo leaves and Tang looks back into the pool of water and says to the fish, "I must go to the cave and get the diamonds"

Act seven

The curtain opens and the army of the ~~the~~ ^{Yang dynasty} general appears marching, the general announces, "We are close to the cave, everybody get your arrows ready," once we get to the cave we will go inside and shoot the dragon, because the dragon refuses to eat our poisonous bait," then the curtain closes.

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Act eight

The curtain opens and the setting is inside a cave, there are big rocks and boulders and the walls are rock. The general's army marches in from one side of stage and suddenly a big dragon rises from behind the rocks, it is the Red Dragon, it is red and like the dragons commonly seen in the dragon parades held in China; that is, there are nine poles supporting the dragon and nine people holding the poles, one person for each pole. The dragon swirls around in circles and figures of eight and stage lights flash repeatedly and there is smoke or fog, then the general shouts, "Aim your arrows and fire," and that is when the soldiers aim their bows and fire their arrows but their arrows do not hit the dragon and the arrows that do hit the dragon, fall to ground, and do not kill dragon. This is when the general realizes that the dragon has special powers and the special powers are deflecting the arrows and this causes the general to be filled with fear, so the general shouts out, "The dragon is magic! It has special powers, the magic protects the dragon, we can't shoot it, retreat, run from the cave and down the mountain," and having heard the general's words, that is when the soldiers become afraid for their lives and scream and turn and run from the cave, some of them drop their weapons, all of the while, the dragon continues swirling around and then the curtain closes.

Act 9

The curtain opens and the setting is the path that leads to the cave, there are rocks and trees and Tang can be heard talking as she walks onto the stage, "I must go to the cave and find a way to get the pearl" and that is when Tang walks across the stage as if she is searching for the way to the cave and as she walks, she tends to dance in an oriental fashion, and her appearance is notably fine as well as beautiful. She wears a pretty white silk khamona and has a red rose in her hand, her skin appears soft and glows, her voice is soft and gentle like a cool breeze. Then, after she crosses the stage, the curtain closes.

Act 10

The curtain opens and Tang appears to have gone inside the cave, the setting is the cave, and the dragon appears to be raising up from behind some rocks as if having noticed Tang enter. Then Tang, seeing the dragon says, "Oh, there you are dragon, I see you, I brought you a pretty flower, a red rose," and at that time Tang approaches the dragon with the red rose extended in offering and she sets the rose on a big rock in front of the dragon. The dragon seems pleased as is reflected by the way the dragon seems to dance happily for a moment, then lays back down. Then, Tang dances about as if inviting the dragon to dance and the dragon rises back up and dances happily with Tang. This was when Tang said, "I like to dance, dance with me dragon, I know dragons like to dance, too; so, let's dance", and after

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a few moments, they settle down from a spectacular showful dance of flashing lights and music. The dragon appears very intriguing and dazzling as it swirls around in circles and figures of eight and dips down and dives down and lunges upward. As they dance, the dragon's dance slows to slower movements and music stops, lights stop flashing, then Teng dances to backside of stage while having exclaimed, "Let me see your pearl of wisdom, I want to see your pearl of wisdom" and she dances in leaps and bounds and skips.

Act II

The curtain opens and the dragon appears to be swirling about the dark stage amongst women and children who appear to be trapped on stage in a corner. The setting is a backdrop of neighborhood houses with roof tops on fire and there is smoke, and this setting may also be accomplished by a big movie screen. The women and children run around while yelling and screaming such things as, "AAh!, the roofs are burning, the house is on fire, the dragon has flown down from the sky and is burning the roof tops of our houses with fire," then the dragon chases the people around and they run off stage and the dragon follows them and then children and women come running back onto stage from the direction that the dragon left, one boy yells out, "Run Mao! The dragon ~~is~~ will get us!" and then the boy called Mao says to the other boy, "Hurry, Shen, it's coming!" and then they appear to dance about and Mao asks a lady, "What is wrong with the dragon?" "Jin-Jin," and then she says, "The dragon is looking for Teng, a young lady, she stole the

pearl of wisdom from its cave and took it and ~~sold it to~~ the emperor is going to sell it to the emperor of the Yin dynasty for gold, I'm afraid until the dragon finds her, the dragon is going to keep looking and will burn ~~anything~~ our houses, and eat our live stock and try to kill everybody." Then, the curtain closes

Act 12 - 13

The curtain opens and the setting is the inside of the Yin dynasty's temple where emperor Jin Tang sits atop his throne wearing his crown, and a soldier appears and kneels in front of the throne and the emperor says, "You may rise Zhang Benjun," and then the soldier stands up and the emperor asks, "What message have you brought Zhang Benjun?" and the soldier says, "A beautiful young woman has come, she says she has the pearl of wisdom, she has come to claim the gold" and then the emperor becomes so excited and he exclaims, "What?" so suddenly on edge of his seat, and he stands up and announces "Bring her before me immediately," and suddenly two more soldiers appear, they are escorting Tang who is between them and she carries a black velvet bag, and the emperor asks her, "What is your name beautiful lady?" and she tells him, "My name is Tang," and he asks, "Where are you from?" and she says, "I'm from Yang dynasty, but I renounce the Yang dynasty," and then the emperor asks, "Do you have the pearl of wisdom?" and Tang says, "I brought you the pearl for the reward, I need the gold to buy my grandmother medicine, she is very sick and is on her death bed," and then the emperor says, "Show me the pearl," and Tang pulls the pearl out of the

bag to reveal the pearl and she says, "Yes, I will show you the pearl now," and then Tang adds, "I could of been killed by the dragon," and the emperor tells her, "Come up the steps and hand the pearl to me, put it in my hand," and so Tang does what the emperor says, she walks up the stairs and hands the emperor the pearl and he says, "Ah, let me examine this pearl," and he holds it up to the light and says, "Yes, this pearl is genuine, this is the pearl of wisdom," and then the emperor tells Tang, "Step back down and let me ask you, where did you get this pearl?" and Tang steps back down the stairs and tells the emperor, "I went to the cave and took the pearl from the dragon," and then she adds, "I could of been killed" and the emperor says, "I am very impressed. A beautiful young lady like you could do what two armies had failed" and then the emperor declares, "By my authority as emperor of the Yin Dynasty, I hereby order that all of the ~~gold~~ the Yin dynasty's gold shall be given to this woman immediately," then the curtain closes.

Act 14

The curtain opens and the setting is inside the temple of the Yang dynasty where emperor Wang Chow sits upon his throne wearing his crown, and there are numerous people in the room and General Zao-Mu speaks to the emperor, "Emperor Wang, the pearl of wisdom has been recovered from the dragon and it was given to the Yin dynasty for all of the gold in the Yin dynasty," and then emperor Chow says, "Send word to the Yin dynasty that we want the pearl returned and find out if they will return it and if they want gold or if there are any special terms"

Then, General Zao-My says, "The ~~Yang~~^{Yin} dynasty will never return the pearl", but we will send the message to Emperor Jin Tang," and then emperor Wang Chow says, "But if the Yin dynasty refuses to return the pearl then we will have no other choice than to declare a war for the second time," and then the curtain closes.

Act fifteen

The curtain opens and the setting is inside the temple of the Yin dynasty and emperor Jin Tang sits atop his throne wearing his gold crown and there is a gathering of people before the emperor including soldiers, and one of the soldiers says, "General Zao-My of the Yang dynasty has sent you a message from emperor Wang Chow," and Jin Tang inquires, "What is the message?"

"The Yang dynasty wants the pearl of wisdom and want to know if you want gold for it or if there are conditions?" the soldier said. That is when emperor Jin Tang laughs loud and long, "Ha-ha, ha, ha, ha" "that is funny, but the pearl of wisdom belongs to the Yin dynasty and it is not for sale."

"We anticipate war, emperor", the soldier replied.

"There is already War!" the emperor exclaimed angrily.

"But emperor, there will be even more attacks upon our empire and temple", the soldier replied.

"So be it", the emperor said, "Although the heavens may fall, I command you to prepare for war in defense of the pearl of wisdom, and do not sleep on it!"

Then, the soldier replied, "Yes sir!" and he suddenly stood straight and alert, then the soldier left.

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Act Sixteen

The curtain opens and the setting is a dark neighborhood and there are explosions of light and fire from behind houses, women and children scream and run and a woman cries out, "The dragon is back, oh no! the dragon is back!" and a child yells, "Run, run!" and several more people cry out, "the dragon is here," "watch out," "Run", "It's burning our houses!" and then the dragon enters the stage and chases the women and children around and they run off stage and the dragon swirls around while lights flash then it leaves while smoke rises up from the houses then two women and a soldier appear on stage and the soldier asks, "What happened?" and a woman says, "The dragon attacked our hutong houses, setting them afire."

"For what?" the soldier asks

"The dragon is looking for whoever stole the pearl of wisdom from him, they say it was a pretty young woman."

Then, the other woman says, "Nobody knows when or where the dragon will strike again."

Then, the first woman asks, "What are we supposed to do," and the soldier says, "Stay inside your houses, hide, but throw rocks, try to kill it, and keep water to put out the fire if it sets your roof top on fire."

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Act Seventeen

The setting is outside of the hutong house where Tang lives with her grandmother, and it appears as though Tang has packed up all of her property into wagons and is prepared to move, and, her Grandmother is comes from inside the house carrying a box and puts it on the wagon, and this suggests that Tang's grandmother is cured and Tang says, "Oh, grandmother, I'm so happy you are finally well," and then Tang's grandmother says, "Thank you Tang, you saved my life, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't be alive," then suddenly, Mo, the young man who is in love with Tang appears and inquires, "Where are you moving to Tang?" and Tang turns to Mo, and says, "You know, I don't want to talk to you Mo," and Mo says, "But, why Tang? I'm the one who loves you more than anyone else, nobody else cares for you the way I do," then Tang says, "If you really loved me, you would renounce the Yang dynasty, emperor Chow is a tyrant, and as long as you support his army, we have nothing to say to one another Mo, so please let me live my life, we are trying to move and you are getting in the way," then Mo says, "I'm sorry you feel this way Tang, but you live in the Yang dynasty, you too should support our dynasty, and not talk bad about it," then Tang says, "We are moving to the Yin dynasty, and we are not coming back." Then, Mo says, "Please Tang, don't go, if you leave, you will be considered a traitor and fugitive," After that ~~Mo says~~, "If Tang says, "If you really love me Mo, you won't try to stop us, don't try to get in our way, you must respect our wishes."

This was when Mo said, "But why do you feel this way Tang?" "Why do you hate emperor Wang Chow so much?" and, Tang replied, "Because, when my grandmother was ill and dying, emperor Wang Chow would not help." Then, Mo says, "If I did not love you, I would have you arrested for treason, but I'm not going to try to stop you. but someday, I know, I'll see you again and hope that someday you will see that we are meant for each other," then Tang says, "Goodbye Mo, I have to leave now, things change, it's time for me to go", and then Mo says, "Good-luck Tang, I hope everything works out for you and your Grandmother," and then as Tang starts leaving that is when the ~~stage~~ curtain closes.

Act 18

The curtain opens and the scene is of two men practicing martial arts, they are in a fighting stance and appear to be practicing blocking one another's punches, they are wearing black Khamonias and further behind them there can be seen several people sitting with there legs crossed as if meditating. One of the men that is practicing has gray hair and a gray mustache, and appears older than the other man who is bald. Then, they stop and the bald man asks, "Let me ask you, why they call you the master of darkness" and the older man says, "They call me the master of darkness for a reason, because, of this hold," and then the older man appears to place the other man in some type of choke hold where he wraps his arm around the other mans neck. "I can put a man to sleep with this hold, forever."

Then, the old man pauses and adds, "I know how to kill a man by breaking his neck, and I know several other ways to kill a man with my bare hands and quick, in seconds."

That is when a dark haired man enters, he is wearing a white martial arts uniform like the others, and the old man, the Master of Darkness, says to the bald man, "Let me introduce you to 9-5, I don't think you have met," and the bald man asks, "9-5? What does that mean?" and the dark haired man says, "9-5, is the name the Master of Darkness started calling me because of the way I jump up and throw a kick and because I am a good student who always learns real good," then the bald man asks, "What does 9-5 mean?" and the Master of Darkness says, "Both numbers, 9 and 5 are magic numbers and they mean, 'Flying dragon in the sky,' it is an honor for somebody to be given the name 9-5, only a great martial artist can be known as 9-5," and then 9-5 asks the bald man, "What do they call you?" and the bald man says, "They call me Ban," and then 9-5 asks, "Ban? What made you decide to come here to the Flaming Dragon Doe Joe?" Then, Ban tells 9-5, "This is my first lesson, working toward being a Master, I've practiced martial arts most of my life but I learned what I know on the streets, in the hutongs, fighting in the alley-like a cat, the neighborhoods are wild, the boys I grew up with were mean," and then the Master of Darkness says to 9-5, "Ban is a good fighter, he could beat most men senseless," and 9-5 says, "Oh yah?" and raises an eyebrow, as if to suggest interest, and then 9-5 adds, "I might need your help with something," and Ban asks, "What is it?" and 9-5 says, "There is a big reward being offered by the Yang dynasty for

the return of the pearl of wisdom", and then the Master of Darkness says, "The Yin dynasty is keeping the pearl of wisdom, very well guarded, 9-5, I assure you of this", and then 9-5 says, "Yes, I'm sure the Yin dynasty is guarding the pearl of wisdom very good indeed, but that is to be expected, I never thought it would be as easy as walking in and out, it will take an act of artful war" and then the Master of Darkness says, "Deception is a mighty sword if one wields it correctly, you must sneak around the enemy, like the darkness of the night and move upon them quickly, snapping their necks like I taught you, they will drop silently, you can take out the guards without detection, but if they discover what you are trying to do, they will outnumber you." Then, 9-5 says, "I need a partner, someone to go with me, to help me, someone who can watch my back but I need someone who isn't afraid to fight for their very life," and Ban said, "I might be the man you're looking for, but how much money will I get?" and 9-5 tells Ban, "we will talk more later, right now, I have to go and take care of some business elsewhere"

Act 19

The curtain opens and the setting is a dark neighborhood and a woman screams, "Aaaah! The dragon! The dragon is here!!" and then the woman runs across stage, and behind her are several children all dressed in ordinary clothes and one boy yells, "Run, run" and a girl cries, "Mommy, mommy, the dragon is trying to eat us", and then comes the dragon onto stage, it is the same from the previous scenes, and the lights on stage flash while the woman and children run around and the dragon swirls around as it chases them. Then, the woman and children cower in a corner and

shiver and tremble and shake. A little girl cries out, "Help, help, somebody help us, the dragon is going to eat us all up," then suddenly comes running onto stage six soldiers, and one of them yells out, "There it is, right there!" and all at the same time, points at the dragon and says, "Kill it!" and the soldiers draw swords and run toward the dragon but the dragon swirls around and charges toward the soldiers and the soldiers cry out, "Aaah!" and one soldier says, "Here it comes!" and another soldier says, "Run!" and the soldiers run off stage while dropping swords and shields. In the background smoke rises from behind the houses, ~~from~~ all of the while, as a result of the dragon setting fire to the houses. (Note: if a movie screen is available, a backdrop can be projected onto the ~~same~~ screen of smoke and fire)

The dragon turns back toward the women and children as they run and dance around while the dragon swirls around in circles and in figures of eight, and then the soldiers return with more soldiers and the general in front yells out, "Kill the dragon!" and they ran toward the dragon, yelling various words of war, and the dragon retreats, turning around and fleeing from stage as the children pick up big rocks and throw them at the fleeing dragon.

Act 20.

The curtain opens and an army of soldiers are marching across stage, while ~~climbing~~, the general in front is Mao Dong, and it is the army on the Yin dynasty, their ~~old~~ uniforms appear only slightly different and their helmets only slightly different from those of the Yang dynasty. Then a group of men in plain clothes -

appear, walking onto stage from the opposite direction as if to pass the army and go in direction the army came from.

Then, the general stops and the army stops and the general speaks to the men, "~~I am~~" "Greetings, I am general Mao-Dong for the Yin dynasty, what are you men doing?" and the first man says "We are going to the Yang dynasty to find work," and the general asks, "Who are you? What are your names and where are you from?" and the first man says, "I am ~~He-Feng~~ He-Haotian, we are from Yin," and then the general says, "Hold it right there, arrest this man, we are at war with Yin dynasty," and then the soldiers suddenly lunge toward the man to seize him, and the general asks, "What about the rest of you men? What are your names and where are you from?" That is when a struggle begins, swords are drawn, He-Haotian yells out, "Take your hands off of me!" and he tries to jerk away, he steps back and draws his sword, then one of the other men is wrestled to the ground by three soldiers where he is restrained, and another man runs ~~and~~ and a soldier chases him off stage, The soldiers team up and outnumber and surround He-Haotian and they knock his sword from his hand, then, after that, they knock him to the ground with fists and while he is on ground, they kick him and stomp him with their heels and he cries out one last cry, "Aah!" then the curtain closes.

Act 21

The curtain opens and the setting is inside the Do-Joe of the Master of Darkness; and, the Master of Darkness throws a sidekick that strikes a man in the stomach and the man doubles over and then the Master of Darkness karate chops him on the back of the neck and the man falls to the ground. After that, the Master of Darkness proclaims out loud to his students, "That was one of the first ways I learned to put a man to sleep, but it is only a temporary darkness, it is not forever, he will awake soon," and this is when the unconscious man awakens from the place where he layed flat on his back on the mat. Then, the students clap their hands and the Master bows to ~~him~~ the students and says, "Another lesson."

9-5 and Ban had been standing by the side as they watched with the other students and the Master turned to ~~them~~ face them and said, "9-5 and Ban, I will be needing to speak with you after class, don't leave, everybody else can go, class is over for today," then come sighs of relief as the crowd of students leave stage. That is when the Master steps to 9-5, pats him on the back and hugs 9-5, "Good to see you and Ban are going to be able to work together," a good team is hard to find", and then 9-5 says, "Yes, Ban is good, I don't think I could find anyone better than Ban, he knows about diversions, something that will be very important once we reach the temple for the Yin dynasty." Then, Ban says, "We will use fireworks to distract the gaurds, a tactic of diversion I learned long ago," and the Master said, "Yes, deception is a mighty sword if one wields it correctly, something I've told you before,

but that's only one barrier, for there are many other brick walls," then 9-5 asks in a very sincere tone, "But what do you mean master?" and the Master replies, "The answers are always so many, one must start at the beginning before he reaches the end," and both 9-5 and Ban look at each other then look at the Master and nod their heads in agreement, and Ban says, "Yes Master," and the Master says, "You have a long rocky road ahead of you both, the Yin dynasty soldiers may try to stop you many times on the road to Yin, you must evade them in the dark, hide in the night, travel with the night, the dark will protect you, do not let them see you or catch you, only fight if you have to," and 9-5 says, "Yes Master," and the Master says, "You must go to the ^{Master} King of Dragons, he is a Master, he has a doe-joe high atop a mountain in the Yin dynasty, they call it "The Mountain of Skulls", the ^{Master} King of Dragons will give you a map of the inside of the temple of the Yin dynasty, the map will show the way to the room where the pearl is being kept," and 9-5 asks, "Do you have a map to the Mountain of Skulls?" and the Master replies, "Yes, excuse me for a moment," then he walks off stage and 9-5 tells Ban, "The Master keeps maps and books, he is wise in all things, I have never asked him a question that has gone unanswered," and then the Master returns with a paper that he unfolds and he hands it to 9-5, "This is the map to the mountain of skulls, take it 9-5, and go, you must hurry, but you must be careful," then the curtain closes.

Act 22

The curtain opens and the setting is a neighborhood, it is night, smoke rises from behind houses, there is the sound of a woman screaming, "Aaah, the dragon is back," and the woman runs out onto stage, and the dragon chases her all the way across, after that three children run out onto stage, coming from the direction that the dragon had gone off stage. (Note: the women and children dance as they run, animating fear in their dance, panic, terror) The children are looking over their shoulders and one of the boys yells out, "Run, Run, Ge-Jing, the Dragon will get you," and then the boy Ge-Jing yells to the one who told him to run, ~~Shen~~ "Hurry Shen, the dragon is coming," and then Shen grabs the young girl's hand and says to her, "Come on Han, we have to get away before the dragon ~~get~~ catches you," and that was when Ge-Jing, jumps ~~back~~ further back, bends down, picks up a rock while keeping his wide eyes looking toward the direction from which they had come running.

Suddenly, the dragon comes rushing onto stage and stage lights start flashing and fast paced music creates suspense, then ~~Ge-Jing~~ the girl, called ~~Shen~~^{Han}, screams, and the boy, Ge-Jing throws the rock at the dragon and yells, "Go away!" and the other boy they called Shen yells, "You missed the dragon, Ge-Jing, the rock didn't hit the dragon, run!" and the three children dance to otherside of stage as if fleeing and ~~Shen~~ Han, the girl yells, "Leave us alone!" and then screams again and yells, "Help, help, somebody help!", and the dragon chases Ge-Jing off stage and curtain closes.

Act 23

The curtain opens and the setting is inside the temple of the Yang dynasty and the emperor Wang Chow sits atop his throne wearing his gold crown and there is a group of several people in front of the emperor and the emperor inquires, "So, what is the problem?" and a man steps forward and says "I am Mao Lu, we are farmers, we grow rice and raise sheep and cattle, the red dragon comes at night and rapes our farms", then another man says, ~~"I am"~~ "My name is Ge-Nan, the red dragon is out of control, it is burning our houses," then a woman with a baby in her arms says, "Nobody knows where the dragon will strike again, we're afraid, I have a baby, please do something don't let the dragon get my baby," and that is when the emperor announces, "Alright, alright, stop crying, I'll send a few special soldiers to hunt the dragon down, but until we get the dragon, you must protect yourselves, hide where it is safe, keep rocks ready so you can throw them at the dragon if you see it," then after a momentary pause, the emperor announces, "I need a soldier to form a special team to hunt the dragon down," and that is when Mo walks onto stage, dressed like the other soldiers, he is the young man who has been in love with Tong but who she refuses to have anything to do with because Mo is a soldier for the Yang dynasty. Then, Mo says to the emperor, "Emperor Chow, I can find the dragon, I promise you," and the emperor says, "Fine, do not disappoint me son, if you kill the dragon ~~to~~ bring me the dragon's head and I will reappoint you as general of the Yang dynasty's ~~army~~ military," and Mo replies, "Yes sir", ~~and the emperor~~ "Said and done", then the emperor says, "Do not sleep on this mission," and Mo says, "Yes Sir" and

the emperor says, "Find the dragon, but for the future peace and happiness of the Yang dynasty", then the curtain closes.

Act 24

The curtain ~~close~~ opens and the setting is the wilderness, and there are trees, in the background, as well as rocks, and birds are chirping and perhaps the sound of river water flowing over rocks in a nearby stream.

9-5 and Ban appear to be in hiking gear with back packs and canes, and 9-5 is holding up the map that the Master of darkness gave him, it is the map to the Mountain of Skulls, and Ban asks 9-5, "How much farther to go?", and 9-5 replies, "We are almost there", and then 9-5 looks into the distance and points into the distance and says, "There it is, look, the Mountain of skulls, you can see the top, look above the trees where the clouds are, the clouds are hiding the mountain, you can barely see it, if it was a clear day, you could see it," and then Ban says, "Oh yes, 9-5, I can see it now", as he looks far into the distance. Then, Ban asks, "How are your injuries 9-5?" and ~~9-5 lifts~~ that is when 9-5 lifts up his shirt to reveal a white bandage around his middle and it is red where blood soaked through, "It's not so bad," 9-5 says, "It could be worse, we had four fights, I only got cut once and I saved your life twice, we're lucky to even be alive," and Ban said, "You were bleeding bad," and 9-5 says, "Yes, there was allot of blood," then 9-5 said, "We have to get the map from the Master of Dragons then go to the temple of the Yin dynasty and get the pearl," then Ban says, "The fight has just begun, it's too late to turn back now, we're all in," and 9-5 says, "Though the heavens may fall," and he looks to the sky with a hand covering his heart, and says,

"We will return the pearl of wisdom to the Yang dynasty," and Ban says, "If it is the last thing we do in our lives," then the curtain closes.

Act 25

The curtain opens and the setting appears to be a dark room, it is a hallway inside the temple for the Yin dynasty and 9-5 and Ban appear to be sneaking onto stage and 9-5 says to Ban, "Hold on a second, where is the map? Now that we finally made it inside the temple, we need to check the map that the Master of Dragons gave us, pull out the map so we can look at it and find the room where the pearl is," and that is when ~~Ban reaches inside his shirt and pulls a folded map out from his inner pocket~~, "Hold on," ~~Ban says~~, "I have the map tucked inside my shirt," then Ban reaches inside his shirt and pulls out the map and says, "Here it is, here is the map the Master of Dragons gave us," and Ban hands the map to 9-5, then 9-5 unfolds the map and looks at it close ~~and~~ for a few seconds then looks up and says, "Aah hah!" and then 9-5 points to a door, the only door on stage, and 9-5 says, "You were right, that is the door to the room where the jewels are kept," and Ban asks, "Are you sure?" and Ban says, "Look for yourself," and he lays the map on the floor and points at the map and says, "see, we are right here," and Ban looks at the map a few seconds then looks at the door and says, "That's it, that's the door," and 9-5 says, "Come on, let's do it," and then they both go across stage to the door and Ban takes off a backpack and takes out objects and sets them on the floor, and he turns to 9-5 and says, "Here are the explosives, watch out for the guards while I hook up the explosives to the lock on the door, then we will

blow the lock open, go inside, get the pearl, but we only have a few seconds because the explosion is going to make a lot of noise and the guards in the next room are going to hear it and come running to try to stop us. I'll grab the pearl and put it in the bag, you fight the guards back and then we will run with the pearl".

This was when 9-5 says, "Alright, let's do it, I'll go watch out for you, go ahead and hook everything up," and that is when the curtain closes.

Act 26

The curtain opens and it is the same setting except Ban is squatted down beside the door with his hands covering his ears and 9-5 is at one side of the stage watching out for guards with wide eyes, then 9-5 dances to the other side of the stage and looks out the other side of the stage and tells Ban, "Alright, nobody is coming, go ahead and do it," and then suddenly there is the loud sound of an explosion, "Boom!" and there is smoke and sparks spewing from the door and Ban quickly opens the door and runs inside the room while 9-5 says "Hurry up, they are coming," and suddenly, guards come running onto stage, three of them, and one guard yells out, "Tell the other guards to hurry up and come help us, someone is trying to steal the pearl again!"

This is when Ban comes running out of the room with the pearl and one guard yells out, "Hold it right there!" and another guard yells out, "Hold it right there!", and another guard yells out, "You're under arrest and as the third guard begins to pull out a sword, that is when 9-5 steps forward towards the guard, but then turns, spins and kicks the guard in the side and the guard gets knocked back then the first guard chases Ban a couple steps and grabs Ban's arm and Ban elbows the guard in the mouth and the guard is knocked back, stunned, but that is when Ban drops the pearl of wisdom and it rolls across the floor in the direction in which they were running; then, the second guard lunges toward the pearl in pursuit of the pearl but 9-5 knees the second guard in the stomach then the guard bends over, doubling over, having the wind knocked out of him, after that, 9-5, karate chops the back of the guard's neck and then throws a kick high up into the air above the bent over guard and brings down the back of his heel with all of his strength and strikes the guard in the middle of the back and the guard cries out in pain then falls to the floor.

By this time, all three guards are stunned, from the blows of Ban and 9-5, and, quickly 9-5 and Ban run to get the pearl and Ban picks it up and they run off stage and all three guards get up and run to chase them and a bunch more guards come running and chase after the first three guards Ban and 9-5, "Get them!" one guard yells as he raises up his sword.

Act 22

The curtain opens and the setting is a garden and Tang is kneeling down tending to some flowers and her grandmother is nearby and Tang's grandma says to Tang, "What a beautiful day, I feel so blessed to have a granddaughter like you Tang, you saved my life Tang, if it wasn't for you Tang, I would of never got the medication I needed to get well, I'd still be sick, I might of died by now," and then Tang replies, "Oh Grandmother, I'd do anything for you, that's the way you taught me when I was a child, you were a good example, you were kind and generous, you taught me so many things, I love you more than anything," and then Tang's grandmother says, "You risked your life, when you went to the cave and got the pearl from the dragon, not very many people would do that," and then Tang replies, "I got lucky, we both got lucky, the Koi fish, they brought us luck..." and while Tang is speaking, she stops suddenly because she is interrupted by a sound, and her Grandmother exclaims, "Oh, do you hear something? What is that?" and Tang looks up and around, and then from the side of the stage, the red dragon appears and it swirls onto stage and roars loudly and Tang screams in fear of her life as she cowers with her grandmother and Tang says, "The dragon has been looking for me all of this time, because I took the pearl, now that the dragon has found me, the dragon will try to eat me alive," we have to run for our lives, but grandmother you're too old to run fast, I have to help you, come on, get up, let's go," and slowly Tang helps her grandmother as they walk

toward the otherside of the stage to get away from the dragon, but quickly the dragon races to the otherside of stage and blocks their way and swirls around them and Tang screams, "Aaah!" "Somebody help! The dragon is going to eat us Alive!"

This is when, suddenly, Mo appears, wearing his soldiers uniform and he throws a big rock and the rock hits the dragon in the head and the dragon falls to the ground dead; then, Mo says, "Aah, there you are dragon, I've been chasing you for a long time now, I'll cut your head off and take your head back to emperor Wang Chow of the Yang dynasty and he will appoint me General of the military!" and that is when Tang runs to Mo, and he takes her into his arms and asks her, "Are you alright now Tang?" and she looks into Mo's eyes and tells him, "Oh Mo, it's you, you saved my life, you saved my grandmother's life", and Mo said, "Now maybe you will see how much I really love you; more than any other man, all I've ever wanted was to have you as my wife", and Tang replies, "Yes Mo, I love you too, but the war has come between us and I'm sorry about that now," and Mo says, "The war is over Tang, the Yang dynasty has the pearl back, and the dragon is dead, emperor Wang Chow has promised to make me General, now all I want ~~to ask you~~ is to ask you to be my wife" and Tang tells Mo, "Yes I accept, I will be your wife", and as the curtain closes, Tang's grandmother watches and listens and seems very well pleased and begins to clap her hands to applaude and it is the end of the show.

The End

Timothy Paul Martin

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Director, Dennis Sobin

From: Timothy P. Martin

#566302, Ellis unit

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Greetings, and with all respect to you and yours, I am responding to your missive dated January 10, 2014, wherein you invited me to write a play for your Kennedy Center exhibition coming in March.

Enclosed you will find my all original play entitled the Legend of the Red Dragon.

Please send me the printed program after the show. Also, please place this play on your internet website.

Enclosed you will also see my SASE so you may acknowledge receipt of my play.

I am hoping I will receive an honorarium for my work and that the play will be selected. ~~that~~ This would help me contact you in future and perhaps send you a manuscript or may help me toward finding a publisher for my books.

Sincerely Yours Timothy Paul Martin