

SHIH  
Xi, are you all right?

XI  
My leg!

SHIH  
It looks bad. Can you walk?

XI  
If I can lean on you...  
(glances around)  
What happened?

SHIH  
A miracle. Let's get out of here.

(XI and SHIH limp offstage. Lights  
shift to WU)

---

WU  
All honor to you, great Tai Yu. We have new hands to  
take up the mandate of heaven!

(TAI YU nods. He exits into the mists.)

Quickly, Yin! The gold threads--before they fade!  
They're the surest way to find---

(The threads fade from sight)

Too late. They are gone.

(YIN yammers and WU answers.)

Of course that's not good. We know what Tai Yu's  
favored one LOOKS like. But not WHERE she is.

(sighs)

The hard way, then. Sifting through hundreds of  
thousands of lives...It will take time, even for one  
such as I. But I WILL find her. China once was first  
among nations. It will be so again...with the right  
guidance.

(YIN questions.)

Of course she can't supply that, Yin. But I can.

(YIN snarks)

The young and foolish think they command their fate.  
But one way or another, her gifts will serve China,  
and the middle kingdom WILL regain the heights.

(Lights fade.)

---

WU  
SPOE