



E-ASIA

university of oregon libraries

<http://e-asia.uoregon.edu>

Sunday, July 29, 1939
Vol. 4, No. 15

MANCHURIA

(大正十三年十月十六日第三種郵便物認可)
(毎月一日十五日二回發行)

MANCHURIA

SPECIAL NUMBER



*Motion Pictures
in
Manchoukuo*

¥ 2.50

July 20, 1939

e-ASIA
university of oregon libraries

Aramaki Yoshie. "Good Mother: A Scenario," **Manchuria**, Vol. 4, No. 15
(Special Number, July 20, 1939), pp. 33-43.

GOOD MOTHER

A Scenario

By Yoshie Aramaki

(This film is now being produced by the Manchuria Motion Pictures Corporation under the direction of Mr. Tatsuichi Mizugae with Li Ming, popular movie star from Peking, in a leading role.)

PERSONS:

Li Li-ping
Kao Chi-shih
Tseng Ai-ju
Tseng Feng-ko
Kao Cheng-tsai
Chao-peng, Li-ping's boy
Fu-shun, Kao Cheng-tsai's boy
Yang Li-yuan, steward to the Tseng family
Li-ko, Li-ping's uncle
Hou Lao-pan, stage manager
Lao Sung
Kao Yu-hua, a friend of Li-ping's
Her husband

(1) LI LI-PING'S APARTMENT

Morning

The bright sunshine is streaming in through the window. Humming a popular melody, Li-ping brings out a flower-pot to the window-sill.

(2) LI-PING'S ROOM

The room is gayly decorated as befitting that actress.

Artificial bouquets are found here and there.

A number of stage photos are also hung over the walls.

Humming a song as usual, Li-ping sits before the toilet table.

A knock at the door, and the landlady of the apartment house comes in. She has brought laundry.

Landlady: "I have brought laundry for you, Miss Li-ping."

Li-ping: "Thank you so much."

Landlady: "What in the world happened anyway, my dear, that makes you sit before the toilet-stand and dress up like this from early in the morning?"

Turning back, Li-ping chuckles as if she is very happy. The landlady nods knowingly and remarks:

"Now I understand everything, Miss Li-ping. That handsome gentleman is coming, I guess."

Li-ping also nods and smiles. She goes to the wardrobe and begins picking out her dress for the day out of many dresses hung there. Doing so, she again hums a song. The landlady, smiling, watches Li-ping dress up. The telephone on the corridor downstairs is ringing. The landlady hurriedly rushes downstairs to answer it.

(3) THE CORRIDOR DOWNSTAIRS WHERE THE TELEPHONE IS LOCATED

The landlady is hearing the telephone.

(4) LI-PING'S ROOM

Singing merrily, Li-ping is still dressing.

The landlady enters again.

Landlady: "It is for you, Miss Li-ping. I bet you, it is from that gentleman."

Li-ping: That gentleman? Are you sure?"

She hurries downstairs.

(5) THE CORRIDOR

Li-ping listens into the telephone.

Li-ping: "Yes, it is me, Li-ping. How are you, Feng-ko. (a pause) Well, then, you are not coming today. Why, my darling, I am so much disappointed!"

(6) THE TELEPHONE AT TSENG'S

Feng-ko is speaking:

"Now, listen, my dear. I have a business to attend to and I am going out with my father. I am very sorry for not keeping the date but I promise you that I will be at theatre tonight."

Feng-ko puts down the receiver, sits down in an easy chair, and gazes in one direction as if he is brooding over something.

The room is a gorgeous one luxuriously furnished.

Birds in a cage are chirruping. Incidentally, every furniture in the room savors of detestable bourgeoisie. Feng-ko's father enters.

Father: "What are you dallying here for any way? You are not prepared at all."

Feng-ko: "I will-not be going with you after all."

Father: "Why not? The Changs are waiting for us. We have to go."

Feng-ko: "It is no use for me to meet Miss Chang when I don't have the slightest intention to marry her."

Father: "It is highly impertinent of you to say things like that just at this moment. You are not trying to disgrace me in the eyes of the Changs?"

Feng-ko does not speak but drops his head.

Father: "How dare you complain of a bride that your father has chosen for you?"

Feng-ko: "I am not complaining, father. But I have a girl I am already engaged to."

Father, taken aback: "You have a girl you are engaged to, eh? (watching Feng-ko hard) And who is she?"

Feng-ko: "She is Li Li-ping."

Father: "Li Li-ping? Why, she is an actress, isn't she?"

page 34

(a pause) Now, my dear son, just think of our family and position in society. As the heir of Tseng family, do you think you can marry her, a cheap girl like a stage actress, it is certain that we lose our reputation. As for me, I will never approve your intention to marry Li-ping. Once for all, my dear son, I tell you that the eldest son of the Tsengs is to marry the daughter of the Changs who is your father's choice and of good lineage."

Yang Li-yuan, steward, enters.

Yang: "There is a car outside for you from the Changs, sir."

Father: Feng-ko, get ready at once. We are going." Feng-ko stands up and looks at his father helplessly.

(7) LI-PING'S ROOM

Li-ping is knitting alone in a chair by the window basking in the sun.

Tired, she throws away her knitwork.

She goes to the gramophone and opens the recordbox in order to take out her favorite piece when one of the records slips of her hand and falls on the floor. The record broken in halves.

(F. O.)

(8) NIGHT

(F. I.)

Bill board of the theatre

(9) BACK STAGE

Players are waiting for their turn to go to the stage. The stage managers are giving directions to them while property men are busying themselves here and there. Li-ping is singing out on the stage.

Kao yu-hua, formerly Li-ping's fellow actress but now married, is waiting for Li-ping, accompanied by her husband.

Yu-hua, according one of the actresses who wait there for their turn: "I came here to say goodbye to Li-ping who was one of my most intimate pals while I worked here."

Actress: "I think she will be coming down here very soon." At the stage, Li-ping finishes her song and retires amidst a hail of applause.

Li-ping comes in the back stage.

She is dressed in a gay costume.

Yu-hua, impatiently: "Hello, Li-ping, dear!"

Li-ping: "Why, this is a surprise, Yu-hua!"

They approach each other.

Li-ping, smiling: "How is everything, Yu-hua? Happy? Is your husband very kind to you?"

Yu-hua: "Well, I don't know."

Abashed a little, she turns back to her husband. Noticing Yu-hua's husband's presence for the first time, Li-ping is put out of countenance and greets him.

Yu-hua: "I have come here to say goodbye to you. We are leaving town by tonight's train for the country where my husband's folks live."

Li-ping: "So you are going to have your love nest out in the country. It is romantic, isn't it. I envy you boy."

Actress, jokingly: "You don't have to envy them, Li-ping, because you yourself are going to get married to Mr. Tseng in the near future. It's we that have to envy you people."

Li-ping: "Oh, my!"

She is a bit abashed.

Yu-hua: "I wish you would visit us now and then when you are not very busy even though it is rather out in the country."

Husband: "Please visit us sometimes, I also ask you, Miss Li-ping. I am afraid that she will be very lonesome in the country without a good friend like you. So I wish you would make it a rule to visit us once in a while, and mind you don't disappoint us."

Liping: "Surely, I will visit you."

Yu-hua: "Well, then, we will be leaving now as we have to catch the train."

Seen off by Li-ping and other actresses, Yu-hua and her husband walk toward the stage door.

"Goodbye!"

"Goodbye!"

Seen off by her friends, Yu-hua, accompanied by her husband, leaves.

Li-ping is about to return to the back stage when she is stopped by a man.

She turns back.

Recognizing him, her expression is hardened and her attitude becomes cold.

Li-ping: "Good Heavens! You are drunk again."

The man is Li-ping's uncle, Liko: "Why, I am not drunk at all. My face may be red because I have walked in the cold air outside."

Grinning coarsely, Li-ko follows Li-ping to the back stage.

They enter Li-ping's room.

Li-ping sits in front of the toilet-table. As she takes off her makeup with cold cream, she speaks to Li-ko.

Li-ping: "Well, what do you want anyway? You are trying to ask me for some money, I suppose."

Li-ko: "Why, you are a smart kid and know what I want. You are right, Li-ping. As a matter of fact, I need some money very badly at present. I won't ask you too much this time. So please don't embarrass your uncle by refusing flatly but loan me some money."

Li-ping: "I don't have any at present. I tell you, I am not playing on the stage just to earn your drink-money. Please remember that."

Li-ko: "Oh, come on, don't say such harsh things. You can never fool me. Li-ping, too well that you have a nice patron like Tseng Feng-ko."

The stage door watchman comes in.

Watchman: "The gentleman who frequents here is at the stage door to meet you, Miss Li-ping."

Li-ping: "Very well, thank you."

Li-ping begins getting dressed for going home in a great hurry.

Li-ko, grinning cunningly: "Oh, I see. The gentleman that frequents here is waiting for you, eh? (He laughs aloud) "All things come to him who waits. "Well, if it is the case, I may ask this gentleman for my pocket money."

He stands up.

Li-ping, in a flurry: "Say, don't go. I give you some."

She stops Li-ko; opens her handbag; produces some bills and gives them to him.

Li-ping: "After you have caused all sorts of troubles for our family these years, you are trying to worry me in every way now, aren't you?"

So saying, she strides away.

Taking the money in his hand, Li-ko grins satisfactorily.

(11) THE STAGE DOOR

Feng-ko is waiting.

Watchman: "It is rather warm these days, isn't it?"

He says some other pretty things to Feng-ko as befitting the occasion.

Li-ping comes in.

Her face beams with a joy as she meets Feng-ko.

Li-ping: "Sorry that I kept you waiting."

She apparently is happy now. She gives a generous tip to the watchman.

Li-ping: "Good night, old man."

Taking Feng-ko's arm, Li-ping goes out.

(W)

Li-Ping and Feng-ko are walking along the street together.

Li-ping: "Aren't you cold, dear?"

Feng-ko: "No, And you?"

Li-ping: "Not in the least. Let's walk home, then. Look, there is a wonderful moon."

(13) NIGHT SKY

The moon in the sky.

(14) STREETS

Feng-ko and Li-ping are walking.

Feng-ko seems to be entirely lost in thought.

Li-ping: "What's the matter with you, my dear, You don't speak much tonight. You look so funny."

Feng.ko: "Why, there is nothing. (a pause) Yes, it is a wonderful moon, isn't it?"

Li-ping: "Let's cross the park, darling."

(15) THE PARK

Li-ping and Feng-ko sit on a bench.

Li-ping is speaking.

Li-ping: "Since Yu-hua is a goodnatureed nice girl and her husband looks a kindly person, I am quite sure that everything is going to be rosy for the copule. After all, their marriage was a happy one. I was impressed that may. (a pause) Now, as for me, I am very happy already because you love me so much, but when we get married formally, we will be much happier. Don't you think so?"

Feng-ko: "Yes, you are right, darling."

He smiles plaintively.

Feng-ko (after a while): "Suppose I married another girl, what would you do?"

Li-ping: "Suppose you married another girl?"

She is all seriousness.

Feng-ko smiles confusedly.

Feng-ko: "Of course, this is only a joke."

Li-ping looks relieved.

Li-ping: "I would die, Surely, I would die if you ever married another girl. Otherwise"

There is an abashed air about her.

Feng-ko: "Otherwise, what? What do you mean?"

Li-ping: "No, I can't tell. I am ashamed."

Li-ping, blushing, says in a low voice: "I am going to be a mother very soon."

Feng-ko: "Is that true?"

Blankly he gazes in one direction as if he is wrapped in thought.

Not noticing a change in his attitude, Li-ping stands up.

Li-ping: "Well, let's go, darling."

She takes Feng-ko's hand and begins to walk with him.

(F. O.)

(16) A LETTER

(F. I.)

"Because of an urgent business, I am going to make a trip to Shanghai and I will

not be able to see you for sometime. Please take good care of yourself and I wish you will have an easy delivery. I have enclosed here some money which you may use at your conveniences.

Yours,

Feng-ko"

(17) A CHECK

A check for 300 yuan.

(18) LI-PING

She is reading the letter from Feng-ko.

There is a pair of socks for a baby on her lap which she has been knitting.

(W)

A baby with a pair of the socks which she has knitted lying in a bed.

Li-ping changes the baby's disappears.

He is crying.

Li-ping dandles the baby.

The landlady of the apartment house comes in with a bottle of milk.

Landlady: "I am sorry that I am late. I guess he is very hungry. Please give the milk to him at once."

Li-ping receives the milk and gives it to the baby.

He stops crying.

Landlady: "I wonder why Mr. Tseng doesn't come to see a cute baby like this. I can hardly understand him."

Li-ping: "He is not back from the trip yet, I suppose."

So saying, she looks rather wistful.

Landlady: "Even then, don't you think that he is travelling too long? Besides, he hasn't written a single letter to you for quite a long time."

Li-ping is silent.

Landlady: "If you do not mind, I may visit him for you."

Li-ping, almost crying: "Oh' no! I will wait all the same. I am quite sure that he will come to see me and the baby some time soon. Besides, my uncle came here the other day and told me that he will go to find out what is all about him although I do not depend upon him much."

(19) A ROOM IN TSENG'S HOUSE

Li-ko is conversing with Yang Li-yuan, steward to the Tseng family.

Ytng Li-yuan: "Now that you understand that I want you to do, I wish you would handle the matter very cleverly."

Li-ko, nodding dramatically: "Pease depend upon me and I show you that I am a clever guy. By the way, how's about a reward for my service to you. You won't fail me, will you?"

Yang, Li-yuan produces several bills from his pocket.

Yang: "Well, then, I will give you this much for the time being. If you succeed, I will give you some more."

Li-ko counts the bills greedily.

Li-ko: "All right, I will take the job."

Yang: "Well, I am a very busy man. You had better go, now. In the meantime, Let's meet again."

They stand up from the chairs.

Li-ko leaves.

(20) LI-PING'S APARTMENT

Li-ping stands by the window looking outside.

The baby is in her arms.

Li-ping's eyes are wet with tears.

A knock is heard at the door and Li-ko enters.

Li-ko: "Hey, how is the baby? Is he sleeping? (Looking into the baby's face) He surely resembles Tseng Feng-ko alright."

Li-ping, impatiently: "And – and – did you meet him? Is he back from the trip?"

Li-ko: "No I did not meet him, but I saw his picture in the newspapers."

Li-ping, doubtfully: "His picture in the newspapers? What happened to him?"

Li-ko: "You are ignorant of the world, indeed. You haven't read today's paper yet, then."

So saying, he takes out a newspaper from his pocket and puts it on the table.

After laying the baby in the bed, Li-ping in an agitated manner opens the newspaper.

All of sudden, she cries with surprise.

page 36

An article in the newspaper reporting the wedding of Tseng Feng-ko and Chang Ai-ju.

Stupefied, Li-ping does not speak for sometime. In the meantime, she begins to cry bitterly.

Li-ping: "It is a lie! It is a lie! I can't believe it.

Li-ko, mercilessly: "Do you think that the newspaper publishes a false report purposely? After all, you were thrown away by him. He has no use for you, I tell you. By this time, the bride's car will reach Tseng's."

No sooner Li-ping hears this than she rushes out of the room as if she is

distracted.

Li-ko, surprised: "Say, Li-ping, where in the world are you going?"

He rushes after her.

(W)

(22) IN FRONT OF THE HALL OF THE WEDDING CEREMONY

People are crowding there to see the bride.

Pushing her way through the crowd, Li-ping appears on the scene.

The music of the motor-car carrying the bride approaches.

In the meantime, the bride, received by the Tsengs, enters into the hall of the wedding ceremony.

Li-ping watches the bride.

She feels as if she lost everything in this world. She is beaten sad and disheartened. After all the crowd was dispersed, Li-ping is left alone on the scene. Aimlessly as if she lost her soul, Li-ping trods along. (The camera follows her.)

(W)

(23) LI-PING'S ROOM

Li-ping throws herself down in tears on the table.

Sitting by Li-ping, Li-ko is smoking a cigarette thoughtfully.

The baby is sleeping in the bed.

Li-ko: "If you think you can appease your sorrows by crying, cry as much as you like, then. After you have cried enough, however, you have to think in earnest how to deal with your baby."

Li-ping is still crying.

Li-ko: "Nobody bears any grudge against this baby personally. As the good luck would have it, the bride who married Feng-ko happens to be a very thoughtful

and generous lady. She knows everything about you and baby because Feng-ko made a confession to her about you before they got married. She has promised him that she would take over the child as her own and look after him by herself."

Li-ping raises her face and stares at Li-ko hard.

Li-ping, bitterly: "After all you have done to me, you are now trying to take my baby away from me, I suppose."

Li-ko: "You are entirely wrong, Li-ping. You shouldn't think that way. Of course, I know very well that you love your baby because he is your own child. As a matter of stern reality, however, are you quite sure that you can bring him up all right in the future? It won't be easy for you to get along in this hard world with a baby in your arms. You have to work to earn your livelihood. You know that very well yourself, don't you? To work with a baby who needs your care at present, that will be rather difficult for you. Besides, just imagine whether he should be happy to live in case as Mr. Tseng's eldest son or lead a miserable life as a bastard by staying with you. You had better think it out by yourself."

Li-ko: "It all depends upon your decision as mother who really loves her child whether he becomes happy in the future or not. I know you love your baby so much. Well, then, you have to give him up to the Tsengs even though you may suffer by losing him for some way, you are making him get on in life, you know."

Li-ping, shaking her head: "No! No, I won't do a thing like that. I will never part from him. I love him so much. He is my own. You are greatly mistaken if you think that I would ever give him up to anybody,"

The baby who has been fast asleep suddenly cries.

Li-ping hurries to the bed and takes the baby in arms.

Sobbing bitterly, she begins singing a lullaby - a sad lullaby.

As she sings it, she is choked with tears.

The baby in Li-ping's arms stops crying and soon, asleep.

(F. O.)

(F.I.)

Li-ko and Yang Li-yuan are conversing.

Li-ko: "Really, I had a great difficulty to persuade her to come here with me. After all, however, I managed bring her here according to your request."

Yang Li-yuan: "Well, I appreciate your trouble a deal, Li-ko."

Yang Li-yuan glances at a corner in the room where Li-ping stands still with the baby in her arms. She is leaning against the window sadly.

Yang Li-yuan: "Well, then, I will go inside and call the madam."

He goes inside.

Li-ko looks around in the room interestedly and then, walks up to Li-ping."

Li-ko: "All in all, you are a pitiful creature, Li-ping. If you had been lucky enough, you could have become the mistress of this house yourself!"

He laughs coarsely.

Looking outside from the window, Li-ping does not answer.

Her eyes are filled with tears.

Accompanied by Yang Li-yuan, Ai-ju and an elderly woman who is supposed to be a nurse enter in the room

Yang Li-yuan: "This is the madam."

He formally introduces Ai-ju to Li-ko and Li-ping. Greeting Li-ping and Li-ko condescendingly, Ai-ju sits down in an easy chair.

Showing off her superiority and with a certain composure becoming her class, she speaks to Li-ping.

Ai-ju: "I understand you are Miss Li-ping?"

Li-ping: "Yes' I am."

Ai-ju: "Is that the baby? Why, he does not look very healthy. I am afraid if he is

underfed. Ama, you take the baby."

The nurse takes the baby in her arms from Li-ping's hands.

Ai-ju: "Even a nurse has been prepared for the baby, you know. You should thank us for this, Miss Li-ping."

Li-ping, patiently: "Thank you, I am."

Ai-ju, sarcastically: "Although I have no intention to try to lay you under our obligation, I think that you can not thank us too much because we are generous enough to take over a baby whose father is yet to be known."

Li-ping, bursting out in anger: "That is too much to say, madam. This baby's father is Feng-ko and nobody else, I tell you. (getting desperate) Well, I don't care who is his father. I have been trying hard to kill my own feelings as I thought of his future, but I can't stand this any longer. All right, I will bring up him in my own hands. No matter what happens, I won't give him up to you, m'm. I am going now. Good day, m'm."

page 37

So saying, Li-ping wrests the baby from the nurse, and rushes out of the room.

Ai-ju, Yang Li-yuan, and Li-ko look after her, confused.

(25) IN FRONT OF THE GATE OF TSENG'S HOUSE

Li-ping with the child in her arms rushes out of the gate when a motor-car stops in front of the house.

Feng-ko comes out from the car.

Feng-ko and Li-ping look into each other's face.

Feng-ko tries to speak to her, but she turns away and runs.

He looks after her.

He feels wretched and miserable.

His conscience aches with a pain.

He stands still there until she is entirely out of his sight.

(F. O.)

(26) LI-PING'S APARTMENT

(F. I.)

It is snowing outside.

(27) LI-PING'S ROOM

A general appearance of the room has undergone a great change.

The gramophone, a doll on the cabinet, and most of expensive furnitures are gone.

With the baby in her arms, Li-ping sits in a chair forlorn.

There is a knock at the door and the landlady of the house enters.

She hands to Li-ping some money which she has been carrying with her.

Landlady : "This is all they could loan us by pawning those three nice dresses."

Li-ping: "I am very sorry, troubling you all the time."

She receives the money and then gives away most of it to the landlady.

Li-ping: "This is for the rent and milk "

Landlady: "As for the rent, you could pay it whenever you find it convenient."

So saying, she takes the money all the same.

Landlady: "If you go on like this, you will have a hell of a time to get along "

Li-ping: "I am thinking to go back to the stage again. I will meet the stage manager and ask him to give me a job. Well, I am going to the theatre to meet him. Will you please look after this baby while I am away ?"

Landlady: "Why, certainly."

She takes the baby in her arms.

Looking into the baby's face, Li-ping speaks to him.

Li-ping: "Mama will be back in a minute. You will be a nice boy while your mama is away, eh?" So saying, she goes to the wardrobe. She opens the wardrobe in which only a few dresses are left now.

She picks one of them and begins to change her dress.

(W)

(28) BACKSTAGE AT THEATRE

Mr. Holt, stage manager, comes along busily from the left.

Li-ping calls to him.

Li-ping: "Hello, professor!"

Manager: "What? (noticing her) Is that you?"

Li-ping: "Will you do me a favor, professor?"

Can't you take me back again?"

Manager: "You? Nonsense! How dare you think that I could ever take an actress who has born a bastard?"

Somebody is calling the stage manager.

Manager: "Yes, I am going just now."

Turning to Li-ping, he says bluntly.

Manager: "I am a very busy man, Li-ping. See you again sometime. So long."

Li-ping droops her head sadly and begins to walk dejectedly.

(29) STAGE DOOR

Li-ping comes along.

The watchman who is sitting in a chair chafing his hands against the cold weather recognizes Li-ping as she passes by.

Watchman: "Hello, Miss Li-ping. There is a post card for you."

He takes out a rather oldish card from the letter box and hands it to her.

Li-ping: "Thank you, oldman."

Li-ping glances at the card and then puts it in her pocket disconsolately and walks away.

(30) ROAD

The sun is setting.

Brooding over something, Li-ping walks aimless with a heavy heart.

In the meantime, she comes to the railroad. A Train is approaching from a distance.

There is a bill board reading, "Beware of the train!"

As she notices it, she suddenly stops.

The train approaches.

Absentmindedly, Li-ping squats by the railroad.

The thundering noise of the approaching train comes closer.

A whistle that shrieks is heard.

All of sudden, her baby's figure crying desperately flashes through her mind. She comes to her senses as if awakened from a dream. She draws herself back instinctively.

At that moment, the train passes with a roaring sound.

Li-ping, with tears in her eyes, gazes after the train steadily.

By chance, she happens to put her hand in a pocket and takes out the post-card all crumpled.

She looks at the card carefully for the first time.

(31) POST CARD

"We arrived in the country safe and we are in the pink of condition. Even though I find the place a bit lonesome, I love it because it is so quiet and peaceful. I wish you would come over here and see us sometime for once."

Li-ping turns back the card.

It reads:

"Miss Li Li-ping

c/o Theatre

. St., Mukden

From Yu Yuhua

. Village, Hsien

Kirin Province"

(W)

(32) THIRD CLASS TICKET FOR KIRIN

(W)

(33) ON BOARD THE TRAIN FOR KIRIN

Li-ping sits by the window with the baby in her arms. The baby is smiling innocently as if he is entirely indifferent to his mother's sorrows.

(F. O.)

(34) COUNTRY SIDE IN KIRIN

(F. I.)

There is a village in a distance which is covered by snow. Suffering from the snow, Li-ping with the baby in her

page 38

arms trods along.

(W.)

(35) THE VILLAGE

Li-ping is looking for Kao Yuhua's house.

In the meantime, she stops in front of certain house and reads its door-plate.

As if greatly relieved by recognizing the name, she enters through the gate.

(36) DOOR

Li-ping knocks the door.

The door is opened and a man appears.

Li-ping: "I should like to see Madam Yuhua. I am Li Li-ping and I came from Mukden."

Man: "Why, I am very sorry for you because the madam is not staying here. She has gone to Hsinking since last month. You see, Mr. Yu is now working with the office in the capital, that's why."

Li-ping feels as if her only hope is now snuffed out.

Li-ping: "Is that so?"

So saying in a low voice all but crying, she leaves the door.

The door is banged after her.

(W)

(31) LI-PING WALKING IN THE SNOW

The baby in her arms begins crying.

Li-ping: "Oh, my darling. Oh, my darling"

As she humors the baby, tears flow from her eyes profusely.

(38) PLAINS MANTLED IN A WHITE SHEET OF SNOW
TWILIGHT

Li-ping trolls along crestfallen aimlessly.

Now and then she slips on the snow and stumbles. Practically worn out, she is not strong enough to stand up. Squeezing the baby tight in her arms, she closes her eyes quietly.

(39) SMOKE FROM A CHIMNEY OF A VILLAGE'S HOUSE

(40) A ROOM COMFORTABLY HEATED BY A KOREAN STOVE

A lamp is burning.

About five-year old boy and mother are conversing. They are Fushun and Kao Chi-shih.

Fushun: "Daddy's so late."

Kao Chi-shih: "He will be back at any moment now. When he comes home, let's eat our supper, eh."

Despite of a general outlook of a poor family, peace and congeniality prevail in the house.

There is a knock at the door.

Kao Cheng-tsai: "Say, please open the door! Open the door quick!"

Kao Chi-shih: "All right, dear!"

She hurries to the entrance and opens the door.

Kao Cheng-tsai, the master of the house, enters with a baby in his arms and

looking after Li-ping who is literally exhausted.

Kao Chi-shih takes the baby from Cheng-tsai.

Kao Chi-shih: "What is this all about, my dear?"

Cheng-tsai: "The fact is that I happened to come across them who had fallen tired in the snow near the local 'miao.' So, I took them home."

Kao Chi-shih: "Oh, my graciousness! In this snow? (turning to Li-ping) Please come closer to the stove and warm yourself. We have no use for formalities around here. So, please make yourself quite at home."

Tenderly, she leads Li-ping to the stove.

A bowl of warm porridge is placed on the table.

Li-ping eats the porridge.

She looks to have recovered her spirits now.

Beside her, Cheng-tsai is smoking and now and speaks to her.

A little apart from them, Kao Chi-shih is suckling Li-ping's baby.

Fushun is smiling at it happily.

Li-ping: "To tell you the truth, I came all the way from Mukden to see a friend of mine as I wanted to consult her about my future, but she no longer stays here. I was all tired out and I did not know what to do."

Cheng-tsai nods sympathetically.

Cheng-tsai: "If that was the case, I am glad that I came across you at the 'miao'. Otherwise, only God knows what would have happened to you. It was a good fortune for both of us that I could save you."

"Sometime ago, we were bereaved of a baby who were born between us and we miss him badly. (To Kao Chi-shih) Especially when I see you suckle the baby like that, my darling, I miss him so much."

Kao Chi-shih: "Lock, my dear! This baby's face rather resembles that of our dead boy. Don't you think so?"

Cheng-tsai: "Well, let me see. Yes, he surely resembles our dead boy."

Fondling the baby, he turns to Li-ping.

Cheng-tsai: "I notice that you have seen quite a lot of hardships for your age, but I tell you, my friend, you should never be discouraged. Cheer up and never say die because life cannot be a continuation of misfortunes and sorrows only. In the meantime, there will be a good time for you again."

Li-ping is deeply touched by his kindly words, shedding tears of gratitude.

Li-ping: "Really, I do not know how to thank you. You have saved us mother and baby and a top of that you treat us so kindly."

Cheng-tsai: "Why, you embarrass me if you thank me that way. It is quite a natural thing for us to help each other.

"By the way, what are you going to do from now on?"

Li-ping: "Although personally I have lost all the hopes to live in this world, I am thinking to go back to Mukden and work hard to bring up this baby."

She hangs her head.

Cheng-tsai: "It won't be so easy for a girl like you to get along with a baby in your hands, I suppose."

So saying, he glances at his wife, Kao Chi-shih. Kao Chi-shih also looks at Cheng-tsai steadily for sometime.

Kao Chi-shih: "Say, papa dear, what will you say if I propose to adopt this child as our own?"

Cheng-tsai, nodding: "H'm. That was just what I was also thinking about. (Turning to Li-ping) Now, listen, my friend, poor peasants as we are, we do promise you that we will take good care of this baby and love him as well as our own child."

Li-ping is moved to tears again by the couple's kindly and considerate words.

Lii-ping: "I know you are very kind and in fact I don't know how to thank you for all you have done to us. But this baby I can hardly part with."

Cheng-tsai and his wife look very much disappointed.

Cheng-tsai: "Well, if you say so, we can not force you to give up your child to us."

Li-ping, hesitatingly: "I know that you will think that I am a selfish woman, but taking advantage of your sympathy, I am going to ask you for a special favor. will you please take care of this child for me until he grows up into a big boy?"

Cheng-tsai: "Surely, we will."

Kao Chi-shih chimes in.

Kao Chi-shih: "Why, of course, we are glad to look after

page 39

him. We will treat him as our own and love him with all our hearts.

Chen-tsai: "Humble and homely as we are, my friend, we are trustworthy, I tell you. And I am happy to be of any service to you in need.

"As for you, I wish you would brace yourself up again as free girl without a baby tying up your hands and work through this hard world until you get better and brighter chances. When you make a success in life, you may as well come here to take back your child."

Li-ping sobs.

Li-ping: "Thank you very much. Please bring up him for me "

She takes the baby from Kao Chi-shih and hugs him tight in her arms.

Li-ping: "Sonny dear, you are a lucky boy, indeed, because now you have kind father and mother like these people.

"In the meantime, I will come back here to take you home. Until then, please don't forget me, your unfortunate mama!"

So saying, she weeps, tear flowing profusely from her eyes.

Kao Chi-shih and Cheng-tsai also weep with her in sympathy.

The baby begins crying.

Fondling the baby, Li-ping stands up and begins singing a lullaby a sad lullaby of goodbye which she sings probably for the last time to her child.

Cheng-tsai and his wife are listening as if they are enraptured by the song.

Fushun is sitting on the lap of Kao Chi-shih.

Under the dim light of a lamp, Li-ping continues singing the lullaby.

(F. O.)

(42) A BRIGHT MORNING IN THE COUNTRY

(F. I.)

A kite is hanging at a bough of a tree and fluttering in the wind.

Title: – Eight years have passed since.

(43) COUNTRY ROAD

A group of children are returning from school.

(44) IN FRONT OF KAO CHENG-TSAI'S HOUSE

Two boys return. The elder one is Fushun and the younger one Chao-peng.

They enter in the house singing a song merrily.

(45) INSIDE OF KAO CHENG-TSAI'S HOUSE

Cheng-tsai and his wife receive the two boys.

Kao Chi-shih: "Come here, Chao-peng. There is a nice present sent from your good aunt of Mukden."

So saying, she shows a jacket to Chao-peng.

Chao-peng: "Oh, it is grand!"

Chao-peng tries it on, it is too big for him.

Chao-peng: "This is no good, mama. Too big for me. 'Koko' (brother) dear, I give this to you."

Fushun: "No, I don't want it. You had better wait until you grow bigger and then wear it."

Cheng-tsai and his wife look at each other's face smiling.

Cheng-tsai: "Well, then, I give you boys some nice candies which your aunt also sent to us."

He gives candies to the children.

Chao-peng: "'Koko', do you know our aunt of Mukden?"

Fushun shakes his head.

Fushun: "No. (turning to his parents) Who do you mean by our aunt of Mukden?"

Cheng-tsai: "The aunt of Mukden is that is Chao-peng's"

As he says it, Kao Chi-shih stops him hurriedly.

Kao Chi-shih: "You had better not"

Cheng-tsai: "The aunt of Mukden is a nice lady, that's all."

He shuffles.

Chao-peng: "That is not interesting very much. "'Koko', let's go out and play."

Fushun: "Yes, let's go."

They go out in high spirits.

Looking after them, Cheng-tsai and his wife laugh contentedly.

Cheng-tsai: "Sometimes I wonder what Li-ping is doing in Mukden because she hasn't visited us for a single time since we saw her last about eight years ago even though she sends to us these nice things from time to time."

Kao Chi-shih: "I guess, she is just dying to see her boy. For aught I know, I can hardly understand why she does not visit us all these years."

Cheng-tsai: "That is what I am also wondering about, my dear."

(46) OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE

Fushun and Chao-peng are playing with piggies.

Stumbling over a stone or something, Chao-peng falls and gets hurt a little.

Fushun rushes to Chao-peng and helps him get to his feet.

Noticing that Chao-peng's finger is bleeding, Fushun calls to his parents at the top his voice.

Fushun: "Papa and mama, Chao-peng is hurt!"

Cheng-tsai and his wife rush out of the house in a flurry.

Cheng-tsai: "What is the matter? What happened, dear?"

Chao-peng: "Why, it's nothing. I am allright."

Kao Chi-shih breaks a handkerchief to bandage Chao-peng's finger.

Kao Chi-shih: "Is it sore, dearie? By and by, I will put some good ointment on the finger, eh."

So saying, she bandages his finger with a piece of handkerchief.

(F. O.)

(47) A SICK ROOM IN A CERTAIN HOSPITAL

(F.O.)

Tseng Keng-ko is receiving a doctor's examination.

At his bedside, Ai-ju, his wife, and Yang Li-yuan, are watching Feng-ko.

The doctor finishes examining Feng-ko.

Doctor: "He is alright, now. He has recovered full well. Under the present condition, he is allowed to leave the hospital at any time."

Feng-ko, gladly: "Is that true? Really, I thank you very much, doctor."

Ai-ju: "I also thank you, doctor. (turning to Feng-ko) Now, darling, I am very happy, indeed, because you have recovered your health."

Feng-ko: "As a matter of fact, however, the doctor saved me. I am very glad that I am able to leave the hospital now."

Doctor: "Since you have been staying here in the hospital for such a long time, I bet that your children are waiting for your return home with a keen expectation."

Feng-ko: "To tell you the truth, doctor, I have no children who wait for me."

Doctor: "Is that so? I did not know."

Feng-ko, with tearful eyes: "As I came to face a grim death more than once while sick in bed this time, I was so helplessly lonesome and I thought that if only I had had children to stand by and encourage me, it would have been much easier for me to fight the death."

The doctor nods sympathetically and Ai-ju droops her head.

The doctor leaves the room.

Ai-ju goes to Feng-ko's bedside.

Ai-ju: "My darling, I was so much impressed by what you have said just now."

page 40

Feng-ko: "Please listen to me Ai-ju. For more than once, I have dreamed of that child."

Ai-ju: "I understand you, my dear. In fact I have to apologize you because some eight years ago I made a great mistake out of my shallow feminine mind and failed to take over the child. This time, however, I promise you, dear, that I will do my utmost to take over him. Besides, I won't repeat the same mistake but I will handle the matter with sincerity and sympathy."

Feng-ko, gratefully: "Thank you, Ai-ju. It is very nice of you to say so. Really, I appreciate your understanding.

"The fact is that I am not only lonesome without my child but I also suffer inwardly a good deal from a lingering thought that I haven't done a thing for him as a parent all these years.

"Indeed, I am ashamed of myself. I do not know even where he is living. Now, my dear Ai-ju, I beg you. Will you please find him for me and make him happy?"

Ai-ju, nodding heartily: "I will do my best, dear, but I wonder where on earth he is living and what he is doing."

So saying, she turns to Yang Li-yuan.

Ai-ju: "I understand that you used to know Li-ping's uncle Li-ko. Are you still associating with him?"

Yang Li-yuan: "He died last year, madam. But I know where Li-ping is living."

Feng-ko: "That's great! If that is the case, we may as well "

Ai-ju, excited: "Well, then, where is she living? How do you know?"

Yang Li-yuan: "It was entirely by chance that I happened to know where she is staying. The other day, I casually visited a certain 'cha-chuang' (restaurant) where I recognized Li-ping among the girls working there."

(48) 'CHA-CHUANG' (CHINESE RESTAURANT) IN MUKDEN

Li-ping is entertaining the guests by singing popular songs.

As she finishes her songs, she comes down from the stage amidst a hail of applause and walks through the tables to receive tips for her performance.

A customer speaks to one of the waitresses.

Customer: "I hear that Li-ping has a big boy, but is that true?"

Waitress, nodding: "Yes, that is true. He is living in the country. Li-ping is working in a place like this for the child. When she saves up a lump sum, she will quit the job and go to the country to meet her child, so she says."

Li-ping comes along.

Customer: "Hello, Li-ping! How is everything? Did you save enough money already?"

Li-ping, smiling: "Oh, no, not yet, but I am doing my best. Thank you."

So saying, she looks in one direction steadily as if she is thinking of her child.

(49) KAO CHENG-TSAI'S HOUSE

Chao-peng, wearing Kao Chi-shih's eye-glasses, is mimicking a school teacher with Cheng-tsai and his wife as pupils.

Chao-peng: "Now, you see, Japan and Manchoukuo are on most intimate terms and they are staunch allies. Therefore, from now on, you should know some Japanese. Do you understand?"

Smiling, the couple nod.

Chao-peng: "Well, then, I will teach you some easy Japanese expressions. For instance, 'kon-nichi-wa!' (Good day!)"

Cheng-tsai and his wife laugh merrily at each other.

Cheng-tsai scolds Kao Chi-shih.

Cheng-tsai: "Come on, you have to behave yourself nicely. Otherwise, the teacher will be very angry about you."

From outside, Fushun is calling Chao-peng.

Fushun: "Chao-peng!"

Chao-peng: "What is that? I am going?"

No sooner he answers than he throws the book away and runs outside.

The couple laugh contentedly.

Cheng-tsai: "He is a pet, indeed!"

Kao Chi-shih: "Strange as it may seem, I feel am attached to Chao-peng more

than Fushun. I do why."

Cheng-tsai: "Chao-peng is also attached to you a deal, it seems."

They laugh at each other peacefully.

(F.O.)

(50) BACKYARD OF LI-PING'S LODGING

Morning.

Li-ping is washing.

A girl smoking a cigarette passes by.

Girl: "How could you do washing in this cold weather Why don't you send them to the laundry?"

Li-ping, smiling: "I can not afford it. Under the present circumstances, I am not allowed to spend my meagre salary that way."

Girl, admiringly: "Do you love your child that much?"

A cry of a baby is heard.

Li-ping,, as if started, rushes to the crying baby.

A woman is trying hard to humor a baby who is crying.

Li-ping takes the child in her arms and sings a lullaby . . . the same old lullaby with plaintive strains. As she sings it, her eyes are wet with tears.

When she finishes the lullaby, the baby has stopped crying.

Li-ping returns the baby to the mother and then goes back to her washing somewhat wistfully.

Here comes another girl, Li-ping's fellow waitress at the 'cha-chuang'.

Girl: "Say, Li-ping. I have something to tell you about Last night, there was a customer who, was very curious about you. He asked me all sorts of questions. How is your child? Where is he living? And many other things. After all there

was something funny about him."

Li-ping, getting uneasy: "And what else did he ask you?"

Girl: "As a matter of fact, I don't know much about you. So, I told him frankly that I could not answer his questions satisfactorily. Thereupon, he got hold of Mingsui, and was asking her many questions. I do not know what she told him, but she is a well known chatterbox, you see." Getting uneasy, more than ever, she stares in one direction and broods over something.

(51) AT THE VERGE OF THE VILLAGE

A horse carriage has stopped there.

Fushun and Chao-peng carrying kites in hand come along.

Fushun: "It is a horse carriage, Chao-peng."

Chao-peng: "I wonder where it came from."

Fushun: "It came from town, I guess."

They pass by.

(52) A SUM OF 2,000 YUAN IN CASH IS PLACED IN FRONT OF CHENG-TSAI.

Yang Li-yuan and Ai-ju are conversing with Cheng-tsai. Kao Chi-shih, who is preparing tea, casts an uneasy glance at the guests.

Cheng-tsai: "Of course, I understand what you mean only too well but I am afraid I can not agree with you. You say that you have now come to realise that you should bring up Chao-peng by yourself. This does not convince me much. Well, then, why didn't you bring up him from the beginning? This I should like to know.

page 41

"If I had not passed by the local 'miao' and come across Li-ping and child seven years ago, they would have died right then and there buried in the cold snow.

"As you have to admit now, you have never paid any attention to Li-ping and child all these years. And now, you propose to take over the child only for your

convenience. I think that your folks are too selfish."

Ai-ju who has been drooping her head raises her face.

Ai-ju: "As for myself, I have no excuse to make, I know, I beg you, however, that you would sympathize with the Tsengs, because we have no heir but him in this whole world."

Chang-tsai: "Please wait for a minute, madam. By the way, are you trying to convince me that it is because you want him as heir but not because you love him?"

Ai-ju: "Oh I no, I don't mean that."

Cheng-tsai: "I tell you once for all, madam. Under the circumstances, I will never give up him to you. We love him so much, and perhaps we care for him more than our own child. Am I not right, my dear?"

Kao Chi-shih: "You are right, papa. Besides, we are looking after the child for Li-ping, aren't we? (turning to Li-ping) We can't give him to you without consulting her."

For a moment, Li-yuan and Ai-ju are taken aback, but Yang Li-yuan grins cunningly.

Yang Li-yuan: "We have already talked over the matter with Miss Li-ping and also obtained her consent as to giving up the child to us." That is why we know your address and we came all the way from town to meet you."

Cheng-tsai and his wife look at each other's face doubtfully.

Yang Li-yuan, continuing: "Now, you have to be reasonable, Mr. Kao. The madam has condescended to come down to such out-of-the-way place like this only because she cares for the child so much. By way of expressing her gratitude to you for all you have done to the child, she is generous enough to give you a sum of 2,000 yuan in cash."

Cheng-tsai, getting all furious: "What's your big idea, anyway? 2,000 yuan is nothing to me! How dare you think that you could buy human feeling or sympathy with money? You are greatly mistaken if you think that we have brought him up to make money. Since you take us wrong, we have no use for you. Please get out of here, quick!"

So saying, he tosses the money on to the floor.

Ai-ju and Yang Li-yuan, having no alternative but to go, leave the house.

Looking after them, Cheng-tsai and his wife remain still speechless.

After a while, Cheng-tsai bursts into laughter.

Kao Chi-shih begins to weep.

Cheng-tsai, startled: "How come? What are you crying for. There is nothing to worry about, my dear. Now that they are gone, I feel the easier for it."

Kao Chi-shih, shaking her head: "I tell you what, my dear. After all, I think we had better give him up."

Cheng-tsai: "What do you mean?"

Kao Chi-shih: "Think hard, my dear. Of course, we are fond of Chao-peng so much, but we have to admit that Li-ping and Mr. Tseng Feng-ko care for him as well."

Cheng-tsai: "Well, then, what?"

Kao Chi-shih, crying: "Where should he be brought up to be most fortunate and where would he get the best chances in the world? These things we have to think about if we really care for his future. Li-ping has also consented to giving up him, as you know.

"After all, I have come to realize that it would be the best for him to go to Mr. Tseng's house where he will be well off and given all the education he needs."

Cheng-tsai: "H'm."

He groans feebly and stares at Kao Chi-shih.

Cheng-tsai: "Yes, you may be right, but as a matter of fact, do you think that we can give him up so easily when we love him so much?"

Kao Chi-shih: "Oh, no, I don't want to part with him! After all, my darling, what shall we do?" Unable to answer, Cheng-tsai broods over the matter.

(53) ON A HILL IN THE COUNTRY

Fushun is flying a kite.

By chance, he turns back.

Chao-peng is having a trouble with his kite which is caught in a tree.

Fushun: "Wait, Chao-peng! I help you."

So saying, he ties his own kite to a tree nearby and hurries to Chao-peng.

Fushun begins climbing the tree to get Chao-peng's kite. From a distance, Kao Chi-shih is calling to Chao-peng.

Kao Chi-shih: "Hello, Chao-peng, dear!"

Chao-peng: "What do you want, mama?"

Meanwhile, Kao Chi-shih approaches Chao-peng.

Kao Chi-shih: "Well, now, Chao-peng, dear. (She hesitates for a while.) My dear boy, you are leaving for Mukden today."

Chao-peng, doubtfully: "How come, mama? Papa and mama an 'koko', are all going?"

Enduring her sorrows, Kao Chi-shih shakes her head.

Kao Chi-shih: "No, you are going by yourself. . . ."

Chao-peng: "If you are not coming, I won't go. No, I am not going."

Kao Chi-shih, getting emotional: "Why, you are a good' boy, aren't you ? You won't say anything unreasonable, Chao-peng. Well, let's go home as they are waiting for you."

She takes Chao-peng's hand.

Chao-peng, almost crying: "No, I don't` want to go mama. (desperately) No, I don't want to go."

He does not move.

Fushun who has now climbed up the tree is watching below anxiously as he is holding the tree with his arms.

(54) AT THE VERGE OF THE VILLAGE

Ai-ju, Yang Li-yuan, and Chao-peng are getting in the waiting horse-carriage.

Chao-peng is now dressed up like a boy in town. He is also wearing an expensive fur coat which Ai-ju has brought for him.

He sits next to Ai-ju silently as if he is resigned.

Kao Chi-shih whose eyes are swollen with tears stands by Cheng-tsai who also looks to have resigned himself to the situation.

Fushun is staying with his parents in low spirits. The carriage starts moving.

Ai-ju, goodhumoredly: "Well, goodbye, folks. Please come over to Mukden and visit us sometime soon."

Kao Chi-shih, nodding: "Yes, m'm"

Choked With tears, she can not say any more.

The carriage moves.

Cheng-tsai cries out.

Cheng-tsai: "Listen, Chao-peng! Cheer up and be a good boy!"

Chao-peng in the carriage looks back sadly.

Chao-peng: "Goodbye!"

The carriage begins to run faster.

Kao Chi-shih collapses in tears on her husband's shoulder, unable to endure her sorrows any longer.

Biting his lip hard, Cheng-tsai looks after the carriage.

All of sudden. Fushun begins to run after the carriage.

Fushun: "Chao-peng! Chao-peng!"

Crying at the top of his voice, he runs after the carriage.

Chao-peng looks back and tries to get off the carriage.

Chao-peng: "I don't want to go. No, I don't want to go."

Startled, Ai-ju and Yang Li-yuan stop him.

Fushun, running: "Chao-peng; Chao-peng!"

He is still running.

Chao-peng in the carriage looks back struggling with

page 42

Ai-ju and Yang Li-yuan.

Chao-peng: "Oh, 'koko', dear!"

The carriage runs faster.

Fushun at last gives up and stops, it is entirely out of his sight, he slowly returns to the spot where his parents are standing.

(F. O.)

(55) KAO CHENG-TSAI'S HOUSE

(F. I.)

Night.

With Chao-peng gone, loneliness prevails in the house. Fushun is looking outside from the window; Kao Chishih is sewing something without talking; and Chengtsai is puffing his tobacco uninterestingly as if it does not taste good.

Kao Chi-shih stops sewing, looks at Fushun, and then turns to Cheng-tsai.

She sighs hard.

Kao Chi-shih: "I wonder how Chao-peng is getting along." So saying, she drops her eyes on her needlework.

Kao Chi-shih: "Darling, please make the lamp a little brighter, will you?"

Cheng-tsai stands up and fixes the lamp.

Cheng-tsai: "Can't make it any brighter. It is dark in the house because Chao-peng doesn't stay."

(56) DRAWING ROOM AT TSENG'S

Centering around Chao-peng, Feng-ko, Ai-ju, and maid-servants are trying their best to cheer him up. Stubbornly, Chao-peng does not touch any of many nice playthings and candies placed before him, but goes out to the corridor alone betraying that he is helplessly lone-some at heart.

He goes to the window on the corridor and looks up in the sky.

Chao-peng: "Oh, mama! Oh, 'Koko!' I miss you so much!" Chao-peng's face, wet with tears, is shown in double exposure with kindly smiling faces of Cheng-tsai, Chi-shih, and Fushun.

He calls to mind the old good days in the country.

He is coming back from school together with Fushun on the country road.

His kite is caught in a tree

Fushun climbs the tree These things come back to his memory.

Unbearably sad, he begins to weep bitterly.

(57) A SPEEDING TRAIN

(F. I.)

(58) IN A THIRD CLASS CARRIAGE

Li-ping sits by the window.

Just opposite her sit a mother and about eight-year-old boy.

Her eyes are fixed on the child.

Producing an apple from her basket, she gives it to him.

Li-ping: "Sonny, how old are you?"

Child: "I am seven years old."

Mother: "I have a lot of trouble with him as he is so mischievous, madam. By the way, where are you headed for?"

Li-ping: "Kirin. I am going there to see my child.

He is about your sonny's age."

As she says so, she is beamed with a happy expectation.

(60) DRAWING ROOM OF TSENG'S

Kao Chi-shih is sewing.

Cheng-tsai is indulged in thinking about something. Fushun returns from school.

He throws away his satchel and goes to a corner of the room.

page 43

Kao Chi-shih : "What's the matter with you, Fushun? Shall I give you something to eat?"

Fushun: "No, I don't want."

Cheng-tsai: "Well, then, go out and play. In such weather like this, a boy shouldn't stay home."

Fushun: "I don't want to go outside by myself."

Cheng-tsai: "You have many playmates, don't you?"

Fushun: "But without Chao-peng, I have no more fun. Daddy and mummy are also lonesome, I know."

At his words, Cheng-tsai and his wife look at each others' face meaningly.

Cheng-tsai: "Oh, my God! I can't stand this any to (To Kao Chi-shih) Well, my darling, I will go to Mukden to see how Chao-peng is getting along."

Kao Chi-shih: "If you are going, I will accompany you."

Fushun: "Daddy, please take me along also."

There is somebody knocking the front door outside. It seems that there is a visitor. Cheng-tsai goes to the entrance and opens the door.

Li-ping come in.

Cheng-tsai and Chi-shih are taken by surprise.

Cheng-tsai: "Oh, this is a surprise! You are Miss Li-ping."

Li-ping: "Will you please excuse me for not visiting your folks for a long time? I am very happy that I could come down here today to take my child home." She looks at Fushun and mistakes him for Chao-peng.

Li-ping, trying to be calm for all her excitement in her heart: "Is he my boy?"

Kao Chi-shih, nonplussed: "No, this is our boy Fushun. As for your boy Chao-peng . . . (She stammers awkwardly,) Say, papa, there is something funny."

Li-ping, impatiently: "I am very anxious to see my child Chao-peng? Where on earth is he?"

Cheng-tsai, dubiously: "Then, you did not know, Miss Li-ping? To tell you the truth, Mrs. Tseng visited us sometime ago and took him away."

Astounded, Li-ping stares at Cheng-tsai and his wife Kao Chi-shih exchanges glances with Cheng-tsai.

Kao Chi-shih: "So she told us a lie after all."

Cheng-tsai: "Oh, confounded!"

Kao Chi-shih, apologetically: "I am unspeakably sorry, Miss Li-ping. We refused once, you know. As they insisted so much saying that you had also given them your consent, we thought it best for his future to give up him to them."

Cheng-tsai: "You would never understand how hard it was for us to part with him. After all, however, we convinced ourselves that we have to bear our own sorrows if it were his good fortune."

Kao Chi-shih: "I wish you would have visited us four or five days earlier at least. Papa, we have made a terrible mistake, haven't we?"

Cheng-tsai: "Oh, what we have done!"

Li-ping, sorrowfully: "Oh, I understand everything now. I was too late."

She looks brokenhearted.

(60) DRAWING ROOM OF TSENG'S

Leaning against the wall, Chao-peng is crying.

Ai-ju and Feng-ko watch him silently and appear to be at a loss what to do.

Ai-ju: "What shall I do, my darling? Why, he doesn't take to us at all!"

Feng-ko: "In the meantime, he will. We have to be Patient, Ai-ju."

So saying, he looks lonesome all the same.

page 43

Chao-peng, weeping, turns back to Feng-ko and Ai-ju.

Chao-peng: "Oh, my dear uncle and aunt, I want to go home. Will you let me go back to the country, please?"

He looks melancholy.

Ai-ju and Feng-ko are embarrassed more than ever.

A maid servant enters.

Maid: "There are Mr. Kao and his family from Kirin who wish to see you, sir."

Feng-ko: "Mr Kao and his here at family from Kirin? Please show them in here at once." Meanwhile Fushun enters first.

Chao-peng recognizes him quickly.

Chao-peng: "Koko! 'koko', dear!"

Rushing to Fushun, Chao-peng embraces him.

Fushun: "Daddy and mummy have also come, Chao-peng."

Following Fushun, Cheng-tsai comes in.

Chao-peng: "Daddy, dear!"

Cheng-tsai: "Hello, Chao-peng, how are you?"

He holds Chao-peng in his arms tightly.

Then enter Kao Chi-shih and Li-ping.

Li-ping looks at Chao-peng and recognizes him.

Li ping: "Oh, you are my dear boy Chao-peng!"

She steps forward emotionally.

Chao-peng: "Oh, mummy, dear!"

He runs toward Kao Chi-shih.

paying no attention to Li-ping, he flies himself into Kao Chi-shih's arms.

With a start, Li-ping watches Kao Chi-shih and Chaopeng hugging each other hard. She feels unbearably wretched and lonesome.

Chao-peng, as he is held in Kao Chi-shih's arms: "Mummy, you. I want to go back to the country. You take me home, will you? Well, I am happy because you have come to take me home."

Feeling for Li-ping, Kao Chi-shih introduces her to Chao-peng.

Kao Chi-shih: "Say, Chao-peng, this is the nice aunt of Mukden who used to send you a lot of good things from time to time."

Li-ping watches Chao-peng lovingly and stretches her hand to him.

Chao-peng does not even look at her.

Turning back innocently, he clings to Kao Chi-shih.

Chao-peng: "I love my mummy. I don't care for any aunt." Dejected, Li-ping drops her eyes.

Everybody present is speechless, being deeply touched by the scene.

In the meantime, Li-ping steps forward in front of Feng-ko resolutely.

Li-ping: "Personally, I have nothing to do with you now, Mr. Tseng, but, for the last time I should like to ask you a favor.

"I wish you would be reasonable enough to comply with my sincere request. After all, Mr. Tseng, please let Chao-peng go back to the country with Mr. Kao's folks. It may as well be said that he was born in the snow in country."

So saying, she looks at Chao-peng tearfully.

Impressed by Li-ping's words immensely, Feng-ko and Ai-ju also look at Chao-peng.

Li-ping, emotionally: "I fully realize now that it is easy for a woman to bear a child but it is hard for her to bring up him in earnest.

"When I come to think of Mr. Kao Cheng-tsai and his wife who have brought up him for eight years, I am ashamed of myself who have done nothing to him as a mother. I must be too selfish if I try to get him back and now I can see too clearly that he will never be happy with me.

Now, Mr. Tseng, all we should do is to give up our selfishness and pray for his

good luck in our hearts. Don't you think so?"

Feng-ko, nodding: "Thank you, Miss Li-ping. You are right and as for me, I have no objection to your proposal. I also realize that I as a parent have no right to claim the child."

So saying, he turns to Cheng-tsai and his wife.

Feng-ko: "I beg of you, Mr. Kao Cheng-tsai. Will you take Chao-peng back to the country? Please bring up him in your hands."

Cheng-tsai and his wife, wiping their tears, not happily.

Li-ping goes to Chao-peng.

Li-ping: "Well, my dear Chao-peng, you are now going back to the country with your daddy and mummy. You are very happy, I suppose."

So saying, she hugs Chao-peng affectionately.

Li-ping, continuing: "You are happy, eh? Yes, you are happy, Chao-peng, I know. From now on, my desire, you should never part from your daddy and mummy no matter whatever happens. Do you understand?"

She holds the child in her arms tightly.

The people present watch the two with tears.

She embraces Chao-peng harder than ever, putting her cheek to his.

Her face is wet tears flowing from her eyes.

(up)

(F. O.)

(61) AT THE STATION PLATFORM

(F. I.)

Chao-peng, Fushun, Kao Chi-shih, and Cheng-tsai stick their heads out of the window of the train. On the platform, Li-ping, Feng-ko, and Ai-ju are standing to see them off. Starting whistle. In the meantime, the train begins to move. Chao-

peng, beaming with happiness, is smiling.

Chao-peng: "Goodbye, my dear auntie!"

Li-ping, smiling through her tears: "Goodbye, Chao-peng; Goodbye, darling!"

The train leaves.

Li-ping remains standing there waving her hand at the departing party for a long time.

Meanwhile, Feng-ko, Ai-ju, and Li-ping begin to walk together.

Li-ping stops suddenly.

Li-ping: "Well, then, I will say goodbye to you folks here."

Feng-ko: "You are not coming with us?"

Ai-ju: "Won't you come to our house again? Let by-gones be by-gones, Miss Li-ping.

I wish you would accept our invitation to dinner."

Li-ping: "Thank you, madam. But I think I had better take leave of you here. Please excuse me."

Feng-ko: "Well, won't you mind telling me where you are going?"

Li-ping, smiling faintly: "I will go somewhere. From now on, I will turn over a new leaf in life and work hard to be a good mother so that I may be proud of my boy Chao-peng even though I do not stay with him."

So saying, she bows to Feng-ko and Ai-ju, and walks away quietly.

(62) WAITING ROOM WITHIN THE COMPOUNDS OF THE STATION

Li-ping takes out a handkerchief from her pocket and pushes it against her face.

As she takes out her handkerchief, a ticket falls down on the floor.

On the ticket is a name of a certain out-of-the-way place somewhere around Antung or in North Manchuria.

– END –