

Secretary Carp: The Monkey King Gets a Weapon

An Original Show by Rachel Phenis

The Players

Li Yú: Secretary to Ao Guang

Ao Guang: The Dragon King of the East Sea

Sun Wukong: The Monkey King. Ruler of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit

Ao Run, Ao Qin, and Ao Shun: Ao Guang's brothers and rulers of the West, South, and North Seas respectively

Li Gen: One of Ao Guang's Generals

Servant

Secretary Carp: The Monkey King Gets a Weapon

THEME MUSIC

ANNOUNCER: Richmond Radioworks presents, *Secretary Carp: The Monkey King Gets a Weapon*.

APPLAUSE

ANNOUNCER: Long ago, when the Tang Dynasty was young, immortals, gods, and demons freely roamed the world in the east. They were beings of tremendous power, and their conflicts and actions made reverberations that were felt in both the human world and the heavenly realms. In the midst of Heaven's affairs, we have Secretary Carp, also known as Li Yu. As secretary to Ao Guang, the Dragon King of the East Sea, Li Yu has seen all of the major events that have shaken Heaven and Earth. Sometimes, he has participated in those events; and at other times, he has just taken care of the paperwork on them. Let's see if we can catch him in his office today.

MUSIC OUT

DOOR OPENING

LI YU: Oh? Hello. My name is Li Yu. Welcome to my office. You've caught me on a good day. I've just finished filling out the inventory reports. They took me forever to sort out! The East Sea is the largest in China, so Ao Guang has the greatest army in the ocean. Keeping track of all the weapons, armor, and other equipment for it is exhausting! But, at least it's easier now. You should have seen what it was like on my first day here.

MUSIC FLASHBACK TRANSITION UNDERNEATH

LI YU: After 18,000 years of cultivation and study, I took my official examination for a government placement. My score was so high and I distinguished myself so well that I was immediately assigned to work as the head secretary for Ao Guang. It was a tremendous honor, and I was beside myself with happiness and pride. However, I underestimated the amount of work that came with this position, and nearly lost face my first two weeks on the job. It all started when I arrived at Ao Guang's palace, and we were going over my duties as he was giving me a tour...

TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS UNDERNEATH

AO GUANG: The armory is right over there on the north end of the training ground. You'll be expected to check the inventory of the armory every month. The army is not always involved with a campaign, but we always want to be ready in case we are called upon to fight.

LI YU: Understood.

AO GUANG: I was very impressed with both your scores on the government exam and the letter of recommendation that I received from your master, Qi Xi.

LI YU: Thank you, your majesty!

AO GUANG: According to him, you are the most meticulous and organized student that he's ever worked with.

LI YU: I try to be meticulous in all of my work, your majesty. As Qi Xi always said, the more attention to detail; the fewer mistakes. I've made that my motto. My guiding principal, as it were. Organization aids that principal immensely. If you keep everything in its place and have a place for everything, nothing will ever get lost.

AO GUANG: Excellent! Have you ever reorganized a library before?

LI YU: A few times. It was part of my training. When we were tasked with reorganizing a library, not only did I reorganize it more efficiently than my fellow students but also in the least amount of time. The last time we did it, I was able to organize my section in four hours when it took my fellows six to eight hours.

AO GUANG: Impressive! Most impressive! I am so glad that I took you on! You are just the man we need!

LI YU: How so, your majesty?

AO GUANG: Your predecessor, Yú Bimú, was a fine man, but he wasn't the most organized individual. In his younger years, he wasn't so bad; but as he got older, he just got worse and worse. Now that he has retired and you have taken over his position, the first thing that you will need to do is reorganize his office and library so that you can effectively begin your work.

LI YU: I don't think that will be any trouble at all, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Splendid! That's what I like to hear.

FOOTSTEPS STOP

AO GUANG: Here is your office and library. Your chambers will be on the other side of the courtyard opposite it so that you have easy access to it.

LI YU: Thank you, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Here is the key. Let's take a look.

KEY TURNS AND DOOR OPENS

LI YU: (PAUSE) This is the library?

AO GUANG: Yes. All of our books and files are kept in this room. Many of them are outside texts, of course; but the majority are the chronicles and annals of the Ao family as well as inventory, military, and other reports. You will be responsible for writing these out.

LI YU: There are scrolls, everywhere!

AO GUANG: Yes. As I said, Yú Bimú was not the most organized person.

LI YU: But they're not even on the shelves! They're on the floor. They're sticking out of drawers. Some of them aren't even rolled up.

AO GUANG: Yú Bimú was quite old when he retired. His mind wasn't quite what it used to be. He got to be quite forgetful and didn't finish what he was doing when the fit came on him.

LI YU: I see...

AO GUANG: Yes, but with your organizational talents, you should be able to put everything back in order in no time. Inventory will need to be taken on the first of next month. I'm sure that you can put everything in order by then.

LI YU: But that is in two weeks!

AO GUANG: Is that a problem?

LI YU: Well, I can certainly get some organizing done by then, but...

AO GUANG: Excellent! Then it's all settled. You will have the entire library organized within two week's time.

LI YU: (Slightly sick) Will I have any assistants to help me?

AO GUANG: Eventually, yes. We haven't quite found anyone to fill in those positions quite yet. We waited until you arrived so that we could have your input on who would be best qualified. We should be able to look them over next month.

LI YU: (Panicky) BUT!....

AO GUANG: Is there a problem?

LI YU: (Despairing) No....

FOOTSTEPS AS AO GUANG MOVES OFF

AO GUANG: Wonderful! I can't wait to see what this library looks like when you are done.

LI YU: (Weakly) Oh dear....

MUSICAL TRANSITION

LI YU: That was my first day on the job. After Ao Guang left, I spent the rest of the day looking through the library, and it was a complete disaster! Nothing was in order. Nothing was in its place. It was like everyone just threw things wherever. I spent the next five days trying to make sense of it, but I was barely making a dent in it.

MUSICAL FLASHBACK TRANSITION UNDERNEATH THE FOLLOWING

LI YU: However, on the sixth day, I had an unexpected visitor who changed everything. He was the most peculiar individual, unlike anyone I had met before....

SOUND OF PAPERS RUSTLING AND SCROLLS BEING PUT AWAY

LI YU: Well, the B's are all done. Just twenty-four letters and 4,000 years of reports to go.... I'm doomed. There's no way in heaven that I'm going to get all of them organized in nine days! Ao Guang isn't known for being merciful if he's disappointed either.

UNDERNEATH THE NEXT SPEECH THERE IS A SLIGHT, BUZZING NOISE, BUT LI YU DOES NOT NOTICE

LI YU: It doesn't matter that organizing the complete disaster of a library would take two years at best. Ao Guang said two weeks, and his word is law. He'll look on my failure and place the blame on my incompetence. He'll fire me at the very least; and with his temper, he might subject me to some other punishment on top of it. My family could even be involved since we all live in the East Sea. I'll be completely disgraced and I haven't even started on my career yet!

POOFING SOUND

SUN WUKONG: Whew, brother, have you got yourself in a mess!

LI YU: (Startled) AAAH!

SUN WUKONG: Chill out, man! I ain't gonna to hurt ya.

LI YU: How did you get in here?! You didn't come through the door.

SUN WUKONG: Of course, I didn't come through the door. Water bugs can't open doors.

LI YU: Water bugs?

SUN WUKONG: Yes, sir. I just flew in through the window about a minute ago.

LI YU: Who are you? I've never seen you in the East Sea before?

SUN WUKONG: The name's Sun Wukong. I come from the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit.

LI YU: The Mountain of Flowers and Fruit?! How can you survive here in the East Sea if you are from a place on land?

SUN WUKONG: I've been cultivating my conduct and have learned how to do a lot of useful things. I can breathe underwater, fly on a cloud, and do 72 transformations.

LI YU: Really?

SUN WUKONG: Yeah. I don't know why you're surprised. Many immortals can do these transformations. Ao Guang, and his sons do them all of the time.

LI YU: Forgive me. You just don't look like any immortal I've ever seen, and it's hard to believe that someone who is not an immortal could do the things you've mentioned.

SUN WUKONG: Hahahaha! Fair enough. I ain't an immortal yet, but it won't be long before I join their ranks.

LI YU: Hahaha! I like your enthusiasm.

SUN WUKONG: I mean it! With my talent, I can easily take down any low-level immortal and would be able to keep up with Ao Guang with no problem. In fact, I can help ya get this room in order in less than 48 hours.

LI YU: Hahaha! You can help me get this library organized in less than 48 hours?

SUN WUKONG: Yeah.

LI YU: Just you?

SUN WUKONG: Yeah.

LI YU: That's impossible.

SUN WUKONG: No, it ain't.

LI YU: How could you, one person, help me put twenty-four letters and 4,000 years of reports in order in less than two days?

SUN WUKONG: (SMIRKING) Who said there would only be one person helping ya?

LI YU: I don't see anyone else here.

HAIR BEING PLUCKED

SUN WUKONG: (TO HIMSELF) Let's see.... this room isn't huge. We could probably fit 100 in here and still have enough elbow room.

LI YU: What are you talking about? Where are you going to get 100 people?

SUN WUKONG: Just watch.

CHEWING FOR A FEW SECONDS AND SPITTING. A POOFING NOISE

LI YU: (ALMOST SPEECHLESS) What in the world?

SUN WUKONG: Impressive, huh.

LI YU: Where did all of these people come from? Why do they all look like you?

SUN WUKONG: It's just a little trick I've picked up over the years. If I pluck out one of my hairs, chew on it, and spit it out, I can create all kinds of useful things. I can even make as many copies of myself as I want.

LI YU: (AWED) Incredible....

SUN WUKONG: (PLEASED WITH HIMSELF) Thank you. My copies do not share my abilities, but they can follow directions. So, all ya have to do is tell them whatcha want them to do, and they'll do it.

LI YU: Really?

SUN WUKONG: Yeah. With you telling all of us what to do, we'll have this place cleaned up in no time.

LI YU: (DEEPLY GRATEFUL) Thank you so much! I cannot tell you what this means to me! If you need anything from me, all you need to do is ask.

SUN WUKONG: Hahaha! I'll have ta take ya up on that. Where would ya like us to start.

MUSIC COMES OVER THE NEXT SPEECH AS IT FADES OUT

LI YU: Right! Wukong, take a group of ten and look for inventory reports. As you find them, try to separate them by date on the east side of the room. You ten, look for the scrolls written by authors with last names beginning with B and C. Line them up in alphabetical order in that corner by the writing tables. You ten, look for the scrolls written by authors with last names beginning with D and E.....

MUSIC FADES AND SHIFTS

LI YU: It was absolutely amazing! You would not think that copies of someone would be able to do complex tasks, but Sun Wukong's were able to sort and alphabetize the documents in the library as well as any competent librarian. When I checked their work, I found one or two documents that had been placed out of order, but that was all. With Wukong and his copies' help, we were able to organize the library by the next morning. As you can well imagine, I was deeply grateful to Wukong for helping me to save face and keep my honor intact. I would have given him or done anything he asked for his help. All he wanted was an audience with Ao Guang, so I happily wrote him a note of introduction. If I had known then what would come from this audience, I would never have given it to him, but it seemed like a paltry reward for such a remarkable deed at the time. Ao Guang was so pleased with the new, reorganized library that he recognized me before his entire court. This was a huge honor, and my fame in the East Sea began to grow. The royal library became recognized as the best in the Middle

Kingdom and a rival of that of Heaven due to my work. All was going splendidly, until two unrelated disasters struck in one day.

MUSICAL FLASHBACK TRANSITION

LI YU: I had awoken that morning with an odd feeling of disquiet and had seen some portents in the sky that indicated trouble. Otherwise, nothing was out of the ordinary. There were no minor mishaps or sudden realizations of important deadlines that I had forgotten. Ao Guang's distinguished brothers were set to arrive later in the day for a meeting, but everything was in perfect readiness. I was in the throne room with Ao Guang discussing the menu for their evening meal when everything changed.

MUSIC FADE OUT

AO GUANG: Remind the cook that he is not to prepare any stinky tofu for tonight under any circumstances. I know that Ao Qin adores it; but the last time he was here, it took us weeks to get the smell out of the palace! Ao Qin likes red bean buns; so as long as we have plenty of those, he should be fine. Ao Run will want lamb kebobs, and Ao Shun will want Di San Xi'an; so make sure that the cook makes plenty of both dishes.

LI YU: Yes, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Have all the guest rooms been made ready for their arrival?

LI YU: Yes, your majesty. All of the guest rooms have been cleaned and the linens have been washed. Everything is ready.

AO GUANG: Excellent! It is an auspicious day for guests. Nothing could possibly go wrong.

POWERFUL RUMBLING NOISES. SOUNDS OF GLASS BREAKING AND FURNITURE CRASHING TO THE FLOOR

AO GUANG: (AFTER BREATHING HEAVILY FOR A FEW SECONDS) What in the name of Heaven was that!

LI YU: I don't know. I have never experienced an earthquake that strong before!

FOOTSTEPS

LI YU: The water in the sea has turned completely red! There is no way to tell just how much damage has been caused to the palace by a cursory glance, but there is definitely damage.

AO GUANG: Whatever it was, it came from the surface. Li Gen!

LI GEN: Yes, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Go up to the surface, and see what caused the earthquake.

LI GEN: Yes, your majesty.

RETREATING FOOTSTEPS

AO GUANG: Li Gen is my best general. He will find out what caused the earthquake.

APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS

SERVANT: Your majesty, Sun Wukong is in the front hall. He would like an audience with you.

AO GUANG: Sun Wukong? I've never heard that name before. Who is he?

SERVANT: He says that he is the king of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit on the surface. You can reach it through the waterfall that flows into the sea on the south side of the palace. He has a letter of introduction.

AO GUANG: Well, it's not a convenient time for visitors. But, if he has a letter of introduction, you might as well show him in.

SERVANT: Yes, your majesty.

FOOTSTEPS AS THE SERVANT GOES TO GET SUN WUKONG UNDERNEATH

AO GUANG: First the earthquake and now an unexpected guest. What could possibly go wrong next!

FOOTSTEPS AS SUN WUKONG APPROACHES

SUN WUKONG: (BOLD AND BRASH) Ao Guang! Thank you for allowing me to visit ya today!

AO GUANG: (ANNOYED BY WUKONG'S LACK OF RESPECT) No thanks are necessary. May I see your letter of introduction?

SUN WUKONG: Of course.

SCROLL BEING PASSED AND UNROLLED

AO GUANG: Mmm.... King of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit... Where is that?

SUN WUKONG: It's on the island that's about 10 leagues east of your palace.

AO GUANG: I've never heard of it.

SUN WUKONG: I ain't surprised. It's a small island. Everyone will know all about it one day, though!

AO GUANG: If you say so.... Mmhmm..... Your humble servant, Li Yu?! Li Yu, do you know this person?

LI YU: Yes, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Mhmm... I am not sure how you would know this... Sun Wukong; but if you have written him a letter of introduction, he must be a decent person. How can we help you, Mr. Sun?

SUN WUKONG: Several years ago, I decided to leave my kingdom to cultivate and gain immortality. I found a master who took me on; and once he taught me all he knew, I returned home. When I arrived, I found that the Demon King of Confusion had taken over my kingdom while I was gone, took over my home, and made slaves of my subjects. Now, I'm probably one of the strongest fighters around; but even with all my powers, there's no way I can defeat the Demon King without a weapon. Your armory is world famous for its magical weapons, and I thought that you could give me one.

AO GUANG: Give you one of my magical weapons? Why would I give you such a valuable treasure?

SUN WUKONG: Out of respect for a fellow ruler and peer. I'm only the ruler of a small kingdom now, but I'm a sage who equals heaven. Once I show my talents off to the world, I'll be the biggest name in the Heavenly Court. Anyone who helps me along the way to my destiny will be remembered for all time, and I'll repay them handsomely. (WITH MORE OF AN EDGE) I'm generous with my friends, but I can be a formidable enemy. Refuse to help me, and I'll lay waste to your entire palace.

AO GUANG: (AFTER A BEAT. REALIZING THAT WUKONG IS SERIOUS) Well, we do have the largest number of magical weapons in the world. I suppose that we could part with one to aid you in your quest to reclaim your kingdom.

SUN WUKONG: (GOOD NATUREDLY) Thank you! I'm much obliged to ya.

AO GUANG: (TO THE SERVANT) Stay here while Li Yu and I escort Wukong to the armory. If my brothers arrive before we return, ask them to meet us there.

SERVANT: Yes, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Follow me, Wukong. We will see what we can find for you.

TRANSITION MUSIC

SUN WUKONG: Your armory is world renowned for a reason, Ao Guang! I've never seen so many magical weapons in one place!

AO GUANG: (PLEASED) Yes, I try to keep as many as I can around.

SUN WUKONG: What is this?

AO GUANG: That is Hunyuan Jindou, The Golden Chalice of Primordial Chaos. One drink from it, and you will be imprisoned inside the chalice until its owner lets you out.

SUN WUKONG: Handy. I like the cleverness of it. But once people know ya got it it's basically useless. I need a weapon that can be used all the time.

AO GUANG: All right. What about the Scissors of the Golden Scaly Dragons? They can clip a man in two with just one snip.

SNIPPING NOISES AS WUKONG TRIES THEM OUT

SUN WUKONG: Definitely more useful than the chalice. But ya gotta make sure your enemy is right in the middle of the blades. What else do ya got?

AO GUANG: What about The Sword of Kunwu?

SWINGING NOISES

SUN WUKONG: Too light, and the balance is slightly off.

AO GUANG: The Ax of Pangu.

SWINGING NOISES

SUN WUKONG: Still too light. Do ya have anything with more heft to it?

AO GUANG: There may be something over on the east wall.

SUN WUKONG: What's this thing?

AO GUANG: This? It is just a pillar to help stabilize the roof. It was here when my father first built this palace. He did not rely on it for complete support during the construction, but you can never have too much support.

SUN WUKONG: Why does it have Ruyi Jingu Bang written on it?

AO GUANG: I've never noticed that before. I haven't the faintest idea.

LI YU: If I may, your majesty, Ruyi Jingu Bang is a legendary staff. It can expand or contract to any size that its wielder desires and could take down a giant with one blow.

SUN WUKONG: It's perfect! I'll take it.

MUSIC INDICATING THAT THE PILLAR IS SHRINKING

AO GUANG: What are you doing?! You can't take that pillar! It's holding up the roof!!

SUN WUKONG: Don't worry! You said yourself that your dad didn't rely on it to support the roof. It's marvelous! One minute, it's large enough to hold up a roof; now it's a perfect quarterstaff. Good weight; good balance. Let's see what it can do!

THWACK AND CRUMBLING NOISE

AO GUANG: (TERRIFIED) What are you doing?! You're going to bring this room down on our heads!!

SUN WUKONG: (DELIGHTED) This is great! One blow, and a pillar is gone. This is just what I need! Thank you, Ao Guang! Now, I just need some armor.

FOOTSTEPS AS AO GUANG'S BROTHERS ENTER

AO RUN: What is going on in here?

AO GUANG: (FED UP) I do not have any armor for the likes of you! Put that cudgel back where you got it, and clean up this mess!

SUN WUKONG: Chill out! I was just testin' out my new weapon. No harm done.

AO GUANG: No harm done?! You shrunk one of my support pillars and completely destroyed another! I am not going to give you anything but a good beating!!

SUN WUKONG: (EVILLY) Don't be so nasty, Ao Guang. You've been right friendly till now. I'd hate to lose your friendship so soon, and I think you'd hate losing my friendship even more.

TWO THWACKS AND CRUMBLING NOISE

SUN WUKONG: After all, I've got a new weapon to test. I wonder if I can knock out every pillar in this palace.

AO GUANG: (QUIETLY) You wouldn't.

SUN WUKONG: (MALICIOUS GRIN) Try me.

AO QIN: Brother, what is going on? Who is this... person?

SUN WUKONG: Sun Wukong, King of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit. Nice ta meetcha!

AO SHUN: (CONTEMPTUOUSLY) A rather familiar individual, isn't he.

AO GUANG: (PANICKY) Brothers! Forgive me for my negligence. This is my dear friend, Sun Wukong, King of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit. Wukong, these are my brothers, Ao Shun, King of the Northern Sea; Ao Qin, King of the Southern Sea; and Ao Run; King of the Western Sea.

SUN WUKONG: Pleased to meetcha.

AO GUANG: (BEFORE HIS BROTHERS CAN RESPOND TO WUKONG'S RUDENESS) A demon has taken over Wukong's kingdom, and he has come seeking a weapon to defeat him. He has selected a powerful weapon from my armory, but I do not have any armor suitable for him. Do you have armor that he can use?

AO SHUN: Guang, have you gone mad?

AO RUN: I wouldn't give this.... person a handkerchief much less armor.

AO GUANG: (EVEN MORE PANICKED) Brothers, could I speak with you privately for a moment?

AO QIN: Brother, why are you indulging this... person?

FOOTSTEPS AS AO GUANG RUSHES HIS BROTHERS OUT OF THE ARMORY

AO GUANG: Come with me and I'll explain everything! Li Yu, stay with Wukong.

LI YU: Yes, your majesty.

AO GUANG: Wukong, we will be back in just a moment with your armor. Please wait here.

SUN WUKONG: I'll be here.

CONVERSATION SLOWLY FADES OUT

AO SHUN: Guang, I can't believe that you are indulging this insolent creature!

AO QIN: Yes, if some monkey came into my palace making demands, I'd have his tail cut off and feed to the yakshas.

SLIGHT PAUSE

LI YU: Wukong, what are you doing?

WUKONG: What do ya mean?

LI YU: You can't come into the crystal palace, ignore propriety, make demands, and threaten the King of the Eastern Sea!

WUKONG: I'm just as strong and skilled as Ao Guang and a fellow king to boot. I won't destroy anything if he gives me what I need. In fact, I'll owe him one.

LI YU: I doubt his majesty will see it that way.

WUKONG: Don't worry about it. By the way, thanks for giving me that letter of introduction! I owe ya one.

LI YU: (DESPAIRING) Oh! I hope Ao Guang forgets about that!

SUN WUKONG: (KINDLY) Look, I know it's been a bit of a rough day for all of us, but you did me a solid. I don't forget my friends. If ya ever need anything, all ya have to do is ask.

LI YU: (WEAKLY) Thank you.

SUN WUKONG: You're a good friend. I'm gonna pay you back by being the best friend you've got.

LI YU: Ha ha. I hope I survive your friendship.

SUN WUKONG: (ROARING) Hahahahaha! I like your sense of humor.

MUSIC TRANSITION

AO GUANG: I'm sorry that you've had to wait so long, Wukong. It took us a while to find the armor for you.

SUN WUKONG: I understand. Whatcha got for me?

CHINKING NOISES UNDERNEATH THE FOLLOWING

AO QIN: A suit of golden chainmail made from the scales of our father. It is light as a feather and possesses the hardness of a dragon.

SUN WUKONG: (TWISTS, TURNS, AND DOES A JUMP) Perfect!

AO SHUN: A phoenix winged helmet. It will never dent or crack.

SUN WUKONG: Nice! I hardly notice its weight on my head!

AO RUN: A pair of cloud walking boots made from a lotus. One step will take you 2,000 leagues.

SUN WUKONG: Cool! I'm much obliged to all of ya. If ya ever need anything, all ya have to do is ask.

WHOOSH AS SUN WUKONG TAKES HIS LEAVE

SLIGHT PAUSE

AO GUANG: (RELIEVED) Whoo. Thank Heaven he's gone!

AO QIN: That monkey is a menace!

AO SHUN: I cannot believe his gall! To address all of us like common fish and then make outrageous demands!

AO RUN: Yes, but he's not without the means to get away with it. Ruyi Jingu Bang has not responded to anyone like that for over a thousand years. It would not have chosen a common warrior as its wielder.

AO QIN: No, it wouldn't have. Unfortunately, now that Wukong has it, I don't think anyone can stand up to him.

AO GUANG: No. Only Heaven can deal with him now. We need to bring this incident to the attention of the Jade Emperor immediately.

AO SHUN: How did that monkey get into the palace in the first place?

AO RUN: That's a great question. There is no way that a person with his looks would have gotten past the guards at the door.

AO GUANG: (REMEMBERING) He had a letter of introduction from a trusted member of my court. Li Yu!

LI YU: (WEAKLY) Yes, your majesty.

AO GUANG: As I recall, Sun Wukong had a letter of introduction from you. Am I remembering correctly?

LI YU: Yes, your majesty,

AO GUANG: Why would you write a letter of introduction for such a crude individual?

LI YU: Well, your majesty, Sun Wukong saved me from disgrace and dishonor once. This deed put me deeply in his debt. All he wanted in return for his kindness was a letter of introduction, so I gave him one. I did not know what he intended to do with it; but even if I had, I don't know how I could have refused him.

AO GUANG: Hmm.... I am hard pressed to see how you could have refused his request as well. What do you think brothers?

AO RUN: It would have been impossible. It is a question of honor after all!

AO SHUN: To refuse a request from someone who has helped you to save face is an unforgivable sin.

AO QIN: Even the Buddha himself would never refuse someone who saved his honor.

AO GUANG: Quite right. Li Yu, you are an honorable man. Your actions in this matter have been righteous beyond question. I would caution you to choose your friends more wisely in the future, however.

LI YU: Absolutely, fair and just Ao Guang! I will do my best to be more careful.

AO GUANG: Good! Let's examine the armory so that we can give the Jade Emperor an accurate report on the damage. Then we will tell the Jade Emperor about this insolent, Sun Wukong.

MUSIC TRANSITION. BACK TO THE PRESENT

LI YU: Whew! I cannot begin to express how relieved I was that Ao Guang did not punish me for giving Wukong a letter of introduction. No one can argue with the virtues of Heaven! So, we went back to the armory and did a survey of the damage. The structural integrity of the armory was definitely compromised; but thankfully, none of the major support pillars were damaged. If Ao Guang had not rushed the other dragon kings out when he did, there is no telling what would have happened! With Wukong's temper and Ruyi Jingu Bang's power, the

entire armory could have been buried and the entire wing made unsafe. I made notes on all of the damage and wrote up a detailed report while the dragon kings enjoyed a repast. I had just handed Ao Guang the report for his approval when a servant rushed into the room with news of Li Gen. If you recall, Li Gen was sent up to the surface earlier that day to find out what caused the earthquake that damaged the palace before Wukong arrived. The servant's news left all of us in shock. You see....

AO GUANG: Li Yu! Li Yu! I need your inventory reports!

THEME MUSIC UNDERNEATH

LI YU: Duty calls! You need to leave so that I can go over the inventory reports with his majesty. If you want to know what the servant told us about Li Gen, you will need to come back later. I look forward to seeing you again! Goodbye.

ANNOUNCER: You have been listening to *Secretary Carp: The Monkey King Gets a Weapon*.