

# BEATING THE DRAGON ROBE

A Traditional Peking Opera, Recorded in China Folkways Records FW 8883



M  
1805.3  
B369  
1962

MUSIC LP

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Court Official Pao Cheng, Attendant  
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Cheng

**BEATING THE DRAGON ROBE**

Cast: Emperor Chao Chen, Premier Wang Yen Ling, Court Official Pao Cheng, Lantern Festival Official, Ch'en Lin, Concubine Liu, The Eunuch Kuo Hai, Empress Li

Complete English text translated by C. K. Huang

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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## "BEATING THE DRAGON ROBE"

A Traditional Peking Opera (recorded in China)

Translated by C. K. HUANG and SOO YONG HUANG

### CAST:

Emperor Chao Chen  
Premier Wang Yen Ling  
Court Official Pao Cheng (very close to the Emperor)  
Lantern Festival Official  
Ch'en Lin (Old retired eunuch)  
Concubine Liu (Concubine of Emperor's father)  
The Eunuch Kuo Huai (Relative of Concubine Liu)  
Empress Li

### SYNOPSIS:

During the Sung Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.), Empress Li gave birth to a boy, the Emperor Chao Chen. Immediately after the birth, the Eunuch Kuo Huai and Concubine Liu (concubine of the Emperor's father), conspired to remove the new-born Emperor Chao Chen, and in his place, substituted a tailless cat.

Concubine Liu then kept and raised the infant Chao Chen, claiming him to be her own.

Thereafter, Concubine Liu and the Eunuch Kuo Huai spread the news that Empress Li had given birth to a devil. Thus, the Emperor's father decreed the execution of Empress Li for having given birth to a devil. Court officials pleaded for mercy, so the reigning Emperor compromised by isolating her in a detached, bare and "cold palace."

As their plot failed to rid the Empress Li entirely, the concubine and the eunuch set fire to the palace in which Empress Li had been isolated. From that time on, nothing more was heard about Empress Li, and it was presumed that she was burned to death.

During the famine of the Ch'en district, the Emperor Chao Chen (Empress Li's son now grown to manhood), ordered the court official Pao Cheng to distribute relief to the populace of the Ch'en district.

An old, blind woman beggar came to him and claimed to be the Empress Li, with a silk scarf as evidence. This silk scarf was inscribed with poems written by her husband the Emperor, father of Emperor Chao Chen.

Upon his return from the Ch'en district, Emperor Chao Chen was extremely pleased with the success of Official Pao Cheng's relief mission, so Official Pao Cheng ordered a lantern festival staged for the Emperor's amusement.

In this lantern festival, a scene of an unfilial son was depicted. This displeased the Emperor, so he ordered the arrest of the Lantern Festival Official. Official Pao Cheng intervened, saying, "Even in our court, we have an unfilial person".

The Emperor demanded "And who is this unfilial one?"

"You, the Emperor! You are the unfilial one", answered Official Pao Cheng.

This so angered the Emperor, he ordered the arrest of Official Pao Cheng.

Official Pao Cheng then informed the Emperor that during his relief mission at the Ch'en District, he discovered the Empress Li was still alive.

"Your mother is the Empress Li", said Official Pao Cheng, "and here you are, the Emperor, not even recognizing his own mother! This certainly marks you as unfilial. To verify my statement, call in the Old Eunuch Ch'en Lin".

The Old Eunuch Ch'en Lin then recounted for the Emperor the whole story to prove that Empress Li was his real mother, and that the silk scarf with the poems was the evidence. To substantiate the validity of the scarf with the poems, he recited the poems. The silk scarf with the poems written on it was given to the Empress Li by the Emperor during one of their romantic evenings in the palace gardens.

After hearing this story, the Emperor rescinded the arrest of the Official Pao Cheng who had called him unfilial. After his release, the Official Pao Cheng led the Emperor and his court to the Ch'en District to meet the Emperor's mother, Empress Li. After finding her, she was placed in a royal carriage and paraded back to the palace. Her son, the Emperor, with a silk yoke over his shoulders, headed the parade, thus symbolizing his personally pulling the carriage which carried his mother.

At the suggestion of Official Pao Cheng, a prayer was offered to Heaven, and the sight of Empress Li was restored. Upon seeing her son, the Empress commanded her son be beaten with the royal purple rod, by the Official Pao Cheng.

The command was a stunning one, which caused Official Pao Cheng to contemplate deeply. He then said, "From time immemorial, no one has ever beaten the Emperor of our land".

As a substitute to beating the Emperor, he ordered the Emperor's robe be held up by two attendants, and with the purple rod, beat the robe, thus symbolically beating the Emperor. Hence, the title of the play, "BEATING THE DRAGON ROBE".

After the Emperor was "punished", the Official Pao Cheng was promoted to the highest rank, next to the Emperor, in the Imperial Court.

The play ends with a celebration and a lavish feast ordered by Empress Li.

SIDE I

Band 1:

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN, led by four attendants, recites:  
Phoenix Pavilion, Dragon Tower, may the Kingdom  
reign forever!

PREMIER WANG YEN LING: Felicitations to the Em-  
peror! May he live 10,000 years!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: Stand by.

PREMIER WANG YEN LING: Forever and ever.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (Recites poem)

As my Imperial hat is mounted with 9 dragons,  
So shines the sun on my 9 continents.  
As the southern heavens face the Big Dipper  
to 10,000 nations,  
So do all peoples bow before me.

I am Emperor Chao Chen of the Sung Dynasty.  
Since I ascended the throne, the winds have  
been calm and the rains abundant. The  
Country is prosperous and the people at  
peace. However, the Ch'en District has  
suffered from famine for 3 years, so I have  
ordered Court Official Pao Cheng to the  
Ch'en District on a relief mission; but he  
has not yet returned. (calls) Premier Wang!

PREMIER WANG:

Your Majesty.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

If there are no further state matters to be  
discussed, the audience is terminated.

PREMIER WANG:

Your servant begs to inform your Majesty  
that Court Official Pao Cheng has returned  
from his relief mission, and is waiting at  
the noon gate, at your disposal.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Command Pao Cheng to come to the palace.

PREMIER WANG:

Your command is obeyed.  
(turns around, calls.)  
His Majesty commands Pao Cheng to enter the  
audience hall!

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG (answers, backstage):

I obey the command.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG (enters):

Suddenly, I heard His Majesty calling for Pao  
Cheng. Here I come, the relief officer from  
the Ch'en District. With one hand on my jade  
girdle and another holding the skirt of my robe,  
I mount the dragon audience hall. I stand by  
the platform to be received by His Majesty.  
(kneels) Your servant Pao Cheng pays homage.  
May Your Majesty live 10,000 years!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Stand by.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

May you live 100,000 years!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Court Official Pao Cheng.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Your servant.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Report to me in detail, the relief mission.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Here is the report. May your dragon eyes  
look upon it.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Place the report on the dragon desk.  
(PAO CHENG hands report to attendant, who  
places it on desk. EMPEROR opens report.  
After glancing over report, exclaims):  
Oh Ho Ya! This is truly a great achievement!  
Attendant!

ATTENDANT:

Yes.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Prepare a huge feast to celebrate Court Official  
Pao Cheng's achievement.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Just a moment.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Why?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Your servant has prepared a lantern festival  
outside the noon gate, and begs Your Imperial  
Highness to give audience to the lantern  
festival.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Good! Proceed, and I shall follow.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Your servant obeys your decree.

Band 2:

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: (sings)

His Imperial Highness consented to my suggestion.  
This will relieve the suffering of Her Highness  
the Empress. The lantern festival will be held  
at the noon gate, and the real purpose of the  
lantern festival is contrived to awaken our  
righteous ruler.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (Sings)

Attendants, descend from the Dragon Palace to  
watch the lantern festival by the noon gate.

LANTERN FESTIVAL OFFICIAL: (recites)

Happy is the Emperor,  
Joyful is the Minister.  
Peaceful and gay are the people.  
All five various grains are plentiful,  
And the year's harvest is bountiful.

I am the Lantern Festival Official, ordered by  
Court Official Pao Cheng to prepare the lanterns.  
All is ready. Here I wait.

(Attendants, Emperor Chao Chen, Premier Wang, Court  
Official Pao Cheng enter.)

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Attendant, seat His Majesty at the most strategic  
position, so he may better view the lantern fes-  
tival.

LANTERN FESTIVAL OFFICIAL:

Your Imperial Highness.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Lantern Festival Official, announce the titles  
of the lanterns.

LANTERN FESTIVAL OFFICIAL:

Your orders are obeyed. Your Highness, I beseech  
you to listen well as I announce the titles of  
the lanterns.

Lantern One - Lantern of Harmony.

Lantern Two - The Saintly Monkey.

Lantern Three - The Three Prosperous Rams.

Lantern Four - The Four Peaceful Seasons.

Lantern Five - Five Children wrestling for the  
General's helmet.

Lantern Six - The Six Nations honoring the Premier.

Lantern Seven - The Seven Sons and Eight Sons-in-Law.

Lantern Nine - Nine Sons in Complete Perfection.

Lantern Ten - The Ten-sided Ambush.

Following these lanterns, is yet another group of  
lanterns, showing General Yu Pu, flirting with Tiao  
Ts'an in the Ceremonial Phoenix Pavilion. You have  
been seeing section after section of the lantern  
festival, and you now see the story depicting Chao  
Chun on horseback riding toward the northern foreign  
country. Alas! Alas! Here comes the lantern of  
Heavenly Thunder killing the unfilial Chang Chi Pao!

Band 3:

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Come, attendant.

ATTENDANT:

Yes.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Arrest the Lan tern Festival Official.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Wait a moment.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Why?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Why do you wish to arrest the Lantern Festival  
Official?

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Why should we have a lantern depicting the lack  
of filial piety?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

True, there is a lantern depicting the lack of  
filial piety. Why not? In our court, there is  
an unfilial person.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

I shall punish this person, if you will only tell  
me who he is.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

If you are discussing unfilial persons, you are  
such a one!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (exclaims) Tu!!!! (sings)

Attendant, proceed to return to the palace.  
(Exit, chastizing.)

PREMIER WANG YEN LING: (to Pao Cheng)

I turn toward you, Little Pao laying blame on  
you. If you had any criticism of the Emperor,  
why did you not formally present the criticism  
in court to His Majesty? Why did you have to  
ridicule him at the noon gate?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: Beloved teacher! (sings)

Do not be frightened. Permit your pupil to ex-  
plain to you, that from time immemorial, loyal  
servants of the court are never afraid to die.  
If one is afraid to die, how can one dare tell  
the truth to his superiors? (exit)

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN and ATTENDANT enter.  
(Emperor sings.)

A short while ago, I viewed the lantern festival  
by the noon gate, and there was an episode depict-  
ing an unfilial son. This is but a subterfuge to  
ridicule me, and I resent the idea. In anger, I  
enter the audience hall. Quick, call in Premier  
Wang Yen Ling.

PREMIER WANG YEN LING:

I beg to inform Your Highness Pao Cheng is arrested.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Bring him in.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: (backstage) Yah!  
(enters stage, sings.)

Suddenly, I heard the Emperor ordering me in. Here  
comes the man who created a catastrophe. Bravely,  
I enter the audience hall. I shall give an answer  
to every question asked.

Band 4:

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (sings)

I ask you, Pao Cheng, why did you ridicule me at the noon gate?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: (sings)

Your Highness, as I returned from the Ch'en District where I was on a relief mission, at Chao Chou Bridge, an old beggar woman claimed to be the Mother of our Emperor. This greatly shocked me. As you do not recognize your own Mother, if this should be known by our foreign neighbors, you would be considered an unrighteous Emperor.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (sings)

You must be insane to say such ridiculous things.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: Your Highness. (sings)

Do not say I am insane. The Emperor's Mother gave me all the details. Neither a thousand words nor ten thousand sentences will convince you. Please ask the old retired eunuch, Ch'en Lin of Ching Yang Palace.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Take him, attendant.

ATTENDANT:

Yes.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

With my golden and silver tables, command forth the old retired eunuch Ch'en Lin to come before me.

ATTENDANT:

His Highness commands Ch'en Lin to come to the court.

CH'EN LIN: (backstage) I obey the command. (enters, sings)

I have been ordered by the Golden and Silver Tablets. Here comes Old Ch'en Lin of Ching Yang Palace. It has been rumored there is news concerning the Emperor's Mother. I shall report in full detail, whatever I know. I enter the Dragon Throne Hall to greet His Royal Highness. Your servant Ch'en Lin begs audience with you and wishes you 10,000 years of longevity. (kneels)

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Arise, please.

CH'EN LIN:

May you live 100,000 years!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Please sit down.

CH'EN LIN:

Thank you for the seat. For twenty years, I have not been ordered to the court. Today, your servant is commanded to come. Please tell me, for what affair of state am I called?

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

There is something I do not understand. Please advise me.

CH'EN LIN:

What is it that you do not understand? Please do not use the word "advise".

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Who gave birth to me?

CH'EN LIN:

Empress Li gave birth to you.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Give the details.

CH'EN LIN:

Permit me to inform you.

Band 5:

CH'EN LIN:

During the year of Kuei Wei (according to the lunar calendar), Empress Li was with child. Concubine Liu and the eunuch Kuo Hai (who were related), were very jealous of the pregnancy. They obtained permission from the Emperor to assist at the birth of the child. Concubine Liu and the eunuch Kuo Hai substituted a tail-less and skinless cat for the new-born baby boy, and claimed that the Empress Li gave birth to a devil. The old Emperor was enraged and ordered the execution of Empress Li. Due to the unanimous appeal by the civil and military officials of the court, Empress Li was thrown into a "cold palace" instead. On the 15th of the eighth moon, Concubine Liu and the eunuch Kuo Hai plotted again, and set fire to the "cold palace". We do not know the fate of the Empress. All this happened twenty years ago. Why do you ask your servant today?

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Court Official Pao Cheng said that Empress Li is still living.

CH'EN LIN:

If Empress Li is still alive, she should possess a certain evidence. Once, I recall, the old Emperor was strolling through the Imperial gardens, and being overjoyed with the pregnancy of the Empress, he presented her with a yellow silk scarf, on which a poem was written.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Do you remember the poem?

CH'EN LIN:

I remember every word.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Recite it.

CH'EN LIN:

Permit me to...  
"As a thousand miles of flowers are swayed by the  
winds of spring,  
A single cinnamon tree is shadowed by the moon  
of autumn.  
Heaven bestows an heir to the Male and Female  
Golden Dragon of the Sung Dynasty."

Since Pao Cheng has returned to the court, why  
is he not around? Have you dispatched him on  
another mission?

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Because he cleverly arranged the lantern festi-  
val at the noon gate to ridicule me, I have  
ordered his execution.

CH'EN LIN:

Your Highness! Yah! (sings)

If you wish to execute anyone, please execute  
me, and quickly bring back little Pao Cheng.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Bring back Pao Cheng!

## SIDE II Band 1

(Note: In the olden days, when a person was  
executed, his head was strung on a 100 foot  
pole for all to see.)

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: (sings as he enters)

My life is saved from the 100 foot pole, and  
from the ghost-gate of the next world. (speaks)  
Thank Your Highness for not executing me.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Court Official Pao.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Your servant.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

You said that the Empress Li is still alive.  
What evidence have you?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

This yellow silk scarf - look it over with your  
august Dragon eyes.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Submit it. (reads poem)

"As a thousand miles of flowers are swayed by the  
winds of spring,  
A single cinnamon tree is shadowed by the noon  
of autumn.  
Heaven bestows an heir to the Male and Female  
Golden Dragon of the Sung Dynasty."

CH'EN LIN: (kneels and sings) Your Highness!

So be it! So be it! So be it! If your servant  
had not remembered everything, a beloved official  
would have been executed.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (kneels to help raise the  
prostrate Ch'en Lin, then  
sings)

Quickly I lift you, and I bow to you, as though  
bowing to my venerable ancestors.

ATTENDANT:

Your Highness, Concubine Liu has committed  
suicide. Kuo Hai is arrested.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Bring him in.

ATTENDANT:

Bring him in.

KUO HAI:

Hei! Such traitors!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Tu! You brazen Kuo Hai! Why do you not kneel  
when in the presence of your Emperor?

KUO HAI:

I was a servant to your Father and was with him  
at his deathbed. Why should I kneel before you?

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Execute him!

KUO HAI:

Stop! I am a minister of three courts. How dare  
you execute me!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Cut him into 10,000 pieces!

KUO HAI:

That would be better.

ATTENDANT:

Take him out.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Court Official Pao.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHEN:

Your servant.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

How can we welcome the Empress to the court?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Prepare dragon and phoenix carriages to welcome  
the Empress' return to the palace.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (sings)

Good! Proceed!

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Proceed!

## Band 2

EMPRESS LI: (sings)

Golden and phoenix carriages enter the imperial city. Here comes a former beggar on the imperial street. My blindness prevents me from seeing the beautiful sights... nor can I see all the civil and military officials of Pien Lang (capitol of the Sung Dynasty). I call upon my son to help me alight from the carriage.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG: (kneels)

Welcome, Your Highness the Empress.

EMPRESS LI:

Arise.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Thank you, Your Highness.

EMPRESS LI: (sings)

Again I hear the voices of welcome.

## Band 3

PREMIER WANG YEN LING:

Your servant Wang Yen Ling welcomes you. 1,000 years of longevity to you, Grand Empress!

EMPRESS LI:

Arise.

PREMIER WANG YEN LING:

A thousand, thousand years!

EMPRESS LI: (sings)

Wang Yen Ling is an honest, loyal official in our court.

CH'EN LIN:

Your servant Ch'en Lin welcomes you, Grand Empress. 1,000 years of longevity!

EMPRESS LI:

Arise.

CH'EN LIN:

A thousand, thousand years!

EMPRESS LI:

Old Ch'en Lin is he who saved my life.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Your servant Pao Cheng welcomes you, and wishes you, Grand Empress, a thousand years of longevity!

EMPRESS LI:

Arise.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

A thousand, thousand years.

EMPRESS LI: (sings)

Here is the honest, loyal Little Pao Cheng. For me, you cleverly arranged a lantern festival. When all is settled, surely you will be promoted to a higher rank.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Court Official Pao Cheng.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Your servant.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

My Mother the Empress has returned to court. She is blind. What shall we do?

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Upon this very spot, prepare the incense altar. Beseech Heaven, and perhaps Heaven may restore your sight.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Good. Prepare an incense altar.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Prepare an incense altar.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN: (facing altar)

I am Chao Chen, Emperor of the Sung Dynasty. My Mother has returned to court and she is blind. Here, I beseech thee, Heaven, to restore her sight. (to Mother) Mother Empress, open your eyes.

EMPRESS LI: (opens eyes and indicates sight is restored.)

My royal son!

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

My Mother Empress!

EMPRESS LI: (looks at personages around stage)

My officials!

ALL OFFICIALS: (in unison)

Grand Empress! (laugh) Ha! Ha! Ha!

## Band 4

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Your son welcomes you and wishes his Mother Empress 1,000 years of longevity.



EMPRESS LI:

Chia! You, you unrighteous despot! (sings)  
I see my son kneeling before me. I reprimand  
him as an unrighteous despot. Twenty years  
ago, I was with child. Concubine Liu and the  
eunuch Kuo Hai were bitter towards me, so they  
substituted a tail-less cat for my new-born  
child, and I was therefore accused of giving  
birth to a devil. The old Emperor was furious,  
so ordered to have me executed at the noon gate.  
However, due to the pleading of all the officials,  
both civil and military, I was thrown into the  
"cold palace" instead. Concubine Liu and the  
eunuch Kuo Hai plotted again. They set fire to  
the "cold palace" on the 15th of the 8th moon.  
Fortunately, I was saved by the Saintly Spirit,  
and I was brought to an abandoned tile kiln. When  
Little Pao Cheng came to the Ch'en District on a  
relief mission, I disclosed my identity at the  
T'ien Ch'i temple. Pao Cheng returned to the  
court to inform you of this. Instead of sending  
dragon and phoenix carriages to welcome your  
Mother to the royal city, you arrested Pao Cheng.  
If old Ch'en Lin did not remember all these  
details, you would have executed one of the  
golden pillars of the court. The more I think of  
this, the more it enrages me. Attendant, bring  
me the purple golden rod. (to Pao Cheng) Pao  
Cheng! (sings) Beat the unrighteous despot.

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

I obey your decree. (sings)

At the golden palace, I received the degree from  
the Grand Empress. As I meditate and try to  
recall history, since time immemorial, there has  
never been a case where a court servant dared to  
beat the Emperor. Quickly, take off the dragon  
robe of the Emperor! I, Pao Cheng beat the robe,  
thus symbolizing the beating of the Emperor.

Band 5

EMPRESS LI: (sings)

Such a clever Little Pao Cheng! Beating the  
Dragon Robe, as though he were beating the  
Emperor himself! Pao Cheng, step forward. I  
shall bestow on you, new titles. Pao Cheng,  
I proclaim you Senior Guardian of the Heir-  
Apparent of the court. Attendant, bring forth  
the golden attachments for his cap. Also, I  
bestow on you the Imperial sword. It is your  
duty to supervise three palaces, six courts  
and all the civil and military ranks of the  
court. If the Imperial Son does not obey you,  
-----

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Mother Empress, please be lenient with me.

EMPRESS LI: (continues with singing)

So be it. Exile him!

COURT OFFICIAL PAO CHENG:

Imperial Mother, thank you. (sings)  
I kneel and bow in gratitude for the  
blessings. The Golden Imperial Mother  
treated me with unbounded kindness by  
bestowing on me the golden attachments  
to my cap, the Imperial sword and the  
supervision of the three palaces and

six courts. Any disobedience from  
the civil and military ranks shall be  
dealt with the sword.

EMPRESS LI:

Imperial Son.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Imperial Mother.

EMPRESS LI:

Now that I have returned to the court, prepare a  
banquet at the Temple of Radiance and Affluence  
in thankfulness to all the members of the court.

EMPEROR CHAO CHEN:

Your son obeys your command.

ALL IN UNISON:

Prepare the Golden and Phoenix carriages for the  
Empress to return to her palace. (Ceremonial  
music immediately follows).

Additional Folkways Recordings of Interest:

**FW6812 CHINESE CLASSIC**, instrumental music played  
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