

WONG: (pointing to SHUI TA): It's all his fault, my lord, she was going to send me to a doctor – (To SHUI TA:) You were her worst enemy!

SHUI TA: I was her only friend!

WONG: Where is she then? Tell us where your good friend is! The excitement of this exchange has run through to whole crowd.

ALL: Yes, where is she? Where is Shen Te? (Etc.)

SHUI TA: Shen Te...had to go.

WONG: Where? Where to?

SHUI TA: I cannot tell you! I cannot tell you!

ALL: Why? Why did she have to go away? (Etc.)

WONG (into the din with the first words, but talking on beyond the others): Why not, why not? Why did she have to go away?

SHUI TA (shouting): Because you'd all have torn her to shreds, that's why! My lords, I have a request. Clear the court! When only the judges remain, I will make a confession.

ALL (except WONG, who is silent, struck by the new turn of events): So he's guilty? He's confessing! (Etc.)

FIRST GOD (using the gavel): Clear the court!

POLICEMAN: Clear the court!

WONG: Mr. Shui Ta has met his match this time.

MRS. SHIN (with a gesture toward the judges): You're in for a little surprise.

-----The Good Person of Szechwan, Bertolt Brecht