

*Sections highlighted in represent variations in phrasing according to different schools.

1. Taoist Wizard Goes to the Land of the Sages

A Taoist wizard, who has received an order from Emperor Xuanzong of Tang to search for the spirit of Imperial Consort Yang, reaches the palace on Mount Penglai.

Taoist Wizard

Where is the land of the sages, a domain in the east that I have never seen? Where is the land of the sages, a domain in the east that I have never seen? I have traveled around in search of that land, asking where it lies.

I am a Taoist wizard in the service of Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty. On the one hand, His Majesty properly governs the country, but on the other hand, he loves the pleasures of women. He once devotedly fell in love with an extremely beautiful woman and bid her stay with him making her his consort. [A few schools include this phrase] Since the woman was a daughter of the Yang clan, she was called Imperial Consort Yang. However, due to the incident at Mawei, she lost her life. His Majesty deeply grieves the loss of her and ordered me to immediately find the location of her spirit. Therefore, I have traveled all over the world, from the uppermost reaches of the heavens to the lowest depths of the hells, but am still unable to find even a clue about the whereabouts of her spirit. However, I have yet to visit the palace on Mount Penglai. I am therefore hastening to the palace.

楊貴妃

ようきひ

* は流儀によって異なる場合を示す。

一 方士、仙界へ行く

玄宗皇帝から、楊貴妃の魂魄を探せと命じられた方士が、蓬萊宮へ至る。

方士 まだ見たことのない東の仙界は、まだ見たことのない東の仙界は、どこにあるのか

と、道をたずねて行こう。

私は、唐の玄宗皇帝にお仕えする方士です。さてわが君は、政道正しく執り行っておられるが、色を好む一面もおありで、絶世の美女を側に置かれるようになりました。大変ご寵愛なさり、后になさいました。「二部流儀にあり」その女性は、楊家の娘であることから、楊貴妃と名乗りました。しかしながら、ある事情により、彼女は馬嵬が原で、命を失うこととなったのです。そのことをわが君は非常にお嘆きになり、早くその魂魄のありかを探して参れと私にお命じになりました。そこで、上は天界から下は黄泉国まで、たずねて回ったのですが、いつこうに魂魄のありかが分かりません。ただ、これまで蓬萊宮へは行っていませんでしたから、このたび蓬萊宮へ向けて急いでいるのです。

“I wish that a wizard would find her, for I want to know the whereabouts of my beloved’s spirit, if only to hear about her.” Just as this poem says, I am searching for the spirit of Imperial Consort Yang, traveling far across the ocean, day after day. At last, I catch a glimpse of an island and a mountain. I have arrived in the land of the sages. I have arrived in the land of the sages.

Since I made haste, I have already arrived at the palace on Mount Penglai in the land of the sages. I am going to carefully look for her spirit in this palace.

[Conversation between the Taoist Wizard and an Inhabitant of the Land of the Sages]

The Taoist wizard meets a resident of the land of the sages and asks the whereabouts of Imperial Consort Yang. The person says that s/he does not know of Imperial Consort Yang, but that there is a lady called Princess Jade who misses her past life. S/he assumes that Princess Jade could be Yang. Inquiring about Princess Jade’s residence, the wizard learns the location of the palace in the woods, on which is displayed a framed sign saying, “Taizhen.”

Wizard Following the directions I just received, I have arrived at the palace on Mount Penglai. This is an extremely large palace with many levels. Each building is gorgeously furnished and appear to be completely covered in the seven kinds of treasures. Even those magnificent buildings in the palaces of the Tang, such as the Hall of Everlasting Life and the Risan Palace, do not compare with this palace in Mount Penglai. What a beautiful place this is! (Approaching the palace) Looking around inside the palace, there is a hall bearing the sign, “Taizhen,” just as that person told me. I will wait around in this hall and survey the place.

「方士と常世国の人との問答」

「尋ね行く幻もがな伝つてにても、魂たまのありかをそこ知るべく（尋ねてくれる方士がいるとよいのだが、せめて人伝つてにでも、恋しい人の魂がどこにあるか知りたいものだよ）」と詠まれた歌の通りに、魂魄のありかをたずねて、遙々と波を越えて船旅を重ねるうちに、ほのかに島や山が見え、やがて常世国に着いた、常世国に着いた。

急いで参りましたので、こうして蓬莱宮に着きました。ここで詳しく尋ねてみようと思います。

方士は、常世国に住む人と会い、楊貴妃のことを尋ねた。常世国の人には、楊貴妃は知らないが、玉妃という人がいて、毎日昔を懐かしがっているが、その人ではないかと言う。方士は、玉妃の住まいを聞き、森の中の太真殿という額を掲げた宮殿を教えてください。

方士 今の教えに従い、蓬莱宮に来てみると、宮殿は幾重にも廻まわつて、果てしなく広く、

御殿は堂々と飾り立てられて、まるですべてが七宝をちりばめたかのような。広大な唐の宮殿、かの長生殿や驪山宮りざんきやうですら、蓬莱宮とは、比べものにならない。ああ、まことに美しい所だよ。（宮殿に近づいて）また教えてもらった通りに、宮中を見れば、太真殿と額のかかった宮殿がある。とにかく、このあたりをうろついて、様子を探りましょう。

2. Taoist Wizard Meets Imperial Consort Yang

The wizard hears a woman's voice coming from within the palace, so he announces himself as a messenger of the Emperor of Tang and asks if Princess Jade is in the palace. Knowing who he is, Yang, who is in the palace, draws up a rattan blind and peers outside. Seeing Yang, the wizard is struck by her beauty.

Yang How quiet and desolate this palace is. How quiet and desolate this palace is. [A few schools include these phrases] In the past, at the Risan Palace, I enjoyed the beautiful flowers of spring with Emperor Xuanzong. But the law of this world is impermanence. In this palace on Mount Penglai, alone do I gaze at the autumn moon, desolate. Without noticing it, the tears flow down and dampen my sleeves. It looks like the moon is weeping with me. Alas, I miss those olden days.

Wizard Excuse me, could someone assist me? / I humbly speak to whoever resides in this palace. [A few schools include these phrases] A Taoist wizard has come to this palace as a messenger of the Tang Emperor. May I ask if Princess Jade (Imperial Consort Yang) is in this palace?

Yang What did you say? A messenger of the emperor? Why are you here? So saying, Yang pulls aside a many-layered, flower-embroidered fabric screen and raises a beautiful blind.

Wizard Look at her standing there,

Yang the locks of hair beside her ears trailing like wisps of cloud,

二 方士、楊貴妃と会う

宮の中から女性の声がした後、方士は唐の帝の使いだと言い、玉妃が中にいるかどうか、尋ねる。唐帝の使いと聞いて、中にいた楊貴妃が簾を上げて外を見る。方士はその姿を仰ぎ見て、その美しさに驚く。

楊貴妃

ああ、物寂しい宮中だよ、ああ、物寂しい宮中だよ。「一部流儀にあり」昔は驪山宮で、春には玄宗皇帝とともに、美しい花を愛でたものだったけれど、今はまさに、移り変わるは世の習い、この蓬萊宮でひとり淋しく秋の月を眺めている。思わず涙に袂が濡れて、あの月影とともに泣くかのよう。ああ、昔が恋しい。

方士

もし、案内をお願いします。／この宮の方に申します。「二部流儀にあり」唐の天子の勅使として、方士がここまで参りました。玉妃（楊貴妃）は、この御殿の内にお出でになりますか。

楊貴妃

何ですって、唐帝の勅使ですって？ どうしてここへ来たのですか。そう言いながら、花模様の刺繍をした布を幾重にも重ねた帳を押しつけ、玉の簾を上げて、

方士

お立ちになるその御姿を見れば、

楊貴妃

鬢の髪は、棚引く雲のよう、

Wizard her face is like a flower.

Yang and Wizard

Her eyes reflect melancholy and loneliness, holding back tears.

Reciters She looks like a pear blossom, wet with rain. She looks like a pear blossom, wet with rain. Not even the scarlet water lilies that bloom in the pond made by Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty, not even the lush green willow trees growing in Weiyang Palace (the palace of Emperor Gaozu of Han) can compare with her beauty. No wonder those well-dressed, beautiful consorts in His Majesty's palace were upstaged by her (could not compete with her). No wonder they were upset with her presence (could not compete with her).

3. The Wizard Requests that Yang Provide him with a Memento

The Taoist wizard asks Imperial Consort Yang to provide him with a memento that he can give to the emperor as proof that he has seen her. Although Yang gives him her hairpin, the wizard asks her to tell him some conversation she had with the emperor, rather than receiving such a common object as a hairpin, as proof of his meeting her. Yang agrees and reveals the vow of everlasting love between the emperor and herself.

Wizard Please allow me to tell you. [I will humbly tell you the message from His Majesty.] Even during the time that Lady Yang was alive, His Majesty neglected his political duties. After your death, his neglect is even worse. He spends every day lamenting that he lost you, so much so that his very life is in danger. As such, following His Majesty's orders [following His Majesty's order to at least determine the whereabouts of Imperial Consort Yang's spirit], I have searched for you and met you. All of this has happened because of His Majesty's bottomless love for you. I cannot stop feeling sorry for His Majesty.

方士

顔は花のよう、

楊貴妃・
方士

憂いを含める寂しげな眼には、涙を浮かべていらつしやる。

地

その様子は梨の花が雨に濡れるよう、その様子は梨の花が雨に濡れるよう。太液（漢の武帝が作った池）の蓮花の紅も、未央（漢の高帝の宮殿）の柳の緑も、その容色にはとても及ばない。まことに、唐の後宮にいる、綺麗に装った妃たちが、顔色を失う（敵うはずのない）のも当然のことだ、顔色を失う（敵うはずのない）のも当然のことだ、顔色を失う（敵うはずのない）のも当然のことだよ。

三 方士、楊貴妃に形見を乞う

方士は楊貴妃に、確かに会ったという証拠を皇帝に伝えられる形見を乞う。楊貴妃は釵（かんざし）を与えるが、方士は、ありがちな物ではなく、皇帝と交わした言葉を形見にしたいと申し出る。楊貴妃は納得し、比翼連理の誓いを教える。

方士

ここに申し上げます。（勅命を率直に申し上げます。）楊貴妃様のご存命の時さえも、帝は政務を疎かになされていました。亡くなられてから後にはいや増しに、唯ひたすらお嘆きなさるばかりで、そのお命も危ぶまれるご様子です。それで、我が君の仰せに従い、（せめて行方を尋ねてきなさいという仰せに従い）ここまでお尋ねし、お姿を拝しますことも、我が君の楊貴妃様へのご寵愛の深さ故だと思えますと、ますます

- Yang As you say, I have departed the realm of mortals, and now I look miserable and as fragile as a dew drop. I sincerely appreciate that His Majesty's love for me is so deep that he would send you such a long way to search out the whereabouts of such a faint spirit, but his love merely increases my pain and sadness. I even resent that someone might occasionally visit me and inquire after me. Missing my beloved emperor, I shed tears. Remembering olden times, I feel as if my sadness will make my spirit vanish.
- Wizard I cannot stay here. I have to return to my country immediately and report to His Majesty. Would you please give me a memento of our meeting?
- Yang This is something I had when I lived in the realm of mortals. Saying so, I take this beautiful jade hairpin out of my hair and give it to the wizard.
- Wizard Unfortunately, that is something that anyone could have found anywhere. This hairpin might not convince His Majesty that I have seen you. If you remember any words that you exchanged privately with His Majesty, I could bring them back with me as proof.
- Yang That makes sense. I recall that on the night of July 7, we talked about two stars, Vega and Altair,
- Reciters and we promised that "In the sky, we will be a pair of birds who always fly together in tandem. On earth, we will be a pair of intertwined trees, our branches always touching." Give these words to His Majesty secretly. We exchanged this vow when we were intimate, and this is the first time I have revealed it to anyone. Speaking of this vow, the tears start to flow.

お痛わしいことでございます。

楊貴妃

確かにあなたの言う通り、今は現世を離れた身として、はかない露のような、見る影もない有様です。そんな幽かな魂魄のありかを、ここまでお尋ねくださるのは、いかにもお情け深いようではありますが、そうしてくださることも、辛さ悲しさを増すばかりです。たまさかにお訪ねくださり、様子を伺うことも、却つて恨めしく思うのです。今更ながらに恋慕の涙がこみ上げて、現世を思うと、実に悲しく、魂も消え入るようです。

方士

ずっとこうしてもらえませんが。急いで国に帰り、皇帝に奏上致しましょう。どうか、形見の物を渡していただけませんか。

楊貴妃

これこそ、在りし日の形見ですよ、と美しい玉の釵を取り出して、方士に与えた。

方士

いえいえ、これは世間にありがちな類のお品ですから、わが君からご信頼いただけないかも知れません。楊貴妃様と我が君との間で、人知れず交わされた言葉がありましたら、それを証拠に致しましょう。

楊貴妃

確かにそれも道理です。思い出せば、七月七日の夜、牽牛・織女の二星に寄せて、

地 「天にあれば、いつも翼を並べて離れない鳥となろう、また地にあれば、いつも枝

In this world, in this world, life and death change places as we repeat the cycle of transmigration. Therefore, although we made such a strong vow to one another, my body was buried in a field of Mawei, and my spirit was transported to a palace in this land of the sages. As one of a pair of inseparable birds, I miss my mate. I sleep by myself, alone and lonely. The branches of one of the intertwined trees have rotten and instantly changed color. However, if His Majesty still loves me, just as in our olden days, then I believe that someday we will be reunited. I rely on my belief and wait for that day to come. Please tell him so.

4. Yang Performs a Melancholy Dance and Parts with the Wizard

Detaining the wizard who is trying to return, Imperial Consort Yang offers to show him a scene from an evening party in the past. She dances to the tune of Rainbow Skirts and Feather Robes (Nishang yuyi qu). After she has finished her dance, the wizard returns to his world, taking with him Yang's hairpin. Imperial Consort Yang crumples to the floor of the palace in the land of the sages.

Wizard I am leaving now. I would be very happy if I could take you back with me.

Yang I grew thin from my love for the emperor. If I part with you now, I do not know when I will ever be able to see you again. Wait a few minutes, and I will show you a scene from an evening party in the past.

四 楊貴妃、懐旧の舞を舞い、方士と別れる

を連ねて離れない木となろう」と誓ったのです。これを密かに我が君に伝えなさい。これは睦言であり、今初めて洩らすのです。こう語れば、涙が洩れ出てきますよ。しかし世の中は、しかし世の中は、生と死が移り変わり、流転を繰り返していくものだから、堅い誓いがあっても、私の死骸は馬嵬ぼがいが原に留まり、魂はこの仙宮へ来てしまった。比翼の鳥の一方として、友を恋い慕い淋しく独りで寝るのです。連理の一枝も朽ちて、たちまち色が変わってしまった。けれど、昔と変わらない御心ならば、いつかきつとお目にかかる時が来ると、心頼みにお待ちしています。こうお伝えください。

帰ろうとする方士を引き留め、楊貴妃は、昔の夜の宴の様子を見せようと言い、霓裳羽衣げいしょうういの曲を舞う。その後、方士は楊貴妃の釵を携えて現世へ帰り、楊貴妃は常世の宮殿に崩れ伏した。

方士 ここでお暇いたしますが、もし楊貴妃様と一緒に連れられるならば、どんなに嬉しいことでしょうか。

楊貴妃 我が君に恋焦がれて、痩せ細ったけれど、今別れば、次にいつ逢えるとも知れない。暫くお待ちなさい、昔の夜遊の様子を見せましょう。

Reciters It was the time when, at a moonlight party at the Risan Palace, to the tune of Rainbow Skirts and Feather Robes (Nishang yuyi qu)...

Yang I performed a dance, with that hairpin stuck in my hair. Saying so,

Reciters she picks up the hairpin again,

Yang puts it in her hair, and lifts up her sleeves.

Reciters Oh, the dance to the tune of Rainbow Skirts and Feather Robes.
Oh, the dance to the tune of Rainbow Skirts and Feather Robes.
Remembering that time, the tears flow from my eyes and dampen my sleeves.

[On-stage costume change]

Yang dresses herself for the dance.

Yang It was all merely playing, like something that happens in a dream.

Reciters It's like the dance of a fragile butterfly.

[Iroe]

A series of movements in a short dance performed with music.

地 あれは驪山宮で、月夜の宴に「羽衣ういの曲」を、

楊貴妃 その釵を頭に挿して舞ったのだったよ、と言って、

地 再び釵を取り、

楊貴妃 頭に挿して袖を上げ、

地 おお、あの霓裳羽衣げいしようの曲、おお、あの霓裳羽衣の曲、思い出せば、思わず涙がこぼれ、袂たもとが濡れるよ。

〔物着〕

楊貴妃は舞うための身支度を整える。

楊貴妃 何事も、すべては夢幻の戯れごとであったよ。

地 それは、儚い胡蝶の舞のよう。

〔イロエ〕

囃子に乗って演じる、短い舞の所作。

- Yang Looking back into the distant past, we cannot determine the time at which living beings began.
- Reciters Thinking of future transmigrations, living beings repeat the cycle of birth and death, with no end in sight.
- Yang However, in the twenty-five worlds in which living beings transmigrate through birth and death, there is no escape from the rule that anyone who is born must die one day.
- Reciters Even in the heavenly realms, there are the Five Marks of Decrepitude. Even on the continent of Uttarakuru, one of the four continents surrounding Mount Sumeru, where the inhabitants are said to live for a thousand years, their lives still come to an end after one thousand years.
- Yang Especially in this Saha world (this Jambu continent in the south), death may come to you at any time, regardless of your age...
- Reciters which is the saddest thing.
- I used to be a sage residing in a heavenly realm, but because of my karma, I was temporarily reborn in the realm of human beings, where the Yang clan raised me with care. When I still knew no one, Emperor Xuanzong heard about me, called me upon, and made me his imperial consort. He promised that we would live together a long time and be buried in the same tomb once we both died. However, our karmic connection has been broken. Now, I have returned alone to this Mount Penglai, where I live in desolation. How pitiful and fleeting is my existence. But today I happened to meet you. Softly tell His Majesty about the painful story of our olden days.

楊貴妃

はるか遠い過去を思えば、衆生の始まりを何時とも定められず、

地 未来への流転を思えば、衆生は生死を繰り返し、その終わりもない。

楊貴妃

しかし、衆生の生死流転する二十五種の世界では、生まれた者が必ず死ぬという定めに漏れることはない。

地

まず天上界にしても五衰の相があり、須彌四洲のうちで、千年の齢を保てるという北俱盧洲にしても、その千年の後には命が絶える。

楊貴妃

ましてこの娑婆（南瞻部洲）では、老幼に関わらず、いつでも死が襲う、

地

最も嘆かわしいところなのだ。

私も、以前は天上界の仙人であったが、その昔に因縁があつて、仮に人間界に生を享け、楊家で大切に育てられ、まだ知る人もない頃に、我が君が聞き召して、早速お召し出しになり、后になさり、偕老同穴（ともに長生きして、死んで同じ墓に入る）のお約束を戴いた。ところがその御縁も尽き、空しく蓬萊島にただ一人帰って来て住むこととなつた、あわれな儂い身の上なのだよ。それが、こうして今、たまたまあなたに逢うこととなつた。我が君には、静かに語りなさい、辛い昔のことを。

Yang Even so, recalling those times, I feel bitter about my current state.

Reciters On the night of July 7, His Majesty and I, lying together in bed, exchanged a vow that we would stay together forever, but now that is all in vain. Even after only staying together for a single night, a man and woman miss each other when they are apart. So for we who have been intimate for many years, the separation means so much more... If there were no such thing as separation in this world, I would want to stay with him for thousands and millions of years. But there are things that no one can avoid. That is the meaning of “those who meet must also part.” Meeting is itself the beginning of separation.

Shall I dance to the tune of Rainbow Skirts and Feather Robes?

[*jo-no-mai*]

Extremely slow dance accompanied by Japanese flute, small and large hand drums, and a drum.

Yang Rarely do I dance to the tune of Rainbow Skirts and Feather Robes,

Reciters and the swinging of my sleeves reveals the feelings of my heart, reveals the feelings of my heart.

Yang The old love story I miss,

Reciters The old love story I miss. Were I to tell the whole story, it would take many months and years. Taking with him the memento of my hairpin and saying words of farewell, the Taoist wizard has left for the capital city.

楊貴妃

それにしても、思い出せば、恨めしいことだ。

地

あの七月七日の夜、我が君と交わした睦言、比翼連理の誓いの言葉も、空しいものとなった。たとえ一夜の契りでも、別れの名残は惜しまれるもの。まして長い年月慣れ親しんでいた私たちに、この別れは……。もし世の中に別離がなければ、千年でも万年でも、我が君と添い遂げたかった。しかし誰も逃れられないことがある。それは「会う者は必ず別れる」というもので、逢うことはやがて別れることなのだよ。

羽衣の曲を舞おう。

〔序ノ舞〕

笛・小鼓・大鼓・太鼓の演奏による、非常にゆつたりとした舞。

楊貴妃

稀に羽衣の曲を舞い、

地

振る袖にも、私の心が明らかになる、私の心が明らかになる。

楊貴妃

恋しい昔の物語を、

地

恋しい昔の物語を、語り尽くそうとすれば、長い月日がかかるだろう。形見の釵を

Yang Alas. Alas.

Reciters I will never again lay eyes upon His Majesty in this world.
Although everything happened in the transient world, how I long for those days of yore. The moment of separation was short and fragile. So saying, Imperial Consort Yang, crying, crumples to the floor of the palace in the land of the sages.

楊貴妃

賜り、それではお暇申し上げます、さようなら、そう言つて勅使が都に帰つてしま
うと、

それにしても、それにしても、

地 わが君には、この世で二度お目にかかることはないだろうよ。浮世ながらも、昔が
恋しい。ああ、儂い別れだったよ、と楊貴妃は、常世の国の宮殿に嘆き崩れて、留
まったのであった。

Synopsis

The Chinese Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty cannot forget his concubine, Imperial Consort Yang (Yang Guifei; in Japanese, Yō Kihī), who was killed during the An Lushan Rebellion. He therefore orders a Taoist wizard in his service to find the location of Yang's spirit. Making full use of the mystic powers of Taoism, the wizard reaches the palace on Mount Penglai and hears of Yang's whereabouts from an inhabitant of the realm. When he arrives at Taizhen Hall, to which he has been directed, Imperial Consort Yang appears.

The wizard tells Yang about the deep grief of Emperor Xuanzong and asks her to give him something as proof that he has contacted her. Yang agrees to his request and tries to give him a hairpin that she is wearing. However, the wizard asks her to tell him some private conversation she had with the emperor, because the hairpin is a very common object that might not be convincing proof of their meeting. She then tells him about a vow, taken by her and the emperor, to be eternal mates ("In the sky, we will be a pair of birds who always fly together in tandem. On earth, we will be a pair of intertwined trees, our branches always touching.") That was the vow exchanged between Imperial Consort Yang and Emperor Xuanzong on the night of the Star Festival, when they swore their eternal love to the stars Altair and Vega.

Yang then laments that her unfortunate death has forced her to part from the emperor. She dances nostalgically to the memory of her days lived for love. Holding her hairpin, the Taoist wizard returns to the realm of mortals, and Yang is left alone, sitting in the palace on Mount Penglai.

Highlight

The protagonist of this play is Imperial Consort Yang (Yang Guifei; in Japanese, Yō Kihī) of China's Tang Dynasty, whose name, even today, is synonymous with unparalleled beauty. And the stage is set in the palace on Mount Penglai, which according to Chinese legend, is an island located in the realm of sages, that is, the Taoist immortals. The story begins when a Taoist wizard, a master of the mystical arts, having received the order of Emperor Xuanzong to find his beloved consort Yang, visits her in the land of sages where she resides after her death. This setting makes this piece unique among those classified as *Mugen-Noh* ("Noh of Illusions" in the Third Group Noh), as a monk encounters a ghost (or spirit) in this world. The source for the storyline is "Song of Everlasting Sorrow" (*Chang hen ge*), a Chinese epic poem composed by Bai Juyi (772-846) during the Tang Dynasty, in which Bai recounts the tragic love story of Emperor Xuanzong and Imperial Consort Yang. The later-half of the poem is woven into this play. In order to fully appreciate this drama, it is helpful to know some historical background about Imperial Consort Yang and her death. Let us introduce some information, based on the first half of "Song of Everlasting Sorrow."

Imperial Consort Yang (719-756) was born into the Yang clan of Shu Prefecture and given the name Yang Yuhuan. Her parents died when she was very young, and she was adopted by her uncle. Her incredible beauty led to her marriage to Li Mao, the Prince of Shou and the eighteenth son of Emperor Xuanzong (685-762, the ninth emperor of the Tang Dynasty). However, Emperor Xuanzong was captivated by her beauty and arranged for her to become his own concubine. As Yang became the emperor's favorite, her family members started to assume key positions in the Tang government. One of them was her cousin, Yang Guozhong (?-756). Yang Guozhong became chancellor and wielded great influence, but eventually he came into severe conflict with a military officer, An Lushan (705-757), who was adopted as an heir by Imperial Consort Yang. As the result of this conflict, An Lushan rebelled against the Tang Dynasty. Under attack from An Lushan's forces, Emperor Xuanzong had to flee the capital, Chang'an, along with Imperial Consort Yang and Yang Guozhong. When the group arrived in Mawei, the imperial army escorting the emperor killed Yang Guozhong, accusing him of fomenting An Lushan's rebellion. The army then pressed the emperor to order the execution of Imperial Consort Yang. In the end, Emperor Xuanzong was compelled to order that Yang be strangled to death. "Song of Everlasting Sorrow" describes the events after the rebellion had been put down and the emperor, in deep grief, ordered the Taoist wizard to find the spirit of Imperial Consort Yang. These events are the basis of this Noh play.

We may wonder why the spirit of Imperial Consort Yang is residing in the land of the sages. The probable explanation is that she had renounced the world and become a Taoist nun before being engaged as the concubine of Emperor Xuanzong. This step was taken because the emperor did not want to flagrantly wrest away his own son's wife. As a Taoist nun, Yang took the name Taizhen which, in this Noh play, is also the name of the hall she resides in.

The chanting and dance convey the elegance, sophistication, loneliness, and quietude vividly depicted in the theme of this piece, the deep bond of love between Imperial Consort Yang and Emperor Xuanzong and their feelings of profound sorrow upon being separated from each other. Knowing this historical background, the play is all the more fascinating.

Yō Kihī (Imperial Consort Yang)

Schools	All five	
Category	The Third group Noh, <i>kazura-mono</i>	
Author	Komparu Zenchiku	
Subject	<i>Chang hen ge</i> (Song of Everlasting Sorrow)	
Season	Autumn (August in the lunar calendar)	
Scenes	Palace on Mount Penglai in the land of the sages	
<i>Tsukurimono</i>	A palace	
Characters	<i>Shite</i>	Spirit of Imperial Consort Yang (Yang Guifei)
	<i>Waki</i>	Taoist wizard
	<i>Ai</i>	A resident of the land of the sages
Masks	<i>Shite</i>	<i>Wakaonna</i> , <i>Ko-omote</i> , <i>Zō</i> etc.
Costumes	<i>Shite</i>	<i>kazura</i> (wig), <i>kazura-obi</i> (belt for a wig), <i>karaori</i> (a short-sleeved outer kimono for female characters) worn in <i>tsubo-ori</i> style, <i>kitsuke / surihaku</i> (a short-sleeved kimono worn as the innermost layer of the costume of a female character), <i>hakama</i> in <i>ōkuchi</i> -style (scarlet), <i>koshi-obi</i> (belt), and a fan. Wears <i>tengan</i> (crown for celestial beings and female court ladies), during the costume change on stage.
	<i>Waki</i>	<i>sobatsugi</i> (lined <i>happi</i> -style <i>kimono</i> with no sleeves, worn by warriors or Chinese heroes), <i>kitsuke / atsuita</i> (a type of short-sleeved <i>kimono</i> mainly worn by male characters), <i>hakama</i> in <i>ōkuchi</i> -style (white), <i>koshi-obi</i> , and a fan
	<i>Ai</i>	<i>Naga-kamishimo</i> (a long-sleeved <i>kimono</i> worn with a sleeveless robe and a pair of <i>hakama</i> trousers with trailing hems)
Number of scenes	One	
Length	About 1 hour and 40 minutes	

楊貴妃 (ようきひ)

あらすじ

唐の玄宗皇帝は、安祿山の乱により亡くなった楊貴妃を忘れられず、配下の方士に、楊貴妃の魂魄を探し出すよう命じました。方士は仙術を駆使して蓬萊宮に至り、そこに住む者から、楊貴妃の居場所を聞き出します。方士が教えられた太真殿に行くと、宮殿から楊貴妃が現れます。

方士は楊貴妃に、玄宗皇帝の悲しみ、嘆きの深さを訴えるところに、楊貴妃と会ったことを証明する証拠がほしいと申し出ました。楊貴妃はこれに応え、髪に挿していた釵かんざしを、方士に渡そうとします。ところが方士は、よくある品物では証拠にならない、玄宗と楊貴妃との間で人知れず交わされた言葉があれば、それを証にしたいと伝えます。それなら、と楊貴妃が語ったのは、比翼連理の誓い（天にいれば翼を並べて離れない鳥になろう、地上にあれば枝を連ねて離れない木になろう）でした。それは楊貴妃が七夕の夜、牽牛織女に誓って、玄宗と交わした睦言だったのです。

楊貴妃は、玄宗と離れ離れになった身の上を嘆きながらも、愛に生きた昔を懐かしみ、思い出の舞を舞いました。その後、釵を携えて方士は現世へ去り、楊貴妃はただ独り、宮のうちに座り込むのでした。

みどころ

主人公は中国・唐代に絶世の美女として名をはせた、楊貴妃。物語の舞台は、蓬萊宮。中国の伝説にある仙界です。楊貴妃が死後にその地に住んでおり、楊貴妃を愛した玄宗皇帝の命を受けた方士、すなわち仙術を駆使する者が、彼女を探し求めて訪問するところから、能は始まります。亡霊・精霊と僧が現世で交錯する、よくある三番目物の夢幻能とは設定も大きく違う、異色の能です。唐の詩人、白楽天が、玄宗と楊貴妃の悲運の愛の物語を詠んだ「長恨歌」をベースにしており、能はその後半部分のストーリーを脚色しています。この曲を味わうには、楊貴妃の人物像や彼女が死んだ背景を知ることが助けになりますので、「長恨歌」の前半部分をもとにしながら、ここでその内容を紹介します。

楊貴妃 (719～756) は、蜀の楊家に生まれ、玉環と名付けられました。幼時に父母を亡くした彼女は叔父の養子となりました。その後、生来の美貌から、玄宗 (685～762: 唐の第9代皇帝) の十八子、寿王り-ぼろの李瑁の妃になりました。ところが、その美しさに心を奪われた玄宗は、楊貴妃を自分の後宮に入れてしまいます。玄宗が楊貴妃を寵愛したことから、彼女の親族も唐の要職を担うようになります。その一人が、楊貴妃の従兄弟、楊国忠 (?～756) でした。楊国忠は宰相として権勢を振りますが、やがて、唐の軍人で楊貴妃の養子となった安祿山 (705～757) と激しく対立します。その結果、安祿山は唐に対し安史の乱を起こします。安祿山の攻勢を受け、玄宗は首都長安から逃げ、楊貴妃や楊国忠も同行しました。しかし、馬嵬ばがいという場所に着くと、皇帝警護の親衛隊が、乱の原因を作ったと咎めて楊国忠を殺し、楊貴妃の死も要求します。そしてついに、楊貴妃は玄宗の命により縊死させられてしまいます。長恨歌には、乱が鎮まった後、皇帝は深い悲しみのうちに、道士 (方士) に楊貴妃の魂魄の行方を探させたと書かれ、そこから能の物語につながっていきます。

それにしてもなぜ、楊貴妃は仙人の世界にいたのでしょうか。楊貴妃は、女道士として、いわば出家した後に玄宗の後宮に入りました。露骨に、息子の妃を奪い取ったかたちにしなためだったと考えられます。彼女の道士名は「太真」であり、能で「太真殿」が楊貴妃の宮として示されたことの背景でもあります。

優美さ、品の良さ、寂しさ、静けさといった情感をたたえた謡、舞が、この曲の焦点である楊貴妃と玄宗の深い愛と絆、そして別離の哀惜の心情を、くつきりと描き出していきます。曲の背景を知ること、その味わいは、より深まることでしょう。

流儀 五流にあり
分類 三番目物、鬘物
作者 金春禪竹
題材 「長恨歌」
季節 秋 (旧暦8月)
場面 常世国蓬萊宮
作り物 小宮 (宮)

登場人物 シテ 楊貴妃の霊
ワキ 方士
アイ 常世国の者

面 シテ 若女、小面、増など

装束 シテ 鬘、鬘帯、唐織 (からおり) 壺折、着付・摺箔 (すりはく)、緋大口、腰帯、扇。物着 (ものぎ) で天冠をいただく
ワキ 側次、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇
アイ 長上下

場数 一場
上演時間 約1時間40分

楊貴妃 (ようきひ)
Yō Kihii (Imperial Consort Yang) ©2017 the-noh.com

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