

Chapter ix

A worthless son is admonished. Li Kuei receives a warning.
A mischievous lad is scolded. King-yen sets the schoolroom in an uproar.

The story ^{TELLS} goes that Ch'in Pang-yeh and his son were only waiting for someone to come from the Chia family with a letter telling him to come to school. As a matter of fact Pao-yü was impatient to meet Ch'in Chung, so having chosen ~~an~~ auspicious the day after the next, once he had fixed about going to school, he sent a messenger with a letter. When the day came, by the time Pao-yü got up, Hsi-jên had already safely gathered together his books and pens and other writing materials and was seated on the edge of the bed in a very downcast mood. When she saw Pao-yü get up she could only wait on him as he combed ~~his hair~~ and washed. Pao-yü saw that she was cast down and asked her: 'Good sister, how is it that you aren't pleased? Surely you are not afraid that when I go to school it will leave you utterly alone.' Hsi-jên smiled and said: 'Where does this talk come from? To study is a very good thing. If you don't do it you will make a failure of your whole life. What kind of an end will that be? But there is only one thing. That is, when you are reading your books think of your books; when you are not reading think of your home. Whatever you do, don't play up with the others and make a disturbance. To run up against the Pao-yeh is no trifling matter. Although it may be said that your ambition has long been to surpass others, it is better that your lessons should be rather few. In the first place, if you are too greedy you can't chew it thoroughly. In the second place you want to take care of your health. That is what is on my mind. In any case, excuse me whether you approve or not.' Pao-yü assented sentence by sentence to what Hsi-jên said. Hsi-jên said again: 'Your outer garment padded with feathers I have already wrapped up and given to the servants. If it is cold in school be sure to remember to put on more clothes. It is not the same as at home where there are people to look after you. Your foot-stove and your hand-stove I have also handed out to be taken. You should urge them to ^{stick} pack them up for you. That lot of lazy rascals if you don't speak they are quite content not to make a move. You will be frozen to death with their loitering.' Pao-yü said: 'Don't you worry. I can arrange everything myself. And don't you all die of melancholy in this house. It will be a good thing if you go and spend a lot of time amusing yourself with younger sister Lin.' While they were talking he had dressed himself and got himself all ready. Hsi-jên hurried him off to see the Dowager, Chia Cheng, and Madam Wang. Pao-yü also gave a few instructions to Ch'ing-wên and Shé-yüeh and then came out to see the Dowager. She too could not help having a few words of instruction for him. Afterwards he ~~went to~~ see Madam Wang and came into the study to see Chia Cheng.

It happened that on this day Chia Cheng was in his study chatting with some young gentlemen. ^{CLIENTS} Suddenly he saw Pao-yü come in to pay his respects and report that he was going to school. Chia Cheng smiled coldly and said: 'You need not mention again this matter of going to school, you will make me die of shame. According to what I say, the proper thing for you is to go off and play. ~~To look at you yourself you defile this ground of mine by standing on it and you defile this door of mine by leaning against it.~~' The young gentlemen all rose and said smiling: 'Venerable sir, why must you be like this? Our brother goes today. In two or three years he may make himself illustrious and achieve a reputation. He will certainly not still behave like a child as he has done in years gone by. It is almost meal time. Just be quick and take your leave, brother.' When they had said this, two of the older ones led Pao-yü out by the hand. Chia Cheng went on

to ask: 'Who are going with Pao-yü?' He heard a voice outside answering and three or four strapping fellows came quickly in and, kneeling on one knee, paid their respects to him. When Chia Cheng looked at them, the speaker was the son of Pao-yü's old nurse, called Li Kuei. And so he said to him: 'You accompany him all day long at school. What books after all has he read? He has only read low-down random stuff and stored it in his inside, and learned some pretty mischief. Wait till I have a little leisure. I will first flay you and then settle accounts with that creature who never makes any progress.' He gave Li Kuei such a scare that that he hastily knelt down on both knees, plucked off his hat, and knocked his forehead on the ground again and again answering 'Yes.' He also reported: 'Elder brother has already read as far as the third book of the Odes, something like Yu yu lu ming, Ho-yeh fou p'ing. ^{YOU THIS LITTLE ONE} You does not dare to tell a lie.' As he said this the whole place began to be filled with roars of laughter. Chia Cheng too could not help laughing. And so he said: 'In that case I am afraid that if he reads thirty more books of the Odes he will only be 'stuffing his ears and stealing the bell', and deceiving people. You go and pay your respects to the schoolmaster and say that I say that any book of Odes, ancient literature—there is no need to apply himself to any old legends to no purpose. But the most important thing is first to explain all the Four Books clearly and recite them from memory.' Li Kuei hastily answered 'Yes'; and when he saw that Chia Cheng said nothing he got up and withdrew. At this time Pao-yü was standing outside the hall not making a sound but waiting quietly until they came out and could go off with him. Li Kuei and the others straightened out their clothes and as they did so they said: 'Elder brother. Did you hear? He is first going to flay us. Slaves follow their master to get a little respectability. We slaves have accompanied you to no purpose. We are beaten. We are sworn at. From now onwards it will be a good thing if you have a little pity on us.' Pao-yü smiled and said: 'Good elder brother, don't feel you are being badly treated. ~~By and by~~ I will give you an invitation.' Li Kuei said: 'Little Ancestor. Who dare hope for an invitation? ^{ONLY} beg you to listen to a word or two. That's all.'

While they were talking they came over to this side to the Dowager. Ch'in Chung had come some time before. The Dowager was just engaged in talking to him. Thereupon when the two had greeted each other and had taken their leave of the Dowager, Pao-yü ^{SUBDENLY} recollected that he had not taken leave of Tai-yü, and hurriedly came to Tai-yü's room to do so. At that time Tai-yü was beneath the window opposite a mirror performing her toilette. She heard Pao-yü say that he was going to school. So she smiled and said: "Good! When you go this time I suppose you will 'pluck cassia in the toad palace.' I am not able to escort you." Pao-yü said: 'Good younger sister. Wait till I come back from school and then have ~~your~~ evening meal. And let those cosmetics wait till I come and ^{THEN} mix them.' They chaffed each other for a long time and then at last he snatched himself away. Tai-yü hurriedly called him to stop. She asked him: 'Why don't you go and take your leave of your elder sister Pao but come here? Pao-yü smiled but he did not answer. He went straight on with Ch'in Chung to school.'

As a matter of fact this free school was not far from his home. It had been established by their first ancestor in days gone by. He was afraid that there might be boys of ability in the clan who were unable to engage a tutor. If so, they could enter and study here. All those in the clan who held official appointments helped with money to meet the expense of the lighting of the school and the appointment of an elderly man of good character as the schoolmaster. Now Ch'in and Pao, the two of them, came. When they had all bowed and greeted each other they began to read their books. From this time onwards the two boys came together and went ~~together~~. They

stood up together and they sat down together. And they became more closely attached to each other. The Dowager moreover was very fond of Ch'in Chung and often kept him at her home for three or five days at a time, and treated him just like her own great-grandson. Because she saw that in Ch'in Chung's home their means were rather straitened, she helped with some clothes and various other things. After not more than one or two months Ch'in Chung was quite used to ~~living~~ at the Jung-fu. Pao-yü was always one who could not be content with his lot and observe what was proper. He invariably followed what his heart desired. Because of this, he developed a vicious nature and he said on the quiet to Ch'in Chung: 'We two are of the same age. Moreover we go to the same school. From now onwards there is no need to think of each other as uncle and nephew, only as brothers and friends.' At first Ch'in Chung did not dare. Pao-yü took no notice but called him 'brother' and addressed him by his 'style' Ch'in ~~chung~~. And Ch'in Chung could not help beginning to address him in disorderly fashion. Although in fact in the school they were all boys of the same clan together with some boys of related families, as the proverb well says: 'There is one dragon but there are nine kinds, all of them different.' In a large number of individuals there are sure to be dragons and snakes mixed up and low-class people among them. From the time that Ch'in and Pao, the two of them, came both looking like flower buds and it was seen that Ch'in Chung was bashful and gentle, that he blushed before he spoke, all nervous and shy, with the temperament of a girl, and that Pao-yü was by nature and custom able to act in a subservient manner and to attach himself to someone else in a lowly spirit, that there was a close sympathy between their temperaments and that in speech they were bound up together, because they two were so closely connected, the other boys at the school were not to be blamed because they became suspicious of them and talked to each other about them behind their backs, reviling and slandering them, spreading it about in and out of the school.

Now after Hsüeh P'an came to live in Madam Wang's residence ^{AND} he learned that there was a family school and that in the school there were a great number of youths, his homosexual desires ^{AND} were suddenly aroused. And so he pretended to come as a scholar; but it was nothing more than catching fish for three days and drying nets for two days. He merely gave some school fees and presents to Chia Tai-ju but did not make the least progress; he was only planning to have relations with some catamites. Who would have thought that the young scholars in the school, desiring Hsüeh P'an's money and gifts of clothing and things to eat, were beguiled into his hand? There is no need to relate much of that. There were also two young schoolboys who were very much attached to each other. I do not know which branch of the clan they belonged to and I have not verified what their ^{REAL} names were. But because they were of a very fascinating appearance, all in the school gave the two of them nicknames. One was called Hsiang-lien and the other was called Yü-ai. Although the others all felt a longing for them which was of no benefit to a young boy's mind, they were afraid of Hsüeh P'an's prestige and did not venture to come and provoke him. Now once the two boys Ch'in and Pao had come, when they saw these two, they did not escape being entangled in a longing desire for them; and knowing that they were acquaintances of Hsüeh P'an, they did not venture on worthless and foolish conduct. The two boys Hsiang and Yü also had desires in their hearts towards Ch'in and Pao. Because of this the four of them, although they had this desire, had not given expression to it. Every day as soon as they came into the school, although the four of them were each sitting in his own separate place, nevertheless they were all ogling each other. They either

~~framed~~ ^{FRAMED} words to convey what they meant, or they crooned of the mulberry tree with a hidden reference to the willow tree, making clear from a distance what was in their minds. They themselves thought that outwardly they were escaping the notice of the others. They had not reckoned on the fact that there were however a few rascals who saw through these indications, and all of them behind their backs gave each other the wink or coughed loudly. And this not only on one day. It so happened that on this particular day Tai-ju had business which caused him to go back home; and he left behind one of a pair of scrolls with a sentence containing seven words, telling the scholars to write the corresponding sentence for the other scroll; on the following day when he came back again they would proceed with their lessons. And he ordered his eldest grandson Chia Jui to take charge of the school. For some reason Hsüeh P'an at that time did not often come to the school and answer the roll-call. Because of this, Ch'in Chung took the opportunity to tip the wink to Hsiang-lien. The two went out on the pretext of going to the lavatory. They went to the courtyard at the rear and talked. Ch'in Chung first asked him: 'Does your father take any notice what friends you have?' Before the word were finished they heard ~~the~~ sound of coughing behind them. ^{WHEN} The two of them in their fright looked quickly round they found that it was a school-mate called Chin Jung. Hsiang-lien was naturally of a rather impatient disposition. And so, overflowing with shame and anger, he asked him: 'What are you coughing for? Surely we are allowed to talk.' Chin Jung smiled and said: 'You are allowed to talk. Surely I am allowed to cough. I only ask you; if you don't tell me plainly whatever it is that you are up to in this devilish fashion, I have caught you at it. And how will you get out of it? First let me have a share and we won't say anything about it. If not, you will both get upset.' Ch'in and Hsiang were in such a fix that they went red in the face. Then they asked: 'What have you caught us up to?' Chin Jung laughed and said: 'I have caught you now and that's the truth.' As he spoke, he clapped his hands and laughed with a loud voice, saying: 'Eating together hot cakes. Don't you all go and buy one to eat?' Ch'in Chung and Hsiang-lien were angry and at the same time they were in an awkward fix. They came in quickly and accused Chin Jung before Chia Jui saying that Chin Jung had insulted them both without any cause. Now this Chia Jui was a very unprincipled man, much given to scheming for his own advantage. Whenever he was in the school, he used his official position for private ends, practising extortion on the pupils to compel them to ask favours from him. And afterwards he used to help Hsüeh P'an with the object of getting money and feasts from him. In everything he tolerated Hsüeh P'an's irregular and tyrannical conduct. Not only did he not control him but on the contrary he helped the tyrant Chou in his oppression to seek his goodwill. Unfortunately Hsüeh P'an was as changeable as the floating duckweed. One day he loved ~~to~~ in the East. The next day he loved ~~to~~ in the West. ~~RECENTLY~~ Having got a new friend, he cast Hsiang and Yü, the two of them ^{ON} one side, and even Chin Jung who had formerly been his good friend. Since Hsiang and Yü had come, he had cast off Chin Jung and now recently even Hsiang and Yü had also been abandoned. Chia Jui therefore was also without anyone to take into his care and toady to. He did not feel resentment because Hsüeh P'an had got a new friend and was weary of the old. He only felt resentment that Hsiang and Yü were not with Hsüeh P'an for him to care for. Because of this, the group consisting of Chia Jui, Chin Jung, and others of that ilk, were at that time very jealous of those two. Now when he saw both Ch'in and Hsiang came to accuse Chin Jung, Chia Jui began to feel uneasy in his mind. Although he dare not scold

Ch'in Chung, yet he took Hsiang-lien and made an example of him and said ~~THAT~~ ^{THAT} ~~that~~ he was a mischief-maker, and gave him such a shutting-up that he had nothing left to reply. Hsiang-lien for his part felt this to be very unpleasant and both he and Ch'in Chung went back each to his own seat, abusing him as they went. Chin Jung was more pleased than ever. He wagged his head and made a noise with his mouth expressive of satisfaction and kept on saying a great many idle words. Unfortunately Yü-ai also heard him. The two of them on adjoining seats began to abuse each other in whispers. Chin Jung simply stuck to his story. He said: 'Just now I bumped into them and saw the two of them plainly in the courtyard at the back kissing each other and behaving indecently. The two of them had talked about it and had agreed to do it, the pair of them talking about it in detail.' At that time his only thought was to satisfy himself with his random talk. But he was not on his guard in case there might be someone else. How should he know that he had already roused someone's anger? Who do you say this person was? As a matter of fact he was someone called Chia Ch'iang, a great-great-grandson in the main branch of the Ning-fu. His father and mother had died early. From being little he had lived with Chia Chên. He was now sixteen years old and was even more refined and handsome than Chia Jung. He and his cousin were closely very attached to each other. They were always in each other's company. The Ning-fu household was large and they were a mixed lot. Those slaves who were dissatisfied were wont to make up tales to slander their masters. Because of this, I do not know what filthy and abusive rumours were spread abroad. Chia Chên thought he heard some unpleasant tales and because he himself wanted to avoid any suspicion he now allotted separate apartments for them. He ordered Chia Ch'iang to move out of the Ning-fu and go and set up his own establishment. This Chia Ch'iang had a fine outward appearance and had an intelligent disposition. Although he answered to his name ~~in~~ attendance at school, that was nothing more than a blind. He continued to make cock-fighting and dog-racing, 'tasting the flowers and viewing the willows' his main occupation. Above, ~~was~~ there was Chia Chên who doted on him. Below, there was Chia Jung who assisted him. Because of ~~them~~ ^{who} was there among the members of the clan who dared to come into collision with him? Since he was on very good terms ~~with~~ with Chia Jung, now that he saw that there were individuals insulting Ch'in Chung, how could he be willing to agree? He now wanted to thrust himself ~~and~~ forward to repay their unfair conduct. Moreover, he considered: 'Chin Jung and Chia Jui and those of that sort are all acquaintances of my uncle Hsüeh. I too am on good terms with my uncle Hsüeh. Suppose as soon as I put out my head they inform old Hsüeh, won't that do harm to the friendship between us? If I take no notice and this rumour spreads, it will be unpleasant for everybody. Why not take means to suppress it now which will both stop the talk and not injure our reputation?' When he had finished thinking it over, he made a pretence of 'leaving the room' and went to the back and on the quiet called Pao-yü's school servant Ming-yen and spoke a few words of such a kind as to stir him up. This Ming-yen was the servant chiefly employed by Pao-yü. He was moreover young and inexperienced in affairs. He now heard Chia Ch'iang say: 'Chin Jung has insulted Ch'in Chung in this way and even your master Pao-yü has been involved in it all. If you don't make him know a thing or two, next time he will be still more outrageous.' This Ming-yen was fond of insulting people, even when there was no cause. Now when he got this news and he had Chia Ch'iang helping him as well, he went headlong in to look for Chin Jung. And he did not call out 'Master Chin'. He merely said: 'You, called Chin, what kind of a thing are you?'

Chia Ch'iang thereupon stamped his boots and purposely adjusted his clothes, looked at the shadow of the sun and said: 'It's just time', and then went first to Chia Jui and said that he had some business and wanted to go a little early. Chia Jui did not dare to stop him and could only let him go. Here Ming-yen walked in, grabbed hold of Chin Jung, and shouted some abusively indecent remarks at him and said: 'You are a good little boy. Come out and have a round with your Lord Ming.' He gave all the boys in the school such a fright that they were all flustered and gazed stupidly at him. Chia Jui, hastily shouted out: 'Ming-yen! You mustn't behave in this wild fashion.' Chin Jung, his face livid with rage, said: 'This is rebellion! All these mean slaves dare to act like this! I will just have a word with your master.' Then he made a grab intending to get hold of Pao-yü and hit him. Ch'in Chung had just turned himself round when he heard a whizzing behind his head and saw a square ink-slab flying towards him. He had no idea who had thrown it, but it hit the desk of Chia Lan and Chia Chün. Now Chia Lan and Chia Chün were also great-grandsons belonging to a near branch of the Jung-fu. Chia Chün had lost his father when he was very young. His mother loved him with more than ordinary tenderness. In the school he was on very good terms with Chia Lan, and so the two of them sat together. Strange to say, this Chia Chün, although he was very young in years, had very great determination. He was very mischievous and was afraid of nobody. From his seat he had glanced furtively at Chin Jung's friend as he secretly helped Chin Jung by sending the ink-slab across to hit Ming-yen. It did not however hit him, but dropped in front of himself, smashing to pieces a china jug of water for making ink, and splashing his book with ink.

How could Chia Chün put up with that? He cursed them: 'You prison spawn! Aren't you all joining in?' And as he swore at them, he grabbed an ink-slab and was about to send it flying. Chia Lan was a boy who tried to save trouble. He hurriedly held down the ink-slab and tried to dissuade him, saying: 'Good brother, it hasn't anything to do with us.' As for Chia Chün, how could he endure it? When he saw the ink-slab being held down, he took his book-satchel up with both his hands and hurled it in this direction. But he was only small and he had but little strength; and so he did not hurl it far enough, but hurled it on to the desk at which Pao-yü and Ch'in Chung were sitting, and there it came to rest. There was a crashing, jangling sound as it was flung on to the table. Books, papers, pens, ink-slabs, were all scattered over the table. Pao-yü's basin of tea also was hit, the basin smashed, and the tea spilt. As for Chia Chün, he at leaped out to get hold of the boy who had thrown the ink-slab. Chin Jung at the same time grabbed the big bamboo stick of a broom which was at hand. The space was restricted and the boys were many. Where was there room to brandish a long stick? Ming-yen soon received a blow. He shouted out: 'Why don't you come and join in the fight?' Pao-yü had a few more servants. The name of one was Shao-hung, of another Chu-yao, of another Mo-yü. Was there one of these three who was not ready for mischief? They all shouted out together: 'These concubines' sons! They are using weapons!' Mo-yü thereupon snatched the cross-bar of a door. Shao-hung and Ch'u-yao each had a horse-ship in his hand. And they came swarming up. Chia Jui in his agitation held this one back for a while and pleaded with that one for a while. But who paid any heed to him? All was reckless confusion. Among all these heedless youths, there were some who helped by using their fists for the fun of the thing. And there were some who were ~~sitting on the tables~~ timid and hid themselves on one side. And there were some who stood on the tables, clapping their hands, laughing wildly, and cheering them on in the fight. In a moment the cauldron was a-boil.

Outside, a few elder servants, Li Kuei and others, heard that a riot had broken out inside and they all came hurrying in and shouted for them to stop. They asked what was the matter. They did not all say the same thing. This one said this and that one said that. Li Kuei gave Ming-yen and the others, all four, a good scolding and drove them out. Ch'in Chung's head had early come into collision with Chin Jung's stick which had knocked off one layer of his skin. Pao-yü was just in the act of taking the lapel of his outer coat to wipe it for him, when he heard the shout for them all to stop. He ordered Li Kuei: 'Gather up the books. Bring a horse. I am going to have a meeting with the ~~Master~~. We have been insulted. I dare not say anything different. We came in a respectful manner to inform Jui Ta-yeh but he decided that we were in the wrong. He listened to others who abused us and even stirred them up to beat us. Ming-yen saw that we were being insulted. Could he just do nothing? But they joined together to beat Ming-yen and they even broke Ch'in Chung's head. Will we stay here to study?'

Li Kuei calmed him down: 'Elder brother, don't get excited. The ~~Master~~ had some business and has ~~gone~~ back home. If we go now to the old gentleman because of this little affair with our angry chatter, it will make us appear to have no manners. According to my judgment, a thing ought to be settled where it has taken place. Why disturb the old gentleman? This is all your fault Jui Ta-yeh. When the ~~Master~~ is not at home you are the Head of this school. They all look to you and act accordingly. When there is some fault among them, those who ought to be beaten should be beaten, those who ought to be reproved should be reproved. Why wait until the uproar has reached this stage and still not control it?' Chia Jui said: 'I shouted at them but they all took no notice.' Li Kuei said: 'I am not afraid, Sir, if you are angry with me. You, Sir, after all are habitually at fault in some respects. Therefore if these brothers pay no heed and the matter is taken up before the Master, even you, Sir, will not escape. Why not be quick and decide to clear the matter up?' Pao-yü said: 'Clear what matter up? I'm certainly going back.' Ch'in Chung cried and said: 'So long as Chin Jung is here I want to go back.' Pao-yü said: 'Why is that? You surely don't mean that the others can come but we can't come. I am certainly going to tell everyone about it, and get Chin Jung expelled.' He also asked Li Kuei: 'What House is this Chin Jung related to?' Li Kuei thought a while and said: 'You had better not ask. If I say what House he is related to it will disturb the brothers' harmony even more.' Ming-yen from outside the window said: 'He is the nephew of ~~Huang~~ ~~Hsueh~~ ~~Mai~~ ~~nai~~ in the eastern mansion. What a nerve he has to come relying on his strength to frighten us! ~~Huang~~ ~~Hsueh~~ ~~Mai~~ ~~nai~~ is his aunt. That aunt of yours could only go bowing all round and kneeling before the wife of Lien Erh-yeh and go surely for you. I don't demean myself by looking upon that kind of a mistress.' Li Kuei hastily shouted: 'You wretched little dog, butting in with what you know and chattering like this. Pao-yü smiled coldly and said: 'I only supposed he was somebody's relative. And so he is sister-in-law Huang's nephew. I will go and ask her a thing or two.' So saying, he was about to go. He called Ming-yen to come in and pack up his books. Ming-yen came in to do so and, spreading himself out in a self-satisfied manner, he said: 'There is no need for you to go yourself, Sir, to see her. Wait while I go to look for her, and tell her that the Lady Dowager has something she wants to ask her. I will hire a carriage and ~~bring~~ ~~take~~ her in. You can question her in the Lady Dowager's presence. Won't that save trouble?' Li Kuei hastily shouted at him and said: 'You aren't fit to live. Take care that when you go back I don't first give you a good beating and after that ~~call~~

the Lao-yeh and T'ai-t'ai that it was all through you that elder brother Pao was stirred up. Here after ever so much trouble I had half persuaded them to settle the affair and you came and suggested some other way! You get the school in an uproar. Not to speak of some other way of suppressing it; that would have been all right. But you ran right into the fire.' When Ming-yen heard this, he did not dare to make a sound.

At this time Chia Jui was very much afraid that if the disturbance were not cleared up he himself also would not be free from blame. He could only come in a most subserviant manner to entreat Ch'in Chung and also to entreat Pao-yü. At first they were both unwilling. Afterwards Pao-yü said that he would not go back home; that was settled. He only called on Chin Jung to apologize, and then it would be all over. At first Chin Jung was unwilling. Afterwards he could not resist Chia Jui who also came and pressed him in the circumstances to offer an apology. Li Kuei and the others could only urge Chin Jung, saying: 'As a matter of fact, it all arose because of you. If you don't do this, how is it to be settled?' Chin Jung was not strong enough to go against them. He could do no other than make a low bow to Ch'in Chung. Pao-yü still did not agree. He insisted that he should knock his forehead on the ground. Chia Jui only wanted to stop the affair for the time being. He too urged Chin Jung on the quiet, saying: 'The proverb says: "If you endure the danger of the moment, all your life you will have no grief." If you do not know whether Chin Jung agreed or not, see the explanation in the next chapter.

Chapter x

Widow Chin is greedy for gain but suffers disgrace.

Dr Chang discusses an illness and probes in detail to its origin.

The story tells that because of the great pressure which many of the others brought to bear on him and also in obedience to Chia Jui's command, Chin Jung apologized for his offence and knocked his forehead on the ground to Ch'in Chung; and after that Pao-yü made no more fuss. The scholars all dispersed; Chin Jung himself went back home and the more he thought about what had taken place the more angry he became. He said: 'Ch'in Chung is only the younger brother of Chia Jung's wife; and he is not a descendant of the Chia Family. He is an outsider at the school. And he is only the same as me. Because he relies on Pao-yü and is on very good terms with him, nobody counts for anything in his sight. In that case, it goes without saying that he ought to act in a respectable manner. But he plays the devil along with Pao-yü as a regular thing and thinks that everybody else is blind and can't see. Today he has gone and hooked himself on to someone else. They must needs put themselves right into my sight and stir up this trouble. But what am I afraid of?' His mother, Hu-shih, heard him grumbling on and said: 'And what are you up to now? It was no easy thing for me to speak to Lien-êrh's wife over there in the western Mansion. And at last you got this place to study in. If it had not been for other people's help, had we at home the means to engage a tutor for you? Moreover, in their school the meals are all provided. These two years while you have been a scholar there we at home have saved a lot on your food. We have saved it and you like to dress respectably. Besides, if you had not been a scholar there, what Hsüeh Ta-yeh would you have got to know? And that Hsüeh Ta-yeh has helped us in the course of a year to the tune of seventy or eighty ounces of silver. Now you want to come out of that school. You think to look for another place like that. I tell you plainly it is harder than mounting up to Heaven. Just you be in a good tempered ^{and} amuse yourself for a while and then go off to bed. That will be much better' So Chin Jung restrained