

Mushu is woken by Ancestors

HONG: *(with quiet dignity)* Tradition is much like a mountainside. Move one rock and you might create an avalanche.

(MULAN runs across the stage brandishing her dragon pole and practicing her war yell. In her excitement she knocks everyone over.)

ALL: Mulan!!!

ZHANG: Mushu! Mushu! Awaken!

(MUSHU enters, half-asleep.)

MUSHU: What did I miss? Am I late? Am I early?

LIN: Early? Huh! I don't believe that I have ever heard the words "Mushu" and "early" in the same sentence.

LAOZI: Today is the day that Mulan meets the Matchmaker. How do you expect to get back into the Temple if you don't pay attention?

MUSHU: So I guess that this means that I'm still on probation?

ANCESTORS: Yes!

MUSHU: Still not allowed back up on my Guardian pedestal? Back in the Temple?

ANCESTORS: No!

MUSHU: A dragon makes one mistake. One tiny mistake...

HONG: A mistake involving Confucius...

YUN: ... a silkworm...

LIN: ... and the near downfall of a dynasty!

MUSHU: You know some Ancestors might just forgive and forget, but not you people. You stay all high and mighty up in your fancy Temple, while I'm stuck down here on earth doing your dirty work...

ZHANG: Mushu! Silence!

(The ANCESTORS stand together. MUSHU stands apart and below them.)

LAOZI: We ask that the heavens guide us, just as we guide Mulan on this important day.

MUSHU: Someday I'll be back up on my pedestal. Someday, somebody is gonna need Mushu for something more important. *(beat)* Someday. *(MUSHU strikes the tam-tam.)*

SIDE 2

YUN: This is no time to argue. If they discover that Mulan is a girl, the punishment is death.

MUSHU: For impersonating a man?

LIN: Yes, that is the law. And if Mulan dies...

LAOZI: It would be the end of the Fa family.

HONG: Someone must go and bring Mulan back to safety.

MUSHU: I'll go!

ZHANG: (*ignoring him*) But who? Although we Ancestors can see far, we cannot leave the sanctity of the Temple.

MUSHU: I'm not an Ancestor! I'm a dragon! Let me go!

LIN: Quiet, Mushu. This is serious.

MUSHU: I know it's serious! Who is the only non-Ancestor here? Who can walk the earth, and do the dirty work for you? Maybe a...

ZHANG: ... lowly gong banger?

YUN: A former Guardian who has been cast out of the Temple in disgrace?

HONG: For making a terrible mistake involving Confucious, a silkworm and...

ANCESTORS: ... the near downfall of a dynasty?

MUSHU: And Mushu was his name-o!

LIN: Impertinent mascot.

MUSHU: I just want a chance to earn my way back in the Temple. This is where I belong. Let me help Mulan.

LAOZI: Unfortunately, Mushu is our only hope.

HONG: There is no one else who can save Mulan.

(*The ANCESTORS reluctantly nod in agreement.*)

YUN: Go! Go and bring back our Mulan!

MUSHU: Wow! Thank you! This just proves how much you believe in me!

LIN: Actually, this just proves how desperate we are.

ZHANG: Mulan's future now rests with you.

HONG: As does the destiny of the Fa family.

(*The ANCESTORS retreat.*)

MUSHU: (*calling after them*) Don't you worry about a thing! Just save a place for me between Strength and Honor! Love and Destiny! Between Hot and Stuff! (*A confident MUSHU leaves the Temple.*)