

Dormant Warrior

Written by

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MAGNIFICA

FADE IN:

1. EXT. GARDENS/IMPERIAL PALACE - DAWN

CHINA, the beginning of civilization.

The cool light awakens the lazy, lush turquoise vegetation in Imperial GARDENS. Water flows out of the fountains, with its calm NOISE spreading around.

LEIZU, the wife of the Yellow Emperor, is walking along the path. Then, curious, she approaches one of the trees. She watches closely as the silkworm larva builds its cocoon.

Intrigued, she breaks up and unfolds the cocoon. A long thread appears.

LEIZU (V.O.)

What if we could use this thread as a fiber?

She walks ahead, toward the palace outlined in the distance.

2. INT. THRONE ROOM/IMPERIAL PALACE - DAY

The richly decorated THRONE ROOM SHINES with the glow of gold, copper, and red ochre. On the platform sits the immortal YELLOW EMPEROR wrapped in a yellowish kimono.

In front of the podium stands GENERAL, a man in his prime.

YELLOW EMPEROR

You can know a man from his face for a long time, but not from his heart; you may not get to know his true nature for a long time.

GENERAL

So we will not avoid the conflict with the Fire Emperor.

YELLOW EMPEROR

Yes...unfortunately.

He looks to the side sadly and whispers:

YELLOW EMPEROR

No matter the blood ties, the important kinship of souls.

He looks straight into the general's eyes.

YELLOW EMPEROR

However, what you do not desire, do not do to the other.

The general straightens up.

GENERAL

When can we expect a clash with Yan Di?

YELLOW EMPEROR

Everything has its time
and there is an appointed time
for all things under heaven.

The general nods with deep respect.

GENERAL

I will gather an army. We'll start to prepare. When the time is right, we'll be ready.

YELLOW EMPEROR

If a man does not guard himself, Heaven and Earth will destroy him; let each one take care of himself, and the evil spirits run away.

He looks thoughtfully ahead.

The general takes a deep bow, takes a few steps back, turns around after a while, and heads toward the exit.

3. EXT. FIELD WITH HUT/VILLAGE - DAWN

Pale turquoise spills over a cultivated field that comes to life. The wood HUT stands to the side.

A gentle song is spreading around:

I WANT TO PRAISE THE LORD,
SING JOYFULLY A SONG.
I WANT TO PRAISE THE LORD,
HE IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE...

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LEE HAN, a shapely woman, stands with her back facing the camera. Next to a dilapidated fence in the field, she sharpens her sword. She looks at it with pride and adoration.

She turns and looks into the distance, to where the dull COUSIN, a cowardly teenager, sits on the fence.

LEE HAN
Cousin! Just look!

She is swinging a sword. The smiling cousin watches her intently.

Lee Han starts CUTTING the silence with her sword, practicing. The blade glides through the air – sough – SOUGH – SOUGH!!

She turns on strong legs and straightens her figure, swinging her sword – SOUGH! The space belongs to her. The sword follows her shoulder; she is the sword, and the silence complements her.

She calls the teenager sitting on the fence:

LEE HAN
Come here!

He jumps down reluctantly and grabs a sword lying on its side. He runs up to the woman and they begin to play, fencing with excitement.

COUSIN
AH!

Lee Han maneuvers courageously, turning her sword sharply in the air. She cuts the entire space with the blade. The two irons meet – DING – DING – DING – DING! A series of beats between them is heard.

LEE HAN
I can see the fear in your eyes.

She laughs like a man.

A mature woman with gray hair coiled in a bun comes out of the hut, her MOTHER.

MOTHER
OH! Stop it or you'll kill each other!

They stop. Lee Han laughs. The cousin wipes the sweat from his forehead.

COUSIN
(to Lee Han)
You would be a great soldier.