

Why Did China Have Eunuchs?

1

Dàjiā hǎo, huānyíng láidào Mandarin Corner de bōkè jiémù!

大家好，欢迎来到 Mandarin Corner 的播客节目！

Hi everyone, welcome to Mandarin Corner's Audio Podcast!

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wǒ shì Eileen.

我是 Eileen。

I'm Eileen.

3

Jīntiān ne shì yī wèi xīn jiābīn, bōkè de zhǔtí yě gēn yǐwǎng bùtóng.

今天呢是一位新嘉宾，播客的主题也跟以往不同。

Today we'll have a new guest, and the topic of today's podcast is also different from before.

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Shǒuxiān ne wǒmen jiù xiān qǐng zhèwèi xīn péngyou

首先呢我们就先请这位新朋友

First, let's have our new friend

5

lái gēn dàjiā dǎ gè zhāohu.

来跟大家打个招呼。

say "hello" to everyone.

6

Hālóu, dàjiā hǎo! Wǒ jiào Yīhào, wǒ láizì Héběi

哈喽，大家好！我叫伊浩，我来自河北

Hello everyone! My name is Yi Hao, and I'm from Hebei.

7

Nǐ shì Héběi nǎlǐ de?

你是河北哪里的？

Where in Hebei are you from?

8

Wǒ shì Héběi Lángfáng de.

我是河北廊坊的。

I'm from Langfang, Hebei.

9

Jiùshì wǒmen zài Běijīng de gébì.

就是我们在北京的隔壁。

We're right next to Beijing.

10

Wǒ tīngshuō pǔtōnghuà jiùshì cóng Héběi lái de,

我听说普通话就是从河北来的，

I heard that Mandarin originated from Hebei,

11

dàn hǎoxiàng bùshì Héběi Lángfáng, shì Héběi nǎge dìfang qù le?

但好像不是河北廊坊，是河北哪个地方去了？

but it seems that it's not from Langfang. It's from what place in Hebei again?

12

Shì Héběi de Chéngdé

是河北的承德

It's from Chengde, Hebei.

13

Duì duì duì, dànshì wǒ juéde nǐ de pǔtōnghuà yě hěn biāozhǔn

对对对，但是我觉得你的普通话也很标准

Ah, yes! But I think your Mandarin is also very standard.

14

Nǐmen yǒu jiāxiānghuà ma?

你们有家乡话吗？

Do you guys have a local dialect?

15

Kěnéng shì yīnwèi wǒmen méiyǒu jiāxiānghuà.

可能是因为我们没有家乡话。

Maybe because we don't have a local dialect, (my Mandarin is standard).

16

Jiùshì gēn péngyou men chūqù wánr,

就是跟朋友们出去玩儿，

When I hang out with friends (from other parts of China),

17

tāmen dōu huì wèn, nǐmen jiā de shì zěnmě shuōhuà de?

他们都会问，你们家的是怎么说话的？

they would ask what dialect I speak with my family

18

Nǐmen nàbian de fāngyán shì shénme ya?

你们那边的方言是什么呀?

or what's the dialect in my hometown.

19

Ránhòu wǒ dōu huì shuō, hǎoxiàng wǒmen jiā méiyǒu fāngyán

然后我都会说，好像我们家没有方言

I would always tell them that we don't have a local dialect.

20

Suǒyǐ nǐ cóngxiǎo jiù shuō pǔtōnghuà ya?

所以你从小就说普通话呀?

So you've been speaking Mandarin since you were a kid?

21

Duì, kěnéng huì dài yīdiǎn Běijīng de wèidao,

对，可能会带一点北京的味道，

Yes, and it might have a bit of a Beijing flavor,

22

yīnwèi yě yǒurén shuō wǒ, huòzhě shuō shuō wǒ de bàba māma

因为也有人说我，或者说说我的爸爸妈妈

because some people say that my parents and I

23

tāmen shuōhuà shì yǒu gǔ jīng wèir

他们说话是有股京味儿

speak with a Beijing accent.

24

En, zhège yǒudiǎnr

嗯，这个有点儿

Yes, a little.

25

Dànshì nǐ de érhuà yīn

但是你的儿化音

But your erhua (a characteristic of Beijing dialect)

26

jiù méiyǒu Běijīng běndì de rén nàme zhòng, shìbùshì?

就没有北京本地的人那么重，是不是?

is not as heavy as that of the locals in Beijing, right?

27

Duì, shì yīnwèi wǒ hòumian bèi gǎnrǎn le

对，是因为我后面被感染了

Yes, it's because I was influenced (by people from other provinces)

28

yīnwèi hòumian wǒ jiù qù qítā chéngshì shàngxué ma,

因为后面我就去其他城市上学嘛，

since I went to study in other cities,

29

ránhòu shàng le jǐnián huílai, wǒmen jiā de qīnqi dōu shuō

然后上了几年回来，我们家的亲戚都说

and when I came back home a few years later, my relatives said

30

wǒ shuōhuà shēngyīn dōu biàn le, jiùshì nàge yǔdiào

我说话声音都变了，就是那个语调

that my voice and intonation had changed.

31

Jīntiān wǒmen yào lái liáo de ne

今天我们要来聊的呢

Today, we'll discuss

32

jiùshì Zhōngguó lìshǐshàng cúnzài jǐ qiānnián

就是中国历史上存在几千年

a group of people that were around for thousands of years in Chinese history

33

qiě zài huángshì fēicháng zhòngyào de juésè- tàijiàn

且在皇室非常重要的角色-太监

and were very important to the royal courts - the eunuchs.

34

Qíshí tàijiàn ne tā bùjǐn shì huángshì lǐ de púrén,

其实太监呢他不仅是皇室里的仆人，

Actually, eunuchs were not just servants in the royal courts.

35

tāmen de cúnzài ne yǒushíhou shènzhì néng zuǒyòu cháo zhèng,

他们的存在呢有时候甚至能左右朝政，
Sometimes, their presence could even sway the politics

36

yǐngxiǎng guójiā de mìngyùn.

影响国家的命运。

and the destiny of the country.

37

Nà jīntiān wǒmen jiù lái liáo yīxià, tàijiàn jùtǐ shì zěnmé lái de

那今天我们就来聊一下，太监具体是怎么来的

Today let's talk about why did we have eunuchs,

38

tāmen dōu jīnglì le nǎxiē fēirén de duìdài

他们都经历了哪些非人的对待

what kind of inhumane treatments they received,

39

yǐjī lìshǐshàng yǒumíng

以及历史上有名

and some of the famous eunuchs in history

40

shènzhì kěyǐ shuō céngjīng quán qīng cháo yě de tàijiàn.

甚至可以说曾经权倾朝野的太监。

who once held immense power.

41

Shǒuxiān ne wǒ wèn yīxià Yīhào, zhège tàijiàn shì zěnmé lái de ne?

首先呢我问一下伊浩，这个太监是怎么来的呢？

First, I'd like to ask Yi Hao, why did we have eunuchs?

42

Jiùshì wǒmen jǐ qiānnián de lìshǐ zhōng yīzhí dōu cúnzài ma?

就是我们几千年的历史中一直都存在吗？

Had they always existed throughout our thousands of years of history?

43

Duì, qíshí zài Zhōngguó yāngē nánxìng de xíngwéi

对，其实在中国阉割男性的行为

Yes. Actually, the practice of castrating men in China had been present

44

zài núlìshèhuì yǐjí bùfēn de fēngjiànshèhuì jiù yǒu le.

在奴隶社会以及部分的封建社会就有了。

in slave societies and parts of feudal societies.

Note: In a slave societies, masters own slaves who must work for them without personal freedom. In a feudal societies, lords and serfs had a relationship where serfs farmed the lord's land, giving some of the crops as payment, and they had more freedom than slaves.

45

Zuìchū nǐ zhīdào wèishénme yào yāngē rén ma? | Wèishénme ne?

最初你知道为什么要阉割人吗? | 为什么呢?

Do you know why people were castrated initially? | Why?

46

Jiùshì yīnwèi tā yào chéngfá yīxiē nánxìng de xìng fànzuìzhě.

就是因为他要惩罚一些男性的性犯罪者。

Castration was a way of punishing male sex offenders.

47

Ránhòu hòulái ne,

然后后来呢,

Later,

48

jiù bǐrúshuō wǒ zhuādào le yīxiē zhànfan huòzhě shuō núlì,

比如说我抓到了一些战犯或者说奴隶,

arrested war criminals or slaves

49

wǒ dōu huì jìnxíng yāngē.

我都会进行阉割。

would be castrated.

50

Wèishénme zhànfan yào yāngē ne?

为什么战犯要阉割呢?

Why did they castrate war criminals?

51

Yīnwèi jiùshì bùxiǎng ràng tā yǒu zǐsì ya

因为就是不想让他有子嗣呀

Because they didn't want them to have offspring.

52

Rúguǒ tā yǒu zǐsì,
如果他有子嗣,
If they had offspring,

53

tā shìbùshì jiù yǒukěnéng huì fǎnguolai zài jìnxíng bàofù ne?
他是不是就有可能会反过来再进行报复呢?
it was more likely for these kids to seek revenge on behalf of the parents, right?

54

Zài Zhōngguó gǔdài Yīnshāng shíqī nàge shíhou
在中国古代殷商时期那个时候
During the Shang Dynasty,

55

jiù yǐjīng yǒu le zhège yāngē nánxìng de zhège xíngwéi hé yìshì le.
就已经有了这个阉割男性的这个行为和意识了。
the practice and concept of castrating men already existed.

56

Ér zài jiùshì tóngyī shíqī ne,
而在就是同一时期呢,
At that time

57

wǒmen kàn xīfāng, xīfāng zhèngzhǎo shì gǔ Luómǎ de shídài,
我们看西方，西方正好是古罗马的时代，
in the West, it was the era of ancient Rome

58

nàge shíhou ne yāngē wǎngwǎng tā shì yīzhǒng zōngjiào de xíngwéi.
那个时候呢阉割往往它是一种宗教的行为。
and over there, castration was often a religious act.

59

Nàge shíhou qíshí hái méiyǒu jīdūjiào ma, dànshì zài jīdūjiào zhīqián,
那个时候其实还没有基督教嘛，但是在基督教之前，
At that time, Christianity did not exist yet. But before Christianity,

60

gǔ Luómǎ de rén jiù kāishǐ yǒu le yī gè jiào
古罗马的人就开始有了一个叫
the Romans began to worship a (deity) called

61

Sài Bǐlì móbài de yī gè shìqíng.

赛比利膜拜的一个事情。

Cybele.

62

Sài Bǐlì ne tā qíshí shì yī gè nǚshén.

赛比利呢她其实是一个女神。

Cybele was actually a goddess.

[Note: This version of the story \(sourced from the Chinese Internet\) may differ from versions found from Western Internet sources.](#)

63

Jiù shén yǒu yī gè hái zi,

就神有一个孩子，

She had a child,

64

dànshì shén bùxiǎng ràng tā de hái zi gēn qí tā de nǚ rén yǒu rǎn.

但是神不想让她的孩子跟其他的女人有染。

but she didn't want her child to have relationships with other women.

65

Tā jiù kāishǐ bùtíng de dǎ tā de hái zi,

她就开始不停地打她的孩子，

Later, she started to beat her child incessantly

66

ránhòu tā de hái zi ne zài shòu dào le tā hěn duō cì de ǒu dǎ de shíhòu,

然后她的孩子呢在受到了她很多次的殴打的时候，

and after being beaten many times,

67

xīnlǐ jiù zhújiàn de niǔqū.

心里就逐渐地扭曲。

he gradually developed a twisted mind.

68

Zài xīnlǐ niǔqū de shíhòu,

在心理扭曲的时候，

When this happened,

69

tā tūrán zhījiān jiùshì gǎnshòu dào le

他突然之间就是感受到了
he suddenly felt

70
yīzhǒng zōngjiào bān de yī gè kuángxǐ,
一种宗教般的一个狂喜,
a kind of religious ecstasy,

71
ránhòu huī dāo zìgōng, jiù bǎ zìjǐ gěi yāngē le.
然后挥刀自宫，就把自己给阉割了。
and then castrated himself with a knife.

72
Cóng nà cǐ zhīhòu ne, jiùshì zài zhège tā de yāngē zhī rì,
从那此之后呢，就是在这个他的阉割之日，
Since then, on the day of his castration,

73
yǒu zhèzhǒng zōngjiào kuáng rè xìngzhì de Luómǎ rén ne
有这种宗教狂热性质的罗马人呢
Romans who were religious fanatics,

74
tāmen jiù huì yāngē zìjǐ de yángjù,
他们就会阉割自己的阳具，
would castrate themselves

75
ránhòu zài gǔ Luómǎ de dàolù shàng bēnpǎo.
然后在古罗马的道路上奔跑。
and then run on the roads of ancient Rome.

76
Zhège jiù jiào Sài Bǐlì móbài.
这个就叫赛比利膜拜。
This was the worship of Cybele.

77
Bēnpǎo? Why?
奔跑? Why?
Run? Why?

78

Wèishénme zhème qíguài?

为什么这么奇怪？

So weird!

79

Yīnwèi tāmen shì zài biǎodá zìjǐ duì zhège zōngjiào de kuángǔ.

因为他们是在表达自己对这个宗教的狂喜。

Because they were seeking to express their intense joy and devotion to the religion.

80

Suǒyǐ qíshí wǒ juéde jiùshì yāngē ba

所以其实我觉得就是阉割吧

So actually, I think that castration

81

kěnéng jiùshì zài shìjiè dōu shì tóngbù jìnxíng de.

可能就是在世界都是同步进行的。

might have had been practiced simultaneously around the world.

82

Zhōngguó gǔdài kěnéng jiùshì yōngyǒu zhège yāngē xíngwéi de guójiā zhīyī.

中国古代可能就是拥有这个阉割行为的国家之一。

Ancient China was just one of the countries that practiced castration.

83

Wa, huī dāo zìgōng, tīng zhe dōu hěn tòng!

哇，挥刀自宫，听着都很痛！

Wow, the act of self-castration with a knife sounds so painful!

84

Xiǎng xiǎng jiù hěn nánshòu

想想就很难受

Just the thought of it is quite distressing!

85

Nǐ gānggang shuō yāngē shù

你刚刚说阉割术

You just mentioned that castration

86

shì zài hěn zǎo de shíhou yīnshāng shídài jiù yǐjīng yǒu le,

是在很早的时候殷商时代就已经有了，

was present as early as in the Shang Dynasty.

87

nàme tàijiàn zhège juésè zài nàge shíhou yě yǒu ma?

那么太监这个角色在那个时候也有吗?

So did eunuchs already exist at that time?

88

Yīnwèi wǒmen suǒ shuō de tàijiàn jiùshì bèi yāngē hòu de nánxìng,

因为我们所说的太监就是被阉割后的男性,

When we talk about eunuchs, we're usually referring to men who were castrated,

89

ránhòu zài huánggōng lǐ fúshì huángdì de nàxiē rén, shì ba?

然后在皇宫里服侍皇帝的那些人, 是吧?

and became servants of the emperors, right?

90

Qíshí yě bùshì zhèyàng de.

其实也不是这样的。

Actually, that wasn't the case.

91

Jiùshì tàijiàn ne tā zhège cí

就是太监呢它这个词

The term "eunuch"

92

qíshí shì gǔdài huànguān de yīzhǒng gāojí guānyuán de chēnghu.

其实是古代宦官的一种高级官员的称呼。

was actually an ancient title for a high-ranking official among the imperial attendants.

93

Huànguān bù jiùshì yāngē guo de ma?

宦官不就是阉割过的吗?

Weren't all the imperial attendants castrated?

94

Zài Qíncháo de shíqī, huànguān tā bìng méiyǒu bèi yāngē guo.

在秦朝的时期, 宦官他并没有被阉割过。

During the Qin Dynasty, the imperial attendants were actually not castrated.

95

Dànshì ne yǒuyīxiē rén, jiù xiàng gāngcái zánmen shuō de...

但是呢有一些人, 就像刚才咱们说的...

But there were some, just like we mentioned earlier...

96

Huī dāo zìgōng ma? | Duì duì duì

挥刀自宫吗? | 对对对

Performed self-castration? | Yes, exactly.

97

Wèishénme huī dāo zìgōng ne?

为什么挥刀自宫呢?

Why did they self-castrate?

98

Shì yīnwèi tā jiùshì juéde

是因为他就是觉得

It was because

99

wǒ hǎoxiàng huòdé bùliǎo huángdì de gèng duō de xìnren le,

我好像获得不了皇帝的更多的信任了,

they wanted to gain more trust from the emperor,

100

tā jiù kāishǐ juǎn qilai le

他就开始卷起来了

so they started competing among themselves (to gain greater trust).

101

Tàijiàn juǎn shénme ne?

太监卷什么呢?

What were the eunuchs competing for?

102

Juǎn shéi bǐ shéi xiān zìgōng le zìjǐ, shéi bǐ shéi xiān yān le zìjǐ.

卷谁比谁先自宫了自己, 谁比谁先阉了自己。

They were competing to be among the first to self-castrate.

103

Suǒyǐ nàhuìr huànguān bìngbù bèi yāoqiú yāngē, shì ba? | Duì

所以那会儿宦官并不被要求阉割, 是吧? | 对

So at that time, imperial attendants were not required to be castrated, right? | Correct.

104

Kěshì nàge shíhou de huángdì

可是那个时候的皇帝

But didn't the emperor at that time

105

nándào bù dānxīn zhèxiē huànguān yínlùn hòugōng ma?

难道不担心这些宦官淫乱后宫吗?

worry about these eunuchs causing chaos in the harem?

Note: Harem, in this case, meant a group of women belonging to an emperor.

106

Qíncháo de shíhou kěnéng tāmen méiyǒu xiǎng nàme duō,

秦朝的时候可能他们没有想那么多,

During the Qin Dynasty, people probably didn't think about it that much.

107

dànshì zhè jiàn shìqíng zhēnde fāshēng le.

但是这件事情真的发生了。

But this kind of thing (sex with the women of the harem) actually did happen.

108

Qín shǐhuáng de fùqīn zài qín shǐhuáng xiǎo de shíhou qùshì le.

秦始皇的父亲在秦始皇小的时候去世了。

Qin Shi Huang's father passed away when he was still young.

109

Ránhòu qín shǐhuáng de mǔqīn ne, nàge shíhou fēicháng de niánqīng,

然后秦始皇的母亲呢，那个时候非常的年轻，

His mother (who was a concubine) was very young at that time,

Note: Concubine referred to a woman who belonged to the emperor, but had a lower status than his wife.

110

ránhòu tā jiù yǔ nàge shíhou de dāng cháo zǎixiàng jiào Lǚ Bùwéi,

然后她就与那个时候的当朝宰相叫吕不韦，

and so she began an affair

111

tā liǎ xiān kāishǐ sītōng.

他俩先开始私通。

with the then chancellor, Lü Buwei.

112

Dànshì ne qín shǐhuáng jiù zhǎngdà le ma, Lǚ Bùwéi jiù hàipà le,

但是呢秦始皇就长大了嘛，吕不韦就害怕了，

However, as Qin Shi Huang grew older, Buwei got scared

113

suǒyǐ ne tā jiù xiǎng líkāi le qín shǐhuáng de mǔqīn,
所以呢他就想离开了秦始皇的母亲，
and wanted to leave the mother.

114

ránhòu Lǚ Bùwéi jiù xiǎng le yī zhāo.
然后吕不韦就想了一招。
So, he came up with an idea.

115

Tā jiù zài mínjiān zhǎo le yī gè fēicháng hǎokàn de nánzǐ,
他就在民间找了一个非常好看的男子，
He found a man who was extremely handsome

116

yào sèyòu nàge qín shǐhuáng de mǔqīn.
要色诱那个秦始皇的母亲。
to try to seduce Qin Shi Huang's mother.

117

Jiéguǒ zhège nánde zhēnde jiù sèyòu chénggōng le.
结果这个男的真的就色诱成功了。
In the end, the man actually succeeded.

118

Zhège nánde ne jiù jiàozuò Lǎoǎi.
这个男的呢就叫做嫪毐。
His name was Lao Ai.

119

Ránhòu Lǚ Bùwéi jiù quánshēn'értuì.
然后吕不韦就全身而退。
Lǚ Buwei was able to extricate himself entirely from the situation.

120

Hòulái tāmen liǎ gāo dào shénme dìbù ne?
后来他们俩搞到什么地步呢？
How far did the affair (between the mother and the new guy) go?

121

Jiùshì qín shǐhuáng de mǔqīn huái le Lǎoǎi de liǎng gè háiizi.
就是秦始皇的母亲怀了嫪毐的两个孩子。

The mother got pregnant and had two children with Lao Ai.

122

Qín shǐhuáng de mǔqīn jiù shuō nà wǒ jiù bān chū huánggōng qù zhù ba.

秦始皇的母亲就说那我就搬出皇宫去住吧。

Later, she said that she wanted to move out of the palace.

123

Jiùshì huánggōng tài luàn le, wǒ xiǎng qīngjìng qīngjìng,

就是皇宫太乱了，我想清静清静，

She claimed that the palace was too chaotic and she wanted some peace.

124

dàn qíshí shì tā xiǎng qù sīzì de yǎngyù zhè liǎng gè hái zi.

但其实是她想去私自地养育这两个孩子。

But in reality, she wanted to raise the two children privately.

125

Qín shǐhuáng ne jiùshì yě fēicháng de téng'ài tā de mǔqīn,

秦始皇呢就是也非常地疼爱他的母亲，

Qin Shi Huang, who deeply cherished his mother,

126

xīnli dōu zhīdào zhèxiē ma,

心里都知道这些嘛，

was aware of all this,

127

dànshì tā jiù zhēngyīzhīyǎnbìyīzhīyǎn, jiù zhème guò ba

但是他就睁一只眼闭一只眼，就这么过吧

but he decided to turn a blind eye and just let things be.

128

Ránhòu Lǎoǎi ne tā jiù juéde zìjǐ zhàng zhe

然后嫪毐呢他就觉得自己仗着

Lao Ai, thinking that

129

qín shǐhuáng de mǔqīn chǒng'ài tā,

秦始皇的母亲宠爱他，

he had the affection of Qin Shi Huang's mother,

130

tā háiyǒu liǎng gè hái zi,

他还有两个孩子，
and the two kids he had with her,

131

tā shènzhì bǎ tāmen dāngshí jūzhù de nàge xiǎo jùn
他甚至把他们当时居住的那个小郡
became so arrogant that he named the small county they resided in

132

mìngmíng wéi jiào Lǎoǎi guó.
命名为叫嫪毐国。
as "Lao Ai Country".

133

Tā jiùsuàn mìngmíng wéi Lǎoǎi guó, qín shǐhuáng hái shì bāoróng le tā.
他就算命名为嫪毐国，秦始皇还是包容了他。
Even after Lao Ai did this, the emperor still tolerated him.

134

Dànshì zuìhòu yīcì, Lǎoǎi zài hé biéren hējiǔ de shíhou hē duō le ya,
但是最后一次，嫪毐在和别人喝酒的时候喝多了呀，
However, once when Lao Ai was drinking with others, he became drunk

135

tā gēn biéren shuō nǐmen shéi dōu bù gǎn rě wǒ,
他跟别人说你们谁都不敢惹我，
and said: "You all don't have the balls to mess with me

136

yīnwèi wǒ shì qín shǐhuáng de jiǎ fù.
因为我是秦始皇的假父。
because I am Qin Shi Huang's "fake father".

137

Shénme jiào jiǎ fù ne? Jiùshì jìfù, wǒ shì qín shǐhuáng de diē
什么叫假父呢？就是继父，我是秦始皇的爹
What does "fake father" mean? It means "stepfather". So, Lao Ai claimed that he was
Qin Shi Huang's father.

138

Ránhòu zhè jiàn shì bèi qín shǐhuáng zhīdào le, nà tā kě rěn bùliǎo le a
然后这件事被秦始皇知道了，那他可忍不了了啊
When this matter became known to Qin Shi Huang, he couldn't stand it anymore!

139

Hòumian jiù zhíjiē qín shǐhuáng jiù bǎ Lǎoǎi gěi shā le.

后面就直接秦始皇就把嫪毐给杀了。

Later he killed Lao Ai.

140

Suǒyǐ yǐqián zhèzhǒng huànguān gēn hòufēi sītōng de qíngkuàng

所以以前这种宦官跟后妃私通的情况

So, the situation where eunuchs (imperial attendants) and concubines engaging in affairs

141

yīnggāi háishi mǎn cháng chūxiàn de ba?

应该还是蛮常出现的吧？

was quite common, right?

142

Qíshí yīzhí dōu shì yǒu de

其实一直都是有的

Yes, it was happening all the time.

143

Yǒu le qíncháo de zhège xiān qín zhī jiàn,

有了秦朝的这个先秦之鉴，

With the incidents that occurred in the Qin Dynasty,

144

ránhòu dào le dōnghàn shíqī ne, Guāngwǔ dì shòubùliǎo le.

然后到了东汉时期呢，光武帝受不了了。

when it came to the Eastern Han Dynasty, Emperor Guangwu could not tolerate this anymore.

[Note: In Chinese history, Eastern and Western Han Dynasty are often used to distinguish between the two periods of the Han dynasty that were ruled from different capitals.](#)

145

Tā jiù shuō le bìxū yào yòng yāngē hòu de huànguān dāng tàijiàn,

他就说了必须要用阉割后的宦官当太监，

He said that only eunuchs who were castrated could serve in the palace.

146

nǐ zhǐyǒu yāngē le, nǐ cái néng yǒu quánlì zhàogu wǒ,

你只有阉割了，你才能有权利照顾我，

Only castrated men had the right to take care of him

147

zhàogu wǒ zhège huángdì yǐjí wǒ de fēizi men.

照顾我这个皇帝以及我的妃子们。

(the emperor), and his concubines.

148

Nà suǒyǐ tā chúle jiùshì gānggang shuō de dānxīn gēn hòufēi sītōng,

那所以他除了就是刚刚说的担心跟后妃私通，

Besides the concern about secret affairs with the concubines that we just mentioned,

149

tā hái yǒu biéde yuányīn ma?

他还有别的原因吗？

did he have any other reasons for doing this?

150

Zhège nándào dāngshí méiyǒu zāodào tā de chénzǐ men fǎnduì ma?

这个难道当时没有遭到他的臣子们反对吗？

Wasn't this practice opposed by his ministers

151

Huòzhě huànguān men de fǎnduì?

或者宦官们的反对？

or by the eunuchs themselves?

152

Qíshí gānggang shuō de fángzhǐ

其实刚刚说的防止

Actually, preventing affairs

153

jiùshì huànguān hé tā de fēizi men sītōng zhǐshì yuányīn zhīyī.

就是宦官和他的妃子们私通只是原因之一。

between eunuchs and his concubines was just one of the reasons.

154

Háiyǒu gèng zhòngyào de yī gè yuányīn,

还有更重要的一个原因，

There was a more important reason:

155

jiùshì tā yào bǎozhèng huànguān men gèngjiā yīlài zìjǐ, gèngjiā yōnghù zìjǐ.

就是他要保证宦官们更加依赖自己，更加拥护自己。

to ensure that the eunuchs were more dependent on him and would be more supportive of him.

156

Nǐ yāngē le, nǐ jiù méiyǒu le zǐsì,
你阉割了，你就没有了子嗣，
Once they were castrated, they wouldn't have offspring,

157

nǐ jiù méiyǒu bànfǎ péiyǎng nǐ de zōngzú shìlì.
你就没有办法培养你的宗族势力。
and so they wouldn't be able to cultivate their own familial influence or power base.

158

Suǒyǐ ne huànguān jiù bìxū zhōngchéng yú bìxià,
所以呢宦官就必须忠诚于陛下，
Therefore, eunuchs had to be loyal to their emperor,

159

zhōngchéng yú huángdì, nǐ de hòubànshēng cái néng yǒu bǎozhàng.
忠诚于皇帝，你的后半生才能有保障。
in order to have security for the rest of their lives.

160

Dàn wǒ hái shì yǒu gè wèntí,
但我还是有个问题，
But I still have a question.

161

jiù jiǎshè huángdì hàipà huànguān yínlùn hòugōng,
就假设皇帝害怕宦官淫乱后宫，
Assuming the emperors were afraid of eunuchs causing chaos in the harem,

162

nà wèishénme tāmen bù gāncuì zhǐ zhǎo gōngnǚ,
那为什么他们不干脆只找宫女，
why didn't they only use female attendants

163

jiùshì nǚde lái fúshì tāmen de fēizi men ne?
就是女的来服侍他们的妃子们呢？
to serve their concubines?

164

Xiànzài zánmen de hòugōng yǐjīng yǒu dàliàng de fēizi le, duì ba?
现在咱们的后宫已经有大量的妃子了，对吧？
There were already a large number of concubines in the harem, right?

165

Jiùshì hòugōng jiālì sān qiān ma, guángshang
就是后宫佳丽三千嘛，皇上
It's said that there were three thousand beauties in the harem.

166

rúguǒ hái yǒu dàliàng de gōngnǚ,
如果还有大量的宫女，
If the emperor also had many maids,

167

nà huángdì hěn yǒukěnéng, tā bùhuì yòngxīn chǔlǐ cháo zhèng ya
那皇帝很有可能，他不会用心处理朝政呀
he might not focus on state affairs.

168

Jiùshì tài piàoliang le, shì ba? Tài duō piàoliang de gōngnǚ sèyòu tā
就是太漂亮了，是吧？太多漂亮的宫女色诱他
There might be too many pretty women seducing him, right?

169

Duì, érqǐě gǔdài jiù yǒu zhèyàng de yī gè shījù jiào
对，而且古代就有这样一个诗句叫
Yes, and there is an ancient poem that goes:

170

chūn xiāo kǔ duǎn rì gāoqǐ,
春宵苦短日高起，
The spring night is beautiful and fleeting, and the sun has risen high,
[Note: Yang Guifei was the beloved concubine of Emperor Xuanzong during his later years. She is known as one of the Four Beauties of ancient China.](#)

171

cóngcǐ jūnwáng bù zǎo cháo.
从此君王不早朝。
but the emperor, (indulging in pleasures with Yang Guifei,) no longer rises early to attend the court and handle state affairs.

172

Zhège bù jiùshì pēngjī huángdì chén nì yú hòugōng zhī shì ma?

这个不就是抨击皇帝沉溺于后宫之事吗？

This was to criticize the emperor for indulging in affairs with the harem, right?

173

Érqiě jiùshì huángdì ba tā de lóngtǐ yě shì xūyào bèi bǎohù de

而且就是皇帝吧他的龙体也是需要被保护的

Moreover, the emperor's health needed to be protected

174

jiùshì bìmiǎn huángdì huì zòngyù guòdù, cóng'ér jiù méiyǒu bànfǎ shēngyù.

就是避免皇帝会纵欲过度，从而就没有办法生育。

from overindulging in lust, which could result in infertility.

175

Jiù xiàng qīngcháo de nàge Pǔyí, dàjiā kěndìng zhīdào ba?

就像清朝的那个溥仪，大家肯定知道吧？

Just like Puyi from the Qing Dynasty, who I am sure everyone has heard of, right?

176

Mòdài huángdì

末代皇帝

The last emperor.

177

Duì, tā shì méiyǒu zǐsì de

对，他是没有子嗣的

Yes, he had no offspring.

178

Yīnwèi zài Pǔyí xiǎo de shíhou,

因为在溥仪小的时候，

When Puyi was young,

179

tàijiàn men jiù pà tā pǎo chūqù wán, pǎochū zǐjìnchéng

太监们就怕他跑出去玩，跑出紫禁城

the eunuchs, fearing he would leave the Forbidden City to play,

180

jiù bǎ tā hé yīduī gēn tā tóngděng niánjì de gōngnǚ men guān zài yīqǐ,

就把他和一堆跟他同等年纪的宫女们关在一起，

locked him up with a group of maids of the same age,

181

ránhòu jiù zuò yīxiē nánǚ zhī shì.
然后就做一些男女之事。
and had them engaged in sexual activities.

182

Pǔyí shuō tā dì'èrtiān jīngpílijié,
溥仪说他第二天精疲力竭,
Puyi said that the following day he would be completely exhausted,

183

ránhòu chūmén de shíhòu kàndào tiānshàng de tàiyang dōu shì bái de.
然后出门的时候看到天上的太阳都是白的。
and when he got out of the room, the sun would appear blazingly white to him.

184

Dànshì ne zhèxiē tàijiàn men jiùshì yě lǎn ma, yě bùxiǎng guǎn tā
但是呢这些太监们就是也懒嘛，也不想管他
Actually, these eunuchs were just lazy and didn't want to bother attending him.

185

jiù hái gěi tā guān jìn wū, ránhòu jiù wèi tā zhuàngyáng yào
就还给他关进屋，然后就喂他壮阳药
They just locked him up in a room and fed him aphrodisiacs,

186

ràng tā jìxù gēn zhèxiē gōngnǚ men
让他继续跟这些宫女们
so that he would

187

zài wū lǐ dāi zhe, jiù bù ràng tā chūmén.
在屋里待着，就不让他出门。
stay in the room with these maids.

188

Mànmàn de tā jiù duì zhèxiē shìqíng méiyǒu xìngqù le.
慢慢地他就对这些事情没有兴趣了。
Slowly, he lost interest in (sex).

189

Érqiě hái yǒu jiùshì qíshí zhàogu huángdì ba
而且还有就是其实照顾皇帝吧
In addition, taking care of an emperor

190

tā bùshì zhème jiǎndān de shìqing.

它不是这么简单的事情。

wasn't an easy task.

191

Bǐrúshuō huángdì chūxún de shíhou,

比如说皇帝出巡的时候，

For example, when the emperor went out on a tour,

192

zánmen shìbùshì xūyào yǒurén táijiàozǐ?

咱们是不是需要有人抬轿子？

someone needed to carry the sedan chair, right?

193

Shì tàijiàn tái de, shì ba?

是太监抬的，是吧？

Eunuchs were the ones who carried it?

194

Duì, dōu shì tàijiàn tái de jiàozǐ.

对，都是太监抬的轿子。

Yes, the eunuchs carried it.

195

Érqiě huángdì chūqù de shíhou,

而且皇帝出去的时候，

Also, when the emperor went out,

196

wǒmen zài yǐngshì jù lǐ dōu kěyǐ kàn chūlai jiù huì ná nàzhǒng hóng luó sǎn

我们在影视剧里都可以看出来就会拿那种红罗伞

we can see from TV dramas that they would use a kind of red canopy.

197

Zhēyáng sǎn, shì ba?

遮阳伞，是吧？

Umbrellas to block sun?

198

Duì duì, ràng huángdì zhēyáng

对对，让皇帝遮阳

Yes, to shield the emperor from the sun.

199

Fángshài, huángdì yě yào fángshài | Dui

防晒，皇帝也要防晒 | 对

The emperor also needed protection from the sun. | Right.

200

Zhèxiē gōngnǚ men kěnéng jiù zuò bùliǎo

这些宫女们可能就做不了

Female attendants probably couldn't do all these things.

201

Érqiě ne wǒmen zhàogu huángdì

而且呢我们照顾皇帝

Moreover, taking care of the emperor

202

nǐ xūyào èrshí sì xiǎoshí suíshí dàimìng, zhè kě méiyǒu xiūxi.

你需要二十四小时随时待命，这可没有休息。

required servants to be on standby 24 hours a day.

203

Dànshì gōngnǚ ne kěnéng huì yǒuyīxiē shēnglǐqī, duì ba?

但是宫女呢可能会有一些生理期，对吧？

But female servants had menstrual cycles, right?

204

Zhège shíhou tā kěnéng jiù wúfǎ zuòdào zhè yīdiǎn le.

这个时候她可能就无法做到这一点了。

When that happened, they wouldn't be able to fulfill their duties.

205

Érqiě ne jiùshì gāngcái zánmen shuō de fángzhǐ huángdì chén nì yú nǚsè ma.

而且呢就是刚才咱们说的防止皇帝沉溺于女色嘛。

As we just mentioned earlier about preventing the emperor from overindulging in female beauties.

206

Qíshí hái yǒu yī gè diǎngù jiàozuò huángdì bùjí tàijiānjí.

其实还有一个典故叫做皇帝不急太监急。

There is actually a story behind the saying: "The emperor is not anxious, but the eunuchs are."

[Note: The saying refers to a situation where subordinates are more anxious about an issue than the person in charge.](#)

207

Jiùshì zài Qīngcháo de shíqī,
就是在清朝的时期,
During the Qing Dynasty,

208

jiùshì wèile ràng huángdì bùnéng zhuānmén chǒngxìng yī gè fēizi,
就是为了让皇帝不能专门宠幸一个妃子,
to ensure that the emperor would not favor a single concubine exclusively,

209

tóngshí ne yě shì jiùshì gāngcái zánmen shuō de ma,
同时呢也是就是刚才咱们说的嘛,
and as we mentioned just now,

210

tǐxù huángdì de lóngtǐ.
体恤皇帝的龙体。
to protect the emperor's health,

211

Ránhòu jiù guīdìng huángdì zài gēn fēizi men xíngfáng de shíhou
然后就规定皇帝在跟妃子们行房的时候
a regulation was set that when the emperor was having sex with a concubine,
[Note: There's no evidence to confirm that these are historical facts, just anecdotal stories.](#)

212

bùnéng chāoguò bànge shíchen.
不能超过半个时辰。
it could not exceed half an hour.

213

Háiyǒu shíjiān xiànzhì ne?
还有时间限制呢?
There was even a time limit?!

214

Duì, suǒyǐ jiùshì rúguǒ nǐ yào chāoguò le zhège shíjiān xiànzhì,
对, 所以就是如果你要超过了这个时间限制,
Yes, so if he exceeded this time limit,

215

nà zǒngguǎn de nàge tàijiàn de tóur, jiù huì zài wàimiàn hǎn
那总管的那个太监的头儿，就会在外面喊
the chief eunuch would start calling him from outside:

216

huángshang shíjiān dào le, shì shíhou le
皇上时间到了，是时候了
"Your Majesty, time is up!"

217

Ránhòu yīzhí hǎn yīzhí hǎn, zhí dào huángshang chū lái.
然后一直喊一直喊，直到皇上出来。
He would keep calling the emperor until he came out.

218

Dànshì ne jiù yě yǒude jiù shuō nà nǐ hǎn qù ba,
但是呢就也有的就说那你喊去吧，
But some emperors may say: "Keep calling!"

219

wǒ jiù bù chū lái, zhège shíhou zěnméi bàn ne?
我就不出来，这个时候怎么办呢？
I just won't go out." What could (the eunuchs) do?

220

Zhè bāng tàijiàn men jiù huì zhíjiē chuǎngjìn fángmén lǐ jiāng fēizi tái zǒu.
这帮太监们就会直接闯进房门里将妃子抬走。
They would break into the room and carry the concubine out.

221

Ránhòu zhège jiù jiào huángdì bù jí tàijiàn jí.
然后这个就叫皇帝不急太监急。
This is where the saying "the emperor is not anxious, but the eunuchs are" came from.

222

Tái zǒu? Wǒ yǐwéi shì zhège huángdì jìn le fēizi de fángjiān lǐ miàn,
抬走？我以为是这个皇帝进了妃子的房间里，
Carry her away? I thought that when the emperor entered a concubine's room,

223

jiù zhíjiē jiù shuì zài tā de fángjiān lǐ le.
就直接就睡在她的房间里了。
he would just spend the night there.

224

Wèishénme bùnéng gēn huángdì shuì ne?

为什么不能跟皇帝睡呢？

Why couldn't (the concubines) sleep with the emperor?

225

Nà huángdì bùshì tài gūdān le?

那皇帝不是太孤单了？

Wouldn't the emperor feel lonely?

226

Jiùshì wèile tǐxù huángdì de shēntǐ a, duì ba?

就是为了体恤皇帝的身体啊，对吧？

It was to care for the emperor's health, you know?

227

Rúguǒ tāmen yīzhí shuì, wànyī wǎnshang jiù dōu bù shuìjiào ne?

如果他们一直睡，万一晚上就都不睡觉呢？

If they were together, what if they didn't sleep the entire night?

228

Nà zěnmé kěnéng? Nà huángdì yě tài měng le ba!

那怎么可能？那皇帝也太猛了吧！

How could that be possible? The emperor must be so strong!

229

Zěnmé kěnéng yī wǎnshang dōu zhège... Hǎo ba

怎么可能一晚上都这个... 好吧

How could he possibly do it all night?!

230

Wǒ juéde háishi hěn yǒukěnéng de gǔn | O, hǎo ba

我觉得还是很有可能的 | 哦，好吧

I think it's still very likely. | Well, okay!

231

Chúle wǒmen qiánmiàn jiǎngdào de zhànfú,

除了我们前面讲到的战俘，

In addition to the prisoners of war we mentioned earlier,

232

háiyǒu fàn le zuì de rén huì bèi yāngē,

还有犯了罪的人会被阉割，

and those who committed crimes,

233

háiyǒu nǎxiē rén huì bèi yāngē ránhòu chéngwéi tàijiàn ne?

还有哪些人会被阉割然后成为太监呢?

who else could be castrated and be made a eunuch?

234

Qíshí zánmen gānggang shuō de zhànfú

其实咱们刚刚说的战俘

Actually, the relatives of the prisoners of war

235

gēn fànrén jiāshǔ zhèxiē, zhànfàn zhèxiē

跟犯人家属这些, 战犯这些

and criminals we just talked about,

236

tāmen yāngē hòu bù yīdìng shì chéngwéi tàijiàn.

他们阉割后不一定是成为太监。

didn't necessarily become eunuchs after being castrated.

237

Dāngrán rúguǒ yǒu nàzhǒng tèbié jīling de

当然如果有那种特别机灵的

Of course, if there were some who were particularly clever

238

huòzhě shuō kàn zhe jiù hěn ràng rén yǒu yǎn yuán de zhèzhǒng rén,

或者说看着就很让人有眼缘的这种人,

or likable,

239

tā yǒukěnéng huì bèi xuǎn jìngōng dāng tàijiàn.

他有可能被选进宫当太监。

they might be selected to enter the palace as eunuchs.

240

Nà shénmeyàng de rén huì chéngwéi tàijiàn ne?

那什么样的人会成为太监呢?

So, what kind of people would become eunuchs?

241

Wǒ juéde Zhōngguó rén dōu shì fēicháng zhòngshì chuánzōngjiēdài de ba,

我觉得中国人都是非常重视传宗接代的吧，
I think that since Chinese place great importance on continuing the family line,

242

Rúguǒshuō nánxìng de mìnggēnzi dōu bèi gē diào le,
如果说男性的命根子都被割掉了，
if a man's vital organ is cut off,

243

nà tāmen huì yuànyì ma?
那他们会愿意吗？
would (the family) be okay with this?

244

Jiùshì shénme yàng de rén huì yuànyì chéngwéi yī gè cánquē de rén?
就是什么样的人愿意成为一个残缺的人？
What kind of person would be willing to become incomplete?

245

Qíshí zài gǔdài chéngwéi cánquē de rén jìngōng dāng tàijiàn,
其实在古代成为残缺的人进宫当太监，
Actually, in ancient times, becoming castrated and entering the palace as a eunuch,

246

zhège shì hěn duō qióngkǔ rén suǒ zhuīqiú de,
这个是很多穷苦人所追求的，
was a goal of many poor people,

247

ránhòu ne hái yǒu nàxiē yǒu yuǎndà bàofù de rén.
然后呢还有那些有远大抱负的人。
and people with great ambitions,

248

Jiùshì nàxiē xiǎohái shuō, wǒ yǐhòu yīdìngyào guāngzōngyào zǔ
就是那些小孩说，我以后一定要光宗耀祖
for example, kids that wanted to bring honor to their family.

249

Nà nǐ pǔtōngrén xiǎng guāngzōngyào zǔ, zěnmébàn ne?
那你普通人想光宗耀祖，怎么办呢？
But how could an ordinary person achieve that?

250

Nà nǐ zhǐyǒu yī tiáo lù, nà jiùshì yāngē jìngōng dāng tàijiàn.

那你只有一条路，那就是阉割进宫当太监。

There was only one way, and that was to be castrated and become a eunuch.

251

Yīnwèi pǔtōngrén nǐ kǎo xué...

因为普通人你考学...

For ordinary people, passing the imperial examination through studying

252

Kējǔ kěndìng shì kǎo bù shàng ya! Yīnwèi... Duì ba?

科举肯定是考不上呀！因为... 对吧？

was definitely out of reach, right?

253

Nǐ shénme dōu méiyǒu, nǐ lián shū dōu mǎibuqǐ, nǐ zěnme kējǔ ya?

你什么都没有，你连书都买不起，你怎么科举呀？

They had nothing, and probably couldn't even afford to buy books, how could they take the imperial examination?

254

Suǒyǐ nǐ zhǐnéng yāngē zìjǐ, dāng huànguān, jìngōng dāng tàijiàn.

所以你只能阉割自己，当宦官，进宫当太监。

So they could only castrate themselves and become eunuchs in the palace.

255

Ránhòu wǒmen gānggang shuō de jiùshì

然后我们刚刚说的就是

We just said that

256

qióngrén jiā de hái zi dōu shì yuànyì bèi yāngē dāng tàijiàn de ma

穷人家的孩子都是愿意被阉割当太监的嘛

children from poor families were willing to be castrated in order to become eunuchs, right?

257

Zhège shíhou wǒ jiù xiǎng gēn nǐ liáo yī liáo Lǐ Liányīng,

这个时候我就想跟你聊一聊李莲英，

This is where I want to talk about Li Lianying.

258

nín zhīdào Lǐ Liányīng shì shéi ma?

您知道李莲英是谁吗？

Do you know who he was?

259

Zhīdào, Cíxǐ shēnbiān de dàhóng rén, dà tàijiàn

知道，慈禧身边的大红人，大太监

Yes, he was the favorite eunuch of Empress Dowager Cixi.

260

Duì, Lǐ Liányīng ne tā shì Héběi rén.

对，李莲英呢他是河北人。

Right, Li Lianying was from Hebei.

261

Á? Nǐ lǎoxiāng!

啊？你老乡！

Ah? He was from your home province!

262

Duì, érqiě shǐshū jìzǎi de shì Héběi Lángfáng rén,

对，而且史书记载的是河北廊坊人，

Yes, and historical records show that he was from Langfang, Hebei.

263

zhēnde gēn wǒ shì lǎoxiāng | Zhēnde shì lǎoxiāng

真的跟我是老乡 | 真的是老乡

So he really came from the same town as me. | Really!

264

tāmen jiā jiùshì qióng, tèbié qióng

他们家就是穷，特别穷

His family was poor, extremely poor.

265

ránhòu ne tāmen cūnzi lǐtōu de yǒu yī gè rén jiào Ān Déhǎi

然后呢他们村子里头有一个人叫安德海

In his village, there was a person named An Dehai.

266

Tā bù yě shì Cíxǐ shēnbiān de nàge tàijiàn ma?

他不也是慈禧身边的那个太监吗？

Wasn't he also a eunuch favored by Cixi?

267

Duì, tā shì zài Lǐ Liányīng zhīqián tèbié shòu Cíxǐ xǐhuan de yī gè tàijiàn.

对，他是在李莲英之前特别受慈禧喜欢的一个太监。

Yes, Cixi liked him a lot before Li Lianying (entered the palace).

268

Tā ne jiù huí cūn de shíhou dà bǎi yànxí, qǐng quán cūn rén chīfàn,

他呢就回村的时候大摆宴席，请全村人吃饭，

When An Dehai returned to the village, he held a grand banquet and invited everyone.

269

bìngqiě ne tāmen jiā tèbié de háohuá.

并且呢他们家特别地豪华。

Moreover, his house was extremely luxurious.

270

Nà dǎ xiǎo shì qióng rén de Lǐ Liányīng ne

那打小是穷人的李莲英呢

When Li Lianying, a kid from a poor family

271

kàndào yǐhòu xiànmù, tèbié xiànmù!

看到以后羡慕，特别羡慕！

saw this, he was extremely envious!

272

Suǒyǐ ne tā jiù gēn tā de bàba shāngliang,

所以呢他就跟他的爸爸商量，

So he discussed with his father

273

nà wǒ bùrú yě yāngē le, jìngōng dāng tàijiàn ba

那我不如也阉割了，进宫当太监吧

about getting castrated and becoming a eunuch.

274

Wǒ yě yào chéngwéi xiàng Ān Déhǎi nà yàng de rén!

我也要成为像安德海那样的人！

He wanted to become someone like An Dehai!

275

Dànshì qíshí ne wǒ kàn guo yěshǐ,

但是其实呢我看过野史，

But according to unofficial historical documents,

276

jiùshì yīxiē mínhjiān liúchuán de yīxiē gùshi
就是一些民间流传的一些故事
which were stories circulated among the people,

277

ránhòu yěshǐ jìzǎi ne, qíshí Lǐ Liányīng tāmen jiā nàhuìr shì yǒuqiánrén
然后野史记载呢，其实李连英他们家那会儿是有钱人
Li Lianying's family was actually wealthy at that time.

278

Nà wèishénme yǒuqiánrén tā xiǎng dāng tàijiàn ne?
那为什么有钱人他想当太监呢？
So why would a rich person want to become a eunuch?

279

Shì yīnwèi yǒu yīcì Lǐ Liányīng xiǎo de shíhou ba, tā huànbìng le
是因为有一次李莲英小的时候吧，他患病了
When Li Lianying was a kid, he fell ill

280

dé le yī gè duìyú wǒmen xiànzài láishuō
得了个对于我们来说
with a condition that now might be a minor issue,

281

kěnéng jiùshì qīngchūnqī zhǎng dòu de yī gè xiǎobìng.
可能就是青春期长痘的一个小病。
like adolescence acne.

282

Dàn nàge shíhou méiyǒu zhège gàiniàn ya, tā bù dǒng ya
但那个时候没有这个概念呀，他不懂呀
But at that time, they didn't have the knowledge (to effectively handle "minor illnesses").

283

Suǒyǐ tāmen jiā jiù qiúyī bài fó ya, dōu méiyǒu yòng
所以他们家就求医拜佛呀，都没有用
So his family sought medical treatment and prayed to Buddha, but nothing worked.

284

Zhè shíhou ne cūn lǐtōu lái le yī gè suànmìng de xiānsheng
这时候呢村里头来了一个算命的先生
At this time, a fortune teller came to the village.

285

Qiā zhǐ yī suàn | Duì, wǒ qiā zhǐ yī suàn

掐指一算 | 对，我掐指一算

(Tell fortunes) by using their fingers. | Right.

286

nǐmen jiā háizi ne yào xiǎng huómìng, nà nǐ jiù yǒu liǎng tiáo lù kěxuǎn:

你们家孩子呢要想活命，那你就有两条路可选：

(He said): "If your child wants to live, you have two options:

287

Dìyī jìngōng dāng tàijiàn, dì'èr shàng sìmiào dāng héshang.

第一进宫当太监，第二上寺庙当和尚。

become a eunuch, or become a monk.

288

Tā bà ne, jiù Lǐ Liányīng de fùqīn jiù zuómo, zuǒsīyòuxiǎng

他爸呢，就李连英的父亲就琢磨，左思右想

His father thought about this over and over.

289

zhè háizi ya dōu bùkěnéng yǒu hòudài le,

这孩子呀都不可能后代了，

(He thought, since neither option) would allow his son to have offspring,

290

dànshì kěnéng dāng héshang huì hǎo yīdiǎn

但是可能当和尚会好一点

becoming a monk might be better

291

yīnwèi shēntǐ ba tā shì zhèngcháng de, tā bù cánquē.

因为身体吧他是正常的，他不残缺。

because at least his son would have a complete body.

292

Nà Lǐ Liányīng kěbù zhème xiǎng ya

那李连英可不这么想呀

But Li Lianying didn't agree!

293

Lǐ Liányīng xiǎng de jiùshì rúguǒ wǒ dāng héshang qù le,

李连英想的就是如果我当和尚去了，

He thought that if he became a monk,

294

nà wǒ zhè bèizi dǐngduō jiùshì gè dà héshang.

那我这辈子顶多就是个大和尚。

then, at best, he could only become a senior monk.

295

Méiyǒushénme chūxi ya, duì ba?

没有什么出息呀，对吧？

That was no future, right?

296

Bùxíng, wǒ yào jìngōng dāng tàijiàn!

不行，我要进宫当太监！

So no! He wanted to enter the palace to be a eunuch!

297

wǒ yào chéngwéi dà tàijiàn,

我要成为大太监，

He wanted to become an important eunuch,

298

wǒ yào chéngwéi huángdì shēnbiān de hóng rén!

我要成为皇帝身边的红人！

and the emperor's favorite!

299

Yǒu zhìxiàng! | Duì

有志向！ | 对

Ambitious! | Right.

300

Suǒyǐ ne tā zuìhòu jìngōng dāng le tàijiàn.

所以呢他最后进宫当了太监。

So in the end, he became a eunuch.

301

Yě shì tǐng lìzhì de yī gè gùshi

也是挺励志的一个故事

Quite an inspiring story!

302

Dànshì wǒ zài xiǎng, tā nándào bù hàipà ma?

但是我在想，他难道不害怕吗？
But I wonder, wasn't he afraid?

303
Jiù yāngē tīng zhe jiù hěn ràng rén shòubùliǎo,
就阉割听着就很让人受不了，
Castration sounds so unbearable!

304
tā yě tǐng yǒu yǒngqì de ma.
他也挺有勇气的嘛。
He was quite brave!

305
Tā kěnéng jiùshì wǒ yīgèrén wǒ bèi yāngē le,
他可能就是我一个人我被阉割了，
He might have thought, if I get castrated,

306
nà hǎo, wǒ quánjiā bù è le.
那好，我全家不饿了。
at least my whole family won't go hungry.

307
Érqiě quánjiā rén shènzhì yǒukěnéng huì kěyǐ gài fángzi le
而且全家人甚至有可能可以盖房子了
And they might even be able to build a (nice) house.

308
Érqiě yǐqián yě méiyǒushénme yī tāi zhèngcè,
而且以前也没有什么一胎政策，
In addition, there wasn't the one-child policy back then,

309
suǒyǐ tāmen jiā kěnéng yǒu hǎoduō gè érzi ne.
所以他们家可能有好多个儿子呢。
so the family might have many sons.

310
Jiùsuàn tā zìjǐ bùnéng chuánzōngjiēdài,
就算他自己不能传宗接代，
Even if he couldn't continue the family line,

311

tā de xiōngdì háishi kěyǐ de, shì ba?

他的兄弟还是可以的，是吧？

his brothers still could, right?

312

Duì, érqǐě ne jiù bǐrúshuō tā bèi yāngē zhīhòu jìngōng dāng le tàijiàn,

对，而且呢比如说他被阉割之后进宫当了太监，

Yes, and if he became a eunuch in the palace,

313

wànyī jiùshì tā hùn de tèbié hǎo,

万一就是他混得特别好，

and if by luck he was successful,

314

nà tāmen jiārén kě bùguāng shì bù è de wèntí le,

那他们家人可不光是不饿的问题了，

then his family not only would have food on the table,

315

nà kě jiùshì tǐngzhí yāobǎn zuòrén le.

那可就是挺直腰板做人了。

but would be respected by others.

316

Zhè jiùshì yī rén dédào quánjiā shēngtiān le ya

这就是一人得道全家升天了呀

As the saying goes: "When one person succeeds, the whole family is elevated."

317

Yǒudàoli, yǒudàoli

有道理，有道理

Makes sense.

318

Nà shìbùshì suǒyǒu xiǎng dāng tàijiàn de qióng rén dōu néng dāngshang ne?

那是不是所有想当太监的穷人都能当上呢？

So, could all the poor people who wanted to become eunuchs achieve this goal?

319

Zài Qīngcháo shíqī jiù yǒu guānfāng jìzǎi,

在清朝时期就有官方记载，

During the Qing Dynasty, there were official records

320

jiùshì dāozi jiàng měi gè jìdù

就是刀子匠每个季度

that "knife craftsmen" (castration surgeons) had to deliver

321

yào xiàng cháotíng nèi sòng sìshí míng xiǎo tàijiàn,

要向朝廷内送四十名小太监，

forty young eunuchs to the court every quarter.

322

jiùshì bèi yāngē hǎo de xiǎo tàijiàn.

就是被阉割好的小太监。

I mean, young boys who had already been castrated.

323

Ránhòu ne yī nián sì gè jìdù, zǒnggòng yī bǎi liùshí gè xiǎo tàijiàn.

然后呢一年四个季度，总共一百六十个小太监。

With four quarters in a year, that was a total of 160 (new) eunuchs.

324

Dāngrán hái yǒu jiùshì wǒ kěnéng zǒu bùliǎo guānfāng qúdào,

当然还有就是我不可能走不了官方渠道，

If one couldn't become a eunuch through the official means (the quarterly quotas),

325

zěnmébàn ne?

怎么办呢？

what else could they do?

326

Nǐ yě kěyǐ zhǎo rén yǐnjiàn.

你也可以找人引荐。

They could get someone (important) to refer them.

327

Jiù gǔdài ne tā yǒuyīxiē lǎo tàijiàn,

就古代呢他有一些老太监，

In ancient times, there were some old eunuchs

328

nà lǎo tàijiàn tā tuìxiū le yǐhòu, tā bùxiǎng huíjiā.

那老太监他退休了以后，他不想回家。

that retired and did not want to return to their hometowns.

329

Nà bùxiǎng huíjiā zěnmébàn ne?

那不想回家怎么办呢?

What did they do?

330

Tāmen jiù huì bān dào huánggōng de bù yuǎn chù,

他们就会搬到皇宫的不远处,

They would move to a place not far from the palace

331

yǒu yī gè jiàozuò Zhōngguān cūn de dìfang.

有一个叫做中官村的地方。

called Zhongguan Village.

332

Nà bùshì Běijīng de zhōngguāncūn? | Duì, shì Zhōngguāncūn

那不是北京的中关村? | 对, 是中关村

Isn't that Zhongguancun (a major technology hub) in Beijing? | Yes.

333

Dànshì nàhuìr de Zhōngguān cūn,

但是那会儿的中官村,

But the Zhongguan Village back then

334

kě bù gēn xiànzài gāokējì fādá de Zhōngguāncūn yīyàng.

可不跟现在高科技发达的中关村一样。

was not like the high-tech developed Zhongguancun of today.

335

Nàhuìr de Zhōngguān cūn de guān, shì guān rén de guān.

那会儿的中官村的官, 是官人的官。

The character of "guan" in Zhongguan Village at that time meant "official".

336

Dāng guān de guān, bùshì guānxi de guān | Duì

当官的官, 不是关系的关 | 对

Not the "guan" of relationship. | Right.

337

Bǐrúshuō wǒ qióng rénjiā háizi wǒ zhǎo bùliǎo nàge dāozi jiàng,

比如说我穷人家孩子我找不了那个刀子匠,

For example, coming from a poor family, if I couldn't get a castration surgeon,

338

wǒ jiù zhǎo lǎo tàijiàn.

我就找老太监。

I could go to an old eunuch.

339

Wǒ zìjǐ gěi háizi yān le, ràng lǎo tàijiàn bāng wǒ yǐnjiàn yǐnjiàn.

我自己给孩子阉了，让老太监帮我引荐引荐。

The father could castrate his own child and ask an old eunuch for a referral.

340

Qiánmiàn nǐ tídao shuō yǒu zhèngguī de tújìng,

前面你提到说有正规的途径，

You mentioned earlier about the official channels

341

jiùshì tōngguò dāozi jiàng xiàng huánggōng lǐmiàn shūsòng xiǎo tàijiàn.

就是通过刀子匠向皇宫里面输送小太监。

which was through the "knife craftsmen" (and the quarterly quotas).

342

Nà dāozi jiàng shì gè shénmeyàng de dōngxī huòzhě rén?

那刀子匠是个什么样的东西或者人？

What exactly was a "knife craftsman"?

343

Tā jiùshì gěi tàijiàn yāngē zuò shǒushù de rén | Shǒushù shī

他就是给太监阉割做手术的人 | 手术师

It was someone who performed castration surgery. | A surgeon.

344

Duì, shǒushù shī

对，手术师

Yes, a surgeon.

345

Dāozi jiàng tā gěi tàijiàn yāngē dōu shì yào shōuqǔ shǒushù fèi de

刀子匠他给太监阉割都是要收取手术费的

The castration surgeon would charge a fee for the surgery.

346

Shéi fù ne?

谁付呢？

Who would pay for it?

347

Zhège shì yào tàijiàn zìjǐ fù

这个是要太监自己付

The (family of the young boys) who wanted to become eunuchs would pay for it.

348

Dāozi jiàng ne tā měi yāngē yī míng tàijiàn,

刀子匠呢他每阉割一名太监，

For each eunuch, the surgeon

349

tā yào shōuqǔ liù liǎng bái yín, zhídào jiùshì tā wánquán zhìhǎo zhège tàijiàn.

他要收取六两白银，直到就是他完全治好这个太监。

would charge six liang of silver and this included the aftercare until full recovery.

350

Liù liǎng bái yín suànshì duō de ma? Zài nàge shíhou

六两白银算是多的吗？在那个时候

Was six liang of silver a lot of money at that time?

351

Gǎnjué jiùshì duìyú yī gè tèbié qióngkǔ de jiātíng láishuō,

感觉就是对于一个特别穷苦的家庭来说，

I feel that for a poor family,

352

kěnéng yě shì bǐjiào zhòng de yī gè fùdān.

可能也是比较重的一个负担。

it might have been a heavy burden.

353

Rúguǒ nǐ zhēnde tèbié tèbié xiǎng dāng tàijiàn ne,

如果你真的特别特别想当太监呢，

If one really wanted to become a eunuch (and didn't have the money),

354

nǐ kěyǐ qù zhǎo dānbǎo rén.

你可以去找担保人。

he could get a guarantor.

355

Yǒule dānbǎo rén ne, nǐ jiù bù yòng jiāo qián le,
有了担保人呢，你就不用交钱了，
With a guarantor, he didn't have to pay (right away).

356

nǐ jiù zhí jiē jiù shì xiān yāngē hòu jiāo fèi.
你就直接就是先阉割后交费。
He could get the surgery and pay later.

357

Shéi néng dāng dānbǎo rén ne? Lǎo tài jiàn ma?
谁能当担保人呢？老太监吗？
Who could qualify as a guarantor? Older eunuchs?

358

Duì, jiù shì zhè xiē lǎo tài jiàn men jiù kě yǐ dāng dānbǎo rén.
对，就是这些老太监们就可以当担保人。
Yes, these old eunuchs could act as guarantors.

359

Dāng rán le, rú guǒ nǐ yòu zhǎo bú dào kě yǐ bāng nǐ zuò dānbǎo rén de tài jiàn,
当然了，如果你又找不到可以帮你做担保人的太监，
Of course, if you couldn't find a eunuch to vouch for you

360

nǐ hái méi qián, qí shí nǐ yě néng yāngē, nǐ yě néng zhǎo dāo zǐ jiàng.
你还没钱，其实你也能阉割，你也能找刀子匠。
and you had no money, you could still be castrated by a surgeon.

361

Jiù shì yǒu liǎng zhǒng jià qián,
就是有两种价钱，
There were two kinds of prices:

362

Jiù bǎo huó, tā shì yī zhǒng jià.
就保活，它是一种价。
one was "guaranteed survival" fee.

363

Jiù shì yān chéng shén me yàng wǒ bù guǎn, dàn shì nǐ zhè hái zǐ sǐ bù liǎo.
就是阉成什么样我不管，但是你这孩子死不了。
(With this fee), the surgeon wouldn't guarantee the result of the castration, but he
would ensure that the child wouldn't die.

364

Ránhòu ne jiùshì wǒ bǎo yān bù bǎo huó,
然后呢就是我保阉不保活，
Another kind was "survival not guaranteed" fee,

365

jiùshì wǒ jiù gěi nǐ yān de tèbié hǎo,
就是我就给你阉得特别好，
which meant the surgeon would try to do a good job on the surgery,

366

dànshì nǐ hái zi shì sǐ shì huó gēn wǒ méiguānxi, zhè yě shì yīzhǒng jià.
但是你孩子是死是活跟我没关系，这也是一种价。
but survival of the child was not guaranteed.

367

Zài Qīngcháo mònián ne,
在清朝末年呢，
Towards the end of the Qing Dynasty,

368

yǒu liǎng gè guānfāng rènzhèng de dāozi jiàng dàhù,
有两个官方认证的刀子匠大户，
there were two officially certified castration surgeons,

369

yī gè jiào Bìwǔ, yī gè jiào Xiǎodāo Liú.
一个叫毕五，一个叫小刀刘。
one was Bi Wu, and the other one was Xiao Dao Liu.

370

Tāmen jiùshì zhèzhǒng shǒuyì ne
他们就是这种手艺呢
They kept this craft

371

bù chuán wàirén, jiāzú nèi shìdàixiāngchuán.
不传外人，家族内世代相传。
within the family, passed down through generations.

372

Érqiě ne jiùshì wǒmen jìngōng,
而且呢就是我们进宫，

Also, they didn't just send anyone

373

jiù nǐ bùguāng shì zhǐshì yāngē, duì ba?

就不光是只是阉割，对吧？

who was castrated to the palace, right?

374

Nǐ hái yào kànkàn zhè xiǎohái jī bù jīng ya

你还要看看这小孩机不机灵呀

They had to assess whether the child was clever

375

tóunǎo jiùshì huófen bù huófen ya, duì ba?

头脑就是活分不活分呀，对吧？

and had a flexible mind, right?

376

Zhèxiē shǒuxù ne yě shì dōu yóu tāmen liǎng jiā bāobàn.

这些手续呢也是都由他们两家包办。

These procedures were also handled exclusively by these two families.

377

Rúguǒshuō yī gè háizi tā bìxū děiyào

如果说一个孩子他必须得要

If a child needed to be

378

zài zhǎodào gōngzuò zhīqián xiān bǎ zìjǐ gěi yān le,

在找到工作之前先把自己给阉了，

castrate before getting work,

379

wànyī tā bǎ zìjǐ yān le, dànshì zuìzhōng méi zhǎozháo gōngzuò

万一他把自己阉了，但是最终没找着工作

what if he got castrated but didn't get a job?

380

jiùshì bùlùn shì dāozi jiàng ne háishi zhège lǎo tàijiàn tuījiàn

就是不论是刀子匠呢还是这个老太监推荐

If neither recommendations from the surgeon or the old eunuch succeeded

381

dōu méiyǒu chénggōng, nà zěnmébàn?

都没有成功，那怎么办？
in getting the castrated child a job, then what?

382
Qíshí zhèzhǒng qíngkuàng ne fēicháng shǎojiàn
其实这种情况呢非常少见
Actually, this situation was very rare.

383
Dànshì rúguǒ chūxiàn zhèzhǒng qíngkuàng ne,
但是如果出现这种情况呢，
But if it did occur,

384
nǐ yě shì yǒu gōngzuò kěyǐ zuò de.
你也是有工作可以做的。
there was still work they could do.

385
Jiù bǐrúshuō ne nǐ kěyǐ zuò yīxiē
就比如说呢你可以做一些
For example, they could work

386
jiùshì huánggōng zhīnèi de wàiwéi gōngzuò.
就是皇宫之内的外围工作。
in the outskirts of the palace.

387
Yě shì néng zhǎozháo gōngzuò,
也是能找着工作，
They could still find work,

388
zhǐbuguò bùshì nàme hǎo de gōngzuò.
只不过不是那么好的工作。
but not as good.

389
Duì, jiùshì nǐ méiyǒu jīhuì pèngjiàn huángshang le,
对，就是你没有机会碰见皇上了，
Right, they just wouldn't have the chance to meet

390

nǐ méiyǒu jīhuì cìhou huángshang le.

你没有机会伺候皇上了。

and serve the emperor.

391

Jiù zhuàn bùdào xiǎofèi shá le

就赚不到小费啥了

They wouldn't be able to get tips.

392

Duì, nǐ zhǐnéng zhuàn yīxiē gùdìng de yuèqián le

对，你只能赚一些固定的月钱了

Right, they could only earn a fixed monthly salary.

393

Nà xiàmiàn ne wǒ juéde yě shì zhège zhěnggè bōkè de zhòngdiǎn,

那下面呢我觉得也是这个整个播客的重点，

The following (discussion) might be the most important (to understand this topic on eunuchs)

394

kěnéng dàjiā dōu fēicháng hàoqí de

可能大家都非常好奇的

and I believe everyone is curious about this (aspect).

395

jiùshì yāngē de guòchéng jùtǐ shì zěnmeyàng de ne?

就是阉割的过程具体是怎么样的呢？

And that is, what was the process of castration like?

396

Zhīqián de shǒushùtái tā shì yīkuài zhuāngyǒu sì gè tiěhuán de mén bǎn.

之前的手术台它是一块装有四个铁环的门板。

The operating table back then was a door slab equipped with four iron rings.

397

Zhè sì gè tiěhuán jiùshì wèile gùdìng háizi de sìzhī,

这四个铁环就是为了固定孩子的四肢，

These four iron rings were meant to tie the boy' limbs,

398

jiù bùnéng ràng tā luàndòng ma.

就不能让他乱动嘛。

so that he couldn't move around.

399

Gěi xiǎohái méng shang hēi bù, ránhòu ràng xiǎohái lái yī wǎn dà má tāng,
给小孩蒙上黑布，然后让小孩来一碗大麻汤，
(After tying him down), the surgeon would cover his eyes with a piece of black cloth,
feed him medicine that had anesthetic affects,

400

zài gěi xiǎohái de xiàtǐ pō shang lěngshuǐ.
再给小孩的下体泼上冷水。
and splash cold water on his lower body.

401

Chèn zhe xiǎohái nǎozǐ fāmēng de shíhou, shēntǐ lěng de fāmá de shíhou,
趁着小孩脑子发蒙的时候，身体冷得发麻的时候，
While the kid was still confused and his body was made numb with the cold water,

402

méiyǒu zhījué de shíhou xià dāo.
没有知觉的时候下刀。
the surgeon would then cut into (the genital area).

403

Zhège xià dāo ba, zài Míngcháo gēn Qīngcháo shì yǒu bùtóng de.
这个下刀吧，在明朝跟清朝是有不同的。
The way of the cutting was different between the Ming and the Qing dynasties.

404

Zěnmé bùtóng?
怎么不同？
How was it different?

405

Míngcháo shì lìyòng dāo de lìrèn, gē kāi nánxìng de yīnnáng,
明朝是利用刀的利刃，割开男性的阴囊，
During the Ming Dynasty, the sharp blade of a knife was used to cut open the male
scrotum,

406

qǔchū gāowán, dànshì shì liúyǒu yīnjīng de.
取出睾丸，但是是留有阴茎的。
extract the testicles while leaving the penis intact.

407

Tiān na, hǎo yǒu huàmiàn gǎn!
天呐，好有画面感！
Oh my God! That's quite a vivid image!

408
Dùì, érqǐě yāngē de xiǎohái ne
对，而且阉割的小孩呢
Yes, and the kid who was castrated

409
yībān dōu huì yīnwèi shīxuè guòduō huòzhě tèbié téng,
一般都会因为失血过多或者特别疼，
would generally faint

410
tā jiù hūn le guòqu le.
他就昏过去了。
from the excessive blood loss (and) extreme pain.

411
Ránhòu dāozi jiàng ne
然后刀子匠呢
The castration surgeon

412
jiù huì bāng nǐ bǎ zhège yīnnáng jiù huì zài féng shàng.
就会帮你把这个阴囊就会再缝上。
would then sew up the scrotum.

413
Nà qīngcháo yāngē ne, nà kě bǐ míngcháo chèdǐ de duō le.
那清朝阉割呢，那可比明朝彻底得多了。
The castration process in the Qing Dynasty was much more thorough than the Ming Dynasty.

414
Yīnwèi zán míngcháo bùshì hái liúyǒu yīnjīng ma
因为咱明朝不是还留有阴茎嘛
The Ming Dynasty at least left the penis intact.

415
Qīngcháo ne jiùshì dāozi jiàng huì yòng yīzhǒng wān de dāo,
清朝呢就是刀子匠会用一种弯的刀，
However, in the Qing Dynasty, the surgeon would use a curved knife

416

dāofēng hěn fēnglì

刀锋很锋利

with a very sharp edge.

417

niē zhe xiǎoháir de yīnjīng gēn yīnnáng,

捏着小孩儿的阴茎跟阴囊，

While holding the child's penis and scrotum with one hand,

418

tā lìngyī zhī shǒu ne zhíjiē jiùshì lián gēn gē diào.

他另一只手呢直接就是连根割掉。

he would use the other hand to completely cut off the genitals down to their base.

419

Hòumian gē diào zhīhòu,

后面割掉之后，

After the cutting,

420

dāozi jiàng huì yòng bálà zhēn huòzhě yòng yī gē mài gǎn,

刀子匠会用白蜡针或者用一个麦秆，

the surgeon would use a needle or a wheat straw,

421

jiùshì chārù niàodào, jiùshì bù ràng zhège shāngkǒu yùhé ma.

就是插入尿道，就是不让这个伤口愈合嘛。

to insert it into the urethra to prevent it from closing up.

422

Ránhòu huì jiāng shéngzi jiāng tāmen lēijǐn,

然后会将绳子将它们勒紧，

Then, a string would be used to tie (the needle or straw to the body)

423

fángzhǐ jiùshì làzhú zhēn huòzhě shì mài gǎn huì diào xiàlai.

防止就是蜡烛针或者是麦秆会掉下来。

to prevent it from falling out.

424

Yīxīliè de shǒushù zuòwán yǐhòu ba,

一系列的手术做完以后吧，

After a series of surgical procedures,

425

xiǎohái tā bùnéng lǐmǎ tǎng chuáng shang xiē zhe.

小孩他不能立马躺床上歇着。

the child still could not lie down to rest.

426

Tā bìxū děi ràng rén chān zhe, zài wū lǐ zǒu liǎng dào sān gè xiǎoshí,

他必须得让人搀着，在屋里走两到三个小时，

He had to walk in the room with someone's support for two to three hours

427

jiùshì ràng tā xiān shìyìng yīxià.

就是让他先适应一下。

so that he could get used to (his new condition).

428

Lìngwài ne, xíngzǒu yě néng cùjìn xiàzhī de xiěyè xúnhuán,

另外呢，行走也能促进下肢的血液循环，

In addition, walking would promote blood circulation in the lower limbs

429

jiù zhèyàng kěyǐ jiǎnshǎo gǎnrǎn de fēngxiǎn.

这样就可以减少感染的风险。

and reduce the risk of infection.

430

Shǒushù zhīhòu de sān tiān, zhè sān tiān de shíjiān

手术之后的三天，这三天的时间

During the three days following the surgery,

431

dīshuǐ bù jìn, jiù bùnéng shuō hē shuǐ,

滴水不进，就不能说喝水

he couldn't drink any water at all.

432

yīnwèi nǐ hē shuǐ dehuà nǐ kěnéng jiù xiǎng páiniào.

因为你喝水的话你可能就想排尿。

Because if he did, he might feel the urge to urinate.

433

Nǐ páiniào dehuà nǐ kěnéng jiù huì... Shāngkǒu jiù huì bèi gǎnrǎn.

你排尿的话你可能会... 伤口就会被感染。

And if he urinated, there was a risk that the wound would become infected.

434

Sān tiān zhīhòu, báidiào zhège báilà zhēn huòzhě zhège mài gǎn

三天之后，拔掉这个白蜡针或者这个麦杆

After three days, they could remove the needle or the wheat straw.

435

Rúguǒ báidiào zhīhòu yǒu niàoyè pēn chūlai le,

如果拔掉之后有尿液喷出来了，

If urine squirted out after it was removed,

436

hǎo! Nǐ zhège shǒushù chénggōng, wánchéng

好！你这个手术成功、完成

then great! This meant the surgery was a success

437

nǐ jiù kěyǐ jìngōng dāng tàijiàn le.

你就可以进宫当太监了。

and he could enter the palace to become a eunuch.

438

Wa, nǐ zhīdào ba

哇，你知道吧

Wow, you know what?

439

Wǒmen zhèbiān xiànzài shì sānshí wǔ liù dù de wēndù,

我们这边现在是三十五六度的温度，

Right now it's 35 or 36 degrees here,

440

wǒ tīng nǐ miáoshù zhěnggè yāngē de guòchéng,

我听你描述整个阉割的过程，

but as I listen to your description of the entire castration process,

441

wǒ shēnshang dōu yǒudiǎn mào lěnghàn, nǐ zhīdào ba

我身上都有点冒冷汗，你知道吧

I'm getting a cold sweat.

442

Tài xià rén le, tīng zhe dōu téng
太吓人了，听着都疼
It sounds so scary and painful!

443

Qíshí wǒ dìyīcì zài zhǎo zīliào kàndào de shíhòu,
其实我第一次在找资料看到的时候，
Actually, as I was reading about this information,

444

kàn wán yǐhòu wǒ de hàn máo shùqǐ.
看完以后我的汗毛竖起。
my hair stood on end.

445

Shìbùshì? Wǒ xiànzài jiù zhēnde shì shù qilai le, nǐ shì kàn bùdào,
是不是？我现在就真的是竖起来了，你是看不到，
Right? Mine too. You can't see it,

446

dànshì wǒ shǒu shàng de hàn máo shì zhànqǐlai de.
但是我手上的汗毛是站起来的。
but the hair on my hands stood up.

447

Dànshì nǐ qiánmiàn shuō jiùshì bá chūlai zhīhòu,
但是你前面说就是拔出来之后，
You said earlier that after (the needle) was pulled out,

448

rúguǒ yǒu niào pēn chūlai, nà jiùshì shǒushù chénggōng.
如果有尿喷出来，那就是手术成功。
if there was urine squirting out, it meant that the surgery was successful .

449

Nà rúguǒ méiyǒu niào pēn chūlai, bù jiùshì bù chénggōng le? | Duì
那如果没有尿喷出来，不就是不成功了？ | 对
What if urine didn't squirt out? Wouldn't that mean that it wasn't successful? | Right.

450

Gē chénggōng le ne tàijiàn de xiǎobiàn, tā huì chéng yī gè shànxíng,
割成功了嘛太监的小便，它会成一个扇形，
If the castration was successful, the eunuch's urine stream would fan out,

451

suǒyǐ jiùshì qíshí tàijiàn men dōu shì dūn zhe xiǎobiàn de.

所以就是其实太监们都是蹲着小便的。

so they usually needed to squat down in order to urinate.

452

Xiàng nǚxìng yīyàng, shì ba? | Duì duì duì

像女性一样，是吧？ | 对对对

Like women, right? | Yes.

453

Dàn rúguǒ shì gē qiǎn le, nà tā zhège dōngxì, tā shì ròu ya

但如果是割浅了，那它这个东西，它是肉呀

If the cut was too shallow, since it was flesh,

454

suízhe nǐ de niánlíng shēngzhǎng, tā hái huì zēngzhǎng de.

随着你的年龄生长，它还会增长的。

it would continue to grow as they aged.

455

Nà kěnéng jiù xūyào èrcì shǒushù, nǐ hái yào zài ái yī dāo.

那可能就需要二次手术，你还要再挨一刀。

This (growth of flesh) might require a second surgery, meaning they would have to go through the knife again.

456

Dànshì ne rúguǒ nǐ gē shēn le, tā quányù zhīhòu,

但是呢如果你割深了，它痊愈之后，

However, if the (initial) cut was too deep, once healed,

457

tā huì chéng yī gè tāxiàn de yī gè zhuàngkuàng,

它会呈一个塌陷的一个状况，

(the genital area) would result in a collapsed condition,

458

jiù nǐ zhěnggè de ròu shì āo jìnqu de,

就你整个的肉是凹进去的，

where the flesh was sunken in.

459

jiùshì tàijiàn kěnéng huì huànyǒu niào shījìn.

就是太监可能会患有尿失禁。

This meant that the eunuchs might suffer from urinary incontinence.

460

Tā zhǐnéng suíshēn xiédài yīkuài bù

他只能随身携带一块布

They would have to use a piece of cloth

461

huòzhě xīshuǐ xiàoguǒ gèng hǎo de yī gè liàozi

或者吸水效果更好的一个料子

or other material that could absorb liquids well

462

féng zài zìjǐ de kùzi shang, jiù hé xiànzài de nàzhǒng niàobùshī chàbùduō.

缝在自己的裤子上，就和现在的那种尿不湿差不多。

and sew it onto their pants. It was like having diapers.

463

Zài gǔdài de Gōngnǚ Tán Wǎng Lù zhōng jiù yǒu yī gè jìzǎi,

在古代的《宫女谈往录》中就有一个记载，

In the book of Memoirs of a Palace Lady,

464

yǒu yī gè gōngnǚ jiùshì zhème shuō de,

有一个宫女就是这么说的，

a maid said:

465

kělián le zhèxiē lǎo tàijiàn ya, dōu yǐjīng guò le wǔyuèjié le,

可怜了这些老太监呀，都已经过了五月节了，

"Poor old eunuchs! It's already past May

466

jiù yǐjīng dào le wǔyuèfèn, tiān dōu rè le.

就已经到了五月份，天都热了。

and the weather has become hot.

467

Shàngshēn yǐjīng chuān de jiù hěn dānbó le,

上身已经穿得就很单薄了，

They wear very thin clothing on the upper body,

468

kěnéng rén jiù gēn wǒ shìde chuān zhème yī gè bànxiù.

可能人就跟我似的穿这么一个半袖。
probably like me, wearing just a short-sleeved shirt.

469

Dànshì xiàshēn tèbié gǔgunāngnāng de, tèbié yōngzhǒng
但是下身特别鼓鼓囊囊的，特别臃肿。
But the lower body looks bulging and bloated."

470

jiùshì yīnwèi tāmen yǒu lín niào de máobìng, jiùshì niào shījìn.
就是因为他们有淋尿的毛病，就是尿失禁。
This was because they had the problem of leaking urine, also known as urinary incontinence.

471

Nà shìbùshì zhèxiē shǒushù bìngbù hěn chénggōng de tàijiàn
那是不是这些手术并不很成功的太监
So, did these eunuchs with unsuccessful surgeries

472

hěn nán tǎo huángdì huòzhě shì fēizi men de xǐhuan?
很难讨皇帝或者是妃子们的喜欢？
find it hard to win the favor of the emperor or the concubines?

473

Yīnwèi tāmen jīngcháng méiyǒu bànfǎ kòngzhì zìjǐ de niào dehuà,
因为他们经常没有办法控制自己的尿的话，
If they couldn't control their urine,

474

shēnshang kěndìng duōshǎo huì yǒuyīdiǎn niào de wèidao ba
身上肯定多少会有一点尿的味道吧
they would inevitably smell like urine, right?

475

Duì, qíshí tāmen bù tǎoxǐ.
对，其实他们不讨喜。
Yes, they were not favored.

476

Rúguǒ tāmen gē bù gānjìng huì zài zhǎng dehuà,
如果他们割不干净会再长的话，
(But) if the cut wasn't clean and (part of the flesh) grew back,

477

zài Qīngcháo zhège shì gèng bùnéng róngrěn de.

在清朝这个是更不能容忍的。

it wouldn't be tolerated in the Qing Dynasty.

478

Qīngcháo jiù yǒu yī xiàng guīdìng,

清朝就有一项规定，

There was a regulation

479

jiù huì duì tàijiàn měigé sān nián jìnxíng yī cì jiǎnchá,

就会对太监每隔三年进行一次检查，

that required eunuchs to be inspected every three years,

480

jiù chēngwéi xiǎo xiū.

就称为小修。

which was called a "minor review."

481

Rúguǒ nǐ yǒu shénme wèntí, kěnéng jiù yào zài gē yīcì.

如果你有什么问题，可能就要再割一次。

If there were any issues, they might have to be cut again.

482

Ránhòu wǔ nián ne, jiù huì zài chá yīcì

然后五年呢，就会再查一次

And every five years, there would be another inspection,

483

jiù gèng yánmì de jiǎnchá, jiào dàxiū.

就更严密的检查，叫大修。

a more rigorous one, called a "major review."

484

Wèishénme tāmen huì yǒu zhèyàng de yī gè guīju ne?

为什么他们会有这样的一个规矩呢？

Why did they have such a rule?

485

Jiùshì rúguǒshuō tōngguò dāozi jiàng bǎ zhège shǒushù zuò quánhu le,

就是如果说通过刀子匠把这个手术做全乎了，

If the castration surgeon did a good job,

486

jiù gē diào le zhīhòu yīnggāi yě bùhuì yǒu shénme wèntí le ba?

就割掉了之后应该也不会有什么问题了吧?

there shouldn't be any problems, right?

487

Tā yě bùkěnéng zhǎng chūlai le ya

它也不可能长出来了呀

(The penis) couldn't possibly grow back!

488

Shì zài Qīngcháo de shíhou, jiù zhè yě shì yěshǐ jìzǎi,

是在清朝的时候，就这也是野史记载，

During the Qing Dynasty, there was a story recorded

489

liúchuán yǒu zhème yī gè gùshi.

流传有这么一个故事。

in the unofficial historical documents.

490

Cíxǐ nàhuìr bèi xǔpèi gěi le Xiánfēng huángdì zhīhòu ne,

慈禧那会儿被许配给了咸丰皇帝之后呢，

After Cixi married Emperor Xianfeng,

491

tā shòudào le chǒng'ài, ránhòu tā jiù kāishǐ péiyǎng zìjǐ de qīnxìn.

她受到了宠爱，然后她就开始培养自己的亲信。

she was favored and began to cultivate her own confidants.

492

Zhège shíhou ne jiù yǒu yī gè jiào Méi Chūn de xiǎo tàijiàn le,

这个时候呢就有一个叫梅春的小太监了，

At that time, there was a eunuch named Mei Chun

493

tā zhǎngde ba shāowēi yǒudiǎn zīse, ránhòu Cíxǐ hái tǐng xǐhuan tā.

他长得吧稍微有点姿色，然后慈禧还挺喜欢他。

who was good-looking, and Cixi liked him a lot.

494

Tā jiù néng jīngcháng de chūrù Cíxǐ de qīn gōng,

他就能经常地出入慈禧的寝宫，

He was able to enter and leave Cixi's bedroom freely,

495

bèihòu jiù yǒurén shuō Cíxǐ de xiánhuà le.

背后就有人说慈禧的闲话了。

which caused gossip about them.

496

Jiù shuō tā kěnéng gēn tā yǒurǎn,

就说她可能跟他有染，

It was said that she was probably having an affair with Mei Chun,

497

shuō tā shì méiyǒu yān gānjìng de tàijiàn.

说他是没有阉干净的太监。

and that he was not completely castrated.

498

Ránhòu ne hòumian ne,

然后呢后面呢，

Later,

499

zhège xiánhuà yuè chuán yuè duō, yuè chuán yuè duō

这个闲话越传越多，越传越多

the rumors spread more and more widely.

500

Dào le Tóngzhì niánjiān, jiùshì Xiánfēng huángdì jiàbēng le,

到了同治年间，就是咸丰皇帝驾崩了，

When Xianfeng died, Tongzhi (Cixi's son) became the emperor.

501

Tóngzhì dì ne tā jiù jiēshòu bùliǎo

同治帝呢他就接受不了

He could not tolerate

502

hòugōng yǒu zhèzhǒng liúyánfēiyǔ de chuánbō,

后宫有这种流言蜚语的传播，

the spread of such gossip in the harem,

503

tā jiù xiàlìng shā le zhège xiǎo tàijiàn.

他就下令杀了这个小太监。
so he ordered the execution of this eunuch.

504
Zhège xiǎo tàijiàn bèi shā zhīhòu ne,
这个小太监被杀之后呢,
After the eunuch was killed,

505
jiù bǎ tā tuōdào le nèiwùfǔ yànshī,
就把他拖到了内务府验尸,
he was taken to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for an autopsy,

506
jiéguǒ fāxiàn tā qíshí shì bèi yāngē hěn hǎo de xiǎo tàijiàn.
结果发现他其实是被阉割很好的小太监。
and it was found that he was actually fully castrated.

507
Dànshì yǒu zhè zhǒng liúyán fēiyǔ de chuánbò ya,
但是有这种流言蜚语的传播呀,
But because there were such rumors spreading,

508
Qīngcháo kāishǐ jiù shuō le yào yǒu xiǎoxiū gēn dàxiū.
清朝开始就说了要有小修跟大修。
Qing Dynasty started the process of "minor and major reviews".

509
Zài gǔdài yīliáo jìshù bùshì hěn fādá ma,
在古代医疗技术不是很发达嘛,
In ancient times, medicine was not very advanced.

510
xiàng nǐ shuō de shǒushùtái dōu zhǐshì yīkuài mén bǎn,
像你说的手术台都只是一块门板,
As you said, the operating table was nothing more than a door panel,

511
yě méiyǒu shénme hěn hǎo de xiāoyányào dēngdēng de yīxiē chǔlǐ fāngshì.
也没有什么很好的消炎药等等的一些处理方式。
and there were no effective anti-inflammatory drugs or other treatments.

512

Nàme yāngē hòu sǐwáng de gàilǜ gāo bù gāo ne?

那么阉割后死亡的概率高不高呢？

So, what was the likelihood of dying from the castration?

513

Qíshí hǎo de jìngshēn shī ne, tā de jìshù bǐjiào gāochāo,

其实好的净身师呢，他的技术比较高超，

In fact, if the castration surgeon was highly skilled,

514

sǐwánglǜ jiù xiāngduì dī yīdiǎn.

死亡率就相对低一点。

the mortality rate was relatively low.

515

Dànshì ne zài Míngdài Tiānshùn niánjiān

但是呢在明代天顺年间

But during the Tianshun period of the Ming Dynasty,

516

tàijiàn Ruǎnràng yǒuyīcì yāngē le miáozú de értóng, yī qiān wǔ bǎi duō rén,

太监软让有一次阉割了苗族的儿童，一千五百多人，

a eunuch named Ruan Rang (ordered) the castration of over 1,500 children from the Miao minority group,

517

zhǔnbèi jiù sònggěi cháo tíng dāng tài jiān ma.

准备就送给朝廷当太监嘛。

preparing to present them to the court.

518

Dànshì nàge shíhou tāmen de chéng huó lǜ hěn dī,

但是那个时候他们的成活率很低，

But at that time, their survival rate was very low.

519

yòutóng téngsǐ huòzhě gǎnrǎn ér sǐwáng de ne

幼童疼死或者感染而死亡的呢

The number of young children who died from pain or infection

520

jìng rán gāo dá le sān bǎi èrshí jiǔ rén.

竟然高达了三百二十九人。

was as high as 329.

521

Jiù sǐwánglǜ jiējìn le bǎifēnzhī èrshí.

就死亡率接近了百分之二十。

The mortality rate was close to 20 percent.

522

Suǒyǐ ne jiù nàge shíhou, qíshí zài gǔdài dàbùfen de yāngē shǒushù

所以呢就那个时候，其实在古代大部分的阉割手术

So most castration surgeries in ancient times

523

fēngxiǎn shì fēicháng fēicháng gāo de.

风险是非常非常高的。

carried a very high risk.

524

Érqiě hái yǒu qiánmiàn bùshì jiǎng yǒuxiē jiātíng, tā tài qióng le,

而且还有前面不是讲有些家庭，他太穷了，

Also, as we discussed earlier, some families that were very poor

525

tā shì fù bù qǐ zhège shǒushù fèi,

他是付不起这个手术费，

couldn't afford the surgical fees.

526

kěnéng huì yǒu zìjǐ qīnshēng de fùqīn zhí dāo lái yāngē, shìbùshì?

可能会由自己亲生的父亲执刀来阉割，是不是？

The fathers of the boys might perform the castration themselves, right?

527

Zhège yǒu lìzi ma? Jiùshì yǒu zhīdào de rén ma?

这个有例子吗？就是有知道的人吗？

Do you have an example? Do you know anyone?

528

Zuǐhòu de tàijiàn, jiào Sūn Yàotíng

最后的太监，叫孙耀庭

Sun Yaoting, the last (surviving) eunuch

529

tā jiùshì bèi zìjǐ fùqīn gěi yāngē de

他就是被自己父亲给阉割的

was castrated by his own father.

530

Tā zài chuáng shang zhěngzhěng tǎng le sān gè yuè cái huǎn guòlai,
他在床上整整躺了三个月才缓过来，
He had to lie in bed for three months

531

cái néng xiàdì qǐchuáng.
才能下地起床。
before he could get up and move around.

532

Tiān na! Hǎo cánrěn a
天呐！好残忍啊
My God! That was so cruel!

533

Nàme gē xiàlai de shēngzhíqì, tāmen huì zěnmě chǔlǐ ne?
那么割下来的生殖器，他们会怎么处理呢？
What would they do with the severed genitals?

534

Shì zhíjiē rēngdiào ma háishi zěnmeyàng?
是直接扔掉吗还是怎么样？
Did they throw them away or what?

535

Bù bù, zhèxiē shēngzhíqì ba, zài Qīngcháo de shíhou
不不，这些生殖器吧，在清朝的时候
No. During the Qing Dynasty, these genitals

536

tāmen bèi chēngwéi jiào bǎobèi.
他们被称为叫宝贝。
were called "treasures".

537

Jiùshì zhèxiē tàijiàn men duì zhège bǎobèi ne
就是这些太监们对这个宝贝呢
The eunuchs attached great importance

538

shì fēicháng fēicháng fēicháng zhòngshì de

是非常非常非常重视的
to their "treasures".

539

Tāmen huì xiǎngfāngshèfǎ de bǎ tā bǎocún hǎo.
他们会想方设法地把它保存好。
They would do everything they could to preserve them.

540

Shǒuxiān ne tāmen huì xiān jiāng tāmen zhuāng zài shíhuī fěn hé lǐ,
首先呢他们会先将它们装在石灰粉盒里,
First, they would put them in a box of lime powder

541

ràng zhèxiē shíhuī fěn xīshōu xuèyè hé shuǐfèn,
让这些石灰粉吸收血液和水分,
to absorb the blood and moisture,

542

jiù ràng tā bǐjiào gānzào yīdiǎn.
就让它比较干燥一点。
making them drier.

543

Jiēzhe ne tāmen huì yòng shī bù gěi tā cā gānjìng
接着呢他们会用湿布给它擦干净
Next, they would clean them with a damp cloth

544

ránhòu zài jìnpào dào xiāngyóu zhīzhōng.
然后再浸泡到香油之中。
and then soak them in sesame oil.

545

Děng yóu shèntòu le zhège shēngzhíqì zhīhòu,
等油渗透了这个生殖器之后,
After the oil penetrated the genitals,

546

tāmen zài zhuāng dào xiǎo mù hé lǐ mìfēng bǎocún.
他们再装到小木盒里密封保存。
they would then place them in a small wooden box and seal it.

547

Děngdào yī gè huángdào jí rì, tāmen jiù huì bǎ zhèxiē shēngzhíqì
等到一个黄道吉日，他们就会把这些生殖器
They would wait until an auspicious day to hang these small boxes

548

zhège xiǎo hézi guà zài tāmen zìjiā de cí táng shàngmiàn,
这个小盒子挂在他们自家的祠堂上面，
in their family's ancestral hall,

549

jiù yǒu yīzhǒng yù yì jiào gāoshēng ma
就有一种寓意叫高升嘛
which carries a symbolic meaning of rising to a higher status.

550

Dāngrán ne yě yǒu nàzhǒng cūxīn de tàijiàn, tā wàng le yào tā de shēngzhíqì.
当然呢也有那种粗心的太监，他忘了要他的生殖器。
Of course, there were also careless eunuchs who forgot to get their genitals.

551

Zhè shíhòu ne yǒuxiē dāozi jiàng huì bǎ nǐ de shēngzhíqì shōu qilai,
这时候呢有些刀子匠会把你的生殖器收起来，
In those cases, the castration surgeons would keep them

552

yīnwèi wànyī nǐ zhège tàijiàn fēihuángténgdá le
因为万一你这个太监飞黄腾达了
because if the eunuchs happened to become successful

553

nǐ xiǎngyào nǐ zìjǐ de shēngzhíqì de shíhòu,
你想要你自己的生殖器的时候，
and wanted his genitals back,

554

nà nǐ jiù děi huā dà jiàqián mǎi guòlai le.
那你就得花大价钱买过来了。
they would have to pay a high price to get them.

555

Rúguǒ bǐrúshuō nǐ zhège dāozi jiàng yě méi cún,
如果比如说你这个刀子匠也没有存，
If, for example, the castration surgeon also did not keep them,

556

nǐ yě méi bǎoliú hǎo, nǐ diū le zěnmébàn ne?

你也没保留好，你丢了怎么办呢？

or the eunuchs didn't preserve them well or lost them, then what?

557

Diū le dehuà, nǐ huì zuò yī gè jiǎde,

丢了的话，你会做一个假的，

Well, they could make fake penises

558

yòng táo huòzhě cí zuò yī gè jiǎde yīnjīng yángjù.

用陶或者瓷做一个假的阴茎阳具。

with pottery or porcelain.

559

Zài nǐ sǐ de shíhou kěnéng jiù yòng jiǎde gěi nǐ péizàng.

在你死的时候可能就用假的给你陪葬。

When they died, the fake ones would be buried with them.

560

Huòzhě ne nǐ hái kěyǐ zū

或者呢你还可以租

Also, they could rent penises

561

jiù bǐrúshuō qítā xiǎo tàijiàn, āiyōu nà shízài shì yǒng wú chūtóu zhī rì le,

比如说其他小太监，哎呦那实在是永无出头之日了，

from eunuchs that felt they could never be successful.

562

nǐ kěyǐ bǎ nǐ de shēngzhíqì zū gěi nàxiē xūyào de rén.

你可以把你的生殖器租给那些需要的人。

They might also rent theirs to someone else in need.

563

Tàijiàn sǐhòu ne, tā de jiārén men jiù huì jiāng tàijiàn de shǐtǐ

太监死后呢，他的家人们就会将太监的尸体

After the eunuchs died, their family members would bury their bodies

564

hé tā de shēngzhíqì yītóng máizàng

和他的生殖器一同埋葬

along with their genitals,

565

hǎo ràng zhèxiē tàijiàn men ne yǒuliǎn miànduì zhèxiē liè zǔ liè zōng men.

好让这些太监们呢有脸面对这些列祖列宗们。

so that they would have the dignity to face their ancestors in the afterlife.

566

Háiyǒu yī gè wèntí wǒ xiǎng hěn duō rén dōu huì hàoqí de,

还有一个问题我想很多人都会好奇的，

Another question that many people might be curious about is

567

nà jiùshì tàijiàn yāngē hòu shì wánquán sàngshī xìngyù de ma?

那就是太监阉割后是完全丧失性欲的吗？

whether eunuchs completely lost their sexual desire after castration.

568

Qíshí bìng bùshì, tàijiàn nǐ de xiàbàنشēn bèi yāngē le, duì ba?

其实并不是，太监你的下半身被阉割了，对吧？

Actually, they did not. A eunuch's genital area was cut out, right?

569

Dànshì nǐ háishi yī gè nán de, nǐ de xìngxiàn hái zài,

但是你还是一个男的，你的性腺还在，

But he was still a man, and his (accessory) sex glands were still there.

[Note: Accessory sex glands include the ampullae, seminal vesicles, prostate, and bulbourethral glands.](#)

570

nǐ de xìngjīsù hái zài fēnmì,

你的性激素还在分泌，

Sex hormones were still being secreted (by the accessory glands),

571

suǒyǐ ne nǐ shì yǒu zhèzhǒng xìngchōngdòng de.

所以呢你是有这种性冲动的。

so they still had some sexual desires.

572

Érqiě hái cóng xīnlǐ de jiǎodù,

而且还从心理的角度，

In addition, from a psychological perspective,

573

jiùshì gōngtíng zhīzhōng, huángdì gēn hòufēi zhījiān de xìngshì
就是宫廷之中，皇帝跟后妃之间的性事
within the royal court, the emperor and his concubines' sexual matters

574

jiùshì tāmen zàiháng fáng zhīlèi de, dōu bùshì tèbié bìhui tàijiàn de.
就是他们在行房之类的，都不是特别避讳太监的。
were not particularly concealed from the eunuchs.

575

Suǒyǐ ne zhèxiē yě huì duì tàijiàn yǒu yī gè cìjī,
所以呢这些也会对太监有一个刺激，
Therefore, these situations could also stimulate the eunuchs,

576

cóng'ér yòufā tā yǒu zhèzhǒng yùwàng.
从而诱发他有这种欲望。
and bring out their their (sexual) desires.

577

Xiàng nàge wǒmen gāngcái shuō de Sūn Yàotíng,
像那个我们刚才说的孙耀庭，
Like Sun Yaoting who we mentioned earlier,

578

dāng tàijiàn zhīhòu, tā qíshí yě shì yǒu xìngyù de.
当太监之后，他其实也是有性欲的。
even after becoming a eunuch, he still had a sex drive.

579

Tā jiù xiědào, tā shuō zǎozài tā zài Bèilei fǔ shang dāng tàijiàn de shíhou,
他就写道，他说早在他在贝勒府上当太监的时候，
He wrote that as early as when he was a eunuch in the Beile Mansion (Puyi's father's home),

580

jiù tōukàn guo yì chūngōng tú,
就偷看过一次春宫图，
he had secretly viewed a set of erotic paintings,

581

jiù xiàng wǒmen xiànzài de xiǎo huáng huà.
就像我们现在的小黄画。
similar to what we now call pornographic adult books.

582

Ránhòu kàn le yǐhòu ne, tā jiù fēicháng de xīngfèn, chèyè nán mián ya

然后看了以后呢，他就非常地兴奋，彻夜难眠呀

After viewing them, he became very excited and couldn't sleep that night.

583

Dànshì wǒ juéde hěn kěbēi de jiùshì,

但是我觉得很可悲的就是，

But I feel it's very sad that

584

suīrán tā yǒu zhège yùwàng, dànshì tā méiyǒu zhège nénglì.

虽然他有这个欲望，但是他没有这个能力。

although he had the desire, he couldn't do anything about it.

585

Suīrán tā méiyǒu zhège nénglì, dàn tā yě huì shìfàng.

虽然他没有这个能力，但他也会释放。

Although he didn't have the ability, he could still satisfy (his desire)

586

Shìfàng de duìxiàng ne, dàgài jiùshì bǐrúshuō jiēfāng de gē jì,

释放的对象呢，大概就是比如说街坊的歌妓，

by going to "a green building" and spending time

Note: In ancient times, a "歌妓" (gē jì) referred to a female entertainer who typically performed singing and dancing at social gatherings or in establishments like brothels.

The term can be translated into English as "singing courtesan" or "singing prostitute".

587

tāmen huì guàng qīnglóu.

他们会逛青楼。

with a singing prostitute.

588

Jiùshì jìyuàn, shì ba?

就是妓院，是吧？

You mean brothels, right?

589

Duì, huì guàng yīxiē jìyuàn

对，会逛一些妓院

Yes, they would visit brothels.

590

Jiùshì gǔdài yǒu zhèmeyàng yī gè yànyǔ,

就是古代有这么一个谚语，

There's a saying from ancient time:

591

jiào tàijiàn guàng qīnglóu méi diǎo yòng.

叫太监逛青楼没屁用。

A eunuch visiting a brothel is useless.

Note: This proverb implies that someone is in a situation where they desire something but are unable to act on it due to some inherent limitation.

592

Shì, wǒ hǎoxiàng yǒu kàndào guo zhège shuōfa

是，我好像有看到过这个说法

Yes, I think I've seen this saying.

593

Jiùshì yǒuxiē rén huì shuō, āiyā wǒ hǎo lèi ya,

就是有些人会说，哎呀我好累呀，

Some people might say: "I am so tired

594

ránhòu yǒu yīzhǒng tàijiàn guàng qīnglóu de wúlìgǎn.

然后有一种太监逛青楼的无力感。

and I feel powerless as if I am a eunuch visiting a brothel."

595

Jiù huì yòng tàijiàn guàng qīnglóu

就会用太监逛青楼

We use this saying

596

qù miáoshù nǐ dāngxià de yīzhǒng hěn wúlì de xīnqíng.

去描述你当下的一种很无力的心情。

to describe a feeling of powerlessness.

597

Dànshì ànlǐshuō, zhège tàijiàn suīrán shuō tā yǒu zhège yùwàng,

但是按理说，这个太监虽然说他有这个欲望，

But logically speaking, although the eunuchs had the desire,

598

dànshì tā yǐjīng wánquán shīqù le shēngyùnénglì ma,

但是他已经完全失去了生育能力嘛，
they had already lost their fertility (and the ability to have intercourse), right?

599

tā guàng qīnglóu dàodǐ tú de shì shénme?
他逛青楼到底图的是什麼？
What did they want by visiting a brothel?

600

Tā yě zuò bùliǎo shénme ya!
他也做不了什麼呀！
They couldn't really do anything!

601

Qíshí shǒuxiān ne tàijiàn ne guàng qīnglóu
其实首先呢太监呢逛青楼
Well, actually they did it

602

tā shì wèile gěi pǔtōng rén kàn, gěi dàzhòng kàn.
他是为了给普通人看，给大众看。
to show the common people

603

Jiùshìshuō nǐmen pǔtōng rén gàn de shìqíng, wǒ tàijiàn yě néng gàn.
就是说你们普通人干的事情，我太监也能干。
that they could also do whatever the ordinary people could.

604

Háiyǒu ne qíshí tàijiàn ba tā zhàogu zhǔzi de shíhou
还有呢其实太监吧他照顾主子的时候
In addition, when eunuchs served their masters,

605

nèixīn jiù yāyì hěn jiǔ,
内心就压抑很久，
their feelings were being suppressed

606

tā guàng qīnglóu ne jiùshì wèile shìfàng zìjǐ,
他逛青楼呢就是为了释放自己，
So visiting a brothel was actually a way for them to decompress,

607

jiù mǎnzú tā yào nüèdài biéren de zhèzhǒng yùwàng.

就满足他要虐待别人的这种欲望。

or to satisfy their desire to abuse others.

608

Suǒyǐ ne qíshí hěn duō de shíhou ba,

所以呢其实很多的时候吧，

Therefore, many times,

609

tàijiàn guàng qīnglóu le yǐhòu, zhèxiē qīnglóu nǚzǐ dōu hěn nánshòu

太监逛青楼了以后，这些青楼女子都很难受

after eunuchs visited a brothel, the women there would feel uncomfortable

610

bùguāng shì shēntǐ de nánshòu, xīnlǐ yě hěn nánshòu.

不光是身体的难受，心理也很难受。

both physically and mentally.

611

Érqiě kěnéng xiàng nǐ shuō de,

而且可能像你说的，

Perhaps as you said,

612

tā jīngcháng de měitiān de dōu zài cìhou zhǔzi,

他经常地每天地都在伺候主子，

since they were serving their masters every day,

613

kěnéng yào áidǎ, yào áimà yào dīshēng xià qì, shènzhì bèi kànbuqǐ.

可能要挨打，要挨骂要低声下气，甚至被看不起。

possibly enduring beatings, scoldings, and even being looked down upon,

614

Dànshì tā rúguǒ huāqián qù qīnglóu dehuà,

但是他如果花钱去青楼的话，

when they spent money in the brothel,

615

tā kěyǐ dāng dàye le, jiùshì yīzhǒng dāng lǎobǎn de gǎnjué le, shì ba?

他可以当大爷了，就是一种当老板的感觉了，是吧？

they could be a master and feel like a boss, right?

616

Duì, shìde

对，是的

Yes.

617

Qíshí jiùshì yīnwèi tāmen de xīnlǐ hěn bù jiànkāng

其实就是因为他们的心理很不健康

In fact, it was also because they were mentally unhealthy.

618

Kěndìng de, shì nǐ nǐ néng jiànkāng ma? Dōu bǎ nǐ gěi yān le

肯定的，是你你能健康吗？都把你给阉了

Sure! If it was you who was castrated, would you be healthy?

619

Duì, suǒyǐ qíshí nàhuìr de tàijiàn hěn duō rén dōu huànyǒu yìyùzhèng de.

对，所以其实那会儿的太监很多人都患有抑郁症的。

Right. So, many eunuchs at that time suffered from depression.

620

Zài Qiánlóng shíqī, yǒu yī gè xìng Shí de xiǎo tàijiàn

在乾隆时期，有一个姓石的小太监

During the Qianlong period, there was a young eunuch named Shi

621

tā jiù huànyǒu yìyùzhèng le.

他就患有抑郁症了。

and he suffered from depression.

622

Wèishénme ne?

为什么呢？

Why?

623

Yīnwèi tā zài gěi huángdì nòng chá de shíhou,

因为他在给皇帝弄茶的时候，

Because (once) when he was serving tea to the emperor,

624

tā bù xiǎoxīn bǎ chábēi nòng xiǎng le

他不小心把茶杯弄响了

he accidentally made some noise with the teacup.

625

jiéguǒ ne tā bèi zǒngguǎn tàijiàn gěi fāxiàn le.

结果呢他被总管太监给发现了。

His chief eunuch found out about this

626

Xìng Shí de xiǎo tàijiàn ne, xià sǐ le ya

姓石的小太监呢，吓死了呀

and Shi was terrified.

627

Tā jiù zìdòng qǐngcí shuō āi, nǐ chéngfá wǒ ba,

他就自动请辞说哎，你惩罚我吧，

He voluntarily asked to be punished, saying:

628

fá wǒ qù biéde dìfang gōngzuò ba,

罚我去别的地方工作吧，

"Please punish me by assigning me to work elsewhere,

629

wǒ bù gǎn zài huángdì shēnbiān gōngzuò le.

我不敢在皇帝身边工作了。

I dare not work beside the emperor anymore."

630

Zǒngguǎn tàijiàn shuō, nà nǐ jiù qù biéde dìfang sǎo yuànzi ba.

总管太监说，那你就去别的地方扫院子吧。

The chief eunuch said: "Okay, go sweep the courtyard".

631

Ránhòu zǒngguǎn tàijiàn jiù ràng tā sǎo yuànzi de shíhou,

然后总管太监就让他扫院子的时候，

When the chief eunuch assigned him to sweep the courtyard,

632

jiù fēnfu guo tā, jiù shuō hǎohǎo gàn ba

就吩咐过他，就说好好干吧

he instructed Shi: "Be good!"

633

Dànshì zhège xiǎo tàijiàn jiù juéde zhège zǒngguǎn tàijiàn yào zédǎ tā.

但是这个小太监就觉得这个总管太监要责打他。

However, the young eunuch felt that the chief eunuch was going to beat him (at anytime).

634

Běnlái jiù yǒu xīnlǐ fùdān le, zhèxià xīnlǐ fùdān gèng zhòng le.

本来就有心理负担了，这下心理负担更重了。

He already felt stressed, but now he felt even more stressed.

635

Suǒyǐ tā zài sǎo yuànzi de shíhou, tā yīzhí huáiyí biéren zài jiānshì tā

所以他在扫院子的时候，他一直怀疑别人在监视他

When he was sweeping the courtyard, he was constantly suspecting someone was watching him.

636

tā jiù yīzhí zài wèn nàge zǒngguǎn tàijiàn,

他就一直在问那个总管太监，

So he kept asking the chief eunuch,

637

jiùshìshuō nín shìbùshì yào zédǎ wǒ ya?

就是说您是不是要责打我呀？

"Are you going to beat me?"

638

Nà zǒngguǎn tàijiàn jiù bèi wèn fán le zhǔyào shì

那总管太监就被问烦了主要是

The chief eunuch got annoyed because of the constant questioning

639

tā jiù shuō le, nǐ yào zài wèn wǒ, nǐ yào zài zhèyàng,

他就说了，你要再问我，你要再这样，

and said, "If you ask me one more time,

640

wǒ kě zhēn yào dǎ nǐ le.

我可真要打你了。

I really am going to beat you!"

641

Wánle! Zhè yījùhuà ya, zhège tàijiàn jiù shòubùliǎo le

完了！这一句话呀，这个太监就受不了了

That was it! Shi couldn't take it anymore.

642

Zhège xìng Shí de xiǎo tàijiàn ne dāngtiān yèlǐ shàngdiào zìshā le.

这个姓石的小太监呢当天夜里上吊自杀了。

That night, Shi hung himself.

643

Wǒ juéde tā yǒudiǎn bèi hài... | Duì, Tā bèi pòhài wàngxiǎngzhèng

我觉得他有点被害... | 对，他被迫害妄想症

I think he had a bit of a victim... | Yes, he suffered from persecution mania.

Note: Persecution mania means that you're convinced that someone is mistreating, conspiring against, or planning to harm you or your loved ones.

644

érqiě tā cháng chǔ huánggōng zhīnèi ba, tā kàn de zhèzhǒng shì tài duō le

而且他常处皇宫之内吧，他看的这种事太多了

Also, since he was living in the palace, he saw too many cases

645

jiù biéde tàijiàn bèi dǎsǐ, biéde tàijiàn bèi dǎ

就别的太监被打死，别的太监被打

where eunuchs were beaten, sometimes to the point of death.

646

kàndào tài duō le, tā jiù hàipà le

看到太多了，他就害怕了

So he got scared.

647

Bù zhīdào diànshìjù lǐ yǎn de shìbùshì zhǔnquè de,

不知道电视剧里演得是不是准确的，

I don't know if the TV dramas are accurate,

648

jiù jīngcháng kàndào tàijiàn men bèi fēizi men huòzhě shì huángdì fá

就经常看到太监们被妃子们或者是皇帝罚

but I often see eunuchs being punished by concubines or the emperor (in these dramas).

649

Jiǎshè tā yǒu yī jiàn shìqíng méi zuò hǎo, shū tóufa méi shū hǎo,

假设他有一件事情没做好，梳头发没梳好，

If they did something wrong, for example, didn't comb (their master's) hair properly,

650

háishi duān chá dì shuǐ chū le shénme chācuò
还是端茶递水出了什么差错
or something went wrong when serving tea,

651

kěnéng jiù yào fá èrshí dà bǎnzi.
可能就要罚二十大板子。
they might be beaten with a cane 20 times as punishment.

652

Gǎnjué suíshí dōu yǒu shēngmìng wēixiǎn. | Duì
感觉随时都有生命危险。| 对
It felt like at any moment, they could die. | Right.

653

Zhèxiē tàijiàn bèi yāngē hòu sòng jìngōng, dāng le xiǎo tàijiàn
这些太监被阉割后送进宫，当了小太监
After being castrated and sent into the palace to become eunuchs,

654

tāmen dōu gàn xiē shénme ne?
他们都干些什么呢？
what did they do (exactly)?

655

Shǒuxiān, cìhou lǎo tàijiàn
首先，伺候老太监
First, they served the senior eunuchs.

656

Bùshì huángdì a? | Duì
不是皇帝啊？| 对
Not the emperor? | Right.

657

Tāmen yào xiān cóng lǎo tàijiàn nàlǐ xuéxí zhèxiē
他们要先从老太监那里学习这些
They had to learn from the senior eunuchs

658

huánggōng nèi de yīxiē yāoqiú a, guīju shénmede.
皇宫内的一些要求啊，规矩什么的。
about requirements and rules within the palace.

659

Dài dào tāmen dōu péiyǎng hǎo le yǐhòu

待到他们都培养好了以后

Only after they were well-trained

660

cái néng yǒu jīhuì fúshì huángdì hé tā de fēizi men.

才能有机会服侍皇帝和他的妃子们。

could they have the opportunity to serve the emperor and his concubines.

661

Tàijiàn ne qíshí tā hái huì cānyù dào

太监呢其实他还会参与到

Actually, some eunuchs would even participate

662

guójiā de zhèngzhì juécè dāngzhōng de,

国家的政治决策当中的,

in the country's political decision-making,

663

shènzhì tā kěnéng huì zhǎngwò yīxiē zhèngzhì de quánlì.

甚至他可能会掌握一些政治的权力。

and might even hold political power.

664

Jiù bǐrúshuō Míngxīzōng de shíqī,

就比如说明熹宗的时期,

For example, during the era of Tianqi Emperor (1620 to 1627),

665

yǒu yī gè dà tàijiàn jiàozuò Wèi Zhōngxián.

有一个大太监叫做魏忠贤。

there was an important eunuch named Wei Zhongxian

666

Tā zhǎngwò le dàliàng de quánlì,

他掌握了大量的权力,

who held a great deal of power

667

shènzhì chéngwéi le cháo tíng de shíjì de kòngzhì zhě.

甚至成为了朝廷的实际的控制者。

and even became the actual controller of the court.

668

Zhègè wǒ yǒu kàn guo xiāngguān de jìlùpiàn,
这个我有看过相关的纪录片，
I have seen a documentary about this.

669

jiù shuō zhègè Wèi Zhōngxián,
就说这个魏忠贤，
It said that Wei's

670

hǎoxiàng tā gēn biéren de yāngē dàolù shì bù yīyàng de.
好像他跟别人的阉割道路是不一样的。
path to castration was different from others.

671

Tā bùshì yīnwèi jiā lǐ qióng,
他不是因为家里穷，
It wasn't because his family was poor.

672

érshì yīnwèi dāngshí tā yǐjīng chéngnián zhīhòu jiù hěn xǐhuan dǔbó ma,
而是因为当时他已经成年之后就很喜欢赌博嘛，
At that time, he was very fond of gambling

673

ránhòu jiù qiàn le yī pìgu de zhài, nà jiù yǒu hěn duō zhàizhǔ zhuī zhe tā,
然后就欠了一屁股的债，那就有许多债主追着他，
and as a result, owed a lot of debts. His creditors went after him.

674

jiùshì zhuīshā tā, kěyǐ shuō
就是追杀他，可以说
You can say that his life was at stake.

675

Hòumian jiù yǒu yī gè tàijiàn jiù gěi tā zhǐ le yī tiáo míng lù,
后面就有一个太监就给他指了一条明路，
Later, a eunuch suggested a better path for him.

676

jiù shuō nǐ yào xiǎng bǎituō zhègè yě kěyǐ,
就说你要想摆脱这个也可以，

He said to Wei: "If you want to escape from this trouble,

677

nǐ jiù jìngōng dāng tàijiàn bù jiù hǎo le ma?

你就进宫当太监不就好了吗？

why not become a eunuch?"

678

Nà Wèi Zhōngxián jiù xiǎng le,

那魏忠贤就想了，

But Wei thought,

679

nà dāng tàijiàn wǒ bù jiù duàn zǐ jué sūn le ma?

那当太监我不就断子绝孙了吗？

if he became a eunuch, he would be left without any offspring

680

Wǒ de rénshēng bù jiù bù wánzhěng le ma?

我的人生不就不完整了吗？

and that his life would be incomplete.

681

Ránhòu tàijiàn jiù shuō, nà nǐ xiànzài zhěngtiān bèi rén zhuī zhe,

然后太监就说，那你现在整天被人追着，

But the eunuch said: "Well, you're being chased around all the time.

682

nǐ de rénshēng jiù hǎo guò le ma?

你的人生就好过了吗？

Do you call this a good life?"

683

Tā xīnxiǎng yě shì,

他心想也是，

Wei thought that his words made sense

684

suǒyǐ ne tā jiù bǎ zìjǐ gěi yān le, jiù jìngōng dāng tàijiàn le.

所以呢他就把自己给阉了，就进宫当太监了。

and decided to castrate himself and become a eunuch.

685

Tā yě shì xià le hǎo dà de juéxīn. | Duì a

他也是下了好大的决心。| 对啊
It must've been a tough decision. | Of course!

686

Wǒ zài diànshìjù lǐmiàn yě jīngcháng huì kàndào zhège tàijiàn,
我在电视剧里面也经常看到这个太监，
I often see in TV dramas that although eunuchs

687

tā suīrán shuō méiyǒu shēngyùnénglì ne,
他虽然说没有生育能力呢，
were infertile,

688

dànshì tā yě huì zhǎo yī gè gōngnǚ
但是他也会找一个宫女
they would find a maid

689

jiù gēn tā xíngchéng zhèzhǒng lèisì yú hūnyīn de guānxi,
就跟她形成这种类似于婚姻的关系，
and form a relationship similar to a marriage.

690

zài gǔdài hǎoxiàng jiào duì shí, shì ba?
在古代好像叫对食，是吧？

In ancient times it was called "duì shí", right?

Note: "对食" (duìshí), can be translated as "sharing meals" or "dining together".

Initially, it referred to homosexual relationships among women in the palace.

Later, the term was commonly used to refer to relationships between eunuchs and maids.

691

Zhège xiànxàng yīnggāi yě tǐng pǔbiàn de, zhège shì zhēnshí de ma?
这个现象应该也挺普遍的，这个是真实的吗？

This was probably common. Did this truly happen?

692

Duì, zhège shì zhēnshí de.

对，这个是真实的。

Yes, this was true.

693

Zhège zài Míngcháo de shíhou shì bèi chéngrèn de

这个在明朝的时候是被承认的

This was actually recognized during the Ming Dynasty,

694

Chúcǐzhīwài, tā yīzhí dōu shì bèi chāotíng suǒ bù chéngrèn de,

除此之外，它一直都是被朝廷所不承认的，

and besides Ming, it was not encouraged by other dynasties.

695

yīzhí dōu shì dìxià guānxi.

一直都是地下关系。

It had always been hidden relationships.

696

Rúguǒ bèi fāxiàn kěnéng huì chǔ yǐ sǐxíng.

如果被发现可能会处以死刑。

If discovered, the people involved might get death penalties.

697

Nàge Zhēnhuán Zhuàn nǐ dōu kàn le ba?

那个甄嬛传你都看了吧？

Have you seen the TV series "The Legend of Zhen Huan"?

698

Zhège bùjǐn zài guónèi hěn shòuhuānyíng,

这个不仅在国内很受欢迎，

It's not only very popular in China,

699

zài guówài yě tóngyàng rúcǐ.

在国外也同样如此。

but also overseas.

700

Jiù yǒu hěn duō píndào jiù bǎ zhège Zhēnhuán Zhuàn de diànshìjù

就有很多频道就把这个甄嬛传的电视剧

Many channels have translated this TV series

701

fānyì chéng le Yīngwén ya hái yǒu qítā de yǔyán.

翻译成了英文呀还有其他的语言。

into English and other languages.

702

Ránhòu lǐmiàn jiù yǒu yī gè jùqíng,
然后里面就有一个剧情，
There is an episode

703

jiùshì huángdì shēnbiān de dà tàijiàn Sū Péishèng,
就是皇帝身边的大太监苏培盛，
where the emperor's chief eunuch, Su Peisheng,

704

tā gēn Zhēnhuán shēnbiān de yī gè gōngnǚ Cuī Jǐnxī,
他跟甄嬛身边的一个宫女崔槿汐，
formed a 'dui shi' relationship with a palace maid, Cui Jinxi,

705

tāmen liǎng gè jiù xíngchéng le duì shí guānxì.
他们两个就形成了对食关系。
who was serving Zhen Huan (a concubine).

706

Ránhòu hòumian jiù bèi bùhuáihǎoyì de huáng hòu,
然后后面就被不怀好意的皇后，
Later, this relationship was discovered by the evil Empress,

707

huáng hòu shì huàirén
皇后是坏人
who was a villain

708

bèi huáng hòu fāxiàn le, ránhòu huáng hòu jiù lìyòng zhège,
被皇后发现了，然后皇后就利用这个，
and she used this as an excuse

709

jiù bǎ Jǐnxī gēn Sū Péishèng dōu zhuā jìn le láo lǐmiàn,
就把槿汐跟苏培盛都抓进了牢里面，
to arrest Jinxi and Su Peisheng.

710

shuō tāmen yǒu bùzhèngdàng de guānxì,
说他们有不正当的关系，
She claimed that they had an improper relationship,

711

yīnwèi nàge dāngshí shì bù bèi gǔlì de.

因为那个当时是不被鼓励的。

which was not encouraged at that time.

712

Shì zhèyàng de.

是这样的。

Yes, that's the way it was.

713

Hǎoxiàng zài qítā cháodài lǐ, zhǐyǒu Míngcháo shì bèi chéngrèn,

好像在其他朝代里，只有明朝是被承认，

It seems that only the Ming Dynasty recognized such relationships,

714

qítā dōu bùhuì bèi chéngrèn.

其他都不会被承认。

and all the other ones did not.

715

Wèishénme ne?

为什么呢？

Why is that?

716

Wèishénme Míngcháo bèi chéngrèn

为什么明朝被承认

Why was the Ming Dynasty the only one to recognize it

717

ér qítā de cháodài dōu méiyǒu chéngrèn zhè yīdiǎn ne?

而其他的朝代都没有承认这一点呢？

while other dynasties did not?

718

Qítā cháodài bù chéngrèn de yuányīn ne

其他朝代不承认的原因呢

The reason other dynasties did not recognize it might be

719

kěnéng jiùshì yǒude duì shí guānxi

可能就是有的对食关系

that some 'dui shi' relationships

720

huì pòhuài tāmen huángjiā de míngshēng.
会破坏他们皇家的名声。
could damage the royal family's reputation.

721

Jiùshì céngjīng jiù yǒu guó huánghòu hé gōngnǚ
就是曾经就有过皇后和宫女
There was an instance where an empress and a palace maid

722

xíngchéng le duì shí guānxi.
形成了对食关系。
formed a 'dui shi' relationship.

723

Jiùshì Hàn wǔdì shíqī, huánghòu ā Jiāo
就是汉武帝时期，皇后阿娇
During the reign of Emperor Wu of Han,

724

tā niánqīng de shíhou ne, Hàn wǔdì fēicháng fēicháng xǐhuan tā
她年轻的时候呢，汉武帝非常非常喜欢她
when his empress, named Jiao was young, he liked her a lot.

725

Dàn suízhe Chén ā jiāo de niánlǎo sè shuāi ne,
但随着陈阿娇的年老色衰呢，
But as Jiao aged and lost her beauty,

726

Hàn wǔdì jiù xǐhuan shàng le qítā de rén
汉武帝就喜欢上了其他的人
the emperor took a liking to others.

727

Ā Jiāo ne jiùshì jìmò zhīzhōng ne,
阿娇呢就是寂寞之中呢，
Feeling lonely, Jiao

728

tā jiù ràng qítā de gōngnǚ chuān zhe nánshēng de yīfu
她就让其他的宫女穿着男生的衣服

had palace maids dress in men's clothes

729

bànyǎn nánshēng gēn tā fāshēngguānxi.

扮演男生跟她发生关系。

to act as men and engage in sexual relationships with her.

730

Zhè jiàn shìqíng hòulái jiù bèi Hànwǔdì zhīdào le ma

这件事情后来就被汉武帝知道了嘛

This matter was eventually discovered by Emperor Wu of Han,

731

jiù bǎ tā zhège huánghòu zhī wèi gěi chè le,

就把她这个皇后之位给撤了，

and he stripped her of her empress status.

732

suǒyǐ qíshí jiùshì zhèzhǒng duì shí guānxi

所以其实就是这种对食关系

So, "dui shi" relationships

733

huì sǔnhuài huángjiā de míngshēng ma.

会损坏皇家的名声嘛。

could tarnish the royal family's reputation.

734

Suǒyǐ jiùshì qítā cháodài jiù bìngbù tài chéngrèn zhège.

所以就是其他朝代就并不太承认这个。

That was why other dynasties did not allow this.

735

Qíshí zài Míngcháo kāiguó huángdì Zhū Yuánzhāng,

其实在明朝开国皇帝朱元璋，

In fact, the founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang,

736

tā qíshí yě shì tǎoyàn duì shí de.

他其实也是讨厌对食的。

also hated "dui shi".

737

Tā céngjīng hái xiàlìng guo jiù shuō fánshì yǒu duì shí de tàijiàn,

他曾经还下令过就说凡是有对食的太监，
He once enacted an order that eunuchs involved in "dui shi"

738

yào bāopí zhī xíng.
要剥皮之刑。
should be skinned.

739

Dànshì ne, zàihòu miàndī shíhou Zhū Yuánzhāng bùshì sǐ le ma
但是呢，在后面的时候朱元璋不是死了嘛
However, after Zhu Yuanzhang passed away,

740

zài Yǒnglè niánjiān, tàijiàn de dīwèi jiù shàngshēng le,
在永乐年间，太监的地位就上升了，
during the Yongle era, the status of eunuchs rose,

741

tàijiàn yuèláiyuè zhòngyào le,
太监越来越重要了，
and they became increasingly important,

742

suǒyǐ zhège jìnling jiù mànman mànman de jiù bù qǐzuòyòng le.
所以这个禁令就慢慢慢慢地就不起作用了。
so this order gradually became obsolete.

743

Yīzhí dào Míngxīzōng de shíhou, Míngxīzōng tā yǒu yī gè rǔmǔ, Kè shì
一直到明熹宗的时候，明熹宗他有一个乳母，客氏
Later, the Tianqi Emperor of the Ming Dynasty had a wet nurse and her name was Ke.

744

zuì kāishǐ ne tā shì gēn yī gè jiào Wèi Cháo de tàijiàn shì duì shí guānxì.
最开始呢她是跟一个叫魏朝的太监是对食关系。
Ke formed a "dui shi" relationship with a eunuch named Wei Chao.

745

Wèi zhōngxián jìn le gōng yǐhòu,
魏忠贤进了宫以后，
After Wei Zhongxian entered the palace,

[Note: Wei Zhongxian was mentioned earlier as the gambler who castrated himself to escape from creditors.](#)

746

Kèshì yíqíngbié liàn xǐhuan shàng le Wèi Zhōngxián.

客氏移情别恋喜欢上了魏忠贤。

Ke fell in love with him.

747

Duì, hǎoxiàng nàge Kèshì gēn Wèi Zhōngxián shì lǎoxiāng

对，好像那个客氏跟魏忠贤是老乡

Yes, it seems that Ke and Wei Zhongxian were from the same hometown.

748

Duì, jiùshì yǒu yī tiān Wèi Zhōngxián pèngjiàn le Kèshì,

对，就是有一天魏忠贤碰见了客氏，

One day Wei Zhongxian ran into Ke (in the palace),

749

Kèshì rènchū Wèi Zhōngxián lái le.

客氏认出魏忠贤来了。

and Ke recognized him.

750

Kèshì wèn shuō āi, nǐ zěnmē zài zhèr ne?

客氏问说哎，你怎么在这儿呢？

Ke asked, "Why are you here?"

751

Wèi Zhōngxián zhè nǎozi líng ya,

魏忠贤这脑子灵呀，

Wei Zhongxian was quick-witted

752

lì mǎ jiù shuō wǒ shì wèile zhǎo nǐ cái lái dào zhèlǐ ya.

立马就说我是为了找你才来到这里呀。

and immediately said: "I came here for you.

753

Wǒ lái dào zhèlǐ hǎojiǔ, wǒ měitiān dōu zài zhǎo nǐ,

我来到这里好久，我每天都在找你，

I've been looking for you every day since I got here."

754

màn mǎn mǎn mǎn de tā jiù bǎ Kèshì gěi gǎndòng le.

慢慢慢慢地他就把客氏给感动了。

Slowly, Ke was moved by him.

755

Kèshì jiù àishàng tā le, tāmen liǎ yòu kāishǐ gǎo duì shí guānxi.

客氏就爱上他了，他们俩又开始搞对食关系。

Ke fell in love with him, and they started a 'dui shi' relationship.

756

Dànshì ba qíshí Wèi Zhōngxián tā shì yī gè xiǎosān,

但是吧其实魏忠贤他是一个小三，

But actually, Wei Zhongxian was "the other man" in her life

757

nàge shíhou Kèshì hái gēn Wèi Cháo yǒu duì shí guānxi a

那个时候客氏还跟魏朝有对食关系啊

because at that time, Ke was still involved with Wei Chao.

758

tāmen sān gè rén dōu nàodào le Míngxīzōng de yǎnqián,

他们三个人都闹到了明熹宗的眼前，

The three of them caused a scene in front of the Tianqi Emperor.

759

Míngxīzōng jiù shuō le, zhè liǎ nǐ xuǎn shéi?

明熹宗就说了，这俩你选谁？

The emperor asked (Ke): "Who do you choose between these two?"

760

Zuìhòu tā xuǎnzé le Wèi Zhōngxián.

最后她选择了魏忠贤。

In the end, she chose Wei Zhongxian.

761

Hòulái Wèi Cháo hái bèi Wèi Zhōngxián gěi nòngsǐ le.

后来魏朝还被魏忠贤给弄死了。

Later, Wei Chao was even killed by Wei Zhongxian.

762

Míngxīzōng nàge shíqī,

明熹宗那个时期，

During the reign of the Tianqi Emperor of the Ming Dynasty,

763

duì shí guānxi dōu suànshì bèi guānfāng chéngrèn le ma, duì ba?

对食关系都算是被官方承认了嘛，对吧？

"dui shi" was somewhat recognized by the court, right?

764

Ránhòu Míngxīzōng guòshì zhīhòu,

然后明熹宗过世之后，

But when the Tianqi Emperor died (at age 21),

765

Míngxīzōng yǒu yī gè huánghòu, tèbié niánqīng

明熹宗有一个皇后，特别年轻

his empress was still very young.

766

Tā èrshí yī suì de shíhou jiù kāishǐ shǒuguǎ le,

她二十一岁的时候就开始守寡了，

She started to live as a widow at the age of twenty-one.

767

nàge shíhou yǒu yī gè tàijiàn jiàozuò Chén Dérùn,

那个时候有一个太监叫做陈德润，

At that time, there was a eunuch named Chen Derun.

768

tā zìjǐ juéde zìjǐ shǒulǐ yǒudiǎn xiǎoguān, zhǎngde hái bùlài,

他自己觉得自己手里有点小官，长得还不赖，

He thought since he held a minor official position and wasn't bad-looking,

769

tā jiù qù zhǎo zhège huánghòu le, jiù shuō zánliǎ dāng duì shí déle.

他就去找这个皇后了，就说咱俩当对食得了。

he approached the empress and suggested they start a "dui shi" relationship.

770

Dànshì zhège Zhāng huánghòu ne, tā jiùshì bǐjiào gāngzhèngbù'ē,

但是这个张皇后呢，她就是比较刚正不阿，

However, Empress Zhang was known for her integrity and uprightness,

771

tā jiù shuō wǒ bù gēn nǐ gǎo duì shí guānxi

她就说我不跟你搞对食关系

so she rejected him.

772

Jiùshì zhège tàijiàn ne,
就是这个太监呢,
But this eunuch

773

tā jìngrán zài yèlǐ yìng chuǎng huánghòu de qǐn gōng,
他竟然在夜里硬闯皇后的寝宫,
was very bold and broke into the empress's bedroom

774

jiéguǒ qiáng shàng wèisùì.
结果强上未遂。
in an attempt to force her into a relationship, but he didn't succeed.

775

Zuìhòu zhège tàijiàn bèi biǎn chūqu le.
最后这个太监被贬出去了。
In the end, he was thrown out of the palace.

776

Tā zhèyàng jiùshì wǔrǔ yī gè huánghòu ai, tā hái bù bèi cìsǐ?
他这样就是侮辱一个皇后唉, 他还不被赐死?
He insulted the empress, and he wasn't executed?

777

Yīnwèi nàge shíhou MíngXīzōng yǐjīng qùshì le
因为那个时候明熹宗已经去世了
Because the Tianqi Emperor (her husband) was already dead,

778

zhège huánghòu xiāngdāng yúshì yī gè... | Jiù méiyǒushénme quánlì le
这个皇后相当于是一个... | 就没有什么权力了
so the empress was like a... | She didn't have any power.

779

Jíxiángwù
吉祥物
(She was like) a figurehead only.

780

Nàge qīngcháo mièwáng zhīhòu, zhèxiē tàijiàn zěnmébàn ne?
那个清朝灭亡之后, 这些太监怎么办呢?
So after the fall of the Qing Dynasty (the last dynasty), what happened to the eunuchs?

781

Tāmen dōu qù nǎr le ne?

他们都去哪儿了呢?

Where did they go?

782

Zài Míng Qīng shíhou, jiùshì mànman de xíngchéng le yī gè xiǎo zǔzhī

在明清时候，就是慢慢地形成了一个小组

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, a small organization was gradually formed

783

jiàozuò yǎnglǎo yìhuì.

叫做养老议会。

called the "Retirement Council".

784

Zhège xiǎo zǔzhī ne, jiùshì zhǐyào nǐ shì zhèngshì de tàijiàn,

这个小组呢，就是只要你是正式的太监，

As long as you were a eunuch,

785

nǐ dōu shì zhège zǔzhī de chéngyuán

你都是这个组织的成员

you were a member.

786

Nǐ de yǎnglǎosòngzhōng ne, zhège huì quán bāo le.

你的养老送终呢，这个会全包了。

The council provided support during their old age.

787

Bù jiāoqián ma?

不交钱吗?

They didn't need to pay (to join it)?

788

Yǒu yībùfen ne shì yóu zhè bāng tàijiàn men yào jiāo huìfèi

有一部分呢是由这帮太监们要交会费

Some of the funding for the organization came from membership fees paid by the eunuchs,

789

dànshì dàbùfen de qián ne shì yóu zhèxiē dà tàijiàn,

但是大部分的钱呢是由这些大太监，
but most of the money was contributed by senior

790

yǒumíng de tàijiàn tāmen chū de.
有名的太监他们出的。
or well-known eunuchs.

791

Tāmen hěn yǒu xiānjiànzhīmíng, rénjiā hěn huì tóuzī.
他们很有先见之明，人家很会投资。
They were very forward-thinking and good at investing.

792

Tāmen huì zài Běijīng de zhōubiān tóuzī mǎi dì,
他们会在北京的周边投资买地，
They purchased land around Beijing

793

ránhòu xiūjiàn yóu tàijiàn men zìjǐ zhǎngguǎn de sìmiào.
然后修建由太监们自己掌管的寺庙。
and build temples managed by the eunuchs themselves.

794

Ránhòu tàijiàn men tuìxiū zhīhòu ne, jiù huì qù zhèxiē sìmiào lǐtou qīshēn,
然后太监们退休之后呢，就会去这些寺庙里头栖身，
After retiring, the eunuchs would live in these temples,

795

chīzhù bù yòng huāqián, miào lǐtou gōngyǎng tāmen.
吃住不用花钱，庙里头供养他们。
where they had food and a roof over their head.

796

Nà jiùshì děngyú shuō mǎi yǎnglǎobǎoxiǎn bei,
那就是等于说买养老保险呗，
It was like buying life insurance,

797

jiù xiāngdāngyú xiànzài de.
就相当于现在的。
as we do now.

798

Duì, suànshì mǎi yǎnglǎobǎoxiǎn le
对，算是买养老保险了
Yes, like life insurance.

799

Jiù zhídào Qīngcháo mièwáng zhīhòu ya,
就直到清朝灭亡之后呀，
When the Qing Dynasty fell,

800

Běijīng chéng lǐ jíqí zhōubiān jiù yǒu èrshí liù chù
北京城里极其周边就有二十六处
there were over 26 temples around Beijing

801

yóu tàijiàn men zhǎngguǎn de sìmiào.
由太监们掌管的寺庙。
that were managed by eunuchs.

802

Xiànzài hái zài ma?
现在还在吗？
Are they still around?

803

Zhèxiē jiù bùshì yóu tàijiàn zhǎngguǎn le,
这些就不是由太监掌管了，
(Yes), but not managed by eunuchs.

804

dànshì zhèxiē sìmiào yǒude hái zài
但是这些寺庙有的还在
Some of the temples are still there.

805

Tǐng yǒuyìsi de, yǐhòu wǒ qù Běijīng wǒ dōu xiǎng qù kàn yīxià
挺有意思的，以后我去北京我都想去看一下
That's interesting. In the future when I go to Beijing, I'd like to visit them.

806

Kěyǐ, qíshí Běijīng sìmiào tèbié duō
可以，其实北京寺庙特别多
You can. There are actually many temples in Beijing.

807

Jiùshì zhuānmén bài yīnyuán de, ránhòu zhuānmén bài shìyè de
就是专门拜姻缘的，然后专门拜事业的

Some were dedicated to (the goddess) of marriage and others were dedicated to (the goddess) of career.

808

Hǎo, qù bài bài shìyè

好，去拜拜事业

Alright, I will go and pray for my career.

809

Bài yīxià yī bǎiwàn fěnsī lái le!

拜一下一百万粉丝来了！

I will pray once and get a million (subscribers)!

810

Nà děi tiāntiān qù bài

那得天天去拜

You will have to pray every day!

811

Wǒ zhù nàr tiāntiān gěi zánmen zhège zhànghào bài

我住那儿天天给咱们这个账号拜

If I live there, I can pray for our channel every day.

812

Hǎo, xíng!

好，行！

Sounds good!

813

Zán bǎ zhège tàijiàn zhè qī bōkè bài dào yī bǎiwàn diǎnjī yě bùcuò

咱把这个太监这期播客拜到一百万点击也不错

It will be nice if we can get 1 million views for this podcast!

814

Hǎo, nà zuìhòu yī gè bùfēn ne

好，那最后一个部分呢

Alright, in the last part (of our podcast),

815

wǒmen jiù lái tí yīxià lìshǐshàng bǐjiào yǒumíng de tàijiàn,

我们就来提一下历史上比较有名的太监，

let's talk about some of the famous eunuchs that existed in history.

816

jiù xiàng wǒmen qiánmiàn tí dào guo de Wèi Zōngxián,
就像我们前面提到过的魏忠贤，
Earlier, we mentioned figures like Wei Zhongxian,

817

hái yǒu Lǐ Liányīng, hái yǒu Zhèng Hé děngděng.
还有李莲英，还有郑和等等。
Li Lianying, Zheng He, and so on.

818

Shǒuxiān wǒmen lái shuō yī xià Lǐ Liányīng ba.
首先我们来说一下李莲英吧。
Let's first talk about Li Lianying.

819

Tā shì zěnmeyàng cóng yī gè xiǎo tàijiàn
他是怎么样从一个小太监
How did he rise from a minor eunuch

820

chéngwéi Cíxǐ shēnbiān de dàhóng rén de?
成为慈禧身边的大红人的？
to become a favorite of Cixi?

821

Lǐ Liányīng shì rúhé tǎohǎo Cíxǐ de ne?
李莲英是如何讨好慈禧的呢？
How did he manage to please Cixi?

822

Cóngqián yǒu yī tiān, Lǐ Liányīng gēn Cíxǐ qù yuàn lǐ tóu fàng niǎo,
从前有一天，李莲英跟慈禧去院子里头放鸟，
One day, Li accompanied Cixi to release some birds in the courtyard.

823

ránhòu ne Cíxǐ bǎ niǎo dōu fàng fēi le yǐ hòu,
然后呢慈禧把鸟都放飞了以后，
After the birds were released,

824

zhè bāng niǎo yòu dōu fēi huí lóngzǐ lǐ tóu le.
这帮鸟又都飞回隆子里头了。

这帮鸟又都飞回笼子里头了。
they flew back into the cage.

825

Lǐ Liányīng zhè shíhòu jiù liūxūpāimǎ ya,
李莲英这时候就溜须拍马呀,
Li took this opportunity to flatter her.

826

jiù shuō dōu shì nín yǎng de tāmen hǎo,
就说都是您养得它们好,
He said: "That's because you were nice to them,

827

tāmen zhī ēn tú bào, shěbude líkāi nín.
它们知恩图报，舍不得离开您。
so they didn't want to leave you."

828

Ránhòu Cíxǐ jiù tèbié gāoxìng.
然后慈禧就特别高兴。
Cixi was very pleased.

829

Zhèzhǒng shìqíng tèbié duō,
这种事情特别多,
Things like this happened many times

830

mànmàn de Cíxǐ jiù fēicháng fēicháng de xǐhuan Lǐ Liányīng le
慢慢地慈禧就非常非常的喜欢李莲英了
and slowly, Cixi developed a strong liking for Li Lianying.

831

Lùn shuōhuà de yìshù
论说话的艺术
Talk about the art of speaking!

832

Duì, dàn qíshí shì zěnmehāo ne?
对，但其实是怎么着呢？
Right, but what actually happened was that

833

Zhèxiē niǎo shì qiányītiān bèi è le yī tiān,
这些鸟是前一天被饿了一天，
these birds had been starved before the release

834

ránhòu lóngzi lǐ ne qíshí shì yǒu niǎo shí de, shì Cíxǐ kànbujiàn.
然后笼子里呢其实是有鸟食的，是慈禧看不见。
and there was food in the cage, but Cixi couldn't see it.

835

Suǒyǐ zhè bāng niǎo yòu fēi huílai chī dōngxī le,
所以这帮鸟又飞回来吃东西了，
That was why these birds flew back,

836

suǒyǐ jiù yǒu le zhège gùshi.
所以就有了这个故事。
and thus the story.

837

Shì bèi shèjì de, rénjiā shèjì hǎo de, hǎo cōngming a!
是被设计的，人家设计好的，好聪明啊！
So it was designed! How smart!

838

Érqiě hái yǒu jiùshì zài bāguó liánjūn qīn Huá de shíhou,
而且还有就是在八国联军侵华的时候，
Also, during the invasion of China by the Eight-Nation Alliance,

839

Cíxǐ dài zhe Guāngxùdì pǎochū Běijīng chéng le,
慈禧带着光绪帝跑出北京城了，
Cixi fled Beijing with Emperor Guangxu

840

ránhòu zài fǎnhuí de lùshang,
然后在返回的路上，
and on their way back,

841

tāmen zài yī gè xiǎo zhùsuǒ lǐ zhù xià le ma
他们在一个小住所里住下了嘛
they stayed in a small residence.

842

Cíxǐ de wūzi lǐ shōushi de tèbié hǎo.

慈禧的屋子里收拾得特别好。

Cixi's room was well arranged

843

Lǐ Liányīng de wūzi yě shōushi de tèbié hǎo

李莲英的屋子也收拾得特别好

and so was Li Lianying's.

844

Wéidú Guāngxù zhù de hěn hán suān

唯独光绪住得很寒酸

But (Emperor) Guangxu's room was poorly arranged.

845

Wèishénme?

为什么?

Why?

846

Yīnwèi Cíxǐ bù xǐhuan Guāngxù.

因为慈禧不喜欢光绪。

Because Cixi did not like Guangxu.

847

Érqiě suǒyǒu de tàijiàn yě zhīdào Cíxǐ bù xǐhuan Guāngxù.

而且所有的太监也知道慈禧不喜欢光绪。

And all the eunuchs knew about this.

848

Suǒyǐ gùyì de bù ràng guāngxù zhù nàme hǎo.

所以故意地不让光绪住那么好。

So they deliberately did not arrange a nice room for Guangxu.

849

Dànshì Lǐ Liányīng fāxiàn le ya,

但是李莲英发现了呀,

However, when Li Lianying found out about this,

850

Lǐ Liányīng lì mǎ bào zhe Guāngxù jiù kāishǐ kū.

李莲英立马抱着光绪就开始哭。

he immediately held Guangxu and started crying while saying:

851

Nín dōu zhème shòuzuì, wǒ hé dé hé néng ya

您都这么受罪，我何德何能呀

"How can you be suffering like this? Who am I to deserve (living in such a nice room)?"

852

ránhòu jiù bǎ tā zìjǐ de nà wū ràng Guāngxù zhù le.

然后就把他自己的那屋让光绪住了。

So he gave his own room to Guangxu.

853

Zài hòulái Guāngxù jiù huíyì dào, jiù gēn biéren shuō

在后来光绪就回忆到，就跟别人说

Later, Guangxu recalled this incident and said to others that

854

Yào méiyǒu Lǐ āndá, wǒ jiù huó bù dào jīntiān.

要没有李安达，我就活不到今天。

without Li Anda (Li Linying), I wouldn't be alive today.

855

Āndá shì shénme yìsi? Xiōngdì de zūnchēng

安达是什么意思？兄弟的尊称

What does 'Anda' mean? It was a respectful term for a brother.

856

Suǒyǐ jiù kěyǐ kàn chūlai Lǐ Liányīng shì duōme de yuánhuá

所以就可以看出来李莲英是多么地圆滑

So you can see how smooth Li Lianying was.

857

yǐzhìyú tā quán jí yīshí hái néng quánshēn'értuì

以至于他权极一时还能全身而退

Even at the height of his power, Li Linying was able to retire unscathed.

858

Ránhòu wǒmen gānggang yīzhí zài tí Wèi Zhōngxián ma,

然后我们刚刚一直在提魏忠贤嘛，

(Throughout the podcast) we mentioned Wei Zhongxian many times,

859

wèishénme yào yīzhí tí Wèi Zhōngxián ne?

为什么要一直提魏忠贤呢？
and why do we keep mentioning him?

860

Jiùshì huángdì wǒmen dōu shì shuō wànsuì yé, duì ba?
就是皇帝我们都是说万岁爷，对吧？
We called emperors 10,000-year-old man, right?

861

Wèi Zhōngxián ne zìchēng zìjǐ shì jiǔ qiān jiǔ bǎi suì,
魏忠贤呢自称自己是九千九百岁，
But Wei Zhongxian claimed that he was a 9,900-year-old man.

862

kějiàn tā yǒu duō chāngkuáng.
可见他有多猖狂。
You can see how arrogant he was!

863

Yǐjī tā jiùsuàn zhème chēnghu zìjǐ, yě bìng méiyǒushénme wèntí.
以及他就算这么称呼自己，也并没有什么问题。
Even when he said this, there was no problem.

864

Wèishénme tā zhème lìhai ne?
为什么他这么厉害呢？
Why was he so powerful?

865

Shì yīnwèi Wèi Zhōngxián nàge shíqī Míngxīzōng ba
是因为魏忠贤那个时期明熹宗吧
Because during that period, Emperor Tianqi

866

zhì bùzài dāng huángdì,
志不在当皇帝，
didn't care about being an emperor.

867

tā xǐhuan dāng mùjiàng, tā ài zuò yīxiē mùzhì pǐn
他喜欢当木匠，他爱做一些木制品
He enjoyed being a carpenter and loved making wooden crafts,

868

jiù yīxiē chuán ya shénmede móxíng, shì ba?

就一些船呀什么的模型，是吧？

such as model ships, you know?

869

Wǒ yǒu kàn guo zhège | Duì

我有看过这个 | 对

I have seen this. | Right.

870

Jiù zhège huángdì tā bùshì hěn xǐhuan zuò mùgōng ma?

就这个皇帝他不是很喜欢做木工吗？

This emperor liked doing carpentry work, right?

871

Ránhòu tā jiù zuò le yīxiē móxíng.

然后他就做了一些模型。

So he made some models.

872

Wèi Zhōngxián ne jiù wèile tǎohǎo huángdì,

魏忠贤呢就为了讨好皇帝，

Wei Zhongxian, in order to please the emperor,

873

tā jiù bǎ zhège móxíng tōutōu de ná dào gōng wài qù mài.

他就把这个模型偷偷地拿到宫外去卖。

secretly took these models outside the palace to sell.

874

Mài wán le zhīhòu ne, tā yòu lìngwài zài qǐng rén

卖完了之后呢，他又另外再请人

After selling them, he then had others

875

huā gèng duō de gèng dà de jiàqian qù bǎ nàxiē móxíng gěi mǎi huí lai.

花更多的更大的价钱去把那些模型给买回来。

buy them back at a much higher price.

876

Mǎi huí lai zhīhòu ne,

买回来之后呢，

After buying them back,

877

tā jiù dào huángdì shēnbiān le ránhòu jiù gēn huángdì jiǎng,
他就到皇帝身边了然后就跟皇帝讲,
he would go to the emperor and tell him:

878

āiyā huángshang, nǐ zhīdào ma?
哎呀皇上, 你知道吗?
"Your Majesty, guess what?

879

Xiǎode jiù zìzuò-zhǔzhāng bǎ nǐ zhège móxíng ná dào gōng wài qù mài le.
小的就自作主张把你这个模型拿到宫外去卖了。
I took the liberty to sell your models outside the palace."

880

Ránhòu zhè huángdì jiù wèn le, nà shì mài le duōshao qián ne?
然后这皇帝就问了, 那是卖了多少钱呢?
The emperor then asked: "How much did them sell for?"

881

Wèi Zhōngxián jiù shuō āiyā, nín bù zhīdào ya
魏仲贤就说哎呀, 您不知道呀
Wei Zhongxian said: "Well,

882

jiù biéren jiā de dōngxī jiù zhǐnéng mài èr liǎng yínzi,
就别人家的东西就只能卖二两银子,
other people's work only sold for two taels of silver,

883

nín zhège néng mài shí liǎng ne!
您这个能卖十两呢!
but yours were sold for ten taels!"

884

Yìsi jiùshìshuō, nǐ zhège gōngfu zuò de hěn hǎo.
意思就是说, 你这个功夫做得很好。
He was implying that the emperor's craftsmanship was very good.

885

Huángdì jiù hěn kāixīn a,
皇帝就很开心啊,
The emperor was very pleased.

886

nà yuè kāixīn ne, tā jiù gèngjiā xǐhuan zuò zhège mùgōng le.

那越开心呢，他就更加喜欢做这个木工了。

And the happier he was, the more he enjoyed doing carpentry work.

887

Suǒyǐ dāngshí hái yǒu yī mù,

所以当时还有一幕，

There was a scene (in a TV series)

888

jiù zhège Wèi Zhōngxián shànglái wèn wànsuì yé

就这个魏忠贤上来问万岁爷

where Wei Zhongxian asked the emperor:

889

mǒu yī gè guānyuán shàng le zòuzhé,

某一个官员上了奏折，

"There's a memorial from a court official,

[Note: "奏折/zòuzhé" was a form of official document where officials would submit written reports or requests to the emperor.](#)

890

shuō wèn tā zhège shìqing zěnmébàn?

说问他这个事情怎么办？

what should we do about it?"

891

Ránhòu nà huángdì jiù yǒudiǎn āiyā, tā shuō hǎo fán ya

然后那皇帝就有点哎呀，他说好烦呀

The emperor was annoyed by this question and said:

892

tā shuō zhège huórén de shìqing jiùshì tài máfan le,

他说这个活人的事情就是太麻烦了，

"It's such a hassle to deal with human beings.

893

háishi zhège sǐ de dōngxi bǐjiào hǎo nòng yīdiǎn.

还是这个死的东西比较好弄一点。

It's much easier to deal with things!"

894

Ránhòu tā pángbiān de nàge rǔmǔ, jiù Kèshì ma
然后他旁边的那个乳母，就客氏嘛
At this moment, Ke, who was standing on the side

895

jiù shuō āiyā Wèi Zhōngxián a
就说哎呀魏忠贤啊
said to Wei:

896

Jiù nǐ bùyào zài fán huángshang le,
就你不要再烦皇上了，
"Don't bother the emperor anymore,

897

jiù zhèxiē shìqíng nǐ zìjǐ chǔlǐ jiù hǎo le.
就这些事情你自己处理就好了。
just handle these matters yourself!"

898

Ránhòu huángdì shuō duì, nǐ zìjǐ chǔlǐ jiù xíng le.
然后皇帝说对，你自己处理就行了。
Then the emperor said, "That's right! You handle it."

899

Jiù zhèyàngzi yī bù yī bù de, tā jiù zhēnde bǎwò le zhège cháozhèng.
就这样子一步一步的，他就真的把握了这个朝政。
In this way, step by step, he took control of the government.

900

Gǎnjué tā nàge rǔmǔ Kèshì yě hěn yǒu xīnjī,
感觉他那个乳母客氏也很有心机，
I feel that the emperor's wet nurse, Lady Ke, was very cunning.

901

mànmàn de bāngzhù tā zhǎngwò le cháo zhèng.
慢慢地帮助他掌握了朝政。
She actually helped Wei take control of the government.

902

Xiàyīge wǒmen lái jiǎngjiǎng jiùshì shìjièwénmíng de tàijiàn Zhèng Hé.
下一个我们来讲讲就是世界闻名的太监郑和。
Next, let's talk about the world-famous eunuch Zheng He.

903

Zài wǒmen xiǎoshíhou, wǒ zài kèběn lǐ hái xué guo ne
在我们小时候，我在课本里还学过呢
When I was a kid, I even learned about him in textbooks.

904

Zhèng Hé xià xīyáng | Zhèng Hé xià xīyáng
郑和下西洋 | 郑和下西洋
Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas (the famous title on textbooks).

905

Duì, dāngshí kèběn lǐ jiǎng de shì Zhèng Hé xià xīyáng
对，当时课本里讲的是郑和下西洋
Yes, the textbooks said that Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas

906

shì wèile zhāngxiǎn míngcháo de guó lì,
是为了彰显明朝的国力，
were to demonstrate the power of the Ming Dynasty,

907

yǐ jī bāngzhù huángdì xúnzhǎo qízhēnyìbǎo ma
以及帮助皇帝寻找奇珍异宝嘛
and to help the emperor find rare treasures.

908

Dàn zhè jǐnjīn zhǐshì biǎomiànshàng de yuányīn,
但这仅仅只是表面上的原因，
But this reason was only superficial,

909

zhēnzhèng bèihòu Zhèng Hé shì yǒu yī gè gèng dà de rènwu.
真正背后郑和是有一个更大的任务。
behind the scenes Zheng He had a much bigger mission.

910

Chuánwén dāngshí de huángdì,
传闻当时的皇帝，
It was rumored that the emperor at the time

911

tā shì tōngguò bùdàng de shǒuduàn duóde le huángwèi.
他是不通过不当的手段夺得了皇位。
seized the throne through improper means.

912

Zhēnzhèng yīnggāi jìchéng de ne shì tā de yī gè zhízi, ér bùshì tā.

真正应该继承的呢是他的一个侄子，而不是他。

The one who should have inherited it was his nephew, not him.

913

Ránhòu dāng tā jìchéng huángwèi de shíhou ne,

然后当他继承皇位的时候呢，

When the emperor inherited the throne,

914

tā fāxiàn tā de zhízi xiāoshī le, bù zhīdào qù nǎr le.

他发现他的侄子消失了，不知道去哪儿了。

he discovered that his nephew had disappeared and was no where to be found.

915

Jiù yǒu tàijiàn gēn tā shuō, kànjiàn tā zhège zhízi qù xiàhǎi le.

就有太监跟他说，看见他这个侄子去下海了。

One eunuch told him that he saw his nephew heading towards the sea.

916

Ránhòu zhège huángdì ne jiù mìnglìng Zhèng Hé

然后这个皇帝呢就命令郑和

So the emperor ordered Zheng He

917

shuài yī zhòng rén xúnzhǎo tā zhízi de xiàluò.

率一众人寻找他侄子的下落。

to lead a group of people to look for his nephew.

918

Suǒyǐ zhège qíshí shì Zhèng Hé xià xīyáng de zhēnzhèng de mùdì.

所以这个其实是郑和下西洋的真正的目的。

So this was the real purpose of Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas (to eliminate a potential threat to the emperor's throne).

919

Zhège shì chuánwén háishi shǐliào shàng jìzǎi de? | Shǐliào shàng jìzǎi de

这个是传闻还是史料上记载的? | 史料上记载的

Is this a rumor or is it a documented historical fact? | It is documented.

Note: This reason was one of many given for Zheng He's voyages. It is disputed by historians which one was the primary reason.

920

Ránhòu wǒmen jiù yào jiǎngdào

然后我们就要讲到

Next, let's talk about

921

Zhōngguó lìshǐshàng zuìhòu yī gè tàijiàn Sūn Yàotíng

中国历史上最后一个太监孙耀庭

the last eunuch in Chinese history, Sun Yaoting.

922

Wǒ ya jiào Sūn Yàotíng.

我呀叫孙耀庭。

My name is Sun Yaoting.

923

Jīnnián bāshíyī suì le.

今年八十一岁了。

I am eighty-one years old.

924

Wǒ gēgē dāng le huágōng,

我哥哥当了华工，

My older brother became a Chinese laborer

925

dì yī cì shìjiè dàzhàn shàng Fàguó qù le.

第一次世界大战上法国去了。

and went to France during the First World War.

926

Wǒmen gēr sì gè, wǒ fùqīn wǒ mǔqīn, jiāzhōng yǒu liù kǒu rén.

我们哥儿四个，我父亲我母亲，家中有六口人。

With the four of us brothers, and my parents, we have a total of six people.

927

Nǐ xiǎng xiǎng, qī fēn dì zhù zháo liǎng jiān tǔ fáng,

你想想，七分地住着两间土房，

Think about it, we had two rooms on a piece of land that was (roughly 46 square meters) in size.

928

rúhé guò de xiàqu a?

如何过得下去啊？

How could we survive?

929

Wǒ yī kàn wǒmen zhōuwéi, lín cūn lǐtōu a jìn dāng tàijiàn qù le,

我一看我们周围，邻村里头啊尽当太监去了，

I looked around, all the people in the neighboring villages were working as eunuchs.

930

wǒ jiù dòng le zhège xīn le.

我就动了这个心了。

So I was attracted to this idea.

931

Wǒmen gānggang jiǎngdào Sūn Yàotíng ma,

我们刚刚讲到孙耀庭嘛，

We mentioned earlier that Sun Yaoting

932

tā shì zài chuáng shang tǎng le sān gè yuè cái xǐng guòlai de ma.

他是在床上躺了三个月才醒过来的嘛。

laid in bed for three months (after being castrated).

933

Zài tā xiūxi de zhè sān gè yuè,

在他休息的这三个月，

After he rested for three months (in order to recover)

934

zài tā néng dāng tàijiàn zhīhòu, qīngcháo mièwáng le.

在他能当太监之后，清朝灭亡了。

and was ready to be a eunuch, the Qing Dynasty fell.

935

Jiù zhège bái yān le!

就这个白阉了！

So he was castrated for nothing!

936

Duì a, suǒyǐ tā jiù bái yān le

对啊，所以他就白阉了

Right, he did it for nothing!

937

Dànshì rénjiā shuō le, wǒ dōu yān dōu yān le,

但是人家说了，我都阉都阉了，
But he thought since he was already castrated,

938

nà bùnéng ràng wǒ bù cìhou rén a! Shì ba?
那不能让我伺候人啊！是吧？
they should allow him to serve! Right?

939

Ránhòu tāmen jiù kāishǐ sìchù dǎtīng, sìchù tuō rén
然后他们就开始四处打听，四处托人
So he started to ask around for information.

940

zuìhòu ne Sūn Yàotíng xiān shì jìn le bèilei fǔ shang dāngchāi.
最后呢孙耀庭先是进了贝勒府上当差。
Finally, Sun Yaoting managed to get work in the Beile's mansion (Puyi's father's place).

941

Guò le méiduōjiǔ,
过了没多久，
Not long after,

942

Pǔyí tōngguò Riběn de fúchí jiànlì le wěi mǎn zhèngquán ma.
溥仪通过日本的扶持建立了伪满政权嘛。
Puyi, with the support of Japan, established a puppet regime in Manchuria (northeastern region of China).

943

Sūn Yàotíng zhège rén ba zhēnde shì yī xīnxiǎng dāng tàijiàn ya
孙耀庭这个人吧真的是一心想当太监呀
Sun Yaoting was determined to become a eunuch,

944

tā jiù tōngguò yīxiē fāngfǎ yòu qù dào le Dōngběi, zhǎodào le Pǔyí
他就通过一些方法又去到了东北，找到了溥仪
so he tried all he could to get to Dongbei. He found Puyi

945

Zhège shíhou gěi Pǔyí dāngshang tàijiàn le.
这个时候给溥仪当上太监了。
and became a (real) eunuch.

946

Tā jiù kāishǐ fùzé cìhou Wǎnróng le

他就开始负责伺候婉容了

He started to serve Wan Rong (Puyi's wife).

947

Zhídào yī jiǔ sì wǔ nián Wǎnróng qùshì le,

直到一九四五年婉容去世了，

In 1945, when she passed away,

948

tā cái zhēnzhèng de tuìxiū le.

他才真正地退休了。

he then retired.

949

Tuìxiū zhīhòu tā qù nǎr le ne?

退休之后他去哪儿了呢？

Where did he go after retirement?

950

Jiùshì wǒmen gānggāng shàng wén suǒ shuō de, sìmiào

就是我们刚刚上文所说的，寺庙

As we mentioned above, (he moved into) a temple.

951

Zhù jìn "yǎnglǎoyuàn" le | Duì

住进“养老院”了 | 对

He moved into a "nursing home". | Yes

952

Nà jīntiān de tāolùn ne dào zhèlǐ jiù jiéshù le.

那今天的讨论呢到这里就结束了。

So that will be it for today.

953

Rúguǒ nǐmen duìyú wǒmen yǐshàng de nèiróng yǒu shénme xiǎng shuō de,

如果你们对于我们以上的内容有什么想说的，

If you have anything to say about what we discussed today,

954

kěyǐ liúyán gēn wǒmen fēnxiǎng.

可以留言跟我们分享。

leave us a comment.

955

Rúguǒ nǐ xǐhuan zhège shìpín dehuà,

如果你喜欢这个视频的话，

If you like this video,

956

nà jiù qǐng diǎnzàn, zhuǎnfā bìng dìngyuè wǒmen de píndào,

那就请点赞、转发并订阅我们的频道，

please "like", share, and subscribe to our channel!

957

wǒmen xiàqī zàijiàn, báibái! | Báibái

我们下期再见，拜拜！ | 拜拜

See you next time, bye! | Bye.