

THE DRAGON LORD AND THE FAIRY QUEEN

Written by Don Nguyen

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(The chorus members assemble in some sort of stylized formation. Throughout the course of the piece, they will utilize simple props such as varying lengths and colors of fabric, sticks, etc. Also, wooden blocks could be used as a musical device to accentuate certain moments in the play)

NARRATOR

(Reading from a scroll  
or large book)

Shortly after the creation of the earth and the sky, people settled in the deltas of the Hong Ha river in northern Vietnam. Wild beasts lived among the Vietnamese. One day, a god by the name of Lac Long Quan appeared in the country of Lac Viet.

CHORUS

Lac Long Quan

Lac Long Quan is revealed from behind some fabric

NARRATOR

His father, King Duong Vuong, was a mountain god

King Duong Vuong appearing high above the others

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...and his mother, Ho Dong Dinh, was a water goddess.

Ho Dong Dinh appears behind some flowing silk. She is covered with red fabric

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Not only was Ho Dong Dinh a powerful goddess, she also had the ability to transform herself into a sea dragon.

Ho Dong Dinh covers herself with the red fabric and freezes in a dragon-like pose

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Her son had inherited these magical powers.

Ho Dong Dinh hands Lac Long Quan a piece of red fabric. He wraps it around his waist

2. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

While traveling through the wild mountains and valleys, Lac Long Quan came upon a coastal area of southeast Lac Viet.

CHORUS

Lac Viet

NARRATOR

There at Lac Viet, Lac Long Quan stopped, and stood in horror of seeing a sea monster destroying the population of Lac Viet.

The Chorus becomes villagers struggling with a sea monster

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Lac Long Quan pulled a red hot spear he found from a nearby fire, ran up to the monster and threw the spear into its' mouth. The monster groaned for many moments, and then died.

Parts of the chorus that made up the monster, fall to the ground

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Lac Long Quan cut the monster into three pieces and threw each one into different areas of Vietnam. The head became a mountain named Cao Dao Son.

CHORUS

Cao Dao Son

Lac Long Quan throws an invisible head into one part of the stage, as chorus members form a mountain

NARRATOR

The body became Cao Dau Thuy.

CHORUS

Cao Dau Thuy

Lac Long Quan throws an invisible body into another part of the stage, as chorus members form a small hill

NARRATOR

The tail became Bach Long Viet.

CHORUS

Bach Long Viet

Lac Long Quan throws an invisible tail into another part of the stage, as chorus members form another hill with a row of trees

3. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

NARRATOR

The surviving people of Lac Viet  
praised the hero, and Lac Long Quan  
knew it was time to leave them.

Lac Long Quan moves through the parading crowd and disappears  
upstage

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Lac Long Quan headed for the Long  
Bien region where he sensed danger  
was present.

CHORUS

Danger

NARRATOR

Lac Long Quan discovered the  
inhabitants of Long Bien were being  
terrorized by a giant fox and were  
being held captive in its' cave.  
Lac Long Quan fought for three  
ruthless days and three ruthless  
nights until he finally beat the  
giant fox, which shrank down into  
it's normal size and ran away. Our  
hero entered the caves and set the  
inhabitants free.

CHORUS

Free.

Lac Long Quan crosses towards a group of people and leads  
them out of an imaginary cave

NARRATOR

But our hero's job was not over.  
Lac Long Quan fought his biggest  
battle at Phong Chau against the  
monster of trees.

Chorus forms into the monster of trees as Lac Long Quan  
struggles with it

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But this battle proved to be too  
much for Lac Long Quan. As our hero  
fell, all seemed to be lost. With  
his last breath, Lac Long Quan called  
out for his Father's help.

CHORUS

Father!

NARRATOR

From a gust of wind appeared Kinh  
Duong Vuong and chased the monster  
of trees to the south.

4. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

Kinh Duong Vuong appears, and chases the monster of trees away. Leaving Lac Loung Quan fallen on the ground

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Lac Long Quan lay there, motionless.  
The people of Phong Chau surrounded  
him and began to mourn.

Chorus members surround the fallen hero and start to cover  
him with white fabric

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Then the blood of the dragon inside  
him began to boil and his heart  
started back up as the fire of the  
dragon inside woke him up from his  
stillness. Lac Loung Quan awoke and  
the people cheered.

Chorus members cheer and help Lac Long Quan to his feet, and  
eventually onto their shoulders

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Having brought peace to the three  
countries, our hero was so moved by  
these unfortunate and simple people,  
that he decided to stay and protect  
them. During this time, he taught  
them to grow rice, cook it, and cut  
trees to build homes that sheltered  
them from the rain, wind, and savage  
beasts. He also educated them in  
the family virtues of parents and  
spouses. The people loved him and  
considered him as their father, the  
one who gave them their lives. But  
it was not to last. After some time,  
Lac Long Quan's mother called for  
him.

The Chorus becomes still, and Ho Dong Dinh appears through  
flowing silk

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It was time for him to return to his  
home in the Palace of the Waters.  
The people were tearful of his  
departure. But before he left, Lac  
Long Quan told the people that if  
they ever experienced any misfortune,  
to call him aloud. To say "Father"  
and he would return.

Lac Long Quan departs from the Chorus

5. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The people live in peace and happiness  
for many years, until...one day, De  
Lai, the Lord of the High Regions of  
the North...

Enter De Lai and his troops, threatening with sticks

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...along with his troops, invaded  
Lac Viet while bringing with him his  
beautiful daughter Au Co.

CHORUS

Au Co.

Au Co is revealed surrounded by flowers. De Lai and his  
troops march around Au Co, as she stands oblivious to what  
is happening

NARRATOR

De Lai oppressed the people and made  
them supply his army with meat and  
rice.

The troops use some of the chorus members as tables and  
chairs. At this time, the actor playing Lac Long Quan is  
placed on stage as a table, with fabric covering him. This  
should not be obvious to anyone.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

A long time had passed and the people  
were in great distress. Finally  
they decided to call for Lac Long  
Quan.

CHORUS

Father! Father! Come back and save  
us.

NARRATOR

And before another breath was taken,  
Lac Long Quân appeared before their  
eyes.

Lac Long Quan jumps out from underneath the fabric

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But De Lai was nowhere to be found.  
Lac Long Quan wandered through the  
land of Lac Viet searching for De  
Lai when suddenly he felt a dark  
shadow fall across the sun.

The Chorus freezes, holding black fabric in stylized positions

6. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

He looked up to see a monstrous black bird.

The Chorus turns the black fabric into a giant bird, unraveling the black fabric to reveal a giant wingspan. A chorus member holds up two red balls on sticks. These are the bird's demon eyes

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

As Lac Long Quan watched, this Demon Bird swooped down and seized a fragile white crane, which had been resting nearby. Lac Long Quan grabbed a rock and hurled it at the Demon Bird. The bird lost its grip on the crane. Furious, the bird turned to attack Lac Long Quan. It transformed itself into a giant tiger and pounced on the young god. The fight was bitter, but eventually, Lac Long Quan gained the upper hand.

After a moment, Lac Long Quan notices the fallen crane and goes to it.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The crane was stunned but not badly hurt. As Lac Long Quan drew near, it awoke, and in a flutter of white feathers, was transformed into its true form-that of a beautiful fairy named Au Co. Lac Long Quan was stunned by the young woman's beauty. "Will you be my wife?" he stammered. Au Co agreed and they were married.

The Chorus surrounds the two of them with flowers

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

In the middle of a lush garden, inhabited by many species of animals, they built a stilt house.

De Lai appears

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But De Lai, coming back in rage, sent his troops out to besiege the town. But Lac Long Quan commanded savage beasts to push him back.

De Lai and his troops are swept up by pieces of fabric

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Incapable of struggling against such a strong son-in-law, De Lai withdrew  
(MORE)

7. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
from Lac Viet, leaving his daughter  
on the strange land.

The Chorus members surround Lac Long Quan and Au Co with  
flowers.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Their happiness was complete when, a  
year later, Au Co gave birth. She  
did not bear a child, but rather a  
golden pouch, which looked like a  
giant flower and contained one hundred  
eggs. Each egg hatched to reveal a  
perfect baby boy.

Various Chorus members appear from behind pieces of fabric.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Within a few years, Au Co and Lac  
Long Quan's magical sons had grown  
into brave and gentle young men.  
Despite her beautiful children, Au  
Co was not entirely happy.

Slowly the flowers disappear from Au Co's sight.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
As the son of a water goddess, Lac  
Long Quan preferred to live  
underwater. This watery environment  
did not suit his wife, who spent  
most of her time on land.

Au Co crosses to a platform standing high above Lac Long  
Quan. She watches him down below, playing with his children.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Separated from her husband for long  
periods, Au Co grew lonely and  
homesick. She began to dream of her  
lofty, native land. I miss the  
mountains of my birth, sighed Au Co.

Lac Long Quan hears this, stops for a long moment, and turns  
to her.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Lac Long Quan looked at his wife  
sadly. Finally, he reached a decision.  
"I am a sea dragon by nature," he  
said. "You, my wife, are a mountain  
fairy. Our habits and needs are  
different and we must live apart. It  
is difficult, but at least we have  
had our time together. Then he turned  
to their children. "Half of you will  
(MORE)

8. The Dragon Lord and the Fair Queen - Nguyen

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

accompany your mother to the mountains and half of you will live beside the sea with me. If either group should ever face grave danger, the other group will come to their aid. So it was that fifty sons followed Au Co into the mountains, where they grew corn and rice. The other group followed Lac Long Quan to the coast. They lived by fishing.

The two groups split, as Lac Long Quan and Au Co share one final look to each other, and then they both exit.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Only in times of grave danger would they meet. These two groups were ancestors of the Hung kings who founded the country Au Lac in the area that is now Vietnam.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Today, everyone in Vietnam knows this story. Everyone remembers that the people of Vietnam are descended from Lac Long Quan and Au Co, a sea dragon and a mountain fairy.