CHAPTER SEVEN

山歌•卷七

“On Secret Loves in various styles” 私情雜體

(197) 篤癢 (中帶說白一句) Serious Itching
姐兒篤癢無藥醫. Her genitals are itchy, but she has no medicine.
跑到東邊跑到西. She runs to the east and to the west.
梅香道姐兒拾了弗燒杓熱湯來豁豁, 2 Her maidservant says: “why don’t you boil a ladle of water and wash with it?”
姐道梅香呀,你是曉得箇,熱湯只豁得外頭皮。 “I suppose you know, maidservant,” her mistress replies to her; “hot water only washes on the outside.”

Comment

此歌聞之松江傅四, 傅亦名姝也, 松人謂陰為篤。 I heard this song from Fu the Fourth from Songjiang district, who is also a famous courtesan. In Songjiang they use du 篤 for the vagina.

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1 Yang 痱, itch, with connotations of sexual desire. Notice the double meaning of dū 篤 (see Feng Menglong’s comment: 松人謂陰為篤 and also MingQing, 156; Liu 486, 1)
2 Shí 拾 an erroneous transcription of shá 嘿 (sházi 嘿子) “what, why” (Liu 486, 2). Shāo shāo rètāng 烧杓热汤 “boil a ladleful of water”. Huōhuō 豁豁 means “to wash” (MQWYCD, 281 8 xīzǎo 洗澡: bathe), or instead of yù 浴.
3 Songjiang was a Prefecture near Suzhou, and now belongs to Shanghai.
The Frog

A hundred species of birds sing in a hundred different ways. But one can immediately recognise the note of a green frog when it sings.

During the third watch of midnight, it jumps onto the vase of lotuses near the south window of my room with its silk curtain, and on a lotus leaf, it croaks three high notes, It croaks three low notes:

Come! Come! Embrace me! Embrace me! grahh, grahh, ge ge, Its croaking brings a relentless pain to my hand-sized spot, between my knees and lower abdomen, It brings a hellish itch.

Just like, once General Yang the Sixth had conquered the Nine Streams and the Eighteen Caves, and returned triumphantly to the royal court, The nostrils of the red-maned white horse flared, tied under a green willow tree.

百樣鳥兒百樣聲，

只有青花樣箇田雞叫得忒分明，

半夜三更跳來小阿奴奴南紗窗
前荷花缸根頭，金絲荷葉上，

高叫三聲，
低叫三聲，
說道閣來呵，閣來呵，再搿搿，
再搿搿，
叫得小阿奴奴小肚子底下膝膚
頭上的手掌大介一搭，
痛弗痛，
癢勿癢，
好像楊六使將軍征子九溪南蠻
十八洞，

得勝回朝繫在綠楊樹底下箇匹
紅騏白馬箇鼻頭歇歇裏介動，