



The Singing Soul: A Chinese Play in One Act (Classic Reprint)

By Mrs Henry Backus

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Singing Soul: A Chinese Play in One Act The story of Ko Ngai is from a collection entitled A Hundred Examples of Filial Piety, translated from the Chinese by P. Dabry de Thiersant in 1877, and appearing later in Lafcadio Hearn s beautiful short story, The Soul of the Great Bell. Mrs. Archibald Little also tells it in her book of travel Round My Peking Garden. quoting at length from the original legend. We find it again in The Yellow Jacket in the following lines spoken by the chorus: The great bell calls, me. The bell-maker cast it of pure gold and silver but its notes proved brazen. The Son of Heaven was supremely annoyed. The bell-maker recast it. When the metal was molten, to save her father s life, for fear its notes would again carry base tones, Ko Ngai, his daughter, disposed of her body by springing into the mass of white heat; so her soul became of the bell wrought by her father. The metal welded with her spirit, and its...

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