

The Tales of Sage and Savant

Episode 109

IN SECRET AND SILENCE

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ACT ONE

FADE IN: MUSIC BEGINS.

NARRATOR

Greetings and welcome to the audio-aetheric transmission The Tales of Sage and Savant, a Twinstar production. This broadcast is brought to you on the first of each month from the Twinstar Studios in sunny Southern California. Our tale stars Chip Michael as Professor Erasmus Savant, Eddie Louise as Doctor Petronella Sage, Emily Riley Piatt as Mx. Abigail Entwhistle and myself Justin Bremer as your humble narrator. This month's program is sponsored by Wild, Wild West Con in Tuscon Arizona, and features the music of The Nathaniel Johnstone Band. And now, without further ado, we bring you The Tales of Sage & Savant!

THEME SONG

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

When last we saw our Doctor she was entangled in the web of her own lies. Mx. Entwhistle is expecting to investigate the Doctor's personal sleeping space, which in reality is, the the laboratory where the Doctor carries out her experiments with the space/time continuum. Professor Savant, using items from the antiquities department, has attempted to outfit the room as a more typical boudoir in order to help with the subterfuge.

Sound: Knock on door

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And now we shall see if their machinations have been successful.

Sound: Door opening

ABIGAIL  
Good morning, Doctor Sage!

DR SAGE  
{grumpy} Good morning, Abigail. I  
trust you slept well?

ABIGAIL  
I did. Is there anything wrong  
Doctor Sage? If you don't mind me  
saying, you seem a bit out of  
sorts.

DR SAGE  
I am quite fine, thank you. Shall  
we get this over with?

Sound: footsteps, door opening, light blinking on

NARRATOR  
In truth, our good Doctor is quite  
out of sorts. She is unused to  
prevarication of any kind, and the  
constant need to act with  
subterfuge in order to maintain her  
experimental integrity is wearing.

ABIGAIL  
My this room is quite... decorated.

DR SAGE  
Yes, I am afraid I made the mistake  
of asking Erasmus if he could help  
me find items to make it...  
comfortable.

ABIGAIL  
So how is it exactly that you  
monitor your sleep here? And why is  
your bed tilted at such an angle?

Sound: sliding curtain

DR SAGE  
The bed is actually a laboratory  
table that we have attempted to  
make more comfortable. In order to  
efficiently connect my equipment, I  
cannot sleep on standard furniture.  
This slab will tilt back to  
complete horizontal, but I have  
found it easier to rise whilst in  
the Faraday suit if I bring it to  
this angle.

Sound: Slab tilting {I think we did ratchet clicks for this?}

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Thanks to the work of Luigi Galvani, we know that electricity is the progenitor of animation in a living body. Even whilst we sleep, the basic movements of life continue, the filling and deflating of the lungs, the beating of the heart, the flexing of the muscles continues unabated. To date, galvanistic studies have concentrated on postmortem tissues, because the dangers in applying electrical current to live bodies are too great. In a branch of my research that is tangential to my remit, I have found a method to mitigate the damage caused by direct application of current.

ABIGAIL

The Faraday suit you were wearing?

DR SAGE

{Showing her the suit} Yes, see! By routing the current through this series of looping copper wires affixed in the body of the suit, I can effectively create a nimbus of electricity whereby the current encounters the body in a constellation of pinpricks rather than a single deadly thrust.

ABIGAIL

I see, and the CRAP helmet?

DR SAGE

It stands for Cranial Reticulation Analog Plexus Helmet - It allows me to measure and record the electrical signals from my brain as I sleep. It notes fluctuations in the electrical nimbus created by the suit, and allows me to compile data on the relation of electrical signal in the brain as compared to that of the body.

ABIGAIL

And how does this all work together?

Sound: Panel swinging into place

DR SAGE

I affix these electrodes on the inside of the suit to my upper left and right chest, both front and back, and these additional electrodes at the hips and thighs, and then close the suit. The lead from the suit then plugs into the console at Panel B, as such.

Sound: Plugs and switches

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Then, I don the CRAP, secure the chin strap and plug the lead from that into Panel A, as such.

Sound: Plugs and switches

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

All there is to do then is lay back and relax. When I hit the main power button the system will take it from there. It will automatically tilt my bed into the reclining position and begin the process.

ABIGAIL

May I see the data?

DR SAGE

{Nervous} Well, I haven't compiled it yet, so it may seem a bit incomprehensible... I have last night's reading on the desk in the lab, why don't we step back out there.

Sound: footsteps, door closing

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

You see, the readouts are basically nothing but the squiggles of the pens recording the rising and falling electrical energy...

ABIGAIL

What is this massive spike here?

DR SAGE

Nothing! I mean, well, not nothing exactly, but it is, well, that is where I was having a nightmare, and I awoke gasping for breath, my heart pounding. It was nothing, an anomaly. It will confuse the data set, so I will exclude it from my analysis.

ABIGAIL

I still am uncertain why this branch of your research should not be included in the larger analysis of your project.

DR SAGE

It will be, perhaps, when I reach the stages of live subject experiments - but for now, I am working on understanding the application of current to cadaver flesh. I must first understand what is possible for that side of the equation.

ABIGAIL

I see. Well, I suppose your sponsor did say they were willing to pay for unlimited electrical expenditure, and this line of inquiry is not interfering with your university remit...

DR SAGE

Exactly! You must understand how the scientific mind goes off on tangents? University grants rarely allow for such investigations, but I do not cease being a scientist when my college hours are through.

ABIGAIL

Well then, for now, I shan't report this to Mx. Cunningham. Do let me know if anything changes?

Sound: footsteps, door open and close.

NARRATOR

And so, once again the good Doctor has seemingly avoided the trap that Cunningham has laid for her.

(MORE)

## NARRATOR (CONT'D)

How long she can continue to do so, I am afraid I cannot say. For a few weeks after that conversation Doctor Sage focused on the galvanism expected of her and made great strides in that work. She can now successfully move a cadaverous arm in a full range of movement, including a clenching of the fist. Unfortunately, there is little strength in the grip, and she is still a long way away from inspiring full engagement of the flexor digitorum, the flexor pollicis longus and the flexor digitorum profundus - without which, we all know, it would be nearly impossible to grasp. There has been no time for travel in the intervening weeks, but now, deep in the heart of winter, under the pall of a deep snow, an opportunity has arisen.

Sound: Door - Erasmus traditional entry

## DR SAGE

Hullo, Erasmus!

## PROF SAVANT

Hullo, Pet! It is glorious outside!

## DR SAGE

If you consider wet and freezing glorious, I suppose.

## PROF SAVANT

What do you have against snow, my dear Doctor?

## DR SAGE

I have nothing against snow in the abstract, and in the particular, I am quite grateful for it. This storm has shut the college, sent home the students, cloistered Abigail at her mother's house, and presented an opportunity for us to adventure once again.

## PROF SAVANT

Such romance! You are practically poetic. So where are you sending us now?

DR SAGE

I still wish to test the limits of our reach into the past. I have changed the pitch to E an octave above middle C I think this might take us back to near the start of the Christian era.

PROF SAVANT

Oh, ancient Rome? I have so many curiosities to satisfy!

DR SAGE

Well, you know I haven't even begun to pinpoint the where - only the when. We may end up in outer Mongolia.

PROF SAVANT

Point taken. But still, the entire world was full of interesting cultures and fascinating political and trade complications. Thanks to our last trip, I have been able to convince Professor Wilson to reexamine his assumptions on the role of women in Viking society. I look forward to whatever the past has to show me!

NARRATOR

And so, the pair return to the laboratory, now rescued from its masquerade as a bedroom, and prepare to travel into the unknown. The process of suiting up and taking their positions on their respective slabs is nearly routine. There is a comfort in knowing that they have returned from the past more than half a dozen times and that the death that facilitates the transfer of consciousness does not need hinder their explorations and the attendant expansion of knowledge.

DR SAGE

Wait! I must check that the light is off in the main lab.

(MORE)

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

I know that Abigail is snowed in at her mother's house - but I cannot take chances of us being discovered through my negligence if Jeffrey is lurking about.

Sound: Door, footsteps going and returning.

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

There, the laboratory is locked, the lights are doused and our privacy is secured. I hope that is enough of a precaution.

PROF SAVANT

I am sure it will be fine. The snow shows no sign of relenting, and the campus is a ghost town. Even the ever-vigilant Cunningham is away.

DR SAGE

Well then, we are to it once again! Let me just record my notes...

Sound Edison Device engage

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Laboratory of Doctor Petronella Sage, King's College, twenty-six February, 1894. An opportune snowstorm has opened a window for travel, and once again myself and my travel partner Professor Erasmus Savant will venture transmigration. I hope to get the opportunity to test my theory on hypothermia as a gentle transition for return, although this cannot be counted upon due to my inability to yet program an exact location for our travels. I do however believe that I may have cracked the trajectory in relation to number of years traveled. I have set the Chladni pitch to E, the octave above middle C which I believe will transport us roughly 1800 years into the past.

Sound: Edison off

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Ready, Erasmus?

PROF SAVANT  
Always, Pet!

Sound: switch and start of machinery

NARRATOR  
And so, with the usual hum of  
electrical activity, our pair are  
staged to travel into the distant  
past.

Sound: Time travel as usual

TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Will our travelers end up in  
ancient Rome or will their travels  
take them farther afield? We'll  
find out after this short musical  
break.

MUSICAL GUEST

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Now dear friends we invite you to  
listen to the musical outpourings  
of THE NATHANIEL JOHNSTONE BAND  
performing the completely apropos  
number entitled: TRAVELLING

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
And now back to our story..

ACT II

## INTRO MUSIC

NARRATOR

Our heroes are venturing forth once again, dear listeners in the spirit of fresh adventure, new knowledge and extended understanding of the world. All of which attitudes the Doctor is going to need, as this time she has found herself in a body wholly unlike her own. In fact...

DR SAGE

Woof!

NARRATOR

Yes, that is right - Dr Sage is inhabiting the body of a dog.

PROF SAVANT

Petra, Petra? Where are you?

NARRATOR

Standing over the Professor, a small bowl in hand is a man wearing a richly embroidered silken robe, in the Chinese style. His brow is creased with worry and he smells of sulfur.

WEI BOYANG

Ah, Cheng. You have proven as good as your name. You swallowed the elixir with me, took a journey, and now like myself and Ben-Ben, you have returned.

PROF SAVANT

Journey? Ben-Ben?

NARRATOR

At the sound of her body's name, the Doctor is overcome with the urge to leap into the Professor's lap and lick his face. Not stopping to question the impulse, she does so.

DR SAGE

Yipping and slurping

PROF SAVANT

Down dog. Leave off!

WEI BOYANG

Do not be too hard on poor Ben-Ben, Cheng. He cannot understand what has happened to us. Our intellectual journey into the unknown is beyond his capacity to grasp.

DR SAGE

Growling.

PROF SAVANT

I'm sorry, we have been on a journey?

NARRATOR

The Chinese man is Wei Boyang, a second century alchemist. Cheng is one of three disciples that were working with Wei Boyang, using the alchemical arts to discover the secrets of immortality. Yesterday, the alchemist fed an elixir they had concocted to the dog, who promptly died. Unwilling to suffer the humiliation of defeat, Wei Boyang also took the elixir and Cheng, ever the faithful disciple followed suit. This explains why there were dead bodies to inhabit, but it does not explain why the Doctor has entered the dog. Savant, as is to be expected, leaps to a wrong conclusion.

PROF SAVANT

All right, Petra. You have had your fun. You must have come to consciousness moments before me, yes? So where are we? What have you figured out?

WEI BOYANG

Dear Cheng, you are confused. I must get you some water. We are exactly where we were yesterday when we drank the elixir, only we are immortal now, as we hoped. We have returned from the dead. Ben-Ben as well.

(MORE)

WEI BOYANG (CONT'D)

{Calling from other room} We three shall now have an eternity to investigate the mysteries of the ages.

NARRATOR

Dear listeners, being your Narrator is mostly delightful, often exciting, and usually straight-forward. When our characters can't, or won't speak their thoughts I do my humble best to interpret for them. In this case, I am at a loss. A dog's brain is quite different than a human's and thought does not coalesce in the same manner. I can feel the Doctor trying furiously to quantify the stimulus her brain is receiving but so far all I can interpret is....

DR SAGE

Whining, Barking etc.

NARRATOR

I want... I think... FOOD! FOOD! FOOD! {Sarcastic} Oh this is going to be fun. The doctor is struggling to understand the world through the senses of a canine. Common belief is that dogs are colorblind, but this is incorrect. Dogs simply see fewer colors than humans. Reds yellows and greens are missing from their perception but blues, grays and browns appear for them. The opposite is true of the sense of smell. Dogs have notoriously keen noses. In fact they smell, depending on breed, nearly 10 million times better than humans. Which means that at the moment, Doctor Sage is being assaulted by such a cacophony of smells that she is completely incapable of following the conversation.

DR SAGE

Barking.

PROF SAVANT

{calling out} Ben-Ben was dead too?

NARRATOR

And the penny drops.

PROF SAVANT

Ben-Ben? {Whispering} Petra? How is this possible? Oh, Petra! Can it be true? Are you in the dog?!?

DR SAGE

Woof!

WEI BOYANG

Here, Cheng. Drink this water. And are you thirsty too Ben-Ben? Yes?

DR SAGE

Barking

NARRATOR

Water! Water is good!

WEI BOYANG

Becoming immortal is hard work isn't it boy?

DR SAGE

Barking.

WEI BOYANG

Well come, little fool, let me get you some food and water.

NARRATOR

As the master disappears into the other room again, followed by the little dog, Professor Savant takes a moment to pull himself together and make some observations of where they are. Although the Master's robe is very fine, the room they are in is plain to the point of austerity. A simple bamboo screen covers a window, and Savant moves it aside to reveal a stunning vista of peaks and valleys all intertwined with a rosy mist. The smell of pine and cedar replace the notes of sulfur and charcoal that dominate the dwelling.

WEI BOYANG

I must ask you, Cheng, while we were dead, did you have any strange dreams or visions?

PROF SAVANT

Dreams? Visions?

WEI BOYANG

I saw myself, not as myself, but as a young man, on some kind of ship. The other sailors took great fright when I sat up, and I noticed that my body had a terrible injury of some sort. The vision did not last for long, and though everything was different than the reality I know, I have no doubt it was I who experienced those things. Strange, is it not?

PROF SAVANT

Yes, most strange. Tell me, have you ever heard of the concept of transmigration of consciousness?

NARRATOR

The Professor did not know if the Chinese had a concept for astral travel, but he trusted the strange alchemy of translation that he and the Doctor have discovered - their thoughts get translated by the body into a language form that matches with the host.

WEI BOYANG

Soul journey? Yes, I have read the writings on that, but is not the purpose of such a journey to throw off the shackles of the bodily form and travel to planes the body cannot follow? I do not think I experienced a soul journey.

PROF SAVANT

But why not? You say we swallowed the elixir yesterday, yet here we are alive today. Where have our consciousnesses been if not here with our body, and what experiences could we have and remember that are not filtered through the sensations of a body?

WEI BOYANG

You ask too many questions, Cheng.  
For now we must find Bao Zhi and  
Cheng Gong and show them that their  
doubt was misplaced.

NARRATOR

And so, the old master chivied the  
professor into packing up the  
meager supplies and leaving the  
small shelter on the mountaintop.  
The heavier pack, the one  
containing the alchemical  
ingredients, alembics, and bowls  
was strapped to the professor's  
back. The lighter pack, filled with  
clothes and blankets was carried by  
the old man. The food was loaded  
into a small wagon and hitched to a  
harness worn by the Doctor. They  
head off down the hill, the Doctor  
being plagued by an overwhelming  
number of new scents, calls her  
alarm at each new stimulus.

DR SAGE

Bark!

NARRATOR

Squirrel!

DR SAGE

Bark! Bark!

NARRATOR

Deer! Cedar! Oh joy, I am now a dog  
interpreter.

PROF SAVANT

So, um just exactly what are you  
trying to prove with your  
experiments?

WEI BOYANG

We must not fall prey to Inferior  
virtue -its operation does not  
rest. We must find our way with the  
path of Superior virtue which has  
no doing: it does not use examining  
and seeking.

DR SAGE

Barking!!

NARRATOR

What the Doctor said is: {In an indignant tone of voice} How can you call yourself a scientist if you are not examining and seeking?

DR SAGE

Bark!

NARRATOR

Partridge!

WEI BOYANG

Hush! Ben-Ben - your master is talking.

DR SAGE

Growling.

PROF SAVANT

I do not think Ben-Ben appreciates being told to hush.

WEI BOYANG

What possible discourse can a mere dog add to the thoughts of man?

DR SAGE

Bark! Bark! Bark!

NARRATOR

Bamboo! Bamboo! Bamboo!

PROF SAVANT

Dogs are most perceptive creatures. Besides...

WEI BOYANG

There is no besides... dogs cannot contain a soul.

NARRATOR

Well, Master Wei Boyang is wrong about that. Although, to his credit, in Doctor Sage's time they are no closer to understanding the true nature of animals. For now, you and I are forced to admit that dogs can contain a soul because Doctor Sage is currently inhabiting a dog.

PROF SAVANT

My experience has been that our thoughts on what can and cannot exist are proven false more times than they are proven true. Isn't that so Petra?

NARRATOR

But the Doctor is lost in the overwhelming and exciting smells of the forest around her. She has her nose to the ground and is trotting ahead on the path, delirious with the olfactory input. You will pardon me if I stop translating it.

WEI BOYANG

{Taking the bait} Well, if we must give in to the inferior virtue, then what makes you think that a dog can contain a soul. Or for that matter, what made you reference soul journeys in regards to my elixir dream?

PROF SAVANT

Well, just that if the consciousness can be separated from the body then there is no way for it to experience anything on the earthly plane, because it is through the body that we experience life. This opens up the consideration...

NARRATOR

As they trudge down the mountain the professor makes lengthy and tortured attempts to explain his philosophical understanding of the transmigration of consciousness.

WEI BOYANG

What do you mean you are not exactly Cheng?

PROF SAVANT

I... well... I... Your disciple did not awaken from your elixir. I have inhabited his body instead, and I suspect my fellow traveler, Doctor Petronella Sage, has inhabited the dog.

WEI BOYANG

Inhabited?

PROF SAVANT

Oh, I wish Petra could talk, she is so much better at these things than I. My instinct is to say things as they are.

WEI BOYANG

You are most assuredly not speaking as my disciple Cheng. But how do I know that you have not just had your brain addled by the experience of becoming immortal?

PROF SAVANT

I can tell you things about the future. I live in...

WEI BOYANG

Why have you stopped?

PROF SAVANT

I don't think I should... I don't know... This is deucedly hard. It was much easier when I was the baby and Petra had to handle all these dilemmas.

WEI BOYANG

In my experience, things that are difficult to say are the important things. In our search for the relation of the Tao and the ten thousand things we must remember those things that connect us are greater than those that divide us.

PROF SAVANT

But are we allowed to break the barriers of time itself in order to impart knowledge?

WEI BOYANG

You are saying you have knowledge from another time, and you received this knowledge while in the stupor caused by the elixir we took?

PROF SAVANT

Not exactly, I am saying that I am from another time and that the elixir your disciple Cheng took killed him, allowing my consciousness to be transferred to his body. I am afraid he is not immortal, but will expire when I leave his body to return to my own time.

NARRATOR

And Petra heard that. She jerks her mind free of the entrancing smells of juniper, rabbit, mole and partridge to the words 'when I leave his body'.

DR SAGE

Frantic barking!

NARRATOR

She says - 'Wait! You fool! What are you doing! We shouldn't be telling a scientist from the past what we can do, it might change the whole course of scientific development!'

PROF SAVANT

Oh dear, I seem to have upset my friend.

WEI BOYANG

Your friend who is the dog?

PROF SAVANT

Yes, no. I don't know. Perhaps it will be best if you just ignore everything I have said, and I can just pretend to be Cheng again.

WEI BOYANG

No good can ever come from pretending to be what you are not, and you are clearly not my disciple Cheng. For one thing you are far more interested in philosophy than he ever was.

NARRATOR

The Professor kneels down next to the dog.

PROF SAVANT

Petra, I don't know what to do. I had not realized how much I rely upon your judgement in these instances. You are much better at navigating the intricacies of time than I.

DR SAGE

Whining.

NARRATOR

Petra says: It has not gone especially well for us when we tell the truth of our presence, but Wei Boyang seems the level headed sort. Just be cautious.

PROF SAVANT

I do not know what is the right course, but all I can do is be honest and hope you will not wish to pillory me for it. My friend is a brilliant scientist and galvanist from many hundreds of years in the future.

WEI BOYANG

So far?

PROF SAVANT

Yes, she is employed at a University, where I also teach. I am a professor of antiquities. Last year, I was present in her laboratory when there was an accident and our consciousnesses transmigrated for the first time. Since that time, we have visited over a dozen times and places. She has been a man, I have been a baby, we were both children at one point, lovers at another. We have been travelling and experiencing life through the eyes of other people ever since.

WEI BOYANG

And you believe you traveled into the body of my acolyte and my dog?

PROF SAVANT

Yes.

WEI BOYANG

And why did one of you not enter my body?

PROF SAVANT

Perhaps because you were awake before the time we arrived?

WEI BOYANG

And if you had not arrived, would Cheng and Ben-Ben be here now?

PROF SAVANT

Oh God! Do you think it is possible that we kept them from assuming their own bodies?

WEI BOYANG

We cannot know, and it is fruitless to ask questions to which there is no answer. Come, we must continue on. If I know Bao Zhe and Cheng Bong, they will be in a tavern at the bottom of the mountain.

PROF SAVANT

For curiosity's sake, which mountain?

WEI BOYANG

Why, Yunmenshan, of course. Come, Cheng, come, Ben-Ben, we walk.

NARRATOR

Taking the strange explanations of Professor Savant in stride, the Master leads the way down the mountain. They progress in quiet contemplation punctuated only by the sound of their feet on the path and the occasional announcements of the dog.

DR SAGE

Bark, bark!

NARRATOR

Pooh! I've got to go... No! I draw the line at that. From now on Petra will have to give you her own thoughts no matter how doggy and undignified they are!



PROF SAVANT

Erm, well, it is messy. We have to die in these bodies, and as we die, we transmigrate back into our own bodies back in the lab.

WEI BOYANG

It is only the Qi and the Shen that travel and you must enter and exit through death; interesting.

PROF SAVANT

I don't know if I would call it interesting so much as inconvenient. Qi and Shen? Life force and spirit?

WEI BOYANG

The qi carries thoughts and emotions - which it is obvious travel with you - as Cheng and Ben-Ben have different outward personalities than you. And the shen, which holds the generative power - your ability to take action in the world around you.

PROF SAVANT

As near as the Doctor can tell, it is not possible for two consciousnesses to inhabit the same body. Perhaps this is because of the qi. One body cannot hold two sets of thoughts and emotions so we are stuck with dead ones.

WEI BOYANG

Would you say the dream I had while under the influence of the elixir was an instance of this transmigration you speak of? I certainly felt it was my own qi in that body of a stranger.

PROF SAVANT

I cannot say for certain, but yes, it sounds like it was.

WEI BOYANG

So I might possibly be a time traveler too?

PROF SAVANT

Well, I don't know exactly. It is Petra who is the expert on this. She tells me her theories, but honestly, the science of it escapes me. It has something to do with the standard electrical voltage of the human brain and the interruption of current. But sound is somehow also an element.

WEI BOYANG

Sound?

PROF SAVANT

A musical pitch to be exact. Petra has it in mind that the pitch contributes to the trajectory. Each pitch she plays points towards a different era in time.

WEI BOYANG

A pitch, like this?

NARRATOR

The master pulls a silver soup bowl from his pack and cups it gently in the palm of his hand. He strikes the edge of the bowl with a small wooden club.

Sound: Chiming bowl

PROF SAVANT

Ooh, that is lovely. It is a prayer bowl is it not?

WEI BOYANG

Yes. We must find harmony and balance in order to achieve immortality. It is a prime tenet in the work I have been pursuing my entire life.

PROF SAVANT

Did you by chance use that bowl when you took your elixir?

WEI BOYANG

Yes, to align the harmony and focus our qi.

PROF SAVANT

How strange that your research aligns so completely with that of Dr Sage. She would be fascinated by your philosophies.

WEI BOYANG

I do wish I had a chance to converse at length with her. She sounds fascinating, your Doctor.

PROF SAVANT

Fascinating, maddening, enthralling, preoccupying, magnetic.

WEI BOYANG

Does she know that you are in love with her.

PROF SAVANT

She knows that I hold her in the highest of regard. Her love is her work.

DR SAGE

I hold you in the same high regard, Erasmus!

Sound Dog barking

PROF SAVANT

Oh, Petra! You are back! I am having a lovely conversation with Master Wei.

DR SAGE

I am glad. Can we go home now?

Sound: barking

WEI BOYANG

How then, shall we get you and your Doctor home.

PROF SAVANT

I am not sure. Usually we have met with some kind of violence - sword fights, cannons, gun shots - something that abruptly ends our sojourn. Petra worries that self-immolation will prove fatal rather than catalytic.

WEI BOYANG

She might be correct, but she might not. I swallowed my elixir, knowing Ben-Ben to be dead. Though I hoped I would be proved wrong, I was expecting death myself. And yet, I returned.

PROF SAVANT

And yet, you returned. What is in this elixir of yours?

WEI BOYANG

Years of studying nature, prayer, reading and listening. A lifetime of understanding.

PROF SAVANT

Ah, ingredients we can easily buy at the corner shop then, good.

NARRATOR

We shall leave our friends for a moment as they plan their exit strategy and pause for a word from our sponsor:

ADVERT

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Yes dear friends you heard it here: Wild Wild West Con is the biggest Steampunk convention in the Southwest and you do not want to miss it! Get your tickets at [www.WildWestCon.com](http://www.WildWestCon.com). And now back to our show.

ACT III

NARRATOR

When we left our heroes they were discussing the best method to leave their current bodies and return to their own time. After much discussion it was decided that Wei's elixir offered the best possible solution. This after the following:

PROF SAVANT

You could always stab each of us with a kitchen knife.

WEI BOYANG

My conscience forbids me to take a life.

DR SAGE

There is no better time to try the boundaries of self-immolation.

Sound: excited dog whining

PROF SAVANT

Well, Petra has been inching closer to the idea that we could interrupt our own lives in order to accomplish transmigration. Perhaps now is the time to test that.

NARRATOR

And so it was decided. They stopped along the side of the road so that Wei Boyang could mix a batch of his elixir.

WEI BOYANG

Put your mind in harmony with nature. Listen to the wind in the trees...

Sound: wind in trees

WEI BOYANG (CONT'D)

Listen to the chirping of the crickets...

Sound: chirping of crickets

WEI BOYANG (CONT'D)

Drink the elixir...

Sound: Dog lapping

WEI BOYANG (CONT'D)  
And hear the harmony of life.

Sound: Prayer bowl chimes.

TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

NARRATOR

And when our pair of adventurers  
awaken in their own bodies, it is  
for once not awash in traumatic  
emotion.

DR SAGE

{soft and sweet} Erasmus?

PROF SAVANT

Yes, pet?

DR SAGE

I love you too, in my own way.

PROF SAVANT

I know, pet. This is a much better  
way to wake up is it not?

DR SAGE

I have to say, I appreciate not  
feeling traumatized by our  
departure.

PROF SAVANT

What do you think was in his  
elixir?

DR SAGE

I am not sure; I thought I tasted  
licorice, but now I am not certain.

PROF SAVANT

Taste does not transfer with us  
sadly. Do you think Wei achieved  
his goal of becoming immortal?

DR SAGE

Don't be ridiculous, Erasmus. There  
is no such thing as immortality!

PROF SAVANT

We have managed to die multiple  
times, and yet we live.

DR SAGE

That is not the same thing. I am most intrigued, though, by his use of the singing bowl to produce the tone. I will need to look into possibly modifying or augmenting the Chladni device to produce more harmonics. Did you notice the overring the bowl produced, and the way the sound bounced off the mountain and created the echo. I wonder if that is what allows the elixir to work without the attendant violence...

NARRATOR

And we have lost her once again to contemplation of the intricacies of time travel mechanics.

PROF SAVANT

Well Pet, you seem to be preoccupied, so I shall leave you now.

DR SAGE

I wish I knew more of the Chinese idea of Qi and Shen and how those line up with our modern ideas of consciousness...

PROF SAVANT

Yes, well, I've been meaning to study the Tao, perhaps now I have an excuse to do so.

NARRATOR

And so we leave our academics once again locked in the throes of scientific curiosity. As for us, we shall have to wait another month to find our what they discover. Oh the agonies of not having the ability to time travel at whim. Until next time dear listeners, I bid you adieu.

END MUSIC STARTS

END MUSIC PLAY OUT

FADE OUT.

## CREDITS:

## NARRATOR

The Tales of Sage and Savant is a Twinstar production brought to you on the first of each month from our Southern California studios.

Starring Chip Michael as Savant, Eddie Louise as Sage, Emily Riley Piatt as Abigail, and Justin Bremer as the narrator.

Episode 9 IN SECRET AND SILENCE Was written by Eddie Louise. Are you interested in the historical information we included in this episode? Go to our website for links to our research.

Theme music, sound design and audio engineering by Chip Michael.

Special music in this episode was TRAVELER from the album The Mother Matrix by The Nathaniel Johnstone Band, check them out at [www.nathanieljohnstone.com](http://www.nathanieljohnstone.com)

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Catch our website at [www.sageandsavant.com](http://www.sageandsavant.com) and like us on Facebook to stay current with all things Sage and Savant.

And remember: Death is no barrier to science!