

**Xiran Jay Zhao** @XiranJayZhao Thu Jul 15 01:10:21 +0000 2021

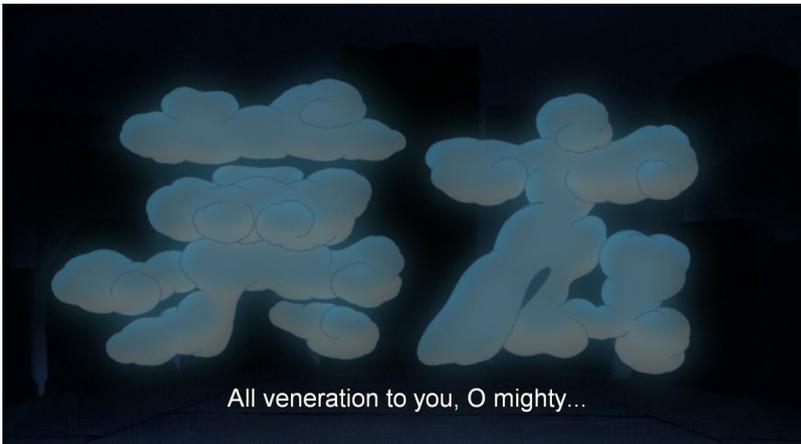
ALL RIGHT WHO WANTS TO SEE ME SUFFER FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT & EDUCATION

BECAUSE HERE I GO WITH EVERYTHING CULTURALLY RIGHT AND WRONG WITH MULAN II (2004), THE  
THREAD: <https://t.co/5jRCCCOp5F>



Disclaimer: Culture is subjective so some of what feels "off" to me is gonna be personal opinion as a single Chinese person, but a lot will also be pointing out factual errors like them trying to write hero ■■ but the ■ is missing its whole right half???

<https://t.co/TJFCNy6bVC>



ANYWAY the movie starts with George Takei praising Mushu for helping save China in Mulan 1998

just a fun fact but the scepter he's holding is called a ruyi, a Buddhist symbol of power that possibly originated as a  
backscratcher. you see it a lot in Chinese buddhist art. <https://t.co/tD17xkUkAt>





...why is Mushu even getting treated like an emperor for barely helping in Mulan 1998? Why do the ancestors have to let him STEP OVER THEM now??

Why? What would happen to them if they refused to listen??

IT MAKES NO SENSE <https://t.co/8oKDZRd3Op>



not even gonna bother with the las vegas lights. it's just the style of anachronistic joke Disney liked to do in this era.

have fun bathing in old people spirit spit, Mushu <https://t.co/vPCqqRKTmQ>



NGL I genuinely liked how pretty this ink brush style opening sequence was though. I'd even say it was done better than the original Mulan one. <https://t.co/GkkN8kOVM9>



Grandma appears to be doing I Ching divination, which requires 3 coins. But you don't PUT the coins in any particular place, you're supposed to flip them 6 times to derive a hexagram depending on how many heads and tails you get in each flip

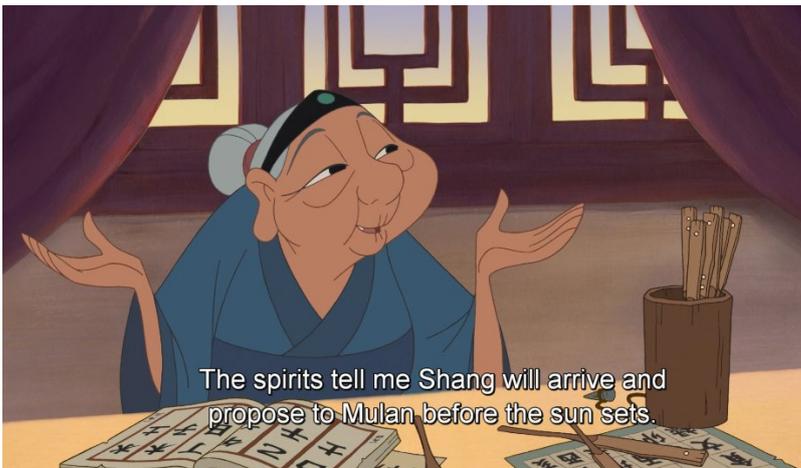
more info: <https://t.co/hAboYn6T2J> <https://t.co/a0avYLnfel>



According to this chart,  
I put the coins here.

oh and the sticks suggest she was also doing Kau Chim? which is where you put ~100 sticks in a bucket, each with a number on it, and shake one out while asking a question. then you look up what fortune the number indicates.

<https://t.co/hvr7rnp5lq>



The spirits tell me Shang will arrive and  
propose to Mulan before the sun sets.

The page she's holding just lists the numbers 1 - 20. 9 is what's circled. We can only guess how this relates to her betting pool ■ <https://t.co/urd0CC7GxR>



There's still time to get in on the pool.

why is mulan's dad betting against his mom anyway? that implies she has her own money to lose...which she wouldn't??  
this is ancient china? she's his MOM?

ALL OF HIS MONEY IS HER MONEY, LMAOOO <https://t.co/BgQANe2TqH>



Rakes WERE a common weapon in ancient China. I mean, what else is a peasant gonna grab during the bicentennial farmer's uprising?

obligatory mention of Zhu Bajie and his signature 9-toothed rake <https://t.co/X7x0t3Gc3p>





not necessarily something that \*needs\* to be represented in English, but in China it's super rude to call someone of a higher social status by their full name. this kid would be more likely to say Mulan-jiejie (Big Sister Mulan) instead  
<https://t.co/4pS3II4e5b>



lol i actually liked this Lesson Number One song and the message it sends. too bad this movie itself didn't learn this lesson. <https://t.co/PNWLw8jGW9>





To be a good warrior,  
you must bring it all into balance.

THEN OUR LOCAL BISEXUAL LEGEND LI SHANG SHOWS UP IN COOL ARMOR

helmet is likely anachronistic tho because the earliest example of this type of phoenix wing helmet is from the late Tang dynasty, a solid 300+ years after the era Mulan is supposed to take place in <https://t.co/LW2h2AZZWB>



Mulan era armor would look more like this:

(though the pic is from early Tang) <https://t.co/UjHoThBe2r>



"what is this modern western nonsense??"

- me, watching this movie at age 12 <https://t.co/d4xEqyAlvq>



CONGRATULATIONS FA ZHOU YOU HAVE ROBBED YOUR MOTHER OF WHAT LITTLE PERSONAL SAVINGS SHE MANAGED TO COLLECT AS AN ELDERLY WOMAN IN ANCIENT CHINA <https://t.co/lj3F65BqHb>



OH MAN YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST THING ABOUT MUSHU IN THIS MOVIE IS

HE'S NOT VOICED BY EDDIE MURPHY

HE'S VOICED BY MARK MOSELEY, A SOUNDALIKE...WHO IS WHITE <https://t.co/Hy8d64oDIY>



Of course I'm crying, girl.  
What you think?



mushu can you PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY

HOW WOULD YOU NOT KNOW THAT MULAN WOULD HAVE TO JOIN HER HUSBAND'S ANCESTRAL TEMPLE  
ONCE SHE MARRIES <https://t.co/kvHQ26dj46>



what is this modern western nonsense, part II <https://t.co/5iaUtPv82j>



NO, MUSHU

IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE WEDDINGS YOU DON'T GO ANYTHING BUT RED & GOLD

STRAIGHT UP BLINDING, TACKY LEVELS OF RED & GOLD <https://t.co/bYzMq4XFva>



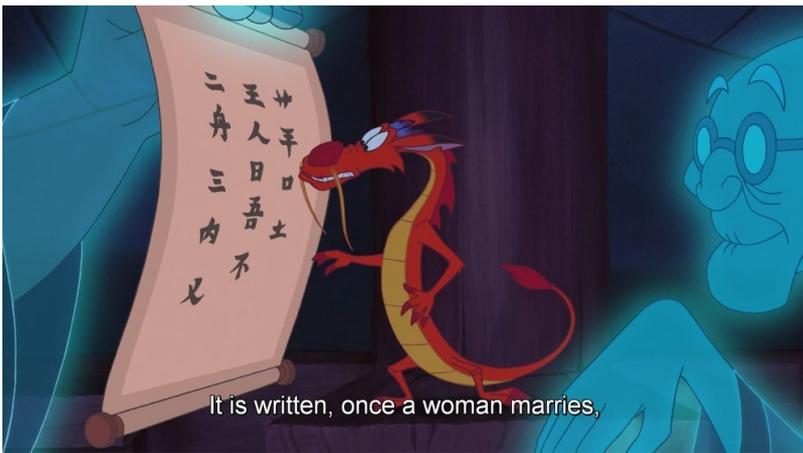
I wanna see pink flowers,  
pink ribbons, pink bows.



that is, in fact, not what the scroll says

you know what it says??

GRASS RADICAL, GOAT, MOUTH, EARTH, KING, PERSON, SUN, I, NO, TWO, BOAT, THREE, INNER, AGAIN-  
<https://t.co/EG2N2afBel>



It is written, once a woman marries,



her husband's ancestors  
take over the duty of guardianship.

actually i'm pretty sure the seal script on the steles are nonsense too because the leftmost and rightmost ones are straight up copy and pastes of each other <https://t.co/hoJdJUGQ80>



shang i love u but shut the fuck up. only the person with the uterus gets to decide. <https://t.co/x5riqjKZgH>



-Children?  
-As many as possible.

woooow mulan and shang are so different. one likes blue and the other one likes pink!!! <https://t.co/UF8o5lqbE>

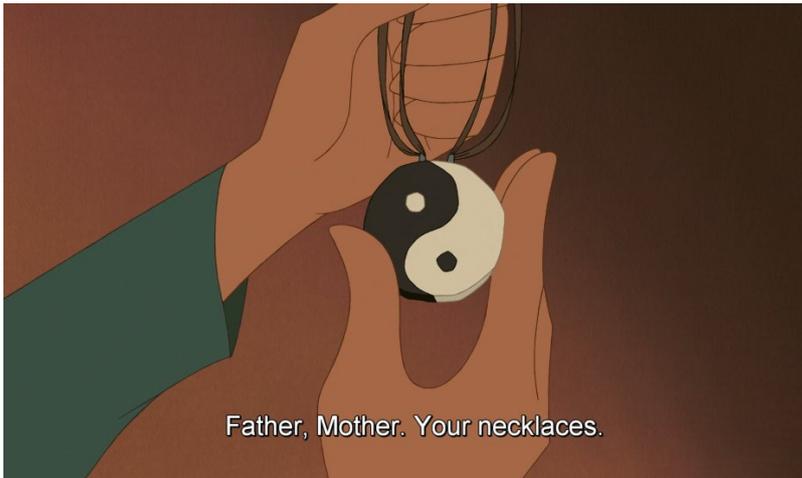


-Blue. Mild.  
-Pink. Spicy.



Not exactly a harmonious couple,  
are they?

What's accurate here is that Mulan's mom would indeed refer to Mulan's dad's great-great-grandparents as her own. they probably don't literally have the same biological great-great-grandparents. otherwise...um <https://t.co/3pAUgqJEpg>



Father, Mother. Your necklaces.



Not ours.  
Our great-great-grandparents.

Surprising though that Shang got the yin half (associated with femininity) while Mulan got the yang half (associated with masculinity)

i always knew they were a queer couple <https://t.co/mCYRHhkZDv>



every comment on r/relationships

Imao i'm kidding. most of the relationships on there absolutely need to be broken apart. <https://t.co/yQD4BRbBPK>



damn what the hell happened to the imperial capital between Mulan 1998 and Mulan II 2004

y'all downsized?? <https://t.co/jA34pEqn3U>



WHY ARE THE MONGOLS INVOLVED WITH THE NORTHERN WEI DYNASTY NOW

IM WEEPIN <https://t.co/MmZ8TQHsaf>



Mongol forces  
are moving closer to our border.

no, Shang, they will not. they will lose to the Mongols. like everybody else.

it's okay, nothing to be ashamed of. they were the Mongols. <https://t.co/bUAFgnj2N0>



Each of my warriors  
will fight like 10 Mongols.

OHH!! CANON CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS THE NORTHERN WEI DYNASTY!!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME AND MY HISTORICAL JUDGEMENT NOW, MULAN II

FIRST OFF, THEY'D NEVER ACTUALLY CALL THEMSELVES THE "NORTHERN" WEI LOOL THAT'S A TERM USED BY HISTORIANS

THEY'D JUST CALL THEMSELVES THE GREAT WEI <https://t.co/isfNMcsKKm>



AND U KNOW WHAT?? GRANDMA HAD A CALENDAR THAT SAID IT WAS THE YEAR OF THE FIRE RABBIT

WITH THE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS NORTHERN WEI (386-534), I CAN CONCLUDE THAT MULAN II (AND PROBABLY MULAN 1998 BY EXTENSION) CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE IN THE YEAR 427 OR 487

BAM!! <https://t.co/o7JHPATobd>





oh and in case any of you weren't sure - no, Qui Gong was not a real country. I have no idea if it's supposed to reference a real country.

I mean Lord Chin is a possible reference to the First Emperor of China...but why? <https://t.co/rmQgfkC0ib>



You will escort three princesses to Qui Gong.



There, they will marry Lord Chin's sons...

fun fact, China (or the 3+ dynasties in China then) actually did lose to the Mongols because they were too focused on taking out local enemies (even allying WITH the Mongols to do so) and didn't ally against the Mongols until it was too late <https://t.co/SCYInryl4I>

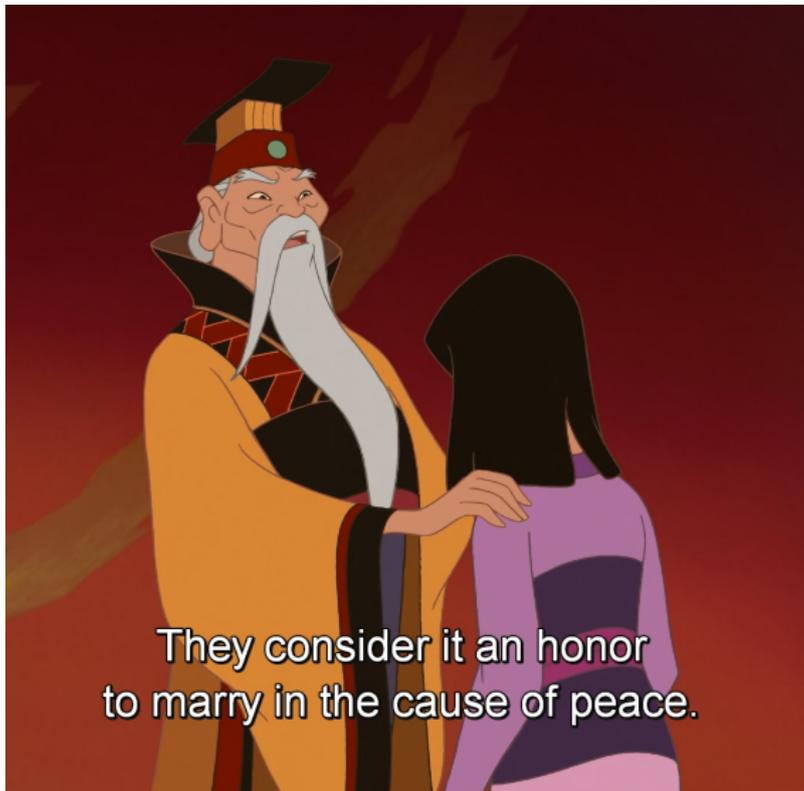


Mulan, is pic 2 you <https://t.co/Q3pe0fpu7g>

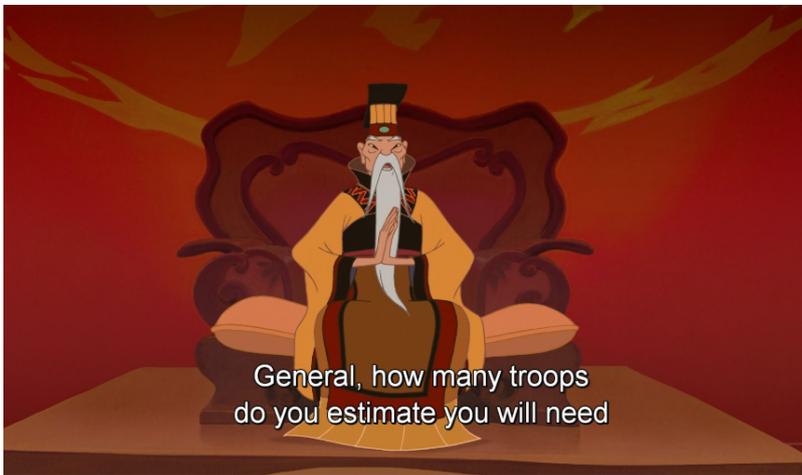


u know you've grown up when the adults in Disney movies make way more sense than the protagonists

(historically, China does in fact have a tradition of making marriage alliances with northern nomad tribes to keep them from attacking) <https://t.co/YSVZr9ZMad>



ALSO since this is confirmed Northern Wei, the emperor's yellow robes are probably inaccurate because the first emperor to be recorded to have worn yellow as an imperial color was Emperor Wen of Sui, at least a hundred years later  
<https://t.co/9PdF7hnC3L>



General, how many troops  
do you estimate you will need

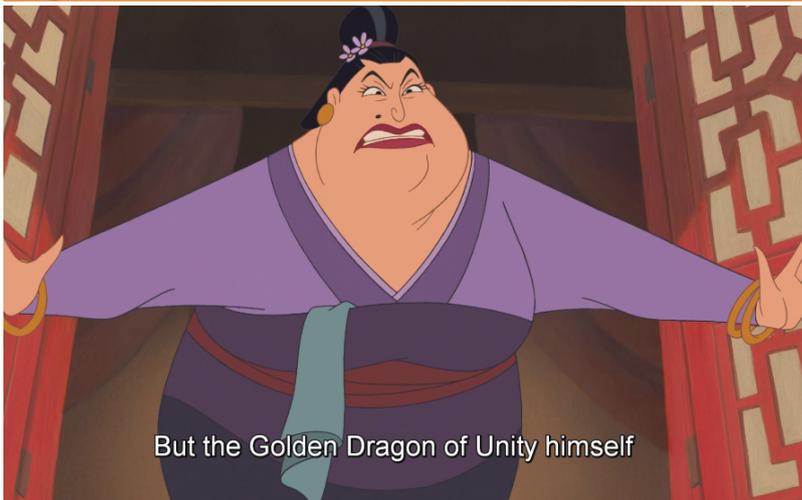
WHAT THE HELL IS THE GOLDEN DRAGON OF UNITY

THE CHINESE GOD OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE IS YUE LAO, THE OLD MAN UNDER THE MOON, WHO CONNECTS  
LOVERS WITH THE RED THREAD OF FATE

NOT EVERYTHING CHINESE HAS TO BE DRAGONS DRAGONS DRAGONS LMAOO <https://t.co/64vC7v0sWX>



I've found wives for hundreds of men.



But the Golden Dragon of Unity himself



me @ 99% of the dudes who try to flirt with me <https://t.co/PJfz0zw4Uj>



Come back when you get personalities.

the knowledge that these 3 incels will hook up with the 3 princesses by the end of this movie makes me extremely angry  
<https://t.co/JB5kPPPMNW>



All I asked for was a girl  
would worship the dirt I walk on.



I simply asked for someone  
who would cook for me



please do not ever assume the service workers are into you

please stop <https://t.co/Gce4m3nqDo>



the poly trio that SHOULD'VE happened <https://t.co/8LmMC2hL2B>



the hairstyles and shoes of the princesses (and the background characters in general)...surprisingly accurate actually  
<https://t.co/arAOCJ4RGY>



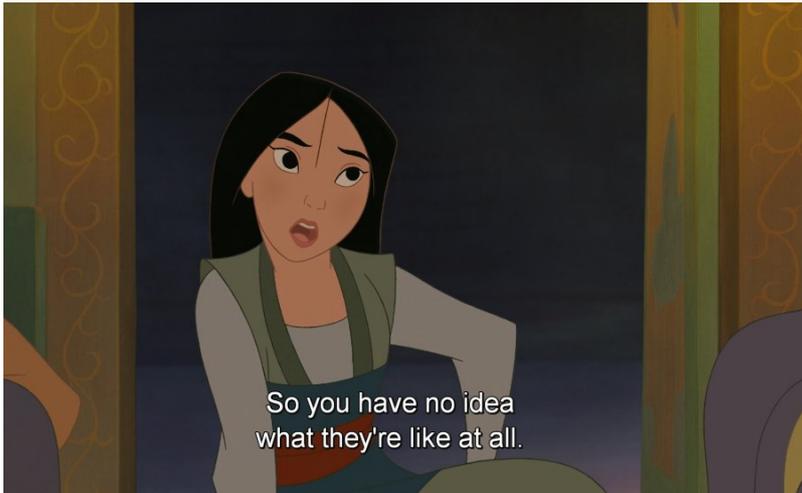


Mulan seriously why does this surprise you...you were fully ready to go into an arranged marriage of your own at the beginning of the first movie <https://t.co/0Rr6TLEYH>





We don't know. We've never met them.



So you have no idea what they're like at all.

aww emperor is at least a little sad about it

u know what tho? many cases of marriage alliances in Chinese history didn't even use real daughters of the emperor. more often they just chose some random palace girl and was like "ok emperor adopting you, you're a princess now, go"  
<https://t.co/UGMQ5lvGFN>



Honshu pass...why are y'all passing the main island of Japan <https://t.co/YDnwVKXsQW>



If we get to the Honshu pass  
by midday tomorrow...

Mushu why are you like this now i cry <https://t.co/IROVPpVMDL>



Yeah, just enough time to stop Mulan



from making the biggest mistake  
of my...



I mean, her life.

how come every travel montage through an Asian country needs to have a shot of them passing by a farm being worked on by a female farmer <https://t.co/1IT2BEr99h>



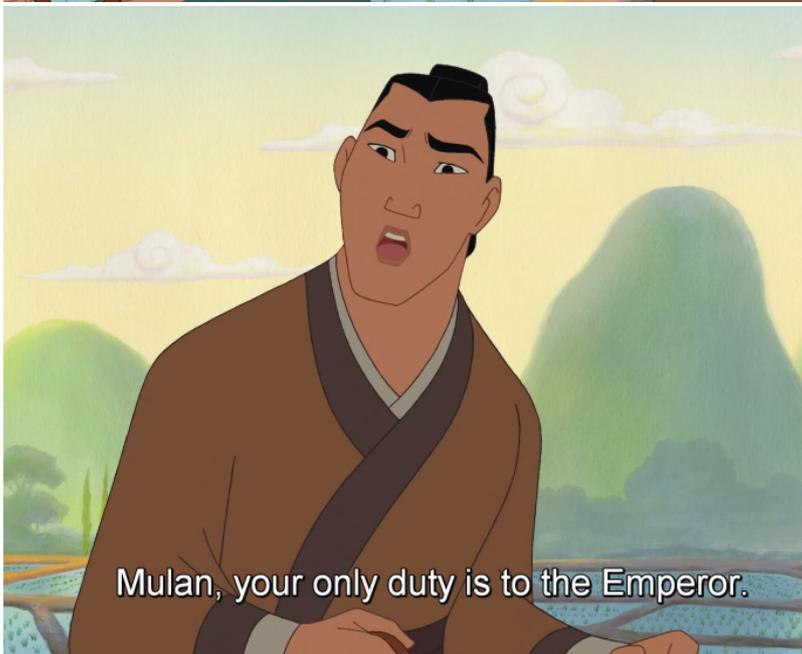
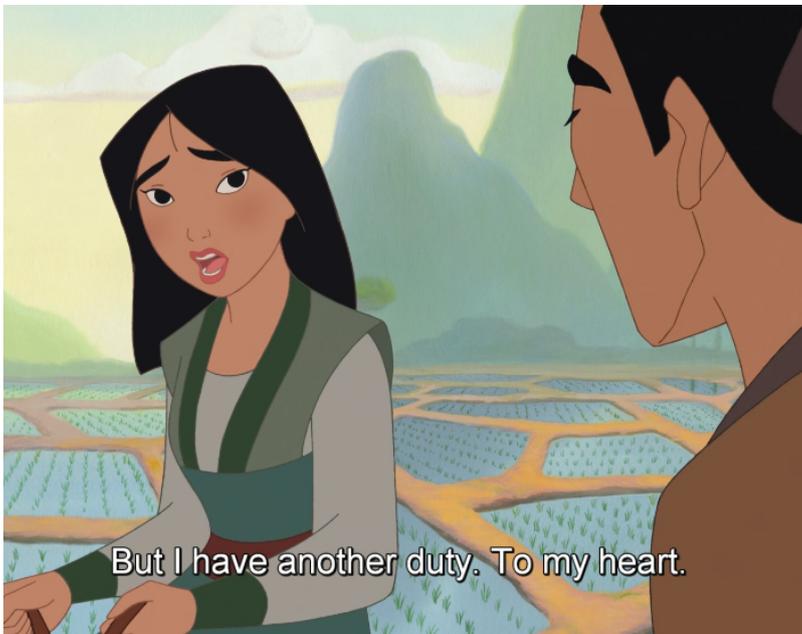
MULAN IT IS LITERALLY THE HAPPINESS OF 3 PRINCESSES VS THE SAFETY OF YOUR ENTIRE COUNTRY

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR LIBERAL FEMINISM <https://t.co/puzMDsnnRp>



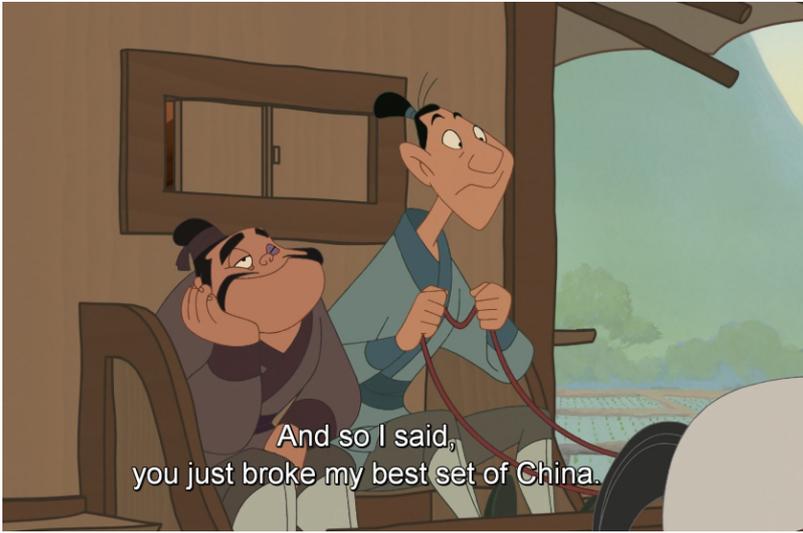
-I realize our duty is to the mission...

-But...



shut the fuck up immediately i am begging

(China doesn't refer to itself as "China." We say Zhongguo, "Middle Kingdom"...which this movie also uses later on???)  
can we have some consistency????) <https://t.co/sITdP8PbO6>



And so I said,  
you just broke my best set of China.



China. Get it?

what sort of incel fantasy plotline is this <https://t.co/SWKTEt5Ext>



Our eyes met  
and we shared a cosmic moment.



Did you see the way he looked at me?

girls when reaching for reasons to explain their shitty relationship: <https://t.co/U4ICwnLkad>

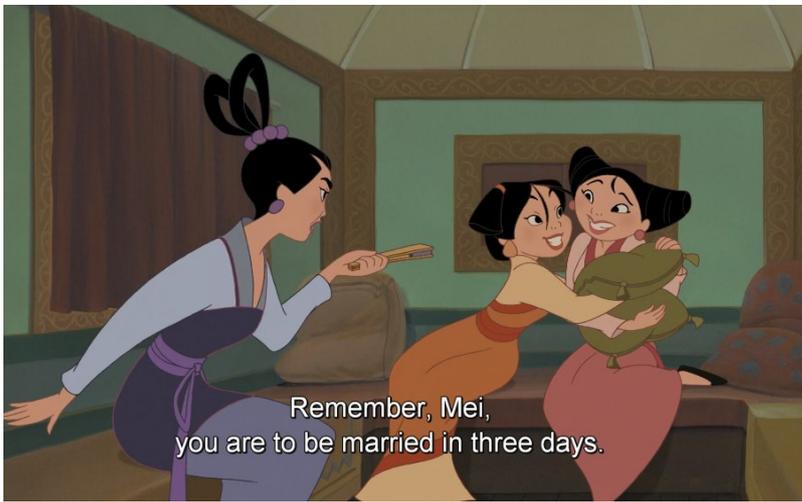


-But you didn't even talk to him.  
-A true romantic can tell.



Deep down, deep, deep down,  
way down, there's something.

Ting Ting is the only princess with her head on right. Shame it didn't last. <https://t.co/Mnt0Mvn718>

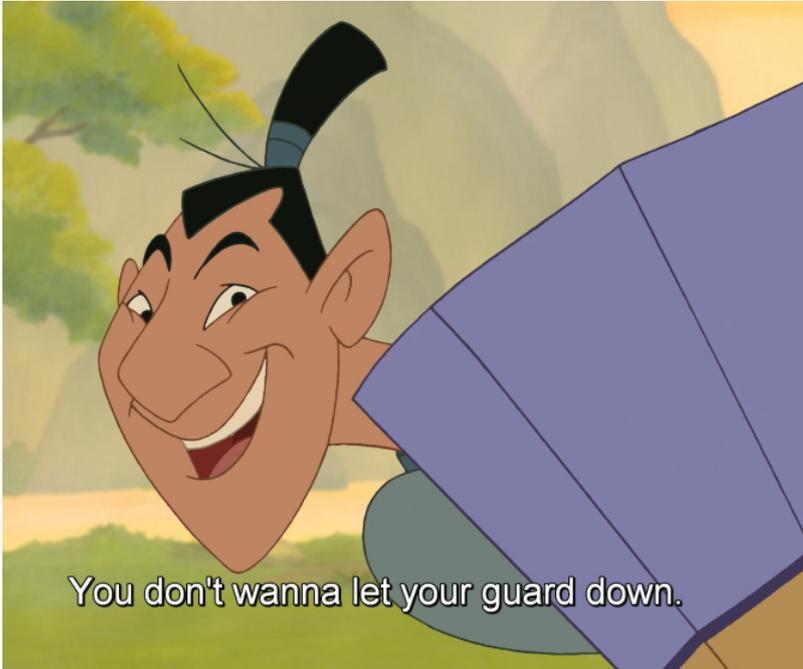


why do their meal rations look more like the offerings you'd leave at your ancestral altar than food for travel  
<https://t.co/LbcitCSHn9>





Come on, Your Highness.



You don't wanna let your guard down.



Get it? Guard? Down?

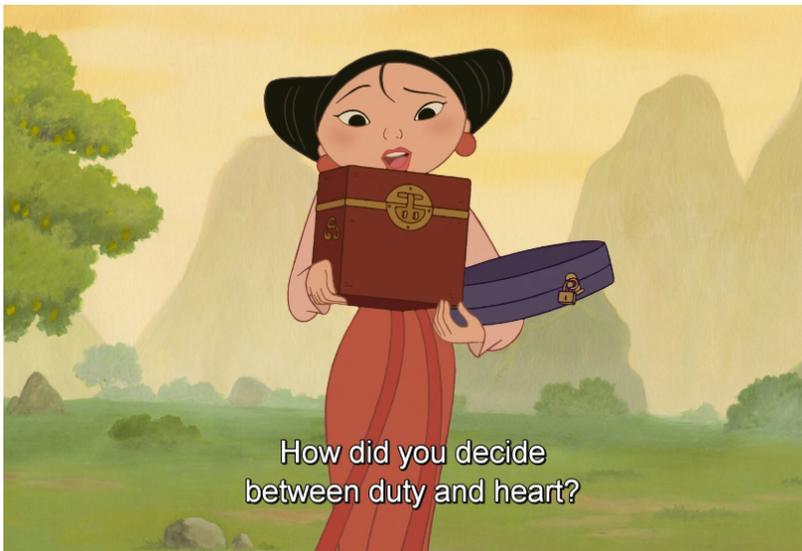
oh boy if you're gonna be eating pomegranates in a carriage, it's gonna be a MESS

(though, fun fact, pomegranates are actually an auspicious fruit for Chinese weddings, because the seeds allude to having lots of children asdf;ljds) <https://t.co/vZmrnQMbXh>



Just get your pomegranates  
in the carriage.

I mean....if your duty is to form an alliance to stop the Mongols from attacking your country and your heart is telling you to hook up with some guy you're only gonna know for 3 days... <https://t.co/85nF0ppbMr>



How did you decide  
between duty and heart?

Okay, here...Shang says they're going back on the road, but then it cuts directly to Mushu messing with him and Mulan fishing?? <https://t.co/Eu60YGfnrY>



Let's get back on the road.



That's my cue  
to put Operation Shang into action.



WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO BISEXUAL LEGEND LI SHANG <https://t.co/eRdSKyie9>



okay NGL, this was genuinely adorable <https://t.co/cLHHVQNgRy>

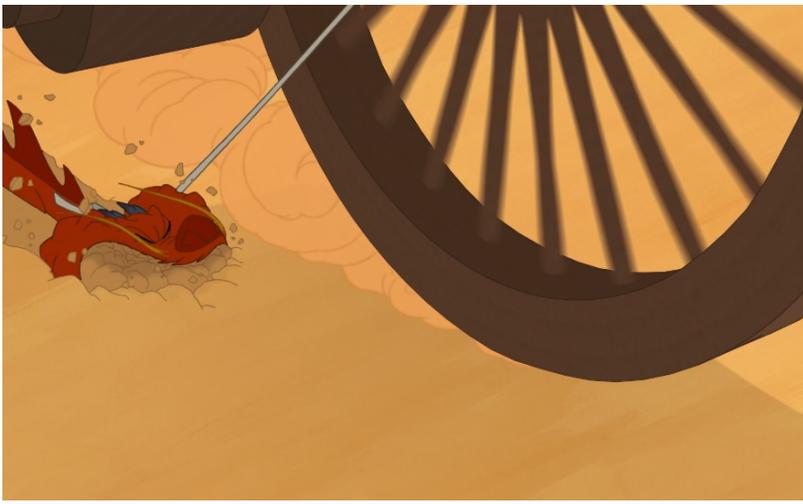


I cannot believe we are going to have to cancel Li Shang, bisexual legend, for the surfacing of these photos  
<https://t.co/ppwEwKzsX5>



ok the way the visual gag of the bandage actually tangled into the carriage wheel and caused the whole thing to fall down a cliff?? the movie sure...did that <https://t.co/GLxF7Ypd75>





i cannot believe i was subjected to witnessing this dog play with my own two eyes by Mulan II (2004)  
<https://t.co/N0TRHscAb1>



MULAN??? WHAT IS THIS LOGIC

WHAT IF THE NEAREST TOWN IS LIKE 5 DAYS AWAY

YOU HAVE LESS THAN 3 <https://t.co/bu317boOzp>





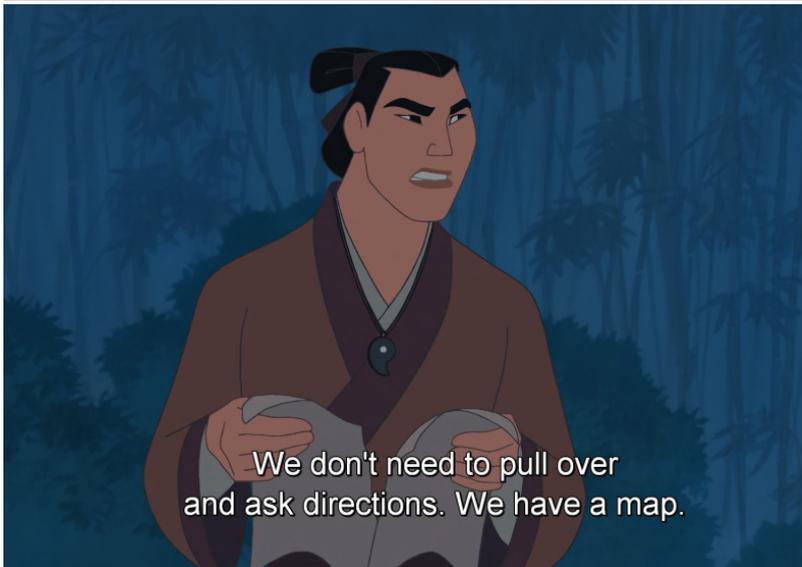
MULAN, THE SAFETY OF YOUR OWN COUNTRY IS AT STAKE, SHANG IS IN THE RIGHT IN THIS  
<https://t.co/cnmSzSU5iv>



WHAT IS IT WITH WESTERNERS AND THIS TIRED ASS JOKE

IT DOESN'T EVEN WORK IN THIS CASE, THEY'RE IN THE GODDAMN WILDERNESS <https://t.co/HFLWInJnjZ>

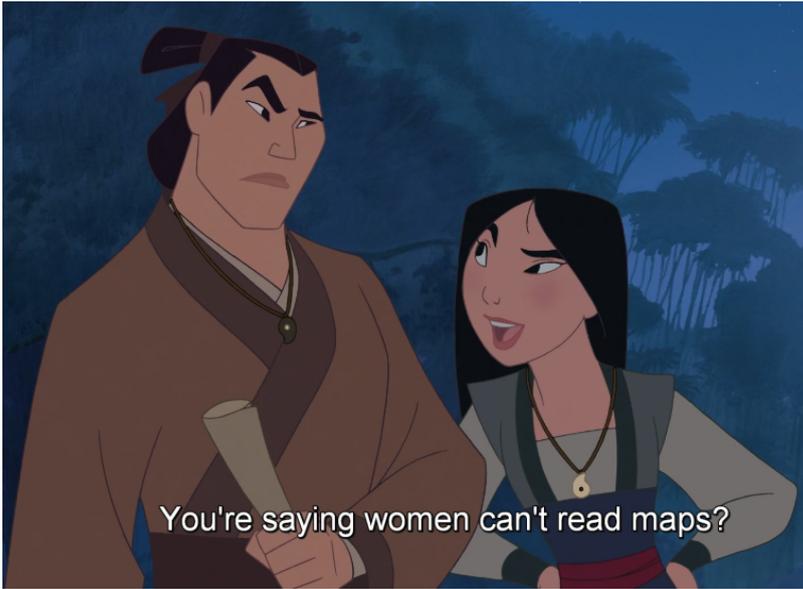




WHAT HAVE THE WRITERS OF THIS DISNEY-FORSAKEN SEQUEL DONE TO MULAN AND SHANG, QUEER COUPLE OF LEGEND <https://t.co/ejVeUno0Gr>



What is it with women and maps?



You're saying women can't read maps?



I'm saying that  
women will ask directions,



but they won't follow directions.

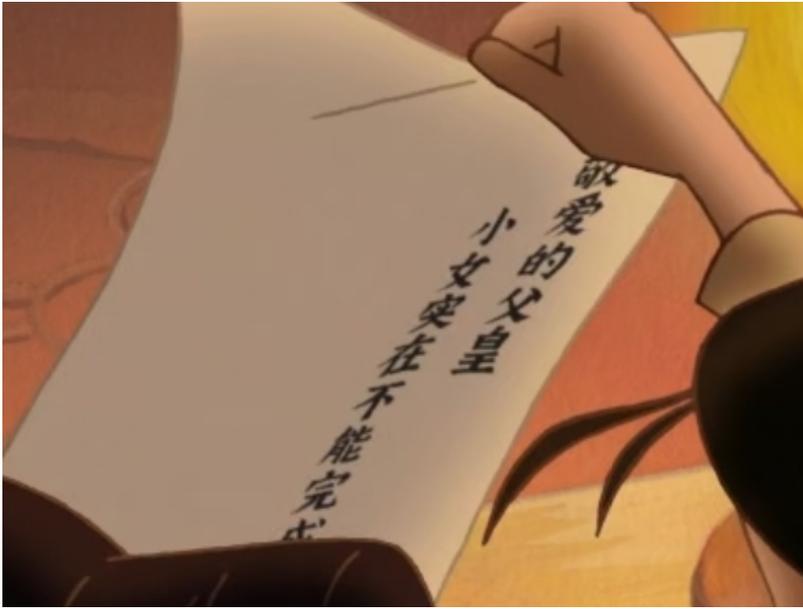
The letter actually has proper Chinese on it, though it reads a little too colloquial (I'd change ■■■■ to ■■■■), and it never gets to the "my duty is to my heart" part. It stop at "I cannot complete-" <https://t.co/77qyjg53z3>



"And so, my dear father,  
I cannot complete this mission.



"I have come to realize  
that my duty is to my heart."



ah yes, instead of insisting that they are NOT LIKE OTHER GIRLS, the princesses want to actively BE LIKE OTHER GIRLS. true revolutionaries. <https://t.co/oEdKQxNIJp>



*I wanna be like other girls*



*Climb up a tree like other girls can*



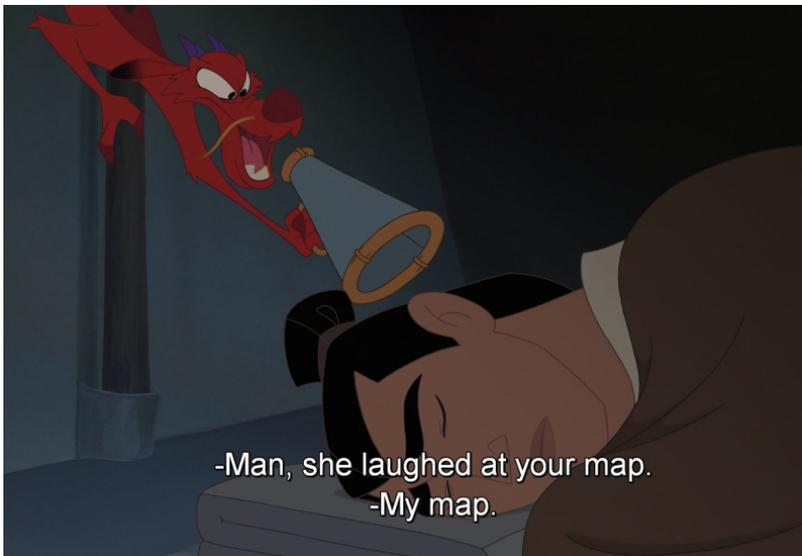
Pillows in ancient China would not have been stuffed with feathers. They were hard and made of wood or porcelain instead. <https://t.co/L6SgzcA8uH>



.....y'all this was just straight up racist ■ <https://t.co/D7w3F8FDjN>



the toxic masculinity demon in dude's heads be like: <https://t.co/T9yDwfpFZG>





HOW DID THIS EVEN WORK

DOES MUSHU HAVE SOME UNEXPLAINED HYPNOSIS POWERS <https://t.co/6GD8pZCJjv>



The man won't brush his teeth  
without a backup plan.



I fell for those broad shoulders.



I didn't realize there wasn't much  
sitting on top of them.

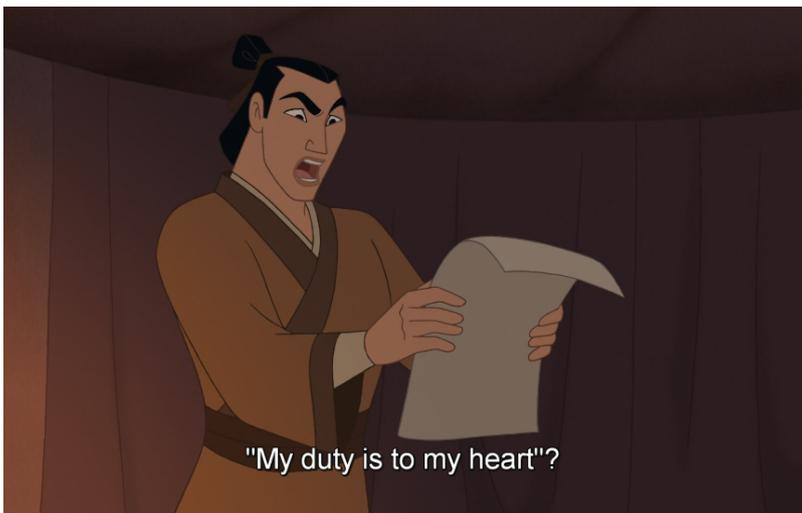
i would like to sue this movie for emotional damages for what it did to my boy Li Shang, bisexual legend  
<https://t.co/IsKiv2QZAy>



you know what, everyone in this movie sucks so much that this is actually valid advice by this point  
<https://t.co/qAgSQwesbL>



once again, that line never ended up getting written on the letter, lol <https://t.co/wKIsfzwHyS>



this Fu Manchu mustache is also kind of racist ■ <https://t.co/WZv7hgfpzK>



OKAY SO....ATTILA'S REIGN WAS FROM 434 - 453

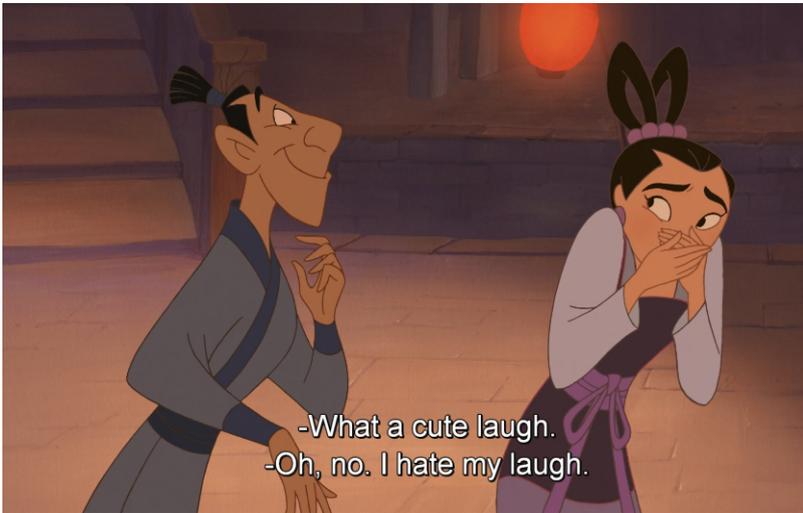
ASSUMING THAT GOSSIP ABOUT THE SHIT HE DID IN EUROPE ACTUALLY MADE IT TO CHINA, WE CAN REMOVE 427 AS A POSSIBLE YEAR FOR THIS MOVIE

BASED ON CANON EVIDENCE, MULAN II DEFINITELY TAKES PLACE IN THE YEAR 487 CE  
<https://t.co/sxUOUrR4UZ>



ahh.... bodily harm is what finally makes Ting Ting crack <https://t.co/amJ0jckoqS>





You know...if this movie was realistic, this actually would've been an amazing ominous reference to a Chinese saying that refers to something illusionary: "The Flower in the Mirror; the Moon in the Water." <https://t.co/dK3DNBfak2>



It's so beautiful.



It's the same moon  
we see from the palace.

MULAN ARE YOU KIDDING ME

HOW IS IT ANY BETTER THAT THESE PRINCESSES ARE HOOKING UP WITH THEIR GUARDS, WHO THEY'VE KNOWN FOR LESS THAN 3 DAYS <https://t.co/habdIXMMuE>



-I'm listening.  
-We...



-Oh, boy.  
-Fa Mulan, it's love.



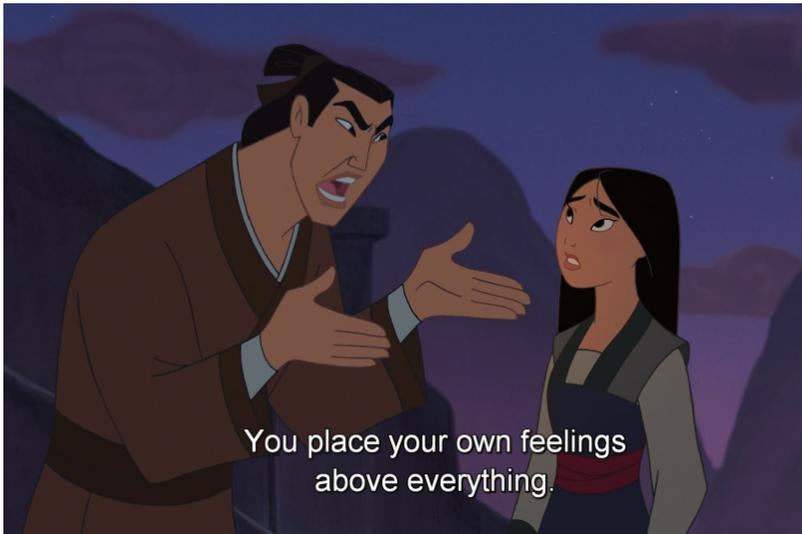
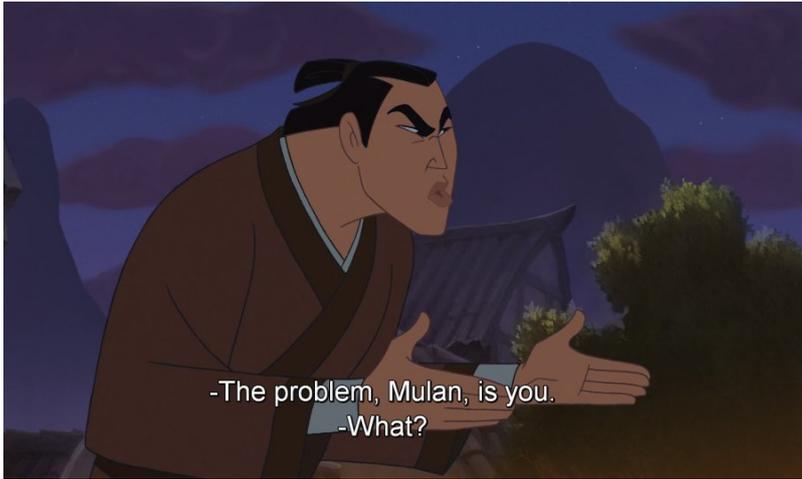
I'm so happy for all of you.

OH NO MULAN IT'S EXACTLY AS BAD AS IT SEEMS <https://t.co/kcw3tpmTZk>



Shang, the problem  
isn't as bad as it seems.

you know, if the plot wasn't completely asinine, this actually would've made a really interesting conflict for a Mulan sequel  
<https://t.co/FWIJIEpEc7>





EXCUSE ME??? LI "FOUGHT WITH YOU FOR THE WHOLE CLIMAX OF MULAN 1998" SHANG DOESN'T TRUST HIS HEART???? <https://t.co/Hp2I9nNuFe>

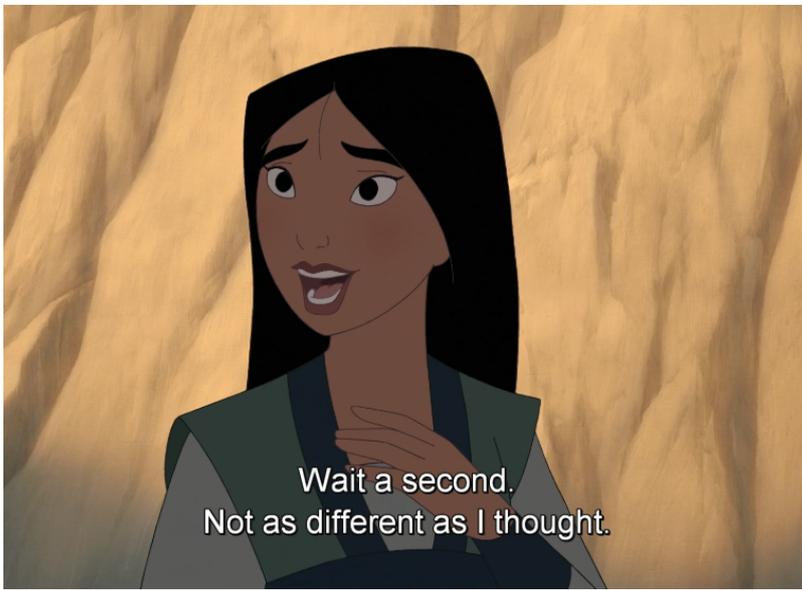


why is there a takeout container here...why..... <https://t.co/ZELQZzGPP0>



Mushu, horrifyingly selfish for this whole movie so far, suddenly cracks out of guilt???? <https://t.co/ak467YO27U>





THIS SCENE TOO...goddamn why couldn't the script have been better

it makes me sad to think that so many people must've put so much work into this universally hated movie

<https://t.co/mVEnljztOo>



what's with Disney's insistence on putting these impossibly huge calligraphy scrolls in throne rooms??  
<https://t.co/SMUsdazz9f>

