

# 垓下歌

gāi xià gē  
 ㊦ goi' haa' go'

· 項羽 ·

xiàng yǔ  
 hong' jyu'

lì	bá	shān	xī	qì	gài	shì
力	拔	山	兮	氣	蓋	世
lik <sup>9</sup>	bat <sup>9</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>	hai <sup>4</sup>	hei <sup>3</sup>	goi <sup>3</sup>	sai <sup>3</sup>
shí	bú	lì	xī	zhuī	bú	shì
時	不	利	兮	騅	不	逝
sí <sup>4</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	lei <sup>6</sup>	hai <sup>4</sup>	zeoi <sup>1</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	sai <sup>6</sup>
zhuī	bú	shì	xī	kě	nài	hé
騅	不	逝	兮	可	奈	何
zeoi <sup>1</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	sai <sup>6</sup>	hai <sup>4</sup>	ho <sup>2</sup>	noi <sup>6</sup>	ho <sup>4</sup>
yú	xī	yú	xī	nài	ruò	hé
虞	兮	虞	兮	奈	若	何
jyu <sup>4</sup>	hai <sup>4</sup>	jyu <sup>4</sup>	hai <sup>4</sup>	noi <sup>6</sup>	joek <sup>9</sup>	ho <sup>4</sup>



## 【釋文】

我有搬起大山的魄力和超人的勇氣，可是時運對我很不利，我的座騎烏騅馬也拒絕不肯動，這教我如何是好？唉！還有你虞姬呀，虞姬，怎麼辦呀！

## 【注釋】

垓下——地名，今安徽省靈璧縣東南。項羽被劉邦的漢軍圍困在當地。夜裡營外四周卻有唱楚國的歌，以為外面已被漢軍佔領，抬頭唱了首《垓下歌》，歌後拔劍自刎。

氣蓋世——氣魄和抱負都很大，難有人比得上。

騅不逝——騅、駿馬之一，雖有良駒也無法突圍。逝，行也，不逝，不能主動。

虞——項羽的寵姬。

奈若何——怎辦呢？

# The Song of Gaixia

Xiang Yu

Able was I when I could pull down a mountain  
with all my *might*!

So unkind is my fate even my black steed  
hesitates to *fight*.

How utterly helpless  
to see my black steed lagging far **behind**!

In desperation, O Yu, my Lady Yu,  
can you read my **mind**?

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Despite my mountain moving strength and super mighty courage, time and luck are very much against me. Even my noble breed black horse refuses to move. So what can I do? What's more, what should I do with you, my Lady Yu?

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

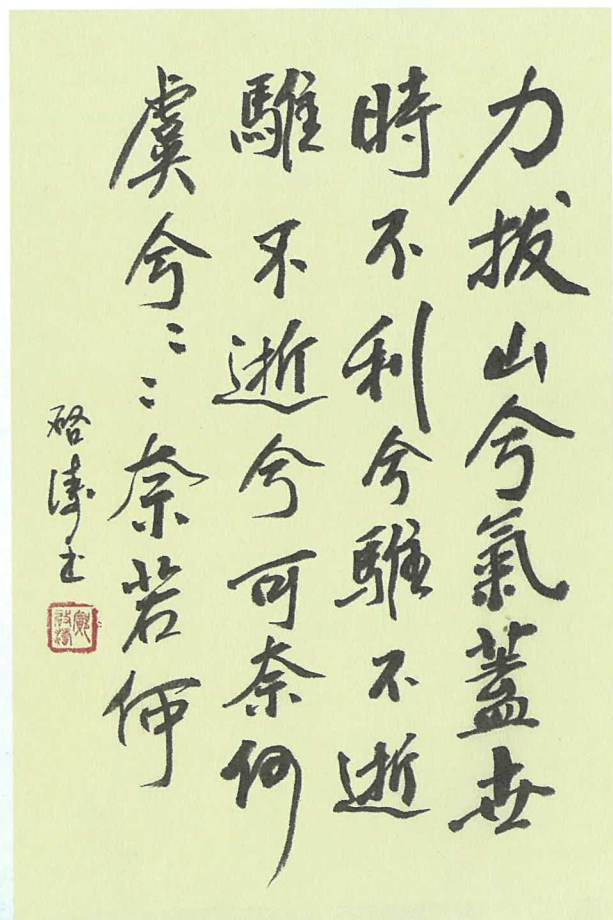
垓下 — name of a place, south east of the present Lingbi County of Anhui Province, a place where Xiangyu was surrounded by the Han army of Liubang. At night outside the army camp, when he heard singing of songs of his hometown of Chu, he thought he was completely surrounded by the Han army, so he sang this song of 垓下, and killed himself with his own sword.

氣蓋世 — with such boldness of vision and daring ambition that is unmatched by any one else.

騅不逝 — 騅: a horse of a good breed, meaning despite his horse of good breed, he cannot break through the siege. 逝: run, 不逝: cannot ride through.

虞 — surname of the favourite concubine of Xiangyu.

奈若何 — What can I do?



虞兮虞兮奈若何  
丁酉夏月  
嶽下  
羽



# 七步詩

qī bù shī  
④ cat<sup>7</sup> bou<sup>6</sup> si<sup>1</sup>

曹植  
cáo zhí  
cou<sup>4</sup> zik<sup>9</sup>

zhǔ 煮 zyu <sup>2</sup>	dòu 豆 dau <sup>6</sup>	rán 燃 jin <sup>4</sup>	dòu 豆 dau <sup>6</sup>	qí 萁 kei <sup>4</sup>
dòu 豆 dau <sup>6</sup>	zài 在 zoi <sup>6</sup>	fǔ 釜 fu <sup>2</sup>	zhōng 中 zung <sup>1</sup>	qì 泣 jap <sup>7</sup>
běn 本 bun <sup>2</sup>	shì 是 si <sup>6</sup>	tóng 同 tung <sup>4</sup>	gēn 根 gan <sup>1</sup>	shēng 生 sang <sup>1</sup>
xiāng 相 soeng <sup>1</sup>	jiān 煎 zin <sup>1</sup>	hé 何 ho <sup>4</sup>	tài 太 taai <sup>3</sup>	jǐ 急 gap <sup>7</sup>

登濟士



本是同根生  
相煎何太急



## 【釋文】

煮豆時，用棄置的豆桿來煮豆，但豆在鍋裏低聲悲泣說：「我們同一條根上長出來的，你何必煎熬得我這麼急呢！」

## 【注釋】

豆萁——豆夾取出豆子後的豆殼及莖桿。

釜——瓦鍋。

泣——低聲悲泣。



## A Poem Composed within Seven Paces

Cao Zhi

The beans are cooked  
by burning the stalks of their **own**;  
As the pot keeps boiling,  
the beans suffer and **weep**.  
From the same roots  
they have together lived and **grown**;  
O oppression,  
why is it so ruthless and **deep**?

### Explanatory notes

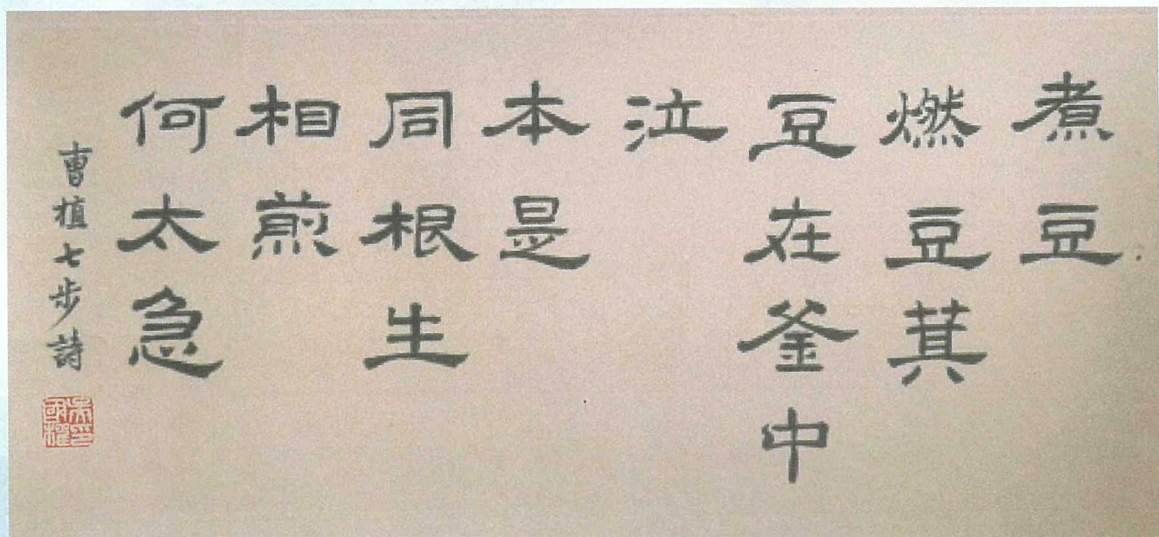
When the pea stalks and pea shells are used to cook the peas, the peas whimper in the pot: "Both of us have grown out of the same root, why do you have to grill me in such haste!"

### Notes on phrases

豆萁 — pea pods and stalks of peapods after removing the peas.

釜 — crockery pot.

泣 — cried in whimpers.



# 詠鵝

yǒng

é

⊕ wing<sup>6</sup>

ngo<sup>4</sup>

· 駱賓王 ·

luò bīnwáng

lok<sup>8</sup> ban<sup>1</sup> wong<sup>4</sup>

é	é	é		
鵝	鵝	鵝		
ngo <sup>4</sup>	ngo <sup>4</sup>	ngo <sup>4</sup>		
qū	xiàng	xiàng	tiān	gē
曲	項	向	天	歌
kuk <sup>7</sup>	hong <sup>6</sup>	hoeng <sup>3</sup>	tin <sup>1</sup>	go <sup>1</sup>
bái	máo	fú	lǜ	shuǐ
白	毛	浮	綠	水
baak <sup>9</sup>	mou <sup>4</sup>	fau <sup>4</sup>	luk <sup>9</sup>	seoi <sup>2</sup>
hóng	zhǎng	bō	qīng	bō
紅	掌	撥	清	波
hung <sup>4</sup>	zoeng <sup>2</sup>	but <sup>9</sup>	cing <sup>1</sup>	bo <sup>1</sup>

## 【釋文】

鵝、鵝、鵝呀，你彎曲着頸脖向天上高叫唱着歌，你一身潔白的羽毛，襯着碧綠的湖水多美，祇見你悠閒地用紅色的腳掌自由地撥動前進。

## 【注釋】

《詠鵝》——傳說是駱賓王七歲時寫的詩。

駱賓王——人名，唐朝義烏人，為初唐四傑之一。

曲項——彎曲的頸項。

紅掌——指鵝紅色的掌腳。

撥——划。



# Ode to the Goose

Luo Binwang

Goose, Goose, Goose,  
hello and *hi*!

You bend your long neck  
and keep singing to the *sky*.

Your white feathers stay afloat  
on the green *water*.

Your red webbed-feet stir up ripples  
in the *river*.



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Hello, Goose, Goose, you are bending your neck to sing to the sky. With white feather sailing along the emerald green lake, you make a beautiful picture as you gracefully paddle forward with your red webs.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

詠鵝 — A poem allegedly composed by Luo Binwang when he was seven.

駱賓王 — name of a poet from Yiwu in Tang dynasty, one of the four outstanding poets in early Tang.

曲項 — curving neck.

紅掌 — the red web feet of a goose.

撥 — paddle.



# 回鄉偶書

huí xiāng ǒu shū

㊦ wui<sup>4</sup> hoeng<sup>1</sup> ngau<sup>5</sup> syu<sup>1</sup>

· 賀知章 ·

hè zhīzhāng

ho<sup>6</sup> zi<sup>1</sup> zoeng<sup>1</sup>

shào	xiǎo	lí	jiā	lǎo	dà	huí
少	小	離	家	老	大	回
siu <sup>3</sup>	siu <sup>2</sup>	lei <sup>4</sup>	gaa <sup>1</sup>	lou <sup>5</sup>	daai <sup>6</sup>	wui <sup>4</sup>
xiāng	yīn	wú	gǎi	bìn	máo	cūi
鄉	音	無	改	鬢	毛	衰
hoeng <sup>1</sup>	jam <sup>1</sup>	mou <sup>4</sup>	goi <sup>2</sup>	ban <sup>3</sup>	mou <sup>4</sup>	ceoi <sup>1</sup>
ér	tóng	xiāng	jiàn	bù	xiāng	shí
兒	童	相	見	不	相	識
ji <sup>4</sup>	tung <sup>4</sup>	soeng <sup>1</sup>	gin <sup>3</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	soeng <sup>1</sup>	sik <sup>7</sup>
xiào	wèn	kè	cóng	hé	chù	lái
笑	問	客	從	何	處	來
siu <sup>3</sup>	man <sup>6</sup>	haak <sup>8</sup>	cung <sup>4</sup>	ho <sup>4</sup>	cyu <sup>3</sup>	loi <sup>4</sup>

## 【釋文】

少年的時候離開家鄉，直至年紀老邁纔回鄉，還記得兒時在家鄉所說的鄉音，一點也沒有改變，但我的頭髮卻已斑白，鬢毛也疏落了。

村中正在玩耍的孩童，看見我這陌生的老翁，還笑笑地問：「伯伯，您是從哪裏來的呢？」

## 【注釋】

鬢毛——臉兩旁靠近耳朵的頭髮。

衰——(音cūi，粵音ceoi吹)一作催，疏稀。



賀知章

# On Homecoming

He Zhizhang

When young I left my hometown  
and when old I have come *back*.

My accent's unchanged  
my hair at the temples no more *black*.

The children take me as a stranger  
on the way we *meet*.

'Where do you come from?' they ask  
with smiling faces to *greet*.



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Having left my hometown when I was a youngster, I went back only when I have become an old man. Although I can still remember my native dialect and have kept my native accent, my hair has turned grey and thinned out. When the kids who were playing around in the village saw me, an old stranger, coming near, they asked with smiles, "Sir, where are you from?"

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

鬢毛 — the hair near the ears on the sides of one's face, sideburns.

衰 — (Cantonese: ceoi; PTH: cui) , one version has it as 催; scanty.





# 登幽州臺歌

dēng yōu zhōu tái gē  
 ㄉㄨㄥ ㄩㄠ ㄓㄡ ㄊㄞ ㄍㄜ

ㄉㄨㄥˊ yāuˊ zāuˊ táiˋ gēˊ

· 陳子昂 ·

chén zǐ áng

canˋ zǐˊ ngongˋ

qián 前 cin <sup>4</sup>	bú 不 bat <sup>7</sup>	jiàn 見 gin <sup>3</sup>	gǔ 古 gu <sup>2</sup>	rén 人 jan <sup>4</sup>
hòu 後 hau <sup>6</sup>	bú 不 bat <sup>7</sup>	jiàn 見 gin <sup>3</sup>	lái 來 loi <sup>4</sup>	zhě 者 ze <sup>2</sup>
niàn 念 nim <sup>6</sup>	tiān 天 tin <sup>1</sup>	dì 地 dei <sup>6</sup>	zhī 之 zi <sup>1</sup>	yōu yōu 悠 悠 jau <sup>4</sup> jau <sup>4</sup>
dú 獨 duk <sup>9</sup>	chuàng 愴 cong <sup>9</sup>	rán 然 jin <sup>4</sup>	ér 而 ji <sup>4</sup>	tì xià 涕 下 tai <sup>3</sup> haa <sup>6</sup>



## 【釋文】

我看不見以前優秀的領導者，以後就算有，我也不會知道。唉，但現在的領導者又怎樣？祇有登上燕臺仰天長歎，潸然淚下。

## 【注釋】

幽州臺——即薊北樓、亦即傳說戰國時燕昭王築的黃金臺。該地為燕國國都，故城在今北京市西南。

歌——詩體裁一種，有短歌和長歌分別，本篇屬短歌一種。

愴然——傷感的樣子。

涕下——下淚。

## 【背景】

此詩背景：武則天萬歲通天元年（696年）作者隨建安王武攸宜討伐契丹，登幽州台時作。武攸宜是外戚，不懂軍事，陳子昂上策進諫，都不被接納，故頗抑鬱而登幽州台吟此歌。

# The Song of a Visitor on Youzhou Tower

Chen Zi'ang

Looking back,  
I can see no sages of the ancient *past*;  
Looking ahead,  
I can see no wise men of *tomorrow*.  
Thinking of the Universe,  
eternal and *vast*,  
I linger all alone  
in my tearful *sorrow*.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

I cannot see the past outstanding leaders, nor the future ones, even if there's any, I would not know. Alas, can I get anywhere even with the present ones? I can only go up to the Yan Tower and sigh, with tears rolling down my cheeks.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

幽州台 — refers to the Tower of Jibei, the legendary golden tower that King Zhao of Yan Kingdom was alleged to have built during the era of Warring Nations. It was in the capital of Yan Kingdom. The old capital is situated in the south west of the present Beijing City.

歌 — a genre of poetry. There are short and long ones. The long ones are similar to ballads. This poem is typical of a short one.

愴然 — sad.

涕下 — shed tears.

## 【 Background to the poem 】

In the first year after Empress Wu Zetian's ascension to the throne, the poet, following the army of Jianan Duke Wu Youyi in taking punitive military actions against the aggression of the neighbouring nation Xiedan, composed this poem as he climbed the Tower of Youzhou. Wu Youyi who was a relative of Empress Wu, was ignorant about military actions, but he rejected all the proposals Chen Zíang submitted to advise him. This poem was written in Chen's frustrations.

前不見古人  
後不見來者  
念天地之悠悠  
獨愴然而涕下  
陳子昂登幽州台歌  
啓濤書



# 涼州詞

liáng zhōu cí

loeng<sup>4</sup> zau<sup>1</sup> ci<sup>4</sup>

· 王 翰 ·

wáng hàn

wong<sup>4</sup> hon<sup>6</sup>

pú	táo	měi	jiǔ	yè	guāng	bēi
葡	萄	美	酒	夜	光	杯
pou <sup>4</sup>	tou <sup>4</sup>	mei <sup>5</sup>	zau <sup>2</sup>	je <sup>6</sup>	gwong <sup>1</sup>	bui <sup>1</sup>
yù	yǐn	pí	pá	mǎ	shàng	cūi
欲	飲	琵	琶	馬	上	催
juk <sup>9</sup>	jam <sup>2</sup>	pei <sup>4</sup>	paa <sup>4</sup>	maa <sup>5</sup>	soeng <sup>6</sup>	ceoi <sup>1</sup>
zuì	wò	shā	chǎng	jūn	mò	xiào
醉	臥	沙	場	君	莫	笑
zeoi <sup>3</sup>	ngo <sup>6</sup>	saa <sup>1</sup>	coeng <sup>4</sup>	gwan <sup>1</sup>	mok <sup>9</sup>	siu <sup>3</sup>
gǔ	lái	zhēng	zhàn	jǐ	rén	huí
古	來	征	戰	幾	人	回
gu <sup>2</sup>	loi <sup>4</sup>	zing <sup>1</sup>	zin <sup>3</sup>	gei <sup>2</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>	wui <sup>4</sup>

## 【釋文】

戰士們出征前，用夜光杯滿斟葡萄酒助興，正興高采烈舉杯暢飲，但是軍中騎兵卻奏起催出發的琵琶調。朋友，如果我在戰場上醉倒了，不要笑我狂妄，因為自古以來，出征的人有幾個能夠回來呢？

## 【注釋】

涼州—唐時的姑臧，今甘肅武威縣。

涼州曲，唐樂府《近代曲》名。

夜光杯—精緻的白玉杯，杯身透明而薄，好像發光。

琵琶—彈撥樂器。

醉臥沙場  
君莫笑  
古來征戰  
幾人回

王翰書



# The Ballad of Liangzhou

Wang Han

With excellent grape wine  
my cup of white jade has been *filled*.  
'Mount Your Horse!' comes the pipa tune  
as I want to drink *more*.  
Laugh not, dear friends,  
if I lie all drunk on the *battlefield*.  
For so long,  
how many soldiers could have come home from *war*?



## Explanatory notes

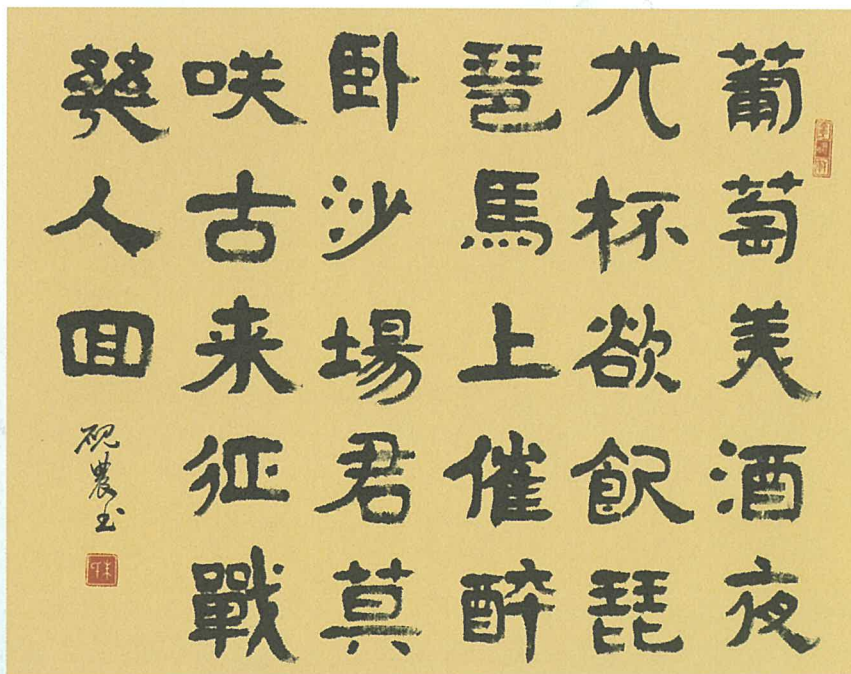
The warriors before they set out for the battle, drink heartily from the night-glow glasses filled with grape wine. Just as they are feeling high, the cavaliers strike the abrupt and sparse setting off tune from the Pipa to hasten them to set out for the battle. My dear friend, if you find me drunk in the battle, do not laugh at my wild behavior, for how many warriors can return safe and sound from the battle since time immemorial?

## Notes on phrases

凉州- Guzang in Tang era, the current Wuwei County of Gansu Province. The Song of Liangzhou, is the name of a song (Modern Song) in Tang Dynasty Songs and Ballads collection.

夜光杯- wine glass that was made of white jade. As the glass is translucent and thin, it looks as if it glows at night.

琵琶- a string instrument that is played by striking the chords.



# 登鶴雀樓

dēng guàn què lóu

ㄉㄨㄥ ㄍㄨㄢˋ ㄑㄨㄝˋ ㄌㄡˊ

·王之渙·

wáng zhīhuàn

wong<sup>4</sup> zī<sup>1</sup> wun<sup>6</sup>

bái	rì	yī	shān	jìn
白	日	依	山	盡
baak <sup>9</sup>	jat <sup>9</sup>	ji <sup>1</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>	zeon <sup>6</sup>
huáng	hé	rù	hǎi	liú
黃	河	入	海	流
wong <sup>4</sup>	ho <sup>4</sup>	jap <sup>9</sup>	hoi <sup>2</sup>	lau <sup>4</sup>
yù	qióng	qiān	lǐ	mù
欲	窮	千	里	目
juk <sup>9</sup>	kung <sup>4</sup>	cin <sup>1</sup>	lei <sup>5</sup>	muk <sup>9</sup>
gèng	shàng	yì	céng	lóu
更	上	一	層	樓
gang <sup>3</sup>	soeng <sup>5</sup>	jat <sup>7</sup>	cang <sup>4</sup>	lau <sup>4</sup>

## 【釋文】

遙望天邊一輪紅日，在群山起伏的遠處漸漸落下去；近在樓前的黃河，滔滔地向東奔去，直流入大海。

假如你想望遠一些，便要再登高一層樓了。

## 【注釋】

鶴雀樓——一作鶴鵲樓，建在山西蒲州府（今山西省永濟市）唐朝屬河東道，樓有三層，建在府城西南城上。樓上常有鶴雀在棲息，故名。

智玲



欲窮  
千里目  
更上  
一層樓



智玲

# Visiting the Stork Tower

Wang Zhihuan

Behind the mountains the white sun goes down,  
ending the *day*.

The Yellow River keeps ever-flowing  
into the *sea*.

To view the scenery  
a thousand miles farther *away*,

The higher level you climb,  
the better sight there will *be*.

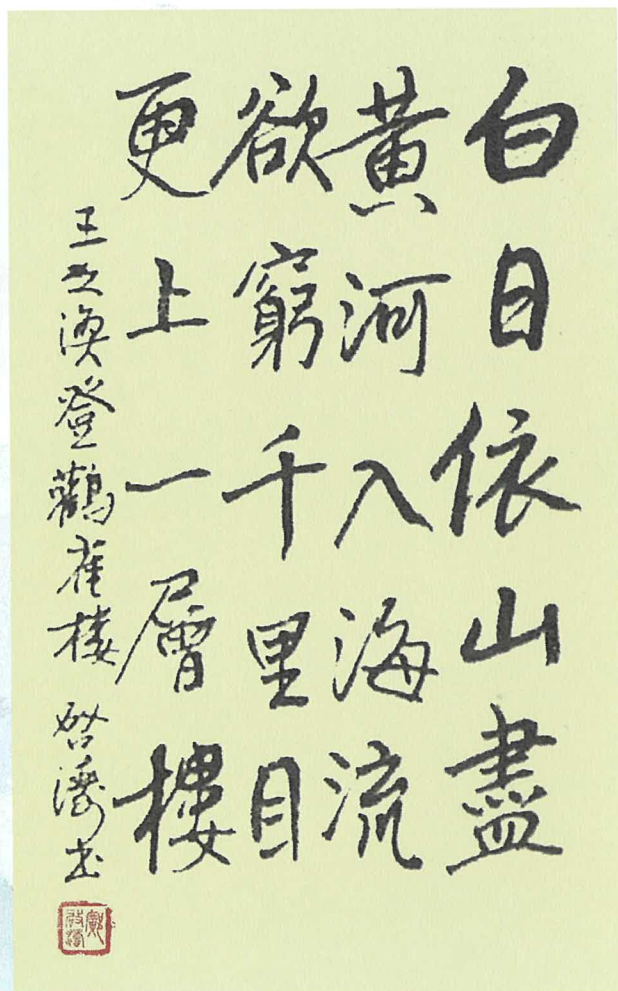


## 【 Explanatory notes 】

At the far end of the horizon there is the red hot sun, setting gradually amidst the mountain range. The Yellow River which flows right below the Tower, is rushing to join the sea in the east. If you wish to look further afar, then you would need to climb up one more level of the Tower.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

鶴雀樓 - another version has it as 鶴鵲樓, built in the Puzhou County of Shanxi (the present Yongji County of Shanxi Province). In Tang Dynasty, it was under the governance of River East Route. It was a three level building, built in the south east of the city. As storks often visited and stopped over the top level of the building, hence it was named The Stork Tower.



# 春曉

chūn xiǎo

① ceon<sup>1</sup> hui<sup>2</sup>

· 孟浩然 ·  
mèng hàorán  
maang<sup>6</sup> hou<sup>6</sup> jin<sup>4</sup>

chūn 春 ceon <sup>1</sup>	mián 眠 min <sup>4</sup>	bù 不 bat <sup>7</sup>	jué 覺 gok <sup>8</sup>	xiǎo 曉 hiu <sup>2</sup>
chù 處 cyu <sup>3</sup>	chù 處 cyu <sup>3</sup>	wén 聞 man <sup>4</sup>	tí 啼 tai <sup>4</sup>	niǎo 鳥 niu <sup>5</sup>
yè 夜 je <sup>6</sup>	lái 來 loi <sup>4</sup>	fēng 風 fung <sup>1</sup>	yǔ 雨 jyu <sup>5</sup>	shēng 聲 sing <sup>1</sup>
huā 花 faa <sup>1</sup>	luò 落 lok <sup>9</sup>	zhī 知 zi <sup>1</sup>	duō 多 do <sup>1</sup>	shǎo 少 siu <sup>2</sup>

## 【釋文】

春天睡在温暖的被窩裏，天亮了也不覺得，醒來祇聽見外面鳥兒在吱喳地歌唱，好不熱鬧。想起昨天晚上曾聽到有狂風大雨的吼聲，不知道園裏的花兒有多少被風雨摧殘了呢！

## 【注釋】

春曉——春天的早晨。

啼鳥——鳥兒的叫聲。

春眠  
不覺曉  
處處  
聞啼鳥

智玲書



# One Morning in Spring

Meng Haoran

Not knowing of the dawn

I was deep in my spring *slumber*;

Waking up

I could hear the songbirds singing all **around**.

The night before

strong winds coming with the rain did *clamour*;

Who could tell

how many flowers had fallen on the **ground**?

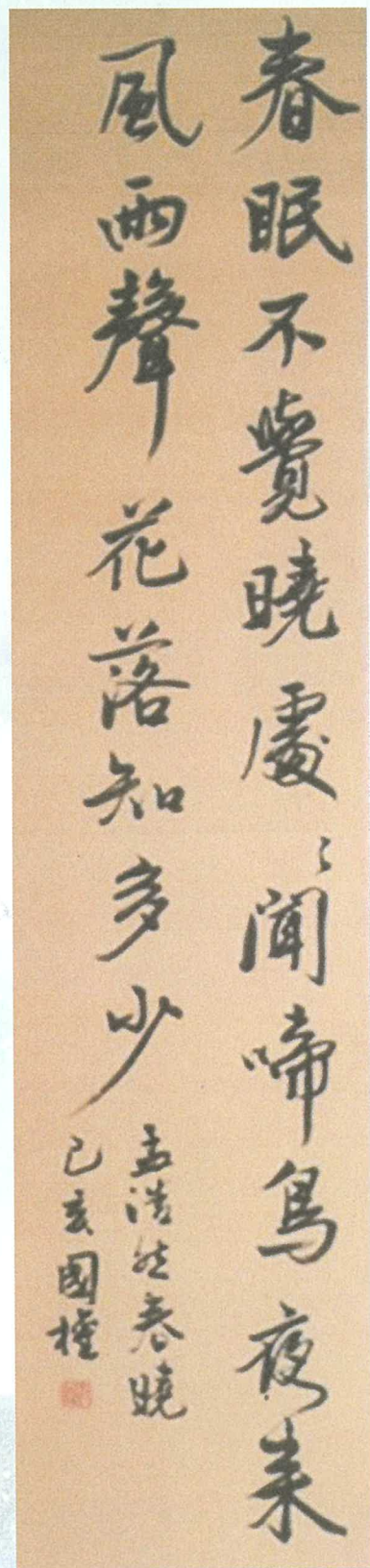
## Explanatory notes

In spring time, sleeping in my warm cozy bed, I was not aware of the day break. When I woke up, I heard the birds outside singing in a chorus. Recalling that I heard the noise of the howling wind and the pouring rain last night, I wonder how many of the flowers in the garden were blown away and damaged by the wind and rain?

## Notes on phrases

春曉 - morning in spring.

啼鳥 - the sound of birds.





# 出塞 (其一)

chū      sài      (qí      yī)  
 ceot<sup>7</sup>      coi<sup>3</sup>      kei<sup>4</sup>      jat<sup>7</sup>

· 王 昌 齡 ·  
 wáng chāng líng  
 wong<sup>4</sup> coeng<sup>1</sup> ling<sup>4</sup>

qín	shí	míng	yuè	hàn	shí	guān
秦	時	明	月	漢	時	關
ceon <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>4</sup>	ming <sup>4</sup>	jyut <sup>9</sup>	hon <sup>3</sup>	si <sup>4</sup>	gwaan <sup>1</sup>
wàn	lǐ	cháng	zhēng	rén	wèi	huán
萬	里	長	征	人	未	還
maan <sup>6</sup>	lei <sup>5</sup>	coeng <sup>4</sup>	zing <sup>1</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>	mei <sup>6</sup>	waan <sup>4</sup>
dàn	shǐ	lóng	chéng	fēi	jiāng	zài
但	使	龍	城	飛	將	在
daan <sup>6</sup>	si <sup>2</sup>	lung <sup>4</sup>	sing <sup>4</sup>	fei <sup>1</sup>	zoeng <sup>3</sup>	zoi <sup>6</sup>
bù	jiāo	hú	mǎ	dù	yīn	shān
不	教	胡	馬	度	陰	山
bat <sup>7</sup>	gaau <sup>1</sup>	wu <sup>4</sup>	maa <sup>5</sup>	dou <sup>6</sup>	jam <sup>1</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>



## 【釋文】

秦朝時的月亮和漢代時的關口，到現在仍舊一樣，但戰爭也一樣仍在打仗，可是遠戍萬里的征人從未見回來。

如果還有漢時的衛青將軍和李廣太守尚在的話，匈奴那裡敢渡過陰山入侵呢！

## 【注釋】

出塞 — 樂府《橫吹典》舊題。

但使 — 祇要。

龍城 — 漢時衛青將軍，北伐匈奴，曾達龍城，龍城地在蒙古匈奴祭天處。

飛將 — 漢代李廣善戰，匈奴稱他為飛將軍，他一出現匈奴不敢應戰。

胡馬 — 匈奴的座騎。

陰山 — 在今內蒙古中部，匈奴常據此侵漢。

# Beyond the Frontier of the Great Wall (1)

Wang Changling

The bright moon of Qin has shone on the gates of Han  
since days of *yore*;  
There has been no return of the soldiers  
on their long march to *war*.  
Were the Flying General of Dragon City  
still on his *rounds*,  
The Tartar horsemen would never dare to cross  
the Yin Mountain *bounds*.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

The moonlight in Qin Dynasty and the strategic pass in Han Dynasty are the same now as before, so are the wars. With the frontier battles still raging on, never ever have the soldiers sent to the front been seen coming back.

If only General Wei Qing and Li Guang of Han Dynasty were still with us today, the Huns would not have dared to cross the Mountain Yin Pass to invade us!

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

出塞 — old theme of “Horizontal wind instrument” in the Collection of Songs and Ballads.

但使 — only if.

龍城 — A place that General Wei Qing reached when he defeated the Huns tribe in Han Dynasty. It was a place in the present Mongolia where the Huns made sacrifices to Heaven.

飛將 — General Li Guang in Han Dynasty was noted for his military strategies in winning battles. The Huns called him the Flying General. When he led the battle, the Huns would not dare to confront his army.

胡馬 — the horses ridden by the Huns.

陰山 — in the present mid Inner Mongolia, a place that the Huns often occupied in their invasion in Han Dynasty.

秦時明月漢時關  
萬里長征人未還  
但使龍城飛將在  
不教胡馬度陰山

王昌齡出塞 己亥 國權書

# 九月九日憶山東兄弟

jiǔ yuè jiǔ rì yì shān dōng xiōng dì

㊦ gau² jyut⁹ gau² jat⁹ jik⁷ saan¹ dung¹ hing¹ dai⁶

· 王 維 ·  
wáng wéi  
wong⁴ wai⁴

dú	zài	yì	xiāng	wéi	yì	kè
獨	在	異	鄉	為	異	客
duk⁹	zoi⁶	ji⁶	hoeng¹	wai⁴	ji⁶	haak⁸
měi	féng	jiā	jié	bèi	sī	qīn
每	逢	佳	節	倍	思	親
mui⁵	fung⁴	gaai¹	zit⁸	pui⁵	si¹	can¹
yáo	zhī	xiōng	dì	dēng	gāo	chù
遙	知	兄	弟	登	高	處
jiu⁴	zi¹	hing¹	dai⁶	dang¹	gou¹	cyu³
biàn	chā	zhū	yú	shǎo	yì	rén
遍	插	茱	萸	少	一	人
pin³	caap³	zyu¹	jyu⁴	siu²	jat⁷	jan⁴

## 【釋文】

我單獨在外地作客，甚為孤獨，每逢遇到節日，必定想起故鄉的親人。在九月九日重陽那天，想你們必定往登高避邪，但在配戴茱萸時，卻少了我一人。

## 【注釋】

九月九日——重陽節，也稱重九。

山東——山東（非今之山東省）山之東面，王維之家時已由太原祈（今山西祈縣）遷至蒲，蒲（今山西永濟縣）在華山以東，故稱山東。

茱萸——植物名，有濃烈香味，古代風俗，重陽節佩戴茱萸布袋，以辟邪穢。

少一人——少了自己一人。

遍插 茱萸 少一人



# Thinking of My Brothers of East of Mountain Hua at the Double-Ninth Festival

Wang Wei

I stay as a stranger in a foreign land  
alone *still*.  
I long for my family  
twice more on festival *days*.  
From afar I know  
my brothers are gathering on the *hill*.  
They miss me most of all  
when putting on the dogwood *sprays*.



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

As a lone traveler, I feel particularly lonesome and homesick during festivals. On this day of Double Ninth, I figure you and family members must have gone mountain climbing to stay away from plagues and evils, and all of you must have worn dogwood on your sleeves, with only me missing from the clan.

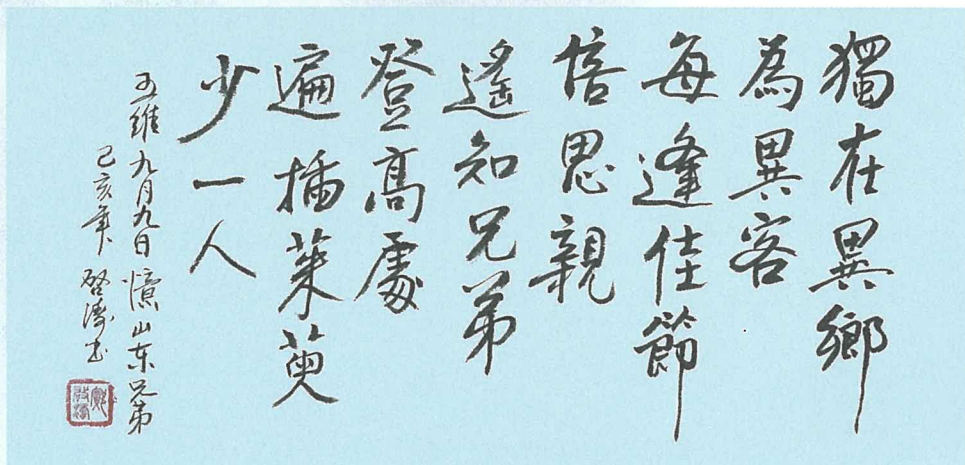
## 【 Notes on phrases 】

九月九日 — Chong Yang Festival, on the ninth day of the ninth month, also called Double Ninth Festival.

山東 — 山東 (not the present Shandong Province), refers to east of the mountain. Wang Wei's family at that time had moved from Tai Yuan Municipal Qi County (the present Qi County of Shanxi Province) to Pu. Pu (the present Yongji County of Shanxi Province) is east of Hua Shan, hence his reference to east of the mountain.

茱萸 — dogwood, a plant with a strong fragrance. In ancient customs, people wore cloth pouches filled with pieces of dogwood to ward off plagues and evil spirits.

少一人 — short of one person (with himself missing).



# 鹿柴

lù

zhài

㊦ luk<sup>9</sup>

zaai<sup>6</sup>

· 王 維 ·

wáng

wéi

wong<sup>4</sup>

wai<sup>4</sup>

kōng	shān	bú	jiàn	rén
空	山	不	見	人
hung <sup>1</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	gin <sup>3</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>
dàn	wén	rén	yǔ	xiǎng
但	聞	人	語	響
daan <sup>6</sup>	man <sup>4</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>	jyu <sup>5</sup>	hoeng <sup>2</sup>
fǎn	jǐng	rù	shēn	lín
返	景	入	深	林
faan <sup>2</sup>	jing <sup>2</sup>	jap <sup>9</sup>	sam <sup>1</sup>	lam <sup>4</sup>
fù	zhào	qīng	tái	shàng
復	照	青	苔	上
fuk <sup>9</sup>	ziu <sup>3</sup>	cing <sup>1</sup>	toi <sup>4</sup>	soeng <sup>6</sup>



## 【釋文】

在深山裏面不見有人影，但卻聽見有人說話的聲音；在陽光反照下，映照在樹林的深處，也見到地面的青苔，一片青綠，環境幽美。

## 【注釋】

鹿柴——王維在輞川別墅的一景。柴，古時通「寨」「砦」，有籬笆的村居。

返景——日光反照的影子，可讀返影。

# The Deer Enclosure

Wang Wei

Empty is the mountain  
where can be seen no *one*;

Only the echoes are heard  
of human *voices*.

Shining into the deep woods  
comes the evening *sun*;

And the dapples of light dance  
on the green *mosses*.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Deep in the mountain, there is no one in sight, but only the noise of people talking can be heard. The sunlight penetrating the deep woods is reflected on the green moss amidst the land of green.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

鹿柴 — a scene of Wang Wei's villa in Wangchuan. 柴, also used interchangeably with 寨, meaning village abode with fences.

返景 — shadows reflected by the sunlight.

空山不見人但聞人語  
響返景入深林復照  
青苔上 王维鹿柴 國權書



# 竹里館

zhú lǐ guǎn  
◎ zuk<sup>7</sup> lei<sup>5</sup> gun<sup>2</sup>

· 王 維 ·  
wáng wéi  
wong<sup>4</sup> wai<sup>4</sup>

dú	zuò	yōu	huáng	lǐ
獨	坐	幽	篁	裏
duk <sup>9</sup>	zo <sup>6</sup>	jau <sup>1</sup>	wong <sup>4</sup>	leoi <sup>5</sup>
tán	qín	fù	cháng	xiào
彈	琴	復	長	嘯
taan <sup>4</sup>	kam <sup>4</sup>	fuk <sup>9</sup>	coeng <sup>4</sup>	siu <sup>3</sup>
shēn	lín	rén	bù	zhī
深	林	人	不	知
sam <sup>1</sup>	lam <sup>4</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	zi <sup>1</sup>
míng	yuè	lái	xiāng	zhào
明	月	來	相	照
ming <sup>4</sup>	iyut <sup>9</sup>	loi <sup>4</sup>	soeng <sup>1</sup>	ziu <sup>3</sup>

獨坐  
幽篁裏  
彈琴  
復長嘯



## 【釋文】

我獨自坐在幽靜的竹林裡，一面彈琴，一面引吭高歌。

竹林幽深，沒有人知道我在哪裏，幸而尚有皎潔的月亮來陪伴。

## 【注釋】

幽篁——深深的竹林。

復——粵音亦可讀fau<sup>6</sup>埠。

長嘯——吟誦、歌唱。



# The Bamboo Grove

Wang Wei

I sit all alone in the bamboo grove,  
quiet and **free**;

I keep on whistling and chanting  
while playing on my **lute**.

Deep in the woods,  
nobody in the world knows about **me**;

To the bright moon coming to greet me,  
here is my **salute**.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Alone amidst the quiet bamboo grove I sit, playing the zither and singing all by myself.

The bamboo grove is so lush and remote from the crowd that no one knows that I am there. Luckily there is the shining moon to accompany me.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

幽篁 — deep, deep bamboo grove.

復 — in Cantonese, it can be pronounced as /fau/.

長嘯 — reciting, singing.





# 相思

xiāng sī  
soeng<sup>1</sup> si<sup>1</sup>

· 王 維 ·  
wáng wéi  
wong<sup>4</sup> wai<sup>4</sup>

hóng 紅	dòu 豆	shēng 生	nán 南	guó 國
hung <sup>4</sup>	dau <sup>6</sup>	saang <sup>1</sup>	naam <sup>4</sup>	gwok <sup>8</sup>
chūn 春	lái 來	fā 發	jǐ 幾	zhī 枝
ceon <sup>1</sup>	loi <sup>4</sup>	faat <sup>8</sup>	gei <sup>2</sup>	zi <sup>1</sup>
yuàn 願	jūn 君	duō 多	cǎi 采	xié 擷
yun <sup>6</sup>	gwan <sup>1</sup>	do <sup>1</sup>	coi <sup>2</sup>	git <sup>8</sup>
cǐ 此	wù 物	zuì 最	xiāng 相	sī 思
ci <sup>2</sup>	mat <sup>9</sup>	zeoi <sup>3</sup>	soeng <sup>1</sup>	si <sup>1</sup>

願君多採擷  
此物最相思

啓清玉



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## 【釋文】

相思豆在我國南部生長，春天一到便發新芽結子，希望你多採摘一些，見到此豆，便會想起我來。

## 【注釋】

紅豆—別名相思子，木本，冬春間結實像豌豆，微扁，豆色鮮紅像珊瑚，心形間有黑點，可作飾物。

南國—因相思子多產於我國嶺南，故稱。

春來—春天到。

採擷—採摘。



# Yearning

Wang Wei

From the south land  
come the love *peas*;  
In the springtime  
they sprout and *grow*.  
Pick them  
as many as you *please*;  
Your deep yearning  
they can best *show*.



紅豆製手鈿  
(啟濤購自梅州博物館)

Bracelet made of love peas  
(Dr. K.T. Kwong bought it from Meizhou Museum)

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Love peas grow in the southern part of my country, and when spring comes, they will start to sprout and bear fruit. I hope you would pick more of them because when you see them, you will be thinking of me.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

紅豆 — also known as seeds of love, a tree which bears red seeds like slightly flattened out peas in winter and spring. As the colour of the seeds is coral red, with black dot in the middle of its heart shape, it can also be made into an ornament.

南國 — as Seeds of Love are often found in the south of the mountain range, hence it was referred to as south of country.

春來 — the arrival of spring.

采擷 — picking.



# 望廬山瀑布


wàng lú shān pù bù  
㊦ mong<sup>6</sup> lou<sup>4</sup> saan<sup>1</sup> buk<sup>9</sup> bou<sup>3</sup>

· 李 白 ·  
lǐ bái  
lei<sup>5</sup> baak<sup>9</sup>

日	照	香	爐	生	紫	煙
jat <sup>9</sup>	zi <sup>3</sup>	hoeng <sup>1</sup>	lou <sup>4</sup>	sang <sup>1</sup>	zi <sup>2</sup>	jin <sup>1</sup>
遙	看	瀑	布	掛	前	川
jiu <sup>4</sup>	hon <sup>3</sup>	buk <sup>9</sup>	bou <sup>9</sup>	gwaa <sup>3</sup>	cin <sup>4</sup>	cyun <sup>1</sup>
飛	流	直	下	三	千	尺
fei <sup>1</sup>	lau <sup>4</sup>	zik <sup>9</sup>	haa <sup>6</sup>	saam <sup>1</sup>	cin <sup>1</sup>	cek <sup>8</sup>
疑	是	銀	河	落	九	天
ji <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>6</sup>	ngan <sup>4</sup>	ho <sup>4</sup>	lok <sup>9</sup>	gau <sup>2-</sup>	tin <sup>1</sup>

飛流直下三千尺  
疑是銀河落九天

李太白



## 【釋文】

陽光照在遠處的香爐峯上，祇見雲霧水氣裊裊上升，像紫色的香爐煙在繚繞。

遠處峭壁上有長長的瀑布衝流而下，活像一匹白練掛在山岩間似的，使人聯想是不是天上的銀河從高空掉下來的呢！

## 【注釋】

- 廬山——在今江西省九江南面。
- 香爐——指香爐峰，在廬山的西北。
- 前川——指山前瀑布流下的流水。
- 九天——古代傳說天有九重，九天即天之最高處。

## Viewing the Lushan Waterfall

Li Bai

The sun shines bright on the Censer Peak  
in a purple *haze*.

The falls hang on the mountain  
at a distance as I *gaze*.

There goes the water  
flying down three thousand feet from *high*.

I wonder  
if the Milky Way has dropped from the Ninth *Sky*.

### 【 Explanatory notes 】

With the sun shining on the Incense Burner Peak in the far distance, I could see the mist and cloud rising up and wrapping around the mountain top like the purple smoke rising above an incense burner. Rushing down the cliff afar is a long waterfall, hanging on the cliff like a long piece of cloth rolling down, making people wonder if it's the Milky Way dropping from the sky.

### 【 Notes on phrases 】

廬山 — a mountain in the present Jiangxi province, south of Jiujiang (Nine Rivers).

香爐 — incense burner, referring to the Incense Burner Peak in the north west of Lushan.

前川 — referring to the water running down from the waterfall in the front of the mountain.

九天 — in ancient legend, there are nine levels in the sky. 九天-literally means "nine skies", refers to the highest level in the sky.

日照香爐生紫煙  
遙看瀑布掛前川  
飛流直下三千尺  
疑是銀河落九天

李白望廬山瀑布  
己亥國權

# 靜夜思

jìng yè sī  
⑤ zing<sup>6</sup> je<sup>6</sup> si<sup>1</sup>

· 李 白 ·  
lǐ bái  
lei<sup>5</sup> baak<sup>9</sup>

chuáng	qián	míng	yuè	guāng
床	前	明	月	光
cong <sup>4</sup>	cin <sup>4</sup>	ming <sup>4</sup>	jyut <sup>9</sup>	gwong <sup>1</sup>
yí	shì	dì	shàng	shuāng
疑	是	地	上	霜
ji <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>6</sup>	dei <sup>6</sup>	soeng <sup>6</sup>	soeng <sup>1</sup>
jǔ	tóu	wàng	míng	yuè
舉	頭	望	明	月
geoi <sup>2</sup>	tau <sup>4</sup>	mong <sup>6</sup>	ming <sup>4</sup>	jyut <sup>9</sup>
dī	tóu	sī	gù	xiāng
低	頭	思	故	鄉
dai <sup>1</sup>	tau <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>1</sup>	gu <sup>3</sup>	hoeng <sup>1</sup>

## 【釋文】

明月照遍大地，倚在牀上往外望去，祇見地面上白茫茫一片，使人懷疑是地上鋪滿了霜。


抬頭望望天上的明月，不由得使遊人沉思，想起了自己的家鄉來。

## 【注釋】

地上霜——北方秋天的夜晚，天氣寒冷，空中的水氣在地面上遇冷凝結成薄薄的一層霜。

舉頭望明月  
低頭思故鄉

李太白詩  
畫




# Night Thoughts

Li Bai

Before my bed  
there was moonlight I *found*,  
But mistook it  
for some frost on the *ground*.  
Raising my head,  
I gazed at the bright *moon*;  
Dropping my head,  
I missed my hometown *soon*.

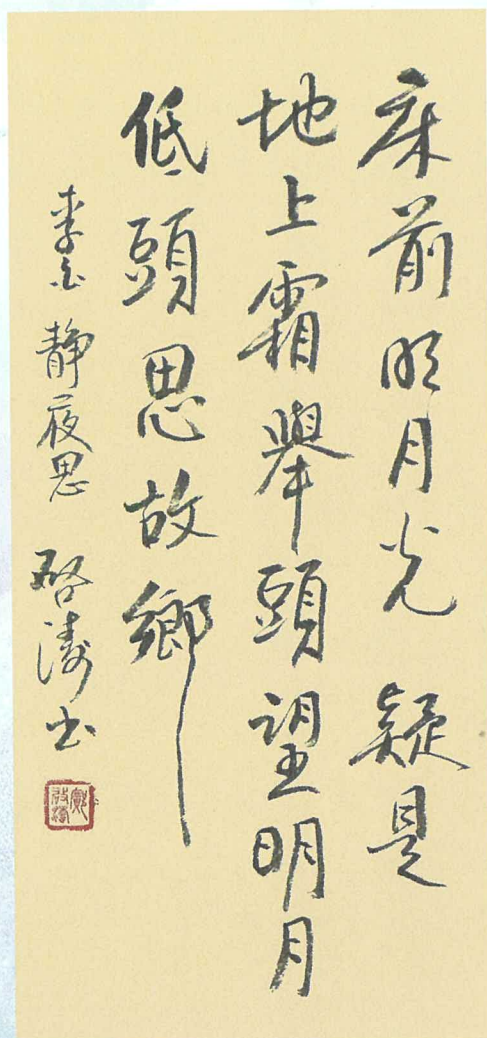
## 【 Explanatory notes 】

As the moonlight beams on the earth, when I look outside while leaning on my bed, I can only see a stretch of silvery white on the ground, making me wonder if it is covered with frost.

When I look up onto the moon in the sky, missing my hometown very much, I can't help burying myself in deep thoughts.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

地上霜 - the cold weather of the autumn night in the north turns the moist on the ground into a layer of thin frost.



# 送孟浩然之廣陵

sòng mèng hào rán zhī guǎng líng  
 ④ sung<sup>3</sup> maang<sup>6</sup> hou<sup>6</sup> jin<sup>4</sup> zi<sup>1</sup> gwong<sup>2</sup> ling<sup>4</sup>

· 李 白 ·  
 lí bái  
 lei<sup>5</sup> baak<sup>9</sup>

gù	rén	xī	cí	huáng	hè	lóu
故	人	西	辭	黃	鶴	樓
gu <sup>3</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>	sai <sup>1</sup>	ci <sup>4</sup>	wong <sup>4</sup>	hok <sup>9</sup>	lau <sup>4</sup>
yān	huā	sān	yuè	xià	yáng	zhōu
煙	花	三	月	下	揚	州
jin <sup>1</sup>	faa <sup>1</sup>	saam <sup>1</sup>	iyut <sup>9</sup>	haa <sup>6</sup>	joeng <sup>4</sup>	zau <sup>1</sup>
gū	fān	yuǎn	yǐng	bì	kōng	jìn
孤	帆	遠	影	碧	空	盡
gu <sup>1</sup>	faan <sup>4</sup>	iyun <sup>5</sup>	ying <sup>2</sup>	bik <sup>7</sup>	hung <sup>1</sup>	zeon <sup>6</sup>
wéi	jiàn	cháng	jiāng	tiān	jì	liú
惟	見	長	江	天	際	流
wai <sup>4</sup>	gin <sup>3</sup>	coeng <sup>4</sup>	gong <sup>1</sup>	tin <sup>1</sup>	zai <sup>3</sup>	lau <sup>4</sup>

## 【釋文】

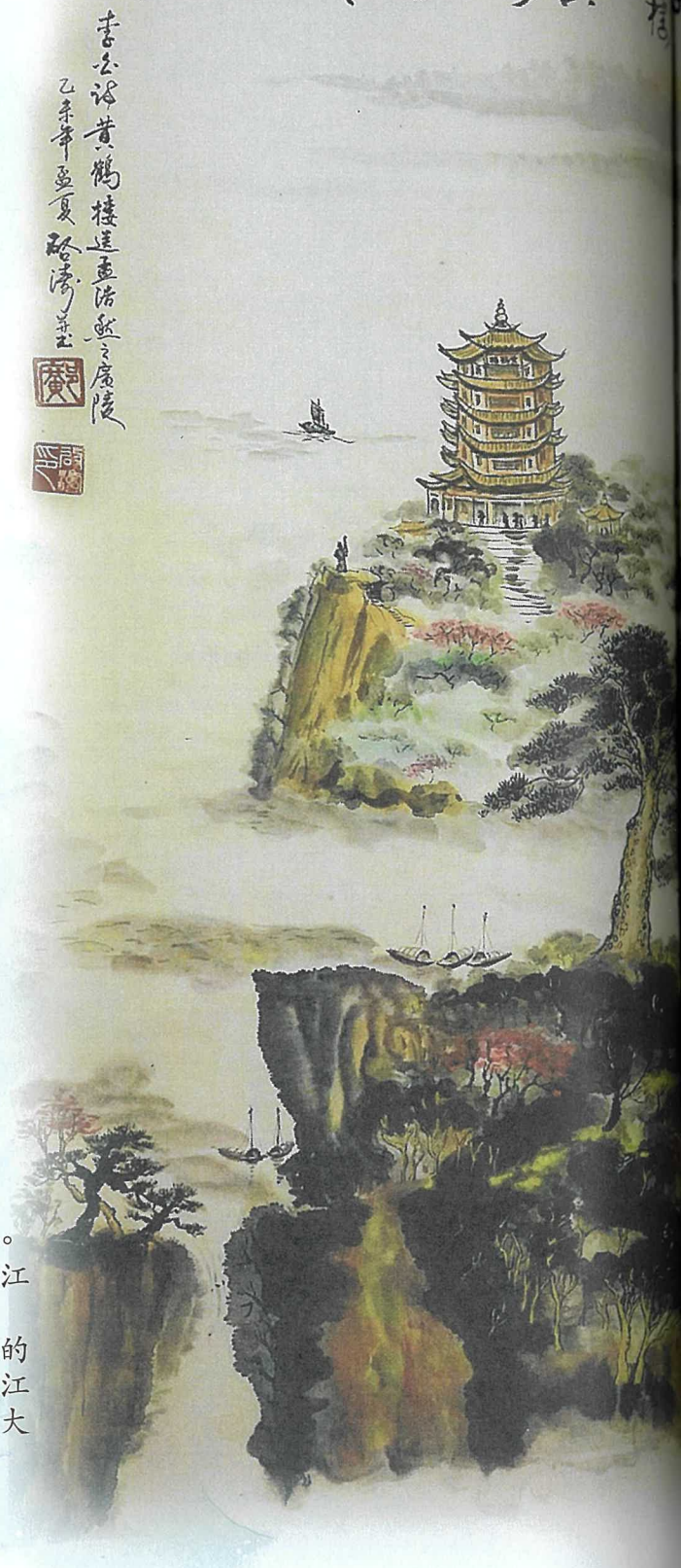
李白的朋友孟浩然要離別黃鶴樓，在霧霾的陽春三月往東面的揚州遊覽，李白那時的心情悵惘，目送一葉扁舟揚孤帆而飄去，一會兒便消失於碧藍的天空下，祇見滔滔的江水，還在遠處的天邊流動。

## 【注釋】

之——往、到，之廣陵，即往廣陵。  
 廣陵——舊縣名，故城在今江蘇省江都縣東北。  
 黃鶴樓——黃鶴樓矗立於武漢市武昌的蛇山上，與湖南岳陽樓及江西滕王閣合稱為“江南三大名樓”。  
 揚州——今江蘇揚州。

三月六日  
 揚州  
 孤帆  
 遠影  
 碧空  
 惟見  
 長江  
 天際流

李白詩黃鶴樓送孟浩然之廣陵  
 乙未年夏  
 路濟書



# Farewell to Meng Haoran Leaving for Guangling

Li Bai

My old friend bid his farewell to the west  
and left the Yellow Crane *Tower*.

Down the way to Yangzhou  
the late spring was misty with many a *flower*.

His lone sail but a distant shadow  
disappeared on the bright *horizon*.

Only could I see the Long River  
keep flowing to the end of *Heaven*.



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Meng Haoran, Li Bai's friend was leaving the Tower of the Yellow Crane to visit Yangzhou in the east amidst the misty weather of late spring in March. Li Bai was feeling quite lost when he saw his friend leaving in a small sailing boat. As the boat went out of his sight under the blue sky, he could only see the river flowing towards the horizon afar.

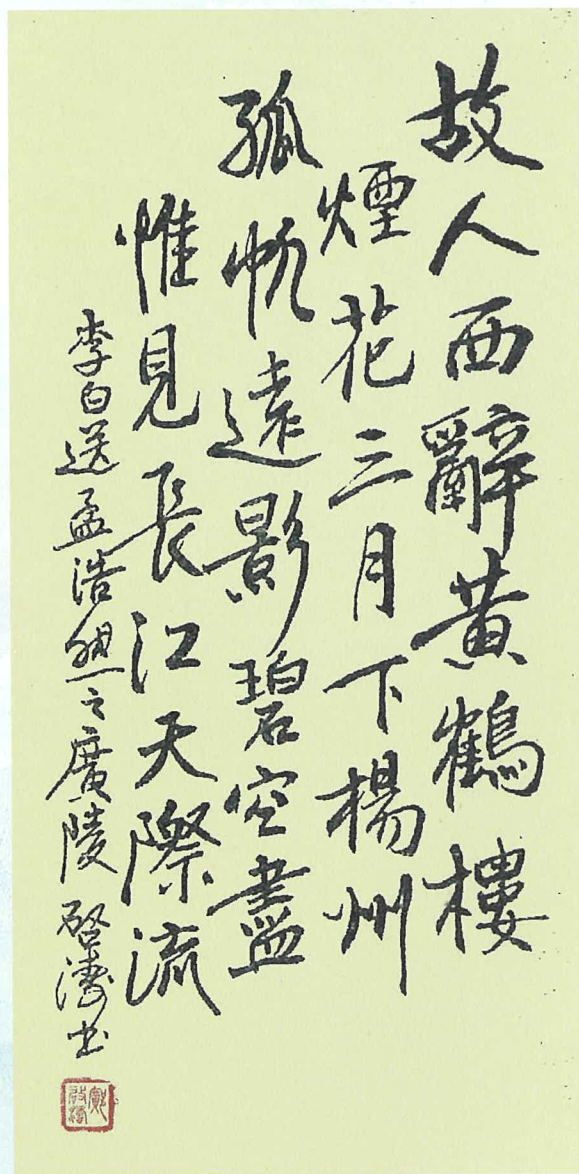
## 【 Notes on phrases 】

之 —— go to, arriving at; 之廣陵, means to go to Guangling.

廣陵 —— old name for a county, the old city is at the north east of the present Jiangdu County of Jiangsu Province.

黃鶴樓 —— the Yellow Crane Tower stands at the She Shan (Snake Hill) of Wuchang City of Wuhan Municipality. Together with the Yueyang Tower in Hunan, Tengwang Tower in Jiangxi, they are collectively referred to as the "Three most renowned towers in Jiangnan".

揚州 —— the present Yangzhou in Jiangsu.





# 下江陵

xià jiāng líng  
 ⑥ haa<sup>6</sup> gong<sup>1</sup> ling<sup>4</sup>

李 白  
 lǐ bái  
 lei<sup>5</sup> baak<sup>9</sup>

zhāo	cí	bái	dì	cǎi	yún	jiān
朝	辭	白	帝	彩	雲	間
ziu <sup>1</sup>	ci <sup>4</sup>	baak <sup>9</sup>	dai <sup>3</sup>	coi <sup>2</sup>	wan <sup>4</sup>	gaan <sup>1</sup>
qiān	lǐ	jiāng	líng	yí	rì	huán
千	里	江	陵	一	日	還
cin <sup>1</sup>	lei <sup>5</sup>	gong <sup>1</sup>	ling <sup>4</sup>	jat <sup>7</sup>	jat <sup>9</sup>	waan <sup>4</sup>
liǎng	àn	yuán	shēng	tí	bú	zhù
兩	岸	猿	聲	啼	不	住
loeng <sup>5</sup>	ngon <sup>6</sup>	yun <sup>4</sup>	sing <sup>1</sup>	tai <sup>4</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	zyu <sup>6</sup>
qīng	zhōu	yǐ	guò	wàn	chóng	shān
輕	舟	已	過	萬	重	山
hing <sup>1</sup>	zau <sup>1</sup>	ji <sup>5</sup>	gwo <sup>3</sup>	maan <sup>6</sup>	cung <sup>4</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>

## 【釋文】

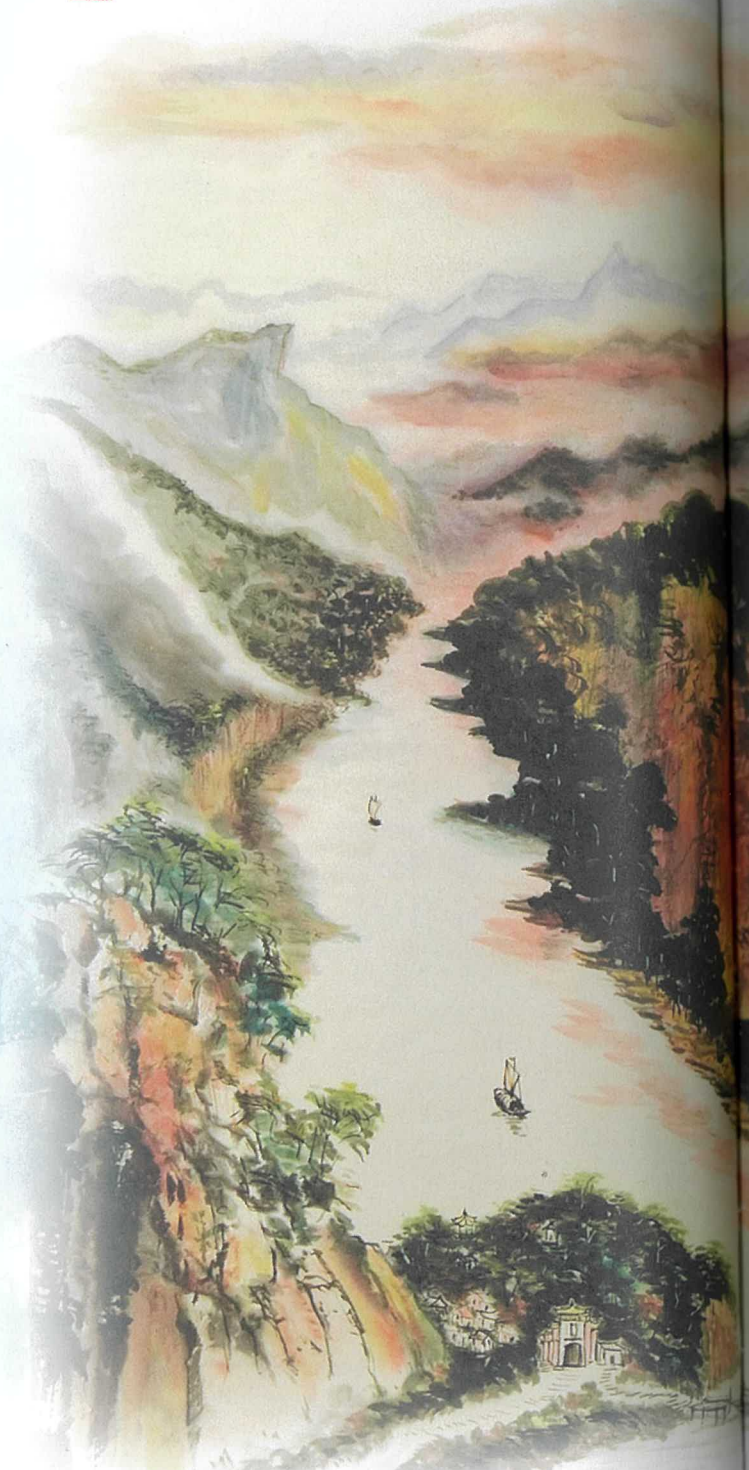
晨光熹微中，天上彩雲飄渺。我離開了白帝城，雇一葉小舟順流而下，傍晚時已到達千里外的江陵；途中兩岸有猿猴嘈吵的叫聲，但影響不到我的心情，小舟很快已渡過千萬重的大山，送我到目的地了。

## 【注釋】

白帝城——位於今重慶市奉節，近長江三峽之瞿塘峽口。

江陵——今湖北潛江市西南，唐時稱江陵府。

李白下江陵詩  
 乙未夏月時年八十九  
 李 白  
 朝辭白帝彩雲間  
 千里江陵一日還  
 兩岸猿聲不住  
 輕舟已過萬重山



# Leaving for Jiangling

Li Bai

I left the city of Baidi  
among colourful clouds at *dawn*.  
To return to Jiangling  
I was sailing a thousand miles a *day*.  
From both banks of the river  
the monkeys were crying on and *on*.  
My light boat had passed by  
mountains after mountains along the *way*.

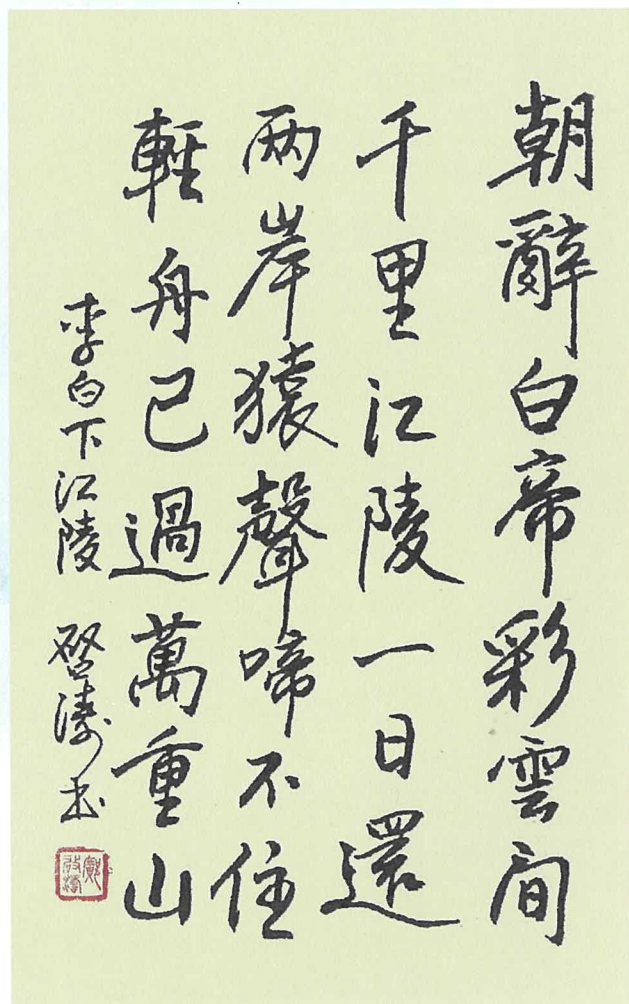
## 【 Explanatory notes 】

At the first cast of morning sunlight, when the colourful morning clouds were still drifting, I left the City of Baidi, hired a small boat to go down stream. In the evening I already arrived at Jiangling a thousand miles away. The howling of the apes on the river banks all along the way did not affect my mood. The boat went past thousands of mountains very fast, sending me to my destination.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

白帝城 — City of Baidi, situated in the present Chongqing Municipality Fengjie County, near the Qutang Gorge of Changjiang.

江陵 — at the south west of present Qianjiang Municipality of Hubei Province. It is called Jiangling Municipality in Tang Dynasty.



# 楓橋夜泊

fēng qiáo yè bó  
① fung<sup>1</sup> kiu<sup>4</sup> je<sup>6</sup> bok<sup>9</sup>

· 張 繼 ·

zhāng jì  
zoeng'gai<sup>9</sup>

yuè	luò	wū	tí	shuāng	mǎn	tiān
月	落	烏	啼	霜	滿	天
iyut <sup>9</sup>	lok <sup>9</sup>	wu <sup>1</sup>	tai <sup>4</sup>	soeng <sup>1</sup>	mun <sup>5</sup>	tin <sup>1</sup>
jiāng	fēng	yú	huǒ	duì	chóu	mián
江	楓	漁	火	對	愁	眠
gong <sup>1</sup>	fung <sup>1</sup>	ju <sup>4</sup>	fo <sup>2</sup>	deoi <sup>3</sup>	sau <sup>4</sup>	min <sup>4</sup>
gū	sū	chéng	wài	hán	shān	sì
姑	蘇	城	外	寒	山	寺
gu <sup>1</sup>	sou <sup>1</sup>	sing <sup>4</sup>	ngoi <sup>6</sup>	hon <sup>4</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>	zi <sup>6</sup>
yè	bàn	zhōng	shēng	dào	kè	chuán
夜	半	鐘	聲	到	客	船
je <sup>6</sup>	bun <sup>3</sup>	zung <sup>1</sup>	sing <sup>1</sup>	dou <sup>3</sup>	haak <sup>8</sup>	syun <sup>4</sup>

## 【釋文】

月亮下去了，烏鴉歸巢在吱喳吵鬧，秋末霜露滿天紛飛。

江邊火紅的楓葉與夜晚漁船的燈火互相映照着，使人在客船上更顯得孤獨。

半夜，姑蘇城外寒山寺沉悶的鐘聲響起，聲聲好像敲進遊子的心扉。

## 【注釋】

楓橋——在今蘇州城外。


江楓——江邊的楓樹。

姑蘇——蘇州的別稱。

夜半鐘聲——古時寺廟的鐘聲在半夜敲響，現代已用晨鐘方式在早上敲。

姑蘇城外  
寒山寺  
夜半鐘聲  
到客船

啓濟



# Night Mooring by the Maple Bridge

Zhang Ji

The moon sinking, the crows cawing,  
the frost is all over the **sky**.

Watching the river maples and fishermen's fires,  
I sadly **lie**.

Outside the walls of Gusu City,  
there stands the Hanshan Temple.

Coming from the temple to my guest boat,  
the midnight bell tolls **by**.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

As the moon sets, the returning crows are croaking and cawing noisily, the late autumn frost is covering the whole sky. The flickering lights of the fishing boats at night are reflecting the fiery red maple leaves along the river bank, making me feel ever so lonesome in my boat. At midnight, every dull sound of the bell toll from the Cold Mountain Monastery on the outskirts of the Gusu city seems to be striking my heart, one who is far away from home.

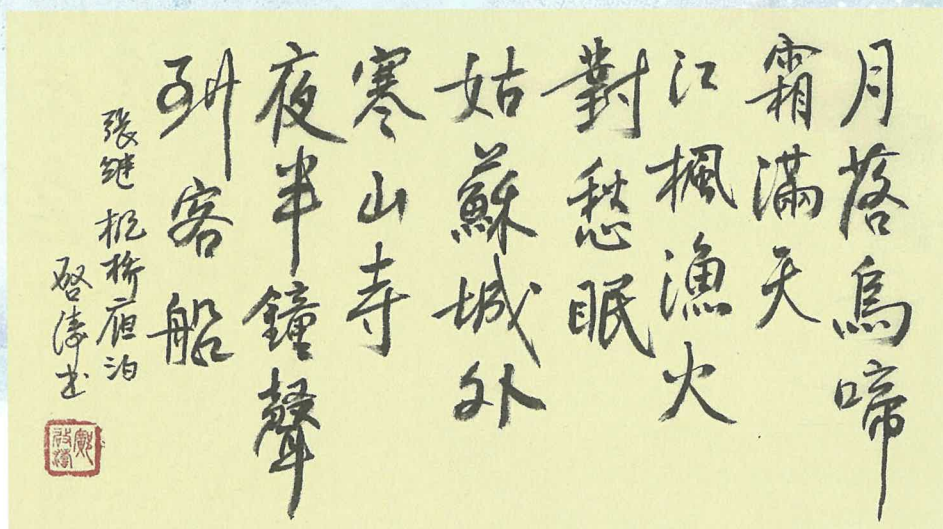
## 【 Notes on phrases 】

楓橋 —— in the present Suzhou city suburb.

江楓 —— the maples on the side of the stream.

姑蘇 —— another name for Suzhou.

夜半鐘聲 — in ancient time, bells of temples or monasteries were struck at mid night, but nowadays, the striking of the bells is done in the morning.



智玲

# 遊子吟

yóu zǐ yín  
ㄩㄠˊ ㄗˇ ㄧㄣˊ

· 孟 郊 ·  
mèng jiāo  
maang<sup>6</sup> gaau<sup>1</sup>



cí mǔ shǒu zhōng xiàn  
慈 母 手 中 線

ci<sup>4</sup> mou<sup>5</sup> sau<sup>2</sup> zung<sup>1</sup> sin<sup>3</sup>

lín xíng mì mì féng  
臨 行 密 密 縫

lam<sup>4</sup> hang<sup>4</sup> mat<sup>9</sup> mat<sup>9</sup> fung<sup>4</sup>

shuí yán cùn cǎo xīn  
誰 言 寸 草 心

seoi<sup>4</sup> jin<sup>4</sup> cyun<sup>3</sup> cou<sup>2</sup> sam<sup>1</sup>

yóu zǐ shēn shàng yī  
遊 子 身 上 衣

jau<sup>4</sup> zi<sup>2</sup> san<sup>1</sup> soeng<sup>6</sup> ji<sup>1</sup>

yì kǒng chí chí guī  
意 恐 遲 遲 歸

ji<sup>3</sup> hung<sup>2</sup> ci<sup>4</sup> ci<sup>4</sup> gwai<sup>1</sup>

bào dé sān chūn huī  
報 得 三 春 暉

bou<sup>3</sup> dak<sup>7</sup> saam<sup>1</sup> ceon<sup>1</sup> fai<sup>1</sup>

## 【釋文】

慈母手中一根根的細線，一針針的將衣服縫好，這件是給遊子穿着的。當兒子快要出門的時候，慈母便日夜趕工，儘快把衣服縫好，惟恐遊子在外面着涼，耽誤行程，遲遲未能回家。誰能說我們像世上細細小草一樣的子女，能够報答好像春天陽光般溫暖的母愛恩德呢？

## 【注釋】

遊子——離家外遊的人。

吟——唱，古典詩歌一種。

寸草——小小的草，象徵子女的孝心。

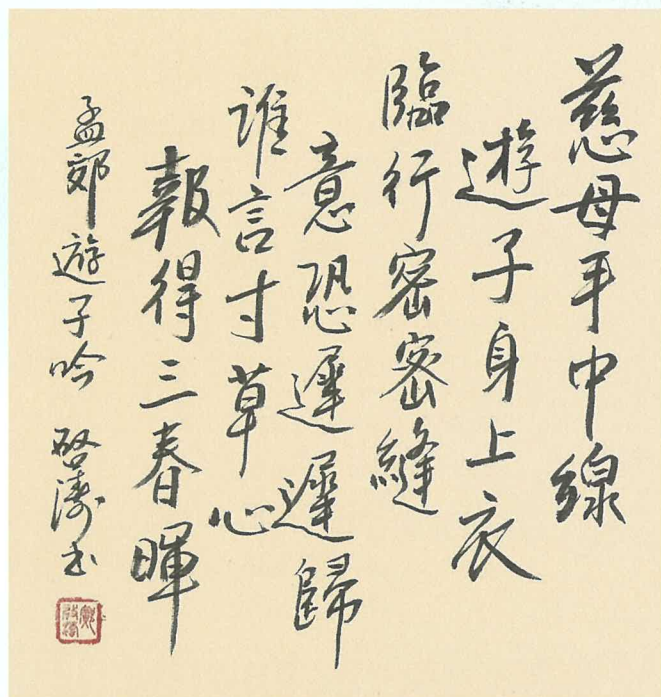
三春暉——春天是農曆一月、二月、三月，所以叫三春，古時稱一月為孟春，二月為仲春，三月為季春。暉則指陽光，三春暉，指春天溫暖的陽光。



# The Song of a Travelling Son

Meng Jiao

The needle and threads  
in a loving mother's **hands**.  
Make clothes on her son  
travelling to far-off **lands**.  
She works hard at sewing  
before he goes **away**.  
For fear that her son  
may return home in **delay**.  
Who says,  
by sharing just a little **affection**,  
The son can pay back  
all his mother's **devotion**?



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

The thin thread in the hands of a caring mother, is used to stitch up the clothes she is making for her son who is about to leave home soon. The caring mother works on the new clothes day and night, to make sure that they will be done before her son's departure so as to ensure his return will not be delayed by a possible cold due to insufficient warm clothing.

Who says we, as children, are ever able to repay the great love of our mother, whose love for us is like the shine of the warm sun upon the tiny lowly grass in spring?

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

遊子 — the child who is leaving home to travel afar.

吟 — Sing, Classical poetry.

寸草 — tiny little grass, symbolizing the filial heart of one's children.

三春暉 — the first three months of the Lunar calendar are considered spring time. In ancient time, the first month of the Lunar calendar is referred to as Early Spring, the second month is referred to as Mid Spring, and the third month is referred to as Late Spring. Hence the first three months are called "three springs". 暉, refers to the sunshine. The whole phrase refers to the warm sunshine in spring time.

憫 農

mǐn  
man<sup>5</sup>

nóng  
nung<sup>4</sup>

李  
lǐ  
lei<sup>5</sup>

紳  
shēn  
san<sup>1</sup>

chú 鋤 co <sup>4</sup>	hé 禾 wo <sup>4</sup>	rì 日 jat <sup>9</sup>	dāng 當 dong <sup>1</sup>	wǔ 午 ng <sup>5</sup>
hàn 汗 hon <sup>6</sup>	dī 滴 dik <sup>9</sup>	hé 禾 wo <sup>4</sup>	xià 下 haa <sup>6</sup>	tǔ 土 tou <sup>2</sup>
shuí 誰 seoi <sup>4</sup>	zhī 知 zi <sup>1</sup>	pán 盤 pun <sup>4</sup>	zhōng 中 zung <sup>1</sup>	sūn 飧 syun <sup>1</sup>
lì 粒 lap <sup>7</sup>	lì 粒 lap <sup>7</sup>	jiē 皆 gai <sup>1</sup>	xīn 辛 san <sup>1</sup>	kǔ 苦 fu <sup>2</sup>

鋤禾日當午  
汗滴禾下土

啟濤  
畫



【釋文】

農民在田間工作，當午間太陽高照，仍不停地在耕作，汗流浹背地汗水滴落田畝上。

有誰會想起我們每天食用的米飯，每一粒都是農夫們辛苦地種出來的呢？

【注釋】

憫農 — 對農民辛苦工作有憐憫的心。

鋤禾 — 指農事耕作，禾，穀類植物的統稱。

當午 — 正當在午間。

飧 — (音 sūn，粵音 syun 孫) 晚飯，熟食。

智玲

# Taking Pity on the Farmers

Li Shen

The farmers hoe the rice fields  
at noon as they *toil*.

The sun is so hot that their sweat  
drips to the *soil*.

At meals, do you know all about  
their aches and *pains*

When the farmers plant and harvest  
each of the *grains*?



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

The farmers who work in the field still have to continue to work hard when the sun at noon time is beating down on them. Their sweat keeps dripping down from their back to the soil in the field.

Who would realise that every single grain of the rice we eat every day, comes from the hard work of the farmers?

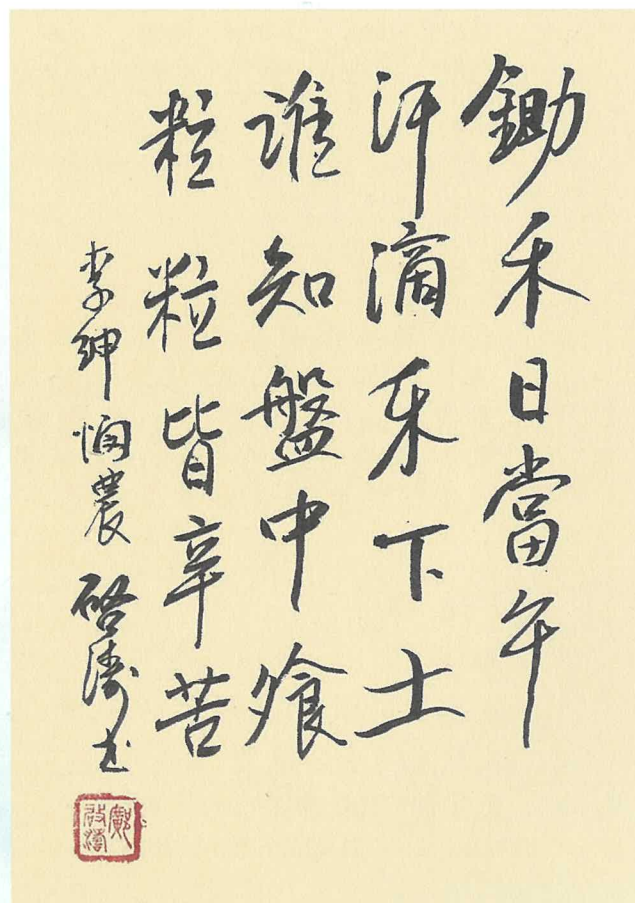
## 【 Notes on phrases 】

憫農 — to have sympathy for the farmers for their hard work.

鋤禾 — referring to the work in farming in general. 禾, a generic name for cereal type of vegetation.

當午 — at noon time, mid-day.

飧 — dinner, cooked food, pronounced as / sun / in Putonghua and / syun / in Cantonese.





# 江 雪

jiāng xuě  
gong<sup>1</sup> syut<sup>8</sup>

· 柳 宗 元 ·  
liǔ zōngyuán  
lau<sup>5</sup> zung<sup>1</sup> jyun<sup>4</sup>

qiān 千 cin <sup>1</sup>	shān 山 saan <sup>1</sup>	niǎo 鳥 niu <sup>5</sup>	fēi 飛 fei <sup>1</sup>	jué 絕 zyut <sup>9</sup>
wàn 萬 maan <sup>6</sup>	jìng 徑 ging <sup>3</sup>	rén 人 jan <sup>4</sup>	zōng 蹤 zung <sup>1</sup>	miè 滅 mit <sup>9</sup>
gū 孤 gu <sup>1</sup>	zhōu 舟 zau <sup>1</sup>	suō 蓑 so <sup>1</sup>	lì 笠 lap <sup>7</sup>	wēng 翁 jung <sup>1</sup>
dú 獨 duk <sup>9</sup>	diào 釣 diu <sup>3</sup>	hán 寒 hon <sup>4</sup>	jiāng 江 gong <sup>1</sup>	xuě 雪 syut <sup>8</sup>

## 【釋文】


在千萬重山嶺上，看不見有鳥兒飛過，許多山間小徑也沒有行人，祇看見在一葉扁舟上，有個披着蓑衣、頭戴竹笠的老翁，在那寒冷的風雪下，孤獨地在江上垂釣。

## 【注釋】

千山——千萬重山嶺。  
 萬徑——許多山間小徑。  
 人蹤滅——看不見行人的蹤迹。  
 蓑笠翁——披着防雨雪的蓑衣，頭戴着竹笠的老翁。

孤舟  
 蓑笠翁  
 獨釣  
 寒江雪

啓濟書




# Snow on the River

Liu Zongyuan

Over a thousand hills and mountains  
not a single bird was seen in flight;  
Along ten thousand tracks and trails  
not a human footprint could be in sight.  
A lone boat came with an old man  
wearing a straw cloak and a bamboo hat;  
He went fishing all by himself  
on the river of snow, so cold and white.



南方漁翁蓑衣——攝自博物館

Straw raincoat and bamboo hat worn  
by fishermen in the south – photo taken at a museum

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

Above the endless mountain range, there is not a single flying bird in sight. On the mountain trails, not a single person can be found. There is only an old man wearing a straw cloak with a bamboo hat, fishing lonely in a boat under the bitter coldness of wind and snow.

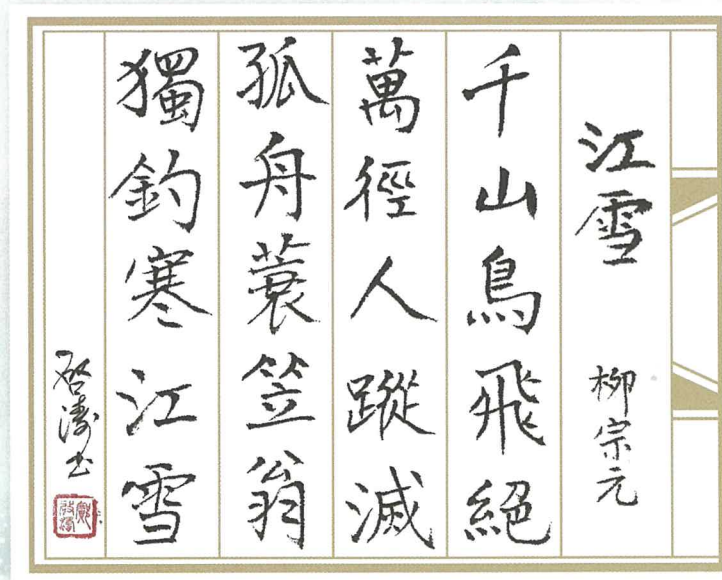
## 【 Notes on phrases 】

千山 —— thousands of mountain range.

萬徑 —— myriads of trails in the mountains.

人蹤滅 —— cannot see a trace of pedestrians.

蓑笠翁 —— an old man wearing a straw rain coat and a bamboo hat to withstand rain and snow.



尋隱者不遇

xún yǐn zhě bú yù  
 ㄊㄨㄣˊ ㄩㄣˇ ㄓㄥˇ ㄅㄨˊ ㄩˋ

㊦ cam<sup>4</sup>

jan<sup>2</sup>

ze<sup>2</sup>

bat<sup>7</sup>

jyu<sup>6</sup>

賈島

jiǎ dǎo

gaa<sup>2</sup> dou<sup>2</sup>

sōng	xià	wèn	tóng	zǐ
松	下	問	童	子
cung <sup>4</sup>	haa <sup>6</sup>	man <sup>6</sup>	tung <sup>4</sup>	zi <sup>2</sup>
yán	shī	cǎi	yào	qù
言	師	採	藥	去
jin <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>1</sup>	coi <sup>2</sup>	joek <sup>9</sup>	heoi <sup>3</sup>
zhǐ	zài	cǐ	shān	zhōng
只	在	此	山	中
zi <sup>2</sup>	zoi <sup>6</sup>	ci <sup>2</sup>	saan <sup>1</sup>	zung <sup>1</sup>
yún	shēn	bù	zhī	chù
雲	深	不	知	處
wan <sup>4</sup>	sam <sup>1</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	zi <sup>1</sup>	cyu <sup>3</sup>

【釋文】

我在松樹下遇見一僕童，便問他師父在嗎？童子回說師父往山上取藥去了，就在這座山中，不過山上雲霧繚繞，可不知道他在什麼地方呀！

【注釋】

隱者—古時不肯做官，隱居山野的人。

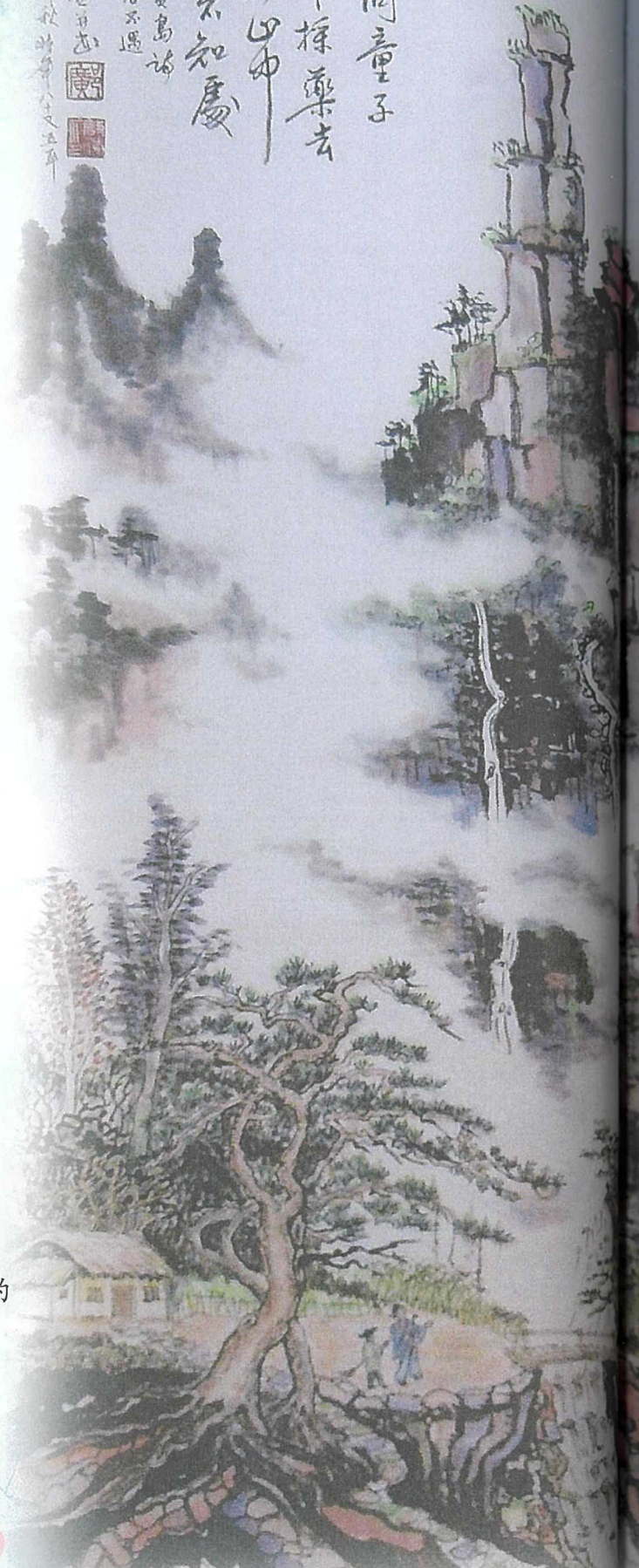
童子—小孩，這裏指隱者的弟子。

採藥—找尋草藥。

雲深—大山上雲霧繚繞。

松下問童子  
 言師採藥去  
 只在此山中  
 雲深不知處

唐 賈島 詩  
 尋隱者不遇



# Looking for but not Finding the Hermit

Jia Dao

I asked the young boy  
under the pine *trees*.

'My master has gone picking herbs,'  
said **he**.

'Just in this mountain  
find him if you *please*.

'But clouds are thick; none knows  
where he can **be**.'



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

I saw the page under the pine trees, and asked him where his master was. He replied that his master had gone to look for medicinal herbs deep in this mountain. With the clouds wrapping round the mountain top, he did not know his whereabouts.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

隱者 — a hermit who refused to be a government official in ancient times, and chose to live a secluded life in the mountain.

童子 — a child, here it refers to the hermit's page, a boy who serves him.

採藥 — looking for medicinal herbs.

雲深 — referring to the clouds wrapping round the mountain top.

松下向童子言師  
採藥去只在山中  
雲深不知處  
賈島尋隱者不遇  
砧清玉



# 清明


qīng míng  
qing<sup>1</sup> ming<sup>4</sup>  
cing<sup>1</sup> ming<sup>4</sup>

· 杜 牧 ·  
du<sup>6</sup> mu<sup>4</sup>  
dou<sup>6</sup> muk<sup>4</sup>

qīng	míng	shí	jié	yǔ	fēn	fēn
清	明	時	節	雨	紛	紛
cing <sup>1</sup>	ming <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>4</sup>	zit <sup>6</sup>	jyu <sup>5</sup>	fan <sup>1</sup>	fan <sup>1</sup>
lù	shàng	xíng	rén	yù	duàn	hún
路	上	行	人	欲	斷	魂
lou <sup>6</sup>	soeng <sup>6</sup>	hang <sup>4</sup>	jan <sup>4</sup>	juk <sup>9</sup>	dyun <sup>6</sup>	wan <sup>4</sup>
jiè	wèn	jiǔ	jiā	hé	chù	yǒu
借	問	酒	家	何	處	有
ze <sup>3</sup>	man <sup>6</sup>	zau <sup>2</sup>	gaa <sup>1</sup>	ho <sup>4</sup>	cyu <sup>3</sup>	jau <sup>5</sup>
mù	tóng	yáo	zhǐ	xìng	huā	cūn
牧	童	遙	指	杏	花	村
muk <sup>9</sup>	tung <sup>4</sup>	jiu <sup>4</sup>	zi <sup>2</sup>	hang <sup>6</sup>	faa <sup>1</sup>	cyun <sup>1</sup>

借問酒家  
何處有  
牧童遙指  
杏花村

智玲書




村花杏

## 【釋文】

清明節前後靈雨紛飛，為出行人士帶來十分不便，埋怨天雨，但也無奈。遊人正想找個地方歇一歇，幸好見有牧童在前面放牛，於是便趨前問問他哪裏有酒家可以暫駐，牧童指着遠處飄着酒帘的杏花村回答：「哪裏便是。」

## 【注釋】

清明——二十四節氣之一，在每年陽曆四月五日或前後一日。

斷魂——形容心情哀怨，無奈。

借問——一般詢問別人時有禮地稱呼或說“請問”。

酒家——古時賣酒的店子，門前多掛起酒帘。



智玲

# Qing Ming Festival

Du Mu

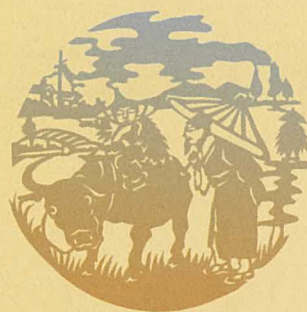
At Qing Ming Festival  
the rain went on drizzling all **day**;  
The hearts of the wayfarers  
were filled with growing **dismay**.  
A cowherd boy was asked  
if there was a wine-shop nearby;  
He pointed to one  
at Village Apricot far **away**.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

The days around Qing Ming Festival are usually rainy, giving a lot of inconvenience to those who go out door. Even though they may grumble about the rain, they feel helpless. When the travelling man wants to find a place to rest, luckily he sees a cowherd boy, so he asks him where he can find a wine shop where he can stop for a while. The cowherd boy points his way to the bar with a fluttering sign in Apricot Blossom Village.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

- 清明 — one of the twenty-four solar terms, it usually falls on 5 April, with only plus or minus one day's variation.  
斷魂 — describes the sad mood and helpless feelings.  
借問 — A polite way of making enquiries, or another way is to say "請問".  
酒家 — For a wine shop (a kind of bar) in the past, usually a wine curtain sign is put up at the front door.



# 登樂遊原

dēng lè yóu yuán

ㄉㄨㄥ ㄌㄝˋ ㄩㄠˊ ㄩㄢˊ

· 李商隱 ·  
Lǐ Shāng yǐn  
lei<sup>5</sup> soeng<sup>1</sup> jan<sup>2</sup>

xiàng	wǎn	yì	bú	shì
向	晚	意	不	適
hoeng <sup>3</sup>	maan <sup>5</sup>	ji <sup>3</sup>	bat <sup>7</sup>	sik <sup>7</sup>
qū	chē	dēng	gǔ	yuán
驅	車	登	古	原
keoi <sup>1</sup>	ce <sup>1</sup>	dang <sup>1</sup>	gu <sup>2</sup>	yun <sup>4</sup>
xī	yáng	wú	xiàn	hǎo
夕	陽	無	限	好
zik <sup>9</sup>	joeng <sup>4</sup>	mou <sup>4</sup>	haan <sup>6</sup>	hou <sup>2</sup>
zhǐ	shì	jìn	huáng	hūn
只	是	近	黃	昏
zi <sup>2</sup>	si <sup>6</sup>	gan <sup>6</sup>	wong <sup>4</sup>	fan <sup>1</sup>

## 【釋文】

傍晚時分，心情有些悵惘不適。於是便驅馬車登上樂遊原一行。抵達高地遠望，祇見落日的餘暉映照大地，彩霞繽紛。心情頓覺舒暢愉快。但是，祇可惜那時已接黃昏，這美好的景緻不久便隨着日落而消散了。

## 【注釋】


樂遊原——唐代長安城南面一處地勢較高的平原，為遊覽勝地。

向晚——傍晚，近晚。

意不適——心情不大舒暢。

夕陽無限好  
祇是近黃昏

李商隱



# Visiting the Ancient Plain of Leyou

Li Shangyin

Towards evening,  
I was feeling down and *upset*.  
By carriage  
I drove up to the plain of the *past*.  
Far beyond description  
there was the great *sunset*.  
But near dusk,  
all the beauty could no longer *last*.

## 【 Explanatory notes 】

At dusk, in a bad mood, feeling forlorn, I drove the carriage up to the ancient highland, from the vantage point of which I could see the setting sun with its multi-colour radiant light, which lifted up my mood immediately. However, it was a pity that dusk was approaching, and such beautiful moments will vanish with the setting sun.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

樂游原 — in Tang Dynasty, south of Changan was a piece of high land, which was a popular tourist spot.

向晚 — evening, late afternoon.

意不適 — in a bad mood, feeling dejected, forlorn.

只 是 遊 黃 昏  
夕 陽 曠 野 中  
樂 遊 原 上 街  
向 晚 意 不 適

李商隱  
詩  
樂游原  
朱  
楊  
江  
印





# 金縷衣

jīn lǚ yī  
 ⑤ gam<sup>1</sup> lei<sup>5</sup> ji<sup>1</sup>

· 杜秋娘 ·  
 dù qiūniáng  
 dou<sup>8</sup> cau<sup>1</sup> noeng<sup>4</sup>

勸君  
 惜取  
 少年時

智玲

quàn	jūn	mò	xī	jīn	lǚ	yī
勸	君	莫	惜	金	縷	衣
hyun <sup>3</sup>	gwan <sup>1</sup>	mok <sup>9</sup>	sik <sup>7</sup>	gam <sup>1</sup>	lei <sup>5</sup>	ji <sup>1</sup>
quàn	jūn	xī	qǔ	shào	nián	shí
勸	君	惜	取	少	年	時
hyun <sup>3</sup>	gwan <sup>1</sup>	sik <sup>7</sup>	ceoi <sup>2</sup>	siu <sup>3</sup>	nin <sup>4</sup>	si <sup>4</sup>
huā	kāi	kān	zhé	zhí	xū	zhé
花	開	堪	折	直	須	折
faa <sup>1</sup>	hoi <sup>1</sup>	ham <sup>1</sup>	zit <sup>8</sup>	zik <sup>9</sup>	seoi <sup>1</sup>	zit <sup>8</sup>
mò	dài	wú	huā	kōng	zhé	zhī
莫	待	無	花	空	折	枝
mok <sup>9</sup>	doi <sup>6</sup>	mou <sup>4</sup>	faa <sup>1</sup>	hung <sup>1</sup>	zit <sup>8</sup>	zi <sup>1</sup>

## 【釋文】

朋友，我勸你不要特別珍惜你那華麗的衣服，  
 朋友，你還是珍惜少年的時光吧！  
 因為青春好像一朵開得燦爛的花朵，可以摘下來欣賞的時刻，就應該把它摘下，不要等到花兒快凋謝，那時纔急急攀折下來，可是留下的已是沒有花朵的枝桠呀！

## 【注釋】

金縷衣——用金線繡織的衣服，即華麗的衣服。  
 莫惜——不要太珍惜。  
 惜取——應珍惜的東西。  
 堪折——可以採摘。  
 直須——立即要。  
 空折——折下來也沒有用。

## 【評語】

金縷衣——用金線編織的衣服，這裡泛指一般華貴的衣物。  
 《金縷衣》曲調名，是中唐時代一首流行的歌詞，作者已不可考。但當時杜秋娘經常演唱，故在《蘅塘退士》說是杜秋娘作。  
 在杜牧詩註說因李錡常唱《金縷衣辭》故《樂府詩集》題為李錡作，但在《全唐詩》則屬“無名氏”  
 註“縷”——音lǚ，粵音loi<sup>5</sup>（呂），俗讀“柳”。

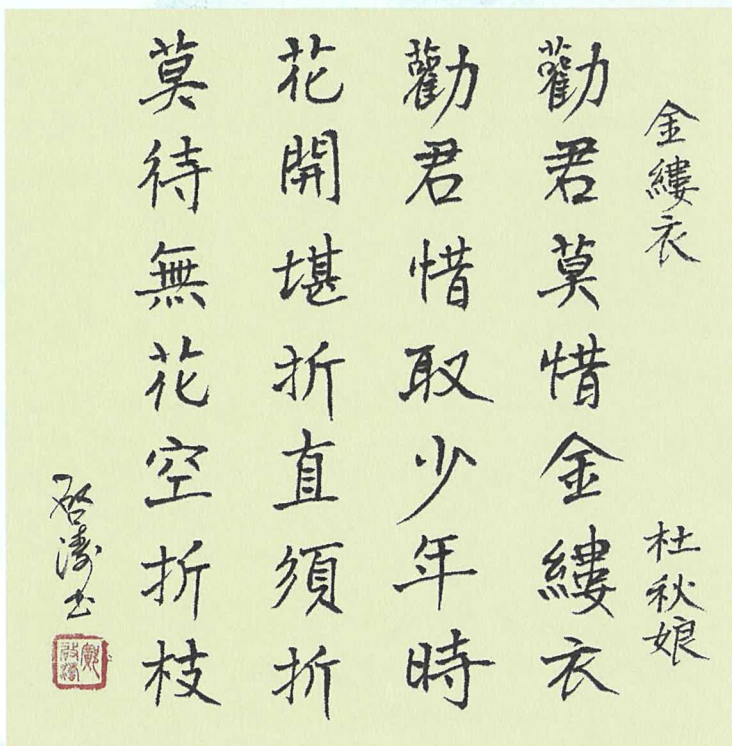


智玲

# The Golden Dress

Du Qiuniang

Cherish not your golden dress,  
 please take what I say;  
 Cherish the golden time  
 of your each youthful day.  
 Gather the flowers in bloom  
 as soon as you can.  
 When twigs become bare,  
 in vain you will wait or stay.



## 【 Explanatory notes 】

My friend, I advise you not to especially cherish your glamorous clothes. My friend, you had better cherish your youthful time! It is because youth is like a flower in bloom, when it is the right time to pick it, you had better pick it there and then. Do not wait until the flower is about to wither to pick it, or you will be left with a bare twig without any flower.

## 【 Notes on phrases 】

- 金縷衣 – clothes that are sewn and embroidered with golden threads, that means luxurious and glamorous clothes.  
 莫惜 — do not treasure.  
 惜取 — things that one should cherish.  
 堪折 — can be picked.  
 直須 — ought to at once.  
 空折 — it becomes useless even if you pick it.

## 【 Comments 】

金縷衣 — Clothes woven and sewn with golden thread, over here it refers to expensive luxurious clothes. 《金縷衣》, here it refers to the title of the melody “Golden thread clothes”, a popular lyric in middle Tang Dynasty. The poet is unknown, however, it was very often sung by a famous singer Du Qiu-niang, hence in “Collection of Songs and Ballads”, Du Qiu-niang was said to be the composer of the lyrics.

In the annotation of a collection of Du Mu's poems, it was noted that as Li Qi often sang “The lyrics of Golden Thread Clothes”, hence in “Collection of Lyrical Music Academy”, Li Qi was said to be the composer of the lyrics. However, in “The Complete Works of Tang Poems”, the writer was anonymous.

Note that “縷”-pronounced as /lǚ/, in Cantonese, loei<sup>5</sup>, the general public pronounced it as /lau/.

# 天淨沙·秋思

tiān jìng shā qiū sī  
 ㄊㄧㄢ ㄓㄥˋ ㄕㄚ ㄑㄩ ㄙㄧ  
 ㊦ tin<sup>1</sup> zeng<sup>6</sup> saa<sup>1</sup> cau<sup>1</sup> si<sup>1</sup>

· 馬致遠 ·  
 mǎ zhì yuǎn  
 maa<sup>5</sup> zi<sup>3</sup> jyun<sup>6</sup>

kū téng lǎo shù hūn yā  
 枯 藤 老 樹 昏 鴉  
 fu<sup>1</sup> tang<sup>4</sup> lou<sup>5</sup> syu<sup>6</sup> fan<sup>1</sup> aa<sup>1</sup>  
 xiǎo qiáo liú shuǐ rén jiā  
 小 橋 流 水 人 家  
 siu<sup>2</sup> kiu<sup>4</sup> lau<sup>4</sup> seoi<sup>2</sup> jan<sup>4</sup> gaa<sup>1</sup>  
 gǔ dào xī fēng shòu mǎ  
 古 道 西 風 瘦 馬  
 gu<sup>2</sup> dou<sup>6</sup> sai<sup>1</sup> fung<sup>1</sup> sau<sup>3</sup> maa<sup>5</sup>  
 xī yáng xī xià  
 夕 陽 西 下  
 zik<sup>9</sup> joeng<sup>4</sup> sai<sup>1</sup> haa<sup>6</sup>  
 duàn cháng rén zài tiān yá  
 斷 腸 人 在 天 涯  
 dyun<sup>6</sup> coeng<sup>4</sup> jan<sup>4</sup> zoi<sup>6</sup> tin<sup>1</sup> ngai<sup>4</sup>

## 【釋文】

枯萎的蔓藤，纏繞着蒼勁的老樹；黃昏，烏鴉回巢在樹上吱喳地吵鬧。村前的小橋，跨過流水潺潺的溪流，三數農舍正冒着炊煙。迎面西風飄忽，祇見古道上有人騎着瘦馬在趕着歸程。太陽下山了，怎的？孤零零的一個遊子仍浪迹天涯。

## 【注釋】

天淨沙—元曲牌名之《小令》。

昏鴉—黃昏烏鴉回巢，多是吱喳在吵鬧。

(鴉㊦aa<sup>1</sup>/ngaa<sup>1</sup>)

古道—古時上京考試的通道，多是荒涼的。

斷陽人—在外流浪的思鄉遊子。

天淨沙



## Autumn Thoughts Tuned to 'Sands under the Clear Sky'

Ma Zhiyuan

On an old tree, entwined with rotten vines,  
settle the dusky **crows**.  
Under a small bridge, by the farmhouses,  
the quiet water **flows**.  
A lean horse plods on the ancient road  
as the westerly wind **blows**.  
The evening sun  
sets in the west.  
Drifting in far places,  
the homesick wanderer prolongs his **woes**.



### 【 Explanatory notes 】

Withered vines wrap round the old trees. The crows on the trees make a lot of noisy croaks at dusk. The little bridge in front of the village is spanning over the running stream, while cooking smoke is rising from two to three village huts. The west wind is drifting here and there, and only a man riding a lean horse is seen on his homebound journey on the ancient road. The sun is just about to set, why is the lone traveller still drifting away from home?

### 【 Notes on phrases 】

天淨沙 — name of one of the short melodies in Yuan songs.

昏鴉 — the crows on returning to their nests at dusk make a lot of croaky noise.

古道 — the pathway which led to civil service examination in the capital in ancient times, which has become largely deserted.

斷陽人 — the traveller who is drifting away from home but who misses his hometown.

馬致遠  
天淨沙  
秋已灰  
天淨  
斷陽人  
江

枯老昏小水古人瘦西夕斷天人  
藤樹驢橋水道家風馬陽下腸在涯