11.1

嚴中丞枉駕見過

元戎小隊出郊坰，
問柳尋花到野亭。
川合東西瞻使節，
地分南北任流萍。
扁舟不獨如張翰，
皂帽還應似管寧。
寂寞江天雲霧裏，
何人道有少微星。

11.2

遭田父泥飲美嚴中丞

步屨隨春風，
村村自花柳。
田翁逼社日，
邀我嘗春酒。
酒酣誇新尹，
畜眼未見有。
回首指大男，
渠是弓弩手。
11.1

Visited by Vice Censor in chief Yan Wu

The Commander and a small squad come out to suburban meadows, seeking willows and flowers, they arrive at my pavilion in the wilds. Of Sichuan’s commands, both East and West, we see the appointment credentials,¹ where the land divides north and south let the drifting duckweed go.² In my tiny boat I not only am like Zhang Han,³ with a raven-black cap I also must resemble Guan Ning.⁴ Lonely and still, the river sky in the clouds and fog, what person knows that here there is the Shaowei constellation?⁵

11.2

Made Drunk by an Old Farmer Who Praised Vice Censor in chief Yan

I strolled along with the spring breeze, in every village were flowers and willows. An old farmer, being close upon the festival day, invited me to taste the spring ale. Tipsy from ale, he praised the new governor, he had never seen the likes with his own eyes. Turning his head, he pointed to his oldest boy: “He is a master with the crossbow.

---

¹ Sichuan was divided into two Circuits, each with its own army. Yan Wu was Military Commissioner of both.
² Du Fu.
³ *Zhang Han. When first on his way to Luoyang to seek employment, Zhang Han met He Xun; they became fast friends immediately and went on to Luoyang together.
⁴ A recluse of the Three Kingdoms famous for his black cap.
⁵ The Shaowei constellation is also known as The Recluse, hence standing for Du Fu.
名在飛騎籍，
長番歲時久。
前日放營農，
辛苦救衰朽。
差科死則已，
誓不舉家走。
今年大作社，
拾遺能住否。
叫婦開大瓶，
盆中為吾取。
感此氣揚揚，
須知風化首。
語多雖紛亂，
說尹終在口。
朝來偶然出，
自卯將及酉。
久客惜人情，
如何拒鄰叟。
高聲索果栗，
欲起時被肘。
指揮過無禮，
未覺村野醜。
月出遮我留，
仍嗔問升斗。
His name is on the light cavalry registers,
his term is long in permanent service.\(^1\)
A few days ago they released him for farmwork,
saving my decrepit body from bitter hardship.
I’ll do corvee labor and pay my tax until I die,
but I swear that I won’t run away with the family.
The spring festival this year will be a big one,
can the Reminder stay for it?”
He called to his wife to open a big jug,
and in a bowl took some for me.
Moved by the exuberance of his mood,
I really understand the basis of civilizing government.
He talked a lot, and though it was a jumble,
talk of the governor was always on his lips.
I just happened to go out in the dawn,
from six in the morning to six at night.\(^2\)
Long a sojourner, I cherish human feelings,
how could one refuse an old neighbor?
With a loud voice he called for fruit and chestnuts,
I wanted to rise, but was often held at the elbow.
In giving directions he too much breached courtesy,
but there was no rustic repulsiveness.
When the moon came out he still blocked me from going,
still furious at the question how much we had drunk.

---

\(^1\) “Permanent service,” *changfan* 長番: a technical term for regional troops that do not rotate.

\(^2\) Literally, “from mao 卯 (roughly 5 AM to 7 AM) all the way to you 酉 (roughly 5 PM to 7 PM).”
奉和嚴中丞西城晚眺十韻

汲黯匡君切，
廉頗出將頻。
直詞才不世，
雄略動如神。
政簡移風速，
詩清立意新。
層城臨暇景，
絕域望餘春。
旗尾蛟龍會，
樓頭燕雀馴。
地平江動蜀，
天闊樹浮秦。
帝念深分閫，
軍須遠算緡。
花羅封蛺蝶，
瑞錦送麒麟。
辭第輸高義，
觀圖憶古人。
11.3

A Companion Piece, Respectfully Offered, to Vice Censor in chief Yan’s “Evening View in the West of the City”: Ten Couplets

A Ji An, correcting his ruler earnestly,¹
a Lian Po, taking his army out often.²
In direct discourse, a talent beyond merely this age,
in bold planning, always as if divinely inspired.
His governance simple, the change in customs swift,
his poems fresh, novel in their conception.
From Tiered Walls he looks out on the leisurely scene,³
in the farthest region he gazes at the last of spring.
Banner-tassles, krakens and dragons assemble,
atop the tower sparrows and swallows are tame.
The land is level, Shu where the river stirs,
the heavens vast, Qin where the trees are afloat.
The emperor’s thoughts were deep on the “portal division,”⁴
for the army’s needs, he reckoned strings of cash a remote concern.⁵
He invested you with butterflies of patterned gossamer,
he sent you unicorns on auspicious brocades.⁶
Refusing a mansion demonstrated your high sense of right,⁷
one recalls the ancients in your scrutinizing maps.

¹ An official of Han Wudi, known for his direct remonstrance.
² *Lian Po. Ji An and Lian Po represent Yan Wu in his civil government capacity as Vice Censor in chief and in his military capacity as Military Commissioner.
³ Tiered Walls was a section of the Kunlun Mountains as a realm of the immortals.
⁴ In the Grand Scribe’s Records is the story that when the ancient kings sent out a commander, they would say: “What lies within the portal of the capital gate is under my control; what lies outside is under your control.” Here it refers to the emperor’s care in the choice of a regional commander.
⁵ That is, he allowed the Military Commissioner Yan Wu to take what he needed from tax revenues.
⁶ These are the imperial gifts of fabric to Yan Wu.
⁷ Han Wudi wanted to give a mansion to his general *Huo Qubing, who answered that since the Xiongnu were not yet destroyed, he had no use for a home. Yan Wu outdoes others in not seeking personal rewards.
征南多興緒，
事業暗相親。

11.4–5

中丞嚴公雨中寄見憶一絕，奉答二絕

I

雨映行宮辱贈詩，
元戎肯赴野人期。
江邊老病雖無力，
強擬晴天理釣絲。

II

何日雨晴雲出溪，
白沙青石洗無泥。
只須伐竹開荒徑，
拄杖穿花聽馬嘶。

11.6

謝嚴中丞送青城山道士乳酒一瓶

山瓶乳酒下青雲，
氣味濃香幸見分。
Campaigning south had many enjoyments,
that enterprise is implicitly close to yours.¹

11.4–5

The Vice Censor in chief Lord Yan in the Rain Kindly Sent Me a Quatrain on Thinking of Me; I Respectfully Answer with Two Quatrains

I

Rain half hides the temporary palace, you did me too much honor by sending a poem:²
the commander-in-chief is willing to accept a rustic’s invitation.
Old and sick by the river, although I lack strength,
I’ll force myself on a clear day to put my fishing gear in order.

II

What day will the rain clear and clouds leave the creek,
the white sands and green stones washed clean of mud?
I’ll just have to cut bamboo and open a rough path,
go through the flowers on my cane, listening for your horse’s neigh.

11.6

Thanking Vice Censor in chief Yan for Sending a Jug of Grape Wine of the Daoist of Qingcheng Mountain

A mountain jug of grape wine came down from the green clouds,
of its flavor and heady scent I was lucky to get a portion.

¹ This refers to Du Fu's distant ancestor Du Yu, the “South Campaigning General” in the Eastern Jin, also a famous scholar.
² The “temporary palace” refers to the government headquarters in Chengdu.
鳴鞭走送憐漁父，
洗盞開嘗對馬軍。

11.7–9

三絕句

I
楸樹馨香倚釣磯，
斬新花蕊未應飛。
不如醉裏風吹盡，
可忍醒時雨打稀。

II
門外鸕鷃久不來，
沙頭忽見眼相猜。
自今已後知人意，
一日須來一百廻。

III
無數春筍滿林生，
柴門密掩斷人行。
會須上番看成竹，
客至從嗔不出迎。
A cracking whip rushed to bring it, you thought kindly on a fisherman, 
I washed a cup, opened, and tasted, facing a cavalryman.

11.7–9

Three Quatrains

I

The fragrant scent of catalpa trees is by my fishing jetty, 
the completely new blossoms have not yet come to fly loose. 
Best that while I’m drunk the wind blow them all away, 
how can I bear when sober to have the rain beat them few?

II

The cormorant that used to be outside my gate hadn’t come for a long time, 
I see it suddenly on the sands eyeing me with suspicion. 
From this day forward it knows what’s on my mind, 
every day it will surely return a hundred times.

III

Countless spring bamboo shoots grow filling the woods, 
my ramshackle gate is blocked tight keeping people from passing. 
I really should watch the first round of sprouts turn into bamboo— 
when a guest comes, let him shout, I won’t go out to greet him.
11.10–15

戲為六絕句

I

庾信文章老更成，
凌雲健筆意縱橫。
今人嗤點流傳賦，
不覺前賢畏後生。

II

楊王盧駱當時體，
輕薄為文哂未休。
爾曹身與名俱滅，
不廢江河萬古流。

III

縱使盧王操翰墨，
劣於漢魏近風騷。
龍文虎脊皆君馭，
歷塊過都見爾曹。
11.10–15
Six Quatrains Done Playfully

I
Yu Xin’s literary works grew more perfect in old age,¹
a sturdy brush topping the clouds, his concepts moved at will.
People today deride and fault the *fu* that have come down,
unaware that former worthies stood in awe of the later-born.²

II
Yang, Wang, Lu, and Luo, the style of those times,³
“trivial in composition,” the sneering does not cease.
Your persons and your names both will perish,
yet it will not stop the rivers flowing for all time.

III
Even if Lu and Wang, in taking up brush and ink,⁴
are inferior to the Han and Wei being close to the Airs and Sao,
“dragon-stripes” and “tiger-spines” are all driven by their lord,⁵
and passing the capital like jumping over a clod they see you guys.⁶

---
¹ *Yu Xin.
² *Analects*: “The later-born may be held in awe” 後生可畏.
³ Yang Jiong, Wang Bo, Lu Zhaolin, and Luo Binwang, the “Four Talents of the Early Tang” 初唐四傑.
⁴ Lu Zhaolin and Wang Bo.
⁵ “Dragon-stripes” and “tiger-spines” are figures for great steeds, in the interpretation above, figures for the “Four Talents.”
⁶ A standard figure for the speed of a fine steed. The “you” in this version may refer to Du Fu’s contemporaries who mock the Four Talents.
野人送朱櫻

IV

才力應難跨數公，
凡今誰是出群雄。
或看翡翠蘭苕上，
未掣鯨魚碧海中。

V

不薄今人愛古人，
清詞麗句必為鄰。
竊攀屈宋宜方駕，
恐與齊梁作後塵。

VI

未及前賢更勿疑，
遞相祖述復先誰。
別裁僞體親風雅，
轉益多師是汝師。

11.16

野人送朱櫻

西蜀櫻桃也自紅，
野人相贈滿筠籠。
IV

In force of talent I am sure it is hard to surpass these men.
who of all those today is so dominant, standing out from the crowd?
They may catch sight of a kingfisher upon an orchid bloom,¹
but cannot master the behemoth within the sapphire sea.²

V

Without belittling the moderns, I love the ancients,
clear phrases and gorgeous lines one must take as one’s neighbor.
I secretly would reach to Qu Yuan and Song Yu as fitting to ride at their side,³
but I fear that with the Qi and Liang I will be the dust behind them.

VI

Of not equaling the former worthies have no further doubt,
in succession they model on predecessors, and who comes first?
Excise false forms, stay close to the Airs and Odes,
even more benefit having many teachers as your own teacher.

11.16

A Rustic Sends Red Cherries

The cherries of western Shu also have turned red,
a rustic presents me with some filling a basket.

¹ This seems to be a figure of some minor poetic finesse by Du Fu’s contemporaries.
² This seems to be a figure for the talent of the likes of Yu Xin and the Four Talents.
³ The Chu rhapsodists of the late Warring States.
數迴細寫愁仍破，
萬顆勻圓訝許同。
憶昨賜霑門下省，
金盤玉箸無消息，
此日嘗新任轉蓬。

11.17

嚴公仲夏枉駕草堂兼攜酒饌(得寒字)

竹裏行厨洗玉盤，
花邊立馬簇金鞍。
非關使者徵求急，
自識將軍禮數寬。
百年地闢柴門迥，
五月江深草閣寒。
看弄漁舟移白日，
老農何有罄交歡。

11.18

嚴公廳宴同詠蜀道畫圖(得空字)

日臨公館靜，
畫滿地圖雄。
How many times did he carefully pour them, worrying that they still might get broken?—

ten thousand evenly round, I’m surprised they are so alike.
I recall once before an imperial gift of grace to the Chancellery,
leaving court I carried such forth from Daming Palace.¹
Of the golden plate and ivory chopsticks there is no news,
and this day I taste new ones, letting my life whirl like a dandelion puff.

11.17

In Mid-Summer Lord Yan Goes out of His Way to Visit My Thatched Cottage, Also Bringing Ale and Food (I got the rhyme han)

Among the bamboo a picnic, they wash the bowls of jade,
beside the flowers they halt horses, golden saddles cluster.
It’s not because a messenger urgently summons me to serve,
I recognize that the general relaxes courtesies due.
My whole life I’ve lived out of the way, my ramshackle gate remote,
in the fifth month the river runs deep and my thatched pavilion is cold.
You watch the fishing boat in action as the bright sun moves on,
what else has an old farmer like me to do his best in friendship’s merrymaking?

11.18

A Banquet at Lord Yan’s Residence, We All Compose Poems on a Map of the Shu Circuit (I got the rhyme-word kong)

The sun looks down on the calm of his lordship’s offices,
illustrations fill the space, the maps are magnificent.²

¹ In the Tang the emperor would present his court officials with cherries from the palace groves.
² In the Tang there was no clear distinction between landscape drawing and cartography as a representation of space.
劍閣星橋北，
松州雪巖東。
華夷山不斷，
吳蜀水相通。
興與煙霞會，
清樽幸不空。

11.19–20

戲贈友二首

I

元年建巳月，
郎有焦校書。
自誇足膂力，
能騎生馬駒。
一朝被馬踏，
唇裂板齒無。
壯心不肯已，
欲得東擒胡。

II

元年建巳月，
官有王司直。
Sword Tower Peak is north of Seven Star Bridge,
Songzhou is east of the Mountains of Snow.
Chinese and other peoples, the mountains unbroken,
Wu and Shu, the water connects them.
Our elation meets with these mists and auroras,
and luckily the clear goblets are not empty.

11.19–20
Playfully Given to Friends

I
The reign’s first year, the fourth lunar month,
there was a gentleman, Collator Jiao.
He boasted that he had plenty of strength,
that he could ride an unbroken colt.
One morning he was trampled by the horse,
his lips were torn, his front teeth gone.
But his bold heart wouldn’t give up,
he would even go east and capture Hu.

II
The reign’s first year, the fourth lunar month,
there was an official, Rectifier Wang.
馬驚折左臂，
骨折面如墨。
駘駘漫深泥，
何不避雨色。勸君休歎恨，
未必不為福。

11.21

大雨

西蜀冬不雪，
春農尚嗷嗷。上天回哀眷，
朱夏雲鬱陶。執熱乃沸鼎，
纖絺成縕袍。風雷颯萬里，
霈澤施蓬蒿。敢辭茅葦漏，
已喜黍豆高。三日無行人，
二江聲怒號。流惡邑里清，
矧茲遠江皋。
A horse reared and broke his left arm,
the bone broken, his face was like ink.
The old nag sank deep into the mud for nothing,
why didn’t you avoid the look of coming rain?
I urge you to stop sighing with resentment,
It’s not necessarily not a blessing.1

11.21

Heavy Rain

In western Shu it didn’t snow in winter,
in spring the farmers were still moaning.
Yet high Heaven turned its pitying regard,
and clouds swelled up in red summer.
A clinging heat, indeed a boiling cauldron,
the thinnest silks became a warm overcoat.
Then wind and thunder whistled across ten thousand leagues,
and a downpour was bestowed on even the weeds.
Dared I reject it because my thatch leaked?—
I was delighted because the beans and millet grew tall.
For three days no one was out walking,
the sound of the two rivers roared angrily.
It washed away the filth, towns and hamlets clean,
even more here, far on the river plain.

1 The “Old Man of the Frontier” involves a series of reversals of fortune, which are interpreted in one way by the Old Man’s neighbors, and in the opposite way by the Old Man himself. The Old Man’s son is finally thrown from a horse and lame, a “misfortune” in the eyes of neighbors, which turns out to be “good fortune” when the other young men of the district are all conscripted to fight invaders.
荒庭步鸛鶴，
隱几望波濤。沉疴聚藥餌，
頓忘所進勞。則知潤物功，
可以貸不毛。陰色靜墾畝，
勸耕自官曹。四鄰耒耜出，
何必吾家操。

11.22

溪漲
當時浣花橋，
溪水纔尺餘。
白石明可把，
水中有行車。
秋夏忽泛溢，
豈惟入吾廬。
蛟龍亦狼狽，
況是鱉與魚。
兹晨已半落，
歸路跬步疏。
In my overgrown yard walked storks,
16 I leaned on my armrest and gazed at the waves.
Sunk in grave illness, gathering herbs and pills,
I suddenly forget the bother of getting them.
Thus I understand the merit of moistening things,
20 it can provide even for places where nothing is planted.
Shadow is calm over the fields,
encouragement in plowing comes from the officials.
Plows and shares come out from neighbors all around,
24 why is it necessary that I grasp them myself?

11.22

The Creek Floods

Back then at Washing-Flower Bridge
the creek’s waters were just over a foot deep.
The white stones were so clear you could take them in hand,
4 and in the water were moving wagons.
At the conjunction of summer and autumn, it suddenly overflowed,
nor did it merely just get in my cottage.
Even the dragons were in panic,
8 still more the turtles and fish.
This morning it has already half subsided,
but scarce are the footsteps on the road back.
馬嘶未敢動，
前有深填淤。
青青屋東麻，
散亂床上書。
不知遠山雨，
夜來復何如。
我遊都市間，
晚憩必村墟。
乃知久行客，
終日思其居。

11.23

大麥行

大麥乾枯小麥黃，
婦女行泣夫走藏。 
東至集壁西梁洋，
問誰腰鎌胡與羌。 
豈無蜀兵三千人，
部領辛苦江山長。 
安得如鳥有羽翅，
托身白雲還故鄉。
The horse neighs and dares not budge,  
with deep muck and mud in front of it.  
Green is the hemp east of the cottage,  
scattered are the books on my bed.  
I don’t know with the rain in distant mountains  
how it will be again when night comes.  
I go visiting in the city,  
but when it’s late, I always rest in the village.  
Now I understand that for one who has long been traveling  
he longs for his dwelling all the day long.

11.23

The Barley: A Ballad

The barley is dry and withered, the wheat is yellow,  
the wife walks with streaming tears, the husband has run to hide.  
To the east all the way to Jizhou and Bizhou, westward to Liangzhou and Yangzhou,  
if you ask who has a sickle at his waist, it is a Hu or a Qiang.\(^1\)  
How could they lack for troops of Shu three thousand strong?—they have been led through hardship, the length of rivers and mountains.\(^2\)  
How can we get to be like birds with feathers and wings,  
to give ourselves to the white clouds and return to our home?

---

1 In 762 a number of prefectures were raided by the Tibetans, Tanguts, and other Qiang nations, who took the harvest.  
2 Evidently the relief forces from Sichuan (Shu) have been exhausted by the march to fend off the raids.
奉送嚴公入朝十韻

鼎湖瞻望遠，
象闕憲章新。
四海猶多難，
中原憶舊臣。
與時安反側，
自昔有經綸。
感激張天步，
從容靜塞塵。
南圖迴羽翮，
北極捧星辰。
漏鼓還思晝，
宮鶯罷囀春。
空留玉帳術，
愁殺錦城人。
閣道通丹地，
江潭隱白蘋。
此生那老蜀，
不死會歸秦。
公若登台輔，
臨危莫愛身。
Respectfully Seeing Off Lord Yan Who Is Going to Court: Ten Couplets

Cauldron Lake lay afar in your gaze,¹
at the ivory palace towers, the statutes were renewed.²
Many troubles still in this sea-girt world,
the Central Plain thought back on a former official.³
He calmed turmoil, following circumstance,
and has long understood state policy.
Stirred to action, he extended the dynasty’s fate,
then relaxed, he has settled this frontier’s dust.
Planning to go south, he turned on the wing,⁴
and now will serve the stars at the pole-star.⁵
Water-clock and drums will make you think of daytime,⁶
palace orioles will have ceased the warbling spring.
In the commander’s tent your strategies remain without you,
the people of Brocade City are struck with sadness.
The plankways lead through to the cinnabar place,⁷
by river pools I live in reclusion among white water clover.
How can I spend my life growing old in Shu? —
so long as I don’t die, I’ll finally get back to Qin.
If you, sir, rise to become one of the high lords of state,
don’t spare yourself when facing peril.

On the death of Suzong and the installation of Daizong, in the sixth month of 762, Yan Wu was recalled to court. To see him off Du Fu accompanied him to Mianzhou, a precture to the northeast of Chengdu.

---

¹ At Cauldron Lake the Yellow Emperor was taken up to Heaven. Later this came to refer to the death of an emperor, in this case Suzong.
² The investiture of Daizong, Suzong’s successor.
³ Yan Wu.
⁴ *Peng bird.
⁵ The central court.
⁶ In court awaiting dawn court.
⁷ “The cinnabar place” is the court in Chang’an.
野興每難盡，
江樓延賞心。
歸朝送使節，
落景惜登臨。
稍稍煙集渚，
微微風動襟。
重船依淺瀨，
輕鳥度層陰。
檻峻背幽谷，
窗虛交茂林。
燈光散遠近，
月彩靜高深。
城擁朝來客，
天橫醉後參。
窮途衰謝意，
苦調短長吟。
此會共能幾，
諸孫賢至今。
不勞朱戶閉，
自待白河沉。
11.25

Seeing Off Vice-Director Yan [Wu] As Far As Mianzhou, Together Climbing to the Upper Storey of Prefect Du’s River Mansion
(I received xìn as the rhyme)

The elation of the wilds is always inexhaustible,
this river mansion invites hearts that appreciate to linger on.
We see off the Commissioner, returning to court,
we cherish climbing to gaze in the setting light.
Ever so gradually mist gathers on the isles,
the faintest breeze stirs the flaps of our gowns.
A heavy boat rests by the shallow rapids,
light birds cross through the layered shadow.
The porch railing lofty, a secluded valley behind it,
branches of a leafy forest crisscross through the open windows.
Lamp fires are scattered near and far,
the moon-glow lends serenity to places high and remote.
This city encompasses visitors who came at dawn,
the heavens are crossed by the constellation Shen, after we are drunk.
At journey’s end, thoughts on decline,
my long and short poems are in a bitter mode.
How often in all can there be such gatherings?—
the worthiness of my grand-nephew lasts even to now.¹
Don’t bother yourself to close the red door,²
I will wait on my own until the white star-river sinks.

¹ Referring to the local prefect, surnamed Du.
² Prefect Du Ji’s polite gesture to detain his guests.
11.26

奉濟驛重送嚴公四韻

遠送從此別，
青山空復情。
幾時杯重把，
昨夜月同行。
列郡謳歌惜，
三朝出入榮。
江村獨歸處，
寂寞養殘生。

11.27

送梓州李使君之任

籍甚黃丞相，
能名自颍川。
11.26

At Fengji Station, Again Seeing Off Lord Yan: Four Couplets

Going a long way to see you off, from this point we part,
green mountains, these feelings come unbidden again.
When will we once more take goblet in hand?—

\[ \text{4} \text{ last night the moon went along with us.} \]

Songs of these commanderies express regret,\(^1\)
entering and leaving court for three reigns is your glory.
When I return alone to my river village,

\[ \text{8} \text{ I will nurture my remaining life in gloomy silence.} \]

*Something of the contemporary situation for the Tang central government can be seen in the fact that in the month after Yan Wu departed, a major commander in Sichuan, Xu Zhidao, rebelled and blocked the perilous mountain route to Chang'an. Even though he was killed by a loyal general a month later, this sort of small military revolt was increasingly common throughout the overmilitarized empire. We might recall the revolt of the prefect Duan Zizhang before Yan Wu’s arrival as military commissioner. Loyal military commissioners like Yan Wu were essential to maintaining stability in the provinces. Yan Wu could not return to Chengdu from Chang’an until Xu Zhidao’s revolt was put down and the road reopened. Du Fu himself seems not to have returned to Chengdu when Xu Zhidao’s revolt took place, and remained in Mianzhou for a while.*

11.27

Seeing Off His Excellency Li of Zizhou Going to Take Up His Post\(^2\)

Most illustrious, our own Minister Huang,
his name for ability came from Yingchuan.\(^3\)

---

1 Dongchuan and Xichuan, regretting Yan Wu’s departure.
2 An original note: “Reminder Chen [Ziang] was a native of Shehong. The last part of the poem refers to this” 故陳拾遺射洪人也。篇末有云.
3 Li is being compared to Huang Ba (130–51 BCE) of the Han, first governor of Yingchuan, and later minister.
觀打魚歌

綿州江水之東津，
魴魚鱍鱍色勝銀。
漁人漾舟沈大網，
截江一擁數百鱗。
眾魚常才盡卻棄，
赤鯉騰出如有神。

近看除刺史，
還喜得吾賢。
五馬何時到，
雙魚會早傳。
老思筇竹杖，
冬要錦衾眠。
不作臨岐恨，
惟聽舉最先。
火雲揮汗日，
山驛醒心泉。
遇害陳公殞，
於今蜀道憐。
君行射洪縣，
為我一潸然。

11.28
Recently we see how he got a post as prefect,
and I rejoice on how we have obtained a worthy man,
When will his five-horse team reach its destination?\(^1\)
may a paired carp letter be transmitted to me as soon as possible.
Aging, I long for a staff of Qiong bamboo,
cold, I want a brocade quilt to sleep under.
I will not show resentment here at the parting of ways,
I merely would hear you were foremost in promotion of excellence.
Fiery clouds, sunlight in which you wipe away sweat;
a mountain station, a fountainhead that revives the heart.
Meeting harm, Master Chen perished,\(^2\)
even today those on the roads of Shu pity him.
You are going through Shehong County,
on my behalf shed streaming tears for him.

11.28

Song of Watching the Catch Being Made

In the river’s waters at Mianzhou at the eastern ford,
the bream splash lively about, their color brighter than silver.
Fishermen launch their boats and sink a large net,
cutting across the river, in one haul, several hundred of the finny tribe.
Ordinary fish of common worth they all throw back,
the red carp leaps forth as if possessed by divinity.

---

1. A five-horse team was the mark of a prefect.
2. This is Chen Ziang (661–702), a native of Shehong County, who died in prison after being slandered.
潛龍無聲老蛟怒，
迴風颯颯吹沙塵。

饔子左右揮雙刀，
膾飛金盤白雪高。
徐州禿尾不足憶，
漢陰槎頭遠遁逃。

魴魚肥美知第一，
既飽歡娛亦蕭瑟。
君不見朝來割素鬐，
咫尺波濤永相失。

11.29

又觀打魚

蒼江漁子清晨集，
設網提網萬魚急。
能者操舟疾若風，
撐突波濤挺叉入。
小魚脫漏不可紀，
半死半生猶戢戢。
大魚傷損皆垂頭，
屈強泥沙有時立。
The sunken dragon makes no sound, the old kraken rages,  
whirling gusts come whistling, blowing dust and sand.  

On either side kitchen workers wield a pair of knives,  
sashimi fillets fly to a golden plate, high as white snow.  
The “bald-tail” of Xuzhou is not worth calling to mind,  
the “log-head” of Hanyin flees far into hiding.  

For sweetness and fatness these bream are known to be number one,  
having eaten our fill, the merry-making turns brooding and gloomy.  
 Haven’t you seen how at dawn they slice the pale white fins,  
from waves but a foot away they are forever lost?

11.29

Another on Watching the Catch

By the gray river the fishermen gather in clear dawn,  
they cast the net and lift the net, eager for ten thousand fish.  
The most skillful manage their boats as fast as the wind,  
punting into the dashing waves, the raised tridents go in.  
The little fish that slip through cannot be reckoned,  
half dead and half alive they still cluster gasping.  
The larger fish that are wounded all hang their heads,  
defiant in the mud and sand, sometimes they flop up straight.

1 Local fish of other places.
越王樓歌

東津觀魚已再來，
主人罷鮫還傾杯。
日暮蛟龍改窟穴，
山根鱣鮪隨雲雷。
干戈兵革鬥未止，
鳳凰麒麟安在哉。
吾徒胡為縱此樂，
暴殄天物聖所哀。

11.30

越王樓歌

綿州州府何磊落，
顯慶年中越王作。
孤城西北起高樓，
碧瓦朱甍照城郭。

樓下長江百丈清，
山頭落日半輪明。
君王舊跡今人賞，
轉見千秋萬古情。
To watch the fish at the eastern ford twice I have already come,
my host finishes the sashimi, then drains his cup.
At sunset krakens and dragons change their lairs,
at the base of the mountain sturgeon and pike follow the clouds and
thunder.¹
Clash of arms, of shield and pike, combat has not ceased,
phoenix and the unicorn, where are they now!
Why are the likes of us indulging in such pleasures?—
to cruelly destroy nature’s creatures was lamented by the sage.

11.30

Song of the Tower of the Prince of Yue²

The district office of Mianzhou, how bold and grand it is!—
built by the Prince of Yue in the Xianqing years.³
To the northwest of the lone city he raised a high tower,
emerald tiles and vermilion ridge-tiles shine over the walls.
At the foot of the tower the long river is clear to the depth of a hundred
yards,
on the mountaintop the setting sun is half an orb of brightness.
The traces of former princes are enjoyed by men today,
increasingly one gets the sense of how things have been for a thousand
autumns, for eternity.

¹ The clouds and thunder go with the dragons.
² Built by Taizong’s son, the Prince of Yue, who had been prefect of Mianzhou.
³ The Xianqing reign was 656–661.
11.31

海棕行

左綿公館清江潰，
海棕一株高入雲。
龍鱗犀甲相錯落，
\[\text{4} \quad \text{蒼棱白皮十抱文。}\]
自是眾木亂紛紛，
海棕焉知身出群。

移栽北辰不可得，
\[\text{8} \quad \text{時有西域胡僧識。}\]

11.32

姜楚公畫角鷹歌

楚公畫鷹鷹戴角，
殺氣森森到幽朔。
觀者貪愁掣臂飛，
\[\text{4} \quad \text{畫師不是無心學。}\]
此鷹寫真在左綿，
卻嗟真骨遂虛傳。
梁間燕雀休驚怕，
\[\text{8} \quad \text{亦未搏空上九天。}\]
11.31

The Sea Palm: A Ballad

By the official buildings of east-bank Mian by the clear river’s edge, a single sea palm enters the clouds high above. Dragon scales and rhino hide crisscross over it, 4 gray edges and white bark make a pattern ten armspans around. Since the common trees are mixed with it all around, how could the sea palm know that it was so extraordinary? You cannot get to transplant it to the place of the pole star,1 but sometimes from the Western Regions a Hu monk recognizes it.

11.32

A Song on a Painted Tufted Hawk by Jiang, Duke of Chu2

The Duke of Chu painted a hawk, his hawk has a tuft, a dark and gloomy murderous atmosphere brings us to the northland.3 Viewers are eager, yet worry it will pull from the arm into flight, it is not the case that painters are indifferent to imitating him The portrait of this hawk is here in east-bank Mian, yet I sigh that the true birds hereafter will be told of in vain.4 You, swallows and wrens in the rafters, cease to be startled in fear—it has never yet struck through the air, rising past heaven’s nine tiers.

---
1 That is, near the emperor in Chang’an.
2 The painter was Jiang Jiao 姜皎, the Duke of Chu.
3 The “northland” is literally You[zhou] and Shuo[fang], two important frontier regions, the former in the northeast and the latter in the north-central frontier.
4 That is, the representation is so good that it will devalue the real thing.
11.33

東津送韋諷攝閬州錄事

聞說江山好，
憐君吏隱兼。  
寵行舟遠泛，  
4 恐別酒頻添。  
推薦非承乏，  
操持必去嫌。
他時如按縣，  
8 不得慢陶潛。

11.34

光祿阪行

山行落日下絕壁，
西望千山萬山赤。  
樹枝有鳥亂鳴時，  
4 暝色無人獨歸客。  
馬驚不憂深谷墜，  
草動只怕長弓射。  
安得更似開元中，  
8 道路即今多擁隔。
11.33

At East Ford Seeing Off Wei Feng Who Is Taking Up the Post of Office Manager in Langzhou

I’ve heard tell the mountains and rivers there are good,
I am moved by you, combining office and reclusion.
Favoring your going with a poem, the boat sails far,
4 begrudging parting, ale is frequently added.
Recommended, you were not simply incompetently filling a vacancy,
in holding your post, you will certainly remove all objections.
If someone reviews the county someday,
8 he can’t take Tao Qian as merely remiss.¹

11.34

The Guanglu’s Slope: A Ballad²

As I travel in the mountains, the setting sun sinks past a sheer cliff,
gazing west a thousand mountains, ten thousand mountains red.
In the tree branches are birds, the time when they sing in confusion,
4 in the colors of darkness there is no one, the traveler returns alone.
My horse startles, but I do not worry about tumbling into a deep valley,
when the grasses stir, I fear only being shot by a longbow.
How can it be again as it was in the Kaiyuan Reign?—
8 nowadays the roads are often closed and blocked.³

Even though Xu Zhidao was himself killed a month after his revolt, his army seems to have run amok in the countryside. Du Fu next journeyed to the neighboring prefecture of Zizhou, east of Chengdu.

¹ When “Tao Qian was magistrate of Pengze, a supervisor came to the district. Told that he should go pay his respects, Tao Qian took off his seal of office and left the county.
² Guanglu was an office of varying functions between the Han and the Tang. The slope was probably named for someone who held a post there.
³ SB and Guo have an appended note: “Bandits are many even in broad daylight; these are the ‘longbow boys’" 白日賊多翻是長弓子弟.
苦戰行

苦戰身死馬將軍，
自云伏波之子孫。
干戈未定失壯士，
使我歎恨傷精魂。

去年江南討狂賊，
臨江把臂難再得。
別時孤雲今不飛，
時獨看雲淚橫臆。

去秋行

去秋涪江木落時，
臂槍走馬誰家兒。
到今不知白骨處，
部曲有去皆無歸。
遂州城中漢節在，
遂州城外巴人稀。
戰場冤魂每夜哭，
空令野營猛士悲。
11.35

Bitter Fighting: A Ballad

In bitter battle he died, General Ma,
he claimed to be the descendant of the Wave-Quelling General.¹

Before the clash of arms is settled, we have lost a bold man,
which makes me sigh in resentment, and wounds my spirit.

Last year south of the river he attacked that mad rebel,²
never again will I be able to clasp his arm by the river.
The lone cloud, when we parted, now flies no more,
sometimes alone I look at the clouds and tears streak over my chest.

11.36

Last Autumn: A Ballad

When last autumn by the River Fu the trees shed their leaves,
who was that fellow, lance under arm, galloping his horse?
By this point we do not know where his white bones lie,
some of our cohorts went off, but none have returned.
Within the walls of Suizhou the standards of the Han remain,³
outside the walls of Suizhou the folk of Ba are few.
On the battlefield the wronged souls weep every night,
making fierce warriors grieve in vain in their camps in the wilds.

¹ Ma Yuan was a famous Eastern Han general who campaigned in the far south and received the title “Wave-Quelling General.”
² Presumably Duan Zizhang, the prefect of Zizhou, who rebelled and declared himself the Prince of Liang.
³ This refers to the prefect, Li Ju, the Prince of Guo, who was killed by Duan Zizhang when he took Suizhou.
廣州段功曹到，得楊五長史譚書。功曹卻歸，聊寄此詩

衛青開幕府，
楊僕將樓船。
漢節梅花外，
春城海水邊。

銅梁書遠及，
珠浦使將旋。
貧病他鄉老，
煩君萬里傳。

送段功曹歸廣州

南海春天外，
功曹幾月程。
峽雲籠樹小，
湖日落船明。

交趾丹砂重，
韶州白葛輕。
幸君因旅客，
時寄錦官城。
11.37

Duan of the Personnel Evaluation Section Arrives from Guangzhou and Gives Me a Letter from Aide Yang Tan (5). Duan is Going Back and I Send This Poem with Him

Wei Qing sets up his headquarters,¹
Yang Pu commands towered galleys.²
Han standards beyond the plum blossoms,³
4 a springtime city beside the sea.
Your letter reached far to Copperbeam Mountain,⁴
the bearer will return to the Shore of Pearls.⁵
Poor and sick, I grow old in a strange land,
8 may I trouble you to carry this ten thousand leagues.⁶

11.38

Seeing Off Duan of the Personnel Evaluation Section on His Return to Guangzhou

The south sea lies beyond the spring sky,
for the Personnel Evaluator a journey of how many months?
Gorge clouds envelop the trees tiny,
4 the sun on the lake falls on the boat brightening.
The cinnabar pellets of Jiaozhi are heavy,
the white linen of Shaozhou is light.
I would feel lucky if through some traveler
8 you would someday send some to Brocade City.

¹ A famous Han general against the Xiongnu.
² An admiral of Han Wudi.
³ Referring to Plum Blossom Peak, demarcating the far south.
⁴ In Zizhou.
⁵ Referring to Guangzhou.
⁶ Addressing Duan.
11.39

題玄武禪師屋壁

何年顧虎頭，
滿壁畫瀛州。
赤日石林氣，
青天江海流。
錫飛常近鶴，
杯度不驚鷗。
似得廬山路，
真隨惠遠遊。

11.40

悲秋

涼風動萬里，
群盜尚縱橫。
家遠傳書日，
秋來為客情。
愁窺高鳥過，
老逐眾人行。
始欲投三峽，
何由見兩京。
11.39

On the Wall of the Chamber of the Chan Master of Xuanwu Temple

What year did “Tigerhead” Gu Kaizhi\(^1\) fill this wall with a painting of Yingzhou?\(^2\)
Red sun, the vapors of rock and forests,
blue skies, the current of lakes and rivers.
The tin staff flies always close to the crane,\(^3\)
the wooden cup crosses not alarming the gulls.\(^4\)
It seems that here I have found the road to Mount Lu
and truly roam together with Huiyuan.\(^5\)

11.40

Grieving over Autumn

A chill wind stirs across ten thousand leagues,
bands of pillagers still run free everywhere.
My family far, the day I sent the letter,
autumn comes, the feelings of being a sojourner.
In sadness I peer at the high birds passing,
old, I go where the crowd goes.
Now I want to lodge in the Three Gorges,
how can I ever see the two capitals?

---

1 “Tigerhead” was the child name of the famous Six Dynasties painter.
2 Yingzhou was the isle of the immortals.
3 This refers to the Liang monk Zhigong and his friend the White Crane Daoist. Both wanted a particularly nice site at the foot of a mountain to practice the Way, and each requested the place from Liang Wudi for himself. Liang Wudi said each should choose a symbolic object, and whoever was first to plant his symbolic object on the place could have it. The tin staff was the sign of the monk and a white crane, the sign of the Daoist. Just as the white crane was about to descend, it heard the tin staff whirring through the air and saw it land first on the desired location.
4 This is the story of the fifth-century monk who crossed a river in a wooden cup.
5 The famous Six Dynasties monk Huiyuan founded the monastic community on Mount Lu.
客夜
客睡何曾著，
秋天不肯明。
入簾殘月影，
高枕遠江聲。
計拙無衣食，
途窮仗友生。
老妻書數紙，
應悉未歸情。

客亭
秋窗猶曙色，
落木更天風。
日出寒山外，
江流宿霧中。
聖朝無棄物，
老病已成翁。
多少殘生事，
飄零似轉蓬。
11.41

Night for the Traveler

When could a traveler ever get to sleep?—
autumn days refuse to grow bright.
Entering the curtain, light of the fading moon,
4 as I rest on high, the far river’s sound.
Inept in making a living, no clothing or food,
with no other recourse, I rely on my friends.
My wife has written several sheets of paper,
8 I’m sure she knows fully how I feel, not having come home.

11.42

Traveler’s Pavilion

In the autumn window, already daybreak’s colors,
in leaf-stripped trees, once more heaven’s wind.
The sun comes out beyond cold mountains,
4 the river flows on in the overnight fog.
Our Sage Reign rejects no one,
but sick and aging, I’ve become an old man.
So many concerns for the rest of my life,
8 tossed along, like a whirling dandelion puff.
九日登梓州城

伊昔黃花酒，
如今白髮翁。
追歡筋力異，
望遠歲時同。
弟妹悲歌裏，
朝廷醉眼中。
兵戈與關塞，
此日意無窮。

九日奉寄嚴大夫

九日應愁思，
經時冒險艱。
不眠持漢節，
何路出巴山。
小驛香醪嫩，
重巖細菊斑。
遙知簇鞍馬，
回首白雲間。
11.43

On the Double Ninth Climbing the Wall of Zizhou

The chrysanthemum ale of yesteryear,
but now a white-haired old man.
Body’s strength differs in chasing pleasures,
but the time of year for gazing afar is the same.
Brothers and sister are in my sad songs,
the court is before my drunken eyes.
The clash of arms and the barrier passes,
on this day my thoughts are endless.

11.44

On the Double Ninth, Respectfully Sent to Lord Yan

On this double ninth I’m sure you have sad thoughts,
having braved perils and hardship for some time now.
Unsleeping, you hold the standards of Han
by what road going forth from Ba’s mountains?
At some small station the fragrant brew thin,
on layered cliffs mottled with tiny chrysanthemums.
I know that afar, among a crowd of saddled horses,
you turn your head to look back in the white clouds.
秋盡

秋盡東行且未迴，
茅齋寄在少城隈。
籬邊老卻陶淵菊，
江上徒逢袁紹杯。
雪嶺獨看西日落，
劍門猶阻北人來。
不辭萬里長為客，
懷抱何時得好開。

戲題寄上漢中王三首

I

西漢親王子，
成都老客星。
11.45

Autumn Ends

As autumn ended I traveled east and have not yet turned back, my thatched studio is lodged by a corner of the “little city.”\(^1\) Beside my hedge aging away are Tao Qian’s chrysanthemums,\(^2\) on the river in vain I met Yuan Shao’s cup.\(^3\) Over snowy peaks alone I watch the sun sink in the west, Swordgate Pass still blocks people coming from the North. I do not refuse to be ever a wanderer ten thousand leagues away, but when will the heart’s cares get to fully relax?

In Zizhou was Li Yu, the Prince of Hanzhong, whom Du Fu had known in Chang’an before the Rebellion.

11.46–48

On Playful Topics, Sent to the Prince of Hanzhong\(^4\)

I

Western Han’s son of a prince, close of kin,\(^5\) in Chengdu, an old wandering star.\(^6\)

---

\(^1\) The “little city” was the market and tavern district in Chengdu, in the western part of the city.
\(^2\) This refers to *Tao Qian’s famous “Drinking Ale” V: “I pick chrysanthemums by the eastern hedge.”
\(^3\) This refers to an occasion when the late second-century regional lord Yuan Shao invited the scholar Zheng Xuan to a feast and seated him in the place of honor. This probably refers to Du Fu’s treatment by Yan Wu.
\(^4\) Original note: “At the time the prince was in Zizhou; when he first arrived, he had stopped drinking, and the poems playfully give an account of this” 時王在梓州，初至，斷酒不飲，篇中戲述.
\(^5\) Li Yu, the Prince of Hanzhong, was the sixth son of Xuanzong’s elder brother, who had given up his claim to the throne. “Western Han” here is Hanzhong, the prince’s fief.
\(^6\) Yan Guang. Du Fu is comparing himself to Yan Guang for his inebriate intimacy with the prince.
戲題寄上漢中王三首

百年雙白鬢，
一別五秋螢。
忍斷杯中物，
祗看座右銘。
不能隨皂蓋，
自醉逐浮萍。

II

策杖時能出，
王門異昔遊。
已知嘆不起，
未許醉相留。
蜀酒濃無敵，
江魚美可求。
終思一酩酊，
淨掃雁池頭。

III

群盜無歸路，
哀顏會遠方。
尚憐詩警策，
猶記酒顛狂。
魯衛彌尊重，
徐陳略喪亡。
Life’s hundred years, hair on both temples, white,

once we parted, five times autumn fireflies.
Can you bear to break off that thing in the cup?—

just look at the inscription right of the seat.

I cannot follow the black carriage awning,

so I’ll get drunk alone, going with the duckweed adrift.

II

Sometimes I can go out with my cane,

but the prince’s gate differs from visits before.

I already know he will sigh and not be roused,

no longer allowing to detain me drunk.

But the strength of Shu ale has no competition,

river fish are tasty and easy to get.

In the end I will long to get dead drunk,

and to sweep Wild Goose Pool clean.

III

No road home through bands of marauders,

faces aging, we meet in this far place.

You still love my poems’ daring lines,

do you still recall my wildness in ale?

Lu and Wei, he showed even greater respect,

Xu and Chen, pretty much dead and gone.

---

1 The “thing in the cup” is, of course, ale.
2 Such inscriptions were used for precepts and admonitions—in this case, an admonition not to drink.
3 The mark of a prefect. The Prince was Prefect of Pengzhou.
4 Wild Goose Pool was in the famous Rabbit Garden of the Western Han Prince of Liang. Du Fu is evidently threatening to eat all the prince’s fish.
5 Xuanzong visited Li Xian, the prince’s father, and composed a poem referring to Lu and Wei as the domains of brothers, echoing Analects: “The government of Lu and Wei, that of brothers.” Because Li Xian was older, the emperor shows him deference.
6 The Jian’an poets Xu Gan and Chen Lin. Cao Pi, their patron, lamented their deaths. The implication is that the former clients of the prince are mostly dead.
空餘枚叟在，
忼念早升堂。

11.49

玩月呈漢中王

夜深露氣清，
江月滿江城。
浮客轉危坐，
歸舟應獨行。
關山同一照，
烏鵲自多驚。
欲得淮王術，
風吹暈已生。

11.50

贈嚴二別駕相逢歌

我行入東川，
十步一迴首。
成都亂罷氣蕭瑟，
浣花草堂亦何有。
梓中豪俊大者誰，
本州從事知名久。
Only old Mei still survives,¹

I’m sure you long to have me enter your hall as soon as possible.

11.49

Enjoying the Moon, Presented to the Prince of Hanzhong

The night is deep, the dewy air clear,
river moonlight fills the river city.
The wayfarer, adrift, gradually sits more upright,
you must return in your boat alone.²
In the barrier mountains it shines on us both alike,
the magpies are naturally often startled.³
I want to obtain the arts of the Prince of Huainan,
the wind blows, a halo has already formed.⁴

11.50

Song of Meeting: Given to Administrative Aide Yan (2)

Ever since I entered eastern Sichuan
every ten steps I turn my head.
The revolt at Chengdu is over, the atmosphere is dreary,
my thatched cottage at Washing Flowers Creek, what is left there?
Of powerful men in Zizhou, who is the greatest of all?—
the Aide of this prefecture, his name has long been known.

¹ Du Fu is comparing himself to the Han fu writer Mei Sheng (d. c. 140 BCE).
² The prince is going to his new prefectural assignment at Pengzhou.
³ Du Fu compares himself to the magpies in Cao Cao’s “Duan’ge xing”: “The moon is bright, the stars are few, / magpies are flying south. / They circle the tree three times around, / on what branch can they find a roost?” The magpies are figures for wanderers seeking a patron.
⁴ A halo around the moon was a sign that a wind would rise.
把臂開尊飲我酒，
酒酣擊劍蛟龍吼。
烏帽拂塵青螺粟，
紫衣將炙緋衣走。
銅盤燒蠟光吐日，
夜如何其初促膝。
黃昏始扣主人門，
誰謂俄頃膠在漆。
萬事盡付形骸外，
百年未見歡娛畢。
神傾意豁真佳士，
久客多憂今愈疾。
高視乾坤又何愁，
一軀交態同悠悠。
垂老遇君未恨晚，
似君須向古人求。

贈韋贊善別

扶病送君發，
自憐猶不歸。
只應盡客淚，
復作掩荊扉。
You took my arm, set out goblets, gave me ale to drink,
tipsy with ale, you did swordplay, a dragon roaring.
The one in the black hat brushes dust away, glossy conch coiffure offers grain,
one in purple robes brings roasted meat, one in red robes scurries.
In bronze plates you light the candles, their light emitting sunshine,
what time of night is it now, we first sit knee to knee?
It was only dusk when first I knocked on my host’s gate,
who would have thought that in an instant we would stick together like glue?
Let the myriad concerns be entrusted to beyond our bodies here,
in all life’s years I will never have seen such pleasures exhausted.
Spirit overflowing, mood relaxed, an excellent gentleman truly,
long a sojourner with many worries, now my health improves.
If one looks on the world from on high what more sadness can one feel?

Getting old, I meet you, I don’t feel bad it is so late,
for someone like you one needs to look among the ancients.

Unsteady with sickness, I see you off,
I pity myself, that I still have not returned.
I suppose I will just spend a sojourner’s tears,
and again close my ramshackle gate.
江漢故人少，
音書從此稀。
往還二十載，
歲晚寸心違。
Yangzi and Han, old friends few,
from now on word of you will be rare.
We have been seeing each other for twenty years,
in my late years, my heart’s wish misses out.

11.52

Sent to Gao Shi

Chu is cut off far from the rest of the world,
hard to call back the sick wayfarer’s soul.
For fame in poetry only I am with you,
with whom else can I discuss the age’s troubles?
At the northern palace gate a new ruler has taken over,
a southern star falls in the gardens of home.
I know for certain that when we meet,
wild and free, we’ll drain the sweet cups.

11.53

Gazing on Wilderness

North of Jinhua Mountain, west of the Fu’s waters,
only in mid-winter does the weather begin to grow chilly and bleak.
Mountains stretch to Yuexi Comandery, winding through Shu’s three regions,
the water divides through Ba and Yu, then down to Five Creeks.
獨鶴不知何事舞，
饑鳥似欲向人啼。
射洪春酒寒仍綠，
目極傷神誰為攜。

冬到金華山觀因得故拾遺陳公學堂遺跡

涪右眾山內，
金華紫崔嵬。
上有蔚藍天，
垂光抱瓊臺。
繫舟接絕壁，
杖策窮縈回。
四顧俯層巔，
淡然川谷開。
雪嶺日色死，
霜鴻有餘哀。
焚香玉女跪，
霧裏仙人來。
陳公讀書堂，
石柱仄青苔。
悲風為我起，
激烈傷雄才。
I know not for what reason that lone crane dances,
the starving crows seem to be crying out to me.
Shehong County’s spring ale is still green in cold weather,
as I gaze as far as I can, wounding my spirit, who will bring some in
hand for me?

_In Zizhou_ Du Fu went out on excursions to see the sights in the region.
_Shehong County had been the home of the famous poet Chen Ziang (661–702), a champion of “restoring antiquity” in poetry._

**11.54**

In Winter I Reached the Daoist Temple on Jinhua Mountain, and
There Found the Traces of the Study Hall of the Reminder Chen Ziang

On the Fu’s right bank, in a host of mountains,
Jinhua looms purple and towering.
Above it is Indigo Heaven¹

shedding light that embraces alabaster terraces.
I tied up my boat by the sheer cliff,
staff in hand, I circled all the way up.
On all sides I looked down from the tiered summit,

streams and valleys appeared, in a pale haze.
The sunlight died on snowy ridges,
and a frosty swan left ample lament.
A jade maiden knelt, burning incense,

and in the fog immortals came.
In the hall where Lord Chen studied,
a stone column lies aslant in green moss.
A mournful wind rose for me

intensely stirred, I lamented his manly talent.

---

¹ This is probably a grotto or Daoist heaven, associated with the temple on the mountain.
陳拾遺故宅

拾遺平昔居，
大屋尚修椽。
悠揚荒山日，
慘淡故園煙。

位下曷足傷，
所貴者聖賢。
有才繼騷雅，
哲匠不比肩。

公生揚馬後，
名與日月懸。
同遊英俊人，
多秉輔佐權。

彦昭超玉價，
郭振起通泉。
到今素壁滑，
灑翰銀鉤連。
The House of Reminder Chen Ziang

The Reminder used to live here,
a great house still with long beams.
Waning, the sun over wilderness mountains,
4  mist in his former garden, melancholy and pale.
If his post was low, it was not worth lamenting—
what he prized were sages and men of worth.
Talent he had, to continue the Sao and Ya,1
8  the master craftsmen could not reach to his shoulder.2
He was born after Yang Xiong and Sima Xiangru,3
but his fame hangs with the sun and the moon.
The flower of excellence, those that went about with him
12  often held the power to assist the ruler.
Yanzhao had the worth of the jade of Zhao,4
Guo Yuanzhen rose from Tongquan.
Even today the white walls are glossy
16  where the silver hooks of the running brush join.5
Such splendor, all met in a single moment then,
how can this hall last a thousand years?
Yet for the loyalty and right he showed for all time,
20  there are poems left behind, “Moved by Experiences.”6

---

1 The Classic of Poetry and the “Li Sao.”
2 “Master craftsmen” can refer either to the high officials of the government or to literary men.
3 The great fu writers of the Western Han, also from Sichuan.
4 Zhao Yanzhao, a court poet of Chen Ziang’s times.
5 This probably refers to the calligraphy of Guo Zhen and Zhao Yanzhao.
6 A series of poems by Chen Ziang, taken to represent the values of earlier poetry, the “ancient style.”
謁文公上方

野寺隱喬木，山僧高下居。石門日色異，
絳氣橫扶疏。窈窕入風磴，長蘿紛卷舒。
庭前猛虎臥，遂得文公廬。俯視萬家邑，
煙塵對階除。吾師雨花外，不下十年餘。
長者自布金，禪龕只晏如。大珠脫玷翳，
白月當空虛。甫也南北人，蕪蔓少耘鋤。
久遭詩酒汙，何事忝簪裾。
Paying My Respects at the Monastery of His Reverence Wen

Temple in the wilds, shaded by tall trees,
monks live all up and down the mountain.
At his stone gate the sunlight is different,
a crimson aura stretches across the lush growth.
I set out on windblown steps into deep recesses,
long hanging moss everywhere, coiling and stretched out.
In front of his yard a fierce tiger was lying,¹
and then I reached the hut of His Reverence Wen.
I looked down on a town of ten thousand homes,
their smoke and dust facing these terraced stairs.
The Reverend has not gone outside the rain of flowers
down the mountain for more than ten years.²
The eminent give distributions of money,
so his meditation chamber is just serene.
A great pearl that has escaped any flaw,
the white moon in the void.
I, Du Fu, am a man who goes south and north,³
all a tangle, with little clearing or hoeing.
Long I have met with the stain of poetry and ale,
for some reason I was allowed to disgrace hatpin and gown.⁴

---

¹ The monk Huiyong on Mount Lu had such a tiger, rendered docile by his piety.
² Flowers rain down when preaching the dharma.
³ Echoing the description of Confucius as a constant traveler, trying everywhere to teach his Way.
⁴ That is, to be an official.
王侯与蝼蚁，
同尽随丘墟。
願聞第一義，
迴向心地初。
金篦刮眼膜，
價重百車渠。
無生有汲引，
茲理儻吹嘘。

丈人屋上鳥，
人好鳥亦好。
人生意氣豁，
不在相逢早。
南京亂初定，
所向色枯槁。
遊子無根株，
茅齋付秋草。
東征下月峽，
掛席窮海島。
萬里須十金，
妻孥未相保。
Prince and count, mole-cricket and ant
all end up going into the ground.
I wish to hear the highest truth,
24 to return to my original mind
   The golden scalpel scraps the film from my eyes,\(^1\)
   its value is a hundred chequ gems.\(^2\)
I may be led to non-rebirth,
28 if perchance you will introduce me.

\[11.57\]
Respectfully Presented to Li (4) of Shehong County

The crow on your rooftop, sir,
if the man is good, the crow is good too.\(^3\)
In human life a relaxed temper towards another
4 doesn’t depend on how early in life one meets.
The Southern Capital’s troubles have just been quelled,\(^4\)
wherever I go, people look withered and frayed.
The traveler has no roots,
8 my thatch studio has been left to autumn plants.
I’ll journey east down Bright Moon Gorge,
set sail all the way to isles in the sea.
But for ten thousand leagues I’d need ten weights of gold,
12 I cannot protect wife and children.

---

1 *Nirvana sutra*: the metaphor of enlightening.
2 One of the seven jewels of Buddhism, here transferred to the sutras.
3 From an often repeated ancient proverb, appearing in the *Shuoyuan* as: “Whoever loves a person will also love the crows on his roof.”
4 The revolt of Xu Zhide in Chengdu.
早發射洪縣南途中作

蒼茫風塵際，
蹭蹬騏驎老。
志士懷感傷，
心胸已傾倒。

11.58

早發射洪縣南途中作

將老憂貧窶，
筋力豈能及。
征途乃侵星，
得使諸病入。
鄙人寡道氣，
在困無獨立。
俶裝逐徒旅，
達曙凌險澀。
寒日出霧遲，
清江轉山急。
僕夫行不進，
駑馬若維縶。
汀洲稍疏散，
風景開怏悒。
空慰所尚懷，
終非曩遊集。
In vast space at the edge of dust in the wind,
amid rough going the unicorn grows old.
The man of high aims feels moved and pained,
my heart is overcome with feelings of admiration.

After visiting Shehong County Du Fu continued going south in Zizhou to Tongquan County.

11.58

Setting Out Early from Shehong County, Composed on the South Road

Getting old I worry about my poverty,
how can my strength be up to this?
Setting out on the road in starlight
makes one vulnerable to all manner of illnesses.
A low person like me lacks the spirit of the Way,
in difficult straits I am never independent.
We pack our bags, follow fellow-travelers,
until daybreak we cross rough and perilous ground.
The cold sun is slow to come out of the fog,
the clear river runs swiftly around the mountain.
My servant walks without making progress,
my old nag seems as if hobbled.
Beaches and isles gradually appear sparsely scattered,
the scenery dispels the heavy gloom.
It merely consoles my feelings of admiration,
but in the end these are not my former excursions and parties.
衰顔偶一破，
勝事難屢挹。
茫然阮籍途，
更灑楊朱泣。

通泉驛南去通泉縣十五里山水作

溪行衣自濕，
亭午氣始散。
冬溫蚊蚋在，
人遠鳧鴨亂。

登頓生曾陰，
欹傾出高岸。
驛樓衰柳側，
縣郭輕煙畔。

一川何綺麗，
盡目窮壯觀。
山色遠寂寞，
江光夕滋漫。

傷時愧孔父，
去國同王粲。
我生苦飄零，
所歷有嗟歎。
Then by chance my aging face smiles,
such splendid scenes are hard to take in often.
Vague and vast, the road of Ruan Ji,¹
and once more I shed Yang Zhu’s tears.²

11.59

Composed in the Landscape, Fifteen Leagues Going South from Tongquan Post Station to the Tongquan County Seat

Walking along the creek our clothes got wet,
only at noon did the vapor disperse.
Winter was warm, flies and gnats were still there,
far from people ducks are scattered everywhere.
Climbing and descending, layers of shadow appeared,
we came out from the high and slanting bank.
The station building was beside dying willows,
the county seat was at the edge of light mist.
It was so gorgeous all the way along the river,
I looked as far as I could, enjoying the bold vista to the utmost.
The far colors of the mountains were still and lonely,
light on the river flooded over at evening.
Confucius puts me to shame in distress for the times,³
I am the same as Wang Can in leaving the capital.⁴
In my life I have suffered being tossed along,
and in what I have passed through, I have sighed.

¹ *Ruan Ji.
² The ancient philosopher Yang Zhu was said to have wept whenever he came to a forking of the road.
³ On several occasions Confucius expressed distress at the sorry state of culture and the polity; it is not clear which of these Du Fu has in mind.
⁴ *Wang Can.
過郭代公故宅

豪俊初未遇，
其跡或脫略。
代公尉通泉，
放意何自若。
及夫登衮冕，
直氣森噴薄。
磊落見異人，
豈伊常情度。
定策神龍後，
宮中禽清廓。
俄頃辨尊親，
指揮存顧託。
群公有慚色，
王室無削弱。
迥出名臣上，
丹青照臺閣。
我行得遺跡，
池館皆疏鑿。
壯公臨事斷，
顧步涕橫落。
Passing By Guo Yuanzhen, Duke of Dai’s Former House

Before that outstanding man was recognized,
his doings were sometimes quite unrestrained.
When the Duke of Dai was sheriff of Tongquan
how free he was in doing as he pleased!
But when he ascended to robes of court,
his upright temper swept sternly ahead.
A towering presence, a rare person revealed,
how can such be measured by ordinary standards?
He determined his plans after the Shenlong Reign,
the palace was swiftly made spacious and clear.
In a short time he explained how parents were honored,
under his direction he preserved the trust given him.
All the court gentlemen looked ashamed,
the royal house was in no way weakened.
He stands out far above the famous officials,
his portrait shines in the royal gallery.
In my travels I have found his traces,
lodge pools were all dug out later.
I admire his decision in handling matters,
looking around as I walk, my tears stream freely.

---

1 Guo Yuanzhen was a major figure in Li Longji’s rise to the throne as Xuanzong.
2 The Shenlong Reign (705–07) was that of Zhongzong. Guo Yuanzhen worked with Li Longji, later Xuanzong, to establish Li Longji in firm control.
3 When Li Longji had the Taiping Princess and members of her faction killed, Li Longji’s father, Ruizong was frightened and reassured by Guo Yuanzhen of Li Longji’s devotion.
觀薛稷少保書畫壁

少保有古風，
得之陝郊篇。
惜哉功名忤，
但見書畫傳。

我遊梓州東，
遺跡涪江邊。
畫藏青蓮界，
書入金榜懸。

仰看垂露姿，
不崩亦不翥。
鬱鬱三大字，
蛟龍岌相纏。

又揮西方變，
發地扶屋椽。
慘澹壁飛動，
到今色未填。

此行疊壯觀，
郭薛俱才賢。
In a loud voice I intone his “Jeweled Sword,”¹
the friendship of our spirits is entrusted to the underworld.

11.61
Observing Calligraphy and a Mural by Junior Guardian Xue Ji

The Junior Guardian had the “old style,”
one finds it in his poem on the “Meadows of Shan.”²
Too bad how things went amiss for his deeds and fame,³
one sees only his calligraphy and painting passed down.
I was traveling east of Zizhou,
his remaining traces were beside the Fu River.
The painting was kept in the blue lotus precincts,⁴
the calligraphy was hung on a gilded plaque.
I looked on the style of “hanging dew,”⁵
it neither collapseth nor doth it stumble.⁶
Three huge characters swelling full,
dragons wrapped around them looming above.
He also dashed off the transformation images from the West,⁷
starting from the ground and supporting the roof beams.
Muted, the wall flies into motion,
even today no colors have been added.
On this trip I have had a series of splendid views,
Guo and Xue were both talented worthies.⁸

¹ The poem by Guo that first won him recognition from Empress Wu.
² A poem by Xue Ji (649–713). Its full title is “Composed on an Autumn Day over Ten Leagues on the Meadows of Shan When Returning to the Capital” 秋日還京陝郊十里作.
³ A partisan of the Taiping Princess, Xue Ji was ordered to commit suicide by Xuanzong.
⁴ That is, in a Buddhist Temple.
⁵ A calligraphic style.
⁶ Paraphrased from “Heaven Preserve” (Tianbao 天保) in the Classic of Poetry, suggesting permanence.
⁷ Buddhist images, associated with India.
⁸ Guo Yuanzhen of 11.60 and Xue Ji.
通泉縣署壁後薛少保畫鶴

薛公十一鶴，
皆寫青田真。
畫色久欲盡，
蒼然猶出塵。
低昂各有意，
磊落如長人。
佳此志氣遠，
豈惟粉墨新。
萬里不以力，
群遊森會神。
威遲白鳳態，
非是倉鶴鄰。
高堂未傾覆，
常得慰嘉賓。
曝露牆壁外，
終嗟風雨頻。
赤霄有真骨，
恥飲污池津。
I know not a hundred years from now
who again will ever come to Tongquan.

11.62

Junior Guardian Xue Ji’s Crane Mural on the Back of a Wall at the Office Building of Tongquan County

Eleven cranes by Sir Xue,
all perfect portraits of those at Greenfield.¹
After long time the paintings’ colors are almost gone,
yet, graying, still they stand out.
High and low, each with its own intent,
distinguished, like tall persons.
I admire the distances on which their aims are set,
not just a freshness of pigment.
They go thousands of miles without effort,
roaming as a flock by mysterious accord of spirit.
White phoenix postures winding away,
these are not the neighbors of orioles.
Before the high hall collapsed,
they always consoled the worthy guest.²
Now left exposed on an outside wall,
at last we sigh how wind and rain beleaguer them.
In the high reddish wisps are the real birds,
ashamed to drink from filthy pools and fords.

¹ The legendary Greenfield cranes were a pair of white cranes that every year would hatch a brood. When the hatchlings were old enough they would fly away, but the adults never left. It was believed they were taken care of by immortals.
² Distinguished guests at Tongquan would likely be those sent on administrative exile, hence the consolation offered by such untrammeled beings as the cranes.
冥冥任所往，
脱落谁能驯。

11.63
陪王侍御宴通泉东山野亭
江水东流去，
清樽日复斜。
异方同宴赏，
何处是京华。
亭景临山水，
村烟对浦沙。
狂歌过於胜，
得醉即为家。

11.64
陪王侍御同登东山最高顶宴姚通泉晚携酒泛江
姚公美政谁与俦，
不减昔时陈太丘。
邑中上客有柱史，
多暇日陪騄马游。
11.63

Accompanied by Attendant Censor Wang I Feast at the Wilderness Pavilion on East Mountain at Tongquan

The River's waters flow off to the east,
with mugs of clear ale, the sun again sinks.
In a strange land we share feast's pleasures,
what place is the capital?
The pavilion's silhouette looks out on mountains and waters,
smoke from a village faces sands of the shore.
Singing wildly, just too wonderful,
getting drunk, home is right here.

11.64

In the Company of Attendant Censor Wang, We Climbed the Highest Peak of East Mountain Where We Were Feasted by Yao of Tongquan;
In the Evening We Took Ale and Went Boating on the River

Who is the match of the excellence of Lord Yao's governing?—
it is no less than Chen Shi of Taiqiu in the olden days.¹
Among the fine guests in this town is one of the censorate,
with much leisure, he daily roams accompanied by dappled grays.²

¹ An Eastern Han figure famous for being a good magistrate.
² Dappled grays were the mark of a censor; i.e., Yao accompanies Wang.
漁陽

東山高頂羅珍羞，
下顧城郭銷我憂。
清江白日落欲盡，
復攜美人登彩舟。
笛聲憤怨哀中流，
妙舞逶迤夜未休。
燈前往往大魚出，
聽曲低昂如有求。
三更風起寒浪湧，
取樂喧呼覺船重。
滿空星河光破碎，
四座賓客色不動。
請公臨深莫相違，
迥船罷酒上馬歸。
人生歡會豈有極，
無使霜過霑人衣。

漁陽

漁陽突騎猶精銳，
赫赫雍王都節制。
猛將飄然恐後時，
本朝不入非高計。
On East Mountain’s high summit tasty dishes were spread,  
looking back down on the city melted away my cares.  
When the bright sun had almost sunk into the clear river,  
we next took fair maidens in hand and got in a painted boat.  
Fierce resentment in the notes of the flutes made mid-stream mournful,  
exquisite dances undulating did not cease with night.  
In front of the lamps time and again large fish came out,  
rising and sinking, listening to the tunes, as if they sought something.  
At midnight a wind rose and cold waves surged,  
in our pleasures, shouting and noisy, I sensed the boat was heavy.  
From the river of stars filling the sky the lights were broken to pieces,  
but all the guests there present did not change their countenance.  
I pray, my lord, do not ignore what they say about being by deep water,¹  
turn the boat, stop the drinking, go home upon your horse.  
In human life merry gatherings never exhaust all pleasure,  
don’t let the passing frost soak a person’s clothes.

¹ This appears in various early texts as an admonition to caution.
² Yuyang had been An Lushan’s base and was still in the hands of rebellious commanders.
³ In 762 Li Shi (later Dezong) was made Commander-in-Chief of all the Tang cavalry and led them against Shi Chaoyi.
⁴ These are rebel generals changing sides with Li Shi’s victory.
祿山北築雄武城，
舊防敗走歸其營。
繫書請問燕耆舊，
今日何須十萬兵。

11.66

花底

紫萼扶千蕊，
黃須照萬花。
忽疑行暮雨，
何事入朝霞。
恐是潘安縣，
堪留衛玠車。
深知好顏色，
莫作委泥沙。

11.67

柳邊

只道梅花發，
那知柳亦新。
枝枝總到地，
葉葉自開春。
An Lushan in the north had built Xiongwu Fort, formerly it protected those fleeing in defeat, returning to their camps. By a letter tied to an arrow let me ask the old men of Yan, nowdays why do you need a hundred thousand troops?

11.66
Under the Flowers
Purple calyces support a thousand pistils, ten thousand flowers shine with yellow stamens. All at once it seems a twilight rain coming, then how does it turn into dawn auroras? I wonder if it is Pan Yue's county, it could detain Wei Jie's coach. I deeply understand that such beautiful colors should not be cast down into the mud.

11.67
By the Willows
They talk only about plums blossoming, who notices that the willows too are fresh? Every branch reaches to the ground, every leaf spreads springtime.

---
1 This alludes to the way in which the Warring States political strategist Lu Zhonglian persuaded a Yan general to surrender.
2 This echoes the goddess of Wu Mountain, who said she was the twilight rain and the clouds of dawn.
3 Pan Yue planted peach trees all over Heyang County when he was magistrate there. Pan Yue was also famous for his good looks.
4 A person of the Jin noted for his good looks.
紫燕時翻翼，
黃鸝不露身。
漢南應老盡，
8 萬上遠愁人。

11.68

聞官軍收河南河北

劍外忽傳收薊北，
初聞涕淚滿衣裳。
卻看妻子愁何在，
4 漫卷詩書喜欲狂。
白首放歌須縱酒，
青春作伴好還鄉。
即從巴峽穿巫峽，
8 便下襄陽向洛陽。

11.69

遠遊

賤子何人記，
迷方著處家。
At times purple swallows wing through,
the yellow orioles don’t reveal themselves.
I will surely grow old south of the Han River,
while by the Ba they will grieve me from afar.¹

11.68

Hearing That the Imperial Army Has Retaken He’nan and Hebei

Beyond Swordgate the news suddenly comes that we’ve recaptured
Jibei,²
on first hearing it, tears cover my clothes.
I look around to my wife and children, what sadness remains?
I carelessly roll up poems and writing almost mad with delight.
White-haired, I sing out loud, I should drink ale as I please,
with green spring as companion it’s just right for going home.
I’ll go right down through the Ba Gorges, thread my way through the
Wu Gorges,
then on down to Xiangyang, where I’ll head to Luoyang.³

The death of Shi Chaoyi, the last major rebel, in the first month of 763,
and the “surrender” of the other rebel generals, accepting Daizong’s general
amnesty, returned the northeast to nominal Tang control. In many cases
those generals continued to rule the territories where their armies were
located. Du Fu’s elation at the news was to be reversed later that year when
the Tibetans raided the northwest frontier and briefly occupied Chang’an.
By this point his family had clearly joined him in Zizhou.

11.69

Far Traveling

Who recalls this poor fellow?—
he lost his way and makes his home anywhere.

¹ The Ba River is near Chang’an, where those parting snap willow branches.
² Swordgate Mountain lay north of Chengdu; this means simply that the news has
come to Shu.
³ Original note: “My fields and gardens are in the Eastern Capital” 余田園在東京.
竹風連野色，
江沫擁春沙。
種藥扶衰病，
吟詩解歎嗟。
似聞胡騎走，
失喜問京華。

II

行路難如此，
登樓望欲迷。
身無卻少壯，
跡有但羈棲。
江水流城郭，
春風入鼓鼙。
雙雙新燕子，
依舊已銜泥。

天畔登樓眼，
隨春入故園。
The bamboo breeze stretches to the colors of the wilds,
river spume hugs the spring sand.
I plant medicinal herbs to nurse me in age and illness,
I chant poems to relieve my sighs.
I seem to have heard that the Hu cavalry fled,
mad with joy, I ask for news from the capital.

11.70–71
Climbing the Wall Tower of Zizhou on a Spring Day

I
The roads I have traveled have been so hard,
climbing the tower, I almost lose my bearings gazing.
For my body, no return to youth’s vigor,
the traces of my life, just lodging on journeys.
The river’s water flows around the walls,
spring breeze enters the sound of war drums.
Pair by pair new swallows
already carry mud in their beaks as they used to.

II
At earth’s end these eyes that climbed the tower
follow spring into the garden back home.
戰場今始定，
移柳更能存。
厭蜀交遊冷，
思吳勝事繁。
應須理舟楫，
長嘯下荊門。

11.72–76

有感五首

I

將帥蒙恩澤，
兵戈有歲年。
至今勞聖主，
何以報皇天。
白骨新交戰，
雲臺舊拓邊。
乘槎斷消息，
無處覓張騫。
Now for the first time battlefields are peaceful,
4 can the willows I transplanted still have survived?
I am weary of the coldness of acquaintances in Shu,
I think of the abundance of splendid scenery in Wu.
I should fix up my boat right away
8 and with a long whistle go down to Jingmen.

The following set of poems makes reference to the events around 763.
With the defeat of Shi Chaoyi, the leader of the rebellious northeastern generals, the other generals sought to come to terms with the court. The Tang general Pugu Huai’en asked that these generals be confirmed as Military Commissioners of their local armies, thus perpetuating the dynasty's inability to control the region. The Tibetans had taken most of the Tang northwestern conquests, and the Tang’s old enemy in the south, Nanzhao, had recently subordinated itself to Tibet.

11.72–76
Stirred by Something

I

The commanders have enjoyed imperial grace,
but the clash of arms has gone on for years.
Even now it still troubles our sage ruler,
4 how is this “repaying Heaven?”
White bones, battles are newly joined,
those on Cloud Terrace once opened the frontier.
8 No news from the one who rode the raft,
we have no way to find Zhang Qian.

1 The loyalty and duty owed by a subject to the emperor was “repaying Heaven.”
2 Cloud Terrace was the Eastern Han gallery, which held the portraits of meritorious official and generals; here it refers to earlier Tang generals. Territory that was once conquered by the Tang is now the site of new battles.
3 *Riding the raft; *Zhang Qian. Through the association with Zhang Qian, this refers to Tang ambassadors to foreign parts, probably Li Zhifang’s embassy to the Tibetans.
有感五首

II

幽薊餘蛇豕，
乾坤尚虎狼。
诸侯春不贡，
使者日相望。
慎勿吞青海，
无劳问越裳。
大君先息战，
归马华山阳。

III

洛下舟车入，
天中贡赋均。
日闻红粟腐，
寒待翠华春。
莫取金汤固，
长令宇宙新。
不过行俭德，
盗贼本王臣。

IV

丹桂风霜急，
青梧日夜凋。
II

Youzhou and Jizhou, serpents and boars remain,\(^1\)
in Heaven and Earth, still with wolves and jackals.
The lords of domains send no spring tribute,
a string of court envoys gaze on each other daily.\(^2\)
Take care not to try to swallow up Kokonor,\(^3\)
don't trouble yourself to ask about Yuechang.\(^4\)
May our great ruler be the first to cease battle,
bring the horses back to graze on the sunlit side of Mount Hua.\(^5\)

III

You can get to Luoyang by wagon or boat,
the world's center, equidistant for tribute and taxes.
Daily I hear how the red grain rots there,
cold, they await the imperial carriage bringing spring.\(^6\)
Don't rely on the fastness of metal and boiling water\(^7\)
to renew the world in a lasting way.
Just practice the virtue of frugality—
the rebels are basically the king's subjects.

IV

The red cassia is hard-pressed by wind and frost,
the green tung tree dries up by day and night.

---

1 Youzhou and Jizhou were two of the northeastern prefectures under the control of the rebellious generals.
2 That is, the court is constantly sending envoys to the northeastern warlords.
3 Kokonor had been lost to the Tibetans.
4 The old kingdom of Yuechang in southern Vietnam here stands for Nanzhao, which at this point had submitted to Tibet.
5 Echoing “Wu cheng” 武成 in the *Classic of Documents*: after defeating King Zhou of Shang, King Wu set aside warfare and practiced civil government, setting the chariot horses to graze on the south slopes of Mount Hua.
6 They hope the emperor will transfer to Luoyang, as was advocated at the time to escape the Tibetan menace in Chang’an.
7 A conventional attribute of a militarily secure city.
春日戏题恼郝使君兄

由来强干地，
未有不臣朝。
受钺亲贤往，
卑宫制诏遙。
终依古封建，
岂独听箫韶。

V

胡灭人还乱，
兵残将自疑。登壇名绝假，
报主岂何迟。
领郡輈无色，
之官皆有词。
愿闻哀痛诏，
端拱问疮痍。

11.77

春日戯题恼郝使君兄

使君意气凌青霄，
忆昨欢娱常见招。
Always when the trunk was strong
4 there was never a court with insubordinate subjects.
When receiving the axe of authority, kin and worthies go, 1
when the palace is humble, edicts reach far.
In the end rely on the ancient fief system,
8 how could it be listening to the Xiao and Shao alone? 2

V

The Hu were destroyed, but still there is turmoil,
their troops few, the generals are suspicious.
Ascending the altar, your titles ceased to be false, 3
4 why are you so slow to repay your lord?
Those in charge of districts generally blanch,
those to take offices all have complaints. 4
I wish to hear an edict of the emperor’s remorse,
8 folding his hands and asking about war’s scars. 5

Although many areas were not in open military conflict with the court, their military commissioners neither sent in taxes nor did they go to court. When Daizong was forced to flee the Tibetan incursion, they did not come to his aid.

11.77

Written in Sport on a Spring Day: Provoking Prefect Hao

The prefect’s sense of spirit rises up over high blue clouds,
I recall how to recent pleasures I was always summoned.
細馬時鳴金騕褭，
佳人屢出董嬌饒。
東流江水西飛燕，
可惜春光不相見。
願攜王趙兩紅顏，
再騁肌膚如素練。
通泉百里近梓州，
請公一來開我愁。
舞處重看花滿面，
尊前還有錦纏頭。
Of fine steeds there sometimes neighed a golden Yaoniao,\(^1\)
of lovely girls repeatedly came forth Dong Jiaorao.\(^2\)
The river’s water flowing east, the swallows flying west,
too bad that in this springtime weather we do not meet.
I wish to take Misses Wang and Zhao, a pair of ruddy complexions,
and once again have that skin show its skills like pale white silk.
Tongquan is near Zizhou a hundred leagues away,
I pray you to just come and dispel my melancholy.
When they dance, we’ll watch again how flowers fill their faces,\(^3\)
before our cups once more we’ll have a brocade turban.\(^4\)

---

1. A famous horse.
2. A beautiful girl in a yuefu attributed to the Eastern Han.
3. Presumably some sort of ornamental patches.
4. A reward for the dancers.