13.1

閬山歌

閬州城東靈山白，
閬州城北玉臺碧。
松浮欲盡不盡雲，
江動將崩已崩石。
那知根無鬼神會，
已覺氣與嵩華敵。
中原格鬥且未歸，
應結茅齋看青壁。

13.2

閬水歌

嘉陵江色何所似，
石黛碧玉相因依。
正憐日破浪花出，
更復春從沙際歸。
巴童蕩槳欹側過，
水雞銜魚來去飛。
閬中勝事可腸斷，
閬州城南天下稀。
13.1

Song of Langzhou's Mountains

East of the walls of Langzhou Holy Mountain stands white,
north of the walls of Langzhou Jade Terrace is emerald green.
In pines there drift about-to-end but never-ending clouds,
the river shakes about-to-fall and already fallen rocks.
How do I know that at the base there is no meeting with spirits?—
I already feel that their atmosphere rivals Mounts Song and Hua.
There is combat on the Central Plain, I have not yet gone home,
I should make a thatched studio here and look at the green cliffs.

13.2

Song of Lang’s Waters

The colors of the Jialing River, what are they like?—
stone mascara-black and green jade, resting by each other.
I love most how the sun emerges breaking through spume of waves,
and even more how spring comes back to the edge of the sands.
Lads of Ba sweep their oars, rocking as they pass,
waterfowl with fish in beaks come and go in flight.
The splendid scenery of the Lang region can break the heart,
and south of the city of Langzhou is rare in all the world.
江亭王閬州筵餞蕭遂州

離亭非舊國，
春色是他鄉。
老畏歌聲斷，
愁隨舞曲長。
二天開寵饯，
五馬爛生光。
川路風煙接，
俱宜下鳳凰。

陪王使君晦日泛江就黃家亭子二首

山豁何時斷，
江平不肯流。
稍知花改岸，
始驗鳥隨舟。
結束多紅粉，
歡娛恨白頭。
13.3

At a River Pavilion Wang of Langzhou Holds a Parting Feast for Xiao of Suizhou

The pavilion of parting is not one’s home,
spring’s beauty is here in another land.
Aging, I dread that the singing voices break off,
my sadness grows as long as the dancing tune.
The “second heaven” holds a banquet of favor,¹
the other, of five horses, gives off glorious light.²
Windblown mist connects the roads of Sichuan,
both of you are fitting to bring down a phoenix.³

13.4–5

In the Company of Prefect Wang, Boating on the River on the Last Day of the Month and Going to the Huang Family’s Pavilion

I

The mountain gapes wide, when was it cut?—
the river so level it won’t flow on.
I gradually note that flowers change on the shore,
then examine the birds that follow the boat.
Many rouged beauties, all dressed up,
in pleasures I hate my white-hairs.

¹ That is, the prefect. This refers to the story of Su Zhang in the Eastern Han, transferred to Jizhou, who invited his friend the Governor of Qinghe to hold a banquet. In the pleasure of the banquet, the governor said: “Others have only one Heaven; I alone have two.” Hence here it is a prefect feasting a dear friend.
² “Five horses” is another way to refer to a prefect, in this case Xiao.
³ The phoenix appears when there is someone virtuous.
非君愛人客，
晦日更添愁。

II

有徑金沙軟，
無人碧草芳。
野畦連蟬蝶，
江檻俯鸞鶴。
日晚煙花亂，
風生錦繡香。
不須吹急管，
衰老易悲傷。

13.6

泛江

方舟不用楫，
極目總無波。
長日容杯酒，
深江淨綺羅。
亂離還奏樂，
飄泊且聽歌。
故國流清渭，
如今花正多。
Were it not for your love of guests,
8 I would feel even sadder on this last day of the month.

II

There is a path, its golden sands soft,
no one else here, the emerald plants fragrant.
Butterflies stretch off to fields in the wilds,
4 a deck on the river looks down on mandarin ducks.
The day grows late, misty flowers in confusion,
wind rises, embroidery and brocade fragrant.
Don’t play the shrill pipes—
8 someone aging is easily made sad.

13.6

Adrift on the River

My double boat uses no oars,
as far as I can see, no waves anywhere.
The long days have room for a cup of ale,
4 the deep River, figured satins clear.
In war and parting music is still performed,
as I drift about, I listen to singing a while.
My homeland is where the clear Wei flows,
8 where nowadays the flowers are at their fullest.
收京

復道收京邑，
兼聞殺犬戎。
衣冠卻扈從，
車駕已還宮。

剋復誠如此，
扶持在數公。
莫令回首地，
慟哭起悲風。

巴西聞收宮闕，送班司馬入京

聞道收宗廟，
鳴鑾自陝歸。
傾都看黃屋，
正殿引朱衣。
劍外春天遠，
巴西敕使稀。
13.7

Retaking the Capital

Once again they say we’ve retaken the capital,
I’ve also heard that we’ve killed the Dog Rong.¹
The caps and gowns are back in the entourage,
coach and carriage have returned to the palace.
If reconquest is really as they say,
maintaining it depends on our several lords.
Let not this place to which I look back²
give rise to a melancholy air from weeping in pain.

13.8–9

In Baxi Hearing that the Palace Has Been Retaken, Seeing Assistant Ban
Off to the Capital

I

I’ve heard that the ancestral temple has been retaken,
ringing coach-bells return from Shan.
The whole capital looks on the yellow canopy,
the central palace draws in red gowns.
Beyond Jian’ge spring skies are far,
in Ba West emissaries with edicts are few.

¹ The Tibetans.
² Chang’an, now restored after the brief Tibetan occupation of 763.
念君经世乱，
匹马向王畿。

群盗至今日，
先朝忝从臣。歎君能恋主，
久客羡归秦。
黄阁长司谏，
丹墀有故人。向来论社稷，
为话涕沾巾。

13.10

城上
草满巴西绿，
空城白日长。
风吹花片片，
春动水茫茫。
八骏随天子，
群臣从武皇。
遥闻出巡守，
早晚遍遐荒。
I think on you, passing through the turmoil of the age,
on a single horse heading toward the royal domain.

II

Bands of marauders have continued to this day,
in the previous reign I shamed the attendants.¹
I sigh that you can so love your ruler,
long a wayfarer, I envy your return to Qin.
In the Yellow Tower I was long in charge of remonstrance,²
in the Cinnabar Court I still have old friends.
I have always considered the Altars of Earth and Grain,
when I talk about them, tears moisten my kerchief.

13.10

On the City Wall

The plants fill Ba West with green,
in the empty city bright sun lasts longer.
The breeze blows down flowers petal by petal,
spring stirs the waters vast and vague.
The eight chargers went with the Son of Heaven,³
the crowds of officials followed Emperor Wu.⁴
From afar I’ve heard that he has gone on a tour,⁵
sooner or later he will cross all the distant wastes.

₁ Polite language, simply saying that he served as an attendant of the throne. The point is that since warfare has continued since the previous reign, he failed to serve the throne effectively.
₂ The “Yellow Tower” is the Chancellery.
₃ These are the eight horses of King Mu of the Zhou, whose travels are here compared to Daizong’s flight from the Tibetans.
₄ Perhaps Emperor Wu of the Han’s travels to Fenyin and beyond, here referring to Daizong’s flight from Chang’an.
₅ An imperial tour to inspect the provinces, here referring to Daizong’s flight.
13.11–15

傷春五首

I

天下兵雖滿，
春光日自濃。
西京疲百戰，
北闕任群凶。
關塞三千里，
煙花一萬重。
蒙塵清路急，
御宿且誰供。
殷復前王道，
周遷舊國容。
蓬萊足雲氣，
應合總從龍。

II

鶯入新年語，
花開滿故枝。
天青風卷幔，
草碧水通池。
Langzhou still lamenting the Tibetan occupation and the emperor’s flight in spring of 764, well after the Tibetans withdrew and Daizong had returned.

13.11–15

Lamenting Spring

I

Although arms are still all over the world, spring’s light gets richer day by day.

Chang’an, worn out by a hundred battles, its palace towers are left to a band of monsters.

This frontier is three thousand leagues away, with misty flowers in ten thousand layers.

He flees in the dust, the road is cleared urgently, who provides a place for the emperor to stay a while?

Yin restored the way of its former kings, Zhou shifted the former appearance of the dynasty.

There are ample cloud vapors at Penglai Palace, all will always surely follow the dragon.

II

Orioles chatter, entering the new year, flowers open, filling the old branches.

The heavens are blue, the breeze rolls up the curtains, the plants are emerald, waters reach the pond.

---

1 Original note (in Guo appended to final poem, not included in SB): “Langzhou in Ba is remote, and only after I finished lamenting spring did I learn that the palace had been recovered before spring began” 巴閬僻遠，傷春罷始知春前已收宮闕.
2 Referring to the restorations of the Shang (Yin) dynasty of Pan’geng and Wuding.
3 Zhou’s “restoration” is here located in the movement of the capital to the east after the fall of Hao.
4 Clouds follow the movement of dragons, in this case the emperor.
牢落官军速，
萧条万事危。
鬓毛元自白，
泪点向来垂。
不是无兄弟，
其如有别离。
巴山春色静，
北望转逶迤。

III

日月还相斗，
星辰屡合围。
不成诛执法，
焉得变危机。
大角缠兵气，
钩陈出帝畿。
烟尘昏御道，
耆旧把天衣。
行在诸军闇，
来朝大将稀。
贤多隐屠钓，
王肯载同归。
Few and scattered, imperial armies hurry,
gloomy, as everything lies in peril.
The hair at my temples was then already white,
spots of tears used to always be falling.
It’s not that I lack brothers,
but separation from them can’t be helped.
Spring’s colors, serene in the mountains of Ba,
my northward gaze winds ever farther into the distance.

III

Sun and moon contend to eclipse one another,
the stars are often surrounded by halos.¹
Without the execution of the Law-Holder,²
how can we change this time of peril?
The Great Horn is wrapped in the atmosphere of soldiers,³
Gouchen goes out from the imperial domain.⁴
Smoke and dust darken the imperial way,
old folks hang on to the emperor’s clothes.
Many armies are missing at the temporary capital,
the high generals who come to court are few.
Worthies are many, hiding as butchers and fishermen,
is the king willing to bring them back with him?⁵

¹ An evil omen for the emperor.
² A constellation of four stars, corresponding to the emperor’s close attendants.
³ The Great Horn constellation stands for the courtyard of the emperor, here corre-
   sponding to the palace in Chang’an.
⁴ The six stars of the Gouchen constellation correspond to the imperial guard, who
   have accompanied the emperor in flight.
⁵ *Taigong.
再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。

再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。

再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。

再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。

再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。

再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。

再有朝廷乱，
难知消息真。
近传王在洛，
便道使归秦。
IV

Once again the court faces turmoil,
it is hard to know if the news is true.
Recently there is word that the king is at Luoyang,
they also say that he has sent men back to Qin.
Having her horses snatched away grieved a Princess,¹
when he mounted the carriage it made the Noble Consorts weep.²
At Xiao Barrier he was lost going north,³
he will tour eastward to the gray sea.⁴
Dare I reckon the peril of the situation? —
there are still many senior high officials.
How could there not be the blood of a Xi Shao
to soak the dust of the attendant carriages?⁵

V

I have heard that when he first journeyed east,
many of the “orphans” ran away.⁶
Without a portion of the grain in the imperial storehouse
they competed to throw away their Luyang pikes.⁷
When Hu barbarians mounted the front palace,
princes and dukes left the imperial moat.

---
¹ A Northern Wei princess had her horses taken by a general, an allusion suggesting the humiliation of the imperial family.
² A scene that occurred when Jin Chengdi was driven from his palace in 328, here suggesting that the court ladies did not accompany the emperor in his flight.
³ Han Wudi went north out of Xiao Barrier and lost his way.
⁴ As Qin Shihuang did.
⁵ When Emperor Hui of the Jin was endangered on a campaign north, Xi Shao interposed his body to protect the emperor and was killed, his blood splattering the emperor’s robes.
⁶ The imperial guard, so-called because when Han Wudi formed the Yulin Guard, he filled its ranks with war orphans.
⁷ The Duke of Luyang was in combat and the sun was going down; he waved his pike and made the sun turn backward.
得無中夜舞，
8 誰憶大風歌。
春色生烽燧，
幽人泣薜蘿。
君臣重修德，
12 猶足見時和。

13.16
暮寒
霧隱平郊樹，
風含廣岸波。
沉沉春色靜，
慘慘暮寒多。
戍鼓猶長擊，
林鶯遂不歌。
忽思高宴會，
朱袖拂雲和。

13.17
遊子
巴蜀愁誰語，
吳門興杳然。
Could there not have been midnight dancing?—¹
who recalled “The Song of the Great Wind?”²
Spring’s colors appear amid beacon fires,
the recluse weeps on hanging-moss robes.
If ruler and subject value perfecting virtue,
it will be enough to see the times in harmony.

13.16
Evening Cold

Fog hides the trees on the level moor,
wind carries the waves on the distant shore.
All sunken, spring’s colors are calm,
dreary, there is much evening cold.
Garrison drums are still steadily beaten,
so that orioles in the woods do not sing.
I suddenly think on a noble banquet,
red sleeves brushing the zither of Mount Yunhe.³

13.17
Traveler

To whom can I tell my sadness in Ba and Shu?—
my elation for Wumen is faint in the distance.⁴

¹ When Zu Ti and Liu Kun were fighting invaders of the Jin, Zu heard a cock crow at night and made Liu Kun get up and do a sword dance with him.
² Sung by the founder of the Han, in which he worried about finding soldiers to guard the empire.
³ Yunhe was famous for good wood for a zither.
⁴ Wumen refers to the lower Yangzi; Du Fu is considering leaving Chengdu and going down the Yangzi. Alternately, it may refer to his youthful travels.
九江春草外，
三峽暮帆前。
厭就成都卜，
休為吏部眠。
蓬萊如可到，
衰白問群仙。

13.18–19

滕王亭子二首

I
君王台榭枕巴山，
萬丈丹梯尚可攀。
春日鶯啼修竹裏，
仙家犬吠白雲間。
清江錦石傷心麗，
嫩蕊濃花滿目班。
人到於今歌出牧，
來遊此地不知還。

II
寂寞春山路，
君王不復行。
Nine Rivers lie out beyond the spring plants,
the Three Gorges, ahead of my twilight sail.
I am weary making divinations in Chengdu,¹
let me cease the sleep of Bi Zhuo.²
If ever I can reach Penglai,³
in white-haired decline, I'll pay respects to the immortals.

13.18–19

The Pavilion of the Prince of Teng⁴

I

The prince's terrace and kiosk are pillowed on Ba's mountains,
a ten-thousand-yard cinnabar ladder still can be climbed.
On spring days orioles sing among the tall bamboo,
at an immortal’s home a dog barks in the white clouds.
The clear river's brocade stones are heartbreakingly gorgeous,
the tender stamens of deep-hued flowers fill the eyes dazzling.
Until this day people sing of his setting forth as prefect,
coming to visit this place he did not know to return.

II

A melancholy stillness, road through spring mountains,
the prince travels here no more.

¹ *Yan Junping.
² Literally “of [he of] the Ministry of Personnel.” Bi Zhuo lived next to someone who made fine ale and would steal into his neighbor’s house at night to get a drink. He was caught by the brewer.
³ The isle of immortals in the Eastern Ocean.
⁴ Original note: “In Jade Terrace Lodge. In the Diaolu reign the Prince was Prefect of Langzhou” 在玉臺觀內。王調露中任閬州刺史。The Prince was Taizong’s younger brother Li Yuanying (d.684), famous for his revelry.
古牆猶竹色，
虚閣自松聲。
鳥雀荒村暮，
雲霞過客情。
尚思歌吹入，
千騎把霓旌。

13.20–21

玉臺觀

I

中天積翠玉臺遙，
上帝高居絳節朝。
遂有馮夷來擊鼓，
始知嬴女善吹簫。
江光隱見龕鼕窟，
石勢參差烏鵲橋。
更肯紅顏生羽翰，
便應黃髮老漁樵。

II

浩劫因王造，
平臺訪古遊。
Old walls still in bamboo’s colors,
4 in the empty tower there is naturally the sound of pines.
Sparrows, twilight in a tumbledown village,
clouds and colored wisps, mood of the passer-by.
I still think on how he came with songs and piping,
8 a thousand riders, rainbow banners in hand.

13.20–21

Jade Terrace Lodge

I
Massed verdure mid-sky, Jade Terrace lies afar,
there Heaven’s Lord dwells on high, crimson standards come to his
       court.
Next there is Pingyi coming to beat the drums,²
4 now I know that the Ying daughter is good at playing the pipes.³
Light in the river now hides, now reveals lairs of turtles and crocodiles,
the force of the rock irregular, the bridge made by magpies.⁴
How can my face again become ruddy and I sprout wings? —
8 I should just let my yellowing hair grow old among woodsmen and
       fishermen.

II
The grand staircase was constructed by the prince,
on Level Terrace I visit traces of the past.⁵

---
1 Original note: “Constructed by the Prince of Teng” 滕王造. This had become a Daoist temple.
2 Pingyi is a water deity.
3 Ying was the surname of the Qin royal house. This is Nongyu who married Xiaoshi
   and flew off to become an immortal.
4 This is the bridge made by magpies on the Seventh Eve to let the *Weaver Woman
   cross over to her beloved, the Oxherd.
5 Prince Xiao of Liang built Level Terrace in the Western Han; the Prince of Teng is
   compared to him.
奉寄章十侍御

彩雲蕭史駐，
文字魯恭留。
宮闕通群帝，
乾坤到十洲。
人傳有笙鶴，
時過此山頭。

13.22

淮海維揚一俊人，
金章紫綬照青春。
指麾能事迴天地，
訓練強兵動鬼神。
湘西不得歸關羽，
河內猶宜借寇恂。
朝覲從容問幽仄，
勿云江漢有垂綸。
Bright colored clouds, where Xiaoshi halted;¹
written words, remaining from Prince Gong of Lu.²
Palace towers lead to the pantheon;
Heaven and Earth stretch to the Ten Isles.³
People say there is a crane and mouth-organ
that at times pass over this mountaintop.⁴

13.22
Respectfully Sent to Censor Zhang (10)⁵

From Yangzhou in Huaihai, an extraordinary man,
the golden seal and purple sash shine in green spring.⁶
His capability in command can turn Heaven and Earth,
in training strong troops he stirs gods and spirits.
West of the Xiang one could not bring back Guan Yu,⁷
in He’nei it is still fitting to borrow Kou Xun.⁸
Fully at ease meeting His Majesty, if he asks about those in secluded
places,
don’t say that by the River Han there is one dangling a fishing line.⁹

¹ *Xiaoshi.
² Prince Gong of Lu broke down the wall of Confucius’s residence when enlarging
his palace and found the “old script” *Classic of Documents*.
³ Where the immortals dwell.
⁴ This is the evidence of the presence of the immortal Wangzi Qiao.
⁵ Original note: “At the time he has just ended his term as prefect of Zizhou and
capital liaison of Dongchuan, and is about to set off for court” 時初罷梓州刺史
東川留後，將赴朝廷. In fact Zhang Yi first went to Chengdu, where Yan Wu had
him beaten to death.
⁶ The insignia of his position as prefect.
⁷ When Liu Bei entrusted his general Guan Yu with the key position in Jingzhou, he
was killed, and Liu Bei could not bring him back to Shu. Since Zhang occupies a
similar military position in Dongchuan, the implications here are uncertain.
⁸ Kou Xun served as governor of He’nei and Yingchuan in succession. Later he
followed Han Guangwudi to Yingchuan, where the common people asked if they
could borrow him for a year.
⁹ A recluse like *Taigong who might be called to service, perhaps a figure for the
poet himself.
13.23

南池

崢嶸巴馗間，
所向盡山谷。
安知有蒼池，

萬頃浸坤軸。
呀然閬城南，
枕帶巴江腹。
芰荷入異縣，

粳稻共比屋。
皇天不無意，
美利戒止足。

高田失西成，
此物頗豐熟。
清源多眾魚，
遠岸富喬木。
獨歎楓香林，

春時好顏色。
南有漢王祠，
終朝走巫祝。
歌舞散靈衣，

荒哉舊風俗。
Among towering heights of Langzhou in Ba mountains and valleys lie in every direction. Who would have thought there would be this dark green pool, ten thousand acres soaking the axis of Earth? It gapes open south of the walls of Langzhou, pillowed along the belly of the Ba river. Water-chestnuts and lotus stretch into another county, lowland rice provides for houses side by side. Sovereign Heaven was not without purpose: its beauty and bounty admonish us to be content with enough. If the higher fields fail in fall harvest, things here are especially abundant and ripe. In its clear springs are many kinds of fish, and the far shore is rich in tall trees. I sigh with singular admiration for fragrant maple groves, with such fine complexions in the spring. To its south is a temple to the Prince of Han, where shamans scurry all morning long. In songs and dances they whirl spirit robes, rude indeed, these old customs!

---

1 Liu Bang, Han Gaozu, the founder of the Han dynasty.
高皇亦明主，
魂魄犹正直。
不应空陂上，
缥缈亲酒食。
淫祀自古昔，
非唯一川渎。
干戈浩茫茫，
地僻伤极目。
平生江海兴，
遭乱身局促。
驻马问渔舟，
踌躇慰羁束。

将赴荆南寄别李剑州

使君高义驱今古，
寥落三年坐剑州。
但见文翁能化俗，
焉知李广未封侯。
路经灊滪双蓬鬓，
天入沧浪一钓舟。
戎马相逢更何日，
春风迴首仲宣楼。
The Emperor Gaozu was a wise prince,
and his soul is still upright and true.
I’m sure he would not, on these deserted shores,
drift in, indistinct, to approach this ale and food.
Improper rites have gone on since ancient times,
they are not on this single stream alone.
The clash of arms spreads far and wide,
the place is remote, gazing far gives me pain.
All my life I’ve been drawn by the rivers and lakes,
but I’ve been hampered meeting these troubled times.
I halt my horse and ask a man in a fishing boat,
by lingering here I comfort my enforced travels.

13.24

About to Go to Jingnan, I Send This to Li of Jianzhou on Parting

The governor’s noble virtues would be glorious in any age,
three dreary years, down and out, you have spent in Jianzhou.
Seeing only an Old Man Wen in ability to civilize the commons,¹
how would one know that our Li Guang was never given a fief?²
My route will pass the Yanyu Rocks, a pair of tangled tresses at the
temples;
where the heavens enter the gray waves, a single fishing boat.
Among war horses when will we ever meet again?—
in the spring breeze I will turn my head on Zhongxuan’s tower.³

¹ Old Man Wen was a governor of Shu in the reign of Han Jingdi. The school he
built in Chengdu was supposed to have greatly raised the level of learning in the
region.
² *Li Guang.
³ This is where the late Eastern Han writer *Wang Can [Zhongxuan] composed
his “Poetic Exposition on Climbing a Tower.” It was located in Jingzhou, Du Fu’s
speculative destination.
13.25

奉寄別馬巴州

勳業終歸馬伏波，
功曹非復漢蕭何。
扁舟繫纜沙邊久，
南國浮雲水上多。
獨把魚竿終遠去，
難隨鳥翼一相過。
知君未愛春湖色，
興在騄駒白玉珂。

13.26

奉待嚴大夫

殊方又喜故人來，
重鎮還須濟世才。
常怪偏裨終日待，
不知旌節隔年回。
欲辭巴徼啼鶯合，
遠下荊門去鸕催。身老時危思會面，
一生襟抱向誰開。
Respectfully Sent on Parting From Ma of Bazhou

Merit’s legacy will go at last to Wave-Quelling General Ma, Personnel Evaluation, no second Xiao He of Han.

Tiny boat, its moorings tied long beside the sands, southern lands, the drifting clouds many over the water. Alone holding a fishing pole at last I will go off far, hard to go with the wings of birds to stop by even once. I know that you do not yet love the colors of spring lakes, your thrill is in a black colt and its white jade trappings.

Du Fu’s long-standing plans to sail down the Yangzi were interrupted when Yan Wu returned to Chengdu. Du Fu then returned himself to Chengdu with his family.

Respectfully Waiting For Grand Master Yan

To this strange land I again rejoice that my old friend is coming, your second command, still there is need of talents to save the age. I always wondered why the colonels and majors would spend all day waiting for you, I did not know your banners and standards would return after just a year.

I was about to take leave of Ba’s marches as singing orioles merged, to go down far to Jingmen, my cormorant prow speeding away. Body old, our age in peril, I long to see you, the feelings of a lifetime to whom else can I divulge?

1 Original note: “At the time I, Fu, had received an appointment in the Personnel Evaluation Section at the Capital; I was in Dongchuan” 时甫除京兆功曹在東川.
2 "Ma Yuan. Here this refers to Ma of Bazhou because of the surname.
3 Han Gaozu’s minister. SB original note: “I, Fu, once held the position of personnel manager in Huazhou” 甫曾任華州司功. The line refers to Du Fu’s appointment in the Personnel Evaluation Section, saying that he is no equal to Xiao He.
4 That is, Ma’s desire is to go to court.
5 Yan Wu, Du Fu’s patron.
13.27

渡江

春江不可渡，
二月已風濤。
舟楫欹斜疾，
4 魚龍偃臥高。
渚花張素錦，
汀草亂青袍。
戲問垂綸客，
8 悠悠見汝曹。

13.28–30

自閬州領妻子卻赴蜀山行三首

I

汩汩避群盜，
悠悠經十年。
不成向南國，
4 復作遊西川。
物役水虛照，
魂傷山寂然。
13.27
Crossing the River

The spring river should not be crossed,
in the second month already high waves in the wind.
Boat oars drive swiftly slantwise,
fish and dragons ride high lying flat.
Island flowers spread white silk and brocade;
plants on the beach could be confused with green gowns.
Playfully I greet those with fishing lines:
I see you all going so serenely on.

13.28–30
From Langzhou Taking My Wife and Children Back to Shu; Traveling in the Mountains

Rushing headlong, we fled the rebels,
going on and on, we passed ten years.
I didn’t accomplish setting off toward southern lands,
now again we make our journey to West River.¹
Servant to material things, water’s insubstantial reflection;
soul wounded, the mountains lonely and still.

¹ Du Fu was in East River, the eastern circuit of Sichuan, also called Ba; with Yan Wu’s return he is going back to Chengdu in Shu, West River, the western circuit.
自閬州領妻子卻赴蜀山行三首

我生無倚著，
盡室畏途邊。

II

長林偃風色，
迴復意猶迷。
衫裛翠微潤，
馬銜青草嘶。
棧懸斜避石，
橋斷卻尋溪。
何日干戈盡，
飄飄愧老妻。

III

行色遞隱見，
人煙時有無。
僕夫穿竹語，
稚子入雲呼。
轉石驚魑魅，
抨弓落狖鼯。
真供一笑樂，
似欲慰窮途。
My life has no place to rest securely,
8 the whole family by the perilous road.

II

Tall forests, bent low in the wind,
turning this way and that, still can’t tell where we are.
Vests moist, wet by azure mist,
4 the horse neighs with green plants in its mouth.
Plank walkway, bending aside to avoid the rock,
bridge broken, we go back to find a crossing over the creek.
When will the clash of arms be done?—
8 tossed along, I am shamed before my wife.

III

Appearance of travelers alternately hidden and appearing,
smoke of habitation is sometimes there, sometimes not.
My servant talks as he winds through bamboo,
4 my boy goes off into the clouds and shouts.
Rocks set rolling startle goblins,
twanging bow fells monkey and flying squirrel.¹
Truly these provide us a moment of mirth,
8 as if wanting to console us a bit in the hardships of travel.

¹ That is, they act as if in response to the mere sound of a bowshot.
別房太尉墓

他鄉復行役，
駐馬別孤墳。
近淚無乾土，
低空有斷雲。
對棋陪謝傅，
把劍覓徐君。
唯見林花落，
鸂鶒啼送客聞。
Again enforced travel in a strange land,  
I halt my horse and take leave of his lonely tomb.  
From recent tears there is no dry earth,  
lowering in the sky there are broken clouds.  
Facing the go-board, in the company of tutor Xie;  
taking sword in hand, I seek the lord of Xu.  
I see only the flowers falling in the woods,  
orioles cry out, heard sending the traveler on his way.
將赴成都草堂途中作先寄嚴鄭公五首

I

得歸茅屋赴成都，
直為文翁再剖符。
但使閭閻還揖讓，
4 敢論松竹久荒蕪。
魚知丙穴由來美，
酒憶郫筒不用酤。
五馬舊曾誨小徑，
8 幾回書札待潛夫。

II

處處青江帶白蘋，
故園猶得見殘春。
雪山斥候無兵馬，
4 錦里逢迎有主人。
休怪兒童延俗客，
不教鵝鴨惱比鄰。
習池未覺風流盡，
8 况復荊州賞更新。
Composed On the Road Going to My Thatched Cottage in Chengdu

13.32–36

Composed On the Road Going to My Thatched Cottage in Chengdu, Sent Ahead to Yan, Duke of Zheng

I
I get to return to my thatched cottage, I’m off on my way to Chengdu, just because our Old Man Wen has again received the split tally.¹
If only you make the common folk of the lanes again bow and defer, dare I care that my pines and bamboo have too long run wild?
For fish I know that those of Bing’s Hole have always been delicious, for ale I recall that “Pi County tubes” need not be bought with cash.²
Your five-horse team used to be familiar with my small path,³ several times you have sent letters that you are awaiting the recluse.

II
Everywhere the blue river will be lined with white water-clover, in my old garden I will still be able to see the last of spring.
Reconnaissance on the Mountains of Snow will find no war-horses, for a welcome in Brocade City I now will have a host.
I’ll cease to blame my boy for inviting uncouth friends, I won’t let the geese and ducks disturb the neighbors.
I won’t feel that the Xi Family Pool has lost all its panache, especially if the master of Jingzhou appreciates it anew.

1 Old Man Wen was a governor of Shu in the reign of Han Jingdi. The school he built in Chengdu was supposed to have greatly raised the level of learning in the region. The “split tally” was the ancient sign of investiture as a feudal lord; a piece of bamboo was split, with the king keeping half, and the feudal lord keeping half. In sum, Yan Wu (whose good government resembles that of Old Man Wen) has been reappointed as military commissioner.
2 A term for a kind of ale.
3 The five-horse team refers to Yan Wu, as governor.
4 Yan Wu as *Shan Jian, with the Xi Family Pool as Du Fu’s thatched hut.
III

竹寒沙碧浣花溪，
菱刺藤梢咫尺迷。
过客径须愁出入，
居人不自解东西。
书籤药裹封蛛网，
野店山桥送马蹄。
肯藉荒庭春草色，
先判一饮醉如泥。

IV

常苦沙崩损药栏，
也从江檻落风湍。
新松恨不高千尺，
恶竹应须斩万竿。
生理只凭黄阁老，
衰颜欲付紫金丹。
三年奔走空皮骨，
信有人间行路难。

V

锦官城西生事微，
乌皮几在还思归。
III

Bamboo cold, sands emerald, Washing-Flowers Creek,
waternut thorns and tips of wisteria, you get lost just a foot away.
Guests stopping by must straightaway worry how to get in,
even the man who lives there can’t distinguish east and west.
Books and medicine pouches are cased in spider webs,
a wilderness inn and mountain bridge see off the hooves of horses.
If you’re willing to sit in my overgrown yard in the color of springtime
plants,
we’ll first indulge in a drinking session and get drunk as mud.

IV

I always worry that the sand has collapsed and ruined the herb garden
fence,
and that I have let the river deck fall in wind and swirling currents.
I dislike that my newly planted pines are not a thousand feet tall,
and for unwanted bamboo, I really must cut down ten thousand canes.
For my livelihood I’ll just rely on the old man of the Chancellery,¹
for my aging complexion I will entrust it to cinnabar turned gold with
purple aura.²
After three years of running off in flight I’m merely skin and bones,
truly in this mortal world it is indeed “hard traveling.”

V

West of Brocade Official City provision for life is meager,
but my black leather armrest is there, and I still long to return.

¹ Yan Wu.
² Daoist elixirs.
春歸

昔去為憂亂兵入，
今來已恐鄰人非。
側身天地更懷古，
回首風塵甘息機。　
共說總戎雲鳥陣，
不妨遊子芰荷衣。

13.37

春歸

苔徑臨江竹，
茅簷覆地花。
別來頻甲子，
歸到忽春華。
倚杖看孤石，
傾壺就淺沙。
遠鷗浮水靜，
輕燕受風斜。
世路雖多梗，
吾生亦有涯。
此身醒復醉，
乘興即為家。
I left long ago because I worried that mutinous soldiers would break in, coming back now, I already fear that the neighbors are not there. I lean unsteadily between Heaven and Earth with even more thoughts of antiquity, I turn my head in the windblown dust, happy to cease thoughts of advantage.¹
All tell of the Commander-in-chief’s cloud-bird battle line, it’s all right for the traveler to don robes of lotus and waternut.²

13.37

Mossy path, bamboo overlooking the river, thatched eaves, flowers that cover the ground. Many sixty-day cycles since I left, now coming back, suddenly spring is in bloom.  Leaning on a cane, I look at a lone rock,³ I go to sandy shallows to drain my jug.  Far off gulls serene, float on the waters, light swallows slant, catching the wind.  Though obstacles are many on the roads of the age, my life too has its limits.  This body sobers and gets drunk again, when I follow my whim, that is home.

¹ That is, Yan Wu is a true friend who will take care of him, and he no longer needs move from place to place seeking support from local officials.
² The plants of which Qu Yuan claimed to make his clothes in “Li Sao.”
³ This may refer to an anecdote about the Eastern Jin aristocrat Xie An, who had a particular rock on his estate before which he would lean on his cane and stare.
13.38

歸來

客裏有所適，
歸來知路難。
開門野鼠走，
散帙壁魚乾。
洗杓開新釀，
低頭拭小盤。
憑誰給麴蘖，
細酌老江干。

13.39

草堂

昔我去草堂，
蠻夷塞成都。
今我歸草堂，
成都適無虞。
請陳初亂時，
反復乃須臾。
大將赴朝廷，
群小起異圖。
13.38

Coming Back

I went somewhere else in my wanderings, and, returning, I understand how hard travels are. When I opened the gate, the rats ran away, taking wrappers off manuscripts, the silverfish were dry. I washed the ladle and opened new brew, lowered my head and wiped the small bowl. On whom can I rely to provide brewing mash?— then drinking slowly, I’ll grow old by the riverside.

Du Fu’s initial failure to return to Chengdu after the outbreak of Xu Zhidao’s uprising seemed from the poems he wrote then to be overreacting. In “Thatched Cottage” he gives a fuller account of what happened and more compelling reasons why a former member of Yan Wu’s staff might not have wanted to return to Chengdu.

13.39

Thatched Cottage

When I left my thatched cottage long ago, barbarians were filling Chengdu.¹ Now when I return to my thatched cottage, it’s a time when Chengdu has no worries. Let me recount when the revolt first occurred: things turned upside down in an instant. The great general had gone off to court,² and a group of underlings raised rebellious plots.

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¹ This refers to the revolt of Xu Zhidao, with Qiang (Tibetan) troops.
² Yan Wu.
中宵斬白馬，
盟歃氣已麤。
西取邛南兵，
北斷劍閣隅。
布衣數十人，
亦擁專城居。
其勢不兩大，
始聞蕃漢殊。
西卒卻倒戈，
賊臣互相誅。
焉知肘腋禍，
自及梟獍徒。
義士皆痛憤，
紀綱亂相踰。
一國實三公，
萬人欲為魚。
唱和作威福，
孰肯辨無辜。
眼前列杻械，
背後吹笙竽。
談笑行殺戮，
濺血滿長衢。
到今用鉞地，
風雨聞號呼。
In the middle of the night they cut open a white horse, they made a blood-pact, their temper already harsh. They gathered troops from Qiongnan in the west and to the north cut off a corner of the Jian’ge Road. Several dozen commoners also crowded to take charge of the city.\(^1\) The situation did not admit two chiefs, then we heard of differences between Chinese and Tibetans.\(^2\) The western troops instead turned pikes on each other, and rebel officials killed one another.\(^3\) Who would have thought ruin from those most close\(^4\) would spread on its own to those “owls and wildcats”?\(^5\) Men with a sense of right were pained and enraged how political order had succumbed in turmoil. One domain indeed then had three lords,\(^6\) and the myriad folk were almost made food for the fish. Chiming in together, chastising and rewarding, no one was willing to distinguish the guiltless. Before their eyes were lined up stocks and pillories, behind their backs reed organs were playing. Laughing and chatting, they butchered people, and the splashing blood filled the long avenues. To this very day where they used the axe one hears voices cry out in the wind and rain.

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1. SB has original note: “The followers of Yang Zilin and Bai Zhengjie” 即楊子琳柏正節之徒.
2. This refers to the conflict between Xu Zhidao and the Qiang.
3. Xu Zhidao was killed by his subordinate Li Zhonghou.
4. Literally, “elbow and armpit catastrophe.”
5. “Owl and wildcat,” were figures for the worst kinds of people; the owl eats its mother, while the wildcat eats its father.
6. A figure for disunity and divided authority.
鬼妾與鬼馬，
色悲充爾娛。
國家法令在，
此又足驚吁。
賤子且奔走，
三年望東吳。
弧矢暗江海，
難為遊五湖。
不忍竟舍此，
復來蘿榛蕪。
入門四松在，
步屧萬竹疏。
舊犬喜我歸，
低徊入衣裾。
鄰舍喜我歸，
酤酒攜胡蘆。
大官喜我來，
遣騎問所須。
城郭喜我來，
賓客隘村墟。
天下尚未寧，
健兒勝腐儒。
飄飖風塵際，
何地置老夫。
The concubines and horses of ghosts with sad mien served your pleasures. The laws of our dynasty are still in place, so such things are enough to make one gasp with shock. This poor fellow ran away for the while and for three years gazed toward eastern Wu. Bows and arrows darken the river and seas, it would have been hard to visit the five lakes. In the end I couldn’t bear to abandon this spot and came back to cut away the brush and weeds. Coming in the gate, the four pines were still here, I walked in my clogs among ten thousand bamboo, sparsely spread. The old dog is happy that I returned, hanging around me he goes under my robes. The neighbor is happy that I returned, he buys ale and brings it in a gourd. The great official is happy that I returned, he sends riders to ask what I need. The city is happy that I returned, visitors block the village. The world is still not yet at peace, regular troops are superior to hack scholars. Tossed about at the edge of wind-blown dust, in what place can this old fellow settle peacefully?
於時見疣腫，
骨髓幸未枯。
飲啄愧殘生，
食薇不敢餘。

13.40

四松

四松初移時，
大抵三尺強。
別來忽三載，
離立如人長。
會看根不拔，
莫計枝凋傷。
幽色幸秀發，
疏柯亦昂藏。
所插小藩籬，
本亦有堤防。
終然掙撥損，
得愧千葉黃。
敢為故林主，
黎庶猶未康。
避賊今始歸，
春草滿空堂。
In these times I am seen as a wart,  
luckily my bones are not yet bare and dry.  
Contentment with getting enough to eat shames my last days,  
I dare not look for more than eating wild beans.

13.40

The Four Pines

When I first transplanted my four pines,  
they were just over three feet tall.  
It has been three years since I left them,  
they stand here ranged, now as tall as men.  
So long as I make sure they are not uprooted,  
I won’t worry about their branches withering.  
Luckily their secluded colors are flourishing,  
and their sparse boughs too rise proudly.  
The little hedge that I planted  
gave them some protection from the start.  
If in the end they had been damaged by something bumping them,  
I would be put to shame by their thousand needles yellowed.  
Dare I just act as master of my own grove  
when the commons do not yet enjoy good health?  
Having fled the rebels, just now I return,  
with spring plants filling my empty cottage.
覽物歎衰謝，
及茲慰淒涼。
清風為我起，
灑面若微霜。
足以送老姿，
聊待偃蓋張。
我生無根蒂，
配爾亦茫茫。
有情且賦詩，
事跡可兩忘。
勿矜千載後，
慘澹蟠穹蒼。

小徑升堂舊不斜，
五株桃樹亦從遮。
高秋總饋貧人實，
來歲還舒滿眼花。
籬戶每宜通乳燕，
兒童莫信打慈鴉。
寡妻群盜非今日，
天下車書正一家。
Observing things, I sigh at their decline,
but when it comes to these trees, they console my gloom.
The cool breeze rises for me,
spreading over my face like faint frost.
They are enough to keep my appearance company as I age,
so I’ll wait for their canopies to spread.
My own life has no roots or stem,
and it’s unclear if I can accompany you.
Having these feelings, I’ll just write a poem,
let the world forget all trace of me as I forget the world.
Don’t boast how a thousand years from now
brooding you will coil into dark vaults of heaven.

13.41
On My Peach Trees

The small path that led up to the hall used to not slant around,
my five peach trees have been allowed to cover it over.
In high autumn they have usually provided fruit for poor men,
in the year to come they will again spread blossoms filling the eyes.
For the curtains and door it is always fitting to let baby swallows
through,
I do not just let my boy strike the compassionate crows.
Widowed wives and rebel bands are not a thing of today,
in all the world axle-width and script are of one family.

1 So called because after maturing, it was supposed to feed the mother who had fed
it.
2 The unification of axle-width and script was a sign of the world under a single
unified government. Du Fu is praising the order restored by Yan Wu’s return to
Chengdu.
水檻

蒼江多風飆，
雲雨晝夜飛。
茅軒駕巨浪，
焉得不低垂。
遊子久在外，
門戶無人持。
高岸尚為谷，
何傷浮柱欹。
扶顛有勸誡，
恐貽識者嗤。
既殊大廈傾，
可以一木支。
臨川視萬里，
何必欄檻為。
人生感故物，
慷慨有餘悲。
Winds often gust hard on the gray river, rain and clouds fly day and night. This thatched porch mounted over mighty waves— how could it help sagging down low? Long did the owner roam abroad— there was no one to maintain the place. If even high slopes turn to valleys, why care that these posts in the water are leaning? A precept tells us “Support what totters”: I suspect I’ll be laughed at by those who know. Yet this differs from a mighty hall’s collapse— it can be propped up by just a single beam. You can see thousands of miles from the riverside— what need is there for a porch? But people are moved by familiar things, and I am overwhelmed with grief.

1 Originally based on a passage from Analects XVI.1: “How can one be of use as a guide who does not maintain what is precarious and support what totters?” 危而不持顛而不扶則將焉用彼相矣. This compound refers primarily to the support of political advisors, though here Du Fu is using it in a humorously literal sense to refer to his deck.

2 The “mighty hall” was often a figure for the edifice of state.

3 Wenzhongzi is credited with the adage: “When a mighty hall is about to collapse, it cannot be propped up by a single beam” 大廈將顛非一木所支也.
破船

平生江海心，
宿昔具扁舟。
豈惟青溪上，
日傍柴門遊。

蒼皇避亂兵，
緬邈懷舊丘。
鄰人亦已非，
野竹獨修修。

船舷不重扣，
埋沒已經秋。
仰看西飛翼，
下愧東逝流。

故者或可掘，
新者亦易求。
所悲數奔竄，
白屋難久留。
Broken Boat

All my life, a heart set on the river and lakes,
long ago I made ready a small boat.
It wasn’t only for roaming on the blue creek
daily staying close to my ramshackle gate.
When in panic I fled the rebellious troops
from far off I thought of this, my former home.
Even my neighbor now is gone,
the wild bamboo alone are tall.
No more will I rap time on its gunwales,
it has already been buried a full autumn.
I look up and watch the wings flying west,
below, I’m put to shame by the stream going east.
Perhaps I could dig out the old one,
and a new one is easy to find.
What bothers me is running away to hide so often,
that in this plain cottage I can’t stay long.
13.44

奉寄高常侍

汶上相逢年頗多，
飛騰無那故人何。
總戎楚蜀應全未，
方駕曹劉不啻過。
今日朝廷須汲黯，
中原將帥憶廉頗。
天涯春色催遲暮，
別淚遙添錦水波。

13.45

贈王二十四侍御契四十韻

往往雖相見，
飄飄愧此身。
不關輕紱冕，
俱是避風塵。
一別星橋夜，
三移斗柄春。
敗亡非赤壁，
奔走為黃巾。
13.44

Respectfully Sent to Attendant Gao [Shi]\(^1\)

Since we met beside the River Wen, the years have been quite a few, how can your old friend compare his case to your glorious rise? Commanding our armies in Chu and Shu is certainly not your full measure;\(^2\)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{in driving side by side with Cao Zhi and Liu Zhen you did not merely pass them.}\(^3\) \\
\text{In the present day the court needs a Ji An,}\(^4\) \\
\text{the commanders on the Central Plain recall a Lian Po.}\(^5\) \\
\text{Spring’s colors here on the horizon hurry my twilight years, far away tears of parting add to the waves of Brocade River.}
\end{align*}
\]

13.45

Presented to Attendant Censor Wang Qi (24): forty couplets

Although I meet you wherever I go, 
I’m ashamed that this body is swept here and there. 
It had nothing to with despising ribbons and cap,\(^6\)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{it was just to avoid the dust of war.} \\
\text{Once I left you that night on Seven Star Bridge,}\(^7\) \\
\text{thrice the Dipper’s Handle has shifted to spring.} \\
\text{His defeat was not as at Red Cliff,}\(^8\) \\
\text{I fled because of the Yellow Turbans.}\(^9\)
\end{align*}
\]

---

1 Gao Shi has been recalled from Chengdu to the capital.
2 Gao Shi had been military commissioner of both Huainan and Xichuan.
3 The famous poets of the early third century, whom Gao Shi surpasses by far.
4 A Western Han statesman who served Han Wudi and was known for direct remonstrance.
5 Lian Po.
6 Serving as an official.
7 In Chengdu. This refers to Du Fu fleeing the military uprising in Chengdu.
8 The defeat of Xu Zhidao, who had rebelled in Chengdu. Red Cliff was where Cao Cao was defeated by the naval forces of Wu.
9 The Yellow Turbans were rebels in the Eastern Han. Du Fu uses them to refer to Xu Zhidao.
赠王二十四侍御契四十韵

子去何潇洒，
余藏異隠沦。
书成无过雁，
衣故有悬鹑。
恐懼行装数，
伶俜卧疾频。
晓鵁鶑工迸泪，
秋月解傷神。
会面嗟黧黑，
含凄话苦辛。
接舆还入楚，
王粲不歸秦。
锦里残丹竈，
花溪得钓綸。
消中祇自惜，
晚起索誰親。
伏柱闻周史，
乘槎有汉臣。
鶚鴓不易狎，
龙虎未宜驯。
客则挂冠至，
交非傾蓋新。
由来意气合，
直取性情真。
How free and easy you were when you left,
but my hiding was different from that of a recluse.
I finished a letter, but no geese were passing,
my clothes grew old with patches and tatters.
I often packed my bags in fright,
I frequently lay sick as I drifted alone.
Dawn orioles were expert at making tears gush,
the autumn moon understood how to wound my soul.
Those I meet exclaim how my face has darkened,
biting back gloom, I tell of my sufferings.
Jieyu has come back into Chu,¹
and Wang Can will not return to Qin.²
In Brocade City my cinnabar stove is left,³
I found my fishing line at Washing-Flower Creek.
With diabetes I can only pity myself.
getting up late, what close friend can I seek?
I have heard of the Zhou Archivist, crouching by the pillar,⁴
there was a Han officer who rode a raft.⁵
Not easy to trifle with phoenix or swan,⁶
nor proper to tame dragon or tiger.
The wayfarer arrives, having hung up his cap,⁷
our association is not new, the carriage awning-tipping kind.⁸
we each prefer the genuineness of the other’s nature.

¹ Jieyu was known as the “madman of Chu”; here Du Fu is referring to his own return to Chengdu.
² Du Fu compares himself to *Wang Can, who fled Chang’an after the fighting that followed the assassination of Dong Zhuo.
³ A stove for compounding elixirs.
⁴ This is Laozi. Du Fu is playing on the Archivist’s literal title: “the clerk at the foot of the pillar.” This was used to refer to Attendant Censors in the Tang, hence Wang Qi.
⁵ *Riding the raft, here linked to Zhang Qian as a figure for Wang Qi.
⁶ Birds whose order in flight was a figure for officials lined up for dawn court.
⁷ Having left office.
⁸ A standard figure for an immediate sense of affinity with a new acquaintance; they draw their carriages so close that the carriage awnings bump into each other.
浪跡同生死，
無心恥賤貧。
偶然存蔗芋，
幸各對松筠。
麤飯依他日，
窮愁怪此辰。
女長裁褐穩，
男大卷書勻。
漚口江如練，
蠶崖雪似銀。
名園當翠巘，
野棹沒青蘋。
屢喜王侯宅，
時邀江海人。
迫隨不覺晼，
款曲動彌旬。
但使芝蘭秀，
何煩棟宇鄰。
山陽無俗物，
鄭驛正留賓。
出入並鞍馬，
光輝參席珍。
重遊先主廟，
更歷少城闉。
In my aimless goings, I am indifferent whether I live or die,
I have no mind to be ashamed at my poverty.
By chance my sugar cane and taros have survived,
and fortunately we can each face pine and bamboo.

Coarse meals are as in days before,
but I’m shocked at the poverty and misery of the present times.
My daughter has grown up, sure-handed in making homespun clothes,
my boy is big now, he rolls the scrolls up evenly.

At Pengkou the river is like white satin,
the snow of Silkworm Slope resembles silver.
Famous gardens face azure pinnacles,
rustic oars sink into green water-clover.
I am often delighted that such a princely residence
repeatedly invites this man of the river and sea.
In your company I don’t notice it getting late,
in your sincere warmth, ten days are suddenly past.
If only the numinous mushroom and orchid are flourishing,
why care whether our roofs and beams are neighboring?

There is no common creature at Shanyang,¹
Zheng’s welcome lodge now detains a guest.²

We come in and go out on horseback side by side,
in splendor we join the “treasures of the feast mat.”³
Again we visit the temple to the First Ruler,⁴
then go on to pass through the postern of the “little city.”⁵

¹ Where *Ruan Ji lived.
² *Zheng’s lodge.
³ Confucian scholars are supposed to be the “treasures of the [feast] mat,” by their learning, virtue, and proper behavior.
⁴ A temple to Liu Bei, the ruler of the Shu Kingdom in the Three Kingdoms period.
⁵ A section of Chengdu.
石鏡通幽魄，
琴臺隱絳唇。
送終惟糞土，
結愛獨荆榛。
置酒高林下，
觀棋積水濱。
區區甘累趼，
稍稍息勞筋。
網聚粘圓鯽，
絲繁煮細蓴。
長歌敲柳瘿，
小睡憑藤轎。
農月須知課，
田家敢忘勤。
浮生難去食，
良會惜清晨。
列國兵戈暗，
今王德教淳。
要聞除猰貐，
休作畫麒麟。
洗眼看輕薄，
虛懷任屈伸。
莫令膠漆地，
萬古重雷陳。
The Stone Mirror communicates with a hidden soul,\(^1\)
the Zither Terrace hides those crimson lips.\(^2\)
She who was sent on her final journey is only dirt and dung,
she with whom he fell in love is just brambles and brush.
We set out ale under the tall trees of a grove,
we watch chess on the shores of deep waters.
An insignificant person, I am willing to have calloused feet,
but I can rest these belabored sinews just a bit.
Clustered in the net, round golden carp are stuck,
we boil the fine water-shield with abundant fibers.
With long songs we tap on a willow’s gall,
we lean on a wisteria wreath for a nap.
In the farming months you must oversee tasks—
dare the field-hands fail to do their utmost?
Hard to go without food in this life adrift,
we cherish the clear morning for a fine meeting.
All the domains are darkened by the clash of arms,
our present king’s lessons of virtue are pure.
I’d like to hear that we are rid of the monsters—
cease painting portraits in Unicorn Gallery.\(^3\)
My eyes, washed clear, look on careless, unfeeling ways,
empty of concern whether I am successful or not.
Let us not in the world of friends that stick together like glue
have men value only Lei and Chen forever.\(^4\)

---

1 One of the sites of Chengdu, understood as the entrance to the tomb of a beloved consort of a king of Shu.
2 *Sima Xiangru. The “crimson lips” are those of Sima Xiangru’s beloved Zhuo Wenjun.
3 Portraits of meritorious officials, here suggesting that those so recognized are without merit.
4 A famous friendship in the Eastern Han between Lei Yi and Cheng Zhong. Du Fu is suggesting that his friendship with Wang Qi should be greater than that of Lei Yi and Chen Zhong.
登樓

花近高樓傷客心，
萬方多難此登臨。
錦江春色來天地，
玉壘浮雲變古今。
北極朝廷終不改，
西山寇盜莫相侵。
可憐後主還祠廟，
日暮聊為梁父吟。

寄邛州崔錄事

邛州崔錄事，
聞在果園坊。
久待無消息，
終朝有底忙。
應愁江樹遠，
怯見野亭荒。
浩蕩風煙外，
誰知酒熟香。
13.46

Climbing an Upper Storey

Flowers close to the high building, wound the traveler’s heart, with many misfortunes on every side, here I climb and look out. The spring colors of Brocade River come to Earth and Heaven, drifting clouds over Jade Fort Mountain transform through present and past. The Court at the Pole Star at last will never change, may marauders in the western mountains not invade us.\(^1\) Pitiable, the Latter Ruler still has his shrine— at sunset, for a while I make the Liangfu Song.\(^2\)

13.47

To Office Manager Cui of Qiongzhou

Office Manager Cui of Qiongzhou I have heard is in Fruit Garden Ward.\(^3\) Long have I waited, but have had no news, what keeps you so busy all day long? You must worry that my river trees are too far or fear seeing the wildness of my rustic pavilion. Beyond the surging turbulence of smoke in the wind who knows of the fragrance of my mature ale?

---

1 This refers to the Tibetan invasions, which temporarily took Chang’an and several prefectures in Sichuan.
2 Liu Bei, the First Ruler of Shu, won the allegiance of Zhuge Liang, who was famous for his fondness for the Liangfu Song, a dirge associated with death (and almost certainly not the anonymous text under that title that currently survives). After the death of the First Ruler, his inept young son (the “Latter Ruler”) took the throne and entrusted the defense of the Shu kingdom to Zhuge Liang until his death, after which Shu fell to the Wei.
3 An original note in SB adds: “The ward is famous in Chengdu” 坊名在成都.
13.48

為嗔王錄事，
不寄草堂費。
昨屬愁春雨，
能忘欲漏時。

13.49

歸雁

東來萬里客，
亂定幾年歸。
腸斷江城雁，
高高正北飛。

13.50–51

絕句二首

I

遲日江山麗，
春風花草香。
13.48

Office Manager Wang Promised Me Some Funds to Repair My Thatched Cottage; They Have Not Reached Me, and I Send this Little Inquiry

Scold Office Manager Wang for me; he has not sent funds for my thatched cottage. A while ago I urged him that I worried about spring rain—can he forget that it is going to leak?

13.49

Returning Wild Geese

Traveler from the east across thousands of miles, the rebellion settled, when will I return? The heart breaks at the geese in this river city, flying directly north, so high.

13.50–51

Quatrains

I

Lengthening days, river and mountains lovely, spring breeze, flowers and plants smell sweet.
寄司馬山人十二韻

泥融飛燕子，
沙暖睡鸛鵞。

II

江碧鳥逾白，
山靑花欲燃。
今春看又過，
何日是歸年。

13.52

寄司馬山人十二韻

關內昔分袂，
天邊今轉蓬。
驅馳不可說，
談笑偶然同。
道術曾留意，
先生早擊蒙。
家家迎薊子，
處處識壺公。
長嘯峨嵋北，
潛行玉壘東。
有時騎猛虎，
虛室使仙童。
Mud’s melting sends swallows flying,
sand’s warming puts mandarin ducks to sleep.

II

From river’s sapphire the birds are still whiter,
in the mountain’s green flowers almost take flame.
This spring too is soon to pass,
and when will be the year I go home? ¹

13.52

To the Mountain Man Sima: Twelve Couplets

Long ago we parted in the capital region,
now, dandelion puffs tossed along on the horizon.
I cannot tell you how I have rushed here and there,
now by chance we come together in chat and laughter.
I used to pay attention to the arts of the Way,
you, master, early dispelled my ignorance.
Every household welcomed a Ji Zixun, ²
Everywhere, they recognized Lord Pot. ³
Whistling long, north of Emei,
going unseen east of Jade Fort Mountain.
Sometimes you ride a fierce tiger, ⁴
in your bare chamber you employ an immortal servant lad.

¹ Spring’s departure is commonly described as gui 归, “going home.”
² An Eastern Han Daoist, once invited by twenty-three households at the same time;
a Ji Zixun showed up at all of them simultaneously.
³ Lord Pot was an Eastern Han immortal who lived in a world in a pot.
⁴ A capacity of the Western Han courtier and reputed transcendent Dongfang Shuo.
黃河二首

髮少何勞白，
顏衰肯更紅。
望雲悲轞軻，
畢景羨沖融。
喪亂形仍役，
淒涼信不通。
懸旌要路口，
倚劍短亭中。
永作殊方客，
殘生一老翁。
相哀骨可換，
亦遣馭清風。

13.53–54

黃河二首

I

黃河北岸海西軍，
椎鼓鳴鐘天下聞。
鐵馬長鳴不知數，
胡人高鼻動成群。
My hair is so sparse it doesn’t need to get white, 
can my aging complexion grow ruddy again? 
Gazing on the clouds, I grieve for all my rough going, 
at day’s end, I admire your mellow contentment. 
Amid turmoil and ruin, I’m still slave to my body, 
bleak isolation, letters do not get through. 
Army banners hang at the entrance to key roads, 
swords hang from waists in five-league pavilions. 
I will ever be a sojourner in strange places, 
an old man in the last years of life. 
If you feel sorry for me, my bones can be changed,\(^1\) 
and you can also make me ride on the clear wind. 

\textbf{13.53–54}

The Yellow River

I

On the north bank of the Yellow River the Haixi Army 
banging drums and ringing bells for all the world to hear. 
Armored horses neigh long in countless numbers, 
Hu with high-bridged noses suddenly form bands.\(^2\)

---

1. That is, to become an immortal.
2. This is taken to refer to the Tibetan incursions that the Haixi Army has failed to stop.
II

黃河西岸是吾蜀，
欲須供給家無粟。
願驅眾庶戴君王，
混一車書棄金玉。

13.55

揚旗

江雨颯長夏，
府中有餘清。
我公會賓客，

4 肅肅有異聲。
初筵閱軍裝，
羅列照廣庭。
庭空六馬入，

8 駢駸揚旗旌。
笵訇偃飛蓋，
熠熠迸流星。
來纏風飆急，

12 去擘山嶽傾。
材歸俯身盡，
妙取略地平。
II

The west bank of the Yellow River, this is our Shu,
you would require provisions, but households have no grain.
I wish I could drive the common folk to support their lord and ruler,
unify axle-width and script, get rid of jade and gold.

13.55

Raising the Banners

River rains whish through long summer days,
it is amply cool in the district office.
My lord has a gathering for his guests,
for his strict discipline he has unusual fame.
At the start of the feast we review the troops in uniform,
lined in ranks, bright in the broad courtyard.
The courtyard then empties, six horses enter,
majestic and grand as the banners are raised.
They circle and circle, held flat like a carriage awning,
then flashing, like shooting stars bursting forth.
They come winding around, as swift as a whirlwind,
they go splitting, great peaks collapsing.
Their talent brought out to the utmost in lowering their bodies,
miracles are found in letting them brush level with the ground.

1 Original note: “In the summer, the sixth month of the second year, the Duke of Zheng [Yan Wu], the Metropolitan Governor of Chengdu, served ale in the public hall to watch the cavalry and foot-soldiers make a trial of their new banners” 二年夏六月成都尹鄭公置酒公堂觀騎士試新旗幟. This is apparently a parade in which new banners are waved in display.
虹霓就掌握，
舒卷隨人輕。
三州陷犬戎，
但見西嶺青。
公來練猛士，
欲奪天邊城。
此堂不易升，
庸蜀日已寧。
吾徒且加餐，
休適蠻與荊。

13.56–61

絕句六首

I

日出籬東水，
雲生舍北泥。
竹高鳴翡翠，
沙僻舞鶴雞。

II

蔼蔼花蕊亂，
飛飛蜂蝶多。
Red rainbows go to the clasping palm,
unfurling and furling, lightly following the persons.
Three prefectures have fallen to the Dog Rong,¹
we see only the green of the western ridges.
Our lord has come to train our fierce troops,
to take back those cities on the horizon.
It is not easy to ascend to this hall,²
Yong and Shu daily grow more peaceful.
We fellows eat more for the while
and cease to set off for Jingzhou and the lands of the Mon.

13.56–61
Six Quatrains

I
The sun comes out on the water east of the hedge,
clouds rise from the mud north of the cottage.
The bamboo are tall, the kingfishers sing,
the sands remote, waterfowl dance.

II
Dark and dense, flower stamens in tangles,
flies everywhere, bees and butterflies many.

¹ This refers to the Tibetan capture of Songzhou, Weizhou, and Baozhou in the preceding winter. Yan Wu is preparing his counteroffensive.
² That is, to Yan Wu’s position.
幽棲身懶動，
客至欲如何。

III

鑿井交椳葉，
開渠斷竹根。
扁舟輕裹纜，
小徑曲通村。

IV

急雨捎溪足，
斜暉轉樹腰。
隔巢黃鳥並，
翻藻白魚跳。

V

舍下筍穿壁，
庭中藤刺簷。
地晴絲冉冉，
江白草纖纖。
Lodged in seclusion, too lazy to stir,
if a guest comes, what will I do?

III

I dug a well laying palm leaves across it,
opened a ditch breaking roots of bamboo.
A small boat, its mooring rope light and twisting,
a small path winds through to the village.

IV

A driving rain grazes the creek’s lower reaches,
the sinking sunglow turns on the waists of the trees.
On the other side of the nest, orioles together,
white-fish leap, overturning waterplants.

V

At the foot of my cottage bamboo pierces the walls,
in the yard wisteria sticks into the eaves.
The ground is sunlit, floss drifts slowly in the air,
the river is white, the plants so slender.
VI

江動月移石，
溪虛雲傍花。
鳥棲知故道，
帆過宿誰家。

13.62–65

絕句四首

I

堂西長筍別開門，
塹北行椒卻背村。
梅熟許同朱老喫，
松高擬對阮生論。

II

欲作魚梁雲覆湍，
因驚四月雨聲寒。
青溪先有蛟龍窟，
竹石如山不敢安。
VI

The river stirs, moonlight shifts on the rocks,  
the creek is transparent, clouds hang beside flowers. 
Birds come to roost, knowing the old route,  
a sail passes to stay the night at whose home?

13.62–65

Four Quatrains

I

West of the hall bamboo shoots have grown tall, I’ll open another gate,  
north of the ditch a line of pepper trees stands with its back to the village.  
When the plums are ripe I let old Zhu eat them together with me,  
when the pines get tall I plan to discuss them facing Mr. Ruan.1

II

I wanted to make a fish weir, clouds covered the swirling waters,  
and in the fourth month I was surprised by the cold of rain sounds.  
The blue creek earlier had lairs of dragons,  
even piling bamboo and rock like a mountain, I dare not feel it’s secure.

---

1 Original note: “Zhu and Ruan are acquaintances in Jianwai” 朱阮劍外相知.
2 This kind of weir, to trap fish, is a dam with a gap in it through which the waters flow quickly, creating spray.
寄李十四員外布十二韻

III

兩個黃鶯鳴翠柳，
一行白鷺上青天。
窗含西嶺千秋雪，
門泊東吳萬里船。

IV

藥條藥甲潤青青，
色過棕亭入草亭。
苗滿空山慚取譽，
根居隙地怯成形。

13.66

寄李十四員外布十二韻

名參漢望苑，
職述景題輿。
巫峽將之郡，
荊門好附書。
遠行無自苦，
內熱比何如。
III

A pair of yellow orioles sing in azure willows,  
a line of white egrets rises to the blue heavens.  
The window holds the western peaks’ snow of a thousand autumns,¹  
my gate moors for eastern Wu a ten-thousand league boat.²

IV

Herb stalk and herb leaf-pods are moist and green,  
their colors pass my palm pavilion and on to my thatch pavilion.  
Sprouts fill the deserted mountains, ashamed to win much praise—  
as for these roots lodged here in fallow land, I have fears about their maturing.

13.66

Sent to Supernumerary Li Bu (14): Twelve Couplets³

Your name was included in Han’s Bowang Park,⁴  
your office continues Jing’s writing on the coach.⁵  
In the Wu Gorges, on your way to your district,  
please send a letter at Jingmen.  
Don’t let yourself suffer on far travels,  
how has your “inner heat” been recently?⁶

¹ Original note: “The white snow on the western mountains does not melt through the four seasons” 西山白雪四時不消.
² That is, the boat in which he plans to set off down the Yangzi to Wu.
³ Note: “Recently appointed Remonstrance Secretary and Vice-Prefect of Wan-zhou; although he has been bedridden, I have heard that he has already readied his baggage” 新除司議郎兼萬州別駕，雖尚伏枕已聞理裝.
⁴ The Crown Prince’s establishment, to which the Remonstrance Secretary belonged. Bowang Park was established by Han Wudi for the Crown Prince.
⁵ In the Eastern Han, Zhou Jing was appointed prefect of Yuzhou and asked to have Chen Fan appointed as his vice-prefect. Chen Fan did not go to take up his post, at which Zhou Jing wrote on the vice-prefect’s carriage: “Chen Fan’s seat.” When Chen Fan heard about this, he immediately hurried to Yuzhou to take his post.
⁶ In Chinese medicine, an imbalance of the humors.
寄李十四員外布十二韻

正是炎天闊，
那堪野館疏。
黃牛平駕浪，
畫鷥上淩虛。
試待盤淶歇，
方期解纜初。

悶能過小徑，
自為摘嘉蔬。
渚柳元幽僻，
村花不掃除。
宿陰繁素柰，
過雨亂紅蕖。
寂寂夏先晚，
泠泠風有餘。

江清心可瑩，
竹冷髮堪梳。
直作移巾几，
秋帆發弊廬。

13.67
See Notes
Right now the blazing weather is widespread,
how can you bear rustic inns being few and far between?
At Yellow Ox Gorge you will ride level on the waves,
your painted cormorant prow will mount up over the void.
Wait until the whirlpools end,
only then plan to unmoor your boat.
If in your doldrums you stop by my little path,
I'll pick some fine vegetables for you.
The willows on the isle have always been secluded,
I won't sweep away the village flowers.
Long cloudiness has made the pale crab-apple flourish,
passing rains have made a tangle of red lotuses.
In silence the summer wanes early,
cool and brisk, there is plenty of breeze.
When the river gets clear, it can polish the mind,
when bamboo grows chill, the hair can be combed.
Just transfer your headband and armrest here,
then in autumn you can set sail from my humble cottage.

13.67

See Notes
丹青引 贈曹將軍霸

將軍魏武之子孫，
於今為庶為清門。
英雄割據雖已矣，
文采風流今尚存。
學書初學衛夫人，
但恨無過王右軍。
丹青不知老將至。
4 富貴於我如浮雲。

開元之中常引見，
承恩數上南薰殿。
Song of a Painting: Presented to General Cao Ba

Descended from Wei’s Warrior Emperor, you, general, now belong to the common folk, to a household pure in poverty. Then heroes wrested the land apart—although that is indeed over, the brilliance of his arts and his panache survive in you still. You studied calligraphy, beginning your studies with Lady Wei; your only disappointment was never surpassing Wang Xizhi. But in painting you took no note of old age coming upon you; wealth and rank seemed to you no more than drifting clouds.

In the Kaiyuan reign you were always summoned to audience; and in royal favor often you mounted the Hall of Southern Fragrance.

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1 Cao Ba, claiming descent from Cao Cao, evidently had held an appointment in one of the units of the imperial guard; many such posts were essentially honorary.
2 “Wei’s Warrior Emperor,” literally “Wei’s Wu,” is Wei Wudi, the posthumous title of the great Cao Cao.
3 This refers to the wars of the Three Kingdoms period.
4 Ironically playing off Cao Ba’s title of “general,” Du Fu here suggests that while the “martial,” 

武

, legacy of the great Cao Cao has been lost, his “cultural,” 

文

, legacy does survive in his descendant.
5 “Lady Wei,” Wei Shuo (d. 349) was a renowned master of “clerical script.”
6 Wang Xizhi is literally “Wang of the Army of the Right”; like Cao Ba he was a “general” of the Army of the Right. Through his father, Wang Xizhi was supposed to have received the calligraphic technique of Lady Wei. Wang Xizhi was then, as now, considered the greatest of all calligraphers.
7 These lines are based on two passages in the Analects. “The Duke of She asked Zilu about Confucius, and Zilu did not respond. The Master said, ‘How come you did not say that I am the sort of person who forgets to eat in enthusiasm and forgets in my happiness, unaware that old age is coming on.’” 葉公問孔子於子路, 子路不對。子曰: 「女奚不曰, 其為人也, 發憤忘食, 樂以忘憂, 不知老之將至云爾。」 (Analects VII.18); and “The Master said, ‘Eating coarse food and drinking water, and sleeping pillowed on one’s crooked arm—happiness can also be found here. Weath and nobility without goodness are to me like floating clouds.’” 子曰: 「飯疏食飲水, 曲肱而枕之, 樂亦在其中矣。不義而富且貴, 於我如浮雲。」 (Analects VII.15)
凌烟功臣少颜色，
将军下笔开生面。
良相头上进贤冠，
猛将腰间大羽箭。
褒公鄂公毛发动，
英姿飒爽来酣战。

先帝御马玉花骢，
画工如山貌不同。
是日牵来赤墀下，
迥立阊阖生长风。
诏谓将军拂素绢，
意匠惨淡经营中。
斯须九重真龙出，
一洗万古凡马空。

玉花却在御榻上，
榻上庭前屹相向。
至尊含笑赐赐金，
圉人太僕皆惆怅。
弟子韩幹早入室，
亦能画马穷殊相。
幹惟画肉不画骨，
忍使驊騮气凋丧。
In “Over-the-Mists” the officials of merit had little color left;\(^1\)
but where you, general, touched with your brush, living faces
appeared—
There on the good minister’s head was the cap called “Promote the
Worthy”;\(^2\)
and there at the waists of fierce generals were the arrows called “Great
Feathered.”
On Lord Bao and Lord E the hairs bristled,\(^3\)
and swaggering forms of heroes came, drunk from the battle.

Of his Late Majesty’s horses-of-heaven there was a dapple, Flowers-of-
Jade;
painters massed like mountains around it; no likeness was its match.
On that day they led it forth to the foot of the Crimson Yard;
it stood far back by the palace gates; steady winds blew from it.
Royal command bade you, general, to spread the white silk—
reflective craft brooded there, planning the execution.
It emerged in an instant—true dragon horse from Heaven’s nine tiers,
wiping aside once and for all, common horses of all time.

This Flowers-of-Jade was back there, above the royal dais—
the one on the dais, the one in the courtyard each loftily faced the
other.
His Royal Majesty smiled: he hastened to have gold given you,
as grooms and stableboys all felt despair.
Among your disciples Han Gan was early your foremost follower,\(^4\)
also good at painting horses, catching their strangest forms;
but Han Gan paints only the flesh; he does not paint the bone,
and will let the fire of the boldest steed melt away and be lost.

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\(^1\) In 643 Taizong ordered the portraits of those who had rendered extraordinary
service to the dynasty to be hung in “Over-the-Mists Pavilion” in the palace
compound.
\(^2\) This was a kind of formal court cap.
\(^3\) Lord Bao was Duan Zhixuan, and Lord E was Yuchi Jingde, both among Taizong’s
generals.
\(^4\) Han Gan is now generally considered the greatest of the Tang horse-painters.
韋諷錄事宅觀曹將軍畫馬圖

國初已來畫鞍馬，
神妙獨數江都王。
將軍得名三十載，
人間又見真乘黃。

曾貌先帝照夜白，
龍池十日飛霹靂。
內府殷紅瑪瑙盤，
婕妤傳詔才人索。
My general, in your mastery of painting some divinity lies;  
whenever you met some fine scholar, you would paint his portrait true.  
Yet now you drift along on the margins of clashing arms,  
often sketching the faces of ordinary travelers on the road.  
In desperate straits you now instead meet contempt from the common  
eye—1  
in all the world there has never been a person so fallen as you.  
Just look from ancient times till now at the greatest names of all,  
how all their days hardships and troubles entangled them.  

13.69

Seeing the Pictures of Horses by General Cao At the Home of Secretary Wei Feng2  
Since the founding of the dynasty in painting of saddled horses  
for divine skill one counts alone the Prince of Jiangdu.3  
The General has been famous for thirty years,  
and once again in the mortal world we see a true Chenghuang.4  
He once did the likeness of the Former Emperor’s White-That-Shines-  
By-Night,  
and for ten days over Dragon Pool the thunder rolled.5  
In the treasury was a blood-red plate of agate;  
Consorts passed the decree along, Maids of Honor sought it.  

1 Literally: “meet the whites of common eyes.” The third century poet *Ruan Ji was  
said to have shown his contempt for a visitor by looking at him with the whites of  
his eyes.  
2 The court painter Cao Ba.  
3 Li Xu, the nephew of Taizong and Prince of Jiangdu.  
4 Chenghuang was a legendary creature, here, as often, referring to a famous horse.  
5 Dragon Pool, in the Xingqing Palace palace grounds, was supposed to be the  
residence of a dragon and was associated with Xuanzong’s rise to power. The dragon  
responds to Cao Ba’s horse painting.
韋諷錄事宅觀曹將軍畫馬圖

盌賜將軍拜舞歸，
輕紈細綺相追隨。
貴戚權門得筆跡，
始覺屏障生光輝。

昔日太宗拳毛騧，
近時郭家獅子花。
今之新圖有二馬，
復令識者久歎嗟。

此皆騎戰一敵萬，
絹素漠漠開風沙。

其餘七匹亦殊絕，
迥若寒空動煙雪。
霜蹄蹴踏長楸間，
馬官廝養森成列。

可憐九馬爭神駿，
顧視清高氣深穩。
借問苦心愛者誰，
後有韋諷前支遁。

憶昔巡幸新豐宮，
翠華拂天來向東。
The bowl was presented to the General who withdrew with courteous obeisance, light satins and delicate figured silks followed along afterward. Noble In-law houses and powerful clans on obtaining the work of his brush would finally feel that from their screens a radiant glow arose. In olden days there was Taizong’s Curly-Hair Brown in recent times the Guo household had Lion Spots. In the new pictures we see today these two horses, it causes those who can recognize such to sigh long in admiration. These both carried riders to battle, each matched against ten thousand, spreading far and wide on white silk windblown sands appear. The remaining seven horses are also superb, standing far back as if in distant skies where mist and snow stir. Frosty hooves kick and stomp between the tall catalpas, with stud officers and stableboys densely formed in lines. It is touching how these nine horses compete in divine pride, their turning glances are noble and pure, their tempers deep and steady. Should you ask who it is that loves them with such intensity—in these later days it is Wei Feng as it was Zhi Dun earlier. I recall long ago when the Emperor went to the Palace at Xinfeng, the kingfisher splendor regalia brushed Heaven as he headed toward the east.

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1. Literally he did a dance of obeisance, as was customary when withdrawing from an audience.
2. Gifts from others seeking paintings.
3. The Eastern Jin monk Zhi Dun was known for his love of fine horses.
騰驤磊落三萬匹，
皆與此圖筋骨同。
自從獻寶朝河宗，
無復射蛟江水中。
君不見
金粟堆前松柏裏，
龍媒去盡鳥呼風。

送韋諷上閬州錄事參軍

國步猶艱難，
兵革未衰息。
萬方哀嗷嗷，
十載供軍食。
庶官務割剝，
不暇憂反側。
誅求何多門，
賢者貴為德。
韋生富春秋，
洞澈有清識。
操持紀綱地，
喜見朱絲直。
Bounding headlong in dense herds came thirty thousand horses, in sinew and bone all the same as the ones in this picture. Even since he offered the jewels bringing the Yellow River God to audience,¹ there will be no more shooting krakens in the waters of the Yangzi.² Have you not seen how before the Mound of Golden Grains within the cypress and pines³ the dragon-decoys have all gone away and birds cry out in the wind?⁴

13.70

Seeing Off Wei Feng to Take His Post as Administrative Supervisor of Langzhou

The dynasty’s fate is still fraught with hardship, the clash of arms has not yet waned or paused. Howls of lament rise from every quarter, from providing food for the army for a decade. All officials endeavor to gouge out more, with no chance to worry about disaffection. Forced exactions come from so many sides, but the worthy man honors virtuous acts. Master Wei is rich in years, possessing pure understanding that penetrates things. In a place of upholding governance and order, I am happy to see one straight as a red zither string.

¹ This refers to King Mu of Zhou, who in his journey west, presented jewels to the god of the Yellow River, after which the god came to a court audience. The counterpart is Xuanzong’s flight to Chengdu.
² Han Wudi personally shot a kraken. Xuanzong was often compared to Han Wudi, and this suggests Xuanzong’s death.
³ Xuanzong’s tomb.
⁴ Fine horses were called “dragon-decoys.”
當令豪奪吏，
自此無顏色。
必若救瘡痍，
先應去蟊賊。
揮淚臨大江，
高天意淒惻。
行行樹佳政，
慰我深相憶。

13.71
太子張舍人遺織成褥段
客從西北來，
遺我翠織成。
開緘風濤湧，
中有掉尾鯨。
逶迤羅水族，
瑣細不足名。
客云充君褥，
承君終宴榮。
空堂魑魅走，
高枕形神清。
He will surely make those bullying, rapacious clerks blanch from this point on. If you would save the people's wounds, you first have to get rid of those weevil-like crooks.

Wiping away tears, we stand by the great river, the heavens high, our thoughts gloomy. Go on then to establish good government which will console my deep brooding for you.

13.71

The Heir-Apparent's Secretary Zhang Sends Me a Piece of Embroidered Matting

A traveler came from the northwest and gave me a turquoise embroidery piece. When I opened the binding, waves surged, in the midst was leviathan thrashing its tail. Stretching off were arrayed the watery species, so tiny I could not name them all.

The traveler said: “This will serve as your matting, to sit on in splendor throughout a feast. Goblins will run from your empty hall, resting in peace, body and spirit pure.”
領客珍重意，
顧我非公卿。
留之懼不祥，
施之混柴荆。
服飾定尊卑，
大哉萬古程。
今我一賤老，
袴褐更無營。
煌煌珠宮物，
寢處禍所嬰。
歎息當路子，
干戈尚縱橫。
掌握有權柄，
衣馬自肥輕。
李鼎死岐陽，
實以驕貴盈。
來瑱賜自盡，
氣豪直阻兵。
皆聞黃金多，
坐見悔吝生。
奈何田舍翁，
受此厚賫情。
I grasp his intention to show his regard,
12 but I am no lord or grandee.
To keep it I fear would be inauspicious,
to spread it out would be to mix it with my kindling and thorns.
Apparel and ornament are determined by status,
16 great indeed is this measure for all time!
Here I am now, a humble old man,
with rough homespun clothes and no further needs.
This thing from the pearl palace is so brilliant,
20 it would bring me disaster when I lie down.
I sigh about those in power,
the clash of arms still unleashed on the world.
Those in whose hands are the reins of power
24 wear light robes and drive sleek horses.
When Li Ding died at Qiyang,\(^1\)
he was indeed brimming with pride at high status.
Lai Zhen was granted to end his own life,
28 bullying temper, protected only by his troops.\(^2\)
I hear everywhere how much gold they had,
but we see how they ruined their lives thereby.
How can an old man in a farmhouse
32 accept the sentiment of such a generous gift?

---
1 In Suzong’s time, the Military Commissioner for several northwestern armies. Qiyang is Fengxiang.
2 The insubordinate governor of Dengzhou during Suzong’s reign. Capturing Pei Rong, who had been sent to relieve him of his command, Pei went to court and confessed his guilt. Suzong ordered Lai to commit suicide.
憶昔二首
錦鯨卷還客，
始覺心和平。
振我鄠席塵，
愧客茹藜羹。

13.72–73
憶昔二首

I
憶昔先皇巡朔方，
千乘萬騎入咸陽。
陰山驕子汗血馬，
長驅東胡胡走藏。
鄴城反覆不足怪，
關中小兒壞紀綱，
張后不樂上為忙。

至今令上猶撥亂，
勞身焦思補四方。
我昔近侍叨奉引，
出兵整肅不可當。
When the brocade leviathan was rolled up and returned to the traveler, I finally felt my heart at rest. I brushed the dust off my rough mat, embarrassed to have the traveler sup on stewed pigweed.

13.72–73
Recalling the Past

I

I recall in the past how our late emperor visited the Northland,¹ then with a thousand carriages, ten thousand horse, he entered Xianyang.² The darlings of the Mountains of Shadow, their horses sweating blood,³ drove the eastern barbarians far, and they fled into hiding. At the reversals by Yecheng there is nothing to marvel at,⁴ that petty fellow in the capital region destroyed the government’s rule,⁵ and if Empress Zhang was unhappy, His Majesty was all flustered. To the present day it causes our emperor to still work to settle turmoil, to trouble his person and make his thoughts simmer to amend the world around. Long ago I served in close attendance unworthily “pulling the coach,”⁶ he sent forth troops under strict discipline, they could not be resisted.

---
¹ This refers to Suzong taking the throne in Lingwu.
² Suzong retaking Chang’an.
³ This refers to the Uighur Turks, Suzong’s allies. The northwestern peoples were referred to as “Heaven’s darlings,” the term the Xiongnu had used to refer to themselves in the Han.
⁴ Imperial troops surrounded the rebel armies in Yecheng, but made no progress because of internal dissention among the Tang commanders. Shi Siming, who had surrendered to the court, rebelled again, took his army to relieve the siege of Yecheng, and inflicted a serious defeat on the imperial army.
⁵ Suzong’s favorite, the eunuch Li Fuguo.
⁶ Serving the emperor.
憶昔二首

為留猛士守未央，
致使岐雍防西羌。
犬戎直來坐御床，
百官跣足隨天王。

願見北地傅介子，
老儒不用尚書郎。

憶昔開元全盛日，
小邑猶藏萬家室。
稻米流脂粟米白，
公私倉廩俱豐實。
九州道路無豺虎，
遠行不勞吉日出。
齊纨魯缟車班班，
男耕女桑不相失。
宮中聖人奏雲門，
天下朋友皆膠漆。
百餘年間未災變，
叔孫禮樂蕭何律。
豈聞一絹直萬錢，
有田種穀今流血。
12 He had a fierce warrior stay to hold Weiyang Palace, he sent emissaries to Qi and Yong to ward off the western Qiang. But the Dog Rong came directly and sat on the emperor’s throne, barefoot, the hundred officials followed the heavenly king.

16 I wish to see in our northern lands a Fu Jiezi, then this old Confucian would have no use to be a Secretariat Court Gentleman.

II

I recall long ago when the Kaiyuan reign was in its glory days, even small towns contained within homes of ten thousand families. The rice flowed with oil, the millet was white, granaries public and private both were filled with bounty. On the roads of the nine regions there were no jackals or tigers, traveling far one did not trouble to find a lucky day to set out. Qi satins and Lu chiffons in continuous wagons, the men at plowing, the women at mulberries didn’t fail their times. For the Sage in the palace they performed “Gates of Cloud,” and friends all over the world stuck together like glue. In the course of more than a hundred years, no disasters or upheavals, there were Shusun Tong’s music and rites, there were Xiao He’s laws. One never heard that one bolt of silk was worth ten thousand cash, there were fields where grains were planted, now they run with blood.

---

1 That is, he had Guo Ziyi stay to hold Chang’an.
2 That is, the Tibetans, who took advantage of the weakness of the Tang to carve off large chunks of the northwest.
3 Referring to the brief Tibetan occupation of Chang’an.
4 Followed Daizong into flight.
5 The Western Han general who took the head of the King of Loulan.
6 When Liu Bang founded the Han, Shusun Tong established music and rites and the minister Xiao He was ordered to establish laws.
洛陽宮殿燒焚盡，
宗廟新除狐兔穴。
傷心不忍問耆舊，
復恐初從亂離說。
小臣魯鈍無所能，
朝廷記識蒙禄秩。
周宣中興望我皇，
灑血江漢身衰疾。
The palaces of Luoyang have all been burned away,
from the ancestral shrine newly removed, dens of foxes and rabbit
warrens.
It so wounds the heart I cannot bear to ask news from oldsters,
I also fear that they will again begin their tales of war and separation.
A humble official, stupid and dull, capable of nothing,
the court called me back to mind, I received rank and salary.
The restoration of King Xuan of Zhou I look for in our sovereign,
shedding tears of blood by Yangzi and Han, my body sick and frail.