移居夔州郭

伏枕雲安縣,
遷居白帝城。
春知催柳別，
江與放船清。
農事聞人說,
山光見鳥情。
禹功饒斷石，
且就土微平。

船下夔州郭宿雨濕不得上岸別王十二判官

依沙宿舸船，
石瀨月娟娟。
風起春燈亂，
江鳴夜雨懸。
晨鐘雲外濕，
勝地石堂煙。
柔櫓輕鷗外，
含悽覺汝賢。
15.1

Moving My Dwelling to the Outskirts of Kuizhou

Bedridden in Yun’an county
I change my dwelling to White Emperor Castle.
Spring knows to hurry the willows for parting,
the river gives clear waters for setting sail.
I can hear people’s good cheer about farming,
the mountain light lets one sense the mood of the birds.
Yu’s deed, plenty of riven stone,\(^1\)
for now I’ll go to land a bit more level.

15.2

Going Downriver by Boat to Kuizhou. I Spent the Night in the Outskirts, but Having Been Soaked by Rain, I Could Not Climb the Shore to Part with Administrative Assistant Wang (20)

I spent the night in the barge beached in the sand,
the moon was charming on the rocky shallows.
Then a wind rose up, and my spring lamp-fire flickered,
the river sang as the night rain hung down.
The morning bell was wet beyond the clouds,
a splendid place, the mist of Stone Hall.
The deftly plied sweep is beyond the light gulls,
I feel a sorrow, realizing what a good man you are.\(^2\)

---

1 Yu’s deed, carving the channels of China’s rivers, is particularly apparent in the Wu Gorges, at the head of which Kuizhou was located.
2 That is, Du Fu feels bad at not having been able to climb the shore and say goodbye to Wang.
漫成一首

江月去人只數尺，
風燈照夜欲三更。
沙頭宿鸛聯拳靜，
船尾跳魚撥刺鳴。

客堂

憶昨離少城，
而今異楚蜀。
舍舟復深山，
窅窕一林麓。
棲泊雲安縣，
消中內相毒。
舊疾廿載來，
衰年得無足。
死為殊方鬼，
頭白免短促。
老馬終望雲，
南雁意在北。
15.3
Haphazard Composition
The river moon is just a few feet away from me; a wind-shaken lamp shines in the night, almost the third watch. Egrets spending the night on the sand, legs bent under, quiet; at the boat’s stern a leaping fish makes the sound of splashing.

15.4
Sojourner’s Hall
I recall a while ago I left the “little city,”¹ and now I’m as far from it as Chu from Shu.² I left my boat and again deep mountains, faint and remote, a patch of forested foothills. I moored and lodged in Yun’an county, but my diabetes was poisoning me inside. This old sickness has gone on twenty years, reaching years of decline, have I not had enough? Though I’ll die and become a ghost in a strange land, my hair white, I have avoided a short lifespan. The old horse gazes at last on clouds, wild goose in the south, its mind in the north.

¹ The western section of Chengdu.
² Kuizhou was within the old domain of Chu.
別家長兒女，
欲起惭筋力。
客堂序节改，
具物对羁束。
石暄蕨芽紫，
渚秀芦筍绿。
巴鹭纷未稀，
微麦早向熟。
悠悠日动江，
漠漠春辞木。
台郎选才俊，
自顾亦已极。
前辈声名人，
埋没何所得。
居然綬章绂，
受性本幽独。
平生憩息地，
必种数竿竹。
事业只濁醪，
营葺但草屋。
上公有记者，
累奏资薄禄。
主憂豈济时，
身遠彌曠職。
Since leaving home, my sons and daughters have grown,  
I want to rise, but am ashamed by sinews’ strength.  
The seasons change in a sojourner’s hall,  
16 all things face me, caught in travels.  
Rock sun-warmed, the fern-shoots purple,  
isseis splendid, the reed sprouts green.  
Ba’s orioles are everywhere, not yet few,  
20 frontier wheat is getting ripe early.  
Going on afar, the sun stirs on the river,  
silently spring bids farewell to the trees.  
They select outstanding talent for Gentlemen of the Secretariat,  
24 considering myself, I have already reached the peak.  
Men of great fame of earlier generations  
have perished and were buried, achieving nothing.  
It strangely turned out that I wear the cords and badge of office,¹  
28 yet my endowed nature has always been secluded and solitary.  
Wherever I have rested during my life  
I have always planted a couple of stands of bamboo.  
My accumulated legacy, just some thick brew,  
32 my managing and building, only a thatched cottage.  
One of the great lords of state recalled me,²  
he frequently wrote to the throne to provide me with a meager salary.  
The ruler worries, but how can I save the age?—  
36 I am far away, and ever more lapsed from my office.

¹ His honorary appointment in the Board of Works, arranged by Yan Wu.  
² Yan Wu.
循文廟算正，
獻可天衢直。
尚想趨朝廷，
毫髮裨社稷。
形骸今若是，
進退委行色。

15.5

引水

月峽瞿塘雲作頂，
亂石崢嶸俗無井。
雲安沽水奴僕悲，
魚復移居心力省。

白帝城西萬竹蟠，
接筒引水喉不乾。
人生留滯生理難，
斗水何直百憂寬。
Practice civil virtues, and court plans will be correct; explain why something is right, and heaven’s avenues will be straight.¹ Yet still I imagine scurrying through the court, in some tiny way to aid the Altars of Earth and Grain. But with my body as it is now in advancing or retiring, I leave myself just to travel.

15.5

Channeling Water

In the Bright Moon and Qutang Gorges clouds are the mountaintops, tangled rock juts looming, by custom there are no wells. The servants were upset at selling water in Yun’an, moving our dwelling to Yufu problems to deal with are reduced. West of White Emperor Castle the thousand bamboos wind around, connecting tubes to channel water, and the throat is never dry. In a human life lingering abroad makes it hard enough to get by, but how is it that a ladle of water is worth enough to ease merely a hundred worries?

¹ “Explaining why something is right” refers to the obligation of a minister to tell a ruler what is the right way to proceed.
15.6

示獠奴阿段

山木蒼蒼落日曛，
竹竿褻褻細泉分。
郡人入夜爭餘瀝，
豎子尋源獨不聞。

病渴三更遶白首，
傳聲一注濕青雲。
曾驚陶侃胡奴異，
怪爾常穿虎豹群。

15.7

上白帝城

城峻隨天壁，
樓高更女牆。
For my Liao Slave Aduan

The trees on the mountain were dark green in the glow of the setting sun, among bamboo canes slender and swaying, a thin stream can be made out. As night comes on, people of the district squabble over the last drops, but my servant sought out the source and alone didn’t pay attention to them. Thirsty from sickness at midnight I turned my white-haired head, there was carried the sound of a gushing, soaking the blue clouds. Once startled by the rareness of Tao Kan’s Hu slave,¹ I am amazed how you always pass through packs of tigers and leopards.

In Kuizhou Du Fu begins praising his servants for their efforts. Suffering from diabetes, Du Fu was always thirsty. It is not clear exactly what happened, but it seems that Du Fu’s pipe system broke down—perhaps because he was drawing on a larger community pipe system and neighbors resented the diminishment of their own supply. Aduan seems to have gone off into the woods and either repaired the pipeline or set up a new one. Servants were ubiquitous even in an impoverished gentry family like Du Fu’s. Their presence by name in poetry was virtually unheard of previously. Such reference raises the question of Du Fu’s imagined audience. Clearly he is no longer writing poems only for the gentry community of his friends and acquaintances. Aduan is, moreover, explicitly a “slave,” and non-Han, which probably accounts for the designation “slave.” It seems unlikely that Du Fu bought him; more likely he purchased his service for a period.

Climbing White Emperor Castle

The walls are lofty, following the cliff’s contours, its towers high, with battlemements further on.

¹ Tao Kan (259–334) was a famous general of the Jin dynasty.
江流思夏后，
风至忆襄王。
老去闻悲角，
人扶报夕阳。
公孙初恃险，
跃马意何长。

15.8–9

上白帝城二首

江城含变态，
一上一回新。
天欲今朝雨，
山归万古春。
英雄余事业，
衰迈久风尘。
取醉他乡客，
相逢故国人。
兵戈犹拥蜀，
赋敛强输秦。
不是烦形胜，
深惭畏损神。
As the river flows on, I recall the Lord of Xia,\(^1\)
when the wind comes, I think back on King Xiang.\(^2\)
Getting old, I hear the sad bugle,
others help me along, telling me it’s evening.
Gongsun Shu at first relied on its fastness,
when he made his horse rear, how far-reaching were his aims!\(^3\)

\(15.8-9\)

Climbing White Emperor Castle

I

The River city offers changing forms,
each time I climb the walls it is new.
The heavens are ready to rain this morning,
the mountains send away an eternal spring.
The lingering achievements of heroes,\(^4\)
I waste away, too long in the windblown dust.
Getting drunk here, a traveler from another land,
I meet someone from my homeland.
Arms still press around upon Shu,
taxes are forcibly shipped to Qin.
It is not that I find this splendid scene wearisome,
but I fear lest deep shame harm my spirit.

---

1 Yu, who cut the Gorges.
2 Alluding to “Song Yu’s “Fu on the Wind,” supposedly presented to King Xiang of Chu.
3 Gongsun Shu was a pretender to the throne, based in Kuizhou, during the collapse of the Wang Mang interregnum in the third decade of the first century CE. Zuo Si, in his “Fu on the Capital of Shu” had the line “Gongsun made his horse rear and declared himself emperor.”
4 Primarily referring to the achievement of Gongsun Shu, the regional lord who dominated the area during the breakup of Wang Mang’s Xin dynasty and was subsequently overthrown by Guangwudi, the founder of the Eastern Han, and to that of Liu Bei founding the Shu kingdom in the breakup of the Eastern Han.
II

白帝空祠廟，
孤雲自往來。
江山城宛轉，
棟宇客徘徊。
勇略今何在，
當年亦壯哉。
後人將酒肉，
虛殿日塵埃。
谷鳥鳴還過，
林花落又開。
多慚病無力，
騎馬入青苔。

15.10

陪諸公上白帝城頭宴越公堂之作

此堂存古製，
城上俯江郊。
落構垂雲雨，
荒階蔓草茅。
柱穿蜂溜蜜，
棧缺燕添巢。
II

An empty shrine to the White Emperor
where lone clouds come and go of themselves.
River and mountains, the walls bend round;
beam and roof, here the traveler lingers.
Where now are those daring stratagems?—
back then he was bold indeed!
Men in aftertimes brought meat and ale,
but the deserted hall grows ever more dusty.
Birds from the valley still pass by singing,
flowers in the groves fall and bloom again.
Much ashamed that I have no strength in my sickness,
I ride my horse onto the green moss.

15.10

Accompanied by Various Gentlemen I Climb Atop White Emperor Castle Walls; Written at a Feast in the Hall of the Duke of Yue

This hall preserves the original construction,
from atop the wall it looks down on the River plain.
The fallen frame suspends the clouds and rain,
the stairs, run wild, spread with grasses.
Where the pillars are pierced through, bees ooze honey,
where the plank walkway gapes, swallows add new nests.

---

1 Original note: “The Duke of Yue is Yang Su. He had a hall atop the mountain-wall, where his portrait still survives” 越公楊素也。有堂在城上畫像尚存. Yang Su was a powerful minister in the reign of Sui Wendi.
坐接春杯气，
心伤艶蕊梢。
英灵如过隙，
宴衎愿投膠。
莫问东流水，
生涯未即抛。

15.11

白帝城最高楼

城尖径昃旌旆愁，
独立縹緲之飞楼。
峡坼云霾龙虎睡，
江清日抱鼋鼍游。
扶桑西枝对断石，
弱水东影随长流。
杖藜歎世者谁子，
泣血迸空回白头。

15.12

武侯廟

遗廟丹青落，
空山草木长。
Just now we meet the vapors from spring ale,
and the heart feels pain at the branchtips with lovely blooms,
Splendid men are gone, swiftly as passing a crack,
in feast’s pleasure I want to stick with these like glue.
Ask not of the eastward flowing water—
not yet would I leave this mortal life behind.

15.11
The Highest Tower on the Walls of White Emperor Castle

The wall comes to a point, the path slants, banners and pennons grieve,
I stand alone in the hazy heights of the soaring tower.
Where the gorge cracks open, clouds bury dragon and tiger asleep,
where the River is clear, sunlight embraces turtles and lizards swimming.
The Fusang Tree’s west-side branches face these sheared off stones,¹
eastward beams of light on the Ruo’s waters follow the long currents.²
Who is the fellow who leans on his cane and sighs for the state of the world,
shedding tears of blood that fall into the air as he turns his white head?

15.12
The Temple to the Warrior Count [Zhuge Liang]

Colored murals crumble in the surviving temple,
in deserted mountains the plants and trees are tall.

---
¹ The Fusang Tree was where the sun rose.
² A legendary river in the far west, where the sun sets.
猶聞辭後主，
不復臥南陽。

15.13

八陣圖

功蓋三分國，
名成八陣圖。
江流石不轉，
遺恨失吞吳。

15.14

曉望白帝城鹽山

徐步移班杖，
看山仰白頭。
翠深開斷壁，
紅遠結飛樓。
日出清江望，
暄和散旅愁。
春城見松雪，
始擬進歸舟。
One still hears of his taking leave of the Last Ruler,
he would not again go back to live quietly in Nanyang.¹

15.13
The Plan of the Eight Formations²
His deeds covered a kingdom split in three,
his fame completed the Plan of the Eight Formations.
The River flows on, the stones do not turn,
a remnant bitterness at his failure to swallow Wu.

15.14
At Dawn Gazing on White Emperor Castle and Salt Mountain
With slow steps I move my streaked staff
raise my white-haired head to look on the mountain.
Where the azure haze is deep, a sheer cliff appears,
the red, far away, forms a soaring tower.
When the sun comes out, it clears my river gaze,
gentle warmth disperses travel’s sorrows.
In this now springtime city, when I see snow in pines,
then I plan to set out in my homebound boat.

¹ The Last Ruler of Shu was the ineffective son of Liu Bei. *Zhuge Liang led the Shu army on its disastrous campaign in Hanzhong against Cao Cao, rather than giving up the Shu cause after Liu Bei’s death and returning to private life in Nanyang.
² The “Eight Formations” were a group of rocks in the Yangzi near Kuizhou, supposedly set there by *Zhuge Liang to illustrate his proposed campaign against the state of Wu.
灩澦堆

巨石水中央，
江寒出水長。
沈牛答雲雨，
如馬戒舟航。
天意存傾覆，
神功接混茫。
干戈連解纜，
行止憶垂堂。

老病

老病巫山裏，
稽留楚客中。
藥殘他日裹，
花發去年叢。
夜足霑沙雨，
春多逆水風。
合分雙賜筆，
猶作一飄蓬。
15.15

Yanyu Rock

Huge rock in the midst of the water,
when the River is cold, it rises tall from the water.
They drown an ox to give thanks for clouds and rain,¹
its resemblance to a horse warns the boats.²
Heaven’s will preserves people from capsizing,
the god’s deed touches the murky vastness.
Amid clash of arms I have repeatedly undone my moorings,
in my travels and sojourns I recall “the edge of the hall.”³

15.16

Old and Sick

Old and sick in the Wu Gorges,
staying on, a sojourner in Chu.
Some medicine remains in wrappers from other days,
flowers bloom from last year’s clumps.
Night brings plenty of sand-wetting rain,
spring has much wind against the current.
I should leave aside my pair of presented brushes,⁴
I am still one wind-tossed dandelion puff.

¹ This, evidently, was a popular ritual offering for good weather on Yangzi trips.
² This refers to a rhyming proverb that when Yanyu Rock looked like a horse, boatmen should not go downstream.
³ “[Being at] the edge of the hall” was proverbial for being in a position of danger.
⁴ The crimson brushes symbolically associated with his position under the Secretariat.
近聞

近聞犬戎遠遁逃，
牧馬不敢侵臨洮。
渭水逶迤白日淨，
隴山蕭瑟秋雲高。
崆峒五原亦無事，
北庭數有關中使。
似聞贊普更求親，
舅甥和好應難棄。

負薪行

夔州處女髻半華，
四十五十無夫家。
更遭喪亂嫁不售，
一生抱恨堪咨嗟。
土風坐男使女立，
應當門戶女出入。
十有八九負薪歸，
賣薪得錢應供給。
I’ve Recently Heard

I’ve recently heard that the Dog Rong have fled afar,
they dare not invade Lintao to pasture their horses.
The Wei River winds off in the distance, the bright sunlight is clear,
the winds whistle on Mount Long, the autumn clouds are high.
The Kongtong Mountains, the Five Plains also are free of troubles,
Beiting often has envoys from Inside-the-Passes.
I’ve heard that it seems the Btsanpo seeks good relations again,¹
a peace between uncle and nephew should be hard to reject.²

Carrying Firewood: A Ballad

A maid of Kuizhou, hair half streaked with white,
forty or fifty, with no husband or family,
even more meeting war and destruction she can’t be married off,
harboring rancor all her life may bring one to sighs.
By local custom they seat a man, but a woman has to stand,
the man should stay at the gate, while the woman goes in and out.³
Eight or nine times out of ten she comes back carrying firewood,
she sells the firewood for cash to provide for their needs.

¹ The title of the Tibetan king.
² The treaty relations between the Tang and the Tibetan kingdom were figured as that
between uncle and nephew, literalized by the earlier marriage of a Chinese princess
to the Btsanpo.
³ That is, the woman works and the man stays home.
至老雙鬟只垂頸，
野花山葉銀釵並。
筋力登危集市門，
死生射利兼鹽井。

面妝首飾雜啼痕，
地褊衣寒困石根。
若道巫山女麤醜，
何得此有昭君村。

峽中丈夫絕輕死，
少在公門多在水。
富豪有錢駕大舸，
貧窮取給行艙子。

小兒學問止論語，
大兒結束隨商旅。
欹帆側柁入波濤，
撇漩捎濆無險阻。

朝發白帝暮江陵，
頃來目擊信有徵。
Until old age paired hair coils just hang down on her neck, with wildflowers and mountain leaves stuck together with silver hairpins. With sinews’ strength she climbs sheer heights then gathers at the gate of the market, heedless of life, she pursues profit also at the salt well. Her face’s make-up and head ornaments are mixed with tracks of tears, the ground is narrow, her clothes are thin, having a hard time at the base of rock. If they say that at Mount Wu the women are coarse and ugly, how did it happen that here there is the village of Wang Zhaojun?

15.19

The Most Skillful: A Ballad

In the gorges the grown men think nothing of deadly danger, few are found in the office gates, most are on the water. The rich and powerful have the cash to ride a large junk, to make a living the poor men go on rowboats. The young boys in their studies stop at the Analects; the older boys prepare their gear and go off with the merchants. With tilting sails and rudders at an angle they enter the waves and billows, skirt whirlpools and sweep past surges with no sense of danger. At dawn they set out from White Emperor, by evening they’re in Jiangling; recently I’ve seen this myself, there is credible evidence.

1 The sign that she is unmarried.
2 *Wang Zhaojun.
瞿塘漫天虎鬚怒，
歸州長年行最能。
此鄉之人氣量窄，
誤競南風疏北客。
若道土無英俊才，
何得山有屈原宅。

15.20

寄韋有夏郎中

省郎憂病士，
書信有柴胡。飲子頻通汗，
懷君想報珠。親知天畔少，
藥味峽中無。歸楫生衣臥，
春鷗洗翅呼。猶聞上急水，
早作取平途。萬里皇華使，
為僚記腐儒。
Qutang Gorge floods the heavens, Tiger-whisker Rapids rages,

old-timers from Guizhou are the most skillful of them all.

The men of this area are narrow of temperament,
they wrongly strive for the southern manner, to set themselves apart
from northerners.
But if you think that the place lacks outstanding talent,
how is it these mountains have the home of Qu Yuan?

15.20

Sent to Director Wei Youxia

The ministry director worried about a sick scholar,
in your letter there was *chaibù*.¹
The potion often makes me sweat,
thinking of you, I imagine repaying with a pearl.²
Friends are few here at earth’s end,
the taste of this medicine is absent in the Gorges.
The oars to take me home lie grown over with moss,
spring gulls cry out, bathing their wings.
I have heard that you are traveling up fast waters,
take the level road as early as you can.
From ten thousand leagues a glorious envoy
as a colleague, recalls a Confucian hack.

---
¹ A plant whose roots were used in medicine.
² This refers to the story of the Count of Sui who healed a wounded snake and was later repaid with a precious pearl.
峡中览物

曾为掾吏趋三辅，
忆在潼关诗兴多。
巫峡忽如瞻华嶽，
蜀江犹似见黄河。
舟中得病移衾枕，
洞口经春长薜蘿。
形胜有余风土恶，
几时回首一高歌。

忆郑南

郑南伏毒寺，
潇洒到江心。
石影衔珠閣，
泉声带玉琴。
风杉曾曙倚，
云峤忆春临。
万里沧浪外，
龙蛇只自深。
15.21

Observing Things in the Gorges

I once was a local clerk, busy in the Three Core Regions,¹
I recall that at Tong Pass I had much inspiration for poems.
The Wu Gorges suddenly seem as though looking on Mount Hua,
just as the Yangzi in Shu resembled seeing the Yellow River.
I grew sick in my boat, moved my pillow and quilt,
at this cavern mouth I spend the spring as the hanging moss grows
long.²
The scenery is amply splendid, but the climate bad,
when will I turn my head and sing out loud?

15.22

Recalling South of Zheng³

Poison-Taking Temple south of Zheng
with unruffled panache reached to mid-river.
Reflections of rock held its pearled towers,
the sound of streams carried notes of jade zithers.
I once leaned on wind-blown fir in morning light,
I recall looking out in spring on summits in cloud.
Ten thousand leagues beyond Canglang,
the dragons only lie deep.

---

¹ This refers to Du Fu’s period in Huazhou. The Three Core Regions were the capital regions and its two adjacent regions.
² That is, in Kuizhou, at the mouth of the Gorges.
³ Zheng county in Huazhou, between Chang’an and Luoyang, where Du Fu served after having been dismissed from court.
贈崔十三評事公輔

飄飄西極馬，
來自渥窪池。
飄飄寒山桂，
低徊風雨枝。
我聞龍正直，
道屈爾何為。
且有元戎命，
悲歌識者知。
官聯辭冗長，
行路洗欹危。
脫劍主人贈，
去帆春色隨。
陰沉鐵鳳闕，
教練羽林兒。
天子朝侵早，
雲臺仗數移。
分軍應供給，
百姓日支離。
黠吏因封己，
公才或守雌。
Swept along, a horse of the furthest west 
comes from the pools of Wowa.¹
In roaring winds, cinnamon tree of a cold mountain,
its storm-drenched branches linger on.
I have heard that our dragon is upright and just,²
so why was your way so cramped up?
There was the order of the Commander-in-chief,
one of discernment understood your sad song.³
You take leave of superfluous postings,
the road you travel sweeps away steep perils.
Sword removed, your patron’s gift,
Departing sail, spring’s beauty goes along.
Dark and brooding, the iron phoenix palace towers,
drilled and disciplined, the lads of the imperial guard.⁴
The Son of Heaven holds court at the break of dawn,
at Cloud Terrace the guard-array has moved several times.⁵
Our separate armies must be provisioned,
the common folk grow daily more scattered.
Rapacious clerks thereby enrich themselves,
while some public-minded talents “preserve the feminine.”⁶

---

¹ The legendary origin of the “horses of Heaven.”
² The dragon here is probably Cui, though it is sometimes understood as the emperor.
³ Probably the Commander read a poem by Cui expressing dissatisfaction with his current position and recommended him to court.
⁴ Cui has apparently been given a post as officer in the imperial guard.
⁵ Following the emperor in flight from the capital.
⁶ A phrase from Laozi, here used ironically to suggest passivity and tolerance.
燕王買駿骨，
渭老得熊麋。
活國名公在，
拜壇群寇疑。
冰壺動瑤碧，
野水失蛟螭。
入幕諸彥聚，
渴賢高選宜。
騫騰坐可致，
九萬起於斯。
復進出矛戟，
昭然開鼎彝。
會看之子貴，
歎及老夫衰。
豈但江曾決，
還思霧一披。
暗塵生古鏡，
拂匣照西施。
舅氏多人物，
無慚困翮垂。
The King of Yan bought superior bones,\(^1\)
the old man by the Wei got a bear.\(^2\)
A famous lord remains to keep the dynasty alive,\(^3\)
when commissioned on the altar, rebel hordes were bewildered.
Ice in a jug stirs onyx and green jade,
waters in the wilds lose their krakens and serpents.\(^4\)
Entering guard headquarters, many splendid men gather,
there is a thirst for worthy men, selection to high post is fitting.
Mounting in flight can be achieved right then,
rising ninety thousand leagues from this.\(^5\)
Further advancing, you will bring forth lance and pike,
gloriously revealed on cauldron and vessel.\(^6\)
Someday I will see such a man in noble station
sighing for the decline of this old man.
It won't merely be that a river has breached its banks,\(^7\)
I also long to see the fog dispersed.
Darkening dust grows on an ancient mirror,
brush off the case to get the reflection of Xi Shi.\(^8\)
My uncle's family has many personages,\(^9\)
do not be ashamed that you have been burdened by dangling wings.

---

1 The King of Yan offered a thousand in gold for a fine horse, but did not find one.
   One of the king’s ministers paid five hundred gold for the bones of a fine horse.
   As a result people knew that he would pay for fine horses, and three were offered.
2 *Taigong.*
3 This may to the Commander of the Guard, but the reference is uncertain.
4 “Ice in a jug” suggests the purity of an official. The consequence of such is getting
   rid of enemies of the dynasty, “krakens and serpents.”
5 Comparing Cui to the mythical *Peng bird, of such size that its wings cover both
   horizons.
6 That is, your achievements will be recorded.
7 A figure for fluent discussion.
8 The most famous beauty of antiquity, here suggesting great talent that may be
   revealed, perhaps Du Fu’s own.
9 Du Fu’s mother was a Cui.
奉寄李十五秘书文嶷二首

I
避暑雲安縣，
秋風早下來。
暫留魚復浦，
同過楚王臺。
猿鳥千崖窄，
江湖萬里開。
竹枝歌未好，
畫舸莫遲回。

II
行李千金贈，
衣冠八尺身。
飛騰知有策，
意度不無神。
班秩兼通貴，
公侯出異人。
玄成負文彩，
世業豈沉淪。
15.24–25

Respectfully Sent to Li Wenyi (15) of the Palace Library

I

You are escaping the heat now in Yun’an county with autumn winds come down as soon as you can. Linger a while by the shore at Yufu, we will both visit the king of Chu’s terrace. Gibbons and birds, in the narrows between a thousand slopes, then lakes and rivers spread for ten thousand leagues. The “Bamboo Branch” songs there are no good, so don’t let your painted ship delay.

II

For travel expenses, gift of a thousand in silver, robed and capped, a six-foot body. I know you have plans to soar on high, your temperament is not without divinity. In terms of rank you combine success and nobility, lords and grandees have produced a remarkable man. Xuancheng bears literary flourish, how could the legacy from one generation to another sink away?

1 The local songs and, by extension, the local customs.
2 Literally “eight chi,” very tall.
3 Li Wenyi was a member of the imperial clan.
4 Wei Xuancheng was the son of Wei Xian and the minister of Han Wendi. People said that his literary talents surpassed those of his father.
15.26

雷

大旱山嶽燋，
密雲復無雨。
南方瘴癘地，
罹此農事苦。
封內必舞雩，
峽中喧擊鼓。
真龍竟寂寞，
土梗空俯僂。
吁嗟公私病，
稅斂缺不補。
故老仰面啼，
瘡痍向誰數。
暴尪或前聞，
鞭巫非稽古。
請先偃甲兵，
處分聽人主。
萬邦但各業，
一物休盡取。 
水旱其數然，
堯湯免親睹。
Great drought, the hills and mountains were parched, dense clouds but then no rain. The south is a land of malarial miasmas, it has run into trouble for farming. Within its borders there must be rain rituals, the gorges resound with the beating of drums. But as the true dragon remains ever silent, in vain they hunch over one of earth and sticks. Alas, an illness for both public and private persons, the tax collection is short, and not filled. Oldsters raise their heads crying out, to whom can they enumerate such wounds and scars? I have heard they once exposed a gaunt, weak person to the sun, but whipping shamans is not found in antiquity. I pray you first set down your weapons, then heed the ruler of men to direct things. Just let each of the myriad domains attend to its enterprise, cease to take away every single thing. Flood and drought are so by fate, could Yao and Tang avoid seeing them personally?

1 Performing rain rituals to effigies of dragons.  
2 In the Zuo Tradition (Xi 21). The ritual was done so that Heaven would take pity on him and send rain.  
3 Sage emperors of high antiquity.
上天鑠金石，
群盜亂豺虎。
二者存一端，
愆陽不猶愈。
昨宵殷其雷，
風過齊萬弩。
復吹霾翳散，
虛覺神靈聚。
Heaven above melts metal and stone; bands of raiders are as disorderly as tigers and jackals; If you have to choose one of the two, isn’t too much sunlight still better? Last night the thunder rolled, the wind passed like ten thousand crossbows together. It also blew apart the engulfing cover, and in vain one sensed that the spirits were gathering. Breath burned dry, guts and belly melt, clothes are stained from abundant sweat. In my dotage I blame my ineptness at planning, I lose hope to build my garden plot.

15.27

Fire

In Chu mountains the fires have lasted more than a month, such are the actions taken in a great drought. The former custom was to burn dragon-effigies, frightening the real ones to bring thunder and rain. Firing the crags, goblins weep, collapsing ice, the shadowy mountain haze illuminated. Spreading netlike it boils a hundred deeps to their sources, all of great antiquity.

---

1 Original note: “According to Chu custom, when there is a major drought, they set fires in the mountains and beat drums, which has some agreement with the writings of the Divine Farmer” 楚俗大旱則焚山擊鼓有合神農書.
青林一灰燼，
雲氣無處所。
入夜殊赫然，
新秋照牛女。
風吹巨焰作，
河棹騰煙柱。
勢欲焚崑崙，
光彌煇洲渚。
腥至焦長蛇，
聲吼纏猛虎。
神物已高飛，
不見石與土。
爾寧要謗讟，
憑此近熒侮。
薄關長吏憂，
甚昧至精主。
遠遷誰撲滅，
將恐及環堵。
流汗臥江亭，
更深氣如縷。
The green forests are gone, all ashes and embers, yet cloud vapors are nowhere to be seen. Into the night it blazes remarkably, in new autumn, it illuminates Oxherd and Weaver.¹ When the wind blows, immense flares appear, past river oars surge columns of smoke. Its force seems about to burn the Kunlun Range, the light increasingly incinerates isles. Then the stench comes, a long serpent scorched, sounds roar, a fierce tiger trapped. But the sacred creature has already flown off high,² he does not see the clay and stone. How can you invite calumny and slander? — but using this method approaches insult.³ Of paltry concern, the worries of senior clerks, utterly ignorant that perfect sincerity commands.⁴ It shifts on farther, who can put it out, and I even fear it will reach the walls of homes. My sweat flows as I lie in my river pavilion, as night gets deeper, my breath is like a thread.

---

¹ Stars on different sides of the Milky Way which, according to legend, were allowed to meet once a year in early autumn.
² The rain-bringing dragon.
³ Du Fu addresses the dragon, who, if he does not fly off and make rain, will be wrongly accused of lacking divine power, even though to be driven into flight by burning a dragon effigy is close to insulting.
⁴ That is, rain can be brought only by perfect sincerity.
15.28–30

熱三首

I

雷霆空霹靂，
雲雨竟虛無。
炎赫衣流汗，
低垂氣不蘇。
乞為寒水玉，
願作冷秋菰。
何似兒童歲，
風涼出舞雩。

II

瘴雲終不滅，
瀘水復西來。
閉戶人高臥，
歸林鳥卻回。
峽中都似火，
江上只空雷。
想見陰宮雪，
風門颯踏開。
15.28–30

Heat

I

In vain the thunder peals and rumbles,
in the end there is nothing of clouds and rain.
Blazing and fiery, clothes stream with sweat,
the head hangs low, the breath does not revive.
I beg to be jade in cold water,
I wish to become a chill autumn zizania.
How can this compare to my childhood years,
the wind cool as I came out on the rain altars?¹

II

Miasmal clouds never disappear,
the Lu River comes from the west.²
People close their doors and just lie down,
birds turn back to the forest.
Everywhere in the gorges is like fire,
and over the river, only useless thunder.
I imagine seeing the snow of the palace ice-house,
its breezy gates swinging briskly open.

¹ This echoes Analects XI.26, in which Zeng Xi, responding to Confucius, tells his life’s aims: “It would be the end of spring when the spring clothes had been readied: with five or six young men and six or seven young boys I would bathe in the River Yi and feel the breeze on the Rain Altars, and then we would go home singing.”
² The water of the Lu River was purported to be miasmal.
夔州歌十絕句

III

朱李沈不冷，
膨胡炊屢新。
將衰骨盡痛，
被暍味空頻。
欎翕炎蒸景，
飄飄征戍人。
十年可解甲，
為爾一霑巾。

15.31–40

夔州歌十絕句

I

中巴之東巴東山，
江水開闢流其間。
白帝高為三峽鎮，
夔州險過百牢關。

II

白帝夔州各異城，
蜀江楚峽混殊名。
III

The red plum, immersed, does not get cold,
zizania seeds are often freshly cooked.¹
Getting frail, my bones all hurt,
suffering sunstroke, the flavors change frequently in vain.
Very quick is this scene of steamy heat,
long swept along, the soldiers on campaign.
Only after ten years can you take off your armor,
for you I soak my kerchief.

15.31–40

Kuizhou Songs: Ten Quatrains

I

East of Central Ba the mountains of East-of-Ba,
from the first opening the river’s waters have flowed in between.²
The heights of White Emperor are the Three Gorges’ guardian,
the fastness of Kuizhou surpasses Bailao Barrier.

II

White Emperor Castle and Kuizhou are each different fortifications,
the River in Shu and the Chu Gorges all have different names.

¹ Zizania gruel was supposed to dispel the heat.
² Probably referring to Yu cutting the river courses.
英雄割據非天意，
霸王并吞在物情。

III
群雄競起問前朝，
王者無外見今朝。
比訝漁陽結怨恨，
元聽舜日舊簫韶。

IV
赤甲白鹽俱刺天，
閭閻繚繞接山巔。
楓林橘樹丹青合，
複道重樓錦繡懸。

V
瀼東瀼西一萬家，
江北江南春冬花。
背飛鶴子遺瓊蕊，
相趁鳧雛入蔣牙。
When separatist heroes held it, it was not Heaven’s will: if a king by force swallows it all that depends on the way people feel.

III

For hosts of bold men rising in mutual struggle one looks to former dynasties; that “the ruler has nothing beyond him” can be seen in this present morning.¹ Recently we were shocked that at Yuyang such hate and resentment formed:² in those days of our Shun we were always listening to the old Xiao and Shao.³

IV

Redshell Mountain, Whitesalt Mountain both stab the heavens, village gates wind around reaching the mountains’ summit. Maple forests and orange trees merge in green and red, covered roads and mansions of many stories, embroidery and brocade suspended.

V

East of Rang and West of Rang are ten thousand households,⁴ north of the River and south of the River flowers in winter and spring. Baby cranes flying apart leave alabaster blooms behind, fledgling ducks follow each other into the wild-rice sprouts.

¹ Referring to the flight of the emperor from the capital. The Gongyang commentary to the *Spring and Autumn Annals* notes that you can never say the king “flees,” because there is no place beyond the king’s territory.
² This refers to An Lushan, whose base was at Yuyang.
³ The Xiao and Shao were the music of sage-king Shun. Shun here refers to Xuanzong.
⁴ East and west of Rang seem to be used as placenames, but a rang was a mountain valley with a river opening wide as it entered the Yangzi.
VI

東屯稻畦一百頃,
北有瀘水通青苗。
晴浴狎鷗分處處,
雨隨神女下朝朝。

VII

蜀麻吳鹽自古通,
萬斛之舟行若風。
長年三老長歌裏,
白晝攤錢高浪中。

VIII

憶昔咸陽都市合,
山水之圖張賣時。
巫峽曾經寶屏見,
楚宮猶對碧峰疑。

IX

閬風玄圃與蓬壺,
中有高唐天下無。
VI

Paddy fields by the Eastern Camp, a hundred acres,\(^1\) to the north are waters of a stream connecting to Greensprout Slope. In clear weather tame gulls bathe there, divided in one place and another, and the rain follows the Goddess, falling each morning at dawn.

VII

Shu’s hemp and Wu’s salt transported from ancient times, boats with ten thousand bushels move like the wind. Amid the long songs of the “longtimers” and “oldsters” in broad daylight they flip coins while in the high waves.

VIII

I recall long ago in Xianyang in the capital market a time when a painting of mountains and rivers was spread for sale. There once the Wu Gorges appeared on a precious screen, as for the Chu palace still I face the sapphire peaks and wonder.

IX

Langfeng and the Mysterious Gardens, along with Penglai and Fanghu,\(^2\) in between is Gaotang, unmatched in all the world.

---

1 According to legend, the local ruler Gongsun Shu had planted this rice paddy.
2 The first two are abodes of the immortals in the Kunlun Mountains in the far west; the second two are isles of the immortals in the east.
借問夔州壓何處，
峽門江腹擁城隅。

武侯祠堂不可忘,
中有松柏參天長。
千戈滿地客愁破，
雲日如火炎天涼。

大火運金氣，
荊揚不知秋。
林下有塌翼，
水中無行舟。
千室但掃地，
閉關人事休。
老夫轉不樂，
旅次兼百憂。
蝮蛇暮偃蹇，
空床難暗投。
炎宵惡明燭，
況乃懷舊丘。
Should you ask of Kuizhou, to what place it lies adjacent:
the gates to the Gorges, the River’s belly squeeze the corner of its walls.

X

The shrine hall of the Warrior Count I cannot forget,
there were pines and cypresses so tall they touched the sky.
Though shields and pikes fill the earth, the wanderer’s grief dissipated,
the sun in the clouds was like a fire, but there the blazing heavens were cool.

15.41

Destructive Heat, Sent as a Note to My Younger Cousin Case Reviewer Cui (16)

The Fire Star moves on to the metal atmosphere,¹
but Jing and Yang show no autumn.²
In the woods there are drooping wings,
on the waters, no boats traveling.
A thousand homes, just swept ground,³
they shut their gates and all human commerce stops.
This old man gets increasingly unhappy,
lodging on travels, a hundred cares come together.
At twilight vipers slither about,
hard to lie down on the empty couch in the dark.
In the fiery night I hate the bright candle,
even more, longing for my old home.

---
¹ The “metal atmosphere” is the weather of autumn, whose element is metal. The Fire Star is Antares, the element of summer.
² Jing[zhou] and Yang[zhou] are here a general term for the south.
³ No tracks of people moving about.
開襟仰內弟，
執熱露白頭。
束帶負芒刺，
接居成阻修。何當清霜飛，
會子臨江樓。載聞大易義，
諷興詩家流。蘊藉異時輩，
檢身非苟求。皇皇使臣體，
信是德業優。楚材擇杞梓，
漢苑歸驊騮。短章達我心，
理為識者籌。

15.42

信行遠修水筒(引水筒)

汝性不茹葷，
清靜僕夫內。秉心識本源，
於事少滯礙。
I open my lapels thinking of my cousin,\(^1\)
in the tenacious heat I bare my white hair.
Tightening my sash feels like needles in my back,
living close by becomes far and unreachable.
When will the clear frost come down?—
I will meet you in a tower looking out on the river.
I will again hear the meaning of the *Changes*,
your poetic inspirations are in the tradition of the Poets.\(^2\)
Mild and well-bred, different from contemporaries,
cautious about yourself, you do not seek improperly.
Glorious is the person of an official on a mission,
truly he is the superior in virtue and achievement.
Of Chu timber they select lycium and catalpa.
Hualiu returns to the park of Han.\(^3\)
This short text conveys what is on my mind,
its principle is for the one with knowledge to reckon.

---

**15.42**

Xinxing Goes Far to Repair the Water-Tube (tubes for bringing water)

By your nature you don’t ingest onions or garlic,
among servants, the cleanest and purest.
Maintaining concentration, you recognize the source of things,
so in doing things you are rarely hindered.

---

1 Opening the lapels” also means to “express one’s feelings,” but here it is literalized by the weather.
2 The “Poets” of the *Classic of Poetry*.
3 A famous horse, standing for Cui. Cui will return to the capital.
雲端水筒坼，
林表山石碎。
觸熱藉子修，
通流與廚會。

往來四十里，
荒險崖谷大。
日曛驚未餐，
貌赤愧相對。

浮瓜供老病，
裂餅嘗所愛。
於斯答恭謹，
足以殊殿最。

詎要方士符，
何假將軍蓋。
行諸直如筆，
用意崎嶇外。

15.43

催宗文樹雞柵

吾衰怯行邁，
旅次展崩迫。
愈風傳烏雞，
秋卵方漫吃。
Urging Zongwen to Make Haste Setting Up a Chicken Coop

At the edge of clouds the water-tube broke, shattered by a mountain rock beyond the woods. We rely on you to brave the heat and fix it, to bring a current to the kitchen. Back and forth it’s forty leagues, wild and steep, with a huge valley slope. As the sun darkened, I was surprised he had not eaten, his face was red, facing me with embarrassment. There was a chilled melon provided for me, old and sick, and a torn pancake for me to taste what I loved.¹ With these I requited his diligence and respect, enough to distinguish lesser and greater service. Why demand a magician’s talisman? why use a general’s canopy? Xinxing, you are straight as a writing brush, putting your mind to it, regardless of the perils of the way.

---

¹ That is, he offered them to Xinxing.

15.43

Urging Zongwen to Make Haste Setting Up a Chicken Coop

In my decline I shrink from forging onward, stopping awhile, I relax my sense of urgency. To cure rheums they say black chickens’ autumn eggs should be plentifully eaten.
自春生成者，
随母向百翮。
驱趁制不禁，
8 喧呼山腰宅。
课奴杀青竹，
终日憎赤帻。
踏藉盘案翻，
12 塞蹊使之隔。
牆东有隙地，
可以树高栅。
避热时来归，
问儿所为跡。
织笼曹其内，
令入不得掷。
稀间可突过，
20 鹭爪还汗席。
我宽蝼蚁遭，
彼免狐貉厄。
应宜各长幼，
自此均勍敌。
笼栅念有修，
近身见损益。
明明领处分，
一一当剖析。
Those that were born in spring
are about a hundred wings following their mothers.\(^1\)
Driven off, they come back, we can’t control them,
8 a racket at my mountainside house.
I gave a slave the task of firing green bamboo,\(^2\)
all day long we hated the red cockscomb.
With plates and table overturned from kicking and strutting,
12 we blocked their path and kept them out.
East of the wall there was fallow land
where he could set up a tall coop.
I chanced to come home to escape the heat.
16 and asked my son how the work was going.
He had bamboo slats woven, put the flock inside,
he made them get in so they couldn’t get away.
If the openings are wide, they can break through,
20 with beaks and talons soiling the mats again.
I am spared bad things happening to ants and mole-cricket,
while they avoid disaster from foxes and raccoon-dogs.
It would be right if each, young and old,
24 from this time were to be equal in meeting opponents.
For the coop, think on its construction,
I see the harms and advantages close at hand.
Clear-sightedly order its disposition
28 every aspect should be analyzed.

---

1 'That is, fifty young chickens.
2 To harden it for the coop.
不昧風雨晨，
亂離減憂感。
其流則凡鳥，
其氣心匪石。  
倚賴窮歲晏，
撥煩及冰釋。
未似屍鄉翁，
拘留蓋阡陌。  

貽華陽柳少府

繫馬喬木間，
問人野寺門。  
柳侯披衣笑，
見我顏色溫。  
並坐石下堂，
俯視大江奔。  
火雲洗月露，
絕壁上朝暾。  
自非暉相訪，
觸熱生病根。  
南方六七月，
出入異中原。
Let them not be ignorant of stormy mornings,¹
which reduces our worries in this world in turmoil.
Their sort are ordinary birds,
but as for their temper, their minds are not stone.²
Relying on them we can get through the end of the year,
we can dispense with the bother until it melts like ice.
I’m no match for the old man of Shixiang,³
I’ll just keep them cooped up over by the path.

15.44

Presented to Sheriff Liu of Huayang

I tied my horse among tall trees,
asked of him at the gate of the wilderness temple.
Master Liu threw his gown over his shoulders and smiled,
his countenance grew warm on seeing me.
We sat together in the hall by the rock,
looked down on the great river rushing.
Fiery clouds washed away the moonlit dew,
on the sheer cliff rose dawn’s glow.
If I had not visited you in the morning,
meeting the heat would cause sickness.
In the sixth and seventh months in the south
comings and goings differ from the Central Plain.

¹ That is, the roosters will crow at dawn.
² That is, you cannot force them to do one thing or another, echoing the *Classic of Poetry*, where the mind is not a stone to be rolled this way or that.
³ This was a figure in the *Liexian zhuan* who lived in Shixiang; he had several thousand chickens, each with a name. When he called one, the chicken would come.
老少多暍死，
汗逾水漿翻。
俊才得之子，
筋力不辭煩。
指揮當世事，
語及戎馬存。
涕淚濺我裳，
悲氣排帝閽。
鬱陶抱長策，
義仗知者論。
吾衰臥江漢，
但愧識璵璠。
文章一小技，
於道未為尊。
起予幸斑白，
因是托子孫。
俱客古信州，
結廬依毀垣。
相去四五里，
徑微山葉繁。
時危挹佳士，
況免軍旅喧。
醉從趙女舞，
歌鼓秦人盆。
Old and young alike often die of sunstroke, 
sweat exceeds water spilling. 
But having found this man of outstanding talent, 
my body’s strength did not forego the bother. 
He pointed out issues of the present times, 
he talked about the continued presence of warhorses. 
Spilling tears splashed on my gown, 
such a mournful air would push back the god’s gatekeeper.\footnote{Echoing the “Li sao” and works in its tradition, here referring to entering the imperial palace and making his views known to the emperor.} 
Bursting with cares, he harbors far-reaching plans, 
depending on an understanding friend to discuss what is right. 
In my decline I lie by the Yangzi and Han, 
ashamed only when I recognize this rare gem. 
Literature is merely one minor art, 
it is not considered with honor in the Way. 
I am roused, fortunate for one whose hair is streaked with white, 
because of this I will entrust my children and grandchildren to you. 
We are both sojourners in what was once Xinzhou,\footnote{An older prefectural name for Kuizhou.} 
I have built my cottage by a broken-down wall. 
Four or five leagues away from each other, 
the path is faint, the mountain leaves are thick. 
The age’s peril makes one bow to this fine gentleman, 
even more, we escape the clamor of armies. 
Drunk, we let the Zhao girls dance, 
singing we beat on the bowls of Qin.
子壯顧我傷，
我歡兼淚痕。
餘生如過鳥，
故里今空村。

今茲商用事，
餘熱亦已末。
衰年旅炎方，
生意從此活。
In your prime, you feel pain looking at me,
I enjoy myself, but with tracks of tears.
The rest of life is like a bird passing,
my hometown is now an empty village.

15.45
After Noon on the Third Day of the Seventh Month, the Heat Withdrew a Bit; By Late in the Day It Got a Little Cool; Sleeping Soundly I Then Got a Poem, and in it I Talk About the Joys of the Years of My Prime; Playfully Shown to Vice-Minister Yuan (21)

Now is the time for the note shang to work,¹
the last of the heat too is in its final phase.
In declining years I travel in the fiery south,
the life in me will be restored from this point on.
At noon the flow of sweat diminished,
I could bear the racket from my northern neighbor.
The late afternoon breeze felt brisk on my black headband,
sinews’ strength, broken, revived.
I had closed my eyes for over a hundred days²
even the great river would not quench my thirst.³
I hated the Rainmaster for hiding away,
I heard how the drought demon was strutting around.
Garden vegetables are as precious as gold and jade,
but none that can serve for picking.

¹ Shang is the note on the pentatonic scale linked to autumn.
² That is, he slept a great deal because of the heat.
³ Referring to his diabetes.
密雲雖聚散，
徂暑終衰歇。
前聖慎焚巫，
武王親救暍。
陰陽相主客，
時序遞回斡。
灑落惟清秋，
昏霾一空闊。
蕭蕭紫塞雁，
南向欲行列。
欒思紅顏日，
霜露凍階闥。
胡馬挾彫弓，
鳴弦不虛發。
長鈚逐狡兔，
突羽當滿月。
惆悵白頭吟，
蕭條遊俠窟。
臨軒望山閣，
縹緲安可越。
高人煉丹砂，
未念將朽骨。
少壯跡頗疏，
歡樂曾倏忽。
Although dense clouds gathered and scattered,
the full summer heat finally waned and stopped.
A former sage warned against burning shamankas,\(^1\)
King Wu personally saved people from sunstroke.\(^2\)
Yang and Yin take turns as guest and host,
the seasons revolve one after another in sequence.
The shedding of leaves is only in clear autumn,
engulfing haze is at once swept wide open.
In the whistling wind, wild geese from Purple Pass
are about to form their lines heading south.
All at once I think of the days when my cheeks were rosy,
when frost and dew froze on the stairs and doors.
With Hu horse, clasping a carved bow,
my twanging bowstring was not loosed in vain.
A long shaft followed the crafty hare,
the fletches, bursting forth, were in a full moon.\(^3\)
My “Song of White Hair” now is depressing,
desolate now, that lair of wandering men-at-arms.\(^4\)
From the railing I gaze toward your mountain tower,
a distant blur, how can I cross over thither?
That lofty man refines his cinabar pellets,
and does not think on we whose bones will rot.
Deeds of my youth and prime have grown quite remote,
such pleasures were but a fleeting moment.

---

\(^1\) *Zuozhuan* (Xi 21), where Zangwenzhong cautioned against this practice to end droughts.
\(^2\) King Wu of Zhou did this once when returning to his capital.
\(^3\) That is, the bow was bent into a full circle like the moon.
\(^4\) The capital.
杖藜風塵際，
老醜難翦拂。
吾子得神仙，
本是池中物。
賤夫美一睡，
煩促嬰詞筆。

15.46

牽牛織女

牽牛出河西，
織女處其東。
萬古永相望，
七夕誰見同。
神光意難候，
此事終蒙朧。
颯然精靈合，
何必秋遂通。
亭亭新妝立，
龍駕具層空。
世人亦為爾，
祈請走兒童。
稱家隨豐儉，
白屋達公宮。
I lean on my cane at the edge of dust in the wind,
now old age and ugliness are hard to prettify.
My Master has attained the gods and immortals,
you were originally that creature in the pool.¹
This poor fellow finds a good sleep lovely,
bothers and pressures entangle my writing brush.

15.46

The Oxherd and the Weaver Woman

The Oxherd appears west of the River of Stars,
the Weaver stays to the east.
Forever they constantly gaze at each other,

but who has ever seen them come together on the Seventh Eve?
I think the Divine Light is hard to await,²
and this matter is at last very murky.
If fleetly those spiritual essences meet,

why must they get together only in autumn?
Bright and lovely she stands, newly made up,
the dragon carriage is prepared in the tiered void.
People of the world on your account too

make prayers and send lads running,
the whole household according to wealth or poverty,
from plain homes all the way to the palace.

---

¹ That is, a dragon before taking flight.
² When the Oxherd and *Weaver Woman meet, a burst of “Divine Light” is supposed to occur.
膳夫翊堂殿，
鸣玉凄房櫳。
曝衣遍天下，
曳月扬微风。
蛛丝小人态，
曲缀瓜果中。
初筵裛重露，
日出甘所终。
嗟汝未嫁女，
秉心鬱忡忡。
防身动如律，
竭力机杼中。
虽无姑舅事，
敢昧織作功。
明明君臣契，
咫尺或未容。
义无弃礼法，
恩始夫妇恭。
小大有佳期，
戒之在至公。
方圆茇觎齟，
丈夫多英雄。
The Steward attends in the palace hall,
ringing jades sound chilly in the rooms.
They sun clothes all over the world,
catching the moonlight, lifted by light breeze.
Spider webs absorb the attention of lesser folk,
twisting adornment among melons and fruits.¹
The newly placed mats are soaked with heavy dew,
and they gladly stay there until the sun comes up.
I sigh for you girls not yet married,
keeping your hearts, swelling with anxieties.
Guard yourselves always as if by a law,
exert your efforts at the shuttle and loom.
Although you have no parents-in-law to serve,
dare you ignore skill in weaving?
Bright is the accord between ruler and subject,
to deviate even by a foot is not allowed.
Righteousness never abandons ceremony,
favor begins out of the respect between husband and wife.
Greater or lesser, when they have that fine moment,²
I admonish them to have the highest public values.
If the square and round don't fit,
the husband often behaves like a hero.

¹ Women placed fruit and melons out on the Seventh Eve praying for skill in weaving. If spiders spun webs on them, their prayers would be granted.
² Of serving or marriage.
雨

峽雲行清曉，
煙霧相徘徊。
風吹蒼江樹，
雨灑石壁來。

淒淒生餘寒，
殷殷兼出雷。
白谷變氣候，
朱炎安在哉。

高鳥濕不下，
居人門未開。
楚宮久已滅，
幽佩為誰哀。

侍臣書王夢，
賦有冠古才。
冥冥翠龍駕，
多自巫山臺。
Rain

Gorge clouds move in the clear morning, mist and fog linger around. The wind blows the trees by the gray river, and the rain comes sprinkling the cliffs of stone. With a shiver it produces ample cold, thunder sounds out booming as well. The atmosphere in White Valley changes, where now is that fiery red heat? The high birds do not descend because of the wetness, the gates of the residents don’t open. The Chu palace was destroyed long ago, for whom do those unseen pendants lament?¹ The attendant official wrote the king’s dream,² those fu showed a talent that crowned ancient days. Since then, unseen in the dark, the coach with azure dragons has often come from the terrace on Wu Mountain.

¹ Of the Goddess of Wu Mountain.
² *Song Yu, in the “Fu on Gaotang” and the “Fu on the Goddess.”
雨

行雲遞崇高，
飛雨霑而至。
潺潺石間溜，
汨汨松上駛。
亢陽乘秋熱，
百穀皆已棄。
皇天德澤降，
焦卷有生意。
前雨傷卒暴，
今雨喜容易。
不可無雷霆，
間作鼓增氣。
佳聲達中宵，
所望時一致。
清霜九月天，
鬚鬚見滯穗。
郊扉及我私，
我圃日蒼翠。
恨無抱甕力，
庶減臨江費。
As the moving clouds grow progressively more lofty,  
the rain comes in a darkening haze.  
Tinkling, the runoff on the rocks,  
splashing, it rushes in the pines.  
Ascendant Yang came with autumn heat,  
all the different grains were given up.  
Then August Heaven sent down virtuous moisture,  
there was life yet in what was parched and curled.  
I was pained that the earlier rain was so strong and violent,  
I rejoice that this present rain is so relaxed.  
One cannot do without thunder,  
coming at intervals, drumming up more energy.  
That fine sound arrived in the middle of night,  
what I had hoped for in time came to pass.  
When the clear frost comes from skies of the ninth month,  
I can faintly imagine the grain left to be gleaned.  
It reaches even my private plot outside the city,  
and my garden will get greener daily.  
I hate that I don't have the strength to carry a jug,¹  
or else I’d diminish expenses of having someone go down to the river.²

¹ Like the old man in the Zhuangzi, who used a jug to water his fields rather than a sweep, because using such a “contrivance” would harm his simplicity.  
² That is, hiring someone to carry water back from the river to water the garden.
15.49-50

雨二首

I

青山澹無姿，
白露誰能數。
片片水上雲，
4 蕭蕭沙中雨。
殊俗狀巢居，
層台俯風渚。  
佳客適萬里，
8 沈思情延佇。  
掛帆遠色外，
驚浪滿吳楚。  
久陰蛟螭出，
12 寇盜復幾許。

II

空山中宵陰，
微冷先枕席。
回風起清曙，
4 萬象萋已碧。
15.49–50
Rain

I

The green mountains are pale and without charm,
who can count the drops of silver dew?
Then puff by puff, clouds over the waters,
and in whistling wind, rain upon sand.
Strange customs here, like dwelling in nests,¹
from a tiered terrace I look on windy isles below.
A fine traveler is going ten thousand leagues,
my feelings of brooding keep me standing here.
A sail beyond the distant colors,
startling waves fill Wu and Chu.
Shadowy so long that dragons come forth—
and how many rebels and bandits?

II

In deserted mountains it grew even darker in the middle of night,
first a faint chill came to my pillow and mat.
Whirling gusts rose in the clear morning,
the myriad images were flourishing and emerald green.

¹ Chen Yixin suggests that this refers to houses with struts, built on the mountain slopes.
江上

落落出岫雲，
渾渾倚天石。
日假何道行，
雨含長江白。
連檣荊州船，
有士荷矛戟。南防草鎮慘，
霑濕赴遠役。
群盜下辟山，
總戎備強敵。水深雲光廓，
鳴櫓各有適。
漁艇息悠悠，
夷歌負樵客。留滯一老翁，
書時記朝夕。

15.51

江上

江上日多雨，
蕭蕭荊楚秋。
高風下木葉，
永夜撫貂裘。
Spreading out, clouds emerge from the summits, a tangled mass, rock resting against the sky. What route is the sun taking?—

the rain is white, swallowing the long river. A line of masts, Jingzhou boats with soldiers shouldering pikes and spears. going to defend dreary Grass Fort in the south, soaked, they go off in far service.

Hordes of raiders came down from Mount Pi, the commander prepares for a powerful foe. The waters are deep, clouds and light stretch vast, each of the creaking long oars has its place to go. Fishermen’s skiffs at rest, on and on, tribal songs come from those carrying firewood. Lingering on here, an old man, writing of the times, recording dawns and evenings.

15.51

On the River

Daily much rain on the River, wind whistles, autumn in Jing and Chu. High above, the wind brings down leaves from the trees, through the long nights, I clasp my sable cape.
勳業頻看鏡，
行藏獨倚樓。
時危思報主，
衰謝不能休。

雨晴

雨時山不改，
晴罷峽如新。
天路看殊俗，
秋江思殺人。
有猿揮淚盡，
無犬附書頻。
故國愁眉外，
長歌欲損神。

雨不絕

鳴雨既過漸細微，
映空搖颭如絲飛。
階前短草泥不亂，
院裏長條風乍稀。
Merit’s legacy: I often look in the mirror;  
conduct and carriage: I lean alone in a tower.  
In times’ peril I long to repay my lord,  
and though wasting away, I cannot stop.

15.52

Rain Clears

When it’s raining, the mountains do not change,  
when it’s fully clear, the gorges seem all new.  
On roads at sky’s edge I watch different customs,  
the autumn river kills one with longing.  
There are indeed gibbons, but I’ve wiped away all my tears,¹  
I have no dog to which to entrust letters often.²  
My homeland lies beyond these sad brows,  
long songs almost ruin the soul.

15.53

The Rain Does Not Stop

The sound of rain has passed, and the rain grows faint and fine,  
shining against the sky, wind-tossed, like flying strands of silk.  
The short plants before my stairs are muddy but not tangled,  
in the compound the long branches first grow barer in the wind.

¹ According to a proverb, when the gibbons cry out three times in the Gorges, the traveler there sheds tears.
² Lu Ji’s dog “Yellow Ear,” who was able to carry letters back home for him.
舞石旋应将乳子，
行云莫自湿仙衣。
眼边江舸何匆促，
未待安流逆浪归。

15.54

晚晴

返照斜初徹，
浮雲薄未歸。
江虹明遠飲，
峽雨落餘飛。
鳧雁終高去，
熊羆覺自肥。
秋分客尚在，
竹露夕微微。

15.55

雨

萬木雲深隱，
連山雨未開。
風扉掩不定，
水鳥去仍迴。
Soon the dancing rocks will surely take along their chicks, and may the moving clouds not soak the goddess’s gown. 
At the corner of my eyes great barges, how hurriedly they move, 
not waiting for the current to calm, they go back up against the waves!

15.54

Late Clearing

Sunlight cast back, slanting, now breaks through everywhere, 
the floating clouds thin, not yet going back. 
River rainbow, bright, drinks from the river afar, 
rain in the gorges, a remainder still falling. 
At last ducks and wild geese go off high above, 
and I sense that the bears are getting fat. 
Autumn equinox, the traveler is still here, 
dew on bamboo, ever so faint in the evening.

15.55

Rain

Ten thousand trees are hidden deep in cloud, 
linked mountains, where the rain has not yet cleared. 
Windblown door, closed and unsteady, 
waterbirds go off, then turn back again.

---

1 This refers to an old legend of rocks that turn into swallows in the rain, then back to rocks again when the rain clears.
鮫館如鳴杵，
樵舟豈伐枚。
清涼破炎毒，
衰意欲登臺。

15.56

奉漢中王手札

國有乾坤大，
王今叔父尊。
剖符來蜀道，
歸蓋取荆門。
峽險通舟過，
江長注海奔。
主人留上客，
避暑得名園。
前後緘書報，
分明饌玉恩。
天雲浮絕壁，
風竹在華軒。
已覺良宵永，
何看駭浪翻。
入期朱邸雪，
朝傍紫微垣。
As if shuttles are sounding in lodges of mermen,\(^1\)
how can the woodsmen’s boats go cut their boughs?
Clear cool has broken the poisonous heat,
and my aging mood is ready to climb a terrace.

15.56
Receiving a Letter from the Prince of Hanzhong

The empire is as big as Heaven and Earth,
my prince now has the honor of being the Emperor’s uncle.
With a split tally you came on the road to Shu,\(^2\)
now your homebound canopy takes the route through Mount Jingmen.
The Gorges’ perils can be passed through by boat,
the river stretches long, pouring toward the sea.
Your host entertains an exalted guest,
you find a famous garden to escape the heat.
Before and later you answered me with letters,
clear was your grace in having me dine on such jade.
In the sky clouds float past sheer cliffs,
wind-blown bamboo stand at the splendid balcony.
You already sense the long night lasting on,
how can one see the startled waves crashing?
When you enter the capital, there will be snow on your vermilion mansion,
you will go to court by the walls of the Ziwei Constellation.

\(^1\) Beings who live underwater, famous for their weaving.
\(^2\) The “split tally” is the authority to govern.
枚乘文章老，
河間禮樂存。
悲秋宋玉宅，
失路武陵源。
淹薄俱崖口，
東西異石根。
夷音迷咫尺，
鬼物傍黃昏。
犬馬誠為戀，
狐狸不足論。
從容草奏罷，
宿昔奉清樽。

15.57

返照

楚王宮北正黃昏，
白帝城西過雨痕。
返照入江翻石壁，
歸雲擁樹失山村。
衰年病肺惟高枕，
絕塞愁時早閉門。
Mei Sheng is the old master of letters,\(^1\)
through the Prince of Hejian Rites and Music were preserved.\(^2\)
You will lament autumn by the house of Song Yu,\(^3\)
20 I have lost my way to the source of that stream in Wuling.\(^4\)
We both tarry at the mouth of the cliffs,
one in the east, one in the west, at the foot of different mountains.
Tribal accents close around confuse one,
24 supernatural creatures are near at hand in the dusk.
Dogs and horses truly yearn for their masters,
of the foxes, no need to tell.\(^5\)
When casually drafting memorials is done,
28 present the clear goblets of former days.

\[\text{15.57}\]

Sunlight Cast Back

North of the Chu king’s palace, it is just now turning dusk,\(^6\)
west of White Emperor Castle the traces of passing rain.
Sunlight cast back enters the river, rolling the cliffs of stone,\(^7\)
4 returning clouds hug the trees, I lose sight of the mountain village.
In my years of infirmity, sick in the lungs, I can only rest aloof,
on this farthest frontier, worried by the times, I long ago shut my gate.

\(^1\) *Mei Sheng. This refers to Du Fu himself.
\(^2\) The Han Prince of Hejian presented ancient Rites and Music to Han Wudi. This refers to Li Yu, the Prince of Hanzhong.
\(^3\) The supposed site of the house of the ancient poet *Song Yu was in Guizhou, where Li Yu was temporarily staying on his return to the capital.
\(^4\) *Peach Blossom Spring.
\(^5\) Du Fu longs for the emperor like a dog or horse longs for its master. The foxes probably refer to evil men at court.
\(^6\) The “Chu king’s palace” was built on Wu Mountain, east of Kuizhou. Since the compound no longer existed in Du Fu’s time, here it is simply a reference to Wu Mountain.
\(^7\) This may suggest the reflections of the cliff in the river.
不可久留豺虎乱，
南方实有未招魂。

15.58–59

晴二首

I

久雨巫山暗，
新晴锦绣文。
碧知湖外草，
红见海东云。

竟日鶯相和，
摩霄鹤数群。
野花乾更落，
风处急纷纷。

II

啼乌争引子，
鸣鹤不归林。
下食遭泥去，
高飞恨久阴。

雨声冲塞尽，
日气射江深。
I cannot long remain where wild dogs and tigers run wild—
in the south there truly is an unsummoned soul.\footnote{Du Fu here refers to the “Summons to the Soul,” \textit{Zhaobun}, in the \textit{Chuci}, in which the speaker describes the terrors lying in wait in all directions. Du Fu would have probably understood the object of the summons to be the exiled Qu Yuan, to whose situation he compares his own.}

\textbf{15.58–59}

Clear Skies

\begin{flushleft}
I

Wu Mountain was darkened by long rains,
skies newly cleared, patterns of embroidery and brocade.
From the sapphire I can tell the plants beyond the lakes,
the red shows me clouds east of the sea.
All day long orioles sing together,
several flocks of cranes brush the highest clouds.
Wild flowers, drying, fall still more,
where there is wind they go in desperate flurries.
\end{flushleft}

II

The crying crows contend to bring their young;
the singing cranes don’t go back to the woods.
The former come down to feed and find the mud gone;
the latter fly high, hating the long cloudiness.
Gone is the sound of rain battering the passes,
sunlit vapors shoot deep into the river.
迴首周南客，
驅馳魏闕心。

始賀天休雨，
還嗟地出雷。
驟看浮峽過，
密作渡江來。
牛馬行無色，
蛟龍鬥不開。
干戈盛陰氣，
未必自陽臺。
Turning his head, the traveler in Zhounan,¹
his heart goes speeding to the palace towers of Wei.²

15.60

Rain

I had just offered congratulations that Heaven stopped the rain
when again I sighed that thunder came from the earth.
I watched the downpour floating past the gorges,
then dense it came crossing the river.
Oxen and horses walk in a colorless blur,
the combat of dragons does not resolve.
The clash of arms makes the Yin Humour ascendant—
it does not necessarily come from the Terrace of Light.³

15.61

Director of Palace Administration Yang Shows Me a Picture with
Zhang Xu’s Draft Script

That man has already perished,
the Sage of Draft Script’s secrets are hard to find.
And when he takes the trouble to show me this,
it is melancholy that fills my eyes.
Sad winds rise faintly from the silk,
ancient colors appearing for thousands of leagues.

¹ Zhounan was the old term for the southern Zhou feudatories. The presumption is that Du Fu is comparing himself to Sima Tan, Sima Qian’s father, who spent time in “Zhounan.”
² An old image of someone far away still thinking of his ruler.
³ The home of the goddess of Wu Mountain, who was said to bring the rain.
楊監又出畫鷹十二扇

鏘鏘鳴玉動，
落落群松直。
連山蟠其間，
溟漲與筆力。
有練實先書，
臨池真盡墨。
俊拔為之主，
暮年思轉極。
未知張王後，
誰並百代則。
鴻呼東吳精，
逸氣感清識。
楊公拂箋笥，
舒卷忘寢食。
念昔揮毫端，
不獨觀酒德。

楊監又出畫鷹十二扇

近時馮紹正，
能畫鷹鳥樣。
明公出此圖，
無乃傳其狀。
Jade stirs, resounding with a clink,
wide-spreading, a group of pines stand straight.
Linked mountains coil herein,
dark flooding seas lent his brush force.
When he had plain silk indeed he wrote on it first,
overlooking the pool it was truly all ink.¹
He was chief among the outstanding,
in his twilight years his thoughts grew ever more extreme.
And I know not after Zhang Zhi and Wang Xizhi
who else can match his model for a hundred generations?
Alas, he was the essence of Eastern Wu,
his free temper stirs one with clear understanding.
Master Yang brushes off his chests,
unrolling and rolling up, he forgets to sleep or eat.
When I brood on how he wielded the brush-tip long ago,
I am not seeing only the power ale gave him.

15.62
Director Yang Further Brings Out Paintings of Hawks in Twelve Panels
In recent times Feng Shaozheng
skillfully painted the likeness of birds of prey.
These pictures that Your Excellency brings out
obviously transmit his manner.²

¹ Comparing Zhang Xu to the Eastern Han master of draft script Zhang Zhi, who
would write on any cloth in the household before it was dyed or bleached and
turned his pool black by washing his brush in it so often.
² This suggests that the present painting is either a copy of a work by Feng Shaozheng
or is done in his manner.
送殿中楊監赴蜀見相公

殊姿各獨立，
清絕心有向。
疾禁千里馬，
氣敵萬人將。
憶昔驪山宮，
冬移含元仗。
天寒大羽獵，
此物神俱王。
當時無凡材，
百中皆用壯。
粉墨形似間，
識者一惆悵。
干戈少暇日，
真骨老崖嶂。
為君除狡兔，
會是翻鞲上。

15.63

送殿中楊監赴蜀見相公

去水絕還波，
洩雲無定姿。
人生在世間，
聚散亦暫時。
Remarkable postures, each on its own, 
utterly clear, their hearts set on something.¹
Their swiftness withstands the thousand-league horse;
their spirit rivals a general of ten thousand.
I recall long ago at the Li Mountain Palace
how in winter they transferred the Hanyuan Guard.²
When the weather was cold they held a Plume Hunt,
and the spirits of these creatures were all dominant.
At that time there were none of ordinary ability,
they used vigor in all of a hundred strikes.
Here in their resemblances in pigment
those who recognize them feel at once depressed.
The clash of arms has left few idle days,
and the true birds grow old on bluff and cliff.
They will catch the wily hare for you,³
and then fly back to the falconer’s gauntlet.

15.63
Seeing Off Director of Palace Administration Yang on his Way to Shu
to Meet His Excellency the Minister

Departing waters never have waves that return,
clouds oozing forth have no fixed appearance.
A man lives in but one day and age
we gather and scatter too for only a brief while.

¹ Such putative intentions appear also in the poem on Xue Ji’s crane mural; but since
these are birds of prey, the presumed objects of their interest are probably fleshier.
² Hanyuan Palace was the first edifice in the Daming Compound. Xuanzong would
go to the Li Mountain palace, with its hot springs, in winter, taking the imperial
guard with him.
³ This line, clearly with figurative implications, can be read “for their lord.”
離別重相逢，
偶然豈定期。
送子清秋暮，
風物長年悲。
豪俊貴勳業，
邦家頻出師。
相公鎮梁益，
軍事無子遺。
解榻再見今，
用才復擇誰。
況子已高位，
為郡得固辭。
難拒供給費，
慎哀漁奪私。
干戈未甚息，
紀綱正所持。
泛舟巨石橫，
登陸草露滋。
當念居者思。
Once parted, to meet again
would be by chance—no date can be fixed.
I see you off at the end of clear autumn,
8 as the elder, I grieve at the things of the scene.
In outstanding men a legacy of deeds is honored,
the dynasty often sends its armies forth.
His Lordship the Minister takes command of Liang and Yi,
12 leaving nothing overlooked in military matters.
“Taking down the mat” is seen again in these times,¹
in employing a man of talent, whom else could he choose?
Even more, you already have a high position,
16 can you steadfastly refuse to govern a commandery?
It is hard to oppose providing expenses for the army,
but take care to commiserate with those whose private goods are
plundered.
The clash of arms has not ceased much,
20 what you now maintain is the dynasty’s rule.
In sailing by boat, a huge rock lies across the route,
when you go by land, the dew will be thick on the plants.
At this gate in the mountains the sun quickly turns evening,
24 you should turn your thoughts to the longing of one living here.

¹ *Xu Chi.
贈李十五丈別

峽人鳥獸居，
其室附層颠。
下臨不測江，
中有萬里船。
多病紛倚薄，
少留改歲年。
絕域誰慰懷，
開顏喜名賢。
孤陋忝末親，
等級敢比肩。
人生意頗合，
相與襟袂連。
一日兩遣僕，
三日一共筵。
揚論展寸心，
壯筆過飛泉。
玄成美價存，
子山舊業傳。
不聞八尺軀，
常受眾目憐。
15.64

Presented to Mr. Li (15) on Parting

People in the gorges dwell as birds and beasts,
their homes are attached to the tiered summits.
They look down over a fathomless river
in which there are boats from ten thousand leagues.
Many illnesses come upon me in droves,
my short stay here now sees the year changing.
Who can console me in this remote region?—
I rejoice at this famous worthy, who makes me smile.
An ignorant man, an embarrassment as distant kin,
would I dare to stand as your equal in rank?
Yet in human life temperament may coincide well,
together we join sleeve to sleeve.
In one day you send your servant twice,
every three days we have a party together.
In offering discussions we unfold what is in the mind,
our vigorous brushes surpass waterfalls.
In Xuancheng the fine value is preserved,¹
in Zishan the earlier legacy is transmitted.²
I have never heard that a six-foot body
would always receive the sympathy of the crowd on seeing him.³

---

1  Wei Xuancheng was a classical scholar of the Western Han, no less accomplished than his father.
2  Zishan is the poet *Yu Xin, who served the Liang Crown Prince Xiao Gang, as his father had.
3  'That is, someone like Li Wenyi will surely be recognized and employed.
且為辛苦行，
蓋被生事牽。
北迥白帝棹，
南入黔陽天。
汧公制方隅，
迥出諸侯先。
封內如太古，
時危獨蕭然。
清高金莖露，
正直朱絲弦。
昔在堯四嶽，
今之黃潁川。
于邁恨不同，
所思無由宣。
山深水増波，
解榻秋露懸。
客遊雖云久，
亦思月再圓。
晨集風渚亭，
醉操雲嶠篇。
丈夫貴知己，
歡罷念歸旋。
Now you make an arduous journey for a while,
in fact it is forced by making a living.
From the north you turn your oars at White Emperor
and southward enter the skies of Qianyang.
The Duke of Qian controls that corner of the realm,\(^1\)
he stands far in the forefront of the lords of the domains.
Within his borders it is like high antiquity,
the times are perilous, but he alone is relaxed.
Pure and high, the dew on the metal column,\(^2\)
straight as a red silk string.
Of old it was “Four Marchmounts” of Yao’s day,\(^3\)
today he’s Huang of Yingchuan.\(^4\)
I hate not being able to join you on this journey,
and I have no way to express myself to the one I long for,\(^5\)
Deep in the mountains the waves increase,
autumn dew hangs on the mat taken down.\(^6\)
Though you will be traveling long,
I still long for when the moon is full another time.\(^7\)
Mornings you will join at a pavilion on a windy isle,
 drunk, you will grasp that piece on “cloudy pinnacles.”\(^8\)
A mature man values understanding friends,
I will think on your return when your pleasures are done.

---

1 Li Mian.
2 Han Wudi erected a bronze column with an immortal holding a dew-pan to catch the sweet dew, to whose purity Li Mian is being compared.
3 The “Four Marchmounts” of Yao’s time were interpreted as the four highest officials around the ruler.
4 Huang Ba, governor of Yangzhou and Yingchuan in the reign of Han Xuandi, and acknowledged the foremost governor. This is praise of Li Mian, Duke of Qian.
5 The Duke of Qian, or Li.
6 *Xu Chi.
7 A sign of reunion.
8 A phrase in a “Roaming Immortals” poem by the poet Wang Rong (468–494).
種萵苣

既雨已秋，堂下理小畦，隔種一兩席許萵苣，向二旬矣，而苣不甲拆，獨野莧青青。傷時君子，或晚得微祿，輦軸不進，因作此詩。

陰陽一錯亂，驕蹇不復理。枯旱於其中，炎方慘如燬。植物半蹉跎，嘉生將已矣。雲雷歎奔命，師伯集所使。

指揮赤白日，瀟洞青光起。雨聲先已風，散足盡西靡。山泉落滄江，霹靂猶在耳。終朝紆颯沓，信宿罷瀟灑。

堂下可以畦，呼童對經始。
Planting Lettuce

It is autumn now that the rains have come, and I made a small plot by the main hall. There I planted a few beds of lettuce in separate plots. It has been almost twenty days, yet the lettuce has not germinated, and only the wild amaranthus is growing green. A good man who laments the times may late in life get a small salary; but the going is rough and he makes no progress. Therefore I made this poem.

Yin and Yang were topsy-turvy, domineering, recalcitrant, no longer in good order. Dryness and drought were in their midst, and the hot regions were dismal, as if ablaze. Half of all plants had faltered and fallen, and the excellent grains were almost done for. Clouds and thunder suddenly sped to command as Rainmaster and Windbaron gathered their minions. They directed the reddish-white sun, and in swirling masses blue light appeared. The rain sounds were preceded by wind, and the scattering drops all streamed westward. Mountain streams fell into the gray river, and peals of thunder were still in my ears. All day long it whirled swirling, then after two nights it ceased its briskness. I could make a garden plot by the hall, I called to my boy to start it out facing me.

1 Lightning.
苣兮蔬之常，
随事育其子。
破块数席间，
荷锄功易止。
两旬不甲坼，
空惜埋泥滓。
野堇迷汝来，
宗生实于此。
此辈岂无秋，
亦蒙寒露委。
翻然出地速，
滋蔓户庭毁。
因知邪干正，
掩抑至没齿。
贤良虽得禄，
守道不封己。
拥塞败芝兰，
眾多盛荆杞。
中圃陷萧艾，
老圃永为恥。
登上白玉盘，
藉以如霞绮。
莧也无所施，
胡颜入筐篚。
Ah lettuce! Common among vegetables,
we went through the process to plant its seeds.
We broke up clods in several beds,
carrying hoes, the deed was easy to complete.
But after twenty days, they did not germinate,
and I, helpless, pitied how they were buried in mire.
You, wild amaranthus, I don’t know where you came from,
your teeming growth is truly right here.
This type of plant must also know autumn,
it too bears the accumulation of cold dew.
Swift-changing it speedily comes from the ground,
lushly spreading, my whole yard is ruined.
Thus I understand how evil overwhelms right,
suppressing it until it perishes.
Even if the worthy and good get a salary,
in keeping the Way, they do not bring themselves bounty.
Crowding and blocking ruins the holy mushroom and orchid,
thorns and medlars flourish in multitudes.
When a garden falls into mugwort and artemesia,
an old gardener will always find this a shame.
Offered on plates of white jade,
spread on figured silks like clouds.
Yes, the amaranthus is useful for nothing—
brazen-faced, it enters the baskets.
15.66

白帝

白帝城中雲出門，
白帝城下雨翻盆。
高江急峽雷霆鬥，
4 翠木蒼藤日月昏。
戎馬不如歸馬逸，
千家今有百家存。
哀哀寡婦誅求盡，
8 哀哭秋原何處村。

15.67

黃草

黃草峽西船不歸，
赤甲山下行人稀。
秦中驛使無消息，
4 蜀道兵戈有是非。
萬里秋風吹錦水，
誰家別淚濕羅衣。
莫愁劍閣終堪據，
8 聞道松州已被圍。
White Emperor

In White Emperor Castle clouds come out the gates, below White Emperor Castle the rain is as if from an overturned basin. The high river runs fast through the gorges, peals of thunder contend, azure trees and gray vines, sun and moon are made murky. The war horse is not so free from restraint as the horse returning home, of a thousand households now there are a hundred households surviving. Wailing lament, a widow, taxed until nothing is left, weeps piteously on the autumn plain in a village somewhere.

Yellow Grass Gorge

From west of Yellow Grass Gorge boats do not come back, below Redshell Mountain travelers are few. Of the official courier from Qin there is no news, troops and arms on the roads of Shu, there are disputes. From ten thousand leagues the autumn wind blows on the Brocade River, whose parting tears are those that soak the gossamer gown? Don’t worry about Jian’ge that it can be held at last, I have heard that Songzhou has already been besieged.

---

1 A courier from the court bearing official documents. This may suggest that the court has not acted to deal with the troubles in Shu.
2 This refers to contention among the Tang commanders after Du Hongjian took command in Shu.
3 This poem refers to the military uprising of 765 in Sichuan. The final line refers to the Tibetan siege of Songzhou.
15.68

白鹽山
卓立群峰外，
蟠根積水邊。
他皆任厚地，
爾獨近高天。
白黌千家邑，
清秋萬估船。
詞人取佳句，
刻畫竟誰傳。

15.69

謁先主廟
慘澹風雲會，
乘時各有人。
力侔分社稷，
志屈偃經綸。
復漢留長策，
中原仗老臣。
15.68

Whitesalt Mountain

Lofty it stands, beyond the other peaks,
it's coiling roots are beside the deep waters.
All others depend on the thick earth,
while you alone are near the high heavens.
White placards, a town of a thousand homes,
clear autumn, ten thousand merchant boats.
The writer got an excellent line,
but who will pass on this depiction? 1

15.69

Paying My Respects at the Temple of the First Ruler

Somber boldness, conjunction of wind and clouds, 2
seizing the moment, each place had exceptional men.
Strength equal, they divided the Altars of Earth and Grain, 3
aims thwarted, he lay aside plans for rule. 4
He left far-reaching schemes to restore the Han,
to take the Central Plain he relied on his old minister. 5

---

1 This plays on an anecdote in A New Account of Tales of the World (20.2). Of a comparison, Zhou Yi (c. 300–364) quipped: “Why depict [the woman of] Wuyan to assault Xi Shi?” The woman of Wuyan was notoriously ugly, though politically astute. Wuyan means literally “no salt,” playing Du Fu’s topic “White Salt Mountain.”

2 The “conjunction of wind and clouds” was meeting one’s ruler and being recognized or meeting one’s opportune moment.

3 The Altars of Earth and Grain stand for dynastic legitimacy; this refers to the division of Han territory among Wei, Wu, and Shu, whose First Ruler, Liu Bei, had a temple in Kuizhou.

4 Liu Bei’s plans to conquer Wu.

5 The dying Liu Bei left to his minister Zhuge Liang the responsibility to retake the empire.
謁先主廟

雜耕心未已，
歐血事酸辛。
霸氣西南歇，
雄圖歷數屯。
錦江元過楚，
劍閣復通秦。
舊俗存祠廟，
空山立鬼神。
虛簷交鳥道，
枯木半龍鱗。
竹送清溪月，
苔移玉座春。
閻閭兒女換，
歌舞歲時新。
絕域歸舟逺，
荒城繫馬頻。
如何對搖落，
況乃久風塵。
孰與關張並，
功臨耿鄧親。
應天才不小，
得士契無鄰。
遲暮堪帷幄，
飄零且釣緡。
Mixing soldiers with plowmen, his mind did not rest,\(^1\)
spitting blood, he endured bitter efforts.\(^2\)
The aura of dominance ceased in the southwest,
heroic plans, the fated succession in difficulty.
The Brocade River has always passed through Chu,
\(^3\)
Jian’ge also leads through to Qin.
By old custom they preserve his temple,
it makes ghosts and spirits stand still in the deserted mountains.
The empty eaves cross the high paths of birds,
withered trees, half grown with dragon scales.
The bamboo send off the moon on the clear creek,
the mosses creep into the spring of his jade throne.
In the village gates the boys and girls have changed,
but the songs and dances are renewed through the years.
A remote region, my homebound boat gone far,
wilderness city where I often tie my horse.
How can I face the desolate scene of falling leaves,
even more with war’s dust so long in the wind?
Who can stand together with Guan Yu and Zhang Fei,\(^4\)
their deeds look out close on Geng Yan and Deng Yu.\(^5\)
Acting at Heaven’s prompting, his talent not small,
he found officers whose bond with him had no peer.
In my twilight years, could I act in the tent?\(^6\)
tossed along, I let my fishing line hang a while.

---

1. This was one of *Zhuge Liang’s devices to feed the army set to retake Chang’an.
2. *Zhuge Liang spit up blood before the illness that finally killed him.
3. Jian’ge was the large mountain that blocked the route to Chengdu from Qin.
4. Liu Bei’s famous generals.
5. Officials who helped Guangwudi restore the Han.
6. *Zhang Liang formulated plans in his tent and won victories a thousand leagues away.
向來憂國淚，
寂寞灑衣巾。

古柏行

孔明廟前有老柏，
柯如青銅根如石。
霜皮溜雨四十圍，
黛色參天二千尺。
君臣已與時際會，
樹木猶為人愛惜。
雲來氣接巫峽長，
月出寒通雪山白。

憶昨路繞錦亭東，
先主武侯同閟宮。
崔嵬枝幹郊原古，
窈窕丹青戶牖空。
落落盤踞雖得地，
冥冥孤高多烈風。
扶持自是神明力，
正直元因造化功。
I have always shed tears of worry for the dynasty,
in the stillness they spatter my robe and kerchief.

15.70

The Old Cypress: A Ballad

In front of the Kongming Temple there is an aged cypress, its trunk is like green bronze, its roots are like stone. Its frosty bark has been drenched by rains, a forty arm-span girth, eyebrow-black touching Heaven, two thousand feet up.
The prince and his officer have already met their moment in history, but still this tree is cherished by people. When clouds come, its atmosphere touches the Wu Gorges’ far reaches; when the moon comes out, the cold reaches the white of the Mountains of Snow.

I recall recently where the road wound around east of Brocade Pavilion, there the First Ruler and Warrior Count shared the same shrine. Branches and trunk towered over the ancient plain, hidden away paintings red and green within the empty windows. Spreading wide and with coiling crouch, though it has a secure place, tall and alone in the dark, dark skies often bring fierce winds. Of course, there is, to hold them up, the power of the god, their upright straightness is basically due to the work of Creation.

1 Kongming is *Zhuge Liang.
2 The Warrior Count is *Zhuge Liang.
大厦如倾要梁棟，
万牛回首丘山重。
不露文章世已惊，
未辞剪伐谁能送。
苦心岂免容蝼蚁，
香叶终经宿鸞凤。
志士幽人莫怨嗟，
古来材大难为用。
Were a great hall to collapse and they needed beams,
ten thousand oxen would turn their head at such mountainous weight.
Not even showing its patterning, it would make the world amazed,\(^1\)
nor would it refuse to be cut down, but who could transport it?
How could its bitter trunk avoid letting in the termites,\(^2\)
but its fragrant needles have ever given lodging to the phoenix.
Ambitious gentleman and recluse—do not sigh in resentment!—
from ancient days when timber is great it is hard to put to use.

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1 “Patterning” is the fineness of its grain, but also “literary works.”
2 “Trunk” is also “heart.”