21.1

冬至

年年至日長為客，
忽忽窮愁泥殺人。
江上形容吾獨老，

天邊風俗自相親。
杖藜雪後臨丹壑，
鳴玉朝來散紫宸。
心折此時無一寸，

路迷何處見三秦。

21.2

柳司馬至

有使歸三峽，
相過問兩京。
函關猶出將，

渭水更屯兵。
設備邯鄲道，
和親遼遼城。
幽燕唯鳥去，

商洛少人行。
21.1

Winter Solstice

Every year on the solstice I am ever a sojourner, hopelessly lost in sorrow’s extreme, utterly mired down. Of the appearances by the river I alone am old, with the ways here at world’s end, I have naturally grown familiar. Taking my cane after the snow I look out on Cinnabar Ravine, ringing jades as morning comes, scatter through Zichen Palace. The heart snaps at this moment, even that one speck is gone, my way is lost, and when will I see tripartite Qin?1

21.2

Assistant Liu Arrives

Someone on a mission came to the Three Gorges, I visited him and asked about the capitals. Han Pass still sends forth generals, the Wei River continues to be a camp for troops. Defenses are set up on the Handan Road,2 a marriage pact was made in Lhasa. Only birds go off to You and Yan,3 by the Shang and Luo few people travel.

---

1 'The capital.
2 'Troops deployed against the separatist generals in the northeast.
3 'The old names for the separatist northeast.
衰謝身何補，
蕭條病轉嬰。
霜天到宮闕，
戀主寸心明。

21.3

別李義

神堯十八子，
十七王其門。
道國洎舒國，
實唯親弟昆。
中外貴賤殊，
余亦忝諸孫。
丈人嗣王業，
之子白玉溫。
道國繼德業，
請從丈人論。
丈人領宗卿，
肅穆古制敦。
先朝納諫諍，
直氣橫乾坤。
子建文筆壯，
河間經術存。
Frail and fading, what help could I be—
dreary, sickness increasingly encumbers me.
The frosty sky reaches the palace gates—
loving my ruler, this heart is bright.

21.3

Parting From Li Yi

Of our Holy Yao’s eighteen sons¹
seventeen became princes.
From the Domain of Dao to the Domain of Shu
the princes were indeed full brothers.
The nobility of the male line and distaff lines differs,
and I too respectfully honor the descendants.²
Your father succeeded to the princely legacy,
and this man has the grace of white jade.
The Domain of Dao continues in achievements of virtue,
pray, let me speak of it from your father.
Your father was Minister of the Court of the Imperial Clan,
stern and reverent, he esteemed ancient rules.
The previous reign accepted forthright counsel,
his upright temper stretched over the world.
His style was as vigorous as that of Zijian,³
Hejian’s skills in the Classics he preserved.⁴

¹ This refers to Li Yuan, Tang Gaozu (r. 618–626), given the honorific title “Holy Yao, the Great Sage, Bright and Filial Emperor” in 754.
² Du Fu was descended on the distaff side from the Prince of Shu, while Li Yi was a direct male descendant of the Prince of Dao.
³ The poet Cao Zhi, son of Cao Cao, enfeoffed as the Prince of Chen.
⁴ Liu De, the Han Prince of Hejian, famed for his classical learning.
溫克富詩禮，
骨清慮不喧。
洗然遇知己，
談論淮湖奔。
憶昔初見時，
小襦繡芳蓀。
長成忽會面，
慰我久疾魂。
三峽春冬交，
江山雲霧昏。
正宜且聚集，
恨此當離尊。
莫怪執杯遲，
我衰涕唾煩。
重問子何之，
西上岷江源。
願子少干謁，
蜀都足戎軒。
誤失將帥意，
不如親故恩。
少年早歸來，
梅花已飛翻。
努力慎風水，
豈惟數盤飧。
Gracious when tipsy, rich in the Poems and Rites,  
your bones are pure, your considerations not noisy.  
With calm decorum you encounter good friends,  
your discourse pours on like the Huai and the lakes.  
I recall when we first met long ago  
your short jacket was embroidered with calamus.  
Now you are grown and we suddenly meet,  
you console my soul, so long ill.  
Three Gorges, the juncture of winter and spring,  
mountains and river murky in cloud and fog.  
It is just right for a gathering,  
but I regret that these are the goblets of parting.  
Don’t think it strange that I am slow to take cup in hand,  
in my decline I am troubled by snivel and tears.  
I repeatedly ask you where you are going—  
westward, up to the source of the Min.¹  
I would that you pay few calls seeking favors,  
the Shu capital has plenty of war carts.  
By error you may cross some commander,  
the love of kin and old friends is far better.  
Come back as soon as possible, young man,  
the plum blossoms are already flying.  
Try hard to watch out for the climate there,  
and not just eat several platefuls of food.²

¹ That is, Chengdu.
² “Eat more” was the standard way to say: “Take care of yourself.” Du Fu suggests still greater caution in taking care of oneself.
猛虎臥在岸，
蛟螭出無痕。
王子自愛惜，
老夫困石根。
生別古所嗟，
發聲為爾吞。

送高司直尋封閬州

丹雀銜書來，
暮棲何鄉樹。
驊騮事天子，
辛苦在道路。
司直非冗官，
荒山甚無趣。
借問泛舟人，
胡為入雲霧。
與子姻婭間，
既親亦有故。
萬里長江邊，
邂逅一相遇。
長卿消渴再，
公幹沉綿屢。
Fierce tigers lie upon the banks,
dragons come out without giving a sign.
May the prince take good care of himself,
this old man is in hardship at the foot of the mountains.
People have always sighed about partings,
I swallow the sound I would make on your behalf.

21.4

Seeing Off Rectifier Gao Who Is Going to Find Feng of Langzhou

A red sparrow came with a cinnabar letter in its beak,¹
at twilight it roosts in a tree of what land?
The Hualiu steed serves the Son of Heaven,²
now it suffers in hardship upon the road.
A rectifier is no sinecure,
these wild mountains have no charm at all.
Let me ask the person who sails in the boat:
why have you entered the clouds and fog?—
There is someone with marriage relations to you,
kin indeed, with long friendship as well.
Now ten thousand leagues off by the long river
I encounter you unexpectedly.
Sima Xiangru has bouts of diabetes again,³
Liu Zhen is debilitated often.⁴

¹ The subcommentary to the *Zhou li* tells of a red sparrow bringing a cinnabar letter to Feng, the Western Zhou capital (not the same character as the Feng that the poem’s addressee is seeking).
² One of the famous horses of King Mu of Zhou.
³ *Sima Xiangru.*
⁴ The Jian’an poet Liu Zhen, a member of Cao Pi’s entourage.
送高司直尋封閬州

清談慰老夫，
開卷得佳句。
時見文章士，
欣然澹情素。
伏枕聞別離，
疇能忍漂寓。
良會苦短促，
溪行水奔注。
熊羆咆空林，
遊子慎馳騖。
西謁巴中侯，
艱險如跬步。
主人不世才，
先帝常特顧。
拔為天軍佐，
崇大王法度。
淮海生清風，
南翁尚思慕。
公宮造廣厦，
木石乃無數。
初聞伐松柏，
猶臥天一柱。
我病書不成，
成字讀亦誤。
Your pure discourse consoles this old man,
opening a scroll, I find excellent lines.
When I happen to meet a literary man,
I’m cheered and my feelings are calmed.
Now on my pillow I hear of parting,
who can endure lodging and drifting?
Our fine meeting is terribly hasty and short,
as we walk by the creek, waters rush along.
Bears roar in the deserted forests,
may the traveler be careful about speeding ahead.
In the west you will pay respects to a grandee in Ba,
the dangers will be like taking just a step.
You host has talents beyond just this age,¹
the former emperor always paid him special regard.
He was picked out to assist in the imperial guard,
he added glory to royal rule.
He exerted a pure influence between the Huai and the sea,
old southerners still yearn for him and admire him.
To construct a great hall in the palace
means countless amounts of timber and stone.
I first heard when they cut down cypress and pine,
a pillar to heaven was left still lying flat.²
From my sickness I cannot write,
people even mistake the characters I form.

¹ Feng of Langzhou.
² That is, Feng has great talents that have not been used to the fullest.
為我問故人，
勞心練征戎。

21.5

可歎

天上浮雲如白衣，
斯須改變如蒼狗。
古往今來共一時，
人生萬事無不有。
近者抉眼去其夫，
河東女兒身姓柳。
丈夫正色動引經，
酆城客子王季友。
群書萬卷常暗誦，
孝經一通看在手。
貧窮老瘦家賣屐，
好事就之為攜酒。
豫章太守高帝孫，
引為賓客敬頗久。
聞道三年未曾語，
小心恐懼閉其口。
太守得之更不疑，
人生反覆看亦醜。
On my behalf greet my old friend,
let him labor hard training the troops.

21.5

Worthy of Sighs
The drifting clouds in the heavens resemble white robes,
in an instant they transform and are like gray dogs.
Past goes off, the present comes, together but a moment,
in the thousands of events in human life, nothing does not happen.
Recently someone left her husband, hateful to her eyes,
a girl of Hedong, her surname was Liu.
Her husband was very proper, citing Classics all the time,
then a sojourner in Fengcheng, one Wang Jiyou.
His library of ten thousand scrolls he was always chanting privately,
a scroll of the Filial Piety Classic could be seen in his hands.
A poor man, old and gaunt, the household sold clogs,
but men of wide interests went to him, bringing him ale.
The Governor of Yuzhang, scion of our first Emperor, brought him in as a client, showed him respect for quite a long time.
I’ve heard tell that for three years he never spoke of it once,
cautious and fearful, he kept his mouth shut.
In obtaining him the Governor had no further doubts,
inconstancy in human life is seen as ugly.

---

1 Li Mian.
明月無瑕豈容易，
紫氣鬱鬱猶沖斗。
時危可仗真豪俊，
二人得置君側否。
太守頃者領山南，
邦人思之比父母。
王生早曾拜顏色，
高山之外皆培塿。
用為羲和天為成，
用平水土地為厚。
王也論道阻江湖，
李也丞疑曠前後。
死為星辰終不滅，
致君堯舜焉肯朽。
吾輩碌碌飽飯行，
風后力牧長迴首。
That a bright moon pearl be without flaw, how can that be easy? —
the swelling purple vapor still dashes against the Dipper.\footnote{1}
In times of peril one should rely on true outstanding and bold men, could these two men be placed by the ruler’s side or not? The Governor was in recent times in charge of Shannan Circuit, people of that land longed for him like a father or a mother.
As for Master Wang, I long ago paid respects to his countenance, apart from this truly high mountain all others are mere mounds. If they were used as Xi and He, Heaven would be made perfect,\footnote{2}
use them to pacify waters and soil, and earth would be made fecund.
Wang indeed might consider the Way, but is blocked by river and lakes,\footnote{3}
Li indeed is royal vanguard or rearguard, extending before and behind.\footnote{4}
In death they will be constellations never to be extinguished,
they will bring the ruler to be a Yao or Shun, how can they wither away?
People like me scurry about going with bellies full, but to the Wind-lord and the Strong Herder I always turn my head.\footnote{5}

\footnote{1} *Sword-dragon. Wang Jiyou has a similar sense of being wronged.
\footnote{2} Xi and He were officers of the four seasons in Yao’s time.
\footnote{3} “Consider the Way” is a mark of the Sangong 三公, the Three Lords of State.
\footnote{4} According to the “Dazhuan” of the Classic of Documents, the yi was the officer who went ahead of the king, while the cheng followed behind.
\footnote{5} According to legend, the Yellow Emperor used the Wind-lord as his minister and the Strong Herder as his general.
奉賀陽城郡王太夫人恩命加鄧國太夫人

衛幕銜恩重，
潘輿送喜頻。
濟時瞻上將，
錫號戴慈親。

富贵當如此，
尊榮邁等倫。
郡依封土舊，
國與大名新。

紫誥鸞迴紙，
清朝燕賀人。
遠傳冬筍味，
更覺彩衣春。

奕葉班姑史，
芬芳孟母鄰。
義方兼有訓，
詞翰兩如神。
Respectfully Congratulating the Mother of the Prince of Yangcheng Commandery to Whom Imperial Grace Has Added the Title ‘Lady of Deng’

Wei’s headquarters enjoyed a heavy burden of Grace, to Pan’s palanquin happy news is brought frequently. To save the age one looks to the Grand General, an awarded title is borne by his loving mother. Wealth and station should be like this, honor and glory surpassing one’s peers. His commandery is based on the land of his former fief, the domain that gives you great fame is new. A purple edict, paper with phoenixes circling, in the clear dawn the swallows congratulate you. From afar is brought the flavor of winter bamboo shoots, one even more feels the spring with particolored clothes. Across endless generations, Madam Ban’s history, a lingering sweetness in Mencius’s mother’s neighborhood. She also gives instruction in the ways of right conduct, in mastery of the brush, both are as if inspired by the gods.

---

1 Du Fu’s note: “The Prince of Yangcheng Commandery was Wei Boyu” 陽城郡王，衛伯玉也。
2 Comparing Wei Boyu to the Han general Wei Qing, whose deeds against the Xiongnu were acknowledged by Han Wudi coming to his headquarters.
3 Referring to Pan Yue’s description of his mother being cared for as she rides in her palanquin in “Xianju fu.”
4 That is, the mother’s fief is a different domain.
5 The phoenixes refer to the calligraphy.
6 In the third century Meng Zong was known as a filial son. His mother particularly liked bamboo shoots, which were unavailable in winter. Meng Zong went into the woods and wept, and in response bamboo shoots appeared.
7 Worn by the filial *Laolaizi when he dressed up to entertain his parents.
8 Referring to the Han History, completed by Ban Zhao, Ban Gu’s sister.
9 Mencius’s mother moved her residence several times so that her son would be in a neighborhood with good influence.
10 Wei Boyu’s mother is like Mencius’s mother.
11 Like Ban Zhao.
委曲承顏體，
鸞飛報主身。
可憐忠與孝，
雙美畫麒麟。

21.7

送田四弟將軍將夔州柏中丞命起居江陵節度陽城郡王衛公幕

離筵罷多酒，
起地發寒塘。
回首中丞座，
馳箋異姓王。
燕辭楓樹日，
雁度麥城霜。
空醉山翁酒，
遙憐似葛彊。

21.8

題柏學士茅屋

碧山學士焚銀魚，
白馬卻走身巖居。
With humble solicitude, his person looks up to you, then flies off on high to repay his lord. I am touched by how loyalty and filiality, both lovely things, will be painted in Unicorn Gallery.¹

21.7

Seeing Off General Tian (4), Following the Orders of Vice-Censor Bo [Maolin] of Kuizhou, to Pay His Respects at the Headquarters of Lord Wei, Prince of Yangcheng Commandery and Military Commissioner of Jiangling

Parting banquet, with abundant ale, done, here he starts, setting out from the cold pool. He turns his head toward the Vice-Censor’s seat, swiftly taking a note to a prince not of the Imperial Blood.² Swallows take leave of the sun in the maple trees, wild geese cross the frost of Maicheng. In vain you will be drunk on old Shan’s ale,³ and far off there he will feel affection for his Ge Qiang.⁴

21.8

On Academician Bo’s Thatched Cottage

The Academician of emerald mountains burned his silver fish,⁵ his white horse has galloped away, he himself dwells on a cliff.

---

¹ Where the portraits of meritorious officials are hung.
² Wei Boyu is a prince, but not a member of the imperial Li family.
³ *Shan Jian. Jingzhou is Xiangyang.
⁴ *Shan Jian’s favorite general.
⁵ The badge of an official of the fifth rank or higher.
古人已用三冬足，
年少今開萬卷餘。
晴雲滿戶團傾蓋，
秋水浮階溜決渠。
富贵必從勤苦得，
男兒須讀五車書。

21.9–10

題柏大兄弟山居屋壁二首

I

叔父朱門貴，
郎君玉樹高。
山居精典籍，
文雅涉風騷。
江漢終吾老，
雲林得爾曹。
哀弦繞白雪，
未與俗人操。

II

野屋流寒水，
山籬帶薄雲。
The ancients already thought it enough to spend three winters,\footnote{That is, in study.} the young men now have opened more than ten thousand scrolls.\footnote{Academician Bo’s younger family members.} Clear-sky clouds fill his door, with tilted carriage awnings circular,\footnote{When peple meet and feel immediate friendship, they draw their carriages so close together that the carriage awnings bump and tilt.} autumn floods float over his stairs, streamlets break through the ditches. Wealth and high station must be gotten through hard efforts,\footnote{The \textit{Classic of Poetry} and \textit{Chuci}.} thus a real man must read though five cartloads of books.

\textbf{21.9–10}

\textit{Written on the Wall of the Mountain Dwelling of the Bos, Senior and Junior}

\textbf{I}

The uncle is a noble from crimson gates, the young master, lofty as a jade tree. In their mountain dwelling they finely understand the canons, their cultivation reaches to the Feng and Sao.\footnote{“White Snow” is the exemplary piece of elevated music, understood by only those with the most refined taste.}

By Yangzi and Han I live out my old age, among forest and cloud I find you both.

Moving strings, resounding with “White Snow,”\footnote{“White Snow” is the exemplary piece of elevated music, understood by only those with the most refined taste.} are never performed for common men.

\textbf{II}

Cottage in the wilds where cold water flows, mountain hedge wreathed by thin cloud.
靜應連虎穴，
喧已去人群。
筆架霑窗雨，
書籤映隙曛。
蕭蕭千里馬，
個個五花文。

21.11

白帝樓

漠漠虛無裏，
連連睥睨侵。
樓光去日遠，
峽影入江深。
臘破思端綺，
春歸待一金。
去年梅柳意，
還欲攪邊心。

21.12

白帝城樓

江度寒山閣，
城高絕塞樓。
Your serenity must stretch to the tiger’s lair,
4 as for noise, you have left the human crowd.
Brush-rack soaked by rain through the window,
book-slips catch the light of twilight through cracks.
Neighing, of these thousand-league horses
8 each has a five-tuft pattern.¹

21.11

The Tower at White Emperor Castle

Within a vast blur of nothingness,
parapets intrude stretching on and on.
Light on the tower is far from the sun,
4 reflections of the gorges enter the river deep.
Winter’s last month done, I long for several yards of figured silk;
for a spring’s return I depend on one piece of silver.
Last year’s mood of plums and willows
8 once again will disturb this heart on the frontiers.

21.12

The Wall Tower of White Emperor Castle

The river crossing, plank walkways up the cold mountain
walls high, a tower on this furthest frontier.

¹ “Pattern” is wen 文, literary and cultural graces.
翠屏宜晚對，
白谷會深遊。
急急能鳴雁，
輕輕不下鷗。
夷陵春色起，
漸擬放扁舟。

21.13

有歎

壯心久零落，
白首寄人間。
天下兵常鬥，
江東客未還。
窮猿號雨雪，
老馬泣關山。
武德開元際，
蒼生豈重攀。
Azure cliffs, fit to be faced late in the day,
4 White Valley, suited for deep excursions.
Frantic, the goose that is able to cry out,1
flitting lightly, the gulls that do not come down.2
Spring’s colors are beginning at Yiling,
8 I intend to cast off with my small boat soon.

21.13

Occasion For Sighs

Heart’s vigor has long fallen away,
now with white hair I lodge in the mortal realm.
In this world troops are always fighting,
4 the traveler in Jiangdong has not yet returned.
Desperate gibbons screech in rain and snow,
the old horse weeps at the barrier mountains.
Warlike virtues, the time of the Kaiyuan—
8 how can the common folk reach that again?

---

1 In the *Zhuangzi* there is a story in which Zhuangzi was staying at a friend’s house. The host was going to kill one of his two geese to cook, one of which could cry out and one of which could not. When asked which goose to kill, the host answered that the servant should kill the one that could not cry out.
2 *Gulls.*
21.14–16

舍弟觀赴藍田取妻子到江陵，喜寄三首

I

汝迎妻子達荊州，
消息真傳解我憂。
鴻雁影來連峽內，
鶺鴒飛急到沙頭。
嶢關險路今虛遠，
禹鑿寒江正穩流。
朱紱即當隨彩鷁，
青春不假報黃牛。

II

馬度秦山雪正深，
北來肌骨苦寒侵。
他鄉就我生春色，
故國移居見客心。
歡劇提攜如意舞，
喜多行坐白頭吟。
21.14–16
My Brother Guan, Who Went to Lantian to Retrieve His Bride, Has Reached Jiangling; Happy, I Send These Three Poems

I
Having greeted your wife you have reached Jingzhou,
this news conveyed by a trustworthy source relaxes my worries.
The outline of a wild goose comes all along through the Gorges,\(^1\)
the wagtails fly swiftly reaching Sandbank.\(^2\)
The perilous road through Yao Barrier is now insubstantial and far,\(^3\)
Yu bored the way for the cold river that now flows steadily.
With my red waist-cord right now I should go with a bright colored cormorant prow,
in green spring there’s no need to send an answer through Yellow Ox Gorge.\(^4\)

II
Your horse crossed the mountains of Qin right when the snow was deepest,
going north the bitter cold creeps into flesh and bone.
Coming to me in a strange land arise colors of spring,
moving from our native place, I see what’s in the traveler’s mind.\(^5\)
In the height of joy I will take your hand and dance as suits my mood,
so much happiness that standing or sitting a white-haired old man chants.\(^6\)

---

1  The wild goose was a figure for bearing messages.
2  *Sugarplum.
3  The barrier pass to Lantian where his brother had gone to fetch the bride.
4  That is, rather than sending a letter to Jiangling, Du Fu plans to go himself once spring comes.
5  That is, Du Guan has moved to Jiangling.
6  This couplet plays on \(ruyi\) as “suits [my] mood” and a kind of baton or fly-whisk especially associated with the practitioners of “pure conversation” (“take in hand my \(ruyi\) baton and dance”), and the name of a song “Baitou yin,” “White-haired [old man] Chant.”
夜歸
巡簷索共梅花笑，
冷蕊疏枝半不禁。

III
庾信羅含俱有宅，
春來秋去作誰家。
短牆若在從殘草，
喬木如存可假花。
卜築應同蔣詡徑，
為園須似邵平瓜。
比年病酒開涓滴，
弟勸兄酬何怨嗟。

21.17
夜歸
夜來歸來衝虎過，
山黑家中已眠臥。
傍見北斗向江低，
仰看明星當空大。
庭前把燭嗔兩炬，
峽口驚猿聞一個。
Along under the eaves I must join the plum blossoms in smiling,
cold petals and sparse branches, half cannot be forbidden.¹

III
Yu Xin and Luo Han both had houses there,²
springs and autumns came and went, whose homes have they now
become?
If their low walls are still there let the remaining plants grow,
if their tall trees survive, one should use them for the flowers.
In siting a building, it should be the same as Jiang Xu’s paths,³
in making a garden it ought to be like Shao Ping’s melon patch.⁴
In recent years made sick by ale, I begin to drink just a sip,
but if my brother urges and I respond, why should I sigh in distress?

_The return of his brother Du Guan to Jiangling strengthened Du Fu’s resolve to leave Kuizhou and go down through the gorges to Jiangling._

21.17
Coming Back at Night

Last night coming back I ran into a tiger passing,
the mountains were black and the household had already gone to bed.
To the side I saw the Northern Dipper lowering toward the river,
looking up I saw bright stars large in the empty sky.
In the yard they take lights in hand, I am angered that there are two torches,
startled gibbon at the mouth of the Gorges, I hear a single one.

¹ That is, the flowers are half opened (“smiling”), agreeing with Du Fu’s mood.
² In Jiangling.
³ The “three paths” of a recluse’s home.
⁴ *Shao Ping.*
前苦寒行二首

汉时长安雪一丈，
牛马毛寒缩如蝟。
楚江巫峡冰入怀，
虎豹哀号又堪记。

秦城老翁荆扬客，
惯习炎蒸岁緇绤。
玄冥祝融气或交，
手持白羽未敢释。

II

去年白帝雪在山，
今年白帝雪在地。
冻埋蛟龙南浦缩，
寒刮肌肤北风利。
Already old with white hair, I dance and sing,
leaning on my staff and not sleeping, who can help it?

21.18–19

Ballads of the Bitter Cold: first series

I

In Han times in Chang’an it snowed a yard deep,
the hair of horses and oxen so cold they shriveled up like hedgehogs.
In the river in Chu and the Wu Gorges ice enters my bosom,
mournful cries of tigers and leopards are once again worth note.

An old man of the city of Qin, now sojourner in Jing and Yang,
has gotten used to the muggy heat and wears light linens yearlong.
Xuanming and Zhurong, their weathers seem to cross,¹
I hold a white-feather fan in hand and dare not let go.

II

Last year at White Emperor Castle the snow was on the mountains,
this year at White Emperor Castle the snow is on the ground.
Dragons are buried frozen, the southern shore shrinks up,
the cold scrapes skin and flesh, the north wind is sharp.

¹ Xuanming is the god of winter; Zhurong, of summer.
楚人四時皆麻衣，
楚天萬里無晶輝。
三足之烏骨恐斷，
羲和送將安所歸。

21.20

晚晴

高唐暮冬雪壯哉，
舊瘴無復似塵埃。
崖沉谷沒白皚皚，
江石缺裂青楓摧。

南天三旬苦霧開，
赤日照耀從西來，
六龍寒急光徘徊。

照我衰顏忽落地，
口雖吟詠心中哀。
未怪及時少年子，
揚眉結義黃金臺。

洎乎吾生何飄零，
支離委絕同死灰。
Through four seasons people of Chu all wear robes of hemp, ten thousand leagues of skies of Chu lack sun’s sparkle and glow. As for the three-footed raven, I’m afraid its bones have snapped, I don’t know where Xihe has sent it.¹

21.20

Clear Skies Late in the Day

Winter’s end at Gaotang, the snow is strong indeed, the former miasmal haze no longer seems like dust in the air. Slopes are buried, valleys vanish in glistening white, river rocks split apart, green maples snap. After thirty days in southern skies the bitter fog has cleared, the crimson sun’s shining flare comes in from the west. the cold presses hard on its six dragons, the light tarries there. It shines upon my wasted face, then sinks into the earth, though I’m chanting poems with my mouth, I’m mournful in my heart, I do not blame those youths who, when their day comes, raise their brows and bond with friends on the Terrace of Gold.² When it comes to my own life so tossed tumbling along, it’s rent and ruined and cast away the same as dead ashes.

¹ The three-footed raven is in the sun. Xihe is the charioteer of the sun. ² Terrace of Gold was where King Zhao of Yan gathered talented men from all the feudal domains.
21.21

復陰

方冬合沓玄陰塞，
昨日晚晴今日黑。
萬里飛蓬映天過，
4 孤城樹羽揚風直。
江濤簸岸黃沙走，
雲雪埋山蒼兕吼。
君不見
夔子之國杜陵翁，
牙齒半落左耳聾。

21.22–23

後苦寒行二首

I

南紀巫廬瘴不絕，
太古以來無尺雪。
蠻夷長老怨苦寒，
4 崑崙天關凍應折。
21.21

Shadowy Again

The dead of winter, in layer on layer dark shadow clogs the skies,
yesterday clear skies late in the day, today it is black.
The dandelion puff flying thousands of leagues shines passing through
the heavens,
4 feathered banners planted on the lone castle stand straight, catching the
wind.
River billows shake the bank, the yellow sands run,
clouds and snow bury the mountains, the gray rhinoceros roars.
Have you not seen
8 in the domain of Kui an old man of Duling
whose teeth have half fallen out, whose left ear is deaf?

21.22–23

Bitter Cold: second series

I

In the southern region on Mounts Wu and Lu the miasma never ends,
from high antiquity until now there has never been a foot of snow.
The elders of the local Mon hate the bitter cold,
4 Heaven’s gates in the Kunlun Range will surely snap from freezing.
玄猿口噤不能嘯，
白鵠翅垂眼流血。
安得春泥補地裂。

II

晩來江門失大木，
猛風中夜吹白屋。
天兵斷斬青海戎，
殺氣南行動坤軸，
不爾苦寒何太酷。
巴東之峽生淪澌，
彼蒼迴斡人得知。

21.24

元日示宗武

汝啼吾手戰，
吾笑汝身長。
處處逢正月，
迢迢遝遠方。
飄零還柏酒，
衰病只藜床。
The black gibbon’s mouth is frozen shut, it cannot howl,  
the white swan’s pinions droop, its eyes run with blood.  
How can we get the springtime mud to patch the cracks in the earth?

II

Late in the day by my river gate we lost the large tree,  
the fierce wind in the middle of night blew on my plain cottage.  
Imperial troops must have decapitated the Rong folk of Kokonor,  
and the killing atmosphere went south and stirred the axis of earth,  
otherwise how could the bitter cold be so severe?

In the gorges east of Ba floes of ice appear,  
the turnings of the gray heavens—can a person understand them?

New Years Day of the third year of the Dali reign fell on January 24, 768.  
Two or three weeks later, after preparations, the family finally set off down the gorges to Jingzhou.

21.24

On New Year’s Day, for Zongwu

You cry at how my hands tremble with age,  
I smile at how your body grows tall.  
We have met the first month in this place and that,  
remote, we linger in a faraway land.  
As we are swept along, the cypress-needle ale comes again,¹  
sick and frail, I have only a bed woven of goosefoot.

¹ A flavored ale drunk on New Year’s Day.
又示宗武

訓喻青衿子，
名慚白首郎。
賦詩猶落筆，
獻壽更稱觴。
不見江東弟，
高歌淚數行。

又示宗武

覓句新知律，
攤書解滿床。
試吟青玉案，
莫羨紫羅囊。
假日從時飲，
明年共我長。
應須飽經術，
已似愛文章。
十五男兒志，
三千弟子行。
曾參與游夏，
達者得升堂。
In teaching I instruct a lad with green lapels,\(^1\)
for reputation, I am ashamed to be a white-haired Director.
Still I put my brush to paper composing poems,
and once again you offer me a toast to wish me long life.
I do not see my younger brother in the Southeast,\(^2\)
I sing out loud, with several tracks of tears.

\textbf{21.25}

Another One For Zongwu

You recently learned the rules to find good lines
and can fill the couch with spread-out books.
Just chant at the desk of green jade,\(^3\)
don’t envy the bag of purple gauze.\(^4\)
On holidays I let you drink according to the season,
next year you will be tall as me.
You must fill your belly with the arts of the Classics,
you already seem to love literature.
At fifteen this manchild’s aims
are in the ranks of the three thousand disciples:\(^5\)
Zeng Can and You Xia,
those who succeed get to ascend the hall.\(^6\)

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\(^1\) The proper attire of a student.
\(^2\) Original note: “My fifth brother, Feng, is drifting around in the Southeast, and recently we’ve had no news from him” 第五弟豐漂泊江左, 近無消息.
\(^3\) In Zhang Heng’s “Four Sorrows” 四愁詩, here evidently referring to the reading desk.
\(^4\) As Xie Xuan was famous for wearing as a youth, hence being a frivolous young noble.
\(^5\) Echoing Analects: “At fifteen I set my aims on study.” Confucius had three thousand disciples.
\(^6\) To “ascend to the hall” was Confucius’s figure for a basic level of learning, to be followed by “entering the chamber,” more profound learning.
21.26

遠懷舍弟穎觀

陽翟空知處，
荊南近得書。
積年仍遠別，
多難不安居。
江漢春風起，
冰霜昨夜除。
雲天猶錯莫，
花萼尚蕭疏。
對酒都疑夢，
吟詩正憶渠。
舊時元日會，
鄉黨羨吾廬。

21.27

續得觀書迎就當陽居止正月中旬定出三峽

自汝到荊府，
書來數喚吾。
頌椒添諷詠，
禁火卜歡娛。
21.26

Thinking on My Brothers Ying and Guan Afar

I know only where one is, at Yangdi,
I have recently gotten letters from Jingnan.  
As years accumulate, one still separated afar,
with many difficulties, the other can’t settle securely.
At Yangzi and Han the spring breeze rises,
frost and snow last night melted away.
Cloudy sky, still wild and dark
flower buds yet sparse and few.  
Facing ale, all seems a dream,
I recall them as I chant my poem.
In former times we met on New Years day,
and the locals all envied our home.

21.27

I Get a Succession of Letters From Guan, Inviting Me to Take Up Lodging in Dangyang; I Determine to Go Out Through the Three Gorges in the Middle of the First Month

Since you arrived at Jingzhou
letters have come repeatedly summoning me.
We will add to our singing odes to the peppercorn,  
I predict enjoyment when fires are forbidden.  

1 Du Ying was in Yangdi; Du Guan was in Jingzhou.
2 The “flower buds” is a figure for brothers; *Sugarplum.
3 Pepper-ale (using Sichuan peppercorns) was a New Year’s custom. In the Jin the wife of Liu Zhen, née Chen, wrote a praise-ode for the pepper flower.
4 That is, on Cold Food Festival.
舟楫因人動，
形骸用杖扶。
天旋夔子嶺，
春近岳陽湖。
發日排南喜，
傷神散北吁。
飛鳴還接翅，
行序密銜蘆。
俗薄江山好，
時危草木蘇。
馮唐雖晚達，
終覬在皇都。

21.28

太歲日

楚岸行將老，
巫山坐復春。
病多猶是客，
謀拙竟何人。
閶闔開黃道，
衣冠拜紫宸。
榮光懸日月，
賜與出金銀。
The boat’s oars depend on people to get moving,1
I use a cane to support my frame.
The weather circles back in the Gorges of Kui,
spring draws near to Lake Dongting.
On the day I set out I will be happy to be done with the south,
but pained in spirit, I sigh at being apart from the north.
Flying and singing, again wing to wing,2
in the stages of my travel I will secretly hold a reed in my beak.3
The customs are unfeeling, but the landscape is good,
the times perilous, yet plants and trees revive.
Although Feng Tang was successful only late in life,4
in the end one can hope to be in the imperial capital.

21.28

The Day of the Greater Year5

On Chu shores, just about to be old,
now spring comes again to Wu Mountain.
Often sick, still a sojourner,
who, after all, is this man, so inept in making a living?
Heaven’s Gates open the Yellow Way,6
caps and gown pay their respects at Zichen Palace.
Sun and moon are suspended in auspicious light,
silver and gold are brought out as gifts.

1 That is, he cannot set out until preparations are made.
2 *Sugarplum.
3 Huainanzi: When the wild goose goes south, it holds a reed in its beak to keep from making any sound that might alert hunters to its presence. Du Fu will be careful.
4 *Feng Tang.
5 This is the the name of the day in the first month on which the cyclical designation of “Heavenly stems” and “Earthly branches” of the day matches that of the year. In this case it is January 26, 768.
6 The path of the sun.
愁寂鴛行斷，
參差虎穴鄰。
西江元下蜀，
北斗故臨秦。
散地逾高枕，
生涯脫要津。
天邊梅柳樹，
相見幾回新。

21.29–30

人日兩篇

元日到人日，
未有不陰時。
冰雪鸚難至，
春寒花較遲。
雲隨白水落，
風振紫山悲。
蓬鬢稀疏久，
無勞比素絲。
Lonely and sad, cut off from the mandarin-duck ranks,
out of place, neighbor of tiger lairs.
The west river originally comes down from Shu,
the Northern Dipper, as always, looks down on Qin.
A place of leisure, where I increasingly rest aloof,
avoiding strategic spots for the rest of my life.¹
Plum and willow at the ends of the earth,
how many times have I seen them renew?

21.29–30

The Day of Mankind²

I

From New Year’s to the Day of Mankind
there was not an uncloudy moment.
Orioles have a hard time coming in ice and snow,
flowers are somewhat delayed by spring cold.
Clouds sink, following white waters,
the winds mourn, shaking Purple Mountain.
My tangled tresses have long thinned out,
one need not bother to compare them to strands of silk.

¹ Places where fighting is likely to occur.
² The seventh day of the first month.
II

此日此時人共得，
一談一笑俗相看。
尊前柏葉休隨酒，
勝裏金花巧耐寒。
佩劍衝星聊暫拔，
匣琴流水自須彈。
早春重引江湖興，
直道無憂行路難。

21.31–35

喜聞盜賊蕃寇總退口號五首

I

蕭關隴水入官軍，
青海黃河卷塞雲。
北極轉愁龍虎氣，
西戎休縱犬羊群。

II

贊普多教使入秦，
數通和好止煙塵。
II

This day and this time all share alike,
laughing and chatting, the custom is to pay visits.
In our cups cypress needles cease to go with our ale,
4 golden flowers in coiffures as artifice bear the cold.
The sword strung from waist strikes the stars with light, I draw it for a
while,1
the boxed zither, "Flowing Waters," I must play the tune by myself.2
Early spring again brings out my impulse to go to river and lakes,
8 taking the straight road leaves no worry that "the going will be hard."3

21.31–35

Happy to Hear that the Bandits and Tibetan Marauders Have All
Withdrawn: Five Extempore Poems

I

To Xiao Pass and Long’s waters the imperial army enters,
at Kokonor and the Yellow River frontier clouds roll away.
The Pole Star increasingly worries about the aura of dragon and tiger,4
the Western Rong cease to unleash their dog and sheep war-bands.

II

The King of Tibet often sent ambassadors into Qin,
many times he conveyed good will, to end war’s smoke and dust.

1  *Sword dragon.
2  The music that the great ancient zither-player Bo Ya played for his appreciative
   friend Zhongzi Qi.
3  *This is also the name of a yuefu title.
4  *That is, the emperor now worries about the palace armies under the command of
eunuchs.
朝廷忽用哥舒将，
杀伐虚悲公主亲。

III

崆峒西极过崑崙，
驼马由来拥国门。
逆气数年吹路断，
蕃人闻道渐星奔。

IV

勃律天西采玉河，
坚昆碧碗最来多。
旧随汉使千堆宝，
少答胡王万匹罗。

V

今春喜气满乾坤，
南北东西拱至尊。
大历二年调玉烛，
玄元皇帝圣云孙。
Since the court suddenly made use of General Geshu Han, the slaughter has made us hopelessly mourn the Chinese princess there.¹

III
From the western extreme of Kongtong passing over the Kunlun Range, camels and horses always crowded the capital's gates.² For several years an ill wind has blown that road closed, but now I've heard tell the Tibetans gradually flee like scattering stars.

IV
West of the Bolor's heavens gathered from Jade River,³ Qirgiz malachite bowls most often were sent to us. Along with the Han envoy formerly came a thousand piles of jewels, in the least response to the Hu king, ten thousand bolts of gauze.

V
This spring the atmosphere of joy fills Heaven and Earth, east and west, north and south bow to His Majesty. In the second year of the Dali reign he harmonized the jade candle,⁴ our sage, the distant descendant of the Mysterious Primal Emperor.⁵

¹ In 740 the Jincheng Princess, who had been married to the King of Tibet to cement a peace, died. The Tibetan king sent an envoy to request a continuation of the peace, but Xuanzong refused. Several years later Geshu Han took the Tibetan stronghold Shibao, beginning the long struggle with Tibet.
² Tribute gifts from the Tibetans.
³ Bolor was a kingdom west of the Tibetans.
⁴ That is, the seasons are in balance.
⁵ This was the title Xuanzong conferred on Laozi, as ancestor of the imperial house.
送大理封主簿五郎，親事不合，卻赴通州。主簿前閬州賢子，余與主簿平章鄭氏女子，垂欲納彩，鄭氏伯父京書至，女子已許他族，親事遂停

禁彌去東床，
趨庭赴北堂。
风波空遠涉，
4 琴瑟幾虛張。
渥水出騏驥，
崑山生鳳凰。
兩家誠款款，
8 中道許蒼蒼。
頗謂秦晉匹，
從來王謝郎。
21.36

Seeing Off Recorder Feng Wulang (5). Since His Plans for Marriage Did not Work Out, He is Going Back to Tongzhou. The Recorder is the Worthy Son of the Former Governor of Langzhou. I and the Recorder Were Negotiating for the Daughter of the Zheng Family, and We Were Almost to the Point of Giving Betrothal Gifts When a Letter Came from Zheng’s Uncle in the Capital that the Girl Had Already Been Promised to Another Family. The Marriage Plans then Stopped.

The forbidden fillet was gone for him of the eastern couch,1 to rush in the yard he goes to the northern hall.2 Through wind and wave you fared far in vain,3 the zithers were almost strung, but for naught.4 From Wowa’s waters came forth a fine steed,4 in the Kunlun Mountains was born a phoenix.5 Both households were truly sincere,8 mid-course they promised before the gray heavens. One would consider Qin and Jin well matched,6 always the Wangs and Xies provided grooms for each other.

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1 There are various layers of allusion in this line. In the Jin History, when the first emperor of the Eastern Jin set up his government in Jiankang, there were no luxuries; when a pig was slaughtered, the neck meat was reserved for the emperor, the “forbidden fillet.” On top of this is a story in A New Account of Tales of the World (XXV.60) in which Emperor Xiaowu of the Jin asked Wang Xun to find a husband for the Jinling Princess. Wang Xun recommended Xie Hun. When Yuan Shansong later wanted to arrange a marriage with the Xies, Wang Xun ordered him to stay away from the “forbidden fillet.” In both Shishuo VI.19 and the Jin History Xi Jian was looking for a son-in-law and sent an envoy to the Wangs. The envoy said that all the sons were circumspect, except for one who lay sprawled on the eastern couch. Xi Jian said that was the one he wanted. This young man was the great calligrapher Wang Xizhi.

2 "Rushing in the yard" refers to Confucius’s son. The northern hall refers to Feng’s mother. That is, after failing to arrange the marriage, Feng returns to see his mother.

3 The zithers were a figure of marital harmony.

4 Wowa was the source of the famous horses of Heaven. Here it is a figure for Feng.

5 The daughter of the Zhengs.

6 The families were well-matched as the domains of Qin and Jin were supposed to have been in the Spring and Autumn Annals period.
青春動才調，
白首缺輝光。
玉潤終孤立，
珠明得暗藏。
餘寒拆花卉，
恨別滿江鄉。

21.37

将別巫峡贈南鄉兄瀼西果園四十畝

苔竹素所好，
萍蓬無定居。
遠遊長兒子，
幾地別林廬。
雜蕊紅相對，
他時錦不如。
具舟將出峽，
巡圃念攜鋤。
正月喧鶯未，
茲辰放鷃初。
雪籬梅可折，
風榭柳微舒。
託贈鄉家有，
因歌野興疏。
In green spring he stirred his talents,

12 my white hair lacks all glow.

He of jadelike gloss in the end was left alone,

can a pearl’s brightness be hidden in the dark?

In the last cold the flower-buds burst their seams,

16 my hatred of parting fills the river lands.

21.37

As I Was About to Leave the Wu Gorges, I Presented My Fruit Orchard

of Forty Acres at Rangxi to a Friend from the Southern Village

I have always loved moss and bamboo,

but duckweed and dandelion puff have no fixed dwelling.

My sons have grown up in far travels,

4 I have left cottages and groves in several places.

The reds of mixed blossoms face one another,

in other times no brocade was its match.

I have readied my boat and will go down the Gorges,

8 inspecting my garden, I brood on taking hoe in hand.

The first month, noisy with orioles, not yet,

this morning, the beginning of launching my cormorant prow.

Snowy hedges, plum blossoms that might be snapped,

12 wind-filled pavilion, willows slightly unfurling.

I entrust it to the possession of a local family,

then sing how stirrings of the wilds will be far from me.
巫山縣汾州唐使君十八弟宴別兼諸公攜酒樂相送率題小詩留於屋壁

臥病巴東久，
今年強作歸。
故人猶遠謫，
茲日倍多違。
接宴身兼杖，
聽歌淚滿衣。
諸公不相棄，
擁別借光輝。

敬寄族弟唐十八使君

與君陶唐後，
盛族多其人。
聖賢冠史籍，
枝派羅源津。
For the rest of my life I will wend along Yangzi and Han—
where can I become pals with woodcutters and fishermen?

Disposing of his considerable property, Du Fu was off on the Yangzi again. There is no poetry from a parting banquet or from individuals in Kuizhou. The only parting poem was at the first stage downstream in Wu Mountain County.

21.38
At Wu Mountain County Governor Tang (18) of Fenzhou Holds a Parting Banquet, and Various Gentlemen Bring Ale and Musicians to See Me Off; I Dashed Off This Little Poem and Left It On the Wall

Long I lay ill in eastern Ba,
now I force myself to return home.
My old friend is still banished here far away,¹ this day increasing my sense that things have gone often awry.
Attending the banquet, body together with cane,
listening to the songs, tears fill my robes.
These gentlemen have not abandoned me,
surrounding me at parting, I borrow their illustriousness.

21.39
Respectfully Sent to Governer Tang (18), My Junior in the Family

You and I are both descendants of Yao,
a teeming lineage with many men.
Sages and wise men crown the historical record,
branches and tributaries spread from the source.

¹ Governor Tang.
敬寄族弟唐十八使君

在今氣磊落，
巧僞莫敢親。
介立實吾弟，
濟時肯殺身。
物白譁受玷，
行高無汙真。
得罪永泰末，
放之五溪濱。
鸞鳳有鍛翮，
先儒曾抱麟。
雷霆霹長松，
骨大卻生筋。
一失不足傷，
念子孰自珍。
泊舟楚宮岸，
戀闕浩酸辛。
除名配清江，
厥土巫峽鄰。
登陸將首途，
筆札枉所申。
歸朝殛病肺，
敘舊思重陳。
春風洪濤壯，
谷轉頗彌旬。
In the present our temper is outstanding, 
crafty frauds dare not try to get close to us. 
You stand apart, truly my younger brother, 
8 willing to sacrifice yourself to save the age. 
When a thing is white, it shrinks from taking a flaw, 
when actions are noble, their genuineness is never stained. 
You were charged with wrongdoing at the end of the Yongtai year,\(^1\) 
and banished to the shore of the Five Creeks. 
The phoenix had his pinions clipped, 
that former scholar once was occupied by the unicorn.\(^2\) 
A bolt of lightning split the tall pine, 
12 its bones were great, its sinews survived. 
One failure is not enough to make you feel harmed, 
I hope that you will treasure yourself fully. 
You moor your boat on the shore with the Chu palace, 
yearning for the palace gates in a flood of bitter sorrow.\(^3\) 
Name erased from the registers, you are banished to Clear River, 
its land neighbors the Wu Gorges. 
Climbing ashore, you will set out on the road, 
24 your note to me kindly expressed what you thought. 
I am hampered from returning to court by sick lungs, 
I long to again talk about old times with you. 
In spring breeze, the huge billows are forceful, 
28 the current has been spinning for a full ten days.

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1 765–66.
2 Confucius gave up editing the *Spring and Autumn Annals* after a unicorn was captured and no one knew what it was.
3 That is, yearning to return to Chang’an.
我能泛中流，
搪突麤獃嗔。
长年已省柁，
慰此贞良臣。

春夜峡州田侍御长史津亭留宴(得筵字)

北斗三更席，
西江万里船。
杖藜登水榭，
挥翰宿春天。
白发烦多酒，
明星惜此筵。
始知云雨峡，
忽尽下牢边。

大历三年春白帝城放船出瞿塘峡久居夔府
将适江陵漂泊有诗凡四十韵

老向巴人里，
今辞楚塞隅。
I can sail on it mid-current,  
braving the glare of alligators and otters.  
The old hands already look to the rudders, 
which comforts this true and loyal official.

21.40

On a Spring Night in Xiazhou Detained at a Banquet in the Crossing Pavilion by Censor Tian, Administrator (I got the rhyme yan)

A party, the Northern Dipper at midnight,  
the western river, a ten-thousand league boat.  
Leaning on my cane, I climb to the water kiosk, 
ploying my brush, I stay the night under spring skies.  
My white hair is troubled by much ale,  
the bright star makes me cherish this feast.¹  
Now I understand that the gorges of cloud and rain 
suddenly end at Xialao.²

21.41

In Spring of the Third Year of the Dali Reign I Set Sail from White Emperor Castle Into the Qutang Gorge; Having Long Resided in Kuizhou, I Am Going to Go to Jiangling and Wrote This Poem on the Water: Forty Couplets

I grew old among the men of Ba,  
now I leave this corner of Chu’s frontier.

¹ The morning star.  
² Where the Wu Gorges ended, perhaps just upstream from Xiazhou.
入舟翻不樂，
解纜獨長吁。
窄轉深啼狖，
虛隨亂浴鳧。
石苔凌几杖，
空翠撲肌膚。
疊壁排霜劍，
奔泉濺水珠。
杳冥藤上下，
濃淡樹榮枯。
神女峰娟妙，
昭君宅有無。
曲留明怨惜，
夢盡失歡娛。
擺闔盤渦沸，
欹斜激浪輸。
風雷纏地脈，
冰雪耀天衢。
鹿角真走險，
狼頭如跋胡。
惡灘寧變色，
高臥負微軀。
書史全傾撓，
裝囊半壓濡。
But getting on the boat I find myself unhappy,
when the mooring is untied, I alone give a long sigh.
Turning through the narrows, apes howl in the depths,
following the formless, making chaos of bathing ducks.
Mosses on rock pass over armrest and cane,
azure in air brushes flesh and skin.
Layered cliffs line their frosty swords,
headlong springs splash watery pearls.
Murky and dark, vines above and below,
deep colored or pale, trees flourish and wither.
The Goddess's Peak is charming,
is Wang Zhaojun's house there or not?¹
The song the one left makes her resentment clear,²
the dream of the other ended, he lost his pleasures.³
We bob in the waves, whirling eddies bubble,
we yaw, stirred waves send us along.
Thunder in wind enwraps earth's veins,
ice and snow gleam in heaven's paths.
Deer Horn: truly rushing into peril;
Wolf Head: like treading the jowls.⁴
Evil shoals, yet why should I blanch?—
to rest indifferent I trust in my poor body.
My books and histories are utterly ruined,
our baggage is half crushed and soaked.

¹ *Wang Zhaojun was supposed to have come from around Kuizhou.
² The song of Wang Zhaojun being sent to Inner Asia as wife of the ruler of the Xiongnu.
³ When the King of Chu awoke from his dream of the goddess.
⁴ Original note: “Deer Horn is the name of a rapids; Wolf Head is the name of a rapids”鹿角, 瀵名; 狼頭, 瀵名. The “wolf treading it jowls” is from the Classic of Poetry.
生涯臨臬兀，
死地脫斯須。
不有平川決，
焉知眾壑趨。
乾坤霾漲海，
雨露洗春蕪。
鷗鳥牽絲颺，
驪龍濯錦紆。
落霞沉綠綺，
殘月壞金樞。
泥筍苞初荻，
沙茸出小蒲。
雁兒爭水馬，
燕子逐樯鳥。
絕島容煙霧，
環洲納曉晡。
前聞辨陶牧，
轉眄拂宜都。
縣郭南畿好，
津亭北望孤。
勞心依憩息，
朗詠劃昭蘇。
意遣樂還笑，
衰迷賢與愚。
In my life I have stood on the edge of tottering points,
in a moment I escaped the place of my death.
Were it not for it breaking out into a level river,
how could one understand this rushing in all the ravines?
Heaven and Earth buried by this flooding sea,

rain and dew wash the springtime weeds.
Gulls mount on wing, as if pulled by a string,
the black dragon coils, bathing brocade.
Descending auroras sink as green patterned silks,

the dying moon breaks on the golden pivot.¹
Sprouts in mud enwrap new reeds,
growth in the sand brings out little rushes.
Goslings fight over water bugs,

little swallows chase the crow-vane on the mast.
Isolated islands receive mist and fog,
circling sandbars take in dawn and evening light.
I make out Tao’s pastureland, heard of before,

my turning glance brushes Yi’s metropolis.
A county town: the southern capital district fine,²
at the shore station my northward gaze is lonely.
This troubled heart reclines for respite;

then I chant loud—in a flash I revive.
My thoughts thus expressed, I’m cheerful and laugh,
aging, I don’t distinguish what is foolish from wise.

¹ In this context the golden pivot is the place where the moon sets.
² Original note: “Our route takes us into the county seat of Songzi” 路入松滋縣城.
飄蕭將素髪，
汩沒聽洪爐。
丘壑曾忘返，
文章敢自誣。
此生遭聖代，
誰分哭窮途。
臥疾淹為客，
蒙恩早廁儒。
廷爭酬造化，
樸直乞江湖。
灩澦險相迫，
滄浪深可逾。
浮名尋已已，
懶計卻區區。
喜近天皇寺，
先披古畫圖。
應經帝子渚，
同泣舜蒼梧。
In Spring of the Third Year of the Dali Reign I Set Sail

I grasp pale white hair, wind-tossed, lost to the world, I let the Great Forge do what it will.\(^1\)
Among hills and ravines have I ever forgotten return, dare I deceive myself with my writings?
In this life I have encountered a sage reign, who would foresee weeping at road’s end?\(^2\)
Lying sick, I linger as a wayfarer, enjoying imperial grace, I early mixed with scholars.
In court dispute I repaid Creation,\(^3\)
plain and forthright, I begged to go to the rivers and lakes.
Yanyu Rock’s perils have beset me, I may pass Canglang deep away.\(^4\)
Hollow fame will soon enough be done, too lazy to make plans, I am still content.
I will rejoice to approach August Heaven Temple, beforehand I will spread out the old paintings and pictures.\(^5\)
I will surely pass the isle of the daughters of the emperor,\(^6\)
who wept together at Shun’s Cangwu.\(^7\)
Court gentlemen also wear army uniforms, our lord and ruler grasps the sword Zhanlu.\(^8\)
When the Banner-tip first created turmoil, the Quail-head was stuck on muddy roads.\(^9\)

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1. The Great Forge is the process of ongoing creation.
2. *Ruan Ji.
3. Evidently referring to his defense of Fang Guan.
4. Canglang was near Jiangling.
5. Original note: “This temple has calligraphy by Wang Xizhi of the Jin and paintings of ten wise men, including Confucius and Yan Hui, by Zhang Sengyao” 此寺有晉王右軍書、張僧繇畫孔子及顏子十哲形像. Zhang Sengyao was a Liang painter.
6. Yao’s daughters, married to Shun. When Shun died, they became the goddesses of the Xiang River. This probably refers to Junshan in Lake Dongting.
7. *Cangwu.
8. The name of a famous sword.
9. The Banner-tip was the constellation associated with the Hu and was the sign of rebellion and foreign invasion. The Quail-head was the constellation representing the court, here the emperor being driven from the capital by first An Lushan and later by the Tibetans.
甲卒身雖貴，
書生道固殊。
出塵皆野鶴，
歷塊匪轅駒。
伊呂終難降，
韓彭不易呼。
五雲高太甲，
六月曠摶扶。
回首黎元病，
爭權將帥誅。
山林托疲茶，
未必免崎嶇。

老年常道路，
遲日復山川。
白屋花開裏，
孤城麥秀邊。
濟江元自闊，
下水不勞牽。
Although men at arms are valued,
the way of a scholar is different indeed.
Those who rise beyond the common dust are all wild cranes,
those who pass a clod are no colts in harness.¹
Yi Yin and Lü Shang are ultimately hard to find in the world;²
Han Xin and Peng Yue are not easy to call back.³
The five-colored clouds are as high as Taijia,⁴
in the sixth month the soaring wind will carry me afar.⁵
I turn my head to the woes of the common folk,
struggling for power, the commanders kill.
I entrust myself, worn out by sickness, to mountain forests,
yet I will not necessarily avoid hard traveling.

Du Fu’s destination, Jiangling, was the headquarters of the Jingnan Army,
under the command of Wei Boyu.

21.42

Written When Sailing the River and Reaching Old City Inn, and
Not Reckoning My Ineptness, Respectfully Presented to the Various
Gentlemen of the Jiangling Headquarters

In my aging years ever on the road,
days getting longer, mountains and rivers again.
A plain cottage in the flowers’ blossoming,
a lone city by where the millet rises tall.
Crossing the river, it is ever broad,
going downstream needs no effort in towing.

---

¹ “Passing by a clod” is short for “passing through the capital [as quickly] as passing by a clod,” a standard figure for a fast steed, and by extension, a superior talent.
² Famous ministers of antiquity. *Taigong.
³ Two of Liu Bang’s leading generals in the founding of the Han who later did not heed the commands of the court.
⁴ The “five-colored clouds” are auspicious signs. Taijia is a star.
⁵ This is the wind that carries the ‘*Peng bird to the Southern Deeps in the Zhuangzi. This suggests Du Fu’s journey south.
泊松滋江亭

風蝶勤依槳，
春鷗懶避船。
王門高德業，
幕府盛才賢。
行色兼多病，
蒼茫泛愛前。

21.43

泊松滋江亭

紗帽隨鷗鳥，
扁舟繫此亭。
江湖深更白，
松竹遠還青。
一柱全應近，
高唐莫再經。
今宵南極外，
甘作老人星。

21.44

乘雨入行軍六弟宅

曙角淩雲罷，
春城帶雨長。
Butterflies in breeze make efforts to rest on the oars,
8 spring gulls are too lazy to avoid the boat.
The prince’s gate is as lofty as his store of virtue,¹
his headquarters abounds with talented worthies.
Traveling, also being often sick,
12 vaguely before me is your extensive fondness.

21.43

Mooring on the Songzi River Pavilion

My gauze cap went along with the gulls,
I tie up my small boat at this pavilion.
As they deepen, river and lakes grow still whiter,
4 far off, pine and bamboo are yet green.
One Pillar Lodge is surely quite close by;²
never again will I pass through Gaotang.³
And tonight beyond the ends of the south
8 I would gladly be the Old Man Star.⁴

21.44

In the Rain I Go to the Lodgings of My Cousin Du Wei (6), Adjutant in the Army

A dawnlight bugle stops rising over the clouds,
city in spring, long stretched across by rain.

¹ Original note: “Wei Boyu is the Military Commissioner of Jiangling; at the time
he was enfeoffed as Prince of Yangcheng Commandery” 衛伯玉為江陵節度使,
時封陽城郡王.
² One Pillar Lodge was a famous structure in Songzi county, erected by the Liu-Song
prince Liu Yiqing 劉義慶.
³ In the Gorges, upstream near Kuizhou.
⁴ This star, also known as “The Old Man of the Farthest South” 南極老人, is a sign
of good government.
上巳日徐司錄林園宴集

水花分塹弱，
巢燕得泥忙。
令弟雄軍佐，
凡才汗省郎。
萍漂忍流涕，
衰飒近中堂。

21.45

上巳日徐司錄林園宴集

鬢毛垂領白，
花蕊亞枝紅。
欹倒衰年廢，
招尋令節同。
薄衣臨積水，
吹面受和風。
有喜留攀桂，
無勞問轉蓬。

21.46

宴胡侍御書堂

江湖春欲暮，
牆宇日猶微。
Water flowers, pliant, dividing the moat,
4 nesting swallows, bustling to get mud.
My excellent cousin, valiant in aiding the army,
my own common talents besmirch a ministry post.
A duckweed carried along, I endure shedding tears,
8 wasted and aging, I approach your hall.

21.45

On the Day of the Shangsi Festival, a Banquet in the Groves and Garden of Administrator for Records Xu

The hair at my temples hangs white on my collar,
the flower blossoms are red, pressing the branches.
Doddering, in waning years I have given things up,
4 but, invited, I join you on the fine festival
In thin clothes I stand by the deep waters,
I enjoy the balmy breeze blowing my face.
I find joy in lingering to reach up and grab cinnamon branches,¹
8 do not bother to ask about this dandelion puff, whirled on.

This poem can be dated to March 25, 768. Compared to his remarkable productivity in Kuizhou, Du Fu wrote far fewer poems on his journey and when in Jiangling. Most were for social occasions when the composition of a poem was expected.

21.46

Feasting at Censor Hu’s Study Hall²

Spring is about to end on the river and lakes,
on wall and roof the sun is still faint.

¹ Living as a recluse.
² Original Note: “At a party with Li Zhifang of the Secretariat and Zheng Shen of the Imperial Library: the rhyme was gui.” 李尚書之芳、鄭秘監審同集歸字韻.
書堂飲既夜復邀李尚書下馬月下賦絶句

闇闇書籍滿，
輕輕花絮飛。
翰林名有素，
墨客興無違。
今夜文星動，
吾儕醉不歸。

21.47

書堂飲既夜復邀李尚書下馬月下賦絕句

湖水林風相與清，
殘尊下馬復同傾。
久判野鶴如雙鬢，
遮莫鄰雞下五更。

21.48

奉送蘇州李二十五長史丈之任

星坼臺衡地，
曾為人所憐。
公侯終必復，
經術竟相傳。
Books are everywhere, hiding all,
lightly the willow catkins fly.
In the literary world, fame longstanding,
this penman’s elation doesn’t err.
Tonight the literary star stirs,
and our sort won’t go back until drunk.

21.47

Drinking in the Study, After Night Had Come, I Invited Li of the Secretariat to Get Back Down from His Horse; I Composed a Quatrain in the Moonlight

The lake waters and forest breeze join in clarity,
for the last of the cups get down from your horse and drink a cup again with me.
I have long given in to the fact that the crane of the wilds is like my paired locks,¹
so let the neighbor’s rooster crow as we go to the fifth watch.

21.48

Respectfully Seeing Off Aide Li (25) of Suzhou, Going to His Post

When a star split from the Terraces and Yoke,² others sympathized with him.
Lords will at last be restored,
skill in the Classics was finally transmitted.³

¹ That is, my hair is as white as crane feathers.
² The “Terraces” are the “Three Terraces,” the constellation representing the high lords of state. The Yoke is the “Jade Yoke,” another constellation associated with balance of the government.
³ This alludes to two Western Han classicists and ministers, the father Wei Xian (148–60 B.C.) and son Wei Xuancheng (d. 36 B.C.). The opening lines suggest that Li’s father had been a minister who lost his post and was perhaps killed, but that Aide Li has received a tradition of learning from his father and will surely be restored to a high post.
暮春江陵送馬大卿公恩命追赴闕下

食德見從事，
克家何妙年。
一毛生鳳穴，

三尺獻龍泉。
赤壁浮春暮，
姑蘇落海邊。
客間頭最白，

惆悵此離筵。

自古求忠孝，
名家信有之。
吾賢富才術，

此道未磷緇。
玉府標孤映，
霜蹄去不疑。
激揚音韻徹，

籍甚眾多推。
潘陸應同調，
孫吳亦異時。
北辰徵事業，

南紀赴恩私。
We see one in service, enjoying his forbears’ virtue,
in such tender years he continues the family heritage.
One fledgling born in the phoenix nest
presented with the three feet of Dragon-spring.¹
Red Cliff, afloat in late spring,
Gusu, down by the sea’s edge.²
Among guests he with the whitest hair
is depressed at this parting banquet.

21.49

Late Spring in Jiangling: Seeing Off His Excellency Minister Ma, Who is Heading to the Palace in Response to a Command of Grace

Since ancient days they have sought the loyal and filial,
famous families indeed have such as this.
This worthy man of mine is rich in talent and skills,
such a Way never rubs away or stains.³
His treasury is a standard shining alone,⁴
his frosty hooves go off without hesitation.
When stirred up, his knowledge of tones and rhymes penetrates afar,
splendid in the extreme, often praised by the crowd.
A Pan Yue and Lu Ji, surely of the same temper,⁵
a Sunzi or a Wu Qi, yet of a different age.⁶
The North Star’s affairs summon him,⁷
from the southern limits he goes to special grace.

¹ The name of a famous sword.
² Suzhou.
³ Virtue which is impervious and hard.
⁴ The “treasury” here is perhaps his office.
⁵ Literary men of the late third century.
⁶ Masters of military strategy.
⁷ That is, the emperor.
卿月升金掌，
王春度玉墀。
熏风行应律，
湛露即歌诗。
天意高难问，
人情老易悲。
尊前江汉阔，
后会且深期。

渥窪汗血种，
天上麒麟儿。
才士得神秀，
书斋闻尔为。
棣华晴雨好，
彩服暮春宜。
朋酒日欢会，
老夫今始知。
Court grandee, as the moon ascends the golden palm,¹ in the king’s springtime he will cross the jade courtyard. The scented breeze will act according to the pitch-pipe,² at once singing the Poem “Soaking Dew.”³ Heaven’s intent is too high and hard to question, people’s feelings easily grow sad in old age. Before the goblets Yangzi and Han are broad, meanwhile I deeply await some future meeting.

21.50

A Companion Piece to the Sheriff’s, the Elder Song, “After a Rain in Late Spring Feasting in the Study With Various Gentlemen,” Including My Younger Brother

The sort that sweat blood from Wowa,⁴ unicorn fawn from Heaven.⁵ We have obtained the divine flower of talented scholars, I heard of what you did in the study. The sugarplum fine in the clearing rain,⁶ bright clothes are right for the end of spring.⁷ Gathering daily in joy for friendship and ale this old fellow understands now for the first time.

¹ The Classic of Documents compares the high lords of court to the moon. This refers to Ma’s elevation by the emperor.
² Different times of year were correlated with the notes of the pitch-pipe. This wind is the southeastern wind, associated with late summer.
³ From the Classic of Poetry, associated with the king feasting his officers.
⁴ Wowa was the source of the horses of Heaven.
⁵ A monk who saw the poet Xu Ling (507–583) as a child called him a “stone unicorn fawn from Heaven.”
⁶ *Sugarplum.
⁷ *Laolaizi.
暮春陪李尚書李中丞過鄭監湖亭泛舟（得過字韻）

海內文章伯，
湖邊意緒多。
玉尊移晚興，
桂楫帶酣歌。
春日繁魚鳥，
江天足芰荷。
鄭莊賓客地，
衰白遠來過。

宇文晁尚書之甥崔彧司業之孫尚書之子
重泛鄭監前湖

郊扉俗遠長幽寂，
野水春來更接連。
錦席淹留還出浦，
葛巾欹側未回船。
尊當霞綺輕初散，
棹拂荷珠碎卻圓。
21.51

At the End of Spring Accompanying Li of the Secretariat and Vice Censor in Chief Li Stopping By the Lake Pavilion of Director Zheng and Going Boating (I got the rhyme guo)

In this sea-girt world, seniors in letters, by the lake much to catch our attention. Jade goblets, late afternoon inspiration moves on, cassia oars, bringing tipsy song.

Spring days abound with fish and birds, river and sky, ample water caltrops and lotus. Zheng’s villa is a place for guests, one aging and white-haired man from afar stops by.

21.52

Yuwen Zhao (nephew of him of the Secretariat) and Cui Yu (grandson of the Director of Studies and son of him of the Secretariat) Again Go Boating on the Lake in Front of Director Zheng’s

A suburban gate, far from things common, ever secluded and still, wilderness waters come in spring, again continuously. Brocade party mats linger on, again we leave the shore, our homespun turbans slipped atilt, we have not turned the boats back. In goblets we face patterned fabric of cloudy wisps, light and just now dispersing, oars brush beads on the lotus, they break up and become round again.

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1 *Zheng’s lodge.
不但習池歸酩酊，
君看鄭谷去夤緣。

21.53

歸雁

聞道今春雁，
南歸自廣州。
見花辭漲海，
避雪到羅浮。
是物關兵氣，
何時免客愁。
年年霜露隔，
不過五湖秋。

21.54

短歌行贈王郎司直

王郎酒酣拔劍
斫地歌莫哀，
我能拔爾抑塞
磊荊之奇才。
Not alone from the Xi family pool does one go home reeling drunk,¹ just look at Zheng’s valley here, where they go one after another.²

21.53
Wild Geese Returning in Migration

I’ve heard tell that this spring’s wild geese make their southern return from Guangzhou. Seeing flowers they leave the South China Sea, fleeing the snow, they reached Mount Luofu. These creatures are bound with war’s weather,³ when will they ever escape the wayfarer’s sorrows? Every year beyond the frost and dew they did not get past the Five Lakes in autumn.⁴

21.54
A Short Song: Presented to Rectifier Young Mr. Wang

Young Mr. Wang, tipsy from ale and drawing out your sword hacking ground, may your song not be so sad!— I am able to draw out your all-pent-up, out-of-the-ordinary, rare talents.

¹ *Shan Jian.
² *Zheng Pu.
³ That is, the cold autumn wind marks the season of warfare. Du Fu speculates that given the current wars the cold must be worse, driving the geese further.
⁴ Normally the wild geese migrate no farther than Hu’nan, but “war’s weather,” associated with autumn chill, is so pervasive that now they go all the way to the South China Sea, at whose edge is Mount Luofu.
憶昔行

豫章翻風白日動，
鯨魚跋浪滄溟開。
且脫劍佩休徘徊。

西得諸侯棹錦水，
欲向何門趿珠履。

仲宣樓頭春色深，
青眼高歌望吾子。　
眼中之人吾老矣。

憶昔行

憶昔北尋小有洞，
洪河怒濤過輕舸。
辛勤不見華蓋君，
艮岑青輝慘么麼。

千崖無人萬壑靜，
三步回頭五步坐。
秋山眼冷魂未歸，
仙賞心違淚交墮。

弟子誰依白茅室，
盧老獨啟青銅鎖。
A camphor tree is tossed by the wind, the bright sun stirs,
4 a behemoth breaches through waves, the gray deeps open.
So take off your sword and sash a while and cease your pacing about.

In the west you will find the great nobles, having rowed on the Brocade Waters,¹
in whichever gate you enter, you will walk in shoes with pearls.²
8 Atop the tower of Wang Can spring's colors will be deep,³
with eye-pupils showing and singing loud I gaze at my young man.⁴
And to the person in my eyes I am old indeed!

21.55

Recalling Long Ago: A Ballad⁵

I recall long ago to the north I sought "There-is-a-little-Grotto,"⁶
over raging waves of the mighty river my light skiff passed.
Despite trying endeavors I did not meet the Master of the Flowery Parasol,
⁴ the blue glow of the northeastern pinnacle was gloomy and diminutive.
A thousand slopes with no one there, ten thousand valleys still,
every three steps I turned my head, every five steps I sat.
Autumn mountains cold in the eyes, his soul had not returned,
8 my intent for immortal enjoyments failed, tears fell streaming.
Who of his disciples rested there in his hut of white thatch?—
old Lu alone opened the lock of green bronze.

¹ In Chengdu.
² In the Warring States the highest ranking clients of the Lord of Chunshen wore pearled shoes.
³ This refers to the poet waiting for his return in Jiangling, where *Wang Can [Zhongxuan] wrote “The Poetic Exposition on Climbing a Tower” 登樓賦.
⁴ Showing the eye-pupils marks approval and respect. See *Ruan Ji.
⁵ See 20.87.
⁶ The grotto “There-is-a-little-Heaven” on Wangwu Mountain. See 7.44.
巾拂香餘捣藥塵，
階除灰死焼丹火。
懸圃滄洲莽空闊，
金節羽衣飄婀娜。
落日初霞閃餘映，
倏忽東西無不可。
松風礪水聲合時，
青兕黃熊啼向我。
徒然咨嗟撫遺跡，
至今夢想仍猶佐。
秘訣隱文須內教，
晚歲何功使願果。
更討衡陽董鍊師，
南浮早鼓瀟湘柁。

21.56

惜別行送向卿進奉端午御衣之上都
肅宗昔在靈武城，
指揮猛將收咸京。
向公泣血灑行殿，
佐佑卿相乾坤平。
On kerchief and duster the scent remained of dust from pounding herbs,
12 on the stairs the embers had died of fire for melting cinnabar.
The Mysterious Gardens and Gray Isles were a blur in vast distance,¹
the golden standard and feather robes fluttered in the breeze.
Setting sun and the first rosy clouds flashed with lingering light,
16 all of a sudden east or west, neither was impossible.
Wind in the pines, a mountain stream’s waters, that moment where
their sounds merged,
the blue buffalo and yellow bear called out facing me.
I heaved a helpless sigh cherishing his traces,
20 on until now the dreams and fancies still continue with me.
The secret spells and cryptic texts need the teaching of the sect,
in my later years what achievement can bring desire’s fulfillment?
In Hengyang I will go on to seek Dong the Alchemist,
24 sailing south I will soon guide my rudder in the Xiao and Xiang.

21.56
Ballad Regretting Parting, Seeing Off His Excellency Xiang Going to the Capital
to Receive Imperial Robes for the Duanwu Festival²

Long ago when Suzong was in the city of Lingwu
he directed his fierce generals to take back Chang’an.
Lord Xiang then wept blood, sprinkling the temporary palace,
4 assisting ministers and grandees to bring Heaven and Earth to peace.

¹ To places of the immortals, one in the Kunlun Mountains and one in the Eastern Ocean.
² Duanwu is the fifth day of the fifth month.
夏日楊長寧宅送崔侍御、常正字入京（得深字韻）

逆胡冥寞隨煙燼，
卿家兄弟功名震。
麒麟圖畫鴻雁行，
紫極出入黃金印。

尚書勳業超千古，
雄鎮荊州繼吾祖。
裁縫雲霧成御衣，
拜跪題封賀端午。

向卿將命寸心赤，
青山落日江潮白。
卿到朝廷說老翁，
漂零已是滄浪客。

21.57

夏日楊長寧宅送崔侍御、常正字入京（得深字韻）

醉酒揚雄宅，
升堂子賤琴。
不堪垂老鬢，
還對欲分襟。

天地西江遠，
星辰北斗深。
On a Summer Day at the Residence of Yang of Changning I Saw Off Censor Cui and Proofreader Chang Who Were Going to the Capital

(I got the rhyme shen)

Drunk on ale at Yang Xiong’s residence, ascending the hall, Zijian’s zither.  
I cannot bear my locks entering old age, again to face you on the point of parting.  
Heaven and earth, the West River is far, stars and constellations, the North Dipper is remote.

21.57

On a Summer Day at the Residence of Yang of Changning I Saw Off Censor Cui and Proofreader Chang Who Were Going to the Capital

(I got the rhyme shen)

Drunk on ale at Yang Xiong’s residence, ascending the hall, Zijian’s zither.  
I cannot bear my locks entering old age, again to face you on the point of parting.  
Heaven and earth, the West River is far, stars and constellations, the North Dipper is remote.

---

1 That is, the palace.  
2 Wei Boyu.  
3 Du Yu, the Jin governor.  
4 Fu Buqi, one of Confucius’s disciples, was a virtuous regional official. He sat in his hall and played the zither, and his region was transformed by his virtue.
夏夜李尚書筵送宇文石首赴縣聯句

烏臺俯麟閣，
長夏白頭吟。

酒香傾坐側，
帆影駐江邊。 (李之芳)

翟表郎官瑞，
鳧看令宰仙。 (崔彧)

雨稀雲葉斷，
夜久燭花偏。 (杜甫)

數語欹紗帽，
高文擲彩箋。 (李之芳)

興饒行處樂，
離惜醉中眠。 (崔彧)
Crow Terrace looks down on the Unicorn Tower,¹
through long summer days, the “Song of White Hair.”

21.58

On a Summer Night Minister Li Holds a Banquet to See Off Yuwen of Shishou Going to His County Post: Linked Verse

(Du Fu)
The Minister loves his guests greatly, 
going to his post, the house physiognomy is virtuous.²

(Li Zhifang)
Ale’s fragrance, quaffed beside the seats, 
sail’s reflection, stopping beside the river.

(Cui Yu)
Pheasants display the good omen of the court gentleman,³
in the ducks we see the immortality of the good magistrate.⁴

(Du Fu)
The rain thins, puffs of cloud break off, 
night lasts on, candle sparks fly to one side.

(Li Zhifang)
Often chatting, the gauze hats slip aslant, 
grand writings committed to colored notepaper.

(Cui Yu)
Our inspiration abounds, happy wherever we go, 
with parting’s regrets we sleep in drunkenness.

1  That is, the Censorate looks out on the Imperial Library.
2  That is, a nephew on the distaff side. An allusion to Wei Shu of the Jin who, after the death of his father, was raised by his maternal uncle. A geomancer, hired to choose a site for the uncle’s new house, said that the house would raise a nephew who became minister.
3  When the filial Xiao Zhi went to take the post of Secretarial Court Gentleman, several dozen pheasants flew in front of his carriage. This alludes to Yuwen Chao going to his post as county magistrate.
4  *Wang Qiao.
多病執熱奉懷李尚書之芳

單父長多暇，
河陽實少年。(杜甫)

客居逢自出，
為別幾淒然。(李之芳)

多病執熱奉懷李尚書之芳

衰年正苦病侵凌，
首夏何須氣鬱蒸。
大水淼茫炎海接，
奇峰硉兀火雲升。
思霑道暍黃梅雨，
敢望宮恩玉井冰。
不是尚書期不顧，
山陰野雪興難乘。

水宿遣興奉呈群公

魯鈍仍多病，
逢迎遠復迷。
(Du Fu)
Shanfu always has much leisure,\textsuperscript{1}
he of Heyang is indeed a young man.\textsuperscript{2}

(Li Zhifang)
Dwelling a sojourner I encounter my distaff nephew,
in parting I am almost desolate.\textsuperscript{16}

\textbf{21.59}

Quite Sick in the Persistent Heat, Respectfully Thinking of Minister Li Zhifang

In my declining years I most suffer attacks of illness.
why must, in early summer, the air be so steamy and close?
A vast flood of great waters connects to the fiery sea,\textsuperscript{3}
where strange peaks jut up and fire-clouds ascend.
I long that the road’s heated air be soaked with yellow plum rain,\textsuperscript{4}
I dare not hope for grace from the palace, ice from a jade well.
It is not that I disregard the time to meet at the Minister’s,
but it’s hard now to follow a whim stirred by snow in Shanyin’s wilds.\textsuperscript{5}

\emph{In contrast to his situation in Kuizhou, in Jiangling Du Fu found himself in desperate straits, without patronage or any reliable means of support.}

\textbf{21.60}

Expressing What Stirred Me while Spending the Night on the Water:
Respectfully Presented to Various Gentlemen

Stupid and dull, still often sick,
in social exchanges, erring because of distance.

\textsuperscript{1} Comparing Yuwen Chao with Fu Buqi, who governed his county well by zither playing.
\textsuperscript{2} Comparing Yuwen Chao with Pan Yue, who served as magistrate of Heyang.
\textsuperscript{3} The South China Sea, supposedly hot.
\textsuperscript{4} An early summer rain.
\textsuperscript{5} *Wang Huizhi.
水宿遣興奉呈群公

耳聾須畫字，
髮短不勝篦。

澤國雖勤雨，
炎天竟淺泥。

小江還積浪，
弱纜且長堤。

歸路非關北，
行舟卻向西。

暮年漂泊恨，
今夕亂離啼。

童稚頻書札，
盤餐詎糝藜。

我行何到此，
物理直難齊。

高枕翻星月，
嚴城疊鼓鼙。

風號聞虎豹，
水宿伴鳧鷖。

異縣驚虛往，
同人惜解攜。

蹉跎長泛鷁，
輾轉屢鳴雞。

嶷嶷瑚璉器，
陰陰桃李蹊。
Gone deaf, I have to have characters written out, 
my hair so thin it can’t take a comb. 
Though this watery land works hard at raining, 
in the end this hot summer weather leaves but shallow mud. 
The little rivers still have high waves, 
I tie my pliant mooring for the while on the long embankment. 
This road is not the one back to north of the passes, 
my boat instead goes toward the west. 
In my twilight years, the bitterness of being swept along, 
this evening, weeping from war and separation. 
My children often write urgent letters,¹ 
not having even gruel with goosefoot for dinner. 
How did I come to this point?—
the pattern of things is really hard to regard with equanimity. 
I rest apart, stars and moon toss in the waves, 
city under curfew, the repeated rolling of drums. 
In wind’s howling I hear tigers and leopards, 
I sleep on the water, companion of ducks and gulls. 
I am surprised that I’ve gone to this strange land for nothing, 
I regret parting from like-minded friends. 
Ever on my egret prow, time slips away, 
the rooster calls out frequently as I toss and turn. 
Of high virtue, these hulian vessels,² 
darkened by shadow, the path to peach and plum.³

---

¹ It sounds like the family was lodged elsewhere.
² Used in dynastic ritual, here referring to the officials.
³ In the Grand Scribe’s Records it was said of General Li Guang: “Peach and plum do not speak, but a path to them forms by itself.” This seems to refer to those coming to see the gentlemen to whom Du Fu writes.
遣悶

餘波期救涸，
費日苦輕齎。
支策門闌邃，
肩輿羽翮低。
自傷甘賤役，
誰愍強幽棲。
巨海能無釣，
浮雲亦有梯。
勳庸思樹立，
語默可端倪。
贈粟囷應指，
登橋柱必題。
丹心老未折，
時訪武陵溪。

21.61

遣悶

地闊平沙岸，
舟虛小洞房。
使塵來驛道，
城日避烏橋。
暑雨留蒸濕，
江風借夕涼。
In the remaining waves I hope to be saved from drying out,\textsuperscript{1}
28 I waste time suffering from a shortage of cash.
For one supported by a cane the gates are remote,\textsuperscript{2}
as for riding a palanquin, my pinions droop.
I feel sad for myself, glad to undertake menial tasks—
32 who sympathizes with my efforts to live in seclusion?
Can the huge ocean lack anything to fish for?—
there is even a ladder to the floating clouds.
I long to establish some meritorious deed,
36 whether I speak or am silent, you can see the mark of this.
In giving grain one should point to a silo,\textsuperscript{3}
stepping on the bridge, I will surely inscribe the pillar.\textsuperscript{4}
My loyal heart is not broken in old age,
40 visit me sometime at the creek in Wuling.\textsuperscript{5}

21.61

Driving Out Depression
The land is vast, a bank of level sand,
the boat is empty, a little chamber.
The dust of an envoy comes on the post-station road,
4 sun on the city wall avoids the weather-vane on the mast.\textsuperscript{6}
The sultry rains have left a steamy wetness,
river winds lend a cool to evening.

\textsuperscript{1} That is, Du Fu seeks the aid of these gentlemen, comparing himself to a fish out of water.
\textsuperscript{2} That is, the gates of the successful officials who might help him.
\textsuperscript{3} From a story of the Wu admiral Zhou Yu who asked to borrow grain from Lu Su.
Lu had two silos of grain and pointed to one, which he gave to Zhou Yu.
\textsuperscript{4} When *Sima Xiangru left Chengdu for Chang’an he inscribed a pillar with the words: “I will never pass over this bridge again unless driving a four-horse team.”
\textsuperscript{5} *Peach Blossom Spring.
\textsuperscript{6} That is, the boat, moored near the city, is shadowed by its wall in the setting sun.
行雲星隱見，
疊浪月光芒。
螢鑒緣帷徹，
蛛絲罥鬢長。
哀箏猶憑几，
鳴笛竟霑裳。
倚著如秦贅，
過逢類楚狂。
氣沖看劍匣，
穎脫撫錐囊。
妖孽關東臭，
兵戈隴右創。
時清疑武略，
世亂跼文場。
餘力浮於海，
端憂問彼蒼。
百年從萬事，
故國耿難忘。
Stars hide and appear through moving clouds,
moonbeams flash on the serried waves.
The glow of fireflies pierces through along the curtains,
spider webs hang long, netting my locks.
A mournful zither, I still lean on my armrest,
the sounds of a flute finally make me moisten my gown.¹
In depending on others, I am like that son-in-law of Qin,²
in my encounters I resemble Chu’s madman.³
A vapor dashes against the heavens, look to the sword-case,⁴
strove the awl-bag, the point pokes through.⁵
Foul witchery, East-of-the-Passes reeks;⁶
clash of arms, Longyou bears wounds.⁷
When times are good, military schemes are disregarded,
an age in turmoil cramps the field of letters.
I have the strength left to go drift on the sea,⁸
filled with cares, I ask the gray heavens.
In life’s hundred years we attend to ten thousand matters,
only one’s homeland is troubling and hard to forget.

¹ With tears.
² Mentioned by *Jia Yi. Specifically, a son-in-law who moves in with his wife’s family.
³ The “Madman of Chu” who encountered Confucius and sang about the phoenix.
⁴ *Sword-dragon.
⁵ This refers to a common proverb: “A worthy man appearing in the world is like an awl in a bag—its tip will soon appear.”
⁶ The rebels in the Northeast.
⁷ Fighting with the Tibetans in the northwest.
⁸ When he felt that his Way was not realized, Confucius said that he would go float on the sea.
江邊星月二首

I

驟雨清秋夜，
金波耿玉繩。
天河元自白，
江浦向來澄。
映物連珠斷，
緣空一鏡升。
餘光隱更漏，
況乃露華凝。

II

江月辭風纜，
江星別霧船。
雞鳴還曙色，
鷺浴自清川。
歷歷竟誰種，
悠悠何處圓。
客愁殊未已，
他夕始相鮮。
21.62–63

Stars and Moon By the River

I

A sudden shower, then a clear autumn night,
golden waves where the Rope of Jade glistens.¹
The Heavenly River has ever been white,
the shores of the Yangzi are always clear.
Half hidden by things, linked pearls break off,
then through the empty air a single mirror rises.
Its lingering glow darkens in the waterclock’s dripping,
even more when the sparkle of dew freezes.

II

The river moon takes leave of my wind-blown mooring,
the river stars part from my fog-bound boat.
The rooster crows and again, dawn’s colors,
where egrets bathe is, of course, a clear stream.
Who after all planted them there, ranged before me;²
on and on, when will it grow round?³
The wayfarer’s melancholy is not finished—
some other evening it will again be newly fresh.

¹ “Golden waves” refers to moonlight; the “Rope of Jade” is a constellation.
² The stars.
³ The moon.
舟月對驛近寺
更深不假燭，
月朗自明船。
金剎青楓外，
朱樓白水邊。
城烏啼眇眇，
野鷺宿娟娟。
皓首江湖客，
鉤簾獨未眠。

舟中
風餐江柳下，
雨臥驛樓邊。
結纜排魚網，
連檣並米船。
今朝雲細薄，
昨夜月清圓。
飄泊南庭老，
祗應學水仙。
21.64  

Moonlight in My Boat Facing a Temple Near the Post Station  

The hour is late, I do not use a candle,  
the moon is radiant, lighting my boat by itself.  
Gilded pagoda beyond the green maples,  
4  a vermilion building beside white waters.  
Crows on the city wall caw faint in the distance,  
an egret in the wilds spends the night, charming.  
Hoary-headed sojourner on the river and lakes,  
8  hooks up his curtain and alone does not sleep.

21.65  

In My Boat  

I dine in the wind beneath river willows,  
I lie in the rain beside the post station building.  
Tying their moorings, fishing nets line up,  
4  masts in series, rice boats together.  
This morning the clouds are wispy and thin,  
last night the moon was clear and round.  
Tossed drifting along, I grow old in southern lands,  
8  I should just study to become a river immortal.
21.66

江陵節度陽城郡王新樓成王請嚴侍御判官賦七字句同作

樓上炎天冰雪生，
高飛燕雀賀新成。
碧窗宿霧濛濛濕，
朱栱浮雲細細輕。
杖鉞褰帷瞻具美，
投壺散帙有餘清。
自公多暇延參佐，
江漢風流萬古情。

21.67

又作此奉衛王

西北樓成雄楚都，
遠開山嶽散江湖。
二儀清濁還高下，
三伏炎蒸定有無。
推轂幾年唯鎮靜，
曳裾終日盛文儒。
21.66


In the blazing skies above the building ice and snow appear—swallows and doves flying high congratulate its recent completion. Overnight fog in its sapphire windows, hazy and wet; clouds drifting past its crimson architraves, thin and light. He leans on his axe and lifts the curtains, where he looked, all was lovely, for tosspot and scattered scroll-wrappers there is ample cool.

From public business he has much leisure and invites his employees, the panache of the Yangzi and Han region has been this way forever.

21.67

Another On This, Presented to Prince Wei [Boyu]

The northwest tower is completed dominating Chu’s capital, great mountains appear afar, scattered with rivers and lakes. The Two Principles, clear and turbid, still high and low, the fiery haze of the dog days—is it really there or not? How many years since your wheel-hubs were pushed?—your command is serene, trailing skirts all day long, literary scholars abound.

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1 The axe is the insignia of Wei Boyu’s military office.
2 In the standard cosmogony, “Heaven and Earth,” the Two Principles, were formed by the division of clear and turbid ether (qi), the former rising and the latter sinking.
3 Literally the “Three Fu Days,” marking an interval in late summer and the beginning of autumn that was the hottest time of the year. The tower is so high and cool that one cannot tell about the hot weather.
4 “Pushing the wheel-hub” refers to the emperor giving a general command of an army.
5 “Trailing the skirts” is being a client.
白頭授簡焉能賦，
8 愧似相如為大夫。

21.68

秋日荊南述懷三十韻

昔承推獎分，
愧匪挺生材。
遲暮宮臣忝，
4 艱危哀職陪。
揚鑣隨日駕，
折檻出雲臺。
罪戾寬猶活，
8 干戈塞未開。
星霜玄鳥變，
身世白駒催。
伏枕因超忽，
12 扁舟任往來。
九鑽巴噀火，
三螯楚祠雷。
On an Autumn Day in Jingnan, Giving an Account of My Thoughts

Being given a slip, white-haired, how can I compose?—

I am ashamed to be compared to Sima Xiangru in being a Grand Master.

21.68

On an Autumn Day in Jingnan, Giving an Account of My Thoughts: Thirty Couplets

Of old I enjoyed the fortune of commendation and aid,
I’m ashamed that I lacked outstanding talent.
Twilight years, humbled at having been appointed a palace officer,
in great peril, accompanying the imperial robes.
I shook the horse bit following the sun’s driver,
then I broke the railing leaving Cloud Terrace.
Charged with wrongdoing, by leniency I still live,
clash of arms, the frontiers not yet opened.
Frost and stars, swallows changed,
life and times, the white colt hurries.
Bedridden, continuously going on farther,
I let my small boat come and go.
Nine times I made the kind of fire that Luan Ba put out spitting,
thrice wintering, thunder by the Chu shrine.

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1 From Xie Huilian’s “Snow Fu” in which the Prince of Liang hands a slip to Sima Xiangru and asks him to compose.
2 The emperor.
3 *Zhu Yun. This probably refers to Du Fu’s defense of Fang Guan.
4 That is, time passed, the swallows left in migration and returned.
5 A metaphor in the Zhuangzi, in which life is as brief as a white colt seen through a crack running past.
6 This refers to nine years, using a drill to start a fire. The second half of the line refers to the Eastern Han Daoist Luan Ba who, while at court, spit out ale, which transformed into rain that put out a fire in his native Chengdu. This refers to Du Fu’s residence in Chengdu.
7 The “Chu shrine” refers to Mount Wu and hence to Du Fu’s residence in Kuizhou.
望帝傳應實，
昭王問不回。
蛟螭深作橫，
豺虎亂雄猜。
素業行已矣，
浮名安在哉。
琴烏曲怨憤，
庭鶴舞摧頹。
秋水漫湘竹，
陰風過嶺梅。
苦搖求食尾，
常曝報恩腮。
結舌防讒柄，
探腸有禍胎。
蒼茫步兵哭，
輾轉仲宣哀。
饑籍家家米，
愁徵處處杯。
休為貧士歎，
任受眾人咍。
得喪初難識，
榮枯劃易該。
The tale of Wangdi is surely true,\(^1\)

One inquired about King Zhao’s failure to return.\(^2\)

Krakens and serpents acted with violence in the deeps,
jackals and tigers in turmoil were domineering and suspicious.
My ancestral legacy will soon be over,
and insubstantial fame—where is it?
Zither’s “Crows,” tune of rancorous fury,\(^3\)
cranes in the yard, their dance broken and collapsing.\(^4\)

Autumn floods, spreading through Xiang bamboo,
shadowy winds pass the plums on the ridge.\(^5\)
Bitterly I wagged my tail seeking for food,
ever drying in the sun, gills that would repay grace given.\(^6\)
I held my tongue to avoid occasion for slander,
showing one’s true feelings is the womb of disaster.
Lost in vastness, the infantry commander’s weeping,\(^7\)
restlessly tossing, Wang Can’s lament.\(^8\)

Starving, I borrowed grain from every household,
sad, I sought ale everywhere.

Cease then to heave a poor scholar’s sighs,
let me accept the sneering of the crowd.
How success and failure come is indeed hard to know at first,
but easy to immediately comprehend when in glory or disgrace.

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1  Wangdi was an ancient king of Shu who had an affair with the wife of one of his officers and was later transformed into the cuckoo.
2  In 655 B.C. Qi was invading Chu on the pretext that Chu had not sent in tribute and because, centuries earlier, King Zhao of Chu had traveled south and did not come back.
3  The zither tune “Crows Call by Night.”
4  When the ancient musician Shi Guang played the zither, twenty-eight cranes called out, spread their wings, and danced.
5  Dayu Ridge, the range that divides the north from Guangzhou, was famous for its plums.
6  Those carp that fail to leap up Dragongate and turn into dragons are left with their gills drying in the sun.
7  *Ruan Ji.
8  *Wang Can.
差池分组冕，
合遥起蒿莱。
不必伊周地，
皆登屈宋才。
汉庭和异域，
晋史坼中台。
霸业寻常体，
宗臣忌讳灾。
群公纷戮力，
圣虑暂徘徊。
数见铭钟鼎，
真宜法斗魁。
愿闻锋镝铸，
莫使棊槚摧。
磐石圭多翦，
凶门毂少推。
垂旒资穆穆，
祝网但恢恢。
The allotment of ribbons and caps seems uneven; multitudes rise from the weeds.\(^1\)

Those in the positions of Yi Yin and the Duke of Zhou\(^2\) were not necessarily advanced as talents like Qu Yuan and Song Yu.

The Han court made marriage pacts with foreign regions, in the *Jin History* the Central Terrace was split.\(^3\)

Grand achievements are the commonplace form, model officials suffer ruin by breaking taboos.

The multitude of lords should unite their efforts, may the emperor’s thoughts dwell on this deeply.

To often see names inscribed on bells and cauldrons\(^4\), it is truly fitting to take the Dipper’s Handle as a model.\(^5\)

I wish to hear of spear-tips and arrowheads melted down, do not let the beams and rafters break.\(^6\)

A great boulder, many plaques cut,\(^7\)

fewer should have wheel-hubs pushed through the Ill-Fated Gate.\(^8\)

The hanging crown-tassels will be endowed with solemnity, just let the invocator’s net be widely meshed.\(^9\)

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\(^1\) This suggests the promotion of commoners, particularly for military merit.

\(^2\) The worthy ministers of the ancient Shang and Zhou dynasties.

\(^3\) Referring to infighting among ministers, through the execution of Zhang Hua (232–300) in the Jin.

\(^4\) In recognition of merit.

\(^5\) This corresponds to the Three High Lords.

\(^6\) That is, the statesmen who support the “edifice” of the government.

\(^7\) The “great boulder” was a figure for enfeoffing members of the imperial family. The plaques are investiture markers.

\(^8\) The “Ill-Fated Gate” was opened by a general going on campaign, signifying his determination to die in the effort. The burden of the line is to reduce the number of commanders.

\(^9\) The “invocator’s net,” dynastic governance, comes from a *Grand Scribe’s Records* account of the Shang in which nets would be hung on all sides and the ruler would call all people into his net; then three sides would be open, all would be allowed to go except those who would not heed the king. “Widely meshed” describes Heaven’s net/governance, suggesting leniency, though nothing slips through it.
赤雀翩然至，
黄龙讵假媒。
贤非梦傅野，
隐类贑颜坯。
自古江湖客，
冥心若死灰。

21.69

秋日荆南送石首薛明府辞满告别奉寄薛尚书颂德叙述斐然之作三十韵

南征为客久，
西候别君初。
岁满归凫舄，
秋来把雁书。
荆门留美化，
姜被就离居。
闻道和亲入，
垂名报国余。
The vermilion bird comes winging,¹
how could the yellow dragon be a false harbinger?²
Of worthies I am not the Fu Yue dreamed of,³
a recluse of the sort that cuts a hole in Yan’s rear wall.⁴
Since ancient days wayfarers on the rivers and lakes
have mysterious hearts like dead ashes.

21.69

On an Autumn Day in Jingnan Seeing Off Magistrate Xue of Shishou, Who Has Announced his Departure on the Completion of His Term; Respectfully Sent to Minister Xue Jingxian Praising His Virtue and Giving an Account of My Feelings in a Finely Wrought Composition: Thirty Couplets.

Journeying southward, long a wayfarer,
the western pavilion, first parting with you.
Your term is up, the duck slippers return,⁵
autumn comes, you take a wild-goose letter in hand.
At Jingmen you leave fine governance behind,
with the Jiang’s blanket you go to live apart,⁶
I have heard that one has returned from arranging a marriage pact,⁷
leaving a name, ample in requiting the dynasty.

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¹ An auspicious sign.
² The yellow dragon, corresponding to the emperor, is also an auspicious sign.
³ The Shang king Wuding dreamed of Fu Yue and sent to find him to make him his minister.
⁴ The Lu recluse Yan He cut a hole in his back wall and fled when he heard that the Duke of Lu wanted to employ him.
⁵ Wang Qiao.
⁶ In the Eastern Han, Jiang Gong and his two brothers were known for their filial piety and used to share a blanket. This refers to Magistrate Xue and his brother, the Minister.
⁷ The elder brother, Xue Jingxian, returned from Tibet, where he was negotiating a marriage pact with the Tibetans.
連枝不日並，
八座幾時除。
往者胡星孛，
恭惟漢網疏。
風塵相澒洞，
天地一丘墟。
殿瓦鴛鴦坼，
宮簾翡翠虛。
鉤陳摧徼道，
槍罣失儲胥。
文物陪巡守，
親賢病拮据。
公時呵猰貐，
首唱卻鯨魚。
勢愜宗蕭相，
材非一范睢。
屍填太行道，
血走浚儀渠。
滏口師仍會，
函關憤已搆。
紫微臨大角，
皇極正乘輿。
Linked branches, quite soon will be together,¹
when will he take his place in one of the eight positions?²
In the past the Hu Comet appeared,³
12 humbly I submit that Han rule was too slack.
Windblown dust spread everywhere,
Heaven and Earth became all a wasteland.
Basilica tiles, their mandarin ducks were split,
16 palace curtains, the kingfisher feathers were gone.
Guard camps, broken on the watch roads,⁴
wooden stockades, their protective barriers lost.⁵
The patterned regalia accompanied his inspection tour,⁶
20 while imperial kin and the worthy suffered direst straits.
You, sir, then heaped abuse on those monsters,
you took first command and made the leviathan withdraw.⁷
The situation satisfied him who revered Minister Xiao,⁸
24 of talent there was not just one Fan Ju.⁹
Corpses filled the roads of the Taihang Mountains,
blood sped through the canals of Junyi.¹⁰
At Fukou the armies then met,
28 our rage from Han Barrier had eased.
The Purple Tenuity looked out on Taijue,¹¹
the Imperial Pole Star set the equipage in order.

¹ Linked branches refers to the association of brothers.
² One of the top positions in the capital bureaucracy.
³ Portending war, referring to the An Lushan Rebellion.
⁴ These are the roads for the guard to protect the imperial palace.
⁵ These are probably animal pens.
⁶ The “inspection tour” was a euphemism for occasions when the emperor was forced to flee the capital.
⁷ Xue Jingxian retook Fufeng near the capital and killed the rebel commander.
⁸ Guo Ziyi, who brought provisions to Fengxiang, like Minister Xiao He in the Western Han.
⁹ Fan Ju was a general who served King Zhao of Qin. Thus there were many men of military talent in Suzong’s camp.
¹⁰ The area around modern Kaifeng.
¹¹ The Purple Tenuity was the asterism that stood for the emperor; the Taijue was the asterism that stood for the palace. Suzong returned to the palace in Chang’an.
賞從頻峨冕，
殊私再直廬。
豈惟高衛霍，
曾是接應徐。
降集翻翔鳳，
追攀絕眾狙。
侍臣雙宋玉，
戰策兩穰苴。
鑒澈勞懸鏡，
荒蕪已荷鋤。
嚮來披述作，
重此憶吹噓。
白髮甘凋喪，
青雲亦卷舒。
經綸功不朽，
跋涉體何如。
應訝耽湖橘，
常餐占野蔬。
十年嬰藥餌，
萬里狎樵漁。
He rewarded followers, often gave tall crowns,
by special favor, twice in the overnight lodge.¹
How could he be only as lofty as Wei and Huo?—²
he once reached to Ying and Xu.³
In descending to roost, he flies as the winging phoenix,
he cuts off that crowd of apes that would ride his coattails.
Attendant officer, a double of Song Yu,⁴
in battle plans, a second Rangju.⁵
I have troubled that hanging mirror’s penetrating reflection,⁶
he shouldered the hoe for my weedy wastes.⁷
Recently I perused his compositions,⁸
I valued these, recalling his commendations.
White-haired, I accept ruin and decline,
in the blue clouds he rolls and unfurls.
In managing matters his accomplishments will not decay,
how will his body be, having fared over water and mountain?⁹
You surely exclaim how I am beguiled by lake tangerines,
how my normal meals are dominated by wild vegetables.
For ten years caught up with herbs and pills,
thousands of miles away, familiar with woodsmen and fishermen.

¹ Original note: “Xue [Jingxian] formerly commanded the Jinwu Guard; more
recently he was given the Yulin Division [of the Guard]; twice the general, earlier
and later” 薛舊執金吾，新授羽林軍，前後二將軍也. Xue commanded both
guard divisions in turn, thus he stayed overnight at the palace.
² Han Wudi’s generals Wei Qing and Huo Qubing.
³ Ying Yang (d. 217) and Xu Gan (171–217), literary men and advisors (binke) of Cao
Pi, as Xue Jingxian had been Advisor to the Crown Prince.
⁴ *Song Yu, poet and ancient attendant of the King of Chu.
⁵ Sima Rangju, a military strategist of the Warring States.
⁶ That is, Xue Jingxian examined him.
⁷ Xue Jingxian corrected his compositions.
⁸ Original note: “At the Magistrate of Shishou’s place I saw a scroll of His Excellency’s
recent writings” 石首處見公新文一通.
⁹ Original note: “His Excellency was recently sent on a mission to arrange a marriage
alliance with Tibet” 公頃奉使和蕃.
揚子淹投閣，
鄒生惜曳裾。
但驚飛熠耀，
不記改蟾蜍。
煙雨封巫峽，
江淮略孟諸。
湯池雖險固，
遼海尚闐淤。
努力輸肝膽，
休煩獨起予。
Master Yang lingered, leaping from the tower,¹
52 Master Zou begrudged trailing his skirts.²
I am surprised only at the flying glowworms,³
I don't recall the changes of the moon-toad.⁴
Mist and rain seal up the Wu Gorges,
56 from Yangzi and Huai I will pass Mengzhu Swamp.⁵
Though moats of boiling water be a fastness,
the Sea of Liao is still blocked up.⁶
Do your utmost to put forth your sincere efforts,
cease to bother with “rousing me” alone.⁷

¹ Yang Xiong.
² The Western Han writer Zou Yang. That is, Du Fu, like Zou Yang, does not want to be a client of the powerful.
³ The glowworm marks the coming of autumn.
⁴ He has no sense of how many months and years have passed.
⁵ Traveling north.
⁶ Referring to the recalcitrant generals of the northeast.
⁷ “Rousing me” was Confucius’s comment about one of his disciples; being roused, Confucius was willing to discuss the Poems. Essentially Du Fu is telling Xue Jingxian not to worry about literary matters.