22.1

暮歸

霜黃碧梧白鶴棲，
城上擊柝復烏啼。
客子入門月皎皎，
誰家甃練風淒淒。
南渡桂水闕舟楫，
北歸秦川多鼓鼙。
年過半百不稱意，
明日看雲還杖藜。

22.2

哭李尚書(之芳)

漳濱與蒿里，
逝水竟同年。
欲掛留徐劍，
猶迴憶戴船。
相知成白首，
此別間黃泉。
風雨嗟何及，
江湖涕泫然。
22.1

Returning at Twilight

Frost yellows the emerald tung tree, there a white crane roosts,
on the wall the watch-rattle is struck, again the crows cry out.
The sojourner enters the gate, the moonlight gleaming bright,
in whose home are they pounding silk in the chill and dreary wind?
To cross Cinnamon River to the south I lack boat and oars;
to return north to the streams of Qin there are too many drums of war.
My years have passed half a century, and I am not content,
tomorrow I will watch the clouds and again lean on my cane.

22.2

A Lament for Director Li Zhifang

The Zhang’s banks and the Village of Weed⁠¹
the passing waters, all in the same year.²
I want to hang and leave the sword for Xu’s lord,³
and still I turned back the boat on recalling Dai.⁴
In friendship we became white-haired,
with this parting we are separated by the Yellow Springs.
What good does “Wind and Rain” do?⁵—
on the river and lakes my tears stream down.

---

¹ “The Zhang’s banks” refers to severe illness because the Jian’an poet Liu Zhen lay sick by the banks of the Zhang and was visited by Cao Pi, Cao Cao’s heir and later Wei Wendi; Li Zhifang was Advisor to the Heir Apparent. The “village of weed” was the entrance to the lands of the dead, hence death; it was also the title of a funeral dirge.
² That is, Li Zhifang grew sick and died in the same year.
³ *Ji Zha.
⁴ *Wang Huizhi. In this case Du Fu seems to have turned back to Jiangling for Li Zhifang’s funeral.
⁵ A poem in the Classic of Poetry on longing for the gentleman.
修文將管轄，
奉使失張騫。
史閥行人在，
詩家秀句傳。
客亭鞍馬絕，
旅館網蟲懸。
復魄昭丘遠，
歸魂素澣偏。
樵蘇封葬地，
喉舌罷朝天。
秋色凋春草，
王孫若個邊。

涕泗不能收，
哭君餘白頭。
兒童相識盡，
宇宙此生浮。
江雨銘旌濕，
湖風井徑秋。
They have taken our Guan Lu to be a redactor,\(^1\)
we have lost our Zhang Qian, sent on a mission.\(^2\)
In the History Office the envoy will survive,\(^3\)
the poet’s splendid lines will be passed on.
The saddled horse is gone from the sojourner’s pavilion,\(^4\)
from the traveling casket insects hang in a web.
For the returning spirit King Zhao’s tomb will lie far,\(^5\)
the homeward soul will go all the way to the pale Chan.\(^6\)
Wood and grass-gatherers will make cairns where he is buried,
the “throat and tongue” has ceased coming to court.\(^7\)
Autumn’s colors wither the spring plants,
and where is our Prince?

22.3

On the Same Topic

Tears that I cannot stop,
white-haired, remaining, weeping for you.
Those I knew in my youth are gone,
in the universe, this life adrift.
River rain, the casket banners wet,
lake wind, the well-paths in autumn.

---

\(^1\) It is told in the *Jin History* that one Su Shao reappeared to his brother after his death and said that Confucius’s disciples Yan Hui and Zixia were Redactors in the underworld. Guan Lu was a talent of the Wei who died before his time.

\(^2\) *Zhang Qian was a famous Han explorer. Li Zhifang was sent as an emissary to Tibet and detained there.*

\(^3\) That is, memory of Li Zhifang’s accomplishments will remain in the histories. Li Zhifang had gone to Tibet as an envoy.

\(^4\) Where Li Zhifang lived in Jiangling.

\(^5\) King Zhao of Chu’s tomb was in Jingzhou.

\(^6\) Chang’an.

\(^7\) Directors were referred to as the emperor’s “throat and tongue.”
哭李常侍嶧二首

I

還瞻魏太子，
賓客減應劉。

22.4–5

哭李常侍嶧二首

I

一代風流盡，
修文地下深。
斯人不重見，
將老失知音。
短日行梅嶺，
寒山落桂林。
長安若個畔，
猶想映貂金。

II

青瑣陪雙入，
銅梁阻一辭。
風塵逢我地，
江漢哭君時。
次第尋書劄，
呼兒檢贈詩。
Again I look at the Prince of Wei,\(^1\)
of Advisers, he is short Ying and Liu.\(^2\)

**22.4–5**

Weeping for Li Yi, Attendant-in-ordinary

I

The panache of a whole age is gone,
the practice of letters deepens under the ground.\(^3\)
This man will not be met again,
getting old, I have lost one who knows the tone.
Short days, he goes on Plum Ridge,\(^4\)
cold mountains, at Guilin leaves falling.
How many of his old companions in Chang’an
will still imagine him, shining in sable and gold?

II

Blue chain patterns, I accompanied him entering,\(^5\)
Bronze Bridge, blocked from taking leave.\(^6\)
Wind-blown dust where you met me,
Yangzi and Han, the moment when I weep for you.
In succession, looking for your letters,
I call my boy and examine the poems you gave me.

---

1 Cao Pi.
2 Original note: “His Excellency Li passed away in the post of Adviser to the Heir Apparent” 李公薨於太子賓客. Ying Yang and Liu Zhen were advisors of Cao Pi.
3 This is taken to refer to Su Shao’s posthumous report to his brother that Confucius’s disciples Yan Hui and Zixia were literary Gentlemen in the underworld.
4 That is, the casket being taken back to his native place for burial.
5 Du Fu served with Li Yi in the palace, decorated with blue chain patterns.
6 Bronze Bridge was a Shu county.
發揮王子表，
不愧史臣詞。

舟楫復江湖。
社稷纏妖氣，
干戈送老儒。
百年同棄物，
萬國盡窮途。
雨洗平沙淨，
天銜闊岸紆。
鳴螿隨汎梗，
別燕起秋菰。
棲托難高臥，
饑寒迫向隅。
寂寥相喣沫，
浩蕩報恩珠。
The table of princes makes the truth clear,¹
you need not be put to shame by the historian’s words.

After less than a year in Jiangling, with no prospect of finding support to settle there, Du Fu set out with the family again, stopping next at Gongan, the next city along the Yangzi.

22.6

In My Boat I Set Out From the Southern Bank of Jiangling;
Respectfully Sent to the Vice-Governor Zheng Shen

Where will I put up next?—
I leave this metropolis, swept along.
My form and frame, essentially earth or wood,
boat and oar again on the river and lakes.
Altars of Earth and Grain, entwined by vapors of witchery,
shield and pike see this old scholar on his way.
Life’s hundred years, same as something thrown away,
ten thousand domains, at the end of my road everywhere.
Rains wash level sands clear,
the heavens swallow the broad shore winding.
Singing cicadas go with a stick adrift,²
departing swallows rise from autumn wild rice.
Finding brief lodging, it is hard to rest aloof,
starving and cold, I am forced into the corner.³
In dreary solitude, those who blow froth,⁴
swept through vastness, the pearl that repays kindness.⁵

---

1 The “table of princes” in the Han History listed the lineages of those descended from princes of the blood. Li Yi was, evidently, a remote descendant of the imperial house.
2 *Stick adrift.
3 In Liu Xiang’s Shuoyuan, it is observed that if one person is weeping in the corner, everyone in the room will be unhappy.
4 The Zhuangzi tells of fish on land breathing froth on each other for moisture.
5 In the Spring and Autumn Annals period the Count of Sui saved a wounded snake that later repaid him by bringing a pearl.
溟漲鯨波動，
衡陽雁影徂。
南征問懸榻，
東逝想乘桴。
濫竊商歌聽，
時憂卞泣誅。
經過憶鄭驛，
斟酌旅情孤。

22.7

山館

南國晝多霧，
北風天正寒。
路危行木杪，
身遠宿雲端。　
山鬼吹燈滅，
廚人語夜闇。
雞鳴問前館，
世亂敢求安。
The oceans flood over, Leviathan waves stir,
toward Hengyang the outlines of wild geese fare.¹
Journeying southward I seek the couch hung up,²
going off eastward, I imagine riding the raft.³
Rashly I hope that my song in the shang mode will be heeded,⁴
at times I worry about the punishment that made Bian He weep.⁵
In my passage I recall Zheng’s welcome lodges,⁶
pouring ale, you console the loneliness of my feelings of travel.

22.7
A Mountain Inn
In southern lands, much fog in broad daylight,
a north wind, the weather now is cold.
The road is steep, I walk among treetops,
my person remote, I spend the night at clouds’ edge.
Mountain goblins blow out my lamp,
people in the kitchen talk as night ends.
When the cock crows, I ask of the inn ahead,
dare I seek security in troubled times?

¹ Hengyang was the southern limit of the migration of wild geese.
² *Xu Chi.
³ *Riding the raft.
⁴ This refers to the story of Ning Qi, an underappreciated client of Duke Huan of Qi.
   When Ning Qi was singing a mournful song in the shang mode, the Duke heard him and realized that he was exceptional. Du Fu hopes someone will appreciate and employ him.
⁵ *Bian He found an uncut piece of rare jade and presented it to two kings of Chu, each of whose jade-carvers pronounced it to be ordinary stone. In each case Bian He had one of his feet cut off as punishment. When he presented it to the third king, the jade carver recognized it. This was a standard figure for unrecognized talent.
⁶ *Zheng’s lodge.
醉歌行贈公安顏少府請顧八題壁

神仙中人不易得，
顏氏之子才孤標。
天馬長鳴待駕馭，
秋鷹整翮當雲霄。
君不見東吳顧文學，
君不見西漢杜陵老。
詩家筆勢君不嫌，
詞翰升堂為君掃。

是日霜風凍七澤，
烏蠻落照銜赤壁。
酒酣耳熱忘頭白，
感君意氣無所惜，
一為歌行歌主客。

送顧八分文學適洪吉州

中郎石經後，
八分蓋憔悴。
22.8

Drunken Song: A Ballad. Presented to Sheriff Yan of Gongan, I Ask Gu (8) to Write It on the Wall

Someone of the gods and immortals is not easy to find,¹
this fellow of the Yan clan is a singular standard for talent.
The horse of Heaven gives a long neigh waiting to be hitched up,
the autumn hawk preens its feathers in the clouds and upper air.
Have you not seen Instructor Gu from Wu in the East?
Have you not seen the old man of Duling west of the Han?
You do not despise the force of the poet’s brush,
the lines and the calligraphy ascend the hall spread over the wall for you.

On this day the snow and frost freeze the Seven Marshes,
the setting sunlight of the Black Mon catches Red Cliff.
Tipsy from ale, my ears burn, I forget my hair is white,
stirred by your temperament, I am cautious about nothing,
and I make this song to sing of guest and host.

22.9

Seeing Off Instructor Gu (8), Master of Bafen Script, On his Way to Hongzhou and Jizhou

After the Stone Classics of the Court Gentleman,²
bafen script wasted away.

¹ In the Han, Mei Fu was a county sheriff and later became an immortal. This reference is made because of Sheriff Yan’s office.
² The late Eastern Han writer Cai Yong, Leader of Court Gentlemen, was charged with having the Confucian Classics carved on stone. Cai Yong was also considered the greatest master of bafen script.
顧侯運爐錘，
筆力破餘地。
昔在開元中，
韓蔡同鼎鼐。
玄宗妙其書，
是以數子至。
御札早流傳，
揄揚非造次。
三人並入直，
恩澤各不二。
顧於韓蔡內，
辨眼工小字。
分日示諸王，
鈞深法更秘。
文學與我遊，
蕭疏外聲利。
追隨二十載，
浩蕩長安醉。
高歌卿相宅，
文翰飛省寺。
視我揚馬間，
白首不相棄。
驊騮入窮巷，
必脫黃金辔。
Sir Gu worked the hammer and forge,
4 the force of his brushwork broke new ground.
Long ago in the Kaiyuan reign
Han Zemu and Cai Youlin also showed great power.
Xuanzong thought their calligraphy excellent,
8 thus these various masters came to court.
Imperial notes early circulated,¹
his commendation was not haphazard.
These three went in to court together,
12 each enjoyed unequaled grace.
In the group with Han and Cai, Gu,
with discriminating eye, excelled at small characters.
From day to day they would demonstrate to the princes,
16 fishing the depths, their technique grew still more remarkable.
The Instructor went about with me,
free and easy, we set aside fame and advantage.
We kept company for twenty years,
20 in wild indulgence, drunk in Chang’an.
We sang loudly in homes of ministers and grandees,
 writings flew through ministries and courts.
He looked on me as one with Yang Xiong and Sima Xiangru,
24 he has not abandoned me even in white-haired old age.
When the Hualiu steed enters a miserable lane,
it must shed its golden bridle.²

¹ Because of the calligraphy.
² Comparing the time Gu and Du Fu were in Chang’an with the present situation.
一論朋友難，
遜暮敢失墜。
古來事反覆，
相見橫涕泗。
嚮者玉珂人，
誰是青雲器。
才盡傷形體，
病渴汙官位。
故舊獨依然，
時危話顛蹶。
我甘多病老，
子負憂世志。
胡為困衣食，
顔色少稱遂。
遠作苦辛行，
順從眾多意。
舟楫無根蒂，
蛟鼍好為祟。
況兼水賊繁，
特戒風飆駛。
崩騰戎馬際，
往往殺長吏。
子干東諸侯，
勸勉防縱恣。
When we consider the difficulties of friendship,

dare one let it fall away in twilight years?
Since ancient days fortunes reverse,
when we meet tears fall copiously.
Of those back then with horse-trappings of jade\(^1\)
who had the capacity to reach the blue clouds?
My talent gone, I am pained by my form,
sick with diabetes, I besmirch my office.
Only my old friend is as he ever was,
when times are perilous, we talk of fortune’s pitfalls.
While I am willing to grow old and be often sick,
you still bear aims that worry about the age.
Why is it that you are in difficulties for food and clothing?—
the look on your face shows that little goes as you would wish.
You make an arduous journey far away,
going along with the will of the crowd.
A boat has no root or stem,
while krakens and crocodiles enjoy wreaking harm.
Even more when there are so many pirates,
take special caution when driven by a gale.
As we flee headlong through a world in arms,
everywhere they kill senior officials.
You will pay your respects to the lords of the east,
urge them to avoid acting willfully.

---

1 Those who were noble and had high office.
邦以民為本，
52 魚饑費香餌。
請哀瘡痍深，
告訴皇華使。
使臣精所擇，
56 進德知歷試。
惻隱誅求情，
固應賢愚異。
列士惡苟得，
60 俊傑思自致。
贈子猛虎行，
出郊載酸鼻。

22.10

官亭夕坐戲簡顏十少府

南國調寒杵，
西江浸日車。
客愁連蟋蟀，
4 亭古帶蒹葭。
不返青絲轅，
虛燒夜燭花。
老翁須地主，
8 細細酌流霞。
The land has the common folk as its base,
the fish are hungry, spend the sweet bait.
I pray you, feel the pain of the depth of their scars,
complain of wrong to imperial envoys.
Envoys are carefully chosen for office,
they have advanced in virtue and been tested many times.
Have sympathy with the situations of those pressed for taxes,
the worthy man should be truly different from the fool.
One of fierce principles hates the ill-gotten,
the finest sort long to do their utmost.
I present you this “Ballad of the Fierce Tiger,”¹
as you leave the city, may it often choke you up.

22.10

Sitting in the Official Pavilion in the Evening: A Playful Note to Sheriff Yan (10)

The southern lands, cold-weather pestles in harmony,²
West River soaks the sun carriage.
The wayfarer’s melancholy is linked to the crickets,
the pavilion is ancient, lined by reeds and rushes
Your blue silk reins have not turned back here,
the night candle’s flame burns for nothing.
This old man awaits the host
to pour out fine streams of drifting auroras.³

¹ A poem by Lu Ji, encouraging moral rectitude.
² The pestles are used for beating and fulling winter clothes.
³ Ale.
移居公安敬贈衛大郎鈞

衛侯不易得，
余病汝知之。
雅量涵高遠，
清襟照等夷。
平生感意氣，
少小愛文辭。
河海由來合，
風雲若有期。
形容勞宇宙，
質樸謝軒墀。
自古幽人泣，
流年壯士悲。
水煙通徑草，
秋露接園葵。
入邑豺狼鬥，
傷弓鳥雀飢。
白頭供宴語，
烏几伴棲遲。
交態遭輕薄，
今朝豁所思。
22.11

Moving My Lodgings to Gongan; Respectfully Presented to Wei Jun

Lord Wei is a rare find,
you know the illness from which I suffer.
Your refined measure contains what is lofty and far-reaching,
your pure concerns illuminate your equals.
All your life you have been moved by noble temperaments,
since youth you have loved letters.
The rivers and sea have always merged,
it is like that moment when wind and cloud meet.
My appearance, worn out by the universe,
plain of substance, I decline the salons of the great.
From ancient days men of seclusion have wept,
the gentleman in his prime grieves at the passing years.
Mist from the water moves through plants on the path,
the autumn dew touches mallows in the garden.
I enter this city amid combat of jackals and wolves,
wounded by the bow, the little bird is starving.¹
Yet my white head is provided with relaxing talk,
and my black-leather armrest accompanies my leisure.
I have encountered want of feeling in treatment by acquaintances,
but this morning eases my concerns.

¹ An old figure of the bird that was once wounded, being troubled by the sound of the bowstring.
22.12

公安送韋二少府匡贊

逍遥公後世多賢，
送爾維舟惜此筵。
念我能書數字至，
4 將詩不必萬人傳。
時危兵甲黃塵裏，
日短江湖白髮前。
古往今來皆涕淚，
8 斷腸分手各風煙。

22.13

公安縣懷古

野曠呂蒙營，
江深劉備城。
寒天催日短，
4 風浪與雲平。
瀲落君臣契，
飛騰戰伐名。
維舟倚前浦，
8 長嘯一含情。
22.12

At Gongan Seeing Off Sheriff Wei Kuangzan (2)

Of the Free-Roaming Duke’s posterity many are worthies in this age,¹
I tie up my boat to see you off, cherishing this feast.
If you think of me you can write a few words and send them,
taking my poems you need not pass them on to ten thousand.
Times of peril, clash of arms in the yellow dust,
daylight shortens, rivers and lakes lie before my white hair.
The past goes off, the present comes, all with tears,
the heart breaks, we part, each in windblown mist.

22.13

Meditation on the Past at Gongan

The wilds broad, the camp of Lü Meng,²
the river deep, Liu Bei’s city.³
Cold heavens, hastening daylight shortens,
wind-blown waves, level with the clouds.
Perfect ease, the agreement between ruler and minister,⁴
flying forth, fame in battle.⁵
I tie up my boat by the shore ahead,
a long whistle, I hold back what I feel.

¹ Wei Xiong of the Northern Zhou was a recluse indifferent to glory and position. Zhou Mingdi (r. 559–565) presented him with the title the “Free-Roaming Duke.” The same title was also given to Wei Sili in Zhongzong’s reign.
² Lü Meng was a general of Wu in the Three Kingdoms.
³ Liu Bei, later the ruler of the Shu-Han Kingdom, was once governor in Gongan.
⁴ Liu Bei and Zhuge Liang.
⁵ Lü Meng.
22.14

呀鵰行

病鵰卑飛俗眼醜，
每夜江邊宿衰柳。
清秋落日已側身，
過雁歸鴉錯迴首。  
緊腦雄姿迷所向，
疏翮稀毛不可狀。
強神迷復阜雕前，
俊才早在蒼鷹上。  
風濤颯颯寒山陰，
熊羆欲蟄龍池深。
念爾此時有一擲，
失聲濺血非其心。  

22.15–16

宴王使君宅題二首

漢主追韓信，
蒼生起謝安。
22.14

The Eagle With His Beak Gaping: A Ballad

The sick eagle flies low, to the common eye, ugly,
every night by the riverside it roosts in a dying willow.
In clear autumn’s setting sun its body already leaning;
the passing goose and homeward crow err in turning their heads.

That powerful form with firm head has lost all direction,
the sparse pinions and balding down cannot be described.
Its strong spirit strays in again standing ahead of the coal-black falcon,
but its superb talents used to be above the gray hawk.

The winds howl over the great waves, the cold mountains in shadow,
the bears are about to hibernate, the dragon is deep in his pool.
I think on you at this moment making a single strike,
but your voice fails, and the spattering of blood is not in your heart.

22.15–16

Written on a Feast at Governor Wang’s Residence

I

Han’s ruler went after Han Xin,1
the common folk roused Xie An.2

---

1 When Liu Bang entered Qin, Han Xin deserted him; Liu Bang went after him to bring Han Xin back into his service.
2 In the Eastern Jin, "Xie An was living in reclusion, and it was said: “If Xie An does not serve, what will the common folk do?” As a result, Xie An agreed to serve."
吾徒自飄泊，
世事各艱難。
逆旅招邀近，
他鄉思緒寬。
不材甘朽質，
高臥豈泥蟠。

II

泛愛容霜髮，
留歡上夜關。
自吟詩送老，
相勸酒開顏。
戎馬今何地，
鄉園獨舊山。
江湖墮清月，
酩酊任扶還。

22.17

送覃二判官

先帝弓劍遠，
小臣餘此生。
蹉跎病江漢，
不復謁承明。
My sort is just tossed along,
the situation of the age brings hardship to each.
My lodgings were close for your invitation,
in a strange land my broodings are eased.
Lacking talent, I accept my decayed condition,
my resting aloof is no coiling in the mud.¹

II

With your general affection, you accept one with frosty hair,
making me stay for pleasure, you bar the gate by night.
I myself chant poems to go along with me through old age,
at your urging, ale makes me smile.
Warhorses are now everywhere,
in your native garden, alone at your former hill.
On the rivers and lakes clear moonlight sinks,
you have someone help me back, completely drunk.

22.17

Seeing Off Administrative Assistant Qin (2)
The former emperor’s bow and sword lie far,²
his minor officer has the remainder of this life.
Time slips by, sick by Yangzi and Han,
ever again will I pay respects at Chengming Palace.

¹ Governor Wang is a dragon, coiling in mud, who will soon stretch and show his powers.
² Suzong. The bow and sword represent the ruler’s tomb; when the Yellow Emperor rose to Heaven, only his sword and bow remained.
公安送李二十九弟晉肅入蜀余下沔鄂

公安送李二十九弟晉肅入蜀余下沔鄂

正解柴桑纜，
仍看蜀道行。
橋烏相背發，
塞雁一行鳴。
南紀連銅柱，
西江接錦城。
憑將百錢卜，
飄泊問君平。
Parting feast for you, this day of my white hair, my thoughts ever on Cinnabar Phoenix City.\(^1\)
Going slowly on, yearning for Qu and Song,\(^2\)
faint in the distance, I lie here at Jing and Heng.
The heart will break when your boat disappears, the skies cold, sand and waters clear.
If lungs and liver improve a bit,
I too will present a “Ballad of the Russet Wisps.”\(^3\)

---

22.18

At Gongan Seeing Off Cousin Li Jinsu (29) Going to Shu; I will Go Down to Mianzhou and Ezhou

Right now I will undo my moorings for Chaisang, next you will see the roads of Shu.
The weather vanes on our masts will set out in opposite directions, as a single line of frontier geese cry out.
The southern boundary stretches to the Bronze Column,\(^4\) West River touches Brocade City.
I rely on you to do a divination with a hundred cash, ask Junping about my being swept along.\(^5\)

---

1  Chang’an.
2  Qu Yuan and Song Yu, poets of Chu.
3  A song about the court.
4  *Ma Yuan.
5  *Yan Junping.
22.19

留別公安太易沙門

隱居欲就廬山遠，
麗藻初逢休上人。
數問舟航留製作，
長開箋笥擬心神。
沙村白雪仍含凍，
江縣紅梅已放春。
先蹋爐峰置蘭若，
徐飛錫杖出風塵。

22.20

久客

羈旅知交態，
淹留見俗情。
衰顏聊自哂，
小吏最相輕。
去國哀王粲，
傷時哭賈生。
狐狸何足道，
豺虎正縱橫。
22.19
Detained on Parting by the Monk Taiyi at Gongan

To live as a recluse you are about to go to the Huiyuan of Lu Mountain,¹
in writing’s fine craft I now first meet the Reverend Huixiu.²
Often you came to visit my boat, leaving your compositions here,
always when I open the cases I can estimate your spirit.
White snow at this village on the sands, still frozen with ice,
while the pink plums of the river lands have already budded in spring.
You will be first to tread Incense Burner Peak and set up a meditation chamber,
gradually your monk’s staff will take flight, and you’ll go beyond wind-blown dust.

22.20
Long a Wayfarer

From my travels I understand how friends are treated,
in lingering on, I have seen the ordinary sentiments.
With aging looks I mock myself a while,
minor clerks treat me with utmost contempt.
Leaving the capital made Wang Can lament;³
pain at the times brought Jia Yi to weep.⁴
But the foxes aren’t even worth mentioning
since tigers and jackals run rampant.

¹ The fourth-century monk who founded the temple complex on Lu Mountain, here a figure for the famous monks on Lu Mountain in Du Fu’s time.
² A famous Southern Dynasties literary monk, here a figure for Taiyi.
³ *Wang Can.
⁴ *Jia Yi.
冬深

花葉隨天意，
江溪共石根。

早霞隨類影，
寒水各依痕。

易下楊朱淚，
難招楚客魂。

風濤暮不穏，
捨棹宿誰門。

晓發公安

北城擊柝復欲罷，
東方明星亦不遲。

鄰雞野哭如昨日，
物色生態能幾時，

舟楫眇然自此去，
江湖遠適無前期。

出門轉眄已陳跡，
藥餌扶吾隨所之。
22.21

Winter's Depths

Blossoms and leaves, according to Heaven’s will, 
Yangzi and creek share roots of stone.¹
Early cloud wisps, reflections according to kind, 
cold watercourses, each lying on watermarks. 
Easy to shed the tears of Yang Zhu,² 
hard to call back the soul of the wayfarer in Chu.³
Wind-blown waves, not steady at twilight, 
I ship oars, to stay the night at whose gate?

When Du Fu set out from Gongan late in the year 768, he was not certain 
where he was going. We see him next farther down the Yangzi at Shishou 
(“Master Liu’s Shore”) Then he turned into Lake Dongting and stopped at 
Yueyang, at the northern tip of the lake. There he seems to have passed the 
New Year.

22.22

Setting Out in the Morning From Gongan⁴

The watch rattle struck on the northern wall, again almost finished, 
in the east the Morning Star is also not slow to appear. 
Neighbor’s rooster and laments in the wilds are as they have been these 
days, 
the look of vitality in the scene—how long can it last? 
The oars of my boat into faint distance go off from here, 
faring afar to rivers and lakes with no schedule or destination. 
Leaving the gates I turn my gaze, it’s already a thing of the past, 
my medicines will support me wherever I go.

¹ “Roots of stone” refer to the base of mountains.
² The ancient philosopher Yang Zhu was said to have wept whenever he came to a 
forking of the road.
³ The soul of Qu Yuan, by tradition the object of the “Summons of the Soul” in the 
Chuci.
⁴ Original Note: “I rested in this county for several months” 数月憩息此縣.
22.23

發劉郎浦

掛帆早發劉郎浦，
疾風颯颯昏亭午。
舟中無日不沙塵，
岸上空村盡豺虎。

十日北風風未迴，
客行歲晚晩相催。
白頭厭伴漁人宿，
黃帽青鞋歸去來。

22.24

別董頔

窮冬急風水，
逆浪開帆難。
士子甘旨闕，
不知道里寒。
有求彼樂土，
南適小長安。
到我舟檝去，
覺君衣裳單。
22.23

Setting Out From Master Liu’s Shore

We set the sail and started early from Master Liu’s Shore, the swift winds were whistling, darkening the noon.
In the boat not a day goes by but there is dust and sand,
4 deserted villages on the shore all with jackals and tigers.

For ten days the north wind has blown, and the wind has not yet shifted,
the traveler goes on late in the year, and the lateness hurries him on.
White-haired, I am weary of spending the night a companion of fishermen,
8 with yellow hat and green footwear let me go home!1

22.24

Parting From Dong Ting

The last of winter intensifies wind and water,
hard to set sail against the waves.
The gentleman, lacking sweet dainties,2
does not know the coldness of the way.
There is something he seeks in that happy land,
faring southward to Little Chang’an.3
When you come to my boat, leaving,
8 I realize how thin your clothing is.

---

1 The “yellow hat” is a bamboo hat; the “green footwear” is made out of straw.
2 Treats for his parents.
3 Little Chang’an was in Nanyang county in Dengzhou, northwest of Jingzhou, rather than south.
素聞趙公節，
兼盡賓主歡。
已結門廬望，
無令霜雪殘。
老夫纜亦解，
脫粟朝未餐。
飄蕩兵甲際，
幾時懷抱寬。
漢陽頗寧靜，
岘首試考槃。
當念著白帽，
采薇青雲端。

22.25

夜聞觱篥

夜聞觱篥滄江上，
衰年側耳情所嚮。
鄰舟一聽多感傷，
塞曲三更歎悲壯。
積雪飛霜此夜寒，
孤燈急管復風湍。
I have ever heard of Lord Zhao’s principles,¹
you will also fully experience the pleasures of being his guest.
But already your mother gazes for you from cottage gate,
do not let the frost and snow melt away.²
This old fellow is also loosing his moorings,
not having eaten his breakfast of coarse bran.
Swept along on the margins of warfare,
when will the feelings in my bosom relax?
Hanyang is especially tranquil,
I will try the joy of a recluse on Mount Xian.³
You should think of me, wearing a white hat
picking wild beans by the edge of blue clouds.

22.25

Hearing the Reed-horn by Night⁴

By night I heard the reed-horn upon the gray river,
in my waning years I cocked my ears, my feelings drawn to it.
Once listening to the neighboring boat, I was stirred to much pain,
frontier tunes at midnight, brave melancholy comes suddenly.

From the piled snow and flying frost this night is cold,
a lone lamp, the shrill pipe, and windblown surge.

---
¹ Zhao was probably the governor of Dengzhou.
² That is, return before winter is over.
³ Mount Xian in Xiangyang, near where Pang Degong lived.
⁴ The “reed horn,” bili, had a reed mouthpiece, a bamboo tube with nine holes, and a wide end for resonance.
君知天地干戈滿，
不見江湖行路難。

衡州送李大夫七丈勉赴廣州
斧鉞下青冥，
樓船過洞庭。
北風隨爽氣，
南斗避文星。
日月籠中鳥，
乾坤水上萍。
王孫丈人行，
垂老見飄零。

歲晏行
歲云暮矣多北風，
瀟湘洞庭白雪中。
漁父天寒網罟凍，
莫徭射雁鳴桑弓。}
去年米貴闕軍食，
今年米賤太傷農。
You know that all Heaven and Earth are filled with arms,
yet have you not seen “hard traveling” upon the river and lakes?

22.26
At Hengzhou Seeing Off Censor-in-Chief Li Mian on his Way to Guangzhou

The axe descends from the blue darkness,\(^1\)
his towered galley crosses Lake Dongting.
The north wind brings an invigorating atmosphere,
the Southern Dipper flees the Star of Letters.\(^2\)
Days and months, a bird in a cage,
Heaven and Earth, a duckweed on the waters.
Our Prince in the position of a senior
sees me, tossed and fallen, approaching old age.

22.27
The Year’s End: A Ballad

The year is drawing to a close, often the north wind comes,
Xiao and Xiang and Lake Dongting are in white snow.
When the weather grows cold, the fisherman finds his nets frozen,
Moyao folk shoot wind geese, making mulberry bows twang.
Last year rice was expensive and food for the army was short,
this year rice is cheap causing the farmers great harm.

---

\(^1\) The axe was the insignia of the delegation of military authority. The “blue darkness” is Heaven, and by commonplace figurative extension, the court. Li Mian is coming from court and leading an army south.

\(^2\) This suggests the southern rebels fleeing Li, whose literary capabilities are again figured in astral terms.
泊岳陽城下

高馬達官厭酒肉，
此輩杼軸茅茨空。
楚人重魚不重鳥，
汝休枉殺南飛鴻。
況聞處處鬻男女，
割慈忍愛還租庸。
往日用錢捉私鑄，
今許鉛鐵和青銅。
刻泥為之最易得，
好惡不合長相蒙。

12

往日用錢捉私鑄，
今許鉛鐵和青銅。
刻泥為之最易得，
好惡不合長相蒙。

16

往日用錢捉私鑄，
今許鉛鐵和青銅。
刻泥為之最易得，
好惡不合長相蒙。

22.28

泊岳陽城下

江國踰千里，
山城近百層。
岸風翻夕浪，
舟雪灑寒燈。
留滯才難盡，
艱危氣益增。
圖南未可料，
變化有鯤鵬。
Mooring Below Yueyang

Successful officials with big horses have plenty of meat and ale,
but for this lot, shuttle and loom in their thatched huts are bare.\(^1\)
People of Chu prefer fish, they do not care for fowl,
so cease to wantonly kill the southward flying swans.
I’ve heard moreover that everywhere they are selling boys and girls,
breaking love’s bonds, steeling the heart, to pay taxes of grain and silk.
In earlier days in using coins they seized those who minted privately,
but now they let lead and iron alloy the green bronze.
They make them by cutting clay moulds, quite easy to obtain,
in regard to the good and counterfeit, they should not have this
continuous deception.
On the wall-tops of the ten thousand domains painted bugles are
blown,
but the sad bitterness of this song—when will it ever end?

22.28
Mooring Below Yueyang

Through river lands I’ve passed a thousand leagues,
I draw near this city of mountain of a hundred tiers.
Shore winds churn the evening waves,
snow on the boat spatters my cold lamp.
Though lingering on, my talent is not done,
in hardship and peril, vigor increases still more.
My plans to go south may not yet be laid—
in metamorphosis, Leviathan and Peng.\(^2\)

---
\(^1\) The farmers.
\(^2\) *Peng bird.
纜船苦風戲題四韻奉簡鄭十三判官(泛)

楚岸朔風疾，
天寒鵑鴦呼。
漲沙霾草樹，
舞雪渡江湖。
吹帽時時落，
維舟日日孤。
因聲置驛外，
為覓酒家壘。

登岳陽樓

昔聞洞庭水，
今上岳陽樓。
吳楚東南坼，
乾坤日夜浮。
親朋無一字，
老病有孤舟。
戎馬關山北，
憑軒涕泗流。
22.29

Tying Up My Boat Suffering From the Wind, Playfully Writing Four Couplets, Sent as a Note to Administrative Assistant Zheng Fan (13)

The north wind blows hard on the shores of Chu,  
the weather is cold, the blue heron cries.  
Billowing sands engulf plants and trees  
4 dancing snows cross the river and lake.  
My wind-blown hat falls off now and then,  
I tie up my boat, every day all alone.  
By the voices beyond the post station¹  
8 seek out for me the ale-warmer at the tavern.²

22.30

Climbing Yueyang Tower

I heard long ago of Dongting’s waters,  
and this day I climb Yueyang Tower.  
Wu and Chu split apart in the southeast,  
4 Heaven and Earth float day and night.  
From kin and friends not a single word,  
old and sick, I do have a solitary boat.  
War-horses north of barrier mountains,  
8 I lean on the railing, my tears streaming down.

¹ The voices apparently indicate a tavern.  
² Du Fu is asking Zheng to get him ale.
陪裴使君登岳陽樓

湖闊兼雲霧，
樓孤屬晚晴。
禮加徐孺子，
詩接謝宣城。

雪岸叢梅發，
春泥百草生。
敢違漁父問，
從此更南征。

南征

春岸桃花水，
雲帆楓樹林。
偷生長避地，
適遠更霑襟。

老病南征日，
君恩北望心。
百年歌自苦，
未見有知音。
22.31

Climbing Yueyang Tower in the Company of Governor Pei

The lake is vast, combined with clouds and fog, the tower, lonely in the evening clear sky. In ceremony you add to that given to Xu Chi, your poems join to those of Xie Tiao of Xuancheng. On snowy shores clumps of plums blossom, in the spring mud all kinds of plants grow. Dare I ignore what the Fisherman asked me?— from this point on I journey farther south.

22.32

Journeying South

Spring shores, waters of peach blossoms, cloud-like sail, forests of maple trees. Saving my life, ever seeking a refuge, I go off far, again soaking my gown with tears. Old and sick, days of journeying south, my ruler’s grace, a heart that gazes north. Life’s hundred years, singing of my suffering, I have never seen a true understanding friend.

---

1 *Xu Chi.
2 A famous poet of the late fifth century.
3 In the “Fisherman” in the Chuci, Qu Yuan encounters a fisherman who asks him why he persists in his solitary course that puts him at odds with the world. Unlike Qu Yuan, Du Fu will heed the fisherman’s advice.
归梦

道路时通塞，
江山日寂寥。
偷生唯一老，
伐叛已三朝。

雨急青枫暮，
云深黑水遥。
梦归归未得，
不用楚辞招。

过南嶽入洞庭湖

洪波忽争道，
岸转异江湖。
鄂渚分云树，
衡山引舳舻。

翠芽穿蓑蒋，
碧节上寒蒲。
病渴身何去，
春生力更无。
22.33

Dream of Return

The road is sometimes open, sometimes blocked, rivers and mountains grow more dreary day to day. Saving my life, just one old man, already three reigns attacking the rebels. The rain drives hard, twilight of Greenmaple, clouds deep, Blackwaters far.\(^1\) I dream of return, but have not returned, no use that the \textit{Lyrics of Chu} summon me.\(^2\)

22.34

Entering Lake Dongting to Stop By the Southern Marchmount

Huge waves suddenly contend for a course, the shore turns, the river and lake different. E Isle, I make out trees in cloud, Mount Heng draws my stern and prow. Azure sprouts stick through the wet wild rice, emerald joints send up the wintry reeds. Sick with diabetes, where will I go?— spring comes, but my strength is no more.

---

1 Greenmaple was in the region of Chu, while Blackwater was in Qin. Thus the dream goes north toward Chang’an.

2 Referring to “Summoning the Soul” in the \textit{Chuci}, interpreted as recalling Qu Yuan’s person and soul from his southern wandering.
壤童犁雨雪，
漁屋架泥塗。
欹側風帆滿，
微冥水驛孤。
悠悠回赤壁，
浩浩略蒼梧。
帝子留遺恨，
曹公屈壯圖。
聖朝光御極，
澐孽駐艱虞。
才淑隨廝養，
名賢隱鍛爐。
邵平元入漢，
張翰後歸吳。
莫怪啼痕數，
危檣逐夜烏。

22.35
宿青草湖
洞庭猶在目，
青草續為名。
宿槳依農事，
郵籤報水程。
Farmboys plow in the rain and snow,
fishermen’s cottages are built on muddy paths.
We tilt as my wind-blown sail fills,
tiny and dark, the station stands alone by the water.
On and on, it turns at Red Cliff,
vast flooding, we go past Cangwu,¹
where the royal daughters’ resentment remains,²
where Cao Cao’s bold plans were humbled.³
In our sage reign the throne shines in splendor,
but the last evil spawn keep our woes with us.
Men of pure talent go as laborers,
famous worthies hide out working the forge.⁴
Shao Ping once entered the Han,⁵
Zhang Han later returned to Wu.⁶
Marvel not that I often shed tears
as my tall mast follows the crow by night.⁷

Lake Dongting is still in my eyes,
“Green Grass” is its name as we continue on.
Overnight oars beside farming work,
the post station notice tells the stages of the water journey.

¹ *Cangwu.
² The Xiang goddesses, wives of Shun, who was buried at *Cangwu.
³ Cao Cao’s invasion of the state of Wu was defeated at Red Cliff, though this was only one of many sites with that name.
⁴ The third-century writer and intellectual *Xi Kang worked the forge.
⁵ *Shao Ping.
⁶ *Zhang Han.
⁷ Probably echoing the “Short Song” by Cao Cao in which the crows and magpies are figures for itinerant intellectuals without a patron to give them a “roost.” The “crow” is also the weathervane on the mast.
⁸ A section of Lake Dongting.
宿白沙驛

寒冰爭倚薄，
雲月遞微明。
湖雁雙雙起，
人來故北征。

22.36

宿白沙驛

水宿仍餘照，
人煙復此亭。
驛邊沙舊白，
湖外草新青。
萬象皆春氣，
孤槎自客星。
隨波無限月，
的的近南溟。

22.37

湘夫人祠

肅肅湘妃廟，
空牆碧水春。
蟲書玉佩薜，
燕舞翠帷塵。
Cold ice floes compete to draw near,
cloudy moon alternately faint then bright.
Lake geese rise in pair after pair,
when someone comes, on purpose they fare on north.

22.36

Staying Over at White Sands Post Station

I spend nights on the water, now still in last sunshine,
the smoke of men’s dwellings, and then this pavilion.
Beside the station, sands white as before,
beyond the lake, the grass turns fresh green.¹
The million images—all springtime’s vapor;
on a lone raft, I myself am the wandering star.²
Along with the waves, the moonlight boundless,
and on its sparkling I draw near to the Southern Deeps.³

22.37

The Shrine of the Ladies of the Xiang⁴

Solemn and still, the temple of the Xiang Consorts,
bare walls, sapphire waters turning spring.
Insects write in the moss on jade pendants;
swallows dance in the dust of azure curtains.

¹ This plays on the name of the station, “White Sands,” and the lake, “Green Grass.”
² *Riding the raft.
³ *Peng bird. The “Southern Deeps” was the term used for the southern ocean, also called Heaven’s Pool, to which the great Peng migrated.
⁴ The Xiang River goddesses were sisters, wives of the sage-emperor Shun.
祠南夕望

晚泊登汀樹，
微馨借渚蘋。
蒼梧恨不盡,
染淚在叢筠。

百丈牽江色，
孤舟泛日斜。
興來猶杖履，
目斷更雲沙。

山鬼迷春竹，
湘娥倚暮花。
湖南清絕地，
萬古一長嗟。

上水遣懷

我衰太平時，
身病戎馬後。
蹭蹬多拙為，
安得不皓首。
Evening mooring, I disembark by trees on the beach;  
the faint aroma is borrowed from water-clover on the isles.¹  
Their grief for Cangwu never ends,  
their staining tears are still on the clumps of bamboo.²

**22.38**

Evening View South of the Shrine

A hundred-yard cable pulls the river's colors,  
the lone boat sails on the setting sun.  
Elation comes, still with staff and sandals,  
vision reaches its limit, and yet more sand and clouds.  
The mountain wraith is lost among spring bamboo,  
the Xiang Maidens lean among twilight flowers.³  
South of the lake, a place of utter purity—  
one long sigh for eternity.

**22.39**

Going Upriver Expressing My Feelings

I was already aging in times of peace,  
I grew sick after the war-horses came.  
Dispirited by trials, often acting ineptly,  
how can I help my hair turning hoary white?

---

¹ These may be offerings in the shrine.
² *Cangwu. In grief their tears were said to have mottled the bamboo of the region.
³ The “mountain wraith” and the “Xiang Maidens,” the wives of Shun, were local deities, celebrated in the “Nine Songs” of the *Chuci*, attributed to Qu Yuan.
驅馳四海內，
童稚日餬口。
但遇新少年，
少逢舊親友。
低顏下邑地，
故人知善誘。
後生血氣豪，
舉動見老醜。
窮迫挫曩懷，
常如中風走。
一紀出西蜀，
於今向南斗。
孤舟亂春華，
暮齒依蒲柳。
冥冥九疑葬，
聖者骨亦朽。
蹉跎陶唐人，
鞭撻日月久。
中間屈賈輩，
譏毀竟自取。
鬱悒二悲魂，
蕭條猶在否。
崷崒清湘石，
逆行雜林藪。
Rushing on through this sea-girt world,
my children daily eat others’ food.
I meet only new young men,

I seldom encounter former companions.
With humble mien in small towns;
old friends were good at offering advice.
Younger men’s blood runs hot and proud,
in their behavior they see me as ugly and old.
Pressed by poverty, I suppress feelings of former days,
always as if running about in a fever.

A dozen years ago I came to western Shu
and now I’m heading toward the Southern Dipper.
A lone boat mixes in with the tangle of spring flowering,
in twilight years I rest by water willows.
The burial in the Nine Doubts Range is lost in darkness,¹

even the bones of a sage decay.
Time has slipped past since the one of Tang-Tao,²
long have sun and moon been whipped on their way.
In that interval the likes of Qu Yuan and Jia Yi
in the end brought slander and ruin on themselves.
Swollen with grief, those two unhappy souls—
I wonder if they still survive in this dreariness.
Rocks jut up along the clear Xiang.

we go against the current through jungle and marsh.

---

¹ Cangwu.
² Tang-Tao refers to Yao.
篙工密逞巧，
气若酣杯酒。
歌謳互激遠，
回斡明受授。
善知應觸類，
各藉穎脫手。
古來經濟才，
何事獨罕有。
蒼蒼眾色晚，
馬掛玄蛇吼。
黃羆在樹顛，
正為群虎守。
羸骸將何適，
履險顏益厚。
庶與達者論，
吞聲混瑕垢。

22.40

遣遇

磬折辭主人，
開帆駕洪濤。
春水滿南國，
朱崖雲日高。
The men poling the boat profusely show their skills, their temper as though tipsy from cups of ale. Their songs in turn rise going afar, clearly calling to one another for the bends. The best knowledge should infer by analogy: in every case one depends on someone with easy mastery. But talents with governing skills since early times—why are they alone so rarely to be had? In the vastness all the colors show day’s lateness, the bear hangs, the black snake roars. A brown grizzly is up in the treetops, now on the watch for packs of tigers. Where now is my frail skeleton going?—treading in peril, my face shows still less shame. I would wish to discuss this with someone wise, but I stifle my voice, mingling with the flawed.

22.40

Expressing Myself on What I Have Encountered

With a humble bow I took leave of my host, hoisted sail and rode the mighty waves. Spring floods fill the southern lands, crimson cliffs, where the cloudy sun is high.
舟子廢寢食，
飄風爭所操。
我行匪利涉，
謝爾從者勞。
石間采蕨女，
鬻菜輸官曹。
丈夫死百役，
暮返空村號。
聞見事略同，
刻剝及錐刀。
貴人豈不仁，
視汝如莠蒿。
索錢多門戶，
喪亂紛嗷嗷。
奈何黠吏徒，
漁奪成逋逃。
自喜遂生理，
花時甘縕袍。

22.41
解憂

減米散同舟，
路難思共濟。
The boatmen stop sleeping and eating,
in the whirling gusts they struggle at what they do.
My going is not “advantageous to venture,”¹
8 I thank you, the crew, for your efforts.
Among the rocks, a girl picking fiddleheads,
selling the ferns, the cash will go to the officials.
Her husband died in press-gang labors,
12 at dusk she will go back to an empty village, crying out.
All I’ve seen and heard is pretty much the same—
they are gouged down to the last small drop.
Of course those in high position have fellow-feeling,
16 but they look on you like the common plants.
There are many excuses for demanding cash,
amid death and destruction, wailing is everywhere.
Nothing can be done about rapacious clerks
20 plundering folk until they run away.
I am happy with my situation, that I can get by,
I enjoy my hemp-padded gown in the season of flowers.²

22.41

Easing My Worries

I cut back on rice, dividing it with those on the boat,
the route is hard, and I think of us all making it through together.

¹ A set phrase from the Book of Changes, indicating that any venture will prosper.
² A poor man’s gown.
向來雲濤盤，
眾力亦不細。
呀坑瞥眼過，
飛櫓本無蒂。
得失瞬息間，
致遠宜恐泥。
百慮視安危，
分明襄賢計。
茲理庶可廣，
拳拳期勿替。

22.42
宿鑿石浦
早宿賓從勞，
仲春江山麗。
飄風過無時，
舟揖敢不繫。
回塘澹暮色，
日沒眾星嘒。
缺月殊未生，
青燈死分翳。
窮途多俊異，
亂世少恩惠。
Up to now, cloudlike waves have been swirling,
the group’s efforts too have not been small.
Gaping pits pass in the blink of an eye,
our flying sweep has never been rooted down.
Disaster can come in an instant,
to reach far distance it is right to worry about getting bogged down.
With many concerns to watch out for peril
was clearly the plan of worthies of old.
I hope I can build on this principle,
in all earnestness I expect not to change it.

22.42

Staying the Night on Rock Quarry Shore

We put up early for the night, the crew had worked hard,
mid-spring, the river and mountains were lovely.
Whirling gusts pass at any moment,
how would we dare not tie up the boat?
The winding pool is pale in twilight’s colors,
the sun sinks away, and all the stars are faint.
The waning moon had not yet appeared,
the blue lamps, dying out, in turn were hidden.
Those at the end of their rope are often exceptional,
in an age of turmoil, little love and kindness.
鄙夫亦放蕩，
草草頻卒歳。
斯文憂患餘，
聖哲垂彖繫。

早行
歌哭俱在曉，
行邁有期程。
孤舟似昨日，
聞見同一聲。
飛鳥數求食，
潛魚亦獨驚。
前王作網罟，
設法害生成。
碧藻非不茂，
高帆終日征。
干戈未揖讓，
崩迫開其情。
Even a dolt like myself is swept along,
passing my years desperate and harried.
For our culture, in the remnants of worry and catastrophe,
the wise sages have left us the Judgments and Appended Words.¹

22.43

Traveling Early

Singing and weeping conjoined in the morning,
far travels have their set stages.
This lone boat is just like yesterday,
what I hear are the very same sounds.
The flying birds repeatedly seek food,
even the deep-sunken fish are especially alarmed.
The former kings made nets and seines,²
they set models that harmed the process of life.
Still, the sapphire water plants do not fail to flourish,
my high sail journeys all the day long.
Arms’ clash has not yet become bowing and yielding,
pressed to flight, I reveal these sentiments.

¹ Two sections of the *The Classic of Changes.*
² Nets and seines was a standard image of law and government, though playing on the fish in the preceding line.
過津口

南岳自兹近，
湘流東逝深。
和風引桂楫，
春日漲雲岑。
回道過津口，
而多楓樹林。
白魚困密網，
黄鳥喧嘉音。
物微限通塞，
惻隱仁者心。
甕餘不盡酒，
膝有無聲琴。
聖賢兩寂寞，
眇眇獨開襟。

次空靈岸

沄沄逆素浪，
落落展清眺。
Passing Jinkou

The Southern Marchmount is close by,  
the Xiang’s current deepens, flowing off east.  
A gentle breeze draws on the cassia paddles,  
and the spring sun floods over cloudy heights.  
We turn our course passing Jinkou,  
and many are the forests of maple trees.  
Minnows are trapped in the close-meshed net,  
yellow birds make a din of fine sounds.  
Small creatures, divided by blockage and getting through,  
the kindly person’s heart is moved to sympathy.  
In the jug remains unfinished ale,  
on my lap there is a soundless zither.  
Sages and worthies are both silent,  
in the vast expanse I alone open my heart.

Reaching Kongling Shore

We go against the white waves, churning on,  
a clear view spreads before me far and wide.

1 That is, the minnows are trapped (blocked), while the yellow bird “makes it” (gets through), doing what fulfills it.
幸有舟楫遲，
得盡所歷妙。
空靈霞石峻，
楓栝隱奔峭。
青春猶無私，
白日亦偏照。
可使營吾居，
終焉託長嘯。
毒瘴未足憂，
兵戈滿邊徼。
嘗者留遺恨，
恥為達人誚。
回帆覬賞延，
佳處領其要。

22.46

宿花石戍

午辭空靈岑，
夕得花石戍。
岸疏開闢水，
木雜今古樹。
地蒸南風盛，
春熱西日暮。
Lucky the boat moves slowly
and I can see all the fine wonders we are passing through.
Kongling, height of rose-cloud rock,
maple and juniper hide precipitous steeps.
Green spring still acts without favorite,
but the bright sun shines here especially.
I could have my dwelling built here
once and for all entrust my long whistling here.
Poisonous miasmas are not worth worrying about,
but men in arms fill the frontier regions.
From before a lingering regret remains,
I am shamed by the mockery of men of full understanding.
I hope to prolong my appreciation when I sail back,
but of this fine place, I comprehend the essentials.
四序本平分，
气候何迥互。
茫茫天造间，
理乱豈恒数。
繫舟盘藤轮，
杖策古樵路。
罷人不在村，
野圃泉自注。
柴扉虽蕪没，
农器尚牢固。
山东残逆气，
吴楚守王度。
谁能扣君门，
下令减征赋。

早发

有求常百慮，
斯文亦吾病。
以兹朋故多，
窮老驅馳併。
早行篙师怠，
席掛風不正。
The four seasons are essentially divided equally, why is the weather here all mixed up?
In the vague vastness of Heaven's creation how can there be constant principle of order and disorder?
We tied the boat to a wreath of coiling wisteria, I walked with my cane on the old woodcutters' road.
The people, exhausted, were not in the village, springs water their rustic gardens on their own.
Though their ramshackle doors were sunk in weeds, their farm implements were still intact.
East of the Mountains, the atmosphere of rebellion remains, but Wu and Chu maintain the king's measure.
Who can knock at the ruler's gate that an order may be given to reduce campaigns and taxes?

22.47
Setting Out Early
When you seek something, there are always a hundred worries, our textual culture is my own disease.
By this I had many friends,
but conjoined with impoverished old age and rushing about. Setting out early, the puntmen were lazy, they hoisted sail, but the wind was not right.
昔人戒垂堂，
今則奚奔命。
濤翻黑蛟躍，
日出黃霧映。
煩促瘴豈侵，
頹倚睡未醒。
僕夫問盥櫛，
暮顏靦青鏡。
隨意簪葛巾，
仰慚林花盛。
側聞夜來寇，
幸喜囊中淨。
艱危作遠客，
干請傷直性。
薇蕨餓首陽，
粟馬資歷聘。
賤子欲適從，
疑誤此二柄。

22.48

次晚洲

參錯雲石稠，
坡陀風濤壯。
The ancients warned about the edge of the hall,\(^1\)
 why now am I fleeing for my life?
 Huge billows churn, black krakens leap,
 the sun comes out glinting through yellow fog.
 Restless and frantic, could I have caught malaria?—
 listless and drooping, not awake from sleep.
 My servant asks me if I want to wash and comb,
 my aging face is put to shame by the green mirror.
 I put on a hemp headband as I please,
 look up, embarrassed by forest flowers in their glory.
 I’ve heard that there were robbers last night,
 fortunately my purse is bare.
 In hardship I am a far traveler,
 seeking patrons harms my upright nature.
 Wild beans and ferns, starving on Shouyang,\(^2\)
 food and horses, provisioned in a series of employments.\(^3\)
 This poor fellow wants to follow them,
 but I’m afraid I have failed on either count.\(^4\)

---

1. The “edge of the hall,” where one could be hit by a falling roof-tile, was proverbial for a dangerous situation.
2. When the Zhou overthrew the Shang dynasty, *Bo Yi and Shu Qi withdrew to Mount Shouyang, where they ate wild beans and bracken fern and starved to death.
3. This may refer to Warring States wandering persuaders such as Su Qin and Zhang Yi, who were rewarded when they visited the lords of the domains.
4. That is, he has succeeded in being neither an upright recluse nor a successful politician.
清明二首

晚洲適知名，
秀色固異狀。
棹經垂猿把，
身在度鳥上。
擺浪散帙妨，
危沙折花當。
羈離暫愉悅，
羸老反惆悵。
中原未解兵，
吾得終疏放。

22.49–50

清明二首

I

朝來新火起新煙，
湖色春光淨客船。
繡羽銜花他自得，
紅顏騎竹我無緣。
胡童結束還難有，
楚女腰肢亦可憐。
不見定王城舊處，
長懷賈傅井依然。
I just learned the name of Wan Isle,
its splendid beauty is indeed of a different form.
Our oars pass the grasp of hanging gibbons,
our bodies are above the birds crossing the sky.¹
Tossing waves, opening my books prevented,
insecure sands, for snapping flowers just right.
On travels away from home, short-lived delights,
feeble and old, it turns instead to depression.
Arms have not ceased on the Central Plain,
can I finally get to feel relaxed ease?

22.49–50
The Clear and Bright Festival

I

When dawn comes, new fires send up their new smoke,
spring light on the colors of the lake cleanses the traveler’s boat.
Brocade feathers hold flowers in beaks, these others are content,
to ride a bamboo horse with rosy cheeks I have no means.
The finery worn by Hu lads is indeed here hard to find,
the waists and limbs of Chu girls are also lovable.
I do not see the site of the Prince of Ding’s old city;²
I ever think on Tutor Jia’s well, still here as it always was.³

¹ That is, in reflection.
² The Prince of Changsha in the time of Han Jingdi.
³ A well supposedly dug by *Jia Yi when he lived in Changsha as tutor to the Prince.
虚沾周举为寒食，
实借严君卖卜钱。
钟鼎山林各天性，
濁醪粗饭任吾年。

II

此身飘泊苦西东，
右臂偏枯半耳聋。
寂寂縈舟双下泪，
悠悠伏枕左书空。

十年蹴鞠将雏远，
万里鞦韆习俗同。
旅雁上云归紫塞，
家人鑽火用青楓。

秦城楼阁烟花里，
汉主山河锦绣中。
风水春来洞庭阔，
白蘋愁殺白頭翁。

22.51

发潭州

夜醉长沙酒，
晓行湘水春。
In vain graced by what Zhou Ju did for Cold Food Festival,\(^1\) indeed I would borrow Yan Junping’s cash from telling fortunes.\(^2\) Those with bells and cauldrons, those of mountain woods, each has a Heaven-granted nature,\(^3\) with muddy brew and coarse meal let me live out my years.

II

This body, swept along, suffers going from one place to another, my right arm is especially withered, my ears are half deaf. In still solitude I tie up my boat, a pair of tears falls, on and on I lie on my pillow, with my left hand write words in air.\(^4\)

For ten years I took my children afar, when still kicking footballs, across ten thousand leagues they play on swings, alike in learning the local customs.

Migrating geese rise into clouds returning to the Purple Frontier, householders strike fires using green maple.

Tower and kiosks of the city of Qin within misty flowers, mountains and rivers of the Han ruler in embroidery and brocade.

Wind and water with springtime, Lake Dongting is vast, white water-clover utterly saddens a white-haired old man.

---

1. Zhou Ju of the Eastern Han was supposedly the person who reduced the duration of observing Cold Food Festival, marked by the Clear and Bright Festival.
2. *Yan Junping.
3. That is, the rich and recluses.
4. *Writing in air.
岸花飛送客，
樯燕語留人。
賈傅才未有，
褚公書絕倫。
高名前後事，
回首一傷神。

22.52

登白馬潭

水生春纜沒，
日出野船開。
宿鳥行猶去，
叢花笑不來。
人人傷白首，
處處接金杯。
莫道新知要，
南征且未回。

22.53

野望

納納乾坤大，
行行郡國遙。
Flowers on the bank fell, seeing the traveler on his way,
swallows on the mast spoke to make me stay.
Tutor Jia Yi, where is such talent now?—1
Chu Suiliang’s calligraphy excelled all norms.2
Great fame, it happened before and again later,3
I turn my head, my spirit feeling the pain.

22.52
Setting Out from White Horse Pool

The water rises, the spring moorings sink,
the sun comes out, the boat in the wilds sets out.
Last night’s birds still go off in lines,
clumps of flowers smile but do not come.
Everyone laments white hair,
everywhere I am offered golden goblets of ale.
Don’t tell me that new friends will invite me,
from my southward journey I have not returned.

22.53
View of the Wilds

Heaven and Earth are great, encompassing all,
on and on through far provinces and domains.

---
1  *Jia Yi.
2  The calligrapher and statesman of the seventh century who had been banished to
   Tanzhou for opposing Gaozong’s intention to establish Wu Zetian as his empress.
3  Both famous men were banished to Tanzhou.
雲山兼五嶺，
風壤帶三苗。野樹侵江闊，
春蒲長雪消。扁舟空老去，
無補聖明朝。

入喬口

漠漠舊京遠，
遲遲歸路赊。殘年傍水國，
落日對春華。樹蜜早蜂亂，
江泥輕燕斜。賈生骨已朽，
淒惻近長沙。

銅官渚守風

不夜楚帆落，
避風湘渚間。
Entering Qiaokou

Cloudy mountains join together with the Five Alps, the environment here is close to the Three Miao. Wilderness trees in the river’s great breadth, spring reeds grow in snow’s melting. In a small boat I just grow old, no help to our sagely and glorious reign.

22.54

Entering Qiaokou

A vast blur, the old capital lies afar, a long journey, the road back is distant. My last years by the watery regions, in the setting sun, I face spring’s flowering. The wild orange, a riot of early bees, river mud, the light swallows aslant. Jia Yi’s bones have mouldered, in depression I draw near to Changsha.

22.55

At Tongguan Isle Waiting for a Favorable Wind

Not yet night, Chu sails are lowered, we avoid the wind among the Xiang River isles.

---

1 The range of mountains dividing Hunan and Jiangxi from Guangdong.
2 The territory of the Miao people.
3 Original note: “The northern boundary of Changsha” 长沙北界.
4 *Jia Yi.
水耕先浸草，
春火更烧山。
早泊雲物晦，
逆行波浪惻。
飛來雙白鶴，
過去杳難攀。

22.56

北風

春生南國瘴，
气待北風蘇。
向晚霾殘日，
初宵鼓大鐺。
爽攜卑濕地，
聲拔洞庭湖。
萬里魚龍伏，
三更鳥獸呼。
涤除貪破浪，
愁絕付摧枯。
執熱沉沉在，
凌寒往往須。
且知寬疾肺，
不敢恨危途。
Plowing water fields, they first flood the plants,
4 spring fires again burn the hills.¹
Mooring early, the cloud-shapes darken,
the waves, unforgiving, as we travel upcurrent.
A pair of white cranes comes flying,
8 pass by and away, too far to hitch a ride.

22.56

North Wind²

Spring brings miasma to southern lands,
the weather waits for the north wind to recover.
Toward evening the last sunlight was engulfed,
4 then early at night the Great Forge pumped its bellows.³
Briskness was carried to low and wet lands,
sounds were raised on Lake Dongting.
For ten thousand leagues fish and dragons sank under,
8 at midnight the birds and beasts cried out.
All is washed clear, I am eager to split the waves,
I give my deep worries to something as easy as snapping dry wood.
Tenacious heat may remain, swallowing all,
12 but the capacity to endure the cold is often needed.
I knew further that it would ease my sick lungs,
I dared not hate the perilous journey.

¹ Slash and burn farming.
² Original note: “At the river mouth at Xinkang; moving on after staying two nights”
³ Bringing the north wind.
再宿煩舟子，
衰容問僕夫。
今晨非盛怒，
便道即長駆。
隱几看帆席，
雲山湧坐隅。

22.57

雙楓浦

輟棹青楓浦，
雙楓舊已摧。
自驚衰謝力，
不道棟樑材。
浪足浮紗帽，
皮須截錦苔。
江邊地有主，
暫借上天迴。
I troubled the boatman to stay over a second night,
I asked my servant about my aging looks.
This morning it is not in full rage,
at once I say that we should fare far immediately.
Leaning on my armrest I look at the sail,
as cloudy mountains surge by my seat.

22.57

Double-Maple Strand

I halted my oars by a strand of green maples,
the double maple had been broken long before.
I have been shocked that my own strength could wane so,
I had not thought the same of timber for roofbeams.
The waves can float this gauze hat,
the bark may be split from the brocade moss.
If this place by the riverside has an owner,
let me borrow it a while to go up to Heaven.¹

¹ *Riding the raft.
22.58–59

詠懷二首

I

人生貴是男，
丈夫重天機。
未達善一身，
得志行所為。
嗟余竟轗軻，
將老逢艱危。
胡雛逼神器，
逆節同所歸。
河雒化為血，
公侯草間啼。
西京復陷沒，
翠蓋蒙塵飛。
萬姓悲赤子，
兩宮棄紫微。
倏忽向二紀，
奸雄多是非。
本朝再樹立，
未及貞觀時。
22.58–59
Singing My Thoughts

I

In human life most valued is being a male,
a grown-up man takes Nature’s circumstances seriously.
Before success, he cultivates individual virtue,
achieving his aims, he does what he should.
But I, alas, ended up in hard going,
approaching old age, I met trouble and peril.
That Hu cub encroached on the imperial regalia,¹
the rebels all went the same way.
Yellow River and Luo turned into blood,
lords and grandees wept in the grasses.
Then the Western Capital fell,
the kingfisher canopy flew, covered in dust.²
All the folk wept like babies,
Emperor and Crown Prince abandoned the Purple Tenuity.
In a flash we are entering a second dozen of years,
rebellious strongmen, much conflict.
Our current reign has been reestablished,
but it is no match for Zhenguan times.³

---
¹ An Lushan.
² ‘That is, the emperor fled.
³ ‘The Zhenguan reign (627–50) was the reign of Taizong.’
詠懷二首

日給在軍儲，
上官督有司。
高賢迫形勢，
豈暇相扶持。
疲苶苟懷策，
棲屑無所施。
先王實罪己，
愁痛正為茲。
歲月不我與，
蹉跎病於斯。
夜看酆城氣，
回首蛟龍池。
齒髮已自料，
意深陳苦詞。

II

邦危壞法則，
聖遠益愁慕。
飄飄桂水遊，
悵望蒼梧暮。
潛魚不銜鉤，
走鹿無反顧。
皦皦幽曠心，
拳拳異平素。
Daily provision is for army supplies,
high officials upbraid underlings in charge.
Noble worthies are forced by the situation,
how could they have the leisure to offer support?
Worn and weary, if someone harbors policies,
in his scrambling he has no way to apply them.
The former king actually took the blame on himself,
my sad pain is exactly due to this.
The years and months don’t stay with me,
time slips away, and I am sick here.
By night I look at the vapor over Feng,¹
then turn my head to the dragon pool.
I take stock of the state of my teeth and hair,
but my commitment is deep, presenting these bitter lines.

II

The realm’s peril breaks down its laws,
the sage’s distance increases sad yearning.²
Breeze-tossed, I travel the Gui’s waters,
sadly gazing on twilight over Cangwu.³
The sunken fish does not bite the hook,
the deer runs off without looking back.
Gleaming pure, this reclusive, expansive heart,
earnestly solicitous, different from how I’ve always been.⁴

¹ Sword-dragon.
² In this context, Shun.
³ The burial place of Shun.
⁴ This apparently refers to Du Fu having to humble himself seeking patronage.
詠懷二首

衣食相拘閡，
朋知限流寓。
風濤上春沙，
千里浸江樹。
逆行少吉日，
時節空復度。井竈任塵埃，
舟航煩數具。
牽纏加老病，
瑣細隘俗務。
萬古一死生，
胡為足名數。
多憂汙桃源，
拙計泥銅柱。
未辭炎瘴毒，
擺落跋涉懼。
虎狼窺中原，
焉得所歷住。
葛洪及許靖，
避世常此路。賢愚誠等差，
自愛各馳騁。
羸瘠且如何，
魄奪針灸屢。
Food and clothing constrain and impede me,
friends are cut off from my lodging as I go along.
Wind-blown billows break on spring sands,
soaking river trees for a thousand leagues.
Few lucky days for going upstream,
the time of year passes again in vain.
Letting dust gather on my well and stove,
I am troubled to often prepare my boat.
Encumbered by things, old age and sickness added,
I am hampered by petty daily tasks.
For eternity we have but a single death,
why are name and rank worth it?
Too many worries besmirch Peach Blossom Spring,¹
inept planning has me stuck by the bronze column.²
Not leaving the baneful fiery miasma,
I shake off fears of faring by water and land.
Tigers and wolves peer on the Central Plain,
how can I get to stay in these places I pass through?
Ge Hong and Xu Jing³
fled the world always on this route.
Wise man and fool are truly of different classes,
but each races headlong from love of self.
What is it like for me, frail and debilitated?—
the soul is stolen away by frequent acupuncture and moxabustion.

---

¹ *Peach Blossom Spring.
² *Ma Yuan.
³ Ge Hong was a Daoist alchemist of the fourth century; Xu Jing was a recluse of the late Eastern Han.
擁滯僮僕慵，
稽留篙師怒。
終當掛帆席，
天意難告訴。
南為祝融客，
勉強親杖屨。
結托老人星，
羅浮展衰步。

郭受，杜員外兄示詩因作此寄上

新詩海内流傳遍，
舊德朝中屬望勞。
郡邑地卑饒霧雨，
江湖天闊足風濤。
松醪酒熟旁看醉，
蓮葉舟輕自學操。
春興不知凡幾首，
衡陽紙價頓能高。

酬郭十五受判官

才微歲老尚虛名，
臥病江湖春復生。
Stuck here, my servant grows lazy,
lingering on, the boatmen get angry.
At last we must set sail,
36 it is hard to complain against Heaven’s will.
I will visit Zhurong in the south,¹
I will strive to grow close to the old fellow there.²
I will befriend and entrust myself to the Old Man Star,
40 my aging paces will go on upon Mount Luofu.³

Guo Shou, Vice-Director Du Shows me Poems/a Poem, Whereupon I Write This to Send to Him

In this sea-girt world your recent poems circulate everywhere,
of longstanding virtue, in the court they are troubled by expectation.
The land in this district town is low with abundant fog and rain,
4 the skies are vast on the rivers and lakes with plenty of windblown
billows.
The pine-needle ale is ready, soon I will watch you drunk,
the lotus-leaf boat is light, you learn to manage it yourself.
In your spring elation I know not how many poems you write,
8 but at Hengyang the price of paper has suddenly gotten higher.

22.60

Answering Administrative Assistant Guo Shou (15)

Talent little, old in years, still with hollow fame,
lying sick by the rivers and lakes springtime comes again.

¹ One of the peaks of Mount Heng.
² Literally “cane and shoes,” the cane and the privilege of entering the house to
change to slippers was the mark of an old man. This is understood as referring to
the alchemist Dong.
³ Mount Luofu was in Guangdong and a famous Daoist site.
藥裹關心詩總廢，
花枝照眼句還成。
只同燕石能星隕，
自得隋珠覺夜明。
喬口橘洲風浪促，
繫帆何惜片時程。

22.61

望嶽

南嶽配朱鳥，
秩禮自百王。
欻吸領地靈，
鴻洞半炎方。
邦家用祀典，
在德非馨香。
巡狩何寂寥，
有虞今則亡。
泊吾隘世網，
行邁越潇湘。
渴日絕壁出，
漾舟清光旁。
My medicine bag concerns me most, I have pretty much given up poems,
but when flowering branches shine in my eyes, the lines still come.
These are merely as stones of Yan, are capable of seeming meteorites,
but now I have gotten the count of Sui’s pearl and sense its brightness at night.
At Qiaokou and Tangerine Isle winds and waves press hard,
tying up your sail, why begrudge a journey of but a short while?

---

22.61

Gazing on the Marchmount

The Southern Marchmount corresponds to the Vermilion Bird,
its ritual ranking has been so through a hundred kings.
With sudden gusts it commands the earth spirits,
vast expanse over half the blazing South.
When the dynasty uses the sacrificial canon,
it depends on virtue, not on the sweet fragrance.
How far and silent is that tour made here,
now the man of the Youyu is gone.
Since I was impeded by the nets of the age,
I fared far, across the Xiao and Xiang.
The parching sun came out over the sheer cliff,
my bobbing boat was beside its clear light.

---

1 A man of Song found an unfamiliar stone and treated it as a great treasure, only to be told that this sort of stone was very common in Yan. By this Du Fu modestly refers to his own lines.
2 After helping a wounded snake, the Count of Sui was repaid by a pearl that shone in the dark. This refers to Guo’s poems.
3 That is, he is inviting Guo Shou to come visit him.
4 This is Mount Heng, the southernmost of the Five Marchmounts that defined a center and the four directions in the symbolic topography of China.
5 The Vermilion Bird was the symbolic animal representing the south.
6 These are the rituals carried out at the Marchmounts.
7 Of the offerings.
8 The sage-emperor Shun made a tour here in high antiquity.
9 Youyu was the clan of Shun.
嶽麓山道林二寺行

祝融五峰尊，
峰峰次低昂。
紫蓋獨不朝，
爭長栁相望。
恭聞魏夫人，
群仙夾翱翔。
有時五峰氣，
散風如飛霜。
牽迫限修途，
未暇杖崇岡。
歸來覬命駕，
沐浴休玉堂。
三歎問府主，
曷以贊我皇。
牲璧忍衰俗，
神其思降祥。

22.62

嶽麓山道林二寺行

玉泉之南麓山殊，
道林林壑爭盤紆。
寺門高開洞庭野，
殿腳插入赤沙湖。
Firegod Peak is the most exalted of the five,\(^1\)  
every peak rises and sinks in turn.  
Only Purple Canopy does not bow toward it as lord,\(^2\)  
it competes in height, gazing toward it looming.\(^2\)  
With respect I have heard of Lady Wei,\(^3\)  
with hosts of immortals winging around her on both sides.  
Sometimes the vapors around the five peaks  
scatter with the wind like flying frost.  
Hard-pressed, constrained by journey’s length,  
I have no chance to take my cane up the lofty hill.  
Returning, I hope to order a carriage,  
after ablutions, to rest in the jade hall.\(^4\)  
With repeated sighs I ask the master of the precincts,  
how can we assist our emperor?  
If we allow customs for sacrificial animals and jade disks to decline,  
how will the gods consider sending down blessings?

---

1. The five peaks of Mount Heng.  
2. That is, Purple Canopy Peaks is almost as high as Firegod Peak.  
3. This was Wei Huacun, a woman of the Jin dynasty, who perfected the Way and was later enfeoffed in the Daoist pantheon as the Lady of the Southern Marchmount.  
4. That is, the temple on the mountain.
五月寒風冷佛骨，
六時天樂朝香爐。
地靈步步雪山草，
僧寶人人澱海珠。
塔劫宮牆壯麗敵，
香廚松道清涼俱。
蓮花交響共命鳥，
金榜雙迴三足鳥。
方丈涉海費時節，
懸圃尋河知有無。
暮年且喜經行近，
春日兼蒙暄暖扶。
飄然斑白身奚適，
傍此煙霞茅可誅。
桃源人家易制度，
橘洲田土仍膏腴。
潭府邑中甚淳古，
太守庭內不喧呼。
昔遭衰世皆晦跡，
今幸樂國養微軀。
依止老宿亦未晚，
富貴功名焉足圖。
久為謝客尋幽慣，
細學周顒免興孤。
In mid-summer the cold wind chills the Buddha’s bones, for the day’s six divisions heavenly music comes to court at the incense burners.1

The place is numinous, at every step are plants of the Himalayas,2 every one of these precious monks is a pearl of the dark sea.

Their pagodas and compound walls are matched in glorious beauty, fragrant kitchens and paths through pines, together in pure coolness.

Among lotus blossoms cross echoes of the jīvajīvaka bird,3 golden plaques in pairs bring back the three-footed crow.4

To voyage by sea to Fangzhang is a waste of time,5 tracing the Yellow River to Xuanpu—who knows if it’s there or not?6

In my twilight years I rejoice in travels that are nearby, on spring days I also enjoy support from the sunny warmth.

Hair streaked with white and swept along, where am I headed?—beside the mists and rosy wisps here I can cut thatch for a cottage.

A household in Peach Blossom Spring is easy to construct,7 fields on Tangerine Isle are also rich and fertile.

In the city of Tanzhou it is extremely ancient and pure, in the governor’s courtyard no shouting and noise.

In the past those encountering ages of decline all hid their traces, now I enjoy a happy land to take care of my poor body.

To lodge with the old monks here it still is not too late, how can wealth, honor, deeds, and fame be worth the pursuit?

Long I have been a Xie Lingyun, accustomed to seeking secluded places,8 I should carefully study Zhou Yong to avoid betraying my inclination.9

---

1 The day at a Buddhist temple was divided into six sections; effectively this means all day.
2 In a Buddhist sutra the grasses of Snow Mountain produce wondrous fragrance.
3 In Buddhist lore the jīvajīvaka bird lives in the Himalayas.
4 The three-footed crow is the sun, hence the sunlight on the gilded sign-boards naming the halls.
5 Fangzhang was a legendary isle of the immortals in the Eastern Ocean.
6 Xuanpu in the Kunlun Range was also supposed to be a dwelling of the immortals.
7 *Peach Blossom Spring.
8 The landscape poet Xie Lingyun of the early fifth century.
9 Zhou Yong was a late fifth-century figure devoted to Buddhism.
一重一掩吾肺腑，
山鸟山花吾友于。
宋公放逐曾题壁，
物色分留与老夫。
Fold upon fold of mountains, these are my organs within, mountain birds and mountain flowers are my brothers. Lord Song, banished in exile, once wrote upon these walls, but he left part of the scenery’s beauty for this old man.

22.63

Respectfully Seeing Off Vice Censor in chief Wei Zhijin on His Way to Hu’nan

Bathed in favor, summoning Huang came gradually, for the needs of the moment they borrow Kou often. Hu’nan is secure with its back to the waters, within the gorges they recall his spring tours of inspection. The royal house continues to have many problems, the common folk depend on the great officers. Again take that couch for Xu Chi, and wherever you go wait for that lofty man.

22.64

At the Xiang River a Parting Feast for Pei Qiu (2) of the Censorate, Who is Setting Out for Daozhou

The bright sun shines on the boatmen, crimson banners scatter over the broad stream. All the lords feast the southern earl, in strict rank order they first take their places.

1 The poet Song Zhiwen of the early eighth century.
2 This is Huang Ba of the Han, at first governor of Yingchuan, which so flourished under his administration that he was recalled to the capital.
3 Kou Xun served as governor of He’nei and Yingchuan in succession. Later he followed Guangwudi to Yingchuan, where the common people asked if they could borrow him for a year.
4 The spring inspection tours he made when serving in Shu.
5 *Xu Chi.
6 Pei Qiu was named prefect of Daozhou, which lay to the south of Tanzhou. “Earl,” bo, was the archaic feudal term applied to the master of a prefecture, zhou.
鄙人奉末眷，
佩服自早年。
義均骨肉地，
懷抱罄所宣。
盛名富事業，
無取愧高賢。
不以喪亂嬰，
保愛金石堅。
計拙百僚下，
氣蘇君子前。
會合苦不久，
哀樂本相纏。
交遊颯向盡，
宿昔浩茫然。
促觴激百慮，
掩抑淚潺湲。
熱雲集曛黑，
缺月未生天。
白團為我破，
華燭蟠長煙。
鴰鶴催明星，
解袂從此旋。
上請減兵甲，
下請安井田。
This lowly fellow has enjoyed his fond regard,
I have admired him since my younger years.
The ties between us are equal to flesh and blood,
our feelings make everything known to each other.
Glorious name, rich in achievements,
nothing to put him to shame before lofty worthies.
Not entangled by ruin and rebellion,
he preserves and cherishes himself with the firmness of metal and stone.
Inept in managing my affairs, least of all the officers,
my spirits revive before this true gentleman.
Our time together has been terribly short,
happiness and sorrow are basically tied together.
Friends and associates are at once almost gone,
all that is past is a vast blur.
Urging toasts stirs a hundred cares,
repressed tears come streaming down.
Hot clouds gather in the blackening twilight,
the crescent moon has not yet appeared in the skies.
The round white fan has been broken for us,¹
splendid candles coil long lines of smoke.
The black goose hurries the morning star,
our parting of ways will come about soon.
First I ask you to lessen military operations,
second I ask you to bring peace to the farms.

¹ The round fan symbolizes union.
哭韋大夫之晉

永念病渴老，
附書遠山巔。

22.65

哭韋大夫之晉

悽愴郇瑕邑，
差池弱冠年。
丈人叨禮數，
文律早周旋。

臺閣黃圖裏，
簪裾紫蓋邊。
尊榮真不忝，
端雅獨翛然。

貢喜音容間，
馮招病疾纏。
南過駭倉卒，
北思悄聯綿。

鵩鳥長沙諱，
犀牛蜀郡憐。
素車猶慟哭，
寶劍欲高懸。
Always keep this old man, sick with diabetes, in mind, 
send a letter from afar over mountaintops.

22.65

Weeping for Grand Master Wei Zhijin

Gloomy now, the town of Xunxia,¹
the year when, capped as youths, we stood together.²
I did not deserve His Excellency’s disregard of my status
we early went around together in the rules of writing.
Towers and kiosks in the Yellow Map,³
hat-pin and gown beside Purple Awning.⁴
Truly he need not feel unworthy of honor and glory,
singularly insouciant, with gravitas and grace.
Gong’s delight, amid fame and bearing,⁵
Feng summoned, illness encumbered him.⁶
Coming south, I was shocked at his sudden demise,⁷
longing for the north, I grieved continuously.⁸
The owl is taken as an ill omen in Changsha,⁹
with its rhinos, the district of Shu cares for him.¹⁰
The white carriage, still moved to tears,¹¹
I want to suspend the precious sword on high.¹²

---

1 An ancient name for an area in Shanxi, where Du Fu first knew Wei Zhijin.
2 Around the age of twenty.
3 “Towers and kiosks” refer to the various ministries. The “Yellow Map” is Chang’an.
4 Purple Awning was one of the peaks of Mount Heng. Presumably Wei was a prefect in the region.
5 *Gong Yu.
6 *Feng Tang. Du Fu is referring to himself.
7 Of Wei Zhijin’s passing.
8 Wei was north of Changsha when he passed away.
9 *Jia Yi.
10 Referring to the stone rhinoceroses set up in Chengdu. Wei had been governor there.
11 The white carriage is the funeral wagon. In the Eastern Han, Zhang Shao and Fan Shi were good friends. When Zhang Shao died, Fan Shi lamented him in a white carriage with white horses.
12 *Ji Zha.
漢道中興盛，
韋經亞相傳。
沖融標世業，
磊落映時賢。
城府深朱夏，
江湖眇霄天。
綺樓閣樹頂，
飛旐泛堂前。
帟幕欒風燕，
笳簫急暮蟬。
興殘虛白室，
跡斷孝廉船。
童孺交遊盡，
喧卑俗事牽。
老來多涕淚，
情在強詩篇。
The Han Way, the Restoration flourishes,  
the Wei Classics, a second minister transmits them.¹  
Fullness abounding, he manifests his legacy,  
magnificent, he shines among the worthies of the time.  
The city offices deep in crimson summer,  
rivers and lakes, clear skies are remote.  
His finely wrought mansion is closed in by treetops,  
flies and funeral banners flap before the hall.  
From the sepulchral curtain they shoo away the wind-borne swallows,  
pipes and fifes shrill with evening cicadas.  
Inspiration fails me in the “empty white chamber,”²  
his tracks come no more to the Filial and Incorrupt boat.³  
The associates of my youth and childhood are gone,  
I am dragged down by the raucous baseness of common things.  
Getting old, I often shed tears,  
when feeling is present, I force myself to write a poem.  
Who will continue the governance of these hinterlands?—  
the court has difficulty with the authority of its generals.  
The cases of praise and blame in the Spring and Autumn Annals  
estem the joint perfection of reputation and capacity.

¹ A comparison with Wei Xian, Counselor in Chief of Han Xuandi, and his son Wei Xuancheng, who held the same office under Han Yuandi. Both were scholars of the Classics. Presumably Wei Zhijin had a promising son.
² The mind.
³ In the Eastern Jin, Zhang Ping was selected as Filial and Incorrupt, a recommendation by a local official that he was suited for office. When he reached the capital, he went to pay his respects to the metropolitan governor of Danyang, Liu Dan. The next day Liu Dan sent servants to find out where his boat was, which was taken as a sign of Zhang Ping’s bright prospects.
江閣臥病走筆寄呈崔盧兩侍御

客子庖廚薄，
江樓枕席清。
衰年病祗瘦，
長夏想為情。
滑憶雕胡飯，
香聞錦帶羹。
溜匙兼暖腹，
誰欲致杯罈。

潭州送韋員外牧韶州(迢)

炎海韶州牧，
風流漢署郎。
分符先令望，
同舎有輝光。
白首多年疾，
秋天昨夜涼。
洞庭無過雁，
書疏莫相忘。
22.66

Bedridden in a River Tower, Dashed Off and Sent to Cui and Lu of the Censorate

The traveler's kitchen is meagerly furnished, upstairs by the river, mat and pillow are cool. In my waning years I just get thinner from illness, through the long summer, my fancies bring feeling. For the slippery I recall meals of wild rice gruel, for the fragrant I smell a watershield soup. Dripping spoon together with a warm belly, now who is going to bring me a jug and cup?

22.67

At Tanzhou Seeing Off Supernumerary Wei Tiao to Govern Shaozhou

Tropical seas, Shaozhou's governor, a man of panache, a Han Director. Given the seal of office, fine esteem precedes him, of the same office, I feel his radiance. White-haired, sick for many years, autumn skies, last night the chill. No wild geese pass over Lake Dongting, but don't forget to send me letters.

_Du Fu's collected poems include the following verse by Wei Tiao on the same occasion._
韋迢，潭州留別杜員外院長
江畔長沙驛，
相逢纜客船。
大名詩獨步，
小郡海西偏。
地濕愁飛鵑，
天炎畏跕鷲。
去留俱失意，
把臂共潸然。

韋迢，早發湘潭寄杜員外院長
北風昨夜雨，
江上早來涼。
楚岫千峰翠，
湘潭一葉黃。
故人湖外客，
白首尚為郎。
相憶無南雁，
何時有報章。
Wei Tiao, At Tanzhou Lingering on Parting from Du, Supernumerary Reminder

Beside the river, at the station at Changsha,
we meet where the traveler’s boat is moored.
Your great fame strides alone in poetry,
my small district, isolated west of the sea.
The wetness of the land worries the Peng in flight,\(^1\)
the heat of the heavens brings the kite dread of plummeting.\(^2\)
The one going and the one staying alike feel depressed,
we clasp each others’ arms, both streaming tears.

\(\text{Du Fu's collected poems preserves some (but far from all) of the poems sent to him. The following poem is also by Wei Tiao, sent to Du fu after parting. We see how closely Du Fu's answering poems respond to the poem he received.}\)

Wei Tiao, Setting Out Early From the Pools of the Xiang, Sent to Du,
Supernumerary Reminder

The north wind, rain last night,
on the river a coolness came early.
Chu pinnacles, a thousand peaks azure,
pools of the Xiang, one leaf yellow.
My old friend, a traveler from beyond the lake,
white haired, still a court gentleman.\(^3\)
Thinking back on you, no wild geese this far south,
when will there be a piece answering mine?

---

1 *Peng bird.
2 When General *Ma Yuan was in the south, he came to a place so poisonously miasmal that he saw a kite come plummeting down as it flew over.
3 *Feng Tang.
酬韋韶州見寄

養拙江湖外，
朝廷記憶疏。
深慚長者轍，
重得故人書。
白髮絲難理，
新詩錦不如。
雖無南過雁，
看取北來魚。

樓上

天地空搔首，
頻抽白玉簪。
皇輿三極北，
身事五湖南。
戀闕勞肝肺，
論材愧杞楠。
亂離難自救，
終是老湘潭。
22.68

Answering What was Sent by Wei of Shaozhou

I nurture my clumsiness beyond the rivers and lakes,
my memories of the court grow remote.
I am put deeply to shame by my superior’s carriage track,¹
and value getting an old friend’s letter.
The strands of my white hair are hard to comb straight,
brocade is no match for your recent poem.
Although there are no geese passing south,
I look to get a fish coming north.²

22.69

Upstairs in the Tower

Between Heaven and Earth I scratch my head in vain,
often pulling out my white jade hairpin.
The imperial coach, north of the three poles,³
I live my life south of the Five Lakes.
Yearning for palace gates wears out my innards,
considering talents, I am put to shame by qi-willow and nanmu wood.
In times of trouble it’s hard to save oneself,
in the end I grow old by the pools of the Xiang.

¹ He came to visit me.
² Both wild geese and fish were poetic figures for carriers of letters.
³ That is, in the north.
22.70

遠遊

江闊浮高棟，
雲長出斷山。
塵沙連越嶺，
風雨暗荆蠻。
雁矯銜蘆內，
猿啼失木間。
弊裘蘇季子，
歷國未知還。

22.71–72

千秋節有感二首

I

自罷千秋節，
頻傷八月來。
先朝常宴會，
壯觀已塵埃。
鳳紀編生日，
龍池塹劫灰。
22.70

Far Traveling

The river vast, high roof-poles float therein,\(^1\)
clouds stretch long, coming out from the sheer cliff.
Dust and sand stretch all the way to Yuexi,
wind and rain darken Jing-mon.
Wild geese, high-fliers, hold reeds in their beaks,\(^2\)
gibbons, crying out, can’t find their tree,
here in tattered furs, Su Qin\(^3\)
passes through the domains, not knowing when he will go home.

22.71–72

Stirred by Something on the Thousand Autumns Festival\(^4\)

I
Since the Thousand Autumns Festival was stopped,
I often feel pained when the eighth month comes.
In that earlier reign there were always feasts,
those splendid sights have already turned to dust.
In the phoenix calendar they included his birthday,\(^5\)
at Dragon Pool are dug up ashes of kalpa fires.\(^6\)

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1 In reflection.
2 To avoid stringed arrows.
3 A famous wandering persuader of the Warring States era.
4 Xuanzong’s birthday, in the eighth month, was made a festival in 729 and remained so during his reign.
5 When Shaohao, the Yellow Emperor’s son, became ruler, the arrival of a phoenix led him to call the calendar the “phoenix calendar.”
6 Dragon Pool was in Xuanzong’s palace when he was a prince. The appearance of a dragon in the pool gave the pool its name and was associated with Xuanzong’s ascension to the throne. The “kalpa fires,” the destruction of the earth after a Buddhist eon, here refers to the destruction caused by the An Lushan Rebellion.
千秋節有感二首

湘川新涕淚，
秦樹遠樓臺。
寶鏡群臣得，
金吾萬國回。
衢尊不重飲，
白首獨餘哀。

御氣雲樓敞，
含風彩仗高。
仙人張內樂，
王母獻宮桃。
羅襪紅蕖豔，
金羁白雪毛。
舞階銜壽酒，
走索背秋毫。
聖主他年貴，
邊心此日勞。
桂江流向北，
滿眼送波濤。
By the Xiang River, new tears,  
8 Qin’s trees, towers and terraces far.  
Then a crowd of officials got precious mirrors,  
now the Jinwu Guard have gone back to the thousands of domains.  
I will never again drink a toast on the great avenue,  
12 white-haired, only lament remains.

II

The imperial aura extended over cloud-high towers,  
the bright-colored ceremonial array stood high in the wind.  
Immortals performed Inner Court music,  
4 the Queen Mother presented palace peaches.¹  
Gossamer stockings, as voluptuous as red lotus,  
golden bridles on pelts white as snow.  
The latter danced by the stairs, holding goblets to toast longevity,²  
8 the former ran on tight-ropes, backward on the slimmest thread.³  
What the sage ruler esteemed in those years  
these days belabor a heart concerned with the frontier.⁴  
The Gui River flows toward the north,  
12 sending off waves and billows that fill my eyes.

¹ The Queen Mother of the West, here standing for Lady Yang, came to wish Han Wudi long life.  
² Xuanzong’s famous dancing horses.  
³ For the birthday festivities there were dancing tightrope walkers.  
⁴ The present emperor suffers the consequences of those extravagances.
奉贈盧五丈參謀瑁

恭惟同自出，
妙選異高標。
入幕知孫楚，

披襟得鄭僑。
丈人藉才地，
門閥冠雲霄。
老矣逢迎拙，

相於契託饒。
賜錢傾府待，
爭米駐船遙。
鄰好艱難薄，

泯心杼軸焦。
客星空伴使，
寒水不成潮。素髮乾垂領，

銀章破在腰。
說詩能累夜，
醉酒或連朝。
藻翰惟牽率，

湖山合動搖。
22.73

Respectfully Sent to Counselor Lu Ju (5)¹

With respect I consider how our origins are the same,² but in the careful selection you differ as a high standard.³ Entering headquarters, we recognize Sun Chu.⁴ in baring your thoughts, we find Qiao of Zheng.⁵ Relying on your talents and status, you have family achievements that crown the highest clouds. I am old indeed, inept in social relations, you treat me well, with ample friendly advice. Your whole district awaits cash to be presented, halted boats stretch far, seeking grain shipments. But neighbors, on good terms, may be impoverished by hardship,⁶ the farmers’ hearts have urgent worries about shuttle and loom. This wandering star keeps you company in vain on your mission, the cold waters will never rise to high tide.⁷ My white hair hangs dryly on my collar, my silver badge, though battered, is at my waist. We can spend nights on end discussing poetry from morning to morning get drunk on ale. The finery of rhetoric draws us on, the lakes and mountains should be shaken.

¹ Original note: “At the time the Counselor had come on a mission from Jiangling; and in Changsha awaits instruction, while he seeks to be paid cash and grain tax” 時丈人使自江陵, 在長沙待恩旨, 先支率錢米.
² That is, Du Fu’s mother had the same surname as Lu Ju’s mother.
³ That is, in being chosen for this office.
⁴ Sun Chu was an Eastern Jin recluse employed by a general.
⁵ Gongsun Qiao, most commonly known as Zichan, was the famous minister of the state of Zheng in the Spring and Autumn Annals period.
⁶ Changsha which is to send grain and cash to Jiangling, is itself in need.
⁷ Referring to the ability of Tanzhou to provide supplies for Jiangling.
時清非造次，
興盡卻蕭條。
天子多恩澤，
24
蒼生轉寂寥。
休傳鹿是馬，
莫信鵩如鴞。
未解依依袂，
28
還斟泛泛瓢。
流年疲蟋蟀，
體物幸鷦鷯。
辜負滄洲願，
32
誰云晚見招。

惜別行送劉僕射判官

聞道南行市駿馬，
不限匹數軍中須。
襄陽幕府天下異，
4
主將儉省憂艱虞。
祗收壯健勝鐵甲，
豈因格鬥求龍駒。
而今西北自反胡，
8
麒麟蕩盡一匹無。
Peace in this age is not to be achieved quickly,  
our inspiration exhausted, we turn gloomy.  
The Son of Heaven shows much kind grace,  
but the common folk grow ever more dispirited.  

Cease to pass on word that a deer is a horse,  
do not believe that the *fu*-owl is like an ordinary owl.  
Before we part, our hearts fill with longing,  
again ladle out a brimming gourdful of ale.  
The passing year wears out the crickets,  
among the form of creatures, the wren is blessed.  
I have betrayed my wish for the gray isles,  
who thinks I will be summoned late in life?

22.74

Ballad Regretting Parting: Seeing Off Liu, the Administrative Assistant  
of the Vice-Director

I have heard that you have come south to buy fine horses,  
no limit to the number, that are needed by the army.  
The headquarters at Xiangyang is a rarity in the world,  
the commanding general is frugal and worries about our troubles.  
He only takes in the sturdy ones that can bear up iron armor,  
for the sake of combat he is not seeking out dragon colts.  
These days in the north and west since the Hu rebelled  
the place is swept bare of unicorn steeds, not a single one is left.

1 The famous story of Qin Ershi’s powerful minister Zhao Gao, who called a deer a horse, and all the officials followed him.  
2 As in *Jia Yi’s fu*, the *fu*-owl is a sign of ill omen.  
3 The appearance of crickets inside the hall indicates that the year is coming to an end.  
4 Because it has a place to lodge, even though it is insignificant.  
5 That is, to live the life of a recluse.  
6 That is, he is not looking for “thousand-league horses,” known for their speed.
惜別行送劉僕射判官

龍媒真種在帝都，
子孫未落東南隅。
向非戎事備征伐，
君肯辛苦越江湖。

江湖凡馬多顦顇，
衣冠往往乘蹇驢。
梁公富貴於身疏，
號令明白人安居。

俸錢時散士子盡，
府庫不為驕豪虛。

以兹報主寸心赤，
氣卻西戎迴北狄。

網羅群馬籍馬多，
氣在驅除出金帛。
劉侯奉使光推揮，
滔滔才略滄溟窄。

杜陵老翁秋繫船，
扶病相識長沙驛。
強梳白髪提胡蘆，
手兼菊花路旁摘。

九州兵革浩茫茫，
三歎聚散臨重陽。
The true seed of the dragon-decoys are found in the capital, 
their offspring have not yet drifted to this corner of the southeast. 
Had not military matters needed provision for campaign, 
would you have been willing to suffer crossing rivers and lakes? 
The ordinary horses of the rivers and lakes are usually in poor shape, 
everywhere officials in caps and gowns ride limping donkeys. 
Master Liang is rich and noble, indifferent to his person,
the orders he gives are perfectly clear, the people dwell at peace. 
His salary he sometimes distributes entirely to gentlemen, 
the district storehouse is not emptied by rash arrogance. 
By this he repays his ruler with a loyal heart, 
a temper to make the Western Rong withdraw and turn back the northern Di folk. 
He netted herds of horses, and most were registered, 
his impulse was to chase them off, he brought forth gold and silk. 
Taking this mission Master Liu shines by being singled out, 
the flood of his talents and plans makes the gray seas seem narrow. 
This old man of Duling tied his boat up here in autumn, 
propping my sick body, I made your acquaintance at the Changsha station. 
I make myself comb my white hair and carry a gourd of ale, 
in my hands are also chrysanthemums picked by the roadside. 
In the nine regions the clash of arms spreads far and wide, 
I repeatedly sigh about meetings and partings when it comes to the Double Ninth.

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1 Liang Chongyi, the military commissioner of the Shannan East Circuit, headquartered in Xiangyang. 
2 Presumably, to chase off invading Tibetans.
重送劉十弟判官

當杯對客忍涕淚，
不覺老夫神內傷。

重送劉十弟判官

分源豕韋派，
別浦雁賓秋。
年事推兄忝，

人才覺弟優。
經過辨酆劍，
意氣逐吳鉤。

垂翅徒衰老，
先鞭不滯留。
本枝凌歲晚，
高義豁窮愁。

他日臨江待，
長沙舊驛樓。
Ale before me, I face my guest and let myself weep,
do you not sense that this old man feels a wounded spirit within?

22.75

Again Seeing Off Administrative Assistant Liu (10)

Divided fountainhead, offshoots of the Shiwei lineage,\(^1\) parting’s shores, autumn of migrant geese.
In terms of age I am embarrassed to be your senior,
as for talent, I feel my junior is superior.
As soon as you came, I distinguished Feng’s sword,\(^2\) your temperament goes with the Wu scimitar.\(^3\)
Wings drooping, I waste away in age to no purpose,
you ride off ahead, not tarrying.\(^4\)
The same lineage branch, braving the year’s lateness,
your high sense of right eases my extremes of sadness.
In days to come I will wait here, looking out on the river,
at the tower of the old station in Changsha.

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\(^1\) Du Fu is claiming common ancestry with Liu in antiquity.
\(^2\) *Sword-dragon.*
\(^3\) A weapon of great sharpness.
\(^4\) Riding off ahead is to take a position before someone else.