湖中送敬十使君適廣陵

相見各頭白，
其如離別何。
幾年一會面，
今日復悲歌。
少壯樂難得，
歲寒心匪他。
氣纏霜匣滿，
冰置玉壺多。
遭亂實漂泊，
濟時曾琢磨。
形容吾校老，
膽力爾誰過。
秋晚嶽增翠，
風高湖湧波。
鶱騰訪知己，
淮海莫蹉跎。
23.1

On the Lake Seeing Off Prefect Jing (10) On His Way to Guangling

When we meet, each of us is white-haired,  
but separation can’t be helped.  
In how many years do we meet even once?—  
today I sing out sadly again.  
Hard to again find joys of youth and one’s prime,  
in the cold of the year our hearts are as brothers.  
The aura surrounding the frosty sword-case is full,  
the ice is much, set in a pot of jade.¹  
Meeting upheavals, I have been tossed along indeed,  
you have honed yourself to rescue the age.  
In appearance I look the older,  
in force of courage who can surpass you?  
Autumn is late, the great mountains here increase their green,  
the wind is high, waves surge on the lake.  
Mounting into flight, you will visit friends,  
on the seas and the Huai let not time slip past.

---

¹ A standard figure for lofty purity of character.
23.2

晚秋長沙蔡五侍御飲筵送殷六參軍歸澧州覲省

佳士欣相識，
慈顏望遠遊。
甘從投轄飲，
肯作置書郵。
高鳥黃雲暮，
寒蟬碧樹秋。
湖南冬不雪，
吾病得淹留。

23.3

別張十三建封

嘗讀唐實錄，
國家草昧初。
劉裴建首義，
龍見尚躊躇。
秦王撥亂姿，
一劍總兵符。
汾晉為豐沛，
暴隋竟滌除。
23.2  
Late Autumn in Changsha: Censor Cai (5) Holds a Banquet, Seeing Off Administrator Yin (6) Who is Going Back to Lizhou to See His Parents

When I happily got to know this excellent gentleman, his mother’s face was gazing for her far-roaming son. Cai indulges in the kind of drinking that tosses wheel-pins,\(^1\) is he willing to be the courier who delivered letters?\(^2\)

High birds, yellow clouds at twilight, cold weather cicadas, an autumn of emerald green trees. In Hu’nan it does not snow in winter, sick, I can linger on here.

23.3

Parting From Zhang Jianfeng (13)

I have read the *Factual Records of the Tang*, of the dynasty’s first founding. Liu and Pei made the first proposal,\(^3\) the dragon had appeared, but still he hesitated.\(^4\) The Prince of Qin had the stuff to quell disorder,\(^5\) with a single sword he brought command of the troops together. The Fen and Jin were our Feng and Pei,\(^6\) and at last violent Sui was swept away.

---

1 In the Western Han, Chen Zun loved to drink with guests so much that when they were in their cups, he would lock the gate and toss the wheel-pins of their carriages into his well in order to to prevent them from leaving.
2 In *A New Account of Tales of the World* (XXIII.31) there is a story of Yin Xian, who, when going to a new post, was given over a hundred letters to deliver. When he reached Shitou Station, he threw the letters in the river saying that he would not act as a courier.
3 Liu Wenjing and Pei Ji proposed that Li Yuan should overthrow the Sui.
4 Li Yuan, Tang Gaozu.
5 Li Shimin, later Tang Taizong.
6 The area around Taiyuan, where the Tang revolt began, is here compared to the home base of Liu Bang in the founding of the Han.
宗臣則廟食，
後祀何疏蕪。
彭城英雄種，
宜膺將相圖。
爾惟外曾孫，
倜儻汗血駒。
眼中萬少年，
用意盡崎嶇。
相逢長沙亭，
乍問緒業餘。
乃吾故人子，
童丱聯居諸。
揮手灑衰淚，
仰看八尺軀。
內外名家流，
風神蕩江湖。
范雲堪晚友，
嵇紹自不孤。
擇材征南幕，
潮落回鯨魚。
載感賈生慟，
復聞樂毅書。
主憂急盜賊，
師老荒京都。
These founding officials had temples with sacrifices, but how slack have later offerings become! The heroic seed of Pengcheng\(^1\) should receive the portrait of minister or general. You are his descendant on the distaff side, remarkable and self-possessed, a blood-sweating colt.\(^2\) The other ten thousand young men I have seen are all struggling along in their aims. We met at the post pavilion in Changsha, and at first I asked of your legacy. You are, in fact, the son of an old friend, I had met you as a child in times past. In waving goodbye I shed aging tears, looking up at your six-foot body. Both your mother’s side and your father’s side are eminent, your temperament sweeps as grandly as rivers and lakes. Fan Yun could act as a friend later in life,\(^3\) Xi Shao was never an orphan.\(^4\) They selected talent for the headquarters of the Southern Campaign,\(^5\) when the high waters sink, the leviathan returns.\(^6\) I have been stirred by Master Jia having been moved to tears,\(^7\) I have also heard of Yue Yi’s letter.\(^8\) Our ruler worries over emergencies from rebels, the army grows old, the capital, a waste.

---
1 Pengcheng was the home of Liu Wenjing. Zhang Jianfeng is Liu’s descendant.
2 That is, a thousand-league horse.
3 Fan Yun of the Liang was known for acting when a friend was in need. When his friend Wang Gai died, he took care of the funeral arrangements.
4 Before he was to be executed, *Xi Kang told his son Xi Shao that his friend Shan Tao survived, so that Xi Shao would not really be an orphan. Here and in the preceding line Du Fu is asking for Zhang Jianfeng’s support.
5 This was the headquarters in the charge of Wei Zhijin.
6 Zhang Jianfeng returns to the capital as the leviathan returns to the ocean.
7 *Jia Yi.
8 Yue Yi, the general of King Hui of Yan, defeated Qi. When King Hui decided to attack Zhao, he did not employ Yue Yi, who then joined with Zhao and defeated the Yan army. King Hui sent a letter apologizing, and Yue Yi sent a letter back expressing his loyalty.
舊丘豈稅駕，
大廈傾宜扶。
君臣各有分，
管葛本時須。
雖當霰雪嚴，
未覺栝柏枯。
高義在雲臺，
嘶鳴望天衢。
羽人掃碧海，
功業竟何如。

送盧十四弟侍御護韋尚書靈柩歸上都二十韻

素幕渡江遠，
朱幡登陸微。
悲鳴駟馬顧，
失涕萬人揮。
參佐哭辭畢，
門闌誰送歸。
從公伏事久，
之子俊才稀。
How can you unhitch your team at the hills of home?—
if the great mansion lists, it should be propped up.¹
Lord and ministers, each has his station,

Guan Zhong and Zhuge Liang appeared from the needs of the times.²
Though we are set in the harshness of sleet and snow,
we do not see that juniper and cypress wither.
Your lofty sense of right belongs in those cloud terraces,³
with a neigh, you gaze towards Heavens’ avenues.⁴
If, as a feathered immortal, you sweep the emerald sea,
what, at last, will your legacy of deeds be?

23.4

Seeing Off Censor Lu (14) Guarding Minister Wei’s Coffin as it is Taken Back to the Capital: Twenty Couplets

The pale awning crosses the river afar,
the red streamers grow faint, moving on land.
Neighing sadly, the four-horse team looks back,
ten thousand men wipe away streaming tears.
When his subordinates have finished weeping and take their leave,
who of his clients accompanies the coffin back?
Lu followed his lordship as a subordinate for a long time,
the exceptional talents of such a man are rare.

¹ The state.
² *Zhuge Liang was the minister of Liu Bei, ruler of the Shu-Han Kingdom; Guan Zhong was Liu Bei’s best general.
³ Court.
⁴ Zhang Jianfeng is represented as a thousand-league horse.
長路更執繋，
此心猶倒衣。
感恩義不小，
懷舊禮無違。
墓待龍驤詔，
臺迎獬豸威。
深衷見士則，
雅論在兵機。
戎狄乘妖氣，
塵沙落禁闈。
往年朝謁斷，
他日掃除非。
但促銅壺箭，
休添玉帳旂。
動詢黃閣老，
肯慮白登圍。
萬姓瘡痍合，
群凶嗜慾肥。
剌規多諫諍，
端拱自光輝。
儉約前王體，
風流後代希。
對揚期特達，
衰朽再芳菲。
On the long journey he continues to hold the coffin-rope, such a heart still flustered by duty’s urgency. Stirred by grace shown him, his sense of right is not small, thinking of the past, he omits no ritual.

The tomb awaits an edict like that for the Dragon-rising General, the Censorate will welcome the authority of the truth-discerning beast. In the depth of his feelings we see the model for gentlemen, his cultivated discussions concern occasions for military action.

The western tribes took advantage of the aura of witchery, dust and sand fell on the palace gates. The court visits of bygone years ceased, the power to sweep away enemies as in past days was no more.

Let His Majesty simply hasten to the marker in the bronze pot, and cease to add to the banners of commanders.

May he always consult the elders of the Chancellory, they are willing to brood on an encirclement at Baideng. The wounds of the common folk congregate, while hosts of evil people fatten with their desires. Many are the petitions of warning and urging, if he rules with folded hands, he will naturally give off radiance.

Frugality was the norm of the former kings, later ages should look to such panache.

I anticipate special regard, for you facing His Majesty in gratitude, then these mouldering bones of mine will bloom again.

---

1 Literally “putting clothes on backwards,” from the Classic of Poetry, suggesting admirable eagerness to carry out a duty.
2 Wang Jun, the Dragon-rising General of the Jin, who was granted an unusually large tomb plot.
3 The xiezhi was a legendary beast with one horn that could distinguish the straight from the crooked, hence it was on the cap of censors, like Lu.
4 That is, the Tibetans took advantage of the struggles with the northeastern generals following the An Lushan Rebellion.
5 Referring to the brief Tibetan occupation of Chang’an in 763.
6 That is, foreign peoples ceased coming to court.
7 The waterclock. That is, the emperor should attend to dawn court and civil matters.
8 On this occasion Han Gaozu was surrounded by the Xiongnu. That is, let the elder statesmen take care of keeping the emperor out of danger.
蘇大侍御渙，靜者也，旅於江側，凡是不交州府之客，人事都絕久矣。

空裏愁書字，
山中疾采薇。
撥杯要忽罷，
抱被宿何依。

眼冷看征蓋，
兒扶立釣磯。
清霜洞庭葉，
故就別時飛。

23.5

蘄大侍御渙，靜者也，旅於江側，凡是不交州府之客，人事都絕久矣。肩輿江浦，
忽訪老夫舟檝，而已茶酒內，余請誦近詩，肯吟數首，才力素壯，辭句動人。接
對明日，憶其湧思雷出，書篋几杖之外，
殷殷留金石聲。賦八韻記異，亦記老夫傾
倒於蘇至矣

龐公不浪出，
蘇氏今有之。
再聞誦新作，
突過黃初詩。
乾坤幾反覆，
揚馬宜同時。
In sorrow I write words in the air,\(^1\)
in the mountains I am sick, picking wild beans.\(^2\)
I cast my ale-cup aside, invitations at once ended,
my quilt in arms, with whom can I lodge for the night?
My eyes are frozen watching your journeying canopy,
my son supports me as I stand on the fishing jetty.
Clear frost on the leaves of Lake Dongting,
they purposely fly loose at the time of parting.

23.5

Attendant Censor Su Huan Is a Tranquil Man; Taking Lodgings by the Riverside, He Does Not Generally Associate with Visitors from the Prefectural Government and Has Long Cut Himself Off from All Social Relations. Taking a Palanquin on the Riverbank, He All at Once Paid a Call on This Old Fellow’s Boat. Afterward, While Drinking Tea and Ale, I Asked Him to Chant His Recent Poems. He Was Willing to Recite a Few, and the Force of His Talent Was as Vigorous as Ever, With Phrasing and Lines That Moved a Person. On the Day Following His Visit, I Recalled Having Been Struck with Wonder at His Surging Thoughts; and around My Book-box, Armrest, and Cane There Remained the Rumbling Sound of Metal and Stone. I Composed Eight Couplets to Record This Wonder and to Record How This Old Fellow Was Bowled Over by Su’s Arrival.

Pang Degong did not go out haphazardly,\(^3\)
the same is now true of Mr. Su.
I have also heard him recite his recent compositions,
these surpass the poems of the Huangchu reign.\(^4\)
Since then how often have Heaven and Earth turned upside-down?—yet he is fit to be of the same time as Yang Xiong and Sima Xiangru.

---

\(^1\) Writing in air.
\(^2\) Bo Yi and Shu Qi.
\(^3\) Pang Degong.
\(^4\) 220–226, the reign of Cao Pi as Wei Wendi, anachronistically associated with the poetry of *Ruan Ji and *Xi Kang.
暮秋枉裴道州手札率爾遣興寄遞呈蘇渙侍御

久客多枉友朋書，
素書一月凡一束。
虛名但蒙寒溫問，
泛愛不救溝壑辱。
齒落未是無心人，
舌存恥作窮途哭。
道州手札適復至，
紙長要自三過讀。
盈把那須滄海珠，
入懷本倚崑山玉。

今晨清鏡中，
勝食齋房芝。
餘髮喜卻變，
白間生黑絲。
昨夜舟火滅，
湘娥簾外悲。
百靈未敢散，
風波寒江遲。

23.6
In Late Autumn I Received a Letter from Pei of Daozhou

This morning in the clear mirror is better
than eating the magic mushrooms that grew in the fasting chamber.¹
I rejoice that my hairs have turned back,
among the white appear black strands.
Last night when the fire in the boat went out,
the maidens of the Xiang mourned outside the curtain.
All the spirits gathered would not disperse,
the wind and waves moved slowly on the cold river.

Su Huan, so extravagantly praised here, later threw his lot in with a local rebellion and was ultimately executed.

23.6
In Late Autumn I Received a Letter from Pei of Daozhou and At Once Expressed My Response, Sending it to Him and Showing it to Censor Su Huan

Long a wayfarer, I often receive letters from my friends,
letters in one month make up a single bundle.
For baseless fame I just receive questions about how I’m doing,
but the general affection will not save me from the shame of being left dead in a ditch.
Though my teeth have fallen, I’m not yet a man who doesn’t care,
my tongue survives, but I’m ashamed to weep at the end of my road.²
A letter from Daozhou happened to arrive,
though the paper was long, I had to read it over and over again.
To fill my hands what need have I of pearls from the gray sea?—
to enter my bosom I can truly rely on Kunlun Mountain jade.

¹ That is, Su’s poetry turned his white hair black and reversed the effects of aging like eating the magic fungus that appeared in the fasting chamber of Han Wudi.
² After failing in his early persuasions, Zhang Yi returned home and asked his wife if his tongue was still there. When she answered that it was, he said, “That’s enough.” *Ruan Ji.
撥棄潭州百斛酒，
蕪沒瀟岸千株菊。
使我晝立煩兒孫，
令我夜坐費燈燭。
憶子初尉永嘉去，
紅顏白面花映肉。
軍符侯印取豈遲，
紫燕綠耳行甚速。

聖朝尚飛戰鬥塵，
濟世宜引英俊人。
黎元愁痛會蘇息，
夷狄跋扈徒逡巡。
授鉞築壇聞意旨，
頹綱漏網期彌綸。
郭欽上書見大計，
劉毅答詔驚群臣。
他日更僕語不淺，
明公論兵氣益振。
傾壺簫管黑白髮，
儛劍霜雪吹青春。
I set aside my hundred gallons of Tanzhou ale,
let my thousand stalks of chrysanthemums by the Xiao’s shore sink in
weeds.
It causes me to stand up in daytime bothering my lad,¹
and it makes me waste lamp oil and candle sitting at night.
I recall when you first went off as sheriff of Yongjia,
ruddy complexion, naive, flesh shining like a flower.
A commander’s tally, a badge of a count you were not slow to get,
Purple Swallow and Lu’er went extremely swiftly.²

In our sage reign still there flies the dust of combat,
to save the age it is fit to draw in outstanding men.
The sorrows and pains of the common folk will someday cease and heal,
violece of the Yi and Di folk lingers on pointlessly.
To hand over the ax and build an altar I have heard of the ruler’s
intent,³

I hope you will bring to order the ruined net of control.
A Guo Qin petitioning the throne, we see great plans,⁴
a Liu Yi answering the royal command, he shocked all the officers.⁵
In bygone days when the “servant changed,” the talk was not shallow,⁶
when Your Excellency discusses military matters your spirit is
increasingly roused.
Drained jugs and pipes and fifes blackened my white hair,⁷
the dance of swords sent frost and snow blowing through green spring.

¹ Probably to support him.
² Purple Swallow was a famous horse of Han Wendi; Lu’er was one of the horses of
King Mu of Zhou.
³ To send out a general.
⁴ A Western Jin figure who sent plans for pacifying the frontiers.
⁵ Jin Xiaowudi (r. 373–396) asked Liu Yi what Han emperor he could be compared
to, and Liu Yi named Huandi and Lingdi, two of the worst Eastern Han emperors.
When Xiaowudi was shocked, Liu Yi went on to say that Xiaowu was, in fact, not
as good as Huandi and Lingdi.
⁶ Having such a long discussion that the attendant servant became tired and had to
be replaced.
⁷ Here Du Fu turns from Pei Qiu to his recent meeting with Su Huan.
宴筵曾語蘇季子，
後來傑出雲孫比。
茅齋定王城郭門，
藥物楚老漁商市。
市北肩輿每聯袂，
郭南抱甕亦隱几。
無數將軍西第成，
早作丞相東山起。
鳥雀苦肥秋粟菽，
蛟龍欲蟄寒沙水。
天下鼓角何時休，
陣前部曲終日死。

附書與裴因示蘇，
此生已愧須人扶。
致君堯舜付公等，
早據要路思捐軀。

23.7

奉贈李八丈判官曛

我丈時英特，
宗枝神堯後。
珊瑚市則無，
騄驥人得有。
At the feast we spoke of Su Jizi,\(^1\) his posterity has been outstanding, his distant descendant is his match.\(^2\) A reed-thatched study at the gate of the city of the Prince of Ding,\(^3\) for medicines this old man of Chu came to the fishermen’s market. North of the market in his palanquin he always takes my hand, south of the city he hugs a jug leaning on his armrest. For countless generals western mansions have been completed,\(^4\) soon he should become a minister rising from East Mountain villa.\(^5\) Birds get terribly fat on autumn grain and beans, dragons are ready to hibernate in cold waters and sand.\(^6\) Drums and bugles all over the world, when will they cease?— in the battle lines the regiments die the whole day through.

I send this letter to Pei and also show it to Su, in this life I am ashamed to need the support of others. To bring our ruler to be a Yao or Shun I entrust to your sort, as soon as you can hold a crucial spot think on self-sacrifice.

\(^{23.7}\)

Respectfully Presented to Administrative Assistant Li Xun (8)

You, sir, are exceptional in these times, a branch of the imperial clan, the posterity of Divine Yao.\(^7\) A coral is not to be found in the market, can one find a steed like Lu’er or Qiji among ordinary men?

---

1 'The Warring States persuader Su Qin.
2 'That is, Su Huan in the title.
3 'The Prince of Changsha in the time of Han Jingdi.
4 Liang Ji of the Eastern Han was made a general and built a large mansion in the western part of Luoyang. This refers to the Tang generals of the time.
5 'Xie An.
6 'That is, the worthless get posts and riches, while the worthy hide in the outlands.
7 The posthumous title of Tang Gaozu.
早年見標格，
秀氣衝星斗。
事業富清機，
官曹正獨守。
頃來樹嘉政，
皆已傳眾口。
艱難體貴安，
冗長吾敢取。
區區猶歷試，
炯炯更持久。
討論實解頤，
操割紛應手。
筐書積諷諫，
宮闕限奔走。
入幕未展材，
秉鈞孰為偶。
所親問淹泊，
泛愛惜衰朽。
垂白亂南翁，
委身希北叟。
真成窮轍鮒，
或似喪家狗。
秋枯洞庭石，
風颯長沙柳。
In your early years you showed yourself a model,
a splendid aura striking the constellations.
Your accomplishments are enriched by clear understanding,
you maintain singular integrity among officialdom.
Recently you have established excellent governance,
all has been passed on by many mouths.
“In hardships the best form is peaceful rule—
how would I dare choose what is superfluous?”
In this minor service you are still being tested;
radiant, you continue to sustain it long.
Discussing a topic, you truly make one’s face cheerful,
in grasping and cutting, complex things respond to your hand.
Among your papers in your trunk are piles of critical petitions,
but you are blocked from running about in the palace gates.
In headquarters you cannot fully extend your talents,
but who would be your equal in holding the potter’s wheel?
My kind friend enquires about my lingering here,
your general affection pities me, moldering away.
Getting white-haired, I am confused with an old southerner,
I entrust myself aiming to be that Old Man of the North.
Truly I have become that carp, desperate in a carriage rut,
or I resemble a dog that has lost its home.
Autumn dries out the rocks of Lake Dongting.

---

1 The post of administrative assistant was a low one.
2 That is, in managing the complexities of government.
3 Governing.
4 This seems to be the “old man of the frontier.” When neighbors consoled or congratulated him on a series of events, he responded to condolence with “How do you know this might not be good fortune?” When they congratulated him, he responded, “How do you know this might not be misfortune?” In each case he was right.
5 A figure for desperate straits.
6 This was a standard figure for someone who had no one on whom to rely. Originally it was a simile for Confucius when in desperate straits in the state of Zheng.
高興激荊衡，
知音為回首。

23.8

奉送魏六丈佑少府之交廣

賢豪贊經綸，
功成空名垂。
子孫不振耀，
歷代皆有之。
鄭公四葉孫，
長大常苦饑。
眾中見毛骨，
猶是麒麟兒。
磊落貞觀事，
致君樸直詞。
家聲蓋六合，
行色何其微。
遇我蒼梧陰，
忽驚會面稀。
議論有餘地，
公侯來未遲。
虛思黃金貴，
自笑青雲期。
My high inspiration is stirred by Jingzhou and Mount Heng,
and my understanding friend turns his head for me.

23.8

Respectfully Seeing Off Sheriff Wei You (6) Going to Jiaozhou and Guangzhou

A powerful worthy contributed to managing state affairs,
once his deeds were done, only fame is passed on.
His descendants are not prominent,
this happens in every generation.
The Duke of Zheng’s fourth-generation descendant grew up ever in hunger and suffering.
If you look on his pelt and frame in a crowd,
he is still the foal of the unicorn.
Grand were those events of the Zhenguan reign,
he made his ruler a sage with plain and straight words.
The family’s fame covered every direction,
how humble now this one looks in his travels!
You met me on the north slope of Cangwu,
at once we were shocked at how rarely we see each other.
In your argument there was ample scope,
a noble title will not be long in coming.
Vainly you long for honor of yellow gold,
you laugh at your own hope to be in the blue clouds.

---
1 Wei Zheng, Taizong’s famous minister, was made Duke of Zheng. Wei You is a fourth-generation descendant.
2 The reign of Taizong.
長卿久病渴，
武帝元同時。
季子黑貂敝，
得無妻嫂欺。
尚為諸侯客，
獨屈州縣卑。
南遊炎海甸，
浩蕩從此辭。
窮途仗神道，
世亂輕土宜。
解帆歲云暮，
可與春風歸。
出入朱門家，
華屋刻蛟螭。
玉食亞王者，
樂張遊子悲。
侍婢豔傾城，
絹紈輕霧霏。
掌中琥珀鐘，
行酒雙逶迤。
新歡繼明燭，
梁棟星辰飛。
兩情顧盼合，
珠碧贈於斯。
Sima Xiangru had long been sick with diabetes, 
20 he was, in fact, of the same times as Emperor Wu.¹ 
Su Qin’s black sables lay in tatters,² 
could he avoid maltreatment by his wife and sister-in-law?³ 
You are still a client of the regional lords, 
24 alone humbled in low position in prefectures and counties. 
You travel south, to the wilds of tropic seas, 
from this point you take leave, off into the vastness. 
At journey’s end you rely on the way of the gods, 
28 in troubled times, you care not what is suitable to the place. 
You will pull down your sail as the year draws to a close, 
will you be able to return with the spring breeze? 
You will come and go in homes with vermilion gates, 
32 splendid chambers carved with dragons. 
Fine foods outdoing even princes, 
music performed at which the traveler grieves. 
The serving wenches, so gorgeous they could topple cities, 
36 gossamer finery light as sifting fog. 
In their hands are goblets of amber, 
passing ale, they come winding in pairs. 
New pleasures continue with bright candles, 
40 on beams and ridge-pole stars fly. 
The hearts of a pair agree with a glance, 
at this point pearls and green jade are given.

¹ When Emperor Wu read the “Zixu fu” he sighed that the author was not of his own age; he learned that *Sima Xiangru was indeed of his age. 
² The wandering persuader Su Qin had sable furs that wore out in his wanderings place to place. 
³ When Su Qin came home after having failed to persuade the King of Qin, his wife, weaving, did not acknowledge his presence, and his sister-in-law didn’t prepare food for him.
上貴見肝膽，
下貴不相疑。
心事披寫間，
氣酣達所為。
錯揮鐵如意，
莫避珊瑚枝。
始兼逸邁興，
終慎賓主儀。
戎馬闡天宇，
鳴呼生別離。

23.9

北風

北風破南極，
朱鳳日威垂。
洞庭秋欲雪，
鴻雁將安歸。
十年殺氣盛，
六合人煙稀。
吾慕漢初老，
時清猶茹芝。
Most prized is to see the spirit within,
next most prized is to have no suspicions.
While matters of the heart are being divulged,
temperaments are tipsy, and do what they will.
Wrongly wielding an iron staff,
they do not avoid the branch of coral.¹
At first enjoy all their extravagant whims,
in the end take care about the behavior of guest to host.
Warhorses darken heaven’s vault,
alas, to be parted while we still live.

23.9
North Wind
The north wind smashes the southern pole,
the vermilion phoenix’s sway droops lower each day.²
On Lake Dongting it is ready to snow in autumn,
where will the swan and wild goose go?
Death’s atmosphere has been ascendant a decade,
hearth-smoke gets rarer in every direction.
I admire the old men from the early Han
who still fed on magic mushrooms when times were pure.³

---
¹ *A New Account of Tales of the World* (XXX.8): Wang Kai was given a two-foot branch of coral by Jin Wudi. At a party with Shi Chong, he showed it to Shi Chong, who swung an iron staff and smashed it. Wang Kai was upset, so Shi Chong had all his coral branches brought out, and gave him one longer.
² The red phoenix is the symbolic bird of the south.
³ *Four Graybeards.*
23.10

幽人

孤雲亦群遊，
神物有所歸。
麟鳳在赤霄，
何當一來儀。
往與惠荀輩，
中年滄洲期。
天高無消息，
棄我忽若遺。
內懼非道流，
幽人見瑕疵。
洪濤隱語笑，
鼓枻蓬萊池。
崔嵬扶桑日，
照曜珊瑚枝。
風帆倚翠蓋，
暮把東皇衣。
嘗漱元和津，
所思煙霞微。
知名未足稱，
局促商山芝。
23.10

The Recluse

Even the lone cloud roams in company—
in the divine creature it has a place of return.¹

The unicorn and phoenix are in red upper clouds,
when will they come and display themselves?

In the past with the ilk of Huiyuan and Xu Xun²
I promised to meet in mid-life upon gray isles.
But the heavens are high and there is no news;

they abandon me suddenly, as if leaving me behind.
Within me I fear I am not the Daoist sort,
and the recluse sees my flaws.

Huge billows mute his laughter and speech,
he pulls the sweep to the pool of Penglai.³

Towering high, the sun at Fusang⁴
shines radiant on the branches of coral.

With a windblown sail, he rests by the azure awning,
at twilight he clasps the robes of the Sovereign of the East.⁵

He drinks and rinses with the Ford of Primal Harmony,⁶
what he longs for is the faintness of cloud and wisps.

A name known deserves no commendation,
it constrained even the magic mushrooms on Mount Shang.⁷

---

¹ That is, the dragon.
² Huiyuan was a famous late fourth-century/early fifth-century monk; Xu Xun was a mid-fourth-century poet famous for his metaphysical (xuanyan) verse.
³ The isle of the immortals in the Eastern Ocean.
⁴ The tree in the Eastern Ocean where the sun rises.
⁵ The Sovereign of the East is one of the leading deities in the Daoist pantheon.
⁶ The “Ford of Primal Harmony” is a Daoist technical term for spittle.
⁷ *Four Graybeards.
五湖復浩蕩，
歲暮有餘悲。

23.11

江漢

江漢思歸客，
乾坤一腐儒。
片雲天共遠，
永夜月同孤。
落日心猶壯，
秋風病欲蘇。
古來存老馬，
不必取長途。

23.12

地隅

江漢山重阻，
風雲地一隅。
年年非故物，
處處是窮途。
喪亂秦公子，
悲涼楚大夫。
Now again swept along on the Five Lakes,  
at year’s end I have ample sorrow.

23.11

Yangzi and Han

At Yangzi and Han, a traveler longing to go home,  
between Earth and Heaven, one Confucian hack.  
A puff of cloud, Heaven shares such distance;  
the long night, moon the same in solitude.  
In the setting sun, the heart still vigorous,  
in autumn wind, sickness almost cured.  
From ancient days, when taking care of old horses,  
one has not made them take to the long road.

23.12

The Corner of the Earth

At Yangzi and Han, blocked by mountains in layers,  
wind and clouds, a corner of the earth.  
From year to year, no familiar thing,  
wherever I go, that is road’s end.  
In death and destruction, Qin’s young noble;¹  
grieving and cold, Chu’s grand master.²

¹  *Wang Can.  
²  Qu Yuan.
舟中夜雪有懷盧十四侍御弟

平生心已折，
行路日荒蕪。

朔風吹桂水，
大雪夜紛紛。
暗度南樓月，
寒深北渚雲。

燭斜初近見，
舟重竟無聞。
不識山陰道，
聽雞更憶君。

對雪

北雪犯長沙，
胡雲冷萬家。
隨風且開葉，
帶雨不成花。

金錯囊徒罄，
銀壺酒易賒。
My heart as it used to be has already broken,
and the road I travel gets daily more choked with weeds.

23.13

Night Snow on My Boat: Thoughts on Censor Lu (14)

Northland winds blow the Gui’s waters,
a great snow comes thick at night.
The moon at the southern tower crosses unseen,
cold and deep, the clouds by northern isles.
The candle slants, I first see it close by,
the boat grows heavy, but I never hear anything.
I cannot make out the way to Shanyin,¹
when I hear the rooster, I think of you even more.

23.14

Facing the Snow

Northern snow invades Changsha,
Hu clouds make ten thousand homes cold.
Along with the wind it forms leaves,
mixed with rain, it doesn’t become snowflakes.²
My purse is simply bare of coins,
but ale for the silver jug is easy to get on credit.

¹ *Wang Huizhi.
² “Snowflake” is *hua* 花, “flower,” in parallel with leaves.
冬晚送長孫漸舍人歸州

無人竭浮虯，
有待至昏鴉。

23.15

冬晚送長孫漸舍人歸州

參卿休坐幄，
蕩子不還鄉。
南客潇湘外，
西戎鄠杜旁。
衰年傾蓋晚，
費日繫舟長。
會面思來札，
銷魂逐去檣。
雲晴鷗更舞，
風逆雁無行。
匣裏雌雄劍，
吹毛任選將。

23.16

暮冬送蘇四郎徯兵曹適桂州

飄飄蘇季子，
六印佩何遲。
There is no one to finish the floating lees,
8 I wait on until the crows of dusk.

23.15
Winter Late in the Day, Seeing Off Drafter Zhangsun Jian Returning to His Home Prefecture

Having ceased to sit in the tent as a counselor,¹
this wanderer has not returned home.
Sojourner in the south, past the Xiao and Xiang,
4 the western Rong are near Hu and Du.²
Years of decline, late to meet and chat,
spending the day, you tie up your boat a long time.
Meeting, we think on future letters,
8 the soul melts following your departing sail.
The clouds clear up, the gulls keep dancing,
the wind against them, the geese keep no lines.
In the case swords male and female,³
12 blow a hair over them and let one be chosen to wear.⁴

23.16
The End of Winter, Seeing Off Su Xi of the War Section Setting Off For Guizhou

Tossed along, our Su Jizi,⁵
how slow he is to wear six seals.⁶

¹ Referring to Du Fu’s service at Yan Wu’s headquarters in Chengdu.
² Counties near Chang’an.
³ *Sword-dragon.
⁴ The ability to cut a hair blown on it was proverbial for a very sharp sword, here a figure for Zhangsun Jian.
⁵ Su Qin, the wandering persuader of the Warring States, here referring to Su Xi.
⁶ As Su Qin did, serving at different times as minister of the six major states.
客從諸侯客，
兼工古體詩。
爾賢埋照久，
余病長年悲。
盧絹須征日，
樓蘭要斬時。
歲陽初盛動，
王化久磷緇。
為入蒼梧廟，
看雲哭九疑。

客從南溟來，
遺我泉客珠。
珠中有隱字，
欲辨不成書。
緘之篋笥久，
以俟公家須。
開視化為血，
哀今徵斂無。
Early he was a client of the regional lords,
also skilled at poems in the old style.
The radiance of your worth has long been buried,
I grieve over sickness in my senior years.
There must be a day to campaign against Lu Wan,¹
there is a time to behead the Loulan chief.²
Year's yang-force first begins to swell,³
the king's civilizing mission has long been stained and worn.
Enter the Cangwu temple for me,⁴
looking at the clouds, weep at the Nine Doubts Range.

23.17

A Traveler Came From

A traveler came from the Southern Deeps
and gave me a merman's pearl.
On the pearl were faint words,
I tried to make them out, but could not.
I kept it long wrapped up in a trunk,
awaiting public demands.
When I opened and looked, it had turned to blood,
and, alas, now there is nothing for my tax.

¹ Lu Wan plotted to rebel against Liu Bang, and Liu Bang defeated him. Lu Wan is compared here to Zhu Ji, who in 769 raised a rebellion in Guizhou.
² As the Han general did. Here it refers to the Tang's foreign adversaries.
³ This occurs on winter solstice.
⁴ The temple to Shun, who died there.
23.18

蠶榖行

天下郡國向萬城，
無有一城無甲兵。
焉得鑄甲作農器，
一寸荒田牛得耕。
牛盡耕，
蠶亦成。

不勞烈士淚滂沱，
男穀女絲行復歌。

23.19

白鳧行

君不見
黃鵠高於五尺童，
化為白鳧似老翁。
故畦遺穫已蕩盡，
天寒歲暮波濤中。
鱗介腥羶素不食，
終日忍飢西復東。
23.18

Silkworm and Grain: A Ballad

Domains and districts all over the world are almost ten thousand cities, and not a single city is lacking men in arms.
How can I get to melt those arms and make tools for farming?—

4 Oxen can plow every inch of fields that have run wild.
   Once oxen plow it all,
silkworms too will mature.

It will not trouble a stalwart man’s eyes to stream with tears,

8 men with grain, women with silk will walk along and sing.

23.19

The White Duck: A Ballad

Have you not seen
how the yellow goose, taller than a five-foot boy,
turns into a white duck just like an old man?
The gleanings in former fields have all been swept bare,

4 the weather is cold at year’s end and it is upon the waves.
Scaly and shelled creatures reek, it never feeds on them,
it endures its hunger all day long going west and then east again.
魯門鷦鶢亦蹭蹬，
聞道如今猶避風。

23.20

朱鳳行

君不見
　瀟湘之山衡山高，
　山巔朱鳳聲嗷嗷。
　側身長顧求其群，
　翅垂口噤心甚勞。
　下愍百鳥在羅網，
　黃雀最小猶難逃。
　願分竹實及螻蟻，
　盡使鴟梟相怒號。

高適，人日寄杜二拾遺

人日題詩寄草堂，
遙憐故人思故鄉。
柳條弄色不忍見，
梅花滿枝空斷腸。

身在遠藩無所預，
心懷百憂復千慮。
Even the *yuánju* on Lu’s gate felt hopeless and worn out, yet I’ve heard it said that nowadays it still flees the storm.

23.20

The Red Phoenix: A Ballad

Have you not seen how of mountains of the Xiao and Xiang Mount Heng is the highest, on the mountain’s top a red phoenix, its voice crying piteously?

It bends its body and stares long, seeking its own kind, it lets its wings droop, its mouth shuts, its heart greatly troubled.

It pities how all kinds of birds below are caught in nets and snares, though the brown sparrow is smallest of all, even it will be hard put to escape.

Wanting to share its fruit of bamboo even with the ants, it makes all the owls screech at it in rage.

On February 21, 770, the last year of his life, Du Fu was looking through his papers and found a poem he had long forgotten, sent to him by his friend, the poet Gao Shi.

Gao Shi, On the Day of Mankind, Sent to Reminder Du (2)

On the Day of Mankind I write a poem and send it to your thatched hut, from afar I am touched how my old friend longs for his old homeland.

How willow fronds sport their colors he cannot bear to see, plum blossoms fill the branches, but they merely break his heart.

I am in these far marches and cannot take part in policy, the heart harbors a hundred cares and then a thousand worries.

---

1 The *yuánju* was a seabird, but one once perched for three days on the gate of Lu. A diviner explained that there must be a great storm at sea, and that sea creatures can sense such ahead of time and flee.
2 The phoenix eats only the fruit of bamboo.
3 The “Day of Mankind” was a holiday on the seventh day of the first month.
今年人日空相憶，
明年人日知何處。
一臥東山三十春，
豈知書劍老風塵。
龍鍾還忝二千石，
愧爾東西南南北人。

追酬故高蜀州人日見寄

開文書帙中，檢所遺忘，因得故高常侍適（往居在成都時，高任蜀州刺史）《人日相憶見寄》詩，淚灑行間，讀終篇末。自枉詩已十餘年，莫記存沒，又六七年矣。老病懷舊，生意可知。今海內忘形故人，獨漢中王瑀，與昭州敬使君超先在。愛而不見，情見乎辭。大曆五年正月二十一日，却追酬髙公此作，因寄王及敬弟。

自蒙蜀州人日作，
不意清詩久零落。
This year on the Day of Mankind I can only think of you,
next year on the Day of Mankind I wonder where we will be.

Having once lain down on East Mountain, thirty springs went by,¹ who would have known that book and sword would grow old in the windblown dust?
An old wreck, I’m still embarrassed by a two-thousand catty salary,² and ashamed before you, someone who goes east, west, south, and north.³

### 23.21

**A Retrospective Answer to the Late Gao of Shuzhou’s “Sent Recalling You on the Day of Mankind”**

Opening the case where I keep my papers and looking into things overlooked or forgotten, I found a poem by the late Attendant-in-ordinary Gao Shi “Sent Recalling You on the Day of Mankind” (when I went to live in Chengdu, Gao was the prefect of Shuzhou). My tears fell among the lines, and I read it to the very end. It has already been more than ten years since he sent this to me, not to mention that it’s also been six or seven years since he died. Old and sick, thinking on former times, it is easy to guess how I felt. Of my true friends now left in this seagirt world, only Yu, the Prince of Hanzhong, and Jing Chaoxian, Governor of Zhaozhou survive. When one cares for someone but cannot see them, how one feels is revealed in words. On the twenty-first day of the first month of the fifth year of the Dali reign, I retrospectively answer this work by Gao, and send this to the prince and Jing.

Since I received in Shuzhou that composition on the Day of Mankind, I had not thought that this pure poem would have slipped from attention so long.

---

¹ Comparing Du Fu to the Jin stateman Xie An, who lived in retirement before being roused to support the dynasty in its peril.
² The salary of a governor.
³ This was the characterization of Confucius.
追酬故高蜀州人日見寄

今晨散帙忽開，
迸淚幽吟事如昨。　
呜呼壯士多慷慨，
合沓高名動寥廓。
歎我淒淒求友篇，
感時鬱鬱匡君略。　
錦里春光空爛熳，
瑶墀侍臣已冥寞。　
瀟湘水國傍鼋鼉，
鄠杜秋天失鵰鶚。　
東西南北更堪論，
白首扁舟病獨存。　　
遙拱北辰繫寇盜，
欲傾東海洗乾坤。　　
邊塞西蕃最充斥，
衣冠南渡多崩奔。　
鼓瑟至今悲帝子，
曳裾何處覓王門。　
文章曹植波瀾闊，
服食劉安德業尊。　　
長笛誰能亂愁思，
昭州詞翰與招魂。
This morning I spread my manuscript covers and my eyes were 
suddenly opened,
shedding tears and quietly reciting as if it were just yester day.
Alas, how that bold gentleman had a temperament often roused,
his great fame flourished and stirred in vast space.
He sighed at my gloomy poem on seeking friends,
moved by the times, pent-up plans to aid the ruler.
In Brocade City the springtime light is gorgeous in vain,
the Attendant at the jade stairs has gone into the dark.¹
In the watery lands of Xiao and Xiang I am beside turtles and alligators,
the autumn heavens at Hu and Du have lost the goshawk.²
My being a man of “east, west, south, and north”—can still be 
considered.—³
white-haired, in my small boat, I alone survive, sick.
Afar I bow to the pole star, caught up with rebels,⁴
I wish to empty the eastern ocean to wash clean Heaven and Earth.
The Tibetans on the western frontier swarm the most,
caps and gowns crossing south, mostly in a rushing flood.
Plucking their zithers even today I grieve for the emperor’s daughters,⁵
trailing my robe where can I seek the prince’s gate?⁶
A Cao Zhi in letters, the waves flow broadly,
a Liu An in swallowing elixirs, legacy of virtue august.⁷
Who with a long flute can set my sad thoughts in turmoil?⁸
writings from Zhaozhou can call back my soul.⁹

¹ Gao Shi held a court appointment after serving in Chengdu.
² Hu and Du are in the capital region. The goshawk represents Gao Shi.
³ This was how Gao Shi described Du Fu; the original referent was Confucius.
⁴ The court.
⁵ The widows of Shun, the goddesses of the Xiang River.
⁶ Li Yu, the Prince of Hanzhong. Trailing robes is to come as a client to a patron.
⁷ Li Yu is praised both as the early third-century writer Cao Zhi and the Western Han
patron of literary men, Liu An, Prince of Huainan.
⁸ In the “Fu on Longing for an Old Friend,” Xiang Xiu was stirred to think on his
deceased friend *Xi Kang on hearing the sound of a flute.
⁹ This is Jing Chaoxian, prefect of Zhaozhou, mentioned in the title.
送重表侄王砅評事使南海

我之曾老姑，
爾之高祖母。
爾祖未顯時，
4 歸為尚書婦。 
隋朝大業末，
房杜俱交友。 
長者來在門，
8 荒年自糊口。 
家貧無供給，
客位但箕帚。 
俄頃羞頗珍，
12 寂寥人散後。 
入怪鬢髮空，
吁嗟為之久。 
自陳翦髻鬟，
16 窩市充杯酒。 
上云天下亂，
宜與英俊厚。 
向竊窺數公，
20 經綸亦俱有。
Seeing Off My Remote Cousin, Case Reviewer Wang Li, on a Mission to the Southern Seas

My great-great-aunt was your great-great-grandmother. Before your ancestor became eminent she became the wife of the minister.¹ At the end of the Daye reign of the Sui he was friends with both Fang and Du.² These elders came to his home, in famine years they had only gruel. The home was poor, there was nothing to provide them, all she could do was sweep their seats clean. All of a sudden there were expensive delicacies served, but after the guests left, she was quiet and gloomy. Going in, he was shocked that her hair was gone,³ on this account he sighed a long time. She explained that she had cut her coiffure, sold it in the market to provide cups of ale. She first said: “With the turmoil in the world, it is right to be generous to outstanding men; I just secretly took a look at these gentlemen and they all possess skill in governing.”

---

¹ That is, Du Fu’s great aunt became the wife of Wang Gui, Wang Li’s great-grandfather.
² Fang Xuanling and Du Ruhui, both to become important in the Tang court.
³ That is, Wang Gui went into the women’s quarters and found that his wife’s hair was gone.
次問最少年，虯髯十八九。
子等成大名，皆因此人手。
下雲風雲合，龍虎一吟吼。
願展丈夫雄，得辭兒女醜。
秦王時在坐，真氣驚戶牖。
及乎貞觀初，尚書踐臺斗。
夫人常肩輿，上殿稱萬壽。
六宮師柔順，法則化妃后。
至尊均嫂叔，盛事垂不朽。
鳳雛無凡毛，五色非爾曹。
往者胡作逆，乾坤沸嗷嗷。
Next she asked about the youngest of all,
eighteen or nineteen with a curly beard.¹
“If you all become very famous,
24 it will be through this man’s hands.”
Last she said: “When wind and cloud meet,²
the dragon will wail and the tiger roar.
I want you to display the manliness of an important person—
28 how can you refuse a woman being made ugly!”
At the time the Prince of Qin was among the guests,³
his true aura shook the doors and windows.
When it came to the early Zhengu reign,
32 the minister stepped to the Terraces and Dipper.⁴
Her ladyship always rode in a palanquin,
and wished the Emperor long life in the palace.
The women of the six palaces took her meekness as their teacher,
36 her model transformed the empress and consorts.
His Majesty treated her equal to an elder brother’s wife,
such glory lasts on and does not decay.

Phoenix chicks have no ordinary down,
40 are their five-colored feathers not like you and your sort?
In the past when the Hu rebelled,
Heaven and Earth seethed with mournful cries.

¹ Li Shimin, later Tang Taizong.
² The meeting of minister and ruler.
³ Li Shimin.
⁴ That is, Wang Gui rose to the top positions in the government.
吾客左冯翊，
尔家同遁逃。
争夺至徒步，
块独委蓬蒿。
逗留热尔肠，
十里却呼号。
自下所骑马，
右持腰间刀。
左牵紫游缰，
飞走使我高。
苟活到今日，
寸心铭佩牢。
乱离又聚散，
宿昔恨滔滔。
水花笑白首，
春草随青袍。
廷评近要津，
节制收英髦。
北驱汉阳传，
南泛上瀧舠。
家声肯坠地，
利器当秋毫。
番禺亲贤领，
筹运神功操。
I was a traveler in Pingyi on the left,\(^1\)
your family was fleeing there with us.
In the conflict, it came to going on foot,
all alone, I fell into the weeds.
You paused, innards on fire,
and you went back ten leagues calling for me.
You got down from the horse you were riding,
your right hand clutching the sword at your waist.
In your left hand you pulled the purple reins,
you made me rise high as we flew away.
I managed to stay alive to the present day,
and it is inscribed firmly in my mind.
In turmoil's separation again we were parted,
my longstanding bitterness still floods on.
Flowers by the water laugh at my white hair,\(^2\)
spring plants go along with your green gown.\(^3\)
The case-judge is close to a crucial post,
the Commissioner gathers exceptional men.\(^4\)
From the north you sped a stage-wagon to Hanyang,
southward you sailed a skiff on the Shangshuang rapids.
Would you let your family's reputation decline?—
a sharp tool meets an autumn wisp.\(^5\)
At Fanyu is the leader of the worthy kin,\(^6\)
he makes plans with the grasp of divine achievement.

---

\(^1\) Tongzhou, when Du Fu was fleeing north with his family as An Lushan's troops were closing on the capital.
\(^2\) The “laughter” or “smiling” of flowers was a standard figure for blooming.
\(^3\) The color of gown worn by officials of Wang Li's rank.
\(^4\) Li Mian.
\(^5\) This is the metaphor for sharpness, a blade so sharp that it can cut a hair in the air.
\(^6\) That is, close members of the imperial family, here Li Mian, military commissioner of Lingnan.
大夫出盧宋，
寶貝休脂膏。
洞主降接武，
海胡舶千艘。
我欲就丹砂，
跋涉覺身勞。
安能陷糞土，
有志乘鯨鼇。
或駸駸騰天，
聊作鶴鳴皋。

23.23

清明

著處繁花矜是日，
長沙千人萬人出。
渡頭翠柳豔明眉，
爭道朱蹄騫齧膝。

此都好遊湘西寺，
諸將亦自軍中至。
馬援征行在眼前，
葛強親近同心事。
This grand master excels Lu and Song,\(^1\) he ceases to make himself rich by cowries and precious things. Tribal chieftans submit, following in each other’s footsteps, and there are a thousand galleys of the ocean foreigners. I want to go to that place of cinnabar pellets, but I feel the journey would wear out my body. How could I sink down into the dung?— my aim is to ride leviathan or the giant turtle. Some drive phoenixes and mount to the heavens, but I’ll just be the crane that sings in the marsh.\(^2\)

\(23.23\)

The Clear and Bright Festival

Everywhere the abundance of flowers shows off upon this day, from Changsha a thousand people, then ten thousand come out. Azure willows at the ford, gorgeous bright brows, red-hooves compete for the roadway, proud Biters-of-knees.\(^3\)

In this metropolis they love to visit the temples west of the Xiang, the various commanders too arrive from the army. Ma Yuan on campaign is right before my eyes,\(^4\) his favorite Ge Qiang shares what’s on his mind.\(^5\)

---

1 Lu Huan and Song Jing, military commissioners of Guangzhou in the reign of Xuanzong. Here Li Mian is referred to.
2 The “crane in the marsh,” from the \textit{Classic of Poetry}, was a figure for the recluse.
3 A horse with a great deal of spirit was said to bite its knee.
4 *Ma Yuan, here a figure for the local commander.
5 Ge Qiang was the favorite subordinate officer of *Shan Jian in the Jin.
金鐙下山紅粉晚，
牙檣捩柁青樓遠。
古時喪亂皆可知，
人世悲歡暫相違。

弟侄雖存不得書，
干戈未息苦離居。
逢迎少壯非吾道，
況乃今朝更祓除。

風雨看舟前落花戲為新句

江上人家桃樹枝，
春寒細雨出疏籬。
影遭碧水潛勾引，
風妒紅花卻倒吹。

吹花困癲傍舟楫，
水光風力俱相怯。
赤憎輕薄遮入懷，
珍重分明不來接。

濕久飛遲半欲高，
縈沙惹草細於毛。
Watching the Flowers Falling in Front of My Boat in a Storm

Golden stirrups descend the mountain, red rouge late in the day, ivory masts, the rudders turned, to blue mansions afar.¹
All the death and destruction since ancient times can be known from this,
in the human world either sadness or pleasure soon drives the other away.
Although my brothers and nephews survive, I get no letters, the clash of arms has not ceased, and I suffer living apart.
The company of young men is not my way, even more so this morning when again we drive out ill omens.²

23.24
Watching the Flowers Falling in Front of My Boat in a Storm,
I Playfully Make Novel Lines
At people’s homes by the river branches of peach trees in spring cold and fine rain come over the sparse hedges.
Their reflections meet the sapphire waters and are secretly seduced in, the wind envies the pink blossoms and blows them over.
In their wooziness the blown flowers companion the boat’s paddles, fearing both light on the water and the force of the wind.
They fiercely hate how fickle men will hide them in their bosoms, that they prize themselves is quite clear, they do not come to meet them.
Long wet they are still slow to fly off, almost half have gone off on high, they circle the sands and flirt with plants, finer than down.

¹ The “blue mansions” are the brothels, where the officers are heading.
² The Clear and Bright Festival was the time for exorcizing baleful influences, with excursions with family or friends.
蜜蜂蝴蝶生情性，
偷眼蜻蜓避伯勞。

昔在嚴公幕，
俱為蜀使臣。
艱危參大府，
前後間清塵。
起草鳴先路，
乘槎動要津。
王鳧聊暫出，
蕭雉只相馴。
終始任安義，
荒藪孟母鄰。
In honeybee and butterfly passions are stirred,
they steal glances at the dragonfly and flee the shrike.¹

23.25
Respectfully Presented to Governor Xiao (12)

Long ago in Lord Yan’s headquarters,
we were both in his service in Shu.
In a time of peril we took part in regional government,
you first, I second was cut off from his pure dust.²
You were first to be known in writing drafts,
riding the raft, you stirred a crucial position.³
For a while you went forth with Wang’s ducks,⁴
Xiao’s pheasants, well trained.⁵
From beginning to end, Ren An’s sense of right,⁶
grown wild with weeds, Mencius’s mother’s neighborhood.⁷

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¹ The call of the shrike was a sign that the season of flowers was over.
² Original note: “The second time Yan was in charge of Chengdu, I again served at
headquarters” 嚴再領成都，余復參幕府.
³ *Riding the raft. Xiao was employed in the court; riding the raft may suggest he
was sent to Shu.
⁴ *Wang Qiao. That is, Xiao served as a county magistrate.
⁵ When the filial Xiao Zhiwei went to take the post of Secretarial Court Gentleman
(langguan), several dozen pheasants flew in front of his carriage. This suggests that
Xiao also served as langguan, in Tang usage, director of a bureau. In this case, they
share the same surname.
⁶ Ren An, most famous as the recipient of Sima Qian’s letter, was a client of the
general Wei Qing. When *Huo Qubing became a famous general, most of Wei
Qing’s clients transferred their allegiance, but Ren An stayed with Wei Qing.
⁷ Mencius’s mother moved several times so that Mencius would grow up in a good
neighborhood. This seems to refer to Xiao’s concern for Yan Wu’s mother.
聯翩匍匐禮，
意氣死生親。
張老存家事，
嵇康有故人。
食恩惭鶉莽，
鏤骨抱酸辛。
巢許山林志，
夔龍廊廟珍。
鵬圖仍鏡翼，
熊軾且移輪。
磊落衣冠地，
蒼茫土木身。
塤篪鳴自合，
金石瑩逾新。
In succession, the ritual of crawling,\(^1\) by his temperament he remained close, even after death. Old Zhang paid attention to household matters,\(^2\) Xi Kang had an old friend.\(^3\) Having been fed by his grace, I am ashamed at my own remissness, it is carved in my bones and I harbor bitter pain.

Chaofu's and Xu You’s aims were for mountain woods;\(^4\) Kui and Long, treasures of the halls of state.\(^5\) The Peng’s plans, still spreading his wings;\(^6\) a bear carriage-bar, for the while his wheel moves on.\(^7\) The one, exceptional in the world of caps and gowns; the other, lost in vastness, body of earth and wood. Ocarina and flute, their sounds combine,\(^8\) the luster of metal and stone gets ever fresher.\(^9\)

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\(1\) Original note: “After Lord Yan died, his aged mother was still in the household. The governor’s [Xiao] concern for her well-being and the proprieties of providing her good things to eat was ritual behavior like that for his own mother. When the Lady passed away recently, he took charge of the funeral. In taking charge of the canonical requirements and comforting those left behind, he behaved in no way less than Yan’s own flesh and blood kin. In this can be seen his commitment, as firm as laquer or glue.”

\(2\) Zhang Meng, grand master of Jin in the Chunqiu period, who commented on the newly built residence of the Duke of Jin’s son and its propriety. This refers to Xiao’s concern for Yan Wu’s family after Yan’s death.

\(3\) *Xi Kang. It seems that Xiao took care of Yan Wu’s son as Shan Tao took care of Xi Kang’s son.

\(4\) *Xu You.

\(5\) Two worthy ministers of Shun. This line refers to Xiao, in comparison with the preceding line referring to Du Fu himself.

\(6\) *Peng. Du Fu refers to himself.

\(7\) In the Han the three high lords of state had their front carriage-bar decorated with an image of a bear. Later it became the sign of prefectural governors, such as Xiao.

\(8\) In the *Classic of Poetry*, these two instruments are played by brothers; hence Du Fu’s relation to Xiao is the harmony of brothers and the music they make.

\(9\) The firmness of their friendship.
重憶羅江外，
同游錦水濱。
結歡隨過隙，
懷舊益沾巾。
曠絕含香舍，
稽留伏枕辰。
停驂雙闕早，
回雁五湖春。
不達長卿病，
從來原憲貧。
監河受貸粟，
一起轍中鱗。

23.26

奉送二十三舅錄事之攝郴州

賢良歸盛族，
吾舅盡知名。
徐庶高交友，
劉牢出外甥。
And again I recall being out past Luojiang,
when we both roamed the shore of Brocade River’s waters.¹
Our shared pleasures went as swiftly as passing a crack,²
thinking on former times makes me soak my kerchief even more.
Gone in the distance, the chamber of cloves-in-the-mouth,³
lingering on here, the time of lying sick on my pillow.
From the paired palace gate-towers he halted his carriage here early,
returning geese, spring on the five lakes.
Not succeeding, Changqing is ill,⁴
ever has Yuanxian been poor.⁵
If I receive borrowed grain from the Count of Jianhe,
it will completely revive the scales in the wheel rut.⁶

23.26
Respectfully Seeing Off My Twenty-third Uncle, the Administrative Supervisor (Cui Wei) who will Take Charge at Chenzhou

Worthy and good men come from the eminent clans,
my uncle is well-known by all.
A Xu Shu, making friends with lofty men,⁷
Liu Lao produced a nephew on the distaff side.⁸

¹ That is, when they were in Shu.
² A figure for swiftness.
³ When preparing to answer the emperor’s questions regarding petitions, members of the Secretariat would chew cloves.
⁴ *Sima Xiangru. But unlike Sima Xiangru, Du Fu was not successful.
⁵ One of Confucius’s disciples, known for his poverty.
⁶ *Zhuangzi*, “Outer Things”: Zhuangzi went to borrow grain from the Count of Jianhe, who promised him three hundred pieces of silver once his taxes were in. At this Zhuangzi told a parable of a fish dying in a wheel rut asking Zhuangzi for some water. Zhuangzi replied that he was going to Wu and Yue and would divert the river for him. The fish replied that if he didn’t give it just a ladleful of water right then, it would die. Du Fu is asking for support.
⁷ Cui Wei is compared to Xu Shu of the Three Kingdoms period, who made friends with Zhuge Liang and other “men of lofty aims.”
⁸ A Jin figure whose nephew was supposed to resemble him. Keep in mind that Du Fu is Cui Wei’s “nephew on the distaff side.”
送魏二十四司直充嶺南掌選崔郎中判官兼寄韋韶州

泥塗豈珠玉，
環堵但柴荆。
衰老悲人世，
驅馳厭甲兵。
氣春江上別，
淚血渭陽情。
舟鷗排風影，
林鳥反哺聲。
永嘉多北至，
句漏且南征。
必見公侯復，
終聞盜賊平。
郴州頗涼冷，
橘井尚淒清。
從役何蠻貊，
居官志在行。

送魏二十四司直充嶺南掌選崔郎中判官兼寄韋韶州

選曹分五嶺，
使者歷三湘。
Stuck in the mud, hardly “pearls and jade,”\(^1\)
my low circling walls are just woven branches.
Declining into old age, I grieve for human life,
driven about, I am sick of men in arms.
The weather is spring as we part on the river,
tears of blood, sentiments of the Wei’s north shore.\(^2\)
Boats’ cormorant prows, reflections in wind aligned,
crows in the woods, sounds of returning to feed their mothers.\(^3\)
In the Yongjia reign many came from the north,\(^4\)
and he journeyed south to Goulou Mountain.\(^5\)
We will surely see the restoration of your noble clan
and at last hear of the rebels being pacified.
Chenzhou is particularly cool,
the tangerine tree and well are still dreary.\(^6\)
In service, whether against the Mon or northern folk,
to be an officer means one’s aims are to see it through.

23.27

Seeing Off Rectifier Wei (24) Who will Serve as Administrative Assistant to Director Cui, in Charge of Selection in the South; Also Sent to Wei of Shaozhou\(^7\)

The selection official has been allotted the Five Alps,
on his mission he crosses the three Xiang Regions.

---

1 *A New Account of Tales of the World* (XIV.14): Wang Ji saw his nephew and thought he was surrounded by pearls and jade.
2 In one of the “Airs of Qin” in the *Classic of Poetry*, seeing off one’s uncle occurs on the “Wei’s north shore.”
3 Crows were supposed to be filial, feeding their mothers. This suggests Wei’s mother is accompanying him.
4 The Yongjia reign (307–313) of the Jin, when the fall of North China to non-Han invaders led to a mass migration southward. In this case it refers to the southward migration of gentry families after the An Lushan Rebellion.
5 This was far in the south, in Guangxi.
6 *Su Dan.*
7 The all important Selection process for officials had a separate branch in Lingnan Circuit (Guangdong and the far south).
才美膺推薦，
君行佐紀綱。
佳聲斯共遠，
雅節在周防。
明白山濤鑒，
嫌疑陸賈裝。
故人湖外少，
春日嶺南長。
憑報韶州牧，
新詩昨寄將。

23.28

送趙十七明府之縣

連城為寶重，
茂宰得才新。
山雉迎舟楫，
江花報邑人。
論交翻恨晚，
臥病卻愁春。
惠愛南翁悅，
餘波及老身。
Of fine talent, you were recommended, 
4 you go to assist the order of governing. 
May your fine name go far along with you, 
your honorable principles are devoted to protecting thoroughly. 
Clear and bright, Shan Tao’s mirror,¹
8 regarded with suspicion, Lu Jia’s baggage.²
Few are my old friends beyond the lake, 
the spring days will lengthen south of the alps. 
I trust you to tell Shaozhou’s governor 
12 that I sent him some new poems recently.

23.28

Seeing Off Magistrate Zhao (17) Going to His County

The greatest treasure is that worth a string of cities,³
in our splendid magistrate we have found new talent. 
Mountain pheasants greet your boat, 
4 river flowers inform the folk of the town. 
I just hate that it is so late to become friends, 
lying sick, I perversely grieve at spring. 
Under your merciful love, old southerners will be cheered, 
8 and may the surplus grace reach my own aging person.

¹ Shan Tao was one of the Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove. Later he served in the Personnel Ministry and was known for his ability to select talent.
² Lu Jia was sent by Liu Bang to bring Southern Yue to submission, and was richly received by the King of Southern Yue.
³ After King Hui of Zhao acquired possession of the disk made of Bian He’s jade, King Zhao of Qin offered a string of cities for it. *Bian He’s jade was a standard figure for talent.
同豆盧封貽主客李員外賢子棐知字韻

煉金歐冶子，
噴玉大宛兒。
符彩高無敵，
聰明達所為。
夢蘭他日應，
折桂早年知。
爛漫通經術，
光芒刷羽儀。
謝庭瞻不遠，
潘省會於斯。
唱和將雛曲，
田翁號鹿皮。
Refining his metal, Ouyezi,\(^1\)
spurted jade, Ferghana’s spawn.\(^2\)
His outward luster is lofty beyond compare,
with sharp insight he comprehends what to do.
Dream of eupatorium, some future day fulfilled,\(^3\)
that he would snap the cassia branch was known from his early years.\(^4\)
Glorious in his command of the Classics,
radiant, he preens his feathers.
Xie’s courtyard is obviously not far,\(^5\)
Pan Yue’s ministry, met here.\(^6\)
I sing in unison with his “Song of Bringing Chicks,”\(^7\)
this old farmer is known as “Deerhide.”\(^8\)

---

1 A legendary Yue smith of antiquity. Comparing the recipient of the original poem to the finest sword.
2 The famous horses of Ferghana, with which the fine talent of the recipient of the original poem is compared. “Spurting jade” is the horse’s spittle.
3 Duke Wen of Zheng’s consort dreamed of an eupatorium, a dream fulfilled by the birth of a son who became Duke Mu.
4 Snapping the cassia branch was a figure for passing the examination.
5 The courtyard of *Xie An, where the most promising younger members of the family were nurtured.
6 In the preface to his “Fu on Autumn Stirrings,” Pan Yue speaks of his post held by virtue of his service as assistant to the Commander. This suggests that Li’s son holds a post by virtue of a powerful patron.
7 The *yuefu* “The Phoenix Brings its Chicks,” here referring to Doulu Feng’s poem.
8 An immortal who first went off into the mountains wearing clothes of deerhide.
歸雁二首

I

萬里衡陽雁，
今年又北歸。
雙雙瞻客上，
一一背人飛。
雲裏相呼疾，
沙邊自宿稀。
繫書元浪語，
愁寂故山薇。

II

欲雪違胡地，
先花別楚雲。
卻過清渭影，
高起洞庭群。
塞北春陰暮，
江南日色曛。
傷弓流落羽，
行斷不堪聞。
Geese Migrating Back

23.30–31

Geese Migrating Back

I

After ten thousand leagues the geese of Hengyang
go back north once again this year.
Pair by pair, they rise before the watching traveler,
one by one they fly away from me.
In the clouds they cry urgently to each other,
there are few spending the night by the sands.
The claim that letters are attached to them is nonsense,

II

They leave Hu lands when it’s about to snow,
before the flowers bloom they take leave of Chu clouds.
Passing back over, reflections in the clear Wei,
rising high, flocks on Lake Dongting.
North of the frontier, twilights of spring shade,
in the southland the sun’s fading glow.
When, wounded by the bow, a feathered creature falls,

---

1 *Bo Yi and Shu Qi. Du Fu had an estate near Mount Shouyang, northeast of Luoyang.*
23.32

江南逢李龜年
岐王宅裏尋常見，
崔九堂前幾度聞。
正是江南好風景，
落花時節又逢君。

23.33

小寒食舟中作
佳辰強飲食猶寒，
隱几蕭條帶鶡冠。
春水船如天上坐，
4老年花似霧中看。
娟娟戲蝶過閒幔，
片片輕鷗下急湍。
雲白山青萬餘里，
8愁看直北是長安。
23.32

Meeting Li Guinian in Jiangnan

In the lodgings of the Prince of Qi I saw you commonly, at the head of the hall of Cui Nine I heard you many times. It’s really true that in Jiangnan the scenery is fine, and in the season of falling flowers I meet you once again.

23.33

On My Boat on Little Cold Food Festival

On the festival day I make myself drink, the food still is cold; leaning on my armrest, dreary, wearing a pheasant cap. The boat in spring water is like sitting in the heavens, in my aging years the flowers are as if looked at in a fog. Charming the playful butterflies pass my idle curtain, speck by speck the light gulls descend to the speeding rapids. Clouds white and mountains green for more than ten thousand leagues, and sadly I gaze straight north to where Chang’an is.

---

1 Li Guinian had been the head of Xuanzong’s troupe of musicians.
2 Original note: “Cui Nine was Cui Di, Director of the Palace Administration, the younger brother of the Secretariat Director Cui Shi” 崔九即殿中監崔湜，中書令湜之弟.
3 The pheasant cap is the mark of a recluse.
燕子來舟中作

湖南為客動經春，
燕子銜泥兩度新。
新入故園常識主，
如今社日遠看人。
可憐處處巢居室，
何異飄飄託此身。
暫語船檣還起去，
穿花落水益霑巾。

贈韋七贊善

鄉里衣冠不乏賢，
杜陵韋曲未央前。
爾家最近魁三象，
時論同歸尺五天。
北走關山開雨雪，
南遊花柳塞雲煙。
23.34
Written when Swallows Came to My Boat

Being a traveler south of the lake, before I know it I’ve passed through spring, 
swallows carrying mud in their beaks have twice come anew. 
When formerly they entered my garden at home, they always 
recognized the master; 
but nowadays on the festival day they watch me from afar. 
A pity how wherever they go they nest in homes, 
how different is that from, wind-tossed, lodging this body of mine? 
After talking a while on the boat’s mast, they rise up again and leave, 
piercing through flowers that fall in the waters makes me soak my 
kerchief still more.

23.35
Presented to Grand Master Admonisher Wei (7)

Those with caps and gowns from our home locale have not wanted for 
worthy men, 
Duling and Weiqu stand before Weiyang Palace.¹ 
Your family has been the Three Images closest around the Pole Star,² 
contemporary opinion attributes to both clans being “a foot and a half 
from Heaven.”³ 
Hurrying north to the barrier mountains, the rain and snow clear up, 
roaming in the south among flowers and willows, blocked by cloud and 
mist.

1 The ancestral home of the Dus and Weis respectively, south of Chang’an. Han 
Weiyang Palace stands here for the Tang court.
2 Original note: “Following the Kui star [the first star in the handle of the Big 
Dipper] matched in pairs are the Three Terraces” 斗魁下兩兩相比為三臺. That 
is, these stars within the Big Dipper’s handle correspond to the Three High Lords of 
state. The Weis produced a number of ministers.
3 Original note: “A popular saying goes: ‘South of the City the Weis and Dus are 
a foot and a half from Heaven.’” 俚諺曰: 城南韋杜, 去天尺五. That is, the 
Dus and the Weis were considered to produce high officials that were close to the 
emperor.
洞庭春色悲公子，
蝦菜忘歸范蠡船。

23.36

奉酬寇侍御錫見寄四韻復寄寇

往別郇瑕地，
於今四十年。
來簪御府筆，
故泊洞庭船。
詩憶傷心處，
春深把臂前。
南瞻按百越，
黃帽待君偏。

23.37

入衡州

兵革自久遠，
興衰看帝王。
漢儀甚照耀，
胡馬何猖狂。
老將一失律，
清邊生戰場。
In the spring colors of Lake Dongting I grieve for you, sir,
with shrimp and vegetables, forgetting return is Fan Li’s boat.¹

23.36

Respectfully Answering What Was Sent to Me by Censor Kou Xi (10),
Four Couplets. Also Sent to Kou Independently

In the past we parted in Xunxia,² now it has been forty years.
Coming, you stuck your censor’s writing brush in your hair,³ and on purpose moored your boat at Dongting.
Your poem recalls occasion of heartbreak, spring deepened before us, clasp ing arms.
Gazing off southward, you will control the Yue folk,
in my yellow cap, I will wait for you specially.⁴

In early summer of 770 one of the Hu’nan commanders, Zang Jie, killed Cui Guan, the governor, and raised a rebellion in Tanzhou (Changsha). Du Fu fled the city with his family, first to Hengzhou, the neighboring prefecture to the south, and then still further south to Chenzhou, where a maternal relative was prefect.

23.37

Entering Hengzhou

Armed uprisings have gone on long and spread far, one looks to the emperor in questions of flourishing and decline. The Han order shone so splendidly
why did Hu horses act with such mad fury?
Once the old general failed in firm rules,⁵ the peaceful frontiers turned into battlefields.

¹ *Fan Li.
² An ancient name for an area in Shanxi.
³ In the Han, Censors would stick their writing brushes in their hair.
⁴ The yellow cap marked the leisure attire of an old man.
⁵ Apparently referring to Geshu Han’s defeat by An Lushan’s forces.
君臣忍瑕垢，
河岳空金湯。
重鎮如割據，
輕權絕紀綱。
軍州體不一，
寬猛性所將。
嗟彼苦節士，
素於圓讐方。
寡妻從為郡，
兀者安短牆。
凋弊惜邦本，
哀矜存事常。
旌麾非其任，
府庫實過防。
恕己獨在此，
多憂增內傷。
偏裨限酒肉，
卒伍單衣裳。
元惡迷是似，
聚謀洩康莊。
竟流帳下血，
大降湖南殃。
烈火發中夜，
高煙焦上蒼。
Lord and ministers endured the stain of shame,
8 rivers and mountains were a fastness to no avail.
Key garrisons carved out separatist territories,
they disregarded authority, broke with imperial control.
The norms of armies and prefectures are not the same,
some lax, some ruthless, however their nature takes them.
Alas for that officer of strict principle,¹
ever a square peg in a round hole.
Widows enjoyed his good rule,
16 the footless were at peace in their humble walls.²
He pitied the folk of the land in their ruin,
he preserved constant norms out of care for them.
But battleflags were not a responsibility that suited him,
and truly he guarded the district treasury too strictly.
His only concern was indulging his sense of mercy,³
so that many cares increasingly wounded him within.
The lieutenants were limited in meat and ale,
24 the troops had thin clothes.
The prime evil-doer led them astray by these appearances,⁴
the plots of the group were vented on the great road.
Blood at last flowed by the commander’s tent,
bringing great disaster on Hu’nan.
Blazing fires broke out at midnight,
the high smoke scorched the gray heavens above.

¹ Cui Guan, the governor of Tanzhou was killed in a military uprising, forcing Du Fu to flee to Hengzhou. The Hu’nan army at Tanzhou (Changsha) was lax, and hated Cui Guan for his imposition of strict discipline.
² Cutting off a foot was a punishment.
³ That is, being good to the people. Essentially Cui Guan, in the attempt to save money and the burden of government expenses on the people, cut military expenditures.
⁴ Zang Jie, the leader of the uprising.
至今分粟帛，
杀气吹沅湘。
福善理颠倒，
明徵天莽茫。
销魂避飞镝，
累足穿豺狼。
隐忍枳棘刺，
迁延胝趼瘡。
远归儿侍侧，
犹乳女在旁。
久客幸脱免，
暮年惭激昂。
萧条向水陆，
汨没随鱼商。
报主身已老，
入朝病见妨。
悠悠委薄俗，
鬱鬱回刚肠。
参错走洲渚，
春容转林篁。
片帆左郴岸，
通郭前衡阳。
华表云鸟埤，
名圃花草香。
To this day they divide up the grain and cloth,
and the atmosphere of killing blows on the Yuan and Xiang.
“The good are blessed”: this rule is turned upside-down,
such clear testimony is blurred by Heaven.\textsuperscript{1}
My soul melted, escaping the flying arrows,
I crept fearfully through those wolves and jackals.
I made myself endure the prick of thornbushes,
I kept on going with wounds from blisters.
My son, coming from afar, attended us closely,
a girl, still nursing, was next to us.
Long a wayfarer, I was lucky to get away,
in my twilight years ashamed to be riled up.
Drearily we went on by water and land,
hiding away, we went with fishermen and merchants.
I am already too old to repay my ruler,
prevented by sickness from going to court.
Troubled in mind, I entrusted myself to the base ways of the time,
my upright guts churned with pent-up feeling.
We sped past isles, scattered together
swept along, we wound through woods and bamboo groves.
Our sail at the left shore at Chenzhou,
going through the town, we had gone before to Hengyang.
A commemorative column, bird-filled parapets in cloud,
famed gardens, flowers and plants fragrant.

\textsuperscript{1} The claim that “the good are blessed” by Heaven is from the \textit{Classic of Documents}. 
旗亭壮邑屋，
烽橹蟠城隍。
中有古刺史，
盛才冠巖廊。
扶顛待柱石，
独坐飞风霜。
昨者间琼树，
高谈随羽觞。
無論再縁绻，
已是安蒼黃。
劇孟七國畏，
马卿四赋良。
門闌蘇生在，
勇銳白起強。
問罪富形势，
凱歌懸否臧。
氛埃期必掃，
蚊蚋焉能當。
橘井舊地宅，
仙山引舟航。
此行厭暑雨，
厥土聞清涼。
諸舅剖符近，
開缄书剖光。
Shops with signs lend a grandeur to the buildings of the town, watchtowers with beacon fires coil around wall and moat. Therein is a governor of the old style,\(^1\) rich in talents that would crown the halls of court. To support what totters depends on a pillar-stone, he sits apart, frost and snow flying.\(^2\) Recently, with that alabaster tree,\(^3\) lofty discussions went with the feathered goblets. Needless to say he repeatedly treated me as an intimate, and my panic was already calmed. The Seven Domains were in awe of Ju Meng,\(^4\) Sima Xiangru’s four fu were good. Master Su is here in his entourage,\(^5\) in brave sharpness, stronger even than Bai Qi.\(^6\) The situation is favorable to address wrongdoing, victory songs will sharply distinguish right and wrong. I expect we will surely sweep away the foul aura, how can those mosquitoes resist? His former abode has tangerine tree and well,\(^7\) the immortals’ mountain drew my boat.\(^8\) On this journey I grow sick of heat and rain, I have heard that the land there is clear and cool. One of my uncles is nearby, holding the governor’s tally,\(^9\) opening the pouch, his letter is radiant.

---

1 That is, Yang Ji, prefect of Hengzhou.
2 Guangwudi allowed three offices separate seats in court, one of whom was Vice Censor in chief. “Frost and snow” also suggests the office of censor.
3 That is, in the company of the governor Yang Ji.
4 A Western Han swordsman, who joined the Han general Zhou Yafu during the rebellion of the Seven Domains. Zhou Yafu said that without Ju Meng, Wu and Yue had no hope.
5 Original note: “Vice-Censor Su Huan” 蘇侍御矣.
6 The famous general of Qin.
7 *Su Dan. His dwelling was in Chenzhou.
8 Maling Mountain where *Su Dan became an immortal.
9 Cui Wei, governor of Chenzhou.
頻繁命屢及，
磊落字百行。
江總外家養，
謝安脨興長。
下流匪珠玉，
擇木羞鸞凰。
我師嵇叔夜，
世賢張子房。
柴荊寄樂土，
鵬路觀翱翔。

逃難

五十頭白翁，
南北逃世難。
疏布纏枯骨，
奔走苦不暖。
已衰病方入，
四海一塗炭。
乾坤萬里內，
莫見容身畔。
妻孥復隨我，
回首共悲歎。
His frequent invitations come continuously,
a hundred lines of characters, splendid.
Jiang Zong was raised by his mother’s family,¹
long did Xie An follow his whim.²
Of a lesser class, I am no pearl or jade,
in selecting my tree to roost, I am shamed by the phoenix.
I take as my teacher Xi Kang,³
the age finds Zhang Liang a worthy man.⁴
I hope to lodge my ramshackle dwelling in that happy land,
observe the soaring of the Peng’s course.⁵

23.38

Fleeing Troubles

In his fifties, an old main, hair white,
North and south, fleeing troubles of the times.
Coarse-woven cloth wraps his dried-up bones,
rushing on, suffering at not being warm.
Already declining, sickness then struck me,
this sea-girt world, one in dirt and ashes.
In the ten thousand leagues of Heaven and Earth
I see no shore with a place for me.
My wife and children also follow me,
I turn my head, joining them in sad sighs.

¹ A sixth-century poet and essayist.
² *Xie An.
³ *Xi Kang.
⁴ Original note: “The assistant Zhang Quan.” Du Fu is comparing Zhang Quan, one of Cui Wei’s subordinates, to Zhang Liang. Zhang Liang was one of Liu Bang’s best generals in founding the Han.
⁵ *Peng bird.
故國莽丘墟，
鄰里各分散。
歸路從此迷，
涕盡湘江岸。

白馬

白馬東北來，
空鞍貫雙箭。
可憐馬上郎，
意氣今誰見。

舟中苦熱遣懷奉呈陽中丞通簡臺省諸公

愧為湖外客，
看此戎馬亂。
中夜混黎甿，
脫身亦奔竄。
My home region is a vast wasteland,
12 everyone in the neighborhood has dispersed.
From now on the road back is lost,
I use up my tears on the banks of the River Xiang.

23.39
A White Horse

A white horse came from the northeast,
it's empty saddle pierced by two arrows.
I pity the lad upon the horse—
4 who sees his brave temper now?
Recently the commanding general was slain,
at midnight, wounded in battle.
In war death comes from many directions,
8 alas, my tears fall like sleet.

23.40
Venting How I Feel When Suffering from the Heat in My Boat:
Respectfully Presented to Vice Censor in chief Yang and Sent as a Note
to the Various Gentlemen of the Censorate and Ministries

I am ashamed to be a sojourner beyond the lakes,
watching this uprising of war-horses.
At midnight, mixed in with the common folk,
4 I too escaped, fleeing into hiding.
平生方寸心，
反掌帳下難。
嗚呼殺賢良，
不叱白刃散。
吾非丈人特，
沒齒埋冰炭。
恥以風病辭，
胡然泊湘岸。
入舟雖苦熱，
垢膩可溉灌。
痛彼道邊人，
形骸改昏旦。
中丞連帥職，
封內權得按。
身當問罪先，
縣實諸侯半。
士卒既輯睦，
啟行促精悍。
似聞上游兵，
稍逼長沙館。
鄰好彼克修，
天機自明斷。
南圖卷雲水，
北拱戴霄漢。
That speck of mind of a lifetime,  
in an instant came to hardship at his headquarters.¹
Alas, they killed one worthy and good,  
no one shouted a command for the bare blades to disperse.
I may not be the most outstanding senior gentleman,  
but in old age I bury ice and ash within.²
Embarrassed at my withdrawal because of a fever,  
why should I still moor here on the Xiang’s shores?
Getting onto my boat, though I suffer from the heat,  
I may wash clean all grime and oil.
I feel pain at those lying by the roadside,  
their bodies change in the course of a day.
The Vice-Censor is in charge of the joined armies,³  
he has the authority to investigate guilt in the region.
You personally should be first to deal with wrong-doers,  
your counties make up half that of the regional lords.
The troops having joined in mutual accord,  
hurry crack units to begin the march.
I have vaguely heard that soldiers from upriver  
are getting close to the Changsha station.⁴
Good neighborly relations are worth cultivating with them,  
this opportunity will naturally lead to a wise decision.
They plan to go south, rolling up clouds and waters,⁵  
northward you bow, to support the Milky Way.⁶

¹ Cui Guan, the governor of Tanzhou who was killed.
² That is, I feel distressed.
³ Yang Ji, the recipient of the poem.
⁴ The troops sent by Pei Qiu from Daozhou.
⁵ *Peng bird.
⁶ *Analects*: the pole star remains fixed and other stars bow to it. Here the regional lords will support the court.
舟中苦熱遣懷奉呈陽中丞通簡臺省諸公

美名光史臣，
長策何壯觀。
驅馳數公子，
咸願同伐叛。
聲節哀有餘，
夫何激衰懦。
偏裨表三上，
鹵莽同一貫。
始謀誰其間，
回首增憤惋。
宗英李端公，
守職甚昭煥。
變通迫脅地，
謀畫焉得算。
王室不肯微，
凶徒略無憚。
此流須卒斬，
神器資強幹。
扣寂豁煩襟，
皇天照嗟歎。

32
36
40
44
48
Your good name will be made glorious by the historians, what a grand spectacle your fine plans present! These several lords gallop ahead, they all vow to attack the rebels together. There is abundant sorrow in that sound and rhythm, how it stirs one aging and timorous! A lieutenant sent several memorials,¹ which haphazardly all made the same point. Who was it raised objections to the first plans? —² looking back on it increases my indignation. Flower of the imperial clan, Censor Li,³ illustrious in maintaining his post. Responding to circumstance in a hard-pressed position, how can one reckon his plans? The royal house will not be diminished, that vicious knave shows no dread at all. This sort must all be executed, the sacred vessel is supplied with a strong trunk. I knock on silence to ease my troubled mind,⁴ may Heaven above see my sighs.

¹ Having first raised troops, Yang Zilin turned back. One explanation is that he was bribed by Zang Jie.
² The situation is far from clear.
³ Li Mian, the Military Commissioner of Lingnan, south of Hu’nan. Du Fu is looking to Li Mian and the Lingnan army to punish Zang Jie.
⁴ “Knock on silence” was a phrase used by Lu Ji in the “Wen fu”; here it refers to composing a poem.
23.41

江閣對雨有懷行營裴二端公

南紀風濤壯，
陰晴屢不分。
野流行地日，
江入度山雲。
層閣憑雷殷，
長空面水文。
雨來銅柱北，
應洗伏波軍。

23.42

題衡山縣文宣王廟新學堂呈陸宰

旄頭彗紫微，
無復俎豆事。
金甲相排蕩，
青衿一憔悴。
鳴呼已十年，
儒服弊於地。
征夫不遑息，
學者淪素志。
23.41

Facing the Rain in a River Pavilion, My Thoughts Turn to Attendant Censor Pei (2) in the Army Camp

In the South the wind and waves are strong, cloudy and clear weather, often not distinguished.
In the wilds flows the sunlight passing over the land, the river enters clouds crossing the mountains.
The high pavilion rests in the rumble of thunder, the long sky faces patterns on the water.
Rain comes to the north of the column of bronze and must be washing the Wave-Queller’s army.  

23.42

On the New Study Hall at the Confucius Temple of Mount Heng County, Shown to Officer Lu

From the Banner a comet swept the Purple Tenuity, the employ of ritual vessels was then no more.
Men in armor unleashed themselves on us in turn, the blue lapels were all haggard.
Alas it has been ten years, Confucian garb rots on the ground.
Men on campaign never rest, the enduring aims of scholars sink away.

---

1 *Ma Yuan. Pei Qiu is here compared to Ma Yuan.
2 The Banner was the constellation of the Hu, portending war. From there apparently a comet entered the region around the pole star, corresponding to the emperor and the capital.
3 The ritual vessels mark the rule of civil order and ritual; in the Analects this is opposed to military matters.
4 Blue lapels were a sign of a student, hence of a civil official.
我行洞庭野，
欻得文翁肆。
侁侁胄子行，
若舞风雩至。  
周室宜中兴，
孔门未应棄。
是以資雅才，
涣然立新意。  
衡山雖小邑，
首唱恢大義。
因見縣尹心，
根源舊宮閟。
講堂非曩構，
大屋加塗塁。
下可容百人，
牆隅亦深邃。  
何必三千徒，
始壓戎馬氣。
林木在庭戸，
密幹疊蒼翠。
有井朱夏時，
輒輒凍階戺。
耳聞讀書聲，
殺伐災仿佛。
On the New Study Hall at the Confucius Temple of Mount Heng County

I was going on the wilds by Lake Dongting, and suddenly found old Wen’s institution.\(^1\) Thronging are the ranks of academicians, as if coming to dance at breezy rain altars.\(^2\) The House of Zhou is fit for a Restoration,\(^3\) the following of Confucius should not be neglected. Thereby we rely on a cultivated talent\(^4\) to establish his new notion, renewing all.\(^5\)

Although Mount Heng County is a small town, it leads the way in extending morality. Thus we see that the county magistrate’s heart has its roots in the old “solemn temple.”\(^6\)

The lecture hall is not the old-time edifice, to the great ceiling has been added plaster decoration. Beneath there is room for a hundred people, the corners of the walls are also deep and remote. Why must there be three thousand disciples,\(^7\) and only then will the atmosphere of warhorses be suppressed? A grove lies right at the courtyard door, thick trunks of layered greens.

There is a well for fiery summer, whose pulley brings freezing chill to the forecourt. My ears hear the sounds of reciting books the disaster of killing and combat are a vague blur.

---

1 Old Man Wen was a governor of Shu in the reign of Han Jingdi. The school he built in Chengdu was supposed to have greatly raised the level of learning in the region. That is, Du Fu encountered a Confucian school.
2 When Confucius asked various disciples about their life’s aims, this was the goal of Zeng Dian, the goal of whom Confucius approved.
3 The Zhou here stands for the Tang.
4 Magistrate Lu.
5 That is, the new hall.
6 The ancestral temple, or here, the temple to Confucius.
7 The traditional number of Confucius’s disciples.
聶耒陽以僕阻水書致酒肉療饑荒江。詩得代懷興盡本韻。至縣呈聶令。

故國延歸望，
衰顏減愁思。
南紀改波瀾，
西河共風味。
采詩倦跋涉，
載筆尚可記。
高歌激宇宙，
凡百慎失墜。

聶耒陽以僕阻水書致酒肉療饑荒江。詩得代懷興盡本韻。至縣呈聶令。陸路去方田驛四十里舟行一日時屬江漲泊於方田

耒陽馳尺素，
見訪荒江渺。
義士烈女家，
風流吾賢紹。
My homeland invites my homeward gaze,
but from my aging visage sad thoughts decrease.
It changes the turbulence of the far south
and shares the same quality as West River.¹
I am weary of faring by water and land to gather poems,²
but taking up my brush, I can still record this.
Singing out loudly, stirring the universe,
may you all take care not to let it slip away.³

Du Fu was continuing southward by boat, from Hengzhou apparently
heading for Chenzhou to the south, where a maternal uncle was prefect. At
Leiyang, in southern Hengzhou, he was held up by flooding. An old legend
has it that Du Fu died there of overeating and overdrinking, provided by
the kindly magistrate Nie in the following poem.

23.43

Because I Was Held Up by a Flood, Nie of Leiyang Sent Ale and Meat
with a Letter and Cured My Starvation on the River Wastes. A Poem
Can Serve to Show My Feelings, and My Inspiration Used Up the
Available Rhymes. When I Reach the County Seat, I Will Show it to
Magistrate Nie. The Land Route is Forty Leagues from the Fangtian
Station, But by Boat it Takes Only a Day. At the Time the River Was
Flooding, so I Moored at Fangtian

From Leiyang a letter came speeding,
I was inquired after from afar over the wild river.
The family of a righteous man-at-arms and heroic sister,⁴
my worthy friend continues such panache.

---

¹ Where Confucius’s disciple Zixia taught.
² “Gathering poems” refers to the interpretation of the Classic of Poetry as having
been “gathered” by officers of the Zhou to see the mood of the people. Du Fu is
referring to his own works.
³ The teaching of Confucius.
⁴ Nie Zheng was one of the famous assassins of the Grand Scribe’s Records; his sister
displayed equal heroism. Du Fu associates Nie with this ancient figure of the same
surname.
昨見狄相孫，
許公人倫表。
前期翰林後，
屈跡縣邑小。
知我礙湍濤，
半旬獲浩涇。
麾下殺元戎，
湖邊有飛旐。
孤舟增鬱鬱，
僻路殊悄悄。
側驚猿猱捷，
仰羨鸛鶴矯。
禮過宰肥羊，
愁當置清醥。
人非西喻蜀，
興在北坑趙。
方行郴岸靜，
未話長沙擾。
崔師乞已至，
澧卒用矜少。
問罪消息真，
開顏憩亭沼。
I recently met Di, the Minister’s scion,\(^1\)
his commendation of you, sir, as an exemplar among men.
Posterity of a Hanlin Academician of an earlier time,
you occupy a humble place in this small county seat.
You knew that I was blocked by swirling billows,
for five days I received boundless floods.
A subordinate killed his commander,\(^2\)
there were funeral banners flying by the lake.
In my lone boat my pent-up sorrow increased,
terribly worried on this remote route.
I was amazed by nimble apes and gibbons nearby,
looking up, I envied storks and cranes soaring high.
Your courtesy exceeded slaughtering a fat sheep,
in sorrow I found clear ale set before me.
I do not “instruct Shu” in the west,\(^3\)
my impulse is to bury Zhao in the north.\(^4\)
I was going to the calm of Chenzhou’s shores,
we had not yet talked of the disturbance in Changsha.
The army that Cui Yi asked for has already arrived,\(^5\)
but few of the troops at the Li will exercise mercy.
The news about dealing with the miscreants is true,
I can smile, resting here by the station pond.

_Scholarship from the Song on has shown that Du Fi did not die in Leiyang (though he was provided with a tomb there), but rather turned back toward Tanzhou and from there started back across Lake Dongting._

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\(^1\) Perhaps Di Boji (19.39).
\(^2\) Zang Jie’s uprising in which the commander Cui Guan was killed.
\(^3\) After Tang Meng ravaged Ba and Shu, Han Wudi sent *Sima Xiangru to calm the populace. His “Instruction for Ba and Shu” survives.
\(^4\) After defeating Zhao, the Qin general Bai Qi was said to have buried alive four hundred thousand surrendered troops of Zhao. Du Fu is here expressing his desire to deal with the northeastern rebels without mercy.
\(^5\) Original note: “I have heard that the Censor Cui Yi had asked for troops from Hongzhou and that his troops have already arrived north of Yuanzhou. Vice-Censor Yang Zilin will deal with the miscreants, bringing troops from the Li River to Changsha.”
迴棹

宿昔世安命，
自私猶畏天。
勞生繫一物，
為客費多年。
衡嶽江湖大，
蒸池疫癘偏。
散才嬰薄俗，
有跡負前賢。
巾拂那關眼，
瓶罍易滿船。
火雲滋垢膩，
凍雨裛沉綿。
強飯蓴添滑，
端居茗續煎。
清思漢水上，
涼憶峴山巔。
順浪翻堪倚，
迴帆又省牽。
吾家碑不昧，
王氏井依然。
Turning My Boat

In past ages they took fate with equanimity,
when it came to selfishness, they were in awe of Heaven.
Burdened by life, I was tied to a single thing,
and spent many a year as a wayfarer.

Heng Mountain and the rivers and lakes are large,
with steaming pools, pestilence is unusually common.
Unfocused talents, caught up in base local ways,
I have left traces, turning my back on former worthies.

Turban and duster don’t matter to my eyes,¹
but jugs and crocks easily fill the boat.
Fiery clouds increase grime and body-oils,
sudden showers drench my chronic illness.

Forcing myself to eat, I add the slippery water-shield,
living apart, I continue boiling tea.
Clear thoughts of being by the river Han,
cool memories of the summit of Mount Xian.
Following the waves, however, can be relied on,
turning my course also means less towing.
The stele of my family has not been lost from sight,²
the Wang family well is still as before.³

¹ Turban and duster are metonymy for dances.
² The stele erected by Du Fu’s ancestor Du Yu on Mount Xian.
³ *Wang Can.
几杖將衰齒，
茅茨寄短椽。
灌園曾取適，
遊寺可終焉。
遂性同漁父，
成名異魯連。
篙師煩爾送，
朱夏及寒泉。

過洞庭湖

蛟室圍青草，
龍堆隱白沙。
護堤盤古木，
迎櫂舞神鴉。
破浪南風正，
回檣畏日斜。
湖光與天遠，
直欲泛仙槎。
Armrest and cane will accompany my last years,
I will lodge in a short-beam roof of thatch.
Once I found satisfaction in watering my garden,
I can end my days visiting temples.
I will follow my nature like the fisherman,
as for achieving fame, I’ll differ from Lu Zhonglian.¹
Let me trouble you, boatman, to take me back,
where there are cold streams even in red summer.

23.45

Passing Over Lake Dongting

Mermen’s chambers surrounded by green grasses,
Dragon’s Pile, hidden by white sands.²
Guarding the embankment coil ancient trees,
greeting the oars dance the sacred crows.
The south wind comes straight on, breaking the waves
we turn the mast, fearing the sun’s decline.
The light on the lake is as far as the heavens,
one could virtually set sail on that immortal raft.³

¹ Lu Zhonglian was a successful poltical persuader of the late Warring States.
² Green Grass Lake is a section of Dongting; Dragon’s Pile is an island in the lake;
and White Sands was a place with a way-station.
³ *Riding the raft.
登舟將適漢陽

春宅棄汝去，
秋帆催客歸。
庭蔬尚在眼，
浦浪已吹衣。  
生理飄蕩拙，
有心遲暮違。
中原戎馬盛，
遠道素書稀。
塞雁與時集，
樺烏終歲飛。
鹿門自此往，
永息漢陰機。

暮秋將歸秦留別湖南幕府親友

水闊蒼梧野，
天高白帝秋。
途窮那免哭，
身老不禁愁。
23.46

Getting On a Boat to Go Off to Hanyang

I abandon you, my spring abode, and go off—
the autumn sail hastens the wayfarer’s return.
The vegetables in the yard are still in my eyes,
as waves by the shore already blow on my robes.
In making a living, tossed about, inept;
my heart has a goal, in twilight years gone awry.
On the central plain warhorses abound,
letters come seldom across the distant roads.
Frontier geese gather with the season,
the crow weathervane on the mast flies all year long.
From here on I will go to Deergate¹
forever putting to rest the motives at Hanyin.²

23.47

About to Return to Qin in Late Autumn, Parting from My Friends
in the Hu’nan Headquarters

The waters are vast by the wilds of Cangwu,
the heavens are high, the White Emperor’s autumn.³
How can I avoid weeping at journey’s end?—⁴
my body old, I cannot forbid sorrow.

¹ *Pang Degong.
² The *Zhuangzi* tells of an old man of Hanyin who watered his fields with a jug
because he distrusted “machines”/“motives.”
³ The White Emperor was the god of autumn.
⁴ *Ruan Ji.*
大府才能會，
諸公德業優。
北歸衝雨雪，
誰憫敝貂裘。

長沙送李十一銜

與子避地西康州，
洞庭相逢十二秋。
遠愧尚方曾賜履，
竟非吾土倦登樓。
久存膠漆應難並，
一辱泥塗遂晚收。
李杜齊名真忝竊，
朔雲寒菊倍離憂。
This great headquarters, concourse of talent and ability, all you gentlemen excel in achievements of virtue. Returning north, I will run into rain and snow, who will pity my tattered sable cape?¹

23.48
At Changsha Seeing Off Li Xian (11)
Along with you I sought refuge in Kangzhou to the west,² now when we meet on Lake Dongting twelve autumns have passed. Far off I am shamed by the slippers presented, the work of imperial manufacture,³ in the end it is not my own land, I weary of climbing towers.⁴ Keeping an inseparable friendship so long, I’m sure we’re hard to match, ever shamed by mud and mire, late I will draw back and be done. That Li and Du were of equal fame truly embarrasses me,⁵ northern clouds, cold chrysanthemums double separation’s sorrows.

¹ The furs of the persuader Su Qin, ruined in his travels.
² Tonggu county, where Du Fu went after taking his family to Qinzhou.
³ *Wang Qiao. This refers to Du Fu’s service in court and his sense that he did not fulfill his obligations.
⁴ *Wang Can.
⁵ Referring to Li Ying and Du Mi of the Eastern Han, but here transferred to Li Xian and Du Fu himself.
風疾舟中伏枕書懷三十六韻奉呈湖南親友

軒轅休制律，
虞舜罷彈琴。
尚錯雄鳴管，
猶傷半死心。

聖賢名古邈，
羈旅病年侵。
舟泊常依震，
湖平早見參。

如聞馬融笛，
若倚仲宣襟。
故國悲寒望，
群雲慘歲陰。

水鄉霾白屋，
楓岸疊青岑。
The exact date of Du Fu’s death is unknown; it was probably in early winter of 770. The following is generally considered his last poem.

23.49

Lying on My Sickbed in the Boat With a “Wind Illness,” Writing My Feelings in Thirty-six Couplets: Respectfully to be Shown to My Friends in Hu’nan

The Yellow Emperor stopped cutting regulation pitch-pipes,\(^2\)
Shun has ceased playing the zither;\(^3\)
Still confused are the male resounding pipes,
4 this half-dead heart is yet wounded.\(^4\)
The fame of those sages is far in the past,
on my journey I am sick and the years encroach on me.
For boat’s mooring I always trust to Zhen,\(^5\)
8 the lake being level, I early see Shen.\(^6\)
It is as if I heard Ma Rong’s flute,\(^7\)
as though depending on Wang Can’s feelings.\(^8\)
My homeland grieves my cold-weather gaze,
12 cloud-clusters cast a pall on the year’s dark end.
This watery land engulfs plain cottages in fog,
maple shores layer green summits.

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1 A “wind illness” is a Chinese medical term that applies to a variety of ailments, possibly a stroke or delirium.
2 The Yellow Emperor had Ling Lun cut the first pitch-pipes, six male and six female, to harmonize the winds.
3 Shun played the zither when he composed the song “South Wind.”
4 In Mei Sheng’s “Seven Stimuli,” the zither is made from a a tung tree whose heart/trunk is half dead. The winds correspond to properly played music; the music is now out of tune, and the wind is disorderly, causing one to get sick, the double meaning of the “half-dead heart” being wounded.
5 The hexagram in the *Classic of Changes* that corresponds to the east; that is, he moors on the east bank.
6 A constellation appearing in late winter.
7 The Eastern Han literary figure Ma Rong was lodging on travels and heard someone playing the flute. On this occasion he composed his “Fu on the Long Flute.”
8 *Wang Can. This refers to Wang Can’s climbing the tower, in which he speaks of opening his gown facing the north wind and says that though the place is lovely, it is not his home. The opening seam of the gown, *jin* 罥, is also “feelings.”*
鬱鬱冬炎瘴，
濛濛雨滞淫。
鼓迎非祭鬼，
弹落似鴞禽。
兴尽纔無闷，
愁來遽不禁。
生涯相汩没，
时物自萧森。
疑惑尊中弩，
淹留冠上簪。
牵裾驚魏帝，
投閣為劉歆。
狂走終奚適，
微才謝所欽。
吾安藜不糝，
汝貴玉為琛。
烏几重重縛，
鶉衣寸寸針。
Winter’s tropic miasma billows and swells,
16 murky mist, long held up by rains.
Drumming greets me, not a sacrifice to spirits,¹
the pellet shot fells, as with the owl.²
Excitement gone, now nothing troubles me,³
but sorrow comes and suddenly I can’t forbid it.
A lifespan spent sunken away,
things of the season are gloomy and barren.
Suspicious and doubtful, the crossbow in the cup,⁴
24 lingering on here, the pins for my cap.⁵
Tugging robe-hems alarmed the Wei Emperor,⁶
I threw myself from the tower because of Liu Xin.⁷
Rushing madly, at last whither go I?—
28 of but meager talent, I took leave of those I admire.
I am content with goosefoot without rice,
you value jade as a treasure.⁸
My black leather armrest is sewn together in many places,
32 my raggedy clothes have been patched every inch.

¹ This line seems to make reference to local religious customs, though the import is unclear.
² Zhuangzi, “Qiwulun”: “to see the shot (the pellet for a slingshot) and seek roasted owl,” in other words to anticipate a possible remote consequence as though inevitable. Commentators think that Du Fu is anticipating his own death, that he too will become a spirit here.
³ “Nothing troubles me,” wumen 無悶, is a Classic of Changes phrase associated with reclusion.
⁴ Ying Shao’s Fengsu tongyi: When Ying Chen invited Du Xuan for a drink, Du Xuan saw what seemed to be a snake in his ale and grew ill after drinking. Later Ying Chen invited him again, and only then did Du Xuan realize that it was the reflection of a crossbow on the wall.
⁵ Referring to his office and court uniform.
⁶ “Tugging the robe-hems,” means to remonstrate with the ruler relentlessly. This probably refers to Du Fu’s repeated defense of Fang Guan.
⁷ *Yang Xiong.
⁸ The “jade” is associated with the quality of a person.
哀傷同庾信，
述作異陳琳。
十暑岷山葛，
三霜楚戶砧。
叨陪錦帳座，
久放白頭吟。
反樸時難遇，
忘機陸易沈。
應過數粒食，
得近四知金。
春草封歸恨，
源花費獨尋。
轉蓬憂悄悄，
行藥病涔涔。
瘞夭追潘岳，
持危覓鄧林。
In lament, the same as Yu Xin,\(^1\)  
in compositions, different from Chen Lin.\(^2\)
Ten summers in the homespun of Mount Min,  
three frosts among the pounding blocks of Chu homes.\(^3\)
Humbled by the company of seats with brocade hangings,\(^4\)
long have I broken into the “Song of White Hair.”
I return to simplicity, the opportune moment hard to meet,\(^5\)
but easy to sink away on land, forgetting motive.
I must have exceeded dining on a few grains,\(^6\)
but I have come close to the gold that “four know of.”\(^7\)
Spring plants cover over my resentment about returning;
I waste time seeking Peach Blossom Spring alone.\(^8\)
Dandelion puff tossed along, burdened by cares,
walking out my medicine, sick and miserable.\(^9\)
In burying a child who died young, I emulated Pan Yue,\(^10\)
for supporting the unsteady, I look for Deng Woods.\(^11\)

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1 *Yu Xin.
2 Reading the compositions of early third-century writer Chen Lin, Cao Cao, who had been sick in bed, exclaimed that Chen Lin’s writings had made him better. Chen Lin was supposed to have excelled at military proclamations.
3 This refers to Du Fu’s ten years in the territory of Shu and Kuizhou, and three autumns in Kuizhou.
4 The high officials Du Fu had known over the years.
5 “Meeting the [opportune] moment” is to be recognized and become successful.
6 The attribute of the humble wren in Zhang Hua’s “Wren fu,” a figure for one who keeps safe by being small and unnoticed.
7 Yang Zhen of the Later Han was known to be incorruptible. Someone tried to present him gold at night, saying no one would know, to which Yang Zhen replied “Heaven knows; Earth knows; you know; and I know.”
8 *Peach Blossom Spring.
9 This refers to the practice in Chinese medicine of walking after taking a medicine, in order to spread its effects through the body.
10 Pan Yue mentions this in the “Fu on My Journey West.”
11 Guafu went chasing the sun and died of thirst. His cane became Deng Woods. Du Fu is saying that he needs a cane.
蹉跎翻学步，
感激在知音。
卻假蘇張舌，
高誇周宋鐸。
納流迷浩汗，
峻址得巃峳。
城府開清旭，
松筠起碧漣。
披顔爭倩倩，
逸足競駸駸。
朗鑒存愚直，
皇天實照臨。
公孫仍恃險，
侯景未生擒。
書信中原闊，
干戈北斗深。
畏人千里井，
問俗九州箴。
Stumbling, instead I study the strut,\(^1\)
being stirred depends on my true friends.
They borrow the tongues of Su Qin and Zhang Yi\(^2\)
to give me high praise as the swordguard that is Zhou and Song.\(^3\)
Accepting streams, lost in a vast flood,
the most lofty spot, attaining looming heights.\(^4\)
The city offices appear in the clear morning light,
52 pine and bamboo rise by the emerald banks.
Showing smiles, they vie in beaming,
fleet of foot, they compete in rushing.
They are a bright mirror that shows concern for the upright fool,
56 august Heaven truly looks down on this from above.
Our Gongsun Shus still rely on impregnable defenses,\(^5\)
Hou Jing has not yet been taken alive.\(^6\)
Letters from the central plain are few and far between,
60 arms lie deep around the Northern Dipper.\(^7\)
I am careful of others at a well a thousand leagues from home,\(^8\)
I have found out about customs, as in the injunction for the Nine
Regions.\(^9\)

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\(^1\) In an anecdote in the *Zhuangzi*, a young man went to Handan, whose residents were famous for a particular strut. The young man tried to imitate the strut, but to no avail; and when he returned home, he had forgotten how to walk in the ordinary way.

\(^2\) Famous orators of the Warring States, known for their eloquence.

\(^3\) In the *Zhuangzi* the figurative sword of the Son of Heaven has the domains of Zhou and Song as its swordguard.

\(^4\) Evidently based on the proverb that the sea accepts all streams and Mount Tai accepts all additions of earth, thus both are great. This praises his friends.

\(^5\) Gongsun Shu was the separatist ruler in Shu during the interregnum between the Western and Eastern Han. Du Fu is probably referring to the separatist generals of his own time.

\(^6\) Hou Jing was a northern general who went over to the Liang, then rebelled, sacking Jiankang and temporarily taking power in the South. This may refer to Zang Jie.

\(^7\) Chang’an.

\(^8\) This may refer to a saying that “though a well is a thousand leagues away [from one’s home], one does not let fodder fall into it,” or to a Cao Pi phrase to the same effect, that one does not spit into a well when afar.

\(^9\) The “Nine Regions” is all China.
戰血流依舊，
軍聲動至今。
葛洪屍定解，
許靖力還任。
家事丹砂訣，
無成涕作霖。
The blood of battle flows as it used to,
the sounds of armies stirs to this day.
Ge Hong’s corpse surely was released,¹
can Xu Jing’s strength still endure?²
In taking care of family and in the secrets of the cinnabar pill³
I have achieved nothing and my tears fall in a downpour.

¹ The “release of the corpse” applies to a Daoist adept, like Ge Hong of the third century. When buried, his body was said to have been as light as an empty set of clothes. In the coffin, the body transforms into an immortal.
² Xu Jing was a figure from the late second and early third century, who fled from place to place to avoid being killed. At last he went to serve Liu Bei in the Shu-Han kingdom. Du Fu is comparing himself to Xu.
³ The “cinnabar pill” is the elixir of immortality.