

A Translation of Four Chinese Shi-Poems

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汲井漱寒齒，清心拂塵服。
閒持貝葉書，步出東齋讀。
真源了無取，妄跡世所逐。
遺言冀可冥，繕性何由熟。
道人庭宇靜，苔色連深竹。
日出霧露餘，青松如膏沐。
澹然離言說，悟悅心自足。

Reading Zen Scriptures in the Morning at Ven. Chao's Monastery (Liu Zongyuan)

With cold well water I brushed my teeth,
With a pure mind I patted my clothes,

Walk out with Buddhist sutra
from Dongzhai's door,
I read it in a relaxed mood,

From where one can catch the truth,
For the false things all fight to pursue,

The Buddha's words can hopefully be
tasted,
It is not easy for one to correct bad
habits;

How tranquil it was in the Monastery's
backyard,
The dark green moss melted with bamboos'
deep roots,

Fog and dewdrops dazzled with
brilliance when the sun shined,
Green pines sparkled as if they were
greased,

Detached from the language and words,
I was filled with the happiness of emptying
my heart.

行路難（李白）

金樽清酒斗十千，
玉盤珍羞直萬錢。
停杯投箸不能食，
拔劍四顧心茫然。
欲渡黃河冰塞川，
將登太行雪滿山。

閒來垂釣碧溪上，
忽復乘舟夢日邊。
行路難！行路難！
多歧路，今安在？
長風破浪會有時，
直掛雲帆濟滄海。

| The Hard Way (Li Bai)

Fine wine in golden goblets,
Fancy dainties on jade plates,
How precious the meal is!

Put down the chopsticks and the goblet,
Draw the sword and look around,
I can hardly describe my mind in words.

Hoping to cross the Yellow River,
Wanting to climb Mount Taihang,
But in my way, it is snowing and
ice-bound.

Thinking of Jiang Ziya fishing by the
stream,
Yiying passing by the sun in his dream,
They were found by the wise kings.

What a hard way! What a hard way!
So many crossroads !
So easy to get lost!

But still, raise the sail, prepare the boat,
Get ready for departure!
Believe in one day, we can overcome the
storm!

苦熱行（王維）

赤日滿天地，火雲成山嶽。
草木盡焦卷，川澤皆竭涸。
輕紈覺衣重，密樹苦陰薄。
莞簟不可近，絺綌再三濯。

思出宇宙外，曠然在寥廓。
長風萬里來，江海蕩煩濁。
卻顧身爲患，始知心未覺。
忽入甘露門，宛然清涼樂。

A Hard Hot Trip (Wang Wei)

The burning sun spread hotness,
As the scorching air accumulated into huge mountains of clouds,

Grass and trees withered,
As rivers and lakes lost their lives and became silent,

A light gauze is too heavy for one to bear,
A thick shade of trees is too few for one to share,

Heat stops one from lying on the mat,
Washing the summer clothes again and again to cool it down,

A Hard Hot Trip (Wang Wei)

Let the thoughts fly away from the universe,
Enjoy the winds that come along thousands of miles,

Then the mind suddenly feels so wild and refreshed,
The troubling thoughts are washed away by seas and rivers.

I know for sure,
The body always traps me from becoming enlightened,

But still, I enjoy this rare moment,
Gaining awareness of Buddhism brings me supreme pure happiness.

秋興八首·其三（杜甫）

千家山郭靜朝暉，
日日江樓坐翠微。
信宿漁人還泛泛，
清秋燕子故飛飛。

匡衡抗疏功名薄，
劉向傳經心事違。
同學少年多不賤，
五陵衣馬自輕肥。

Eight Odes to Autumn • No.3 (Du Fu)

Thousands of houses stand in the light of the rising sun,
Rows of pavilions sit in the green verdant mountains,

Fishermen are slowly rafting above the brook ,
With two or three swallows darting through the air.

Kuang Heng discarded the fame and gave the true advice, was then appreciated
by the emperor,
I dreamed about being asked to give lectures on Five Classics like Liu Xiang, but
it never comes true.

For my classmates, they shall be enjoying noble and rich lives,
With well-fed horses so tall, and fur coats so light.

Commentary

Thank you for listening

