

A Translation of Four Chinese Shi-Poems

Module code: SICH6011

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Date : 28 April 2022

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1. Original text and the translation

晨詣超師院讀禪經（柳宗元）

Visiting Transcendent Master Courtyard in the Early Morning to

Read *Channa Sutra* (Liu Zongyuan 柳宗元)

汲井漱寒齒，清心拂塵服。

Rinsing my mouth with cold well water, purifying my mind and dust off the clothes.

閒持貝葉書，步出東齋讀。

The palm-leaf sutra is leisurely holding, I stroll out of the east wing reading.

真源了無取，妄跡世所逐。

The veritable truth is not adopted by earthly people, yet illusion things are pursued by worldly people.

遺言冀可冥，繕性何由熟。

Expecting the truth of Buddhism coincide originally, and how to attain the nature original?

道人庭宇靜，苔色連深竹。

The Buddhist priest's courtyard, how quiet and secluded; the deep of bamboo forest, where green moss reaches.

The background is a traditional Chinese ink wash painting. It depicts a misty landscape with several tall, slender pine trees in the foreground and middle ground. The mountains in the background are shrouded in a thick mist, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall style is minimalist and serene, typical of classical Chinese art.

日出霧露餘，青松如膏沐。

The rest of early morning mist shining, the green pine trees seemed to be
bathing.

澹然離言說，悟悅心自足。

A tranquil mind beyond expression and words, the bliss of comprehending
my heart fills.

2. Original text and the translation

行路難（李白）

Hard the Way Is（Libai李白）

金樽清酒鬥十千，玉盤珍羞直萬錢。

Mellow wine in golden goblet, one decalitre cost ten thousand; the delicacies on
jade plates, also worthy of a myriad.

停杯投箸不能食，拔劍四顧心茫然。

Stopping drinking, putting down chopsticks, unwilling to taste; pulling out the
sword, looking around, at a loss.

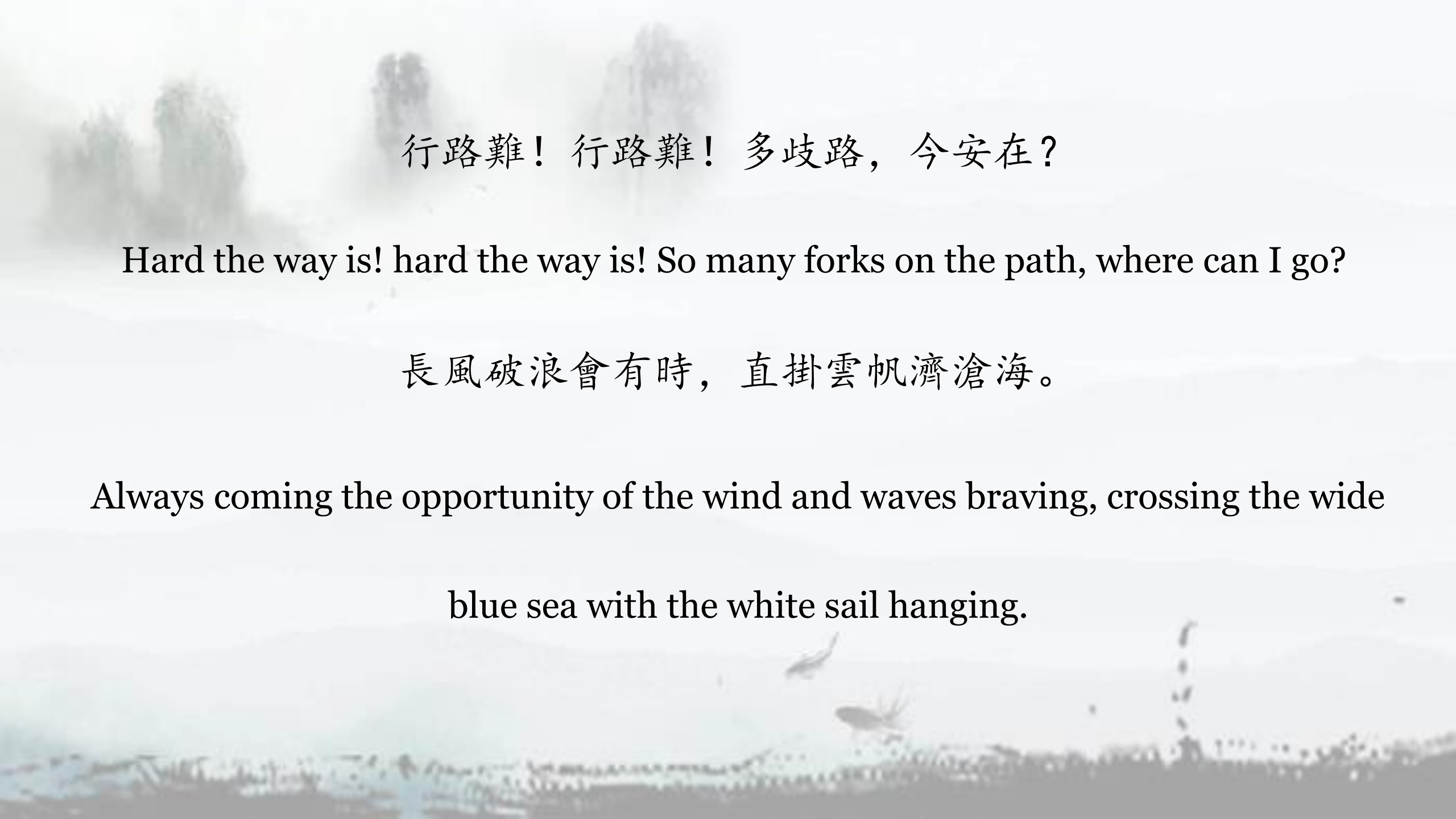


欲渡黃河冰塞川，將登太行雪滿山。

Wanting to crossing the Yellow River, blocked by ice; wanting to climbing the
Mount *Tai Hang* 太行, covered with storm.

閒來垂釣碧溪上，忽復乘舟夢日邊。

Fishing by the verdurous stream in leisure, later dreaming of boating aside the
sun as well.



行路難！行路難！多歧路，今安在？

Hard the way is! hard the way is! So many forks on the path, where can I go?

長風破浪會有時，直掛雲帆濟滄海。

Always coming the opportunity of the wind and waves braving, crossing the wide
blue sea with the white sail hanging.

3. Original text and the translation

苦熱行（王維）

The Way of Extremely Hot（Wangwei王維）

赤日滿天地，火雲成山嶽。

Broiling sun fills the heaven and earth, rolling volcano is the feeling from the red clouds.

草木盡焦卷，川澤皆竭涸。

All plants are scorched and curled up, and all the streams and marshes are dried up.

輕紈覺衣重，密樹苦陰薄。

Heavy is the silk cloth which worn on the body, thin are the shades under
thick trees.

莞簟不可近，絺綌再三濯。

Hard to near the rush and bamboo mats, must wash again and again
roughed clothes.

思出宇宙外，曠然在寥廓。

The thoughts are roaming far beyond the heavens, wide and expansive in
the boundless universe.

長風萬里來，江海蕩煩濁。

Swift wind blowing from thousands of miles away, the extremely hot from
place-to-place fading away.

卻顧身爲患，始知心未覺。

Looking back on the sufferings of the body, beginning to realize not
wake up from the illusions.

忽入甘露門，宛然清涼樂。

Suddenly comprehending the nirvana way of extricating,
as if the bliss of cool and fresh obtaining.

4. Original text and the translation

秋興八首・其三（杜甫）

Eight Poems in Association of Autumn The Third（Dufu 杜甫）

千家山郭靜朝暉，日日江樓坐翠微。

Thousands of mountain villages immersing in morning sunlight quietly,
surrounded by the green mountains on river towers day after day.

信宿漁人還泛泛，清秋燕子故飛飛。

Staying Fishermen still drifting and drifting on the river, yet chilly autumn
swallows still flying and flying as usual.

匡衡抗疏功名薄，劉向傳經心事違。

Imitating Kuang heng 匡衡 submitting memorial , which made me losing official rank, imitating Liu Xiang 劉向 passing on Classics, my heart misgave my wishes
backfire.

同學少年多不賤，五陵衣馬自輕肥。

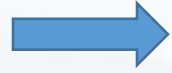
Most of the contemporaries are now in high positions, of course living the life with
light fur and well-fed horses.

5. Commentary

First poem

Chaoshi 超師 means transcendent master.

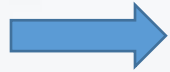
Zhong Xun 重巽



The abbot of Long Xing 龍興 Temple



the disciple of Zhan Ran 湛然



the ninth ancestor of the Tian Tai Sect.

Chan 禪

Channa

from Sanskrit.

Zen

being Japanese spelling,

the *beiyeshu* 貝葉書 → Buddhist sutras.

‘Pattra, palm leaves → in ancient India → write Buddhist sutras

Beiye jing 《貝葉經》 → ‘palm-leaf manuscript’

Daoren 道人 → Zhong Xun 重巽 → Buddhist priest

The second poem

Li Bai李白 → not appreciated by Emperor → had to leave Chang an长安

Cao Zhi曹植 *Mingdupian* 《名都篇》

歸來宴平樂，美酒斗十千

returning ping le guan平樂觀 hold a sumptuous feast , one decalitre of mellow wine

worth ten thousand

Jiang Ziya 姜子牙



fishing in Pan 磻 Creek



met King Wen of Zhou



important position

Yi Yin 伊尹



dreamed of sailing around the sun



appointed by Shang Tang 商湯

Ting 停



Stopping

Tou 投



putting down

Ba 拔



pulling out

Gu 顧



looking around

Se 塞

Man 滿

key words

at the beginning of the stanza

Hui 會

Ji 濟

key words

at the beginning of the stanza

The third poem

the conditions of the extreme heat of summer.

red clouds in the sky → mountains

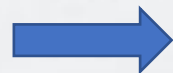
rolling volcano



heavy of the mountain

the extremely hot in summer

Zhong 重 and *Bo* 薄



extreme heat

Jianghai 江海



the river and sea

in general



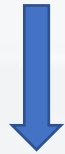
everywhere

more accurate

in line with the mind of poet

Ganlu Men 甘露門

Buddhist term



the supreme Nirvana method of transcending life and death.

The fourth poem

A set of poems written by Du Fu 杜甫 in Kui zhou 夔州.

RiRi 日日



day and day

Hai 還

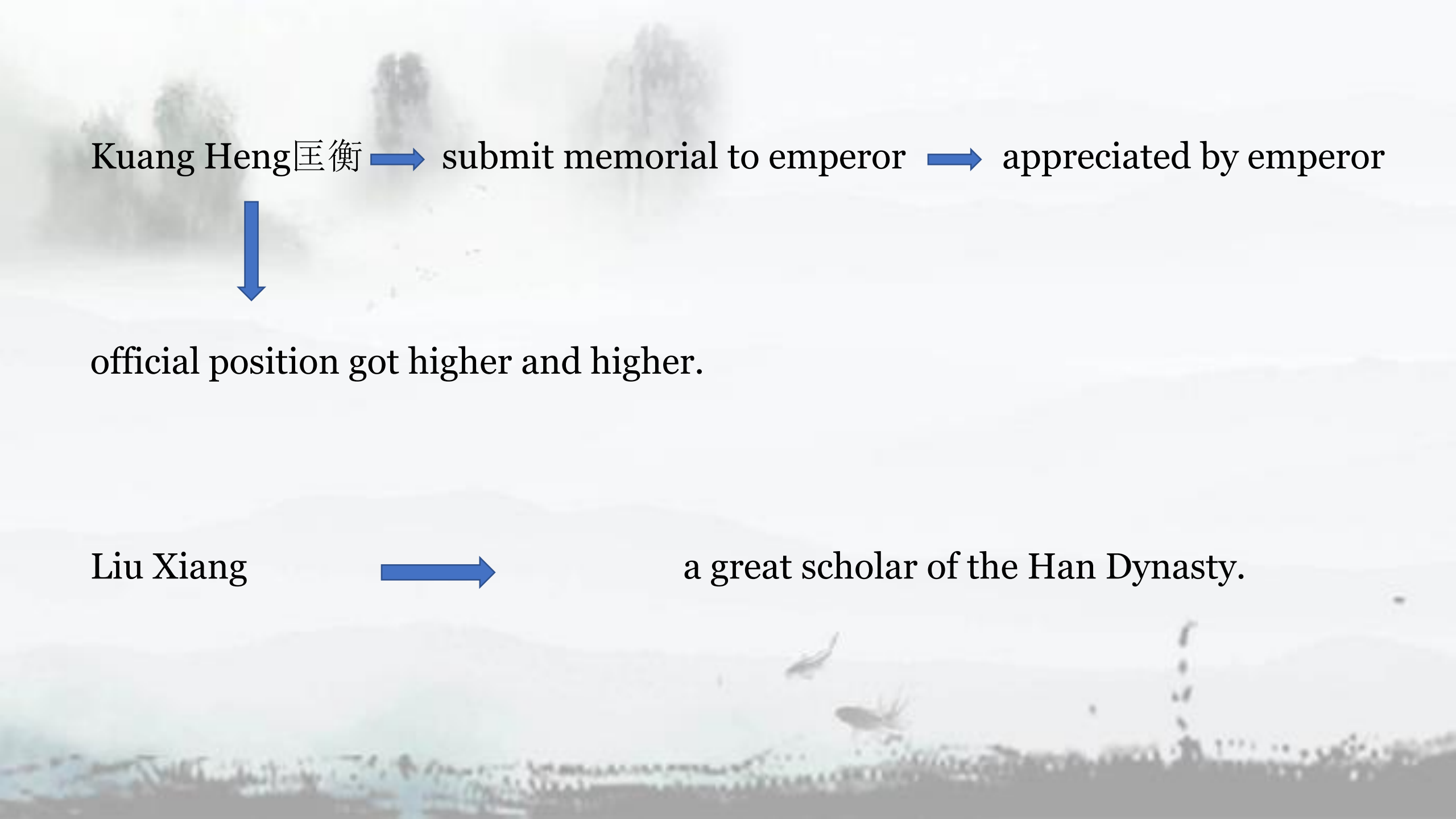


still

Gu 故



as usual

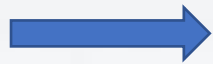


Kuang Heng 匡衡 → submit memorial to emperor → appreciated by emperor



official position got higher and higher.

Liu Xiang



a great scholar of the Han Dynasty.

Wu ling 五陵 area → where the dignitaries lived → high status

Yima 衣馬 and Qingfei 輕肥 → rich lives

The Analects of Confucius

drive stout and strong horses, wear soft and warm furred robe.

乘肥馬，衣輕裘

those people



do not stick to their conscience

Zi 自



express the poet's feeling



not envy



Let those people live the rich lives they seek, and I will remain the original
intention and my conscience.

The background is a traditional Chinese ink wash painting. It depicts a misty landscape with rolling mountains in the distance. In the foreground, there are two cranes standing on a grassy bank. To the right, there are some trees and a small boat on the water. The overall style is minimalist and elegant, with a focus on natural elements.

Thank you for listening