



A Translation of Four Chinese Shi-Poems



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Contents

1. Original text and translation of the shi-poem

- *Chen yi chaoshi yuan du chan jing* 晨詣超師院讀禪經
- *Xing lun an* 行路難
- *Ku re xing* 苦熱行
- *Qiu xing bashou* 秋興八首·其三

2. Commentary



01

Original text and translation of the shi-poem

1.1

**Visiting the Pure Land yard 淨土院 in
Longxing temple 龍興寺 of Mater Zhong
Xun 僧重巽 and reading the Classics of
Chan in the morning (Zongyuan Liu)**

晨詣超師院讀禪經（柳宗元）

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。

To draw cold well water to rinse mouth,
To brush dust off clothes with pure mind.
In leisure time, holding the pattra-leaf
sutra.

And reading them after walking out
Dong Room.

The truth of Buddhism people no realise,
The unreal thing they still chase.

1.1

晨詣超師院讀禪經（柳宗元）

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。

Hoping to conform to what the Buddha
left,
And nourishing the nature, yet when will
ripping?

Silent the yard of the hermit,
Green the lichen in the deep of Bamboo
Forest.

The Sun coming out, shining morning
mist, left dew,
And greenish pine which bright like
jewel.

Beyond words the simple and quiet,
Realising the truth happy and content.

1.2

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。

The difficulty on the road (Bai Li)

The good rice wine in golden cup deserves
thousands,
The delicious food on exquisite utensils
worth millions.
Yet, I put down the chopsticks, stop
drinking, unable to eat,
And pull out my sword, looking around at a
loss.
Want to cross the Yellow River, yet ice filled.
Hope to climb the Taihang Mountain, yet
snow sealed.

1.2

行路難（李白）

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 difficulty on the road (Bai Li)

Remember, Jiang Ziya fished beside the river at leisure.

Remember, Yi Yin dreamed of taking boat passing by the sun.

How difficult the road! How difficult the road!

Too many forked roads, and which one is mine?

Yet one day, to ride the wind, crest the waves,

And to hoist the sail throughout the seas!

1.3

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。

The severe hot walking (Wei Wang)

Under heaven, the scorching sun.
Becoming mountains, the red clouds.
All withered, Grass and trees.
All dried, rivers and lakes.
Thin silk still wears heavy,
Dense woods still shade severe.
Cannot go near the bamboo mat,
Need to wash again the clothes yet.

1.3

苦熱行（王維）

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

The severe hot walking (Wei Wang)

So imaging going out of universe,
And resting in tall and spacious heaven and
earth.

Thousands of miles away, far wind come.
Wandering thoughts move away, vast seas
wave.

What a pity! The biggest trouble is my body.
Starting to know, still not awakened.
Suddenly entering the door of wisdom,
Feeling tranquility and happiness.

1.4

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。

Recall with emotion in Autumn, the third one (Fu Du)

Quietly under morning light, located in
Baidi City thousands of houses.
Sit in tower riverside, watching opposite
verdant peaks days.
The fishermen spent two nights in boat, still
drifting around.
The swallows flap wings in autumn, still
flying around.

1.4

秋興八首•其三（杜甫）

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。

Recall with emotion in Autumn, the third one (Fu Du)

Kuang Heng bluntly advised the emperor,
cared nothing about his fames.

Liu Xiang put effort to teach the Classics,
facing lots of difficulties.

In early youth my classmates, all successful
in business.

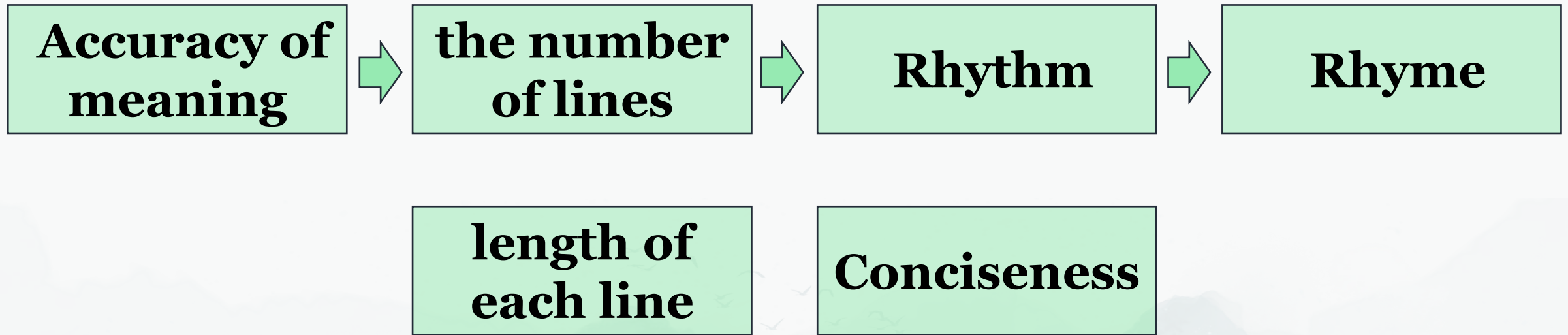
In Wuling near Chang'an, wearing leathers,
riding horses, and enjoying richness.



02

Commentary

2. Commentary



2.1

晨詣超師院讀禪經

Liu Zongyuan 柳宗元 (773–819CE)

- Degraded to Yongzhou 永州
- Lived in Longxing temple and learned from the Master Zhong Xun
- Buddhism gave him strength and faith in mind



2.1 晨詣超師院讀禪經

真源了無取，妄跡世所逐。

The truth of Buddhism no realises,
The unreal things still chase.



The truth of Buddhism people no realise,
The unreal thing they still chase.

2.1 晨詣超師院讀禪經

遺言冀可冥，**繕性**何由熟。

shanxing 繕性.

- *Zhuangzi* 莊子: ‘Nourishing nature in the society.’(繕性于俗)
- Cheng Xuanying 成玄英 annotated that: ‘Character *shan* 繕 means govern. Character *xing* 性 means nature.’(繕，治也；性，生也。)

2.1 晨詣超師院讀禪經

日出霧露餘，青松如膏沐。

Sun coming out, shining morning mist, left dewdrop,
And greenish pine which bright like gemstone.



The Sun coming out, shining morning mist, left dew,
And greenish pine which bright like jewel.

- (*Gaomu* 膏沐: an ointment used by women for washing and smoothing their hair.)

2.2 行路難

‘The difficulty on the road’ 行路難

Li Bai 李白 (701–762CE)

- Very talented in Shi-poems, but not success in political career.
- Include three poems in total
- Aspiration for achieve value of life and distress of failure.



2.2 行路難

金樽清酒鬥十千，玉盤珍羞直萬錢。

The good rice wine in golden cup **deserves**
thousands,
The delicious food on exquisite utensils
worth millions.

2.2 行路難

閒來垂釣碧溪上，
忽復乘舟夢日邊。

Remember, Jiang Ziya fished beside
the river at leisure.

Remember, Yi Yin dreamed of
taking boat passing by the sun.



2.3 苦熱行

‘The severe hot walking’ 苦熱行

Wang Wei 王維 (692-761CE)

- Expert in Buddhism
- Greatly influenced by Chan



2.3 苦熱行

輕紉覺衣重，
密樹苦陰薄。

Thin silk still dresses heavy,
Dense woods still shade little.



Thin silk still dresses **heavy**,
Dense woods still shade **severe**.

思出宇宙外，
曠然在寥廓

So imaging going out of world ,
And resting in tall and spacious
sky.



So imaging going out of **universe**,
And resting in tall and spacious
heaven and **earth**.

2.3 苦熱行

長風萬里來，江海蕩煩濁。

Far wind from thousands of miles away,
Vast seas remove troubles and wandering thoughts.



Thousands of miles away, far wind **come**.
Wandering thoughts move away, vast seas **wave**.

2.4 秋興八首

‘Recall with emotion in Autumn’ 秋興八首

Du Fu 杜甫 (712–770CE)

- Whole life was full of distress
- Still kept sincerity to country and the people
- Experienced the changes of Tang Dynasty
- Poems was written in kuizhou 夔州



2.4 秋興八首

信宿漁人還泛泛， 清秋燕子故飛飛。

Fisherman spent two nights in boat, was still drifting in the river.

The swallows still flap wings to fly to and fro in the clear and bright autumn.



The fishermen spent two nights in boat, still drifting around.
The swallows flap wings in autumn, still flying around.

2.4 秋興八首

同學少年多不賤，五陵衣馬自輕肥。

My classmates in early youth, all success in **career**.
In Wuling near Chang'an, wearing costly leathers, riding
fine horses, and enjoying rich **life**.



My classmates in early youth, all successful in **business**.
In Wuling near Chang'an, wearing leathers, riding
horses, and enjoying **richness**.



Thank you for listening.

