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英译诗文选



東坡筆意

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语堂
诗文集



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日暮不得返舍，因题一诗于壁，今二十年矣。
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Record on the Terrace for Stepping on the Void

Since the terrace is situated at the foot of the southern hills, it would seem that every day one would eat and sleep and live in close association with the hills, but His Honor the Chief Magistrate was unaware of their existence. When His Honor Sire Chen was walking around in the garden one day, he saw hilltops showing above the trees like the knotted hair of passengers walking outside the walk, and he declared, "This is strange indeed!" His Honor ordered a square pond to be dug in the front part of the garden, and with the dug-up earth he built a terrace to the level of the house roof, so that future visitors of this terrace would not be aware that they were standing on a high place but the hills would seem to meet their eyes on the level. "Let this terrace be called the Terrace for Stepping on the

Void,” said His Honor. He told this to his junior colleague, Su Shih [Su Tungpo], and asked the latter to write an inscription for the terrace.

Su Shih replied to His Honor and said: “Who can tell how and when the things of this life rise and decay? When this place was a stretch of wild country, exposed to the dew and frost, and foxes and snakes made their homes therein, who would suspect that one day the Terrace for Stepping on the Void would be erected at this place? Since the laws of rise and decay go on in a continual cycle, who can tell but one day this terrace may once more become a stretch of wasteland and barren fields? Once I went up to the terrace with His Honor and looked around. On the east we saw the prayer temple and springs of Emperor Mu of Chin, on the south we saw the halls and terraces of Emperor Wu of Han, and looking to the north we saw the Jenshou Palace of Sui and the Chiuchen Palace of Tang. I thought of the days of their glory, their magnificence and everlasting solidity, greater a hundred times than this terrace. Yet, after a

few centuries, travelers over these ruins found only broken tiles and rubble, and mounds covered with brambles and fields of corn. How much more must this be true of the present terrace? And, if even the solid structure of a terrace cannot last long, how much more deceptive are the successes and failures and the ever changing fortunes of human affairs? It would indeed be a mistake for some people to pride themselves on their present good fortune. For we know that there are things in this life which last forever, but this terrace is not one of them.”

【凌虚台记】

国于南山之下，宜若起居饮食与山接也。四方之山，莫高于终南。而都邑之丽山者，莫近于扶风。以至今求最高，其势必得。而太守之居，未尝知有山焉。虽非事之所以损益，而物理有不当然者，此凌虚之所为筑也。

方其未筑也，太守陈公杖屦逍遥于其下，见山之出于林木之上者，累累如人之旅行于墙外而见其髻也，曰：“是必有异。”使工凿其前为方池，以其土筑台，高出于屋之危而止。然后人之至于其上者，恍然不知台之高，而以为山之踊跃奋迅而出也。公曰：“是宜名凌虚。”以告其从事苏轼，而求文以为记。

轼复于公曰：“物之废兴成毁，不可得而知也。昔者荒草野田，霜露之所蒙翳，狐虺之所窜伏，方是时，岂知有凌虚台耶？废兴成毁相寻于无穷，则台之复为荒草野田，皆不可知也。尝试与公登台而望，其东则秦穆之祈年、橐泉也，其南则汉武之长杨、五柞，而其北则隋之仁寿、唐之九成也。计其一时之盛，宏杰诡丽，坚固而不可动者，岂特百倍于台而已哉！然而数世之后，欲求其仿佛，而破瓦颓垣无复存者，既已化为禾黍荆棘丘墟陇亩矣，而况于此台欤？夫台犹不足恃以长久，而况于人事之得丧，忽往而忽来者欤？而或者欲以夸世而自足，则过矣。盖世有足恃者，而不在乎台之存亡也。”既已言于公，退而为之记。

蟬於天地渺浮海之一粟
哀吾生之須臾羨長江之
無窮挾飛仙以遨游抱
明月而長終知不可乎驟

宋·苏轼 前赤壁賦（局部）

舳舻千里旌旗蔽空醺
酒臨江橫槊賦詩固一世
之雄也而今安在哉況吾與
子漁樵於江渚之上侶魚
鼉而友麋鹿駕一葉之扁

Paper for the Palace Examinations

In all things, great and small, one should not depend on force, but must observe reason and the nature of things. For in all things done according to reason one is bound to succeed, and in all undertakings against reason one is doomed to fail. Now Your Majesty has compelled the farmers to pay you high interest, and you have entered into competition with businessmen for profits. Is this in accordance with reason, and do you wonder that it has failed?... If Your Majesty has the welfare of the people truly at heart, the people would show confidence in you despite all rumors; but if you are going only after revenue, the people can hardly be convinced by words. If a judge receives presents from a defendant and lets himself be influenced in his decision, people will say that he has been bribed; and if a man takes what does not belong to him, people will call him a thief. That would only be calling a thing by its

right name. Now, you are receiving twenty percent interest from the farmers' loans, yet you insist that you are not making these loans for interest. How are the people to believe you?... A man is condemned by his acts and not by what he professes to do... All this commotion is because the whole country is coming to believe that Your Majesty is looking for the revenue, while you maintain that you are working only for their good. While you insist that you are totally disinterested, the whole world thinks that you are avaricious.

Sometimes a man falls from a horse in his youth and never dares to ride again all his life... Bent on a mad rush for drastic reforms, you have started the farmers' loans, instituted the draft exemption tax, started the national trade bureau, shifted the army units. You are determined to carry these through against all criticism, but should you find out the error, then when you have good policies to carry out in the future, you will have lost all self-confidence... Your Majesty started the reign with the high hopes of youth, gifted with high intelligence and