

楚辞选

SELECTED ELEGIES OF
THE STATE OF CHU

离 骚

帝高阳之苗裔兮,朕皇考曰伯庸。

摄提贞于孟 陬 兮,惟庚寅吾以降。

皇览揆余初度兮,肇锡余以嘉名:

名余曰正则兮,字余曰灵均。

纷吾既有此内美兮,又重之以修能。

扈江离与辟芷兮,纫秋兰以为佩。

汨余若将不及兮,恐年岁之不吾与。

朝搴 阰 之木兰兮,夕揽洲之宿莽。

日月忽其不淹兮,春与秋其代序。

惟草木之零落兮,恐美人之迟暮。

LI SAO

A Prince am I of Ancestry renowned,
Illustrious Name my royal Sire hath found.
When Sirius did in Spring its Light display,
A Child was born, and Tiger marked the Day.
When first upon my Face my Lord's Eye glanced,
For me auspicious Names he straight advanced,
Denoting that in me Heaven's Marks divine
Should with the Virtues of the Earth combine.
With lavished innate Qualities indued,
By Art and Skill my Talents I renewed;
Angelic Herbs and sweet Selineas too,
And Orchids late that by the Water grew,
I wove for Ornament; till creeping Time,
Like Water flowing, stole away my Prime.
Magnolias of the Glade I plucked at Dawn,
At Eve beside the Stream took Winter-thorn.
Without Delay the Sun and Moon sped fast,
In swift Succession Spring and Autumn passed;
The fallen Flowers lay scattered on the Ground,
The Dusk might fall before my Dream was found.

不抚壮而弃秽兮，何不改此度？
乘骐骥以驰骋兮，来吾道夫先路！
昔三后之纯粹兮，固众芳之所在；
杂申椒与菌桂兮，岂维纫夫蕙茝？
彼尧舜之耿介兮，既遵道而得路；
何桀纣之猖披兮，夫唯捷径以窘步。
惟夫党人之偷乐兮，路幽昧以险隘。
岂余身之惮殃兮，恐皇舆之败绩！
忽奔走以先后兮，及前王之踵武。
荃不察余之中情兮，反信谗而离怒。
余固知謇謇之为患兮，忍而不能舍也。
指九天以为正兮，夫唯灵修之故也！

Had I not loved my Prime and spurned the Vile,
Why should I not have changed my former Style?
My Chariot drawn by Steeds of Race divine
I urged; to guide the King my sole Design.

Three ancient Kings there were so pure and true
That round them every fragrant Flower grew;
Cassia and Pepper of the Mountain-side
With Melilotus white in Clusters vied.
Two Monarchs then, who high Renown received,
Followed the kingly Way, their Goal achieved.
Two Princes proud by Lust their Reign abused,
Sought easier Path, and their own Steps confused.
The Faction for illicit Pleasure longed;
Dreadful their Way where hidden Perils thronged.
Danger against myself could not appal,
But feared I lest my Sovereign's Sceptre fall.

Forward and back I hastened in my Quest,
Followed the former Kings, and took no Rest.
The Prince my true Integrity defamed,
Gave Ear to Slander, high his Anger flamed;
Integrity I knew could not avail,
Yet still endured; my Lord I would not fail.
Celestial Spheres my Witness be on high,
I strove but for His Sacred Majesty.
Twas first to me gave his plighted Word,

日黄昏以为期兮，羌中道而改路。

初既与余成言兮，后悔遁而有他。

余既不难夫离别兮，伤灵修之数化。

余既滋兰之九畹兮，又树蕙之百亩。

畦留夷与揭车兮，杂杜衡与芳芷。

冀枝叶之峻茂兮，愿俟时乎吾将刈。

虽萎绝其亦何伤兮，哀众芳之芜秽！

众皆竞进以贪婪兮，凭不厌乎求索。

羌内恕己以量人兮，各兴心而嫉妒。

忽驰骛以追逐兮，非余心之所急。

老冉冉其将至兮，恐修名之不立。

朝饮木兰之坠露兮，夕餐秋菊之落英。

苟余情其信姱以练要兮，长顗颔亦何伤！

But soon repenting other Counsel heard.
For me Departure could arouse no Pain;
I grieved to see his royal Purpose vain.

Nine Fields of Orchids at one Time I grew,
For Melilot a hundred Acres too,
And fifty Acres for the Azalea bright,
The Rumex fragrant and the Lichen white.
I longed to see them yielding Blossoms rare,
And thought in Season due the Spoil to share.
I did not grieve to see them die away,
But grieved because midst Weeds they did decay.

Insatiable in Lust and Greediness
The Faction strove, and tired not of Excess;
Themselves condoning, others they'd decry,
And steep their Hearts in envious Jealousy.

Insatiably they seized what they desired,
It was not that to which my Heart aspired.
As old Age unrelenting hurried near,
Lest my fair Name should fail was all my Fear.
Dew from Magnolia Leaves I drank at Dawn,
At Eve for Food were Aster Petals borne;
And loving thus the Simple and the Fair,
How should I for my sallow Features care?
With gathered Vines I strung Valeria white,
And mixed with blue Wistaria Petals bright,

揽木根以结茝兮，贯薜荔之落蕊。

矫菌桂以纫蕙兮，索胡绳之緼緼。

謇吾法夫前修兮，非世俗之所服。

虽不周于今之人兮，愿依彭咸之遗则。

长太息以掩涕兮，哀民生之多艰。

余虽好修姱以鞿鞢兮，謇朝谇而夕替。

既替余以蕙纕兮，又申之以揽茝。

亦余心之所善兮，虽九死其犹未悔！

怨灵修之浩荡兮，终不察夫民心。

众女嫉余之蛾眉兮，谣诼谓余以善淫。

固时俗之工巧兮，偭规矩而改错；

背绳墨以追曲兮，竞周容以为度。

饨郁邑余佗傺兮，吾独穷困乎此时也。

宁溘死以流亡兮，余不忍为此态也！

And Melilotus matched with Cassia sweet,
With Ivy green and Tendrils long to meet.
Life I adapted to the ancient Way,
Leaving the Manners of the present Day;
Thus unconforming to the modern Age,
The Path I followed of a bygone Sage.

Long did I sigh and wipe away my Tears,
To see my People bowed by Grievs and Fears.
Though I my Gifts enhanced and curbed my Pride,
At Morn they'd mock me, would at Eve deride;
First cursed that I Angelica should wear,
Then cursed me for my Melilotus fair.
But since my Heart did love such Purity,
I'd not regret a thousand Deaths to die.

I marvel at the Folly of the King,
So heedless of his People's Suffering.
They envied me my mothlike Eyebrows fine,
And so my Name his Damsels did malign.
Truly to Craft alone their Praise they paid,
The Square in Measuring they disobeyed;
The Use of common Rules they held debased;
With Confidence their crooked Lines they traced.

In Sadness plunged and sunk in deepest Gloom,
Alone I drove on to my dreary Doom.
In Exile rather would I meet my End,
Than to the Abaseness of their Ways descend.

鸷鸟之不群兮，自前世而固然。
何方圜之能周兮，夫孰异道而相安！
屈心而抑志兮，忍尤而攘诟。
伏清白以死直兮，固前圣之所厚。

悔相道之不察兮，延伫乎吾将反。
回朕车以复路兮，及行迷之未远。
步余马于兰皋兮，驰椒丘且焉止息。
进不入以离尤兮，退将复修吾初服。
制芰荷以为衣兮，集芙蓉以为裳。
不吾知其亦已兮，苟余情其信芳。
高余冠之岌岌兮，长余佩之陆离。
芳与泽其杂糅兮，唯昭质其犹未亏。

Remote the Eagle spurns the common Range,
Not deigns since Time began its Way to change;
A Circle fits not with a square Design;
Their different Ways could not be merged with
mine.

Yet still my Heart I checked and curbed my Pride,
Their Blame endured and their Reproach beside.
To die for Righteousness alone I sought,
For this was what the ancient Sages taught.

I failed my former Errors to discern;
I tarried long, but now I would return.
My Steeds I wheeled back to their former Way,
Lest all too long down the wrong Path I stray.
On Orchid-covered Bank I loosed my Steed,
And let him gallop by the flow'ry Mead
At Will. Rejected now and in Disgrace,
I would retire to cultivate my Grace.
With Cress Leaves green my simple Gown I made,
With Lilies white my rustic Garb did braid.
Why should I grieve to go unrecognised,
Since in my Heart Fragrance was truly prized?
My Headdress then high-pinnacled I raised,
Lengthened my Pendants, where bright Jewels
blazed.
Others may smirch their Fragrance and bright
Hues,
My Innocence is proof against Abuse.

忽反顾以游目兮，将往观乎四荒。

佩缤纷其繁饰兮，芳菲菲其弥章。

民生各有所乐兮，余独好修以为常。

虽体解吾犹未变兮，岂余心之可惩！

女嬃之婵媛兮，申申其詈予。

曰：“鲧婞直以亡身兮，终然殀乎羽之野。

汝何博謇而好修兮，纷独有此姱节？

蕲婞施以盈室兮，判独离而不服。

众不可户说兮，孰云察余之中情？

世并举而好朋兮，夫何鞿独而不予听？”

依前圣以节中兮，喟凭心而历兹。

济沅湘以南征兮，就重华而陈词：

“启九辩与九歌兮，夏康娱以自纵。

Oft I looked back, gazed to the Distance still,
Longed in the Wilderness to roam at Will.
Splendid my Ornaments together vied,
With all the Fragrance of the Flowers beside;
All men had Pleasures in their various Ways,
My Pleasure was to cultivate my Grace.
I would not change, though they my Body rend;
How could my Heart be wrested from its End?

My Handmaid fair, with Countenance demure,
Entreated me Allegiance to abjure;
“A Hero perished in the Plain ill-starred,
Where Pigmies stayed their Plumage to discard.
Why lovest thou thy Grace and Purity,
Alone dost hold thy splendid Virtue high?
Lentile and Weeds the Prince’s Chamber fill:
Why holdest thou aloof with stubborn Will?
Thou canst not one by one the Crowd persuade,
And who the Purpose of our Heart hath weighed?
Faction and Strife the World hath ever loved;
Heeding me not, why standest thou removed?”

I sought th’ancestral Voice to ease my Woe.
Alas, how one so proud could sink so low!
To barbarous South I went across the Stream;
Before the Ancient I began my Theme:
“With Odes divine there came a Monarch’s Son,
Whose Revels unrestrained were never done;

不顾难以图后兮，五子用失乎家巷。

羿淫游以佚畋兮，又好射夫封狐。

固乱流其鲜终兮，浞又贪夫厥家。

浇身被服强圉兮，纵欲而不忍。

日康娱而自忘兮，厥首用夫颠陨。

夏桀之常违兮，乃遂焉而逢殃。

后辛之菹醢兮，殷宗用而不长。

“ 汤禹俨而只敬兮，周论道而莫差，

举贤而授能兮，循绳墨而不颇。

皇天无私阿兮，览民德焉错辅。

夫维圣哲以茂行兮，苟得用此下土。

瞻前而顾后兮，相观民之计极。

夫孰非义而可用兮，孰非善而可服？

In Antics wild, to coming Perils blind,
He fought his Brother, and his Sway declined.
The royal Archer, in his wanton Chase
For Foxes huge, his Kingdom did disgrace.
Such Wantonness predicts no happy End;
His Queen was stolen by his loyal Friend.
The Traitor's Son, clad in prodigious Might,
In Incest sinned and cared not what was right.
He revelled all his Days, forgetting all;
His Head at last in Treachery did fall.
And then the Prince, who Counsels disobeyed,
Did court Disaster, and his Kingdom fade.
A Prince his Sage in burning Cauldrons tossed;
His glorious Dynasty ere long was lost.

“But stern and pious was their ancient Sire,
And his Successor too did Faith inspire;
Exalted were the Wise, the Able used,
The Rule was kept and never was abused.
The august heaven, with unbiassed Grace,
All Men discerns, and helps the virtuous Race;
Sagacious Princes through their virtuous Deed
The Earth inherit, and their Reigns succeed.
The Past I probed, the Future so to scan,
And found these Rules that guide the Life of Man:
A Man unjust in Deed who would engage?
Whom should Men take as Guide except the Sage?
In mortal Dangers Death I have defied,

玷余身而危死兮，览余初其犹未悔，
不量凿而正枘兮，固前修以菹醢。”
曾獻歎余郁邑兮，哀朕时之不当。
揽茹蕙以掩涕兮，沾余襟之浪浪。

跪敷枉以陈辞兮，耿吾既得此中正。
驷玉虬以乘鸞兮，溘埃风余上征。
朝发轫于苍梧兮，夕余至乎县圃。
欲少留此灵琐兮，日忽忽其将暮。
吾令羲和弭节兮，望崦嵫而勿迫。
路曼曼其修远兮，吾将上下而求索。

饮余马于咸池兮，总余轡乎扶桑。

Yet could look back, and cast Regret aside.
 Who strove, their Tool's Defects accounting
 nought,
 Like ancient Sages were to Cauldrons brought."

Thus I despaired, my Face with sad Tears marred,
 Mourning with Bitterness my Years ill-starred;
 And Melilotus Leaves I took to stem
 The Tears that streamed down to my Garment's
 Hem.
 Soiling my Gown, to plead my Case I kneeled;
 Th'ancestral Voice the Path to me revealed.

Swift jade-green Dragons, Birds with Plumage
 gold,
 I harnessed to the Whirlwind, and behold,
 At Daybreak from the Land of Plane-trees grey,
 I came to Paradise ere close of Day.
 I wished within the sacred Grove to stay,
 The Sun had dropped, and Darkness wrapped the
 Way;
 The Driver of the Sun I bade to stay,
 Ere with the setting Rays we haste away.
 The Way was long, and wrapped in Gloom did
 seem,
 As I urged on to seek my vanished Dream.

The Dragons quenched their Thirst beside the Lake
 Where bathed the Sun, whilst I upon the Brake