

菩 萨 蛮 (唐)李白

平林漠漠烟如织，寒山一带伤心碧。暝色入高楼，有人楼上愁。玉阶空伫立，宿鸟归飞急。何处是归程？长亭更短亭。

Pu Sa Man¹ (Tang)² Li Bo³

*A flat-top forest stretches far in embroidered mist ;
A cluster of mountains cool is tinged with heartbreak
blue .*

*The mansion in creeping dusk is clad ,
Someone up there is sad .*

*On marble steps I stand forlorn .
Birds fly hurriedly by back to roost .
Where , pray , is the way home ?*

*Along a string of wayside pavilions I roam.*⁴

1. Name of *ci*-tune pattern used for a particular poem.
2. Name of dynasty in which the poet lived; Tang Dynasty: 618-907 A.D.
3. Name of poet.
4. "Every five miles a smaller pavilion, every ten miles a larger one", as the saying goes; in olden times wayside pavilions were built for wayfarers to rest their feet in.



闲 中 好 (唐)段成式

闲中好，尘务不萦心。坐对当窗木，看移三面阴。

Xian Zhong Hao (Tang) Duan Cheng Shi

*'Tis good to be idle ,
Worldly affairs bother me little .
I sit facing the tree outside my window
And watch its shade move on three sides .¹*

1. The last two lines: "I sit facing.../And watch its shade..." : The poet looks coolly upon the world and rather enjoys his detachment.

渔歌子 (唐)张志和

西塞山前白鹭飞，桃花流水鳜鱼肥。青
箬笠，绿蓑衣。斜风细雨不须归。

Yu Ge Zi (Tang) Zhang Zhi He

In front of Sise Mountains¹ egrets fly.

Peach blossoms, running brooks and delicious trout.

A blue straw hat and green raincape² I don.

When there's slanting wind and drizzling rain,

I need not go home.

1. Mountains near Suzhou (Soochow), Jiangsu Province.
2. Blue straw hat and green raincape — fishermen's garb.

长相思 (唐)白居易

汴水流，泗水流，流到瓜州古渡头。吴山
点点愁。思悠悠，恨悠悠，恨到归
时方始休。月明人倚楼。

Chang Xiang Si (Tang) Bo Ju Yi

*The River Pian¹ flows ,
The River Si¹ flows ,
They flow to the ancient ferry at Melon Shoal ,
With the Wu Mountains² dotted with gall .*

*The thought of you lingers ,
My regret meanders .
They will only cease when you return .
In a bright moon I lean up high against the window .*

1. The Pian River originates in Henan. It flows into the Si River in Jiangsu Province, at an ancient ferry crossing.
2. Wu Mountains — i.e., the mountains of Wu, which refers generally to the region around Suzhou.



忆江南 (唐)白居易

江南好，风景旧曾谙。日出江花红胜火，
春来江水绿如蓝。能不忆江南？

Yi Jiang Nan (Tang) Bo Ju Yi

*Kiangnan¹ is an alluring land.
Oh, the sights and sounds I knew so well:
At sunrise the flowers on river banks
Were suffused with a flame-like red.
In springtime, the river water turned turquoise blue.
How can I help remembering?*

1. Kiangnan — Literally, south of the River. Refers generally to the fertile lower Yangtze River valley just south of the River, and specifically to the more prosperous areas in Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces.

花 非 花 (唐)白居易

花非花，雾非雾。夜半来，天明去。来如
春梦不多时，去似朝云无觅处。

Hua Fei Hua (Tang) Bo Ju Yi

*Call it flower — 'tis not a flower ;
Call it foggy mist — 'tis none such either .
It comes in the dead of the night
And takes flight the moment dawn alights :
It stays no longer than a dream in spring ,
Departs like the fleeting early morning clouds—
And is seen no more .¹*

1. This is a mystery poem. No one knows what exactly "it" refers to.

望江南 (唐)温庭筠

梳洗罢，独倚望江楼。过尽千帆皆不是，
斜辉脉脉水悠悠。肠断白蘋洲。

Wang Jiang Nan (Tang) Wen Ting Yun

Her toilet over ,

Alone , looking down from River View Tower :

A thousand sails glide by

But without the one she's expecting .

A slanting sunset lingers , the river leisurely flowing .

On the Islet of Snow-White Fern her heart's breaking .

菩 萨 蛮 (唐)温庭筠

南园满地堆轻絮，愁闻一霎清明雨。雨
后却斜阳，杏花零落香。无言匀
睡脸，枕上屏山掩。时节欲黄昏，无聊独
倚门

Pu Sa Man (Tang) Wen Ting Yun

*Fluffy willow catkins have piled up in South
Garden, ¹*

Sad to hear the burst of early April shower so sudden.

Afterwards, the slanting sunrays,

And apricot flowers were scattered about fragrant.

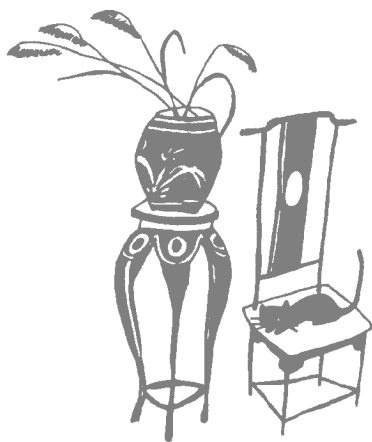
Speechless, I touched up my sleep-drugged face.

A painted screen enclosed my bed and pillows.

At the close of the day,

In ennui, I leaned against the doorway.

1. South garden — a sort of set expression in Chinese poetry and *ci* writing, it calls to mind a sun-drenched and exquisite garden. Other examples include: East wind (the wind of tender spring); west wind (which brings in the season of fall); west lane, west casement (somehow very poetic), etc.



更漏子

(唐)温庭筠

玉炉香，红蜡泪，偏照画堂秋思。眉翠薄，鬓云残，夜长衾枕寒。梧桐树，三更雨，不道离情正苦。一叶叶，一声声，空阶滴到明。

Geng Lou Zi

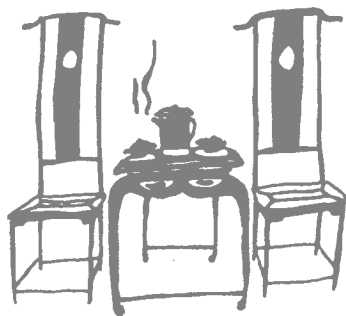
(Tang) Wen Ting Yun

*A jade incense burner ,
Tears dripping from red candles
Shining on the hall with autumnal thoughts .
The dark coloring in her eyebrows is fading ,
Hair ruffled ,
Through the long night pillows are cold .*

*Parasol trees ,¹
Midnight rain streaks :*

*The taste of parting is hard to bear .
Leaves waft down , one by one ,
The rain falls , dripping incessant
On the empty steps , until dawn returns .*

1. (Chinese) parasol trees — called *Wutong* in Chinese, famed for its elegant shape and its association with sadness.



酒泉子

(唐)司空图

买得杏花，十载归来方始坼，假山西畔药
阑东，满枝红。旋开旋落旋成空。
白发多情人更惜，黄昏把酒祝东风。且
从容。

Jiu Quan Zi

(Tang) Sikong Tu

I bought apricot trees.

*Ten years later they bloomed: not until I returned
home.*

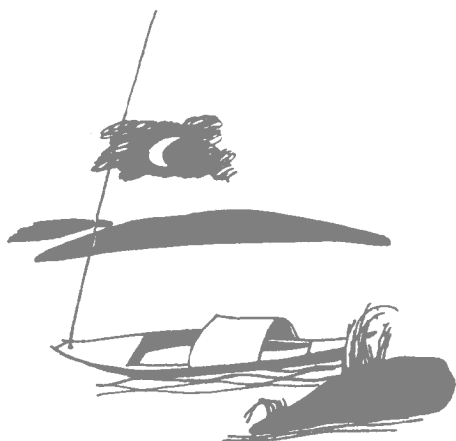
Planted west of the garden rockeries,

East of the herbal plot,

The apricot blossoms opened a lovely pink.

*The flowers opened, then fell, as if they'd never
been.*

*The deep emotions of a hoary man
Are to be cherished all the more .
At dusk I raised a wine cup to the east wind and
prayed :
Prithee , go easy with the world .*



如梦令 (五代)李存勖

曾宴桃源深洞，一曲清歌舞凤。长记别
伊时，和泪出门相送。如梦，如梦，残月
落花烟重。

Ru Meng Ling (Five Dynasties)¹ Li Cun Xu

I've feasted in a deep cave in Peach Blossom Land,²

A lovely song accompanying the Phoenix Dance.

I shall long remember the hour we part:

With tears in her eyes

She sees me off to the gate.

All this is like a dream,³ a dream:

A waning moon; falling petals; and heavy mist.⁴

1. The Five-Dynasty period: 907-960 A.D.

2. Peach Blossom Land — imaginary land of peace, harmony, and idyllic rural living, made famous by the Jin Dynasty (265-420 A. D.) poet Tao Yuan Ming who invented this utopia where people escaped the rule of a tyrannical emperor.
3. This poem is based on a story about two young men who wandered into wild mountains, lost their way, met a fairy goddess, were entertained by her, and in the end found their way back to their native village.
4. Waning moon; falling petals; heavy mist — stuff dreams are made on.

