



CHINESE CLASSICS
& TRANSLATIONS

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唐詩 TANG SHI 詩集 – 300 TANG POEMS

An anthology of 320 poems. Discover Chinese poetry in its golden age and some of the greatest Chinese poets. Tr. by Bynner (en).

Tangshi I. 1. (30)

韋應物 WEI YINGWU

ON MEETING MY FRIEND FENG ZHU IN THE CAPITAL

長安遇馮著
客從東方來
衣上灞陵雨
問客何為來
采山因買斧
冥冥花正開
颺颺燕新乳
昨別今已春
鬢絲生幾縷

Out of the east you visit me,
With the rain of Baling still on your clothes,
I ask you what you have come here for;
You say: "To buy an ax for cutting wood in the mountains"
...Hidden deep in a haze of blossom,
Swallow fledglings chirp at ease
As they did when we parted, a year ago....
How grey our temples have grown since them!

Bynner 30



Wuding means "un-fixed" or "shifting" and probably refers to the fact the sands in the desert shift, causing rivers to change course.

faux ennui - 9 - 2006/11/01

Thinking only of their vow that they would crush the Tartars- -
On the desert, clad in sable and silk, five thousand of them fell....
But arisen from their crumbling bones on the banks of the river at the border,
Dreams of them enter, like men alive, into rooms where their loves lie sleeping.

The above translation was embellished with some "poetic license".

Literally, the words meant:

Pledged to sweep the Xiong-nu away without fear for their own safety;
Five thousand clad in sable and brocade perished in the dust of Hu;
Pity the bones littering the banks of the Wu Ding River,
they were the very people dreamt of in ladies' bedchambers.

fer-de-lance - 9 - 2002/11/02

Tang Shi I. 1. (30) 詩集

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斧劈石

Association
Française des
Professeurs de
Chinois
法国汉语教师协会

Français / English

Chinese on / off

☒ Vertical
☐ Horizontal

Translations

☒ Bynner
☒ Hervey

No commercials