

姜夔詞

Three Tz'u Songs with
Prefaces by Chiang K'uei

Translated by Huang Kuo-pin

鬲溪梅令
丙辰冬自無錫歸作此寓意
好花不與殢香人
浪粼粼
又恐春風歸去綠成陰
玉鈿何處尋
木蘭雙槳夢中雲
小橫陳
漫向孤山山下覓盈盈
翠禽啼一春

To the Tune of Kê-hsi-mei ling

Written to express my thoughts on my return from
Wuhsi 無錫 in the winter of 1196.

*Beautiful flowers are denied to one enamoured of
their fragrance.*

The ripples are clear.

*When the spring breeze departs I am afraid the
shade of the foliage will be complete.*

Where then shall I recover the jade hairpin?

*By a pair of magnolia oars, in the clouds of a
dream,*

She once gently reclined.

*Looking for the fair one in vain, I go to the foot of
Lone Hill,*

Where a green bird sings throughout the spring.

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自胡馬窺江去後
 廢池喬木
 猶厭言兵
 漸黃昏
 清角吹寒
 都在空城
 杜郎俊賞
 算而今重到須驚
 縱豆蔻詞工
 青樓夢好
 難賦深情
 二十四橋仍在
 波心蕩冷月無聲
 念橋邊紅藥
 年年知為誰生

To the Tune of Yangchou Man

On the day of Winter Solstice, in the year 1176, I passed through Yangchou, where the snow that had been falling throughout the night had just stopped. Stretching before my eyes were all shepherd's purse and wheat. On entering the city and looking around, I found it was all deserted, with cold water, unnoticed, shining green. Gradually evening approached, and the garrison's bugles began to wail. Filled with sorrow and moved by the changes that had taken place over the years, I composed the following lyric to a tune of my own, which, in the opinion of "Old Man amidst a Thousand Crags",¹ has the abiding pathos of *Shu li* 黍離 ("Luxuriant is the Broomcorn Millet").²

*In the famous city south of the Huai River,
 On a scenic spot by the West-Bamboo Pavilion,
 I unstrap the saddle of my horse to rest awhile on
 my first trip there.
 Travelling for miles in the spring breeze
 I see only green shepherd's purse and wheat.*

¹The assumed name of Hsiao Tê-tszao 蕭德藻, whose niece was married to Chiang K'uei. In his last years, Hsiao lived in Huchou 湖州, where, enamoured of the beautiful crags around him, he called himself Ch'ien-yen Lao-jen 千巖老人 ("Old Man amidst a Thousand Crags").

²A poem in *The Book of Songs*, lamenting the decline of the Chou Dynasty.

揚州慢

淳熙丙申至日予過維揚夜雪初霽
 薺麥彌望入其城則四顧蕭條寒水
 自碧暮色漸起戍角悲吟予懷愴然
 感慨今昔因自度此曲千巖老人以
 爲有黍離之悲也

淮左名都

竹西佳處

解鞍少駐初程

過春風十里

盡薺麥青青

揚州慢

溥熙丙申至日予過維
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 入其城則四顧蕭條寒
 水自碧暮色漸起戍角
 悲吟予懷愴然感慨今
 昔因自度此曲千巖老
 人以為有黍離之悲也

淮左名都
 竹西佳處
 解鞍少駐初程
 過春風十里
 盡齋麥青青

Since the incursions of Chin troops into the Yang-
tze region,
Even deserted ponds and lofty trees
Loathe the mention of war.
Towards evening,
Wails of plaintive bugles that raise a chill in the air
All come from the empty city.

Tu Mu, who once made his amorous sojourn here,
Would be dismayed if he should revisit Yangchou.
Though his verse on the round cardamom is well
composed,
His poem on the dream of the blue chamber³ fine,
He would be hard put to it to express his deep
feeling.
The Twenty-Four Bridges are still here.
In the centre of the lake, the water ripples,
And the cold moon makes not a sound.
The red Chinese herbaceous peonies by the bridge
 —
For whom do they bloom year after year?

³Euphemism for "brothel".

自胡馬窺江去後
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 猶厭言兵
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西窗又吹暗雨

為誰頻斷續

相和砧杵

候館迎秋

離宮吊月

別有傷心無數

幽詩漫與

笑籬落呼燈

世間兒女

寫入琴絲

一聲聲更苦

To the Tune of *Ch'i-t'ien yüeh*

One evening, in the year 1196, while *Chang Kung-fu* 張功父 and I were drinking in *Chang Ta-k'o* 張達可's reception room, we heard a cricket chirping in the wall. Chang suggested that we each write a lyric about the insect, to be sung by the singer. Chang's piece, written in exceedingly beautiful language, was completed first. Pacing up and down amidst the white jasmine bushes, I looked up and saw the autumn moon, which instantly aroused deep feelings in me. As a result, I also succeeded in completing the following piece. The cricket, called *ch'u-chih* 促織 in Hangchow, is fond of fighting. Sometimes, fans of the game would pay two to three hundred thousand coppers for one cricket, and keep it in a carved ivory mansion.

It begins with Yü Hsin chanting his "Fu on Sorrow" alone.

*Plaintive, a low whisper is heard.
Where the dew stains the brass knocker,
Where the moss creeps into the stone well—
These are places where it has been heard.
Its mournful chirps sound as if one were lamenting,
When a woman, sleepless, oppressed with cares,
Rises to look for her loom.*

齊天樂

丙辰歲與張功父會飲張達可之堂
聞屋壁間蟋蟀有聲功父約予同賦
以授歌者功父先成辭甚美予襄徧
茉莉花間仰見秋月頓起幽思尋亦
得此蟋蟀中都呼為促織善鬪好事
者或以三二十萬錢致一枚鑱象齒
為樓觀以貯之

庾郎先自吟愁賦

淒淒更聞私語
露溼銅鋪
苔侵石井
都是曾聽伊處
哀音似訴
正思婦無眠
起尋機杼

齊天樂

丙辰歲與張功父會飲張
 達可之堂聞屋壁間蟋蟀
 有聲功父約予同賦以授歌
 者功父先成辭甚美予裴
 徊茉莉花間仰見秋月頻
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 都是曾聽伊處
 哀音似訴
 正思婦無眠
 起尋機杼

*Within the winding hills of screens,
 Alone on such a cool night, how does she feel?*

曲曲屏山
 夜涼獨自甚情緒

*By the west window, a darkling drizzle is blowing
 again.*

西窗又吹暗雨
 爲誰頻斷續

*Chiming with the pounding on the washing-blocks,
 Repeatedly, off and on, for whom does the cricket
 chirp?*

相和砧杵

*In guesthouses where autumn is seen in,
 In imperial lodges where the moon is lamented,
 There are other grieved hearts, too numerous to
 count.*

候館迎秋

離宮弔月

*Writing a poem in the style of the Pin ballad⁴ ex-
 tempore,*

別有傷心無數

幽詩漫與

*I envy children of the common folk,
 Who, catching crickets, are calling for lanterns by
 the hedge.*

笑籬落呼燈

世間兒女

*Once set to music for the ch'in,
 The chirps will sound all the more doleful.*

寫入琴絲

一聲聲更苦

⁴This refers to "The Seventh Month of the Lunar Year" (七月), a poem in *The Book of Songs*, in which there is a line describing the cricket.