

## Jade Tortoise Mountain

Su Shi

Jade Tortoise Mountain  
is where Queen Mother of the West,  
the consort of The Almighty Lord of the East  
commands all her fairies.  
Crimson buildings and emerald halls tower into the clouds,  
meandering and stretching in the mist.  
In the secluded mountain  
peace fills fairies' mind;  
On the peaks one beyond other gliding for thousands miles  
dwells Queen Mother.  
When King Mu of Zhou hunted here,  
and lingered by the west sea,  
warm breeze and bright sky greeted him  
with monstrous billows surging up high  
and canopy floating with the waves.  
In the timely nice day,  
the Taoist hanging garden was pure and fresh in silence  
where nectar-decorated grass kept thriving.

Fairies contended with one another  
to unlock the embroidered rein and elaborate saddle for the King.  
As imperial carriage decorated with gold phoenix stopped for His  
Majesty's rest,  
eight steeds played in the heavenly herb garden.  
As the Jade Pao came in sight,  
painted chamber emerged with halcyons fluttering at ease.  
Sumptuous feast was awaiting  
accompanied by ethereal cantus.  
What a scene  
which could only be seen in the heavenly palace.  
The hostess Queen Mother embraced an ever-young appearance  
with white teeth, bright eyes and jet-black hair,

graceful and poised,  
talking in a transcendent way majestically

Depleted was Liquor in the jade pot  
and fairies consecrated elixir to King to wish him boundless longevity.  
Queen Mother asks her fairy maiden Shuang Ch'eng to play ethereal melody  
while fairies performed graceful and lithe dancing  
to please guests who were then indulged in pleasure with no thought  
of leaving.

Nine-pitch gong resounded like cool spring water flowing.  
All the distinguished guests sang and drank to their hearts' content  
until the crescent moon sank below the milky way.

Darkness faded and rosy dawn grew,  
nostalgia awaken.

King Mu couldn't help looking back to mundane earth.

Fully enjoyed the adventure in the mood as he may  
His Majesty traversed back in his jade-decorated imperial chariot  
Aroma of apricot flower pervaded;  
horsewhip could be heard miles away.

Along the avenue leading to metropolis Chang'an  
willows sparkled in the mist;  
spring blossomed with vitality!

Qi Shi  
by Su Dongpuo

On Jade Turtle Mountain, an immortal Emperor of the East and his wife  
oversee all divinity  
Standing tall their Red palace, with inner chambers magnificent and deep,  
nestle amongst the mists  
Tranquil and restful, yet with a distant will  
Kept in this golden city of a thousand miles, lunar beauties reside.

King Mu\* on his royal cavalcade outing, jade feathers\*\* doth reach the sea's  
west  
Where wind and dew part for the radiant sun, ocean waves in view, its  
heaving presence enveloping vast horizons  
The sun shines high this beautiful day, a mystical garden where luscious grass  
astretch  
All divinity rush to untie King Mu from his embroidered reins and imperial  
saddle.

King Mu lets up his Luan\*\*\* chariot, his steeds gallop amongst the Zhi\*\*\*\*  
field  
A celestial lake nearby, an elaborate pagoda faintly visible, emerald green  
birds taking wing  
A feast of banquet about to begin  
Music of strings and brass intertwined  
As music of the great heavens sounds.

All divinities of youth and pearly teeth, ebony hair and honest round eyes of  
black, demeanor nonchalant and elegant  
Poured is wine into fine jade flasks for King Mu, panacea from golden  
alchemy offered, for Mu's longevity as strong pillars last  
Fleeting dances performs Feiquong@ with grace, Shuancheng@  
accompanies with "Lingering in Elation"  
On the Yunao^ piano, melodies flow as cool spring water would cascade.

All present in sonorous song and liberal quaffing, while the moon descends  
onto the river  
Clouds with hues of dawn, the skyline graduating red, dark and pale.  
King Mu's heart stirs for home, yearning his mortal land  
His travels past best, the royal chariot bound for return to the East  
Apricot blossoms twirl in the air, whip cracks resonate afar  
Looking ahead to Chang-An City, familiar lush willows in sight, are green  
ornaments to this colourful spring.

\*King Mu was of the Chou Dynasty.

\*\*feathers of jade-coloured birds were used to decorate flags of kings and  
lords.

\*\*\*Luan is a mystical bird, often used to decorate vehicles for the king.

\*\*\*\*Zhi is a fungus-like plant known for its medicinal effect in turning humans  
immortal.

@Feiquong & Shuangcheng are maids to the Queen of the West (wife of  
King of the East).

^Yunao piano or YunAoQin is an ancient Chinese musical instrument

Qi Shi<sup>1</sup>

By Su Shi

In Yugui Mountain the Queen Mother<sup>2</sup> of the goddesses lived  
Whose palace of cavernous chambers decorated jade-green  
Stood loftily on high through light plumes of mist  
What halcyon had the Man, and what unworldly glee!  
Among the beauteous fairies dwelling in the vast 'Gold City'<sup>3</sup>  
On a royal visit, Emperor Mu reached the west of the Sea  
There were wind, drying the dew, clearing the rain  
And epic waves the size of Earth and Heaven  
A balmy day at its prime, gardens tranquil, grass lush  
The procession unfastened the fine bridles in a joyous rush  
And sojourned, the eight horses in the fields, sporting  
Closer towards the Ethereal Pond did they advance,  
Painted towers faintly emerged, beckoning  
Amongst bluebirds' graceful dance  
A sumptuous meal was set, in turns accompanied by  
Chirps of the winds and strings – An edifice sublime!  
Youthful maidens with dark tresses, features of deities,  
Surpassing elegance and virtuous serenity  
Decanted fine wine and proffered the elixir of life  
Lithe, and gaseously light, were the dancing maids  
While mellifluous tunes played – Could they but stay!  
And the gongs gave chimes like a cool stream  
They sang and quaffed – and how carefree! –  
To the moon under the Milky Way  
Till across the sky, there displayed  
A glow ablaze with various shades  
Which brought to mind the mortal world  
How they rejoiced! Yet they returned eastward

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<sup>1</sup> 'Qi Shi' is only the tune to which the verse was once sung and is irrelevant to the content.

<sup>2</sup> Queen Mother, in Chinese mythology known as 'Xi Wang Mu', is said to be one of the deities ruling Heaven.

<sup>3</sup> 'Gold City' is an ancient name given to today's North-western city Lanzhou, as legend has it that gold was once discovered there.

As a plummy breeze carried the cracks  
Of the whip to miles and miles away  
Glancing down the way to the Capital back  
They saw vernal glory decked with willow sprays

**Tune: "Cheerless Lady"**

**By Su Shi**

Where the Mount Jade Turtle doth stand  
Live fairies in the Emperor and Empress'<sup>1</sup> land.  
The crimson gate so steep  
And emerald bowers in palace deep  
All in misty clouds peep.  
In serenity and with ease,  
It towers in isolation and peace.  
The fairy maidens are so fine,  
Yet of thousand li the Golden Walls<sup>2</sup> confine.  
Once King Mu<sup>3</sup> made a tour outside  
His flags fluttered in the west of seaside.  
When the clouds disperse and it turns bright,  
The waves rise so high in full of sight  
And the earth and sky seem light.  
The remote sun, sweet and dear,  
Shines on the Fairy Land still and clear  
And green grass far and near.

The followers rush to remove the bridles  
With embroideries and the fragrant saddles  
When the King's chariot stops o'er, and to free  
The Eight Steeds in herb fields with glee.  
Alas! The Jade Lake<sup>4</sup> is close.  
The painted bower looms in distance,  
And the blue birds fly around with grace.  
At the welcoming feast, the singer chimes  
Pipe and string instruments at times.  
Where the Emperor resides, they realize,  
Is in the very center of the paradise.  
The fairies look young with white teeth flare

Their hairs are raven and pupils square<sup>5</sup>.  
Only at the heaven's uttermost bound  
Can plain and noble virtue be found.

From the Jade Pot, drink the last drop of wine!  
And the elixir in golden tripod didst refine  
Is to extend everyone's long life-span.  
When Feiqiong<sup>6</sup> is dancing lithely in the dim light,  
Shuangcheng<sup>7</sup> is ordered to play at the very site.  
Too obsessed, they find the tune on her strings  
Is just like the pouring of cold springs.  
Dined with nice music and wine all the day,  
Nobody heeds the moon slanting in the Milky Way.  
Then rosy clouds gradually appear  
And the sky reddens far and near.  
Turning his head to the ordinary world,  
The King makes his home yearning unfurl'd.  
It's a brilliant tour with great feast,  
But His Majesty will return east.  
The breeze brings apricot blossoms' fragrance  
And whip-cracks several li away in advance.  
On the road to Chang'an, the green  
Willow trees dimly seen  
Adorn the vernal scene.



Notes:

1. The Emperor and Empress: The Emperor here refers to a central Daoist god, the King Father of the East (Dongwanggong) and the Empress refers to a central Daoist goddess, the Queen Mother of the West (Xiwangmu) in ancient Chinese mythology.
2. The Golden Walls: The palace walls of the Emperor's.
3. King Mu: Also known as King Mu of Zhou, the fifth king of the Chinese Zhou Dynasty. The dates of his reign are 976-922 BC or 956-918 BC.
4. Jade Lake: The abode of the Queen Mother of the West.
5. Pupils square: According to ancient Chinese myths, some fairies have square pupils.
6. Feiqiong : Xu Feiqiong, one of the attendants of the Queen Mother of the West.
7. Shuangcheng: Dong Shuangcheng, another female attendant of the Queen Mother of the West.

## Tune: Dream of the Wonderland<sup>1</sup>

Su Shi

Lofty upon Mt. Yugui, the fairies are lorded by the lady, queen of the Heavenly Majesty. Perched on a hill high and steep, with its interior tall and deep, her dainty chamber is shaded by a veil of fog misty. Serene and pure, her ladyship is of tender temper; thick city walls guard her nymphs and her. Once to the west my sire leads his legion, giving the vassals a tour of inspection. The breeze blows, the dew glows, the weather brightens; far beyond sight extends a vast ocean, whose vigor could float earth and heaven. The shining sun is remote, the mythical land remains silent, the herbs within are luxuriant.

The hospitable fairy servants aid these visitors, untangling their bridles, removing their saddles. My sire's chaise halts, his eight steeds sporting in the fields. The Jasper Lake lies nearby, painted pavilions come into sight, lovely kingfishers are deft in flight. Her lady queen treats my sire with a banquet, during which ebb and flow the melodies sweet, as if in the palace of the Jade Emperor they feast. Ruddy faces, gleaming teeth, the immortals have hair black and fair, their pupils wide and square. Aloof are they from earthly hustle and bustle, maintaining a divine air gentle and noble.

They outpour the ambrosial nectar, present the magical elixir, both will longevity assure. Under the queen's order, beautifully dances the slender dancer, skillfully pipes the talented piper, keeping the tipsy guests on and on linger. The tune of the gong runs like a giggling river. The singing and carousing reach a crescendo, when the crescent touches the Silver River low. Dawn stretches her rosy-fingers, dabbing the sky with various tinctures. Homesick, my sire looks back, gazing into his distant dominion. The joyful journey voices an end; the chaise is turned, leading homeward. The zephyr softly plays, the whipping sound penetrates through miles. Along the way back to the capital city, blurred are the willows greeny, dotted are the sprigs verdant, together availing a spring day so pleasant.

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<sup>1</sup> 注：詞牌《戚氏》又名《夢遊仙》。

## To the Tune of "Lady Qi"

By Su Tong-po

The Jade Tortoise Mountain, where the immortals gather,  
led by the East Emperor and the West Queen Mother.  
Crimson gate towers are so imposing and lofty,  
meandering green halls lean on clouds misty.  
Serenity abound, peace and tranquility in mind,  
around the Fairy Land, thousand leagues of walls wind.  
This is the King Mu of Zhou on his inspecting journey,  
green-feathered banners descend on the West Sea.  
Dewy breeze in a clear day, billows stretch to the limit of the eye,  
as if the earth were floating under the round canopy of the sky.  
Radiant sunlight, over the heavenly garden reigns a hush,  
wherein the emerald green plants are so ample and lush.  
Hurriedly the studded bridles and ornate saddles are unbound,  
simurgh coach halts, amidst the magic herbs steeds play around.  
By the Alabaster Pool, leafy shades are hiding  
the muraled mansions, green birds are flitting.  
Served is a banquet that is beyond compare,  
punctuated by string's strain and pipe's blare,  
as if in the Jade God's palace with all fanfare.  
Baby-faced, pearly-toothed, raven-haired and with square pupils,  
supremely cordial, poised, and dignified are all immortals.  
Wine in jade pots emptied, elixirs in golden vessels presented,  
long lifespan is further extended and augmented.  
Dances of fairy maidens are so superb and surreal,  
maids play music to prolong wine's intoxicating appeal.  
Echoing sound of the gongs is like splashing of springs icy,  
merry drinking with loud songs, till the moon wanes in the galaxy.  
Sunlit clouds emerging, shades of red color gleam in the horizon,

homesickness stirring, heads turn to the earthly world's direction.  
Splendid sceneries for eyes to feast,  
jade-fitted carriages return to the east.  
Blossoming apricot flowers lining the way,  
breeze carries whip's cracking sound miles away.  
Gazing down the road to Chang'an in the distance,  
vague green willows decorate spring's luxuriance.

**To the Tune of “Madame Chi”**  
by Su Dongpo (1037-1101)

On Mount Jade Turtle, the Western Queen of the Eastern Emperor held supreme dominion. Ruby pavilions perching atop celestial heights, emerald chambers inlaid along meandering hallways, the heavenly palaces nestled in ethereal silver clouds. Sitting placidly unconcerned, the stately lady breathed inaudible sighs of futility, while overseeing the thousand-mile golden fortress that walled her in.

King Mu of Zhou, patrolling the earth in his jade-plumed chariot, once reached as far as the West Sea. Through the misty winds shimmered the glorious post-rain sun. All the eyes could see were massive whale-sized billows, sublime in scope and potential to uphold lands all around. Right under the brilliant sun, a mystical garden sat sedately, unperturbed in its solitude, knitting exquisite patterns of perpetual verdure.

All vied to remove the richly-embroidered bridles and scented saddles when King Mu bid the phoenix-headed chariot come to a halt, alighting for a brief respite. The eight royal steeds were left to frolic in the fields of ambrosia. In intimate vicinity was the Marble Pond of the Heaven Empress. Majestic mansions loomed in enticing shadows, where green birds gracefully fluttered.

A sumptuous banquet held in honor of the guest, was accompanied by an auditory feast of sonorous melodies, blissful felicities unparalleled except perhaps in the Heavenly Emperor’s abode. The pristine, childlike face of the Queen Mother, adorned with immaculate teeth, dark elegant hair, and huge almond-shaped eyes—an image of complete enlightenment—was exquisite in the beauty of a tranquil mind. She had King Mu’s cup filled with nectar poured from jade bottles, and offered elixir extracted in the

golden tripod, graciously wishing him longevity like the immense trunk of a divine tree. In a haze of whirlwind Feiqiong the fairy danced a fantastic jig. Ordered to perform, too, was Shuancheng, mesmerizing with the tune "Loitering While Intoxicated". From the Yun'ao gongs, gentle cascades of percussion flowed like refreshing cold springs. All chanted and drank to heart's content until the moon arose, crouching low in the celestial river.

The vibrant colors of sunset faded to dusk, trailing a subdued glow of intense red. King Mu, flashing a glimpse of the bustling Red Dust, was seized by the thought of return. What a splendid journey to look forward to. The king's jade chariot henceforth launched a homebound turn toward the east. Apricot blossom flurries blown in the wind, for miles thunderous cheers and whipping sounds raged on. All the way, Chang'an was ever in prospect, and so was, albeit somewhat indistinct, the willow green dotting the spring fields of earthly delights.

**Tune: “Lyrics to the Song of Lady Qi”**

**By Su Tungpo (1037-1101)**

On Mount Jade Tortoise, East-King-Father and West-Queen-Mother<sup>1</sup> ruled  
all deities afar.

In misty clouds towered their crimson palace with deep jade boudoirs.  
Her fair face hid in golden castles of myriad miles, as a leisure hermit girl.  
King Mu of Zhou<sup>2</sup> set out on venery — his feathered colors reached the west  
skirt.

As if whale-waves sailed beyond horizon — they marched and set the earth  
afloat in radiant breezy dew!

The bright sun sat in the sky, Mount Kunlun remained calm, and rampant the  
verdure grew.

Ornate harnesses and scented saddles they hied to untie.

The regal carriage halted; his eight steeds sported on glebe of mythic fungi.  
Gracefully flew messenger birds as painted lofts loomed and the abode of  
immortals drew nigh.

Displayed was the banquet of pomp on high:

As in God’s abode at zenith: the wind band blew; the string ensemble played.  
Fairies juvenile-faced and white-toothed, green-haired and square-pupiled  
were in nonpareil ease arrayed.

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<sup>1</sup> West-Queen-Mother, also known as Queen Mother of the West, Queen Mother of Heaven, or Xi Wangmu, is a Chinese goddess known from ancient times. She is most often associated with Taoism in Chinese literature and her existence can be traced back to oracle bone inscriptions of the fifteenth century BC.

<sup>2</sup> King Mu of Zhou refers to King Mu of the Zhou Dynasty, one of the greatest rulers of the Zhou Dynasty, who set out on a hunt with his eight chargers to the far western regions of his empire to prove that he holds the Mandate of Heaven. His legendary encounter with the Queen Mother of the West is probably one of the best known stories of contact between a goddess and a mortal ruler in Chinese literature.

To lengthen longevity, elixir was presented and nectar poured.  
In the mist whirled Fei-Qiong<sup>3</sup> while Shuang-Cheng<sup>4</sup> made all linger with  
enthraling scores.  
Gongs chimed like frore waterfalls; till the moon sank under the Milky Way  
they chanted and topped.  
Dyeing the sky red, light or deep, damask clouds gradually sloped.  
They looked back on human realm; homecoming thoughts in their mind  
increased.  
Untrammelled was the progress, yet the king's carriage dashed to the east.  
In miles of wind and apricot flower, whips cracked the tantivy sedan.  
The vista toward the capital<sup>5</sup>: willows dim dotted the spring with sprouts cyan.

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<sup>3</sup> Fei-Qiong refers to Fei-Qiong Xu, a maid of the Queen Mother of the West. She is a renowned dancer in the palatial court of the Queen Mother of the West.

<sup>4</sup> Shuang-Cheng refers to Shuang-Cheng Dong, a maid of the Queen Mother of the West. She is in charge of musical performance in the palatial court of the Queen Mother of the West.

<sup>5</sup> The capital here refers to the first capital of the Zhou Dynasty, namely the present-day Xian of Shanxi Province. In classical Chinese as in the lyrics of Su Tungpo, the capital is named "Changan," which signifies "Perpetual Peace and Security." It is a celebrated ancient capital of more than ten dynasties in Chinese history as well as literature.



## Tune of the Qi Family

By Su Shi (alias Lay Buddhist Dongpo)

On the Jade Turtle Mountain<sup>1</sup>,  
Where Donghuang, the Deity, and his queen all gods rule and govern,  
Stand amidst clouds and mist towering palaces vermilion  
As well as houses of lush green.  
Leisure and serenity therein set the mind at ease.  
In this vast empire live charming ladies.  
When Emperor Mu of Zhou<sup>2</sup> made his tour of inspection,  
The honor guard stretched to the west side of the ocean.

After dews was blew away by wind and mist cleared up by sun,  
As far as the eye can see, the billows appeared to run,  
Just like the imperial carriages far and wide moving.  
High in the sky, the bright sun was shining.  
In lonely quiet the Celestial Garden stood,  
And the ethereal herbs thrive well and good.  
While the imperial chariot came to pause short,  
The eight steeds found the divine mushroom<sup>3</sup> garden ideal for sport  
After people rushed to untie their embroidered bridles  
And unlock their ornate and gracious saddles.  
Nearby Lake Jasper<sup>4</sup> richly ornamented buildings loomed faintly,  
And kingfishers were flying over gracefully and lightly.  
A great feast was served while flutes and strings were played.  
It seemed to be the palace where the emperor of heaven stayed.  
Born with a young face, white teeth, square pupils<sup>5</sup> and a green hair,  
The lady, to the very perfection, was quiet and highly fair.

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<sup>1</sup> In Chinese mythology, it refers to a mountain where gods and immortals live.

<sup>2</sup> The fifth emperor of the Zhou Dynasty in Chinese history.

<sup>3</sup> *Lingzhi* in pinyin, of the *Ganoderma lucidum* family, is regarded as a divine mushroom of immortality in Chinese traditional medicine and culture.

<sup>4</sup> Abode of immortals, associated with the mythical Western Mother Goddess.

<sup>5</sup> Square pupils are seen as signs of longevity in Chinese culture.

All wine pots were emptied,  
Then gold vessels and precious herbs were presented  
To His Imperial Majesty  
As gifts in token of good health and longevity.  
Fairy Feiqiong<sup>6</sup> danced a light dance,  
And Shuangcheng<sup>7</sup> was bidden to entrance  
People by playing a tune so charming  
That it kept all from leaving.  
Gongs chimed so melodiously and sonorously  
That it reminded of falling spring water so chilly.  
Immersed in loud songs, all are merrily drinking  
Till to the Milky Way the setting moon was sinking.  
Rosy clouds gathered slowly to dye  
In deep and tint crimson the sky.  
When His Majesty looked at the world behind,  
Thought of home crossed his mind.  
To the east the imperial carriage started a romantic tour back.  
While spring breeze carried to miles away the heralds' whip-crack<sup>8</sup>,  
On the distant roads of Chang'an, dimly seen,  
The fair spring scenery was dotted by willow's green.

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<sup>6</sup> Xu Feiqiong, maid of the Queen Mother of the West, head of female gods, in Chinese mythology.

<sup>7</sup> Dong Shuangcheng, another maid of the Queen Mother of the West, head of female gods, in Chinese mythology.

<sup>8</sup> Crack whips were used in the imperial ceremonies during the feudal society of China as a request and warning of solemn silence.

**Tune: Qi Shi**  
**By Su Dongpo (Su Shi)**

On a mountain in the far west,  
Lives Queen Mother of the West<sup>1</sup>,  
Ruling a realm where immortals dwell.  
Her palace high up on a lofty crest,  
Her alchemy room deep inside her court,  
Standing in mist and fog.

An isolated part,  
A solitary heart—  
The lonely beauty confined  
To her vast land with a strong guard.

In days when King Mu<sup>2</sup> in a carriage traveled,  
He once visited the west side of sea<sup>3</sup>.  
The sky had cleared up, waves were rolling  
As far as the eye could see—  
So mighty as though they might  
Float a carriage made of earth  
With a top made of sky.  
The sun perfectly bright;  
The Hanging Garden<sup>4</sup> quiet;  
Divine mushrooms<sup>5</sup> white,  
Grewed densely left and right.

Luxury bridles and saddles untied—  
He made a stopover for the ride.

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<sup>1</sup> Queen Mother of the West is the highest female deity in the pantheon of the Taoist religion.

<sup>2</sup> “King Mu” refers to King Mu of Zhou, the fifth king of the Chinese Zhou Dynasty.

<sup>3</sup> The “sea” here refers to a very large lake, which was called a sea in ancient times.

<sup>4</sup> The Hanging Garden is a legendary place on Mount Kunlun.

<sup>5</sup> The “divine mushrooms” refers to some species of Ganoderma, which have long been used in traditional Chinese medicine and are often associated with longevity and immortality.

Eight horses played in the woods  
Where divine fungi<sup>6</sup> did reside.

Nearer became the Jade Lake's<sup>7</sup> verge;  
Slightly did decorated buildings emerge;  
Graceful, graceful,  
On the wing were green birds.

To a lavish banquet he was treated,  
With wonderful wind and string music.  
It felt as if they were seated  
In the place where the supreme god lived.

Youthful face, white teeth,  
Black hair, and pupils square<sup>8</sup>.  
To pierce the mystery of entelechy did she seek,  
Indifferent to fame or gain.

Served was celestial wine,  
Pills of immortality presented.  
With these, he would thrive,  
And live a long, long life.

Ethereal her one maid's dance;  
Another played a tune at her demand.  
The guest intoxicated,  
The man entertained.

Gong chimes rang,  
Like a chilly stream falling.  
They loudly sang and drank,  
To their heart's content,  
Until the setting moon  
Looked close to the Milky Way.

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<sup>6</sup> The "divine fungi" is another name of the divine mushrooms.

<sup>7</sup> The legendary Jade Lake on Mount Kunlun is the abode of Queen Mother of the West.

<sup>8</sup> Square pupils were believed to be a sign of longevity or a characteristic of a deity.

When clouds began to take on roseate hues,  
On the horizon the sky in pink and red glowed.  
He felt like taking the homeward road,  
Looking back to the earthly world.  
On the eastward return route he traveled,  
In a free and natural mode.

The perfume of apricot flowers sweetened the wind;  
For several *Li*<sup>9</sup> were whips<sup>10</sup> repeatedly cracked  
On the ground, to announce return of the king.  
He looked into the distance, to a central road of the capital.  
The willows were faintly to be seen—  
Specks of green  
Of the splendid spring.

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<sup>9</sup> *Li* is a unit for measuring distance. It equaled to approximately 0.4 kilometers at that time.

<sup>10</sup> The “whips” here refers to a special kind of whips used by the honor guard of emperors or kings in ancient China.