I Beg of You, Zhong Zi

I beg of you, Zhong Zi,
Don't cross into my hamlet.
Don't break my planted willows
Could I care so much for them?
It's father and mother I dread.
Zhong, you’re embraceable…
But the talk of my father and mother is
Indeed something dreadful.

I beg of you, Zhong Zi,
Don’t climb over my wall.
Don’t break my planted mulberries.
Could I care so much for them?
It’s all my brothers I dread.
Zhong, you’re embraceable…
But the talk of all my brothers is
Indeed something dreadful.

I beg of you, Zhong Zi,
Don’t leap into my garden.
Don’t break my planted hardwoods.
Could I care so much for them?
I dread others will talk too much,
Zhong, you’re embraceable…
But others’ talking too much is
Indeed something dreadful.

The Banks of the Ru

Walking along the banks of the Ru,
Cutting the slender stems;
Not yet seeing my lord.
My desire is like morning hunger.

Walking along the banks of the Ru,
Cutting the slender sprouts;
Having seen my lord,
He did not desert me after all.

[Translated by William H. Nienhauser]
The bream has a reddened tail,
The royal chamber as if ablaze.
But even though it is as if ablaze,
Father and mother are very near.

The Retiring Girl  靜女

The retiring girl, lovely
Was to wait for me at this corner of the wall.
But she hides and will not show herself
As I scratch my head, pace up and down.

The retiring girl, fine,
Gave me a vermilion stalk.
The vermilion stalk is so red
I delight, am cheered by the girl’s beauty.

From the pastures she brought me a reed sprout,
Truly beautiful and remarkable.
“It is not that you, sprout, are beautiful—
A beautiful girl made you my gift.”
II. Episode Notes

   - Images of physical and emotional transgression
   - Reflected in sharp and consonantal line endings
   - Performance possibilities
   - Heavy (frequent) rhyme
   - Allusion to Mengzi 孟子 (372-289 BCE)
   - Incremental repetition as a means to present a narrative structure
   - “Margaritaville” parallels to show incremental repetition’s continued use

2. Analysis of “The Banks of the Ru”
   - \textit{xing} 興 (affective image)
   - Wen Yiduo 闻一多 (1899-1946)
   - Fish hunger, as symbols of sexual desire (or “of erotic overtones”)
   - Egyptian love song parallel

3. Analysis of “The Retiring Girl”
   - Rhyme as a means to slow song
   - Love tokens
   - Repetition of \textit{mei} 美 (“beautiful”) as textual links (\textit{lianzhu} 连珠, “anadiplosis”)
   - Metaphor of gifts and girl
   - \textit{fu} 赋 (“exposition”)
   - \textit{bi} 比 (“comparison”)

III. Textual Source