I. Texts

Sixth Month 六月

Disquiet and tumult in the sixth month:
The chariots of war are already in order.
Our four steeds are strong and stalwart,
Our carts bear the customary gear of war.
The might of the Xianyun is ablaze,
That is why we feel the urgency.
By royal command we are going to battle
To save the king’s realm.

…

By royal command we are going to battle,
To assist the Son of Heaven.

…

Cultured and martial is Jifu,
The exemplar for myriad domains.

... the filial and fraternal Zhang Zhong.

**Great Brightness 大明**

Great Brightness below,
Blazing glory above.
Hard it is to trust in heaven,
It is not easy to be king.
Heaven puts in place the heir of Yin,
And pries from him four sides of the realm.

**Lesser 小宛**

The wise and worthy among men,
Exercise restraint even as they drink.
The benighted ones know nothing,
Become drunk, and take in ever more.
Let each be vigilant about his bearing,
Heaven’s mandate does not come twice.

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[Translated by Wai-ye Li]
Poems read in Mandarin by Zhao Sikun
II. Episode Notes

- *ba* 霸, overlord or hegemon, often the leader of an alliance
- *Qin* 秦, a powerful state during the Spring and Autumn Period
- Lord Mu of Qin 秦穆公 (r. 659-621 BCE), ruler of Qin
- Chong’er 重耳, a Jin prince in exile. He later ruled as Lord Wen of Jin 晉文公 (r. 636-628 BCE)
- Zhao Cui 趙衰 (d. 622 BCE), Chong’er’s follower, later a minister in Jin
- King Xuan of Zhou 周宣王 (d. ca. 782 BCE)
- Xianyun 狁狁, a “barbarian” group against which Zhou launched military campaigns
- Yin Jifu 尹吉甫, a Zhou leader during the reign of King Xuan
- Zhang Zhong 張仲, Yin Jifu’s friend
- Gongzi Wei 公子圍, later King Ling of Chu 楚靈王 (r. 540-529 BCE)
- Zhao Wu 趙武 (d. 541 BCE), leader of Jin, great grandson of Zhao Cui

III. Textual Source