I. Texts

*Lisao* 離騷

Stanza 47.
At dawn I unlocked the cartwheels by the Azure Parasol Tree,
At dusk I arrived at the Hanging Gardens.

Stanza 87.
At dawn I unlocked the cartwheels by the Celestial Ford,
At dusk I arrived at the Western Extremity.

Stanza 4.
At dawn I plucked magnolias from the ridges,
At dusk I pulled evergreens from the islets.

Stanza 17.
At dawn I drank the dew dropped from magnolias,
At dusk I ate the flowers fallen from autumn chrysanthemums.
Stanza 57.
In tumultuous profusion, now separate, now in unison—
Suddenly she turned obstinate and hard to sway.
At dusk she took refuge at Stone’s End Mountain,
At dawn she washed her hair in Weiban Torrent.

Stanza 14.
I hoped that the branches and leaves would grow lofty and lush,
Looked back and awaited my time to cut them.
Even if they wilted and broke, how could this cause pain?
Yet I lament how the numerous fragrances are overgrown
with weeds.

Stanza 17.
At dawn I drank the dew dropped from magnolias,
At dusk I ate the flowers fallen from autumn chrysanthemums.
If only my innate affects remain truly excellent and pure,
Though deprived and starving for long, how could this cause pain?

Stanza 21.
Already cast off, I wore basil for my girdle,
And further extended it to fasten angelica.
With what is cherished in my heart,
Even in ninefold death there will never be regret.
Stanza 29.
I fashioned caltrop and lotus for my garb,
Collected hibiscus for my skirt.
Not being known, this is indeed the end,
If only my innate affects remain truly fragrant.

Stanza 10.
I rushed forward in haste, front and behind,
Reaching the footprints of the former kings.
Iris did not probe my loyal affection,
Instead trusting slander and exploding in rage.

Stanza 11.
I surely understood how being frank and forthright would bring disaster,
Yet I endured it and could not let go.
I pointed at Ninefold Heaven to be my witness,
It was only for the cause of Spirit Perfected.
He said: When night falls, we shall meet—
Alas! He was halfway and then changed his path!

Stanza 12.
Earlier he had given me trustworthy words,
Later he regretted and fled, having some other.
I did not make trouble for being left and separated,
Yet was pained that Spirit Perfected so often changed.
In the past, the lord had given me trustworthy words,
He said: When night falls, we shall meet.
Alas! He was halfway and then turned sideward,
Instead, he now had this other intent.

[Translated by Martin Kern]
Poems read in Mandarin by Fusheng Wu

II. Episode Notes

- *Jiu bian* 九辯 (“Nine Variations”)
- *luan* 亂 (coda)
- *Ai Ying* 哀郢 (“Lamenting Ying”)
- *sui* 虽 (even if)
- *gou* 苟 (if only)
- *Xiang jun* 湘君 (“Goddess of the Xiang River”)
- *Xiang furen* 湘夫人 (“Lady of the Xiang River”)
- *yu* 余 (first-person pronoun)
- From the *Lisao*: “probe my loyal affection” 察余之中情兮
- From the *Lisao*: “I pointed at Ninefold Heaven to be my witness” 指九天以為正
- From the *Lisao*: “I pointed at Azure Heaven to be my witness” 指蒼天以為正
- *Chou si* 抽思 (“Unraveling My Longing”)

III. Textual Source

“Cultural Memory and the Epic in Early Chinese Literature: The Case of Qu Yuan 屈原 and the *Lisao* 禦騷.” This paper will appear in the 2022 spring issue of the *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*. 