



# How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

## Topic 6 Han *Yuefu*: Songs of War and Love

Guest Host: Jui-lung Su (National University of Singapore)

### Episode 17 A Bad Breakup in the Han *Yuefu*

#### I. Text

There Is One I Love 有所思

There is one I love

He is south of the great sea.

Why should I send you anything!

As for your tortoiseshell hairpin with twin pearls,

I braided it with jade.

Yet when I heard that you have another love,

I shattered it, smashed and burned it,

Smashed and burned it.

Facing the wind I scattered its ashes.

From this day on

I will absolutely love you no more.

My love for you is severed.

Cocks crow, dogs bark,

yǒu suǒ sī  
有所思

nǎi zài dà hǎi nán  
乃在大海南

hé yòng wèn wèi jūn  
何用問遺君

shuāng zhū dài mào zān  
雙珠瑋瑁簪

yòng yù shào liáo zhī  
用玉紹繚之

wén jūn yǒu tā xīn  
聞君有它心

lā zá cuī shāo zhī  
拉雜摧燒之

cuī shāo zhī  
摧燒之

dāng fēng yáng qí huī  
當風揚其灰

cóng jīn yǐ wǎng  
從今以往

wù fù xiāng sī  
勿復相思

xiāng sī yǔ jūn jué  
相思與君絕

jī míng gǒu fèi  
雞鳴狗吠

My brother and sister-in-law will know.

Alas! Alas!

The autumn wind sighs, and a sparrow hawk shrieks,

Soon in the east dawn will be breaking and it will be known.

xiōng sǎo dāng zhī zhī

兄嫂當知之

fēi hū xī

妃呼豨

qiū fēng sù sù chén fēng sī

秋風肅肅晨風颯

dōng fāng xū yú hào zhī zhī

東方須臾高知之

[Translated by Jui-lung Su]

The poem read in Mandarin by Zhao Wenxuan

## II. Episode Notes

- This song is categorized as one of the eighteen “*guchui naoge*” 鼓吹饒歌 (Songs for Drum and Pipe and Nao Bell), which was originally a type of martial music of the Northern Di 狄 (a minority tribe).
- Although it is a kind of military music, its topic is about romantic love, not wars.

## III. Textual Source

Jui-Lung Su. “Music Bureau Poems (*Yuefu*).” In *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology*, ed. Zong-qi Cai. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008, pp. 84-102, especially 84-85; 90-91.