I. Text

Bright Moon Shines in the Clear Night

Bright moon shines in the clear night,
Crickets chirp near the eastern wall.
The jade handle points to early winter,
The myriad stars, how they crowd into one another!
White dew gathers on wild grasses,
The cycle of seasons suddenly changes again.
Cicadas buzz among the trees,
Dark swallows, where have they gone?
Once we were friends studying together,
High you soared, strong, beating wings.
Our friendship you have not remembered,
And abandon me like a footprint left behind.
Southern Winnow, Dipper in the North,
Or Draught Ox that cannot carry a yoke.
Truly, without the firmness of a rock,
What good can you gain from these empty names?

Characters in red: mutually resonating images of stars and constellations
Characters in green: mutually resonating images of flying insects and birds

[Translated by Zong-qi Cai]
The poem read in English by Brian Zeng
The poem read in Mandarin by Zhao Wenxuan

II. Episode Notes

1. Binary Structure: external observation + emotional utterances
2. Multilateral Texture: an intricate network of textual resonance
3. Poetic texture as a distinct feature of written poetry
   • Wang Shizhen’s 王世貞 (1526–1590) comments

III. Textual Source