



# *How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast*

## **Topic 9 Recent-Style Poetry: Pentasyllabic Regulated Verse**

Host: Zong-qi Cai (Lingnan University; University of Illinois)

### **Episode 27 Du Fu: the Poet-Sage of China**

#### **I. Text**

#### **The Jiang and Han Rivers 江漢**

By the Jiang and Han rivers broods a homeward traveler,

Between heaven and earth is one worthless scholar.

A lone cloud, and the sky (and I) join in being faraway,

A long night, and the moon (and I) share the loneliness.

The setting sun—yet I remain ambitious at heart,

The autumn wind—from illness I will recover.

From antiquity all the old horses that people kept,

Not always were chosen for long distances.

jiāng hàn sī guī kè  
江漢思歸客

qián kūn yì fǔ rú  
乾坤一腐儒

piàn yún tiān gòng yuǎn  
片雲天共遠

yǒng yè yuè tóng gū  
永夜月同孤

luò rì xīn yóu zhuàng  
落日心猶壯

qiū fēng bìng yù sū  
秋風病欲蘇

gǔ lái cún lǎo mǎ  
古來存老馬

bú bì qǔ cháng tú  
不必取長途

[Translated by Zong-qi Cai]

The poem read in Mandarin by Zhao Wenxuan

## II. Episode Notes

- *shisheng* 詩聖 (poet-sage)

## III. Textual Source

Zong-qi Cai. "Recent-Style *Shi* Poetry: Pentasyllabic Regulated Verse (*Wuyan Lüshi*).” In *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology*, ed. Zong-qi Cai. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008, pp. 161-180, especially 174-175.