



How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

Topic 9 Recent-Style Poetry: Pentasyllabic Regulated Verse

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Episode 29 Wang Wei: the Poet-Buddha of China

I. Text

Zhongnan Mountain 終南山

Taiyi Peak approaches heaven's capital,

The linked mountains extend to the edge of the sea.

White clouds, when I look back, converge,

The greenish haze, once I walk in to see it, disappears.

The divided regions, when seen from the middle peak,
change,

Shaded or in the sun, the myriad valleys look different.

I wish to find lodgings for the night in a dwelling of man,

Across the brook calling to a woodcutter.

tài yǐ jìn tiān dū
太乙近天都
lián shān dào hǎi yú
連山到海隅
bái yún huí wàng hé
白雲迴望合
qīng āi rù kàn wú
青靄入看無
fēn yě zhōng fēng biàn
分野中峰變

yīn qíng zhòng hè shū
陰晴眾壑殊
yù tóu rén chù sù
欲投人處宿
gé shuǐ wèn qiáo fū
隔水問樵夫

[Translated by Zong-qi Cai]

The poem read in Mandarin by Zhao Wenxuan

II. Episode Notes

- *shifo* 詩佛 (poet-Buddha)
- *hehe* 和合 (Sanskrit *sāmagari*, a composite of causes and conditions)
- *yinyuan* 因緣 (Sanskrit: *hetupratyaya*, cause and condition)
- *wu'er* 無二 (negation of two sides; neither...nor)

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 177-179.

