



How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

Topic 15 Long Song Lyrics (*manci*) of the Song Dynasty

Guest Host: Xinda Lian (Denison University)

Episode 47 Liu Yong's Use of Leading Words (*lingzi*)

I. Text

To the Tune “Eight Beats of a Ganzhou Song”
(Liu Yong)

柳永 八聲甘州·對瀟瀟暮雨灑江天

I face the splashing evening shower sprinkling from the sky
over the river

And washing clean the cool autumn.

Gradually the pressing frosty wind gets more and more chilly,

The mountain passes and rivers turn bleak,

While the last ray of the sun lingers on the balcony.

Here and there the red withers and the green decays—

Slowly nature's blossoms fade.

Only the water of the Yangtze

Silently flows east.

I cannot bear to ascend the height and look into the distance.

I look toward my homeland afar, not to be seen;

duì xiāo xiāo mù yǔ sǎ jiāng tiān
對瀟瀟暮雨灑江天

yì fān xǐ qīng qiū
一番洗清秋

jiàn shuāng fēng qī cǎn
漸霜風淒慘

guān hé lěng luò
關河冷落

cán zhào dāng lóu
殘照當樓

shì chù hóng shuāi cuì jiǎn
是處紅衰翠減

rǎn rǎn wù huá xiū
萋萋物華休

wéi yǒu cháng jiāng shuǐ
惟有長江水

wú yǔ dōng liú
無語東流

bù rěn dēng gāo lín yuǎn
不忍登高臨遠

wàng gù xiāng miǎo miǎo
望故鄉渺邈

Thoughts of returning home just would not stop.

guī sī nán shōu
歸思難收

I sigh over my wanderings these years;

tàn nián lái zōng jì
歎年來蹤跡

What is it that keeps me here?

hé shì kǔ yān liú
何事苦淹留

I imagine my fair one is now gazing earnestly out of her
window,

xiǎng jiā rén zhuāng lóu yóng wàng
想佳人、妝樓顚望

Mistaking again and again some returning boat on the

wù jǐ huí tiān jì shí guī zhōu
誤幾回、天際識歸舟

horizon for mine.

How could she know that I, leaning against the balustrade here,

zhēng zhī wǒ yǐ lán gān chù
爭知我、倚闌干處

Am lost in sorrow?

zhèng nèn níng chóu
正恁凝愁

[Translated by Xinda Lian]

English poems recited by Dr. Andrew Merritt and Mrs. Deborah Merritt

Chinese poems recited by Zhan Aifan and Zhao Sikun

II. Episode Notes

- Use of leading words or *lingzi* 領字
- Structure of *manci* 慢詞
- Autumn lament

III. Textual Source

Xinda Lian. "Ci Poetry: Short Song Lyrics." In Cai Zong-qi, ed., *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 262-285.