



# How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

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

Guest Host: Xinda Lian (Denison University)

### Episode 49 Li Qingzhao: Singing Her Autumn Sorrow

#### I. Text

To the tune “One Beat Followed by Another, a Long Tune” (Li Qingzhao)

李清照 聲聲慢

Searching and searching, seeking and seeking,

Chilly and cold, quiet and desolate,

Sad, sorrowful, miserable.

This time of year when it's warm now, soon cold again,

I just cannot take care of myself.

Two or three cups of bland wine

Are not enough to resist the rushing evening wind.

The wild geese passing by

Break my heart,

And they are none other than my old acquaintances!

In piles chrysanthemums are everywhere.

Withered and damaged;

xún xún mì mì  
尋尋覓覓

lěng lěng qīng qīng  
冷冷清清

qī qī cǎn cǎn qī qī  
悽悽慘慘戚戚

zhà nuǎn huán hán shí hòu  
乍暖還寒時候

zuì nán jiāng xī  
最難將息

sān bēi liǎng zhǎn dàn jiǔ  
三杯兩盞淡酒

zěn dí tā wǎn lái fēng jí  
怎敵他晚來風急

yàn guò yě  
雁過也

zhèng shāng xīn  
正傷心

què shì jiù shí xiāng shí  
卻是舊時相識

mǎn dì huáng huā duī jī  
滿地黃 花堆積

qiáo cuì sǔn  
憔悴損

Now who will pick them?

I cling to the window;

All alone, what am I going to do before it gets dark?

The drizzle on the wutong leaves

Drips and drops, drops and drips into evening.

How can all this

Be summed up by one word “sorrow.”

rú jīn yǒu shuí kān zhāi

如今有誰堪摘

shǒu zhe chuāng ér

守著窗兒

dú zì zěn shēng dé hēi

獨自怎生得黑

wú tóng gèng jiān xì yǔ

梧桐更兼細雨

dào huáng hūn diǎn diǎn dī dī

到黃昏、點點滴滴

zhè cì dì

這次第

zěn yí gè chóu zì liǎo dé

怎一箇愁字了得

[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

- Sound and sense
- Loneliness and sorrow at the time of year when things decay
- Expressing the ineffable

## 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.