



How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

Topic 16 Long Song Lyrics (*manci*) of the Song Dynasty

Guest Host: Xinda Lian (Denison University)


Episode 50 The Power of Poetic Imagery

I. Text

To the Tune “Sky-Clear Sand”: Autumn Thoughts
(Ma Zhiyuan)

馬致遠 天淨沙·秋思

Withered vines, old trees, crows at dusk,
A small bridge, flowing water, people’s homes,
An ancient road, the west wind, a lean horse.
The evening sun goes down in the west.
One heartbroken man at the end of the earth.



kū téng lǎo shù hūn yā
枯藤老樹昏鴉
xiǎo qiáo liú shuǐ rén jiā
小橋流水人家
gǔ dào xī fēng shòu mǎ
古道西風瘦馬
xī yáng xī xià
夕陽西下
duàn cháng rén zài tiān yá
斷腸人在天涯

[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

- Autumn lament
- Homesickness
- Juxtaposition of images

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), 329-347.

