



## How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

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

Guest Host: Xinda Lian (Denison University)

#### Episode 51 The Art of Tongue-in-Cheek: Two Love Songs by Two Great Dramatists

##### I. Text

To the Tune “A Half”: On Love (Guan Hanqing)


關漢卿 一半兒·題情

All was quiet outside the green-gauze window curtain;  
He knelt down in front of my bed and wanted to get  
intimate.

I just called him an ingrate and turned my back on him.

Though there was annoyance in what I said,

Half of it meant to reject; the other half, consent.



bì shā chuāng wài jìng wú rén  
碧紗窗外靜無人  
guì zài chuáng qián máng yào qīn  
跪在床前忙要親

mà liǎo gè fù xīn huí zhuǎn shēn  
罵了箇負心回轉身  
suī shì wǒ huà ér chēn  
雖是我話兒嗔  
yí bàn er tuī cí yí bàn er kěn  
一半兒推辭一半兒肯

## To the Tune “Spring Song”: On Love (Bai Pu)

白樸 陽春曲·題情

Laughing, I block out the silver candlelight with red sleeve,

And forbid my erudite dear one to read books.

Nestling together, we have such fun.

Isn't that only about exams?

Who cares even if you pass?

xiào jiāng hóng xiù zhē yín zhú  
笑將紅袖遮銀燭

bù fàng cái láng yè kàn shū  
不放才郎夜看書

xiāng wēi xiāng bào qǔ huān yú  
相偎相抱取歡娛

zhǐ bú guò dié yīng jǔ  
止不過迭應舉

jí dì dài hé rú  
及第待何如

[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

- Dramatic scene
- Playing love games
- Formal pattern and thematic content

## III. Textual Source

Xinda Lian. “Qu Poetry: Song Poems (*Sanqu*) of the Yuan Dynasty.” In Cai Zong-qi, ed., *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 329-347.