

ZHEN SHI

TUNE: THRICE DRUNK AND SOBERED

I was a bright pearl in my parents' palm.
How could I sink low in mansions of dreams?
It is my duty to please men by my beauty,
But behind them my tears fall in streams.
Homeless for three long springs, far from the southern land,
How, driven by the east wind, could I stand?
I'm further grieved
To find no one to pay a lot of pearls as alm
That I may be relieved.

WU XIYI

TUNE: SUNNY SAND

WRITTEN AT LEISURE

On thousand-mile-long River pass east-going sails.
How many times at Sunny Pass has blown west breeze?
Still I see a world of dust to my disgust.
At sunset cry the newcomer wild geese.
What can I do but beat now and then on the rails.

TUNE: SONG OF THE CLEAR RIVER

AN AUTUMN NIGHT

White wild geese fly pell-mell like autumn snow;
In the cool night clear dew-drops grow.
Drunk, I tread on the pine-tree's root steeped in moonlight
And wipe the stone clean of cloud white.
Under the starry sky sleepy I lie.

TUNE: SONG OF LONG-LIVED SUN

FOUR SEASONS (AUTUMN)

Grief heavy on my heart
Can't be written in word.
What can I do to keep autumn apart?
Beyond my painted bower is heard
The newcomer wild geese's cry.
They bring no letter but write "loneliness" in the sky.