

Lingnan University

Digital Commons @ Lingnan University

How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

Department of Chinese

1-24-2023

Song Poems (sanqu) of the Yuan Dynasty : The power of poetic imagery

Xinda LIAN
Denison University

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.ln.edu.hk/poetry_podcast



Part of the [Chinese Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lian, X., & Cai, Z. (2023, Jan 24). Song Poems (sanqu) of the Yuan Dynasty: The power of poetic imagery [50]. In How to read Chinese poetry podcast. Hong Kong: Lingnan University. Retrieved from https://commons.ln.edu.hk/poetry_podcast/53/

This Pre-Qin Times is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Chinese at Digital Commons @ Lingnan University. It has been accepted for inclusion in How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Lingnan University.



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.

