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### Song Poems (sanqu) of the Yuan Dynasty : Poetry of rambunctious wit and impudent humor

Xinda LIAN

*Denison University*

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# How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

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

Guest Host: Xinda Lian (Denison University)

### Episode 52 Poetry of Rambunctious Wit and Impudent Humor

#### I. Text

To the Tune “Heaven in a Drunkard’s Eye”: On the  
Big Butterfly (Wang Heqing)

王和卿 醉中天·詠大蝴蝶

Having emerged from Zhuangzi’s dream,

With its two wings mounting on the spring wind,

It empties three hundred gardens in one gulp.

Can this be the gallant breed?

How it scares away the flower-chaser bees!

With a gentle flap of its wings

It blows the flower-venders to the east side of the bridge.

chán pò zhuāng zhōu mèng  
蟬破莊周夢

liǎng chì jià dōng fēng  
兩翅架東風

sān bǎi zuò míng yuán  
三百座名園

yì cǎi yí gè kōng  
一採一箇空

nàn dào fēng liú zhǒng  
難道風流種

xià shà xún fāng de mì fēng  
嚇殺尋芳的蜜蜂

qīng qīng de fēi dòng  
輕輕的飛動

bǎ mài huā rén shān guò qiáo dōng  
把賣花人搨過橋東

[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

- Raw humor as the trade mark of *sanqu* 散曲
- Allusion to Zhuangzi's "butterfly dream"
- *Yongwu shi* 詠物詩 or "poetry on objects"

## 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.

