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TANG AND SONG LYRICS  
唐宋詞

## A FISHERMAN'S SONG

Zhang Zhihe (? — 744)

In front of Xisai Mountain<sup>1</sup>, egrets fly;  
Blooming are the peach trees,  
fat the *gui fish*<sup>2</sup> in the water running by.

Wearing blue bamboo hat  
and green straw cape,  
Home I needn't go –  
slanting wind and drizzles I defy.

1 A mountain in Wuxing county (吳興縣) in Zhejiang Province.

2 A kind of fish (即桂魚) commonly found in rivers in Zhejiang Province.



## 漁歌子

張志和(?—744)

西塞山前白鷺飛，  
桃花流水鰕魚肥。

青箬笠，綠蓑衣。  
斜風細雨不須歸。



## NOT A FLOWER, NOR MIST

Bai Juyi (772 — 846)

Like a flower but it isn't;

Like mist but it isn't.

It comes in the middle of the night;

It goes at break of dawn.

Like a spring dream, it comes,  
but never stays long;

Like morning clouds, it goes,  
and can't be found once gone.

**Note:**

It is not known what the poet was referring to in this lyric poem. In ancient times, however, the phrases 'spring dream' and 'morning clouds' were often used to allude to secret meetings of lovers. It is therefore believed that the poet was referring to some deeply memorable romantic encounters.

## 花非花

白居易 (772 — 846)

花非花，霧非霧。  
夜半來，天明去。

來如春夢不多時，  
去似朝雲無覓處。

## HEAVENLY BARBARIAN

Anonymous Song from Dun Huang (5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century)

On my pillow, a thousand vows you've made:  
You won't divorce me  
till the green mountains have decayed;

Till the steelyard weight floats on water-top,  
And the Yellow River completely dries up;

Till the stars, Orion and Lucifer,  
appear together in broad daylight<sup>1</sup>,  
And the Big Dipper<sup>2</sup> seen in the south at night.

So, divorce me you cannot,  
Till the sun at midnight we spot.

1 These two stars (參辰二星) are positioned respectively in the west and east. Hence, they never appear together in the night sky, not to mention appearing together in broad daylight.

2 The Plough or Northern Stars.

## 菩薩蠻

敦煌曲子詞（五至十世紀 — 無名氏）

枕前發盡千般願：要休且待青山爛。  
水面上秤錘浮，直待黃河徹底枯。

白日參辰現，北斗回南面。  
休即未能休，且待三更見日頭。

**Background:**

This and the following lyric poem by anonymous poets of the Song Dynasty were selected from about 1,300 songs / poems among some 30,000 to 40,000 ancient texts hidden in a secret cache inside a sealed cave temple in Dun Huang (敦煌). The cache was accidentally found by a Daoist in 1900.

## VIEWING THE RIVER SOUTH

Anonymous Song from Dun Huang (5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century)

The moon hangs in the sky,  
Like a lump of silver in a distant sight.

The wind's rising in the deep of the night.  
Pray blow away the clouds  
surrounding the moon outright,  
So that my ungrateful lover would be in sight.

## 望江南

敦煌曲子詞 (五至十世紀 — 無名氏)

天上月，遙望似一團銀。

夜久更闌風漸緊。與奴吹散月邊雲。  
照見負心人。