

# POEMS OF MAO TSE-TUNG

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Chingkangshan      after the *tsu* 'Hsi Chiang Yueh'

Below the mountain in full view our flags and banners,  
As up the mountain respond our bugles and drums:  
The enemy have us encircled a myriad folds,  
Unconcerned we just remain.

Long ago we had our ramparts sternly built,  
The people's will further fortresses had forged:  
Hark over Huangyangchieh the cannons loudly boom,  
Announcing their army in the dark had fled.

Autumn 1928

For notes see p. 64.

西江月

井岡山

山下旌旗在望，  
山頭鼓角相聞。  
敵軍圍困萬千重，  
我自巋然不動。

早已森嚴壁壘，  
更加衆志成城。  
黃洋界上砲聲隆，  
報道敵軍宵遁。

一九二八年秋

# Snow

after the *tz'u* 'Chin Yuan Chun'

North country scene:  
Miles frozen bound,  
More miles snow flakes.  
See the Great Wall, in and out,  
Just one vast waste,  
The Great Ho, up and down,  
Had its foam stilled.  
Hills danced as silver snakes,  
Mountains rampaged like wax elephants,  
As if trying to vie with god in stature;  
Wait till a fine day,  
When sunshine burnished gold upon pure whiteness,  
Yet more enchanting it shall grow.

This land with so much beauty aglow  
As had caused  
Countless heroes striving for homage to her bestow.  
Pity Chin Huang and Han Wu

# 沁園春

雪

北國風光，  
千里冰封，  
萬里雪飄。  
望長城內外，  
惟餘莽莽；  
大河上下，  
頓失滔滔。  
山舞銀蛇，  
原馳蠟象，  
欲與天公試比高。  
須晴日，  
看紅裝素裹，  
分外妖嬈。

Both rather unversed,  
Tang Tsung and Sung Tsu  
In fine arts lacked:  
And that spoiled child of heaven,  
Jenghiz Khan,  
Knew only shooting eagles with outstretched bow:  
All is past!  
For great men—none but  
This age shall show.

February 1936

For notes see p. 83.

江山如此多嬌，  
引無數英雄競折腰。  
惜秦皇漢武，  
略輸文采；  
唐宗宋祖，  
稍遜風騷。  
一代天驕，  
成吉思汗，  
只識彎弓射大雕。  
俱往矣，  
數風流人物，  
還看今朝。

一九三六年二月

## CHINGKANGSHAN

Chingkangshan: a mountain over 100 li in length and 500 li in circumference, belonging to the Lo Hsiao range stretching from Kweitung and Kweiyang counties in south-east Hunan eastwards into Shuichuen county in western Kiangsi. It surrounds the counties of Ningkang and Yunghsin. In September 1927, Mao Tse-tung established his first revolutionary base here, and was joined in April 1928 by Chu Teh. The poem was written in late 1928.

Hsi Chiang Yuch or West River Moon: originated from the lines of Li Po (701-762):

*Now alone on the West River remains the moon  
Which once within King Wu's palace shone on the fair.*

Line 3. encircled: Kuomintang troops blockaded and attacked this base many times in 1927 and 1928.

Line 6. fortresses: after 'the will of the many create fortresses' in the *Chronicles of the States* by Tso Chiu-ming at the time of Confucius.

Line 7. Huangyangchich: one of the districts in the mountain which Mao purposely left open to ambush the enemy.

## THE WAR BETWEEN CHIANG AND THE KWANGSI CLIQUE

Written in September-October 1929; for at dawn on 21 September of that year the Red Army took Shanghang as mentioned here.

Ching Ping Lo or Pure Happiness, an old *tsu* the origin of which is not clear; it has been attributed to Li Po (701-762).

Line 1. wind and rain mean events of note.

Line 2. In March 1929 the warlords renewed hostilities; the Kwangsi clique, starting from Hankow, joined by the North-west chieftains, campaigned against Chiang Kai-shek.

Line 4. Golden Millet Dream: story of Lu Sheng (Tang dynasty) meeting an immortal, Lu Weng, at an inn in Hantan and complaining of his ill-luck in life. Lu Weng lent him a pillow to sleep, during which he dreamt of fulfilling all his ambitions: honours, power, riches, a handsome wife Miss Tsui, sons and daughters all marrying well, grandchildren by the score, and finally dying at the ripe age of over eighty. When he woke up, the meal of golden millet the inn-keeper was preparing for him had not yet been fully cooked.

Line 5. Ting: The town of Changting had been captured in May.

Line 6. Lungyen: taken three times between the end of May and the 19th of June.

Line 7. Golden Vase: comparing the beautiful land of China to a Golden Vase that had been shattered to fragments by the warlords. Mao was busy mending a fragment.

## MOUNT LIUPAN

Mount Liupan or the Six Times Circling Mountain: on the southwest of Kuyuan county in southern Kansu, so steep that the road circles it six times to reach the summit. In September 1935 the Red Army advanced into the province and had to breach the enemy lines at Mount Liupan before entering Shensi province in October.

Ching Ping Lo: See under the *tsu Huichang*.

Line 7. the long tassel: In the Han dynasty, Chung Chun requested Emperor Wu Ti for a long tassel, saying he was certain to bind and bring back with it as captive the King of Southern Yueh. Here the poet refers to the great potential of anti-Japanese elements.

Line 8. Grey Dragon: general name for the cluster of seven constellations in the eastern sky, referring here to the Japanese aggressors.

## SNOW

Chin Yuan Chun: See note to *Changsha*.

Line 6. Great Ho: the Huang Ho or Yellow River.

Line 9. Mountains: the plateaux of Shensi and Shansi (author's note).

Line 17. Chin Huang: Chin Shih Huang, first emperor of Chin, who reigned 246-210 BC.

Han Wu: Han Wu Ti, Emperor Wu of the Eastern Han dynasty, who reigned 140-87 BC.

Line 19. Tang Tsung: Emperor Tai Tsung of Tang, Li Shih-min, 627-649, who established the dynasty for his father.

Sung Tsu: Tai Tsu, first emperor of Sung, Chao Kuang-yin, 960-976.

Line 21. spoiled child of heaven: name given by the Hans to the invaders from the north, Hsiung Nu.

Line 22. Jenghiz Khan: the Mongol conqueror who reigned 1206-1227.