

LU XUN: SELECTED POEMS

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吴钧陶 译注



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鲁迅像（木刻）

颜仲作

Lu Xun (鲁迅) 1881-1936.

Wu Juntao's translation

无题二首

大江日夜向东流，
聚义群雄又远游。
六代绮罗成旧梦，
石头城上月如钩。

雨花台边埋断戟，
莫愁湖里余微波。
所思美人不可见，
归忆江天发浩歌。

TWO UNTITLED POEMS

June 14th, 1931

I

The Yangtze River murmurs eastward night and day;
Those "Heroes" throng and wrangle before they scatter
away.(1)
The pompous shows of the Six Kingdoms are all but
dreams;(2)
Above the Stone City the moon, hook-like, now beams;(3)

II

The broken lances are lain in dust at Yuhuatai,(4)
On Mochou Lake there only ripples faintly glide.(5)
The ideal Beauty one deeply loves is nowhere,(6)
Recalling, to the waves and sky I sing loud my care.

The Lotus Seed-Pod (P.5)

(1) Zhou Lianqi (周濂溪, 1017—1073), alias Zhou Dunyi (周敦颐), a scholar of the Song (宋) dynasty, had written a prose on *In Love with Lotus*. (《爱莲说》)

Four Stanzas on the Love of Flowers(P.15)

(1) It is said that in ancient times lovers bestowed on each other red beans in token of their tender passion. Here it means that the poet thinks of the flower, just as a man thinks of his lover, even without any token.

To Feng Huixi(P.25)

(1) Feng Huixi, Lu Xun's sister-in-law, was by then a student of a medical college.

To Uchi Yama(P.27)

(1) Uchi Yama (邬其山), the Chinese name of Uchiyama Kanzo (内山完造, 1885—1959), Lu Xun's Japanese friend, a book-stall keeper. He had come to Shanghai since his twenties and begun his career in selling medicines.

(2) These lines allude to the reactionary warlords and politicians. They slaughtered the people when they had grasped the power, and chanted Buddhist scriptures for Buddha's blessing when they were forced to relinquish their power. In colloquialism, "Amitabha" also means "thank God!"

Seeing Mr. O. E. Back Home With the Orchid(P.29)

(1) O. E., Obara Eiziro (小原荣次郎), a Japanese shop-keeper. Orchid was one of the Chinese goods sold in his shop.

To a Japanese Poet(P.33)

(1) The Poet is Masuya Jizaburo (升屋治三郎).

(2) Chunshen River (春申江), another name for the Huangpu River (黄浦江), a river in Shanghai;

(3) *The Monkey* (《西游记》) and *Detification* (《封神演义》) are famous classical novels and many of the characters therein are animals and demons. Some of the Peking operas are adopted from these novels. Here it alludes to the reactionary rulers on the political arena.

An Untitled Poem(P.35)

(1) The Tyrant of Qin, alludes to Qin Mugong (秦穆公, ?-621 B.C.) the feudal prince of the Spring-Autumn Period (春秋, 722-481 B.C.) and simlizes the rulers of Lu Xun's time.

(2) In ancient times there was a man of the Yue (越) Kingdom, named Zhuang Xie (庄舄) who always sang his native songs even when he became an official in the Chu (楚) Kingdom. Here it means that the rulers have betrayed the revolution, and the patriotic songs are no more heard.

Song of the Nymphs Of the Xiang River(P.37)

(1) It is said in the legend that there are two nymphs in the Xiang River(湘江).

(2) Here it means that the water is red with people's blood because of the reactionaries' slaughter.

(3) The whole country is overwhelmed with horror and the rulers think there is peaceful atmosphere around them.

Two Untitled Poems(P.39)

(1) In the spring of 1931, there were factional disputes among the leaders of the Kuomintang. Combating against Chiang Kai-shek's (蒋介石, 1887—1975) policy, Hu Hanmin's (胡汉民, 1878—1936) supporters left Nanjing (南京), the Capital at that time, and organized another government in Guanzhou (广州, Canton). "Heroes" here refers to the leaders.

(2) The Six Kingdoms (六朝), the six ancient kingdoms: Wu (吴, 222—265); Eastern Jin (东晋, 317—420); Song (宋, 420—479);

Qi (齐, 480—502), Liang (梁, 503—557) and Chen (陈, 558—589), they all made Nanjing their capital city.

(3) The Stone City (石头城), another name for Nanjing.

(4) Yuhua Tai (雨花台, Petal-Shower Terrace), a place in the southern suburbs of Nanjing, on the Treasury Mountain (聚宝山). It was a battle-field during the Revolution [of 1911 when the revolutionary army, led by Dr. Sun Yatsen (孙逸仙, 1866—1925), overthrew the Qing (清) dynasty. It was afterwards a secret execution ground where the reactionaries killed many communists and revolutionaries.

(5) A lake in Nanjing, named after Mochou (莫愁), a beautiful and kind girl of the period of the Six Kingdoms.

(6) According to the ancient poet Qu Yuan's (屈原, 340? B.C.—278? B.C.) poem *Li Sao* (《离骚》), the "Beauty" implies the ideal person. Here it may allude to Dr. Sun Yatsen, the founder of the Kuomintang. This paragraph means that when the fightings against the Qing dynasty was over, the revolutionary spirit of the Kuomintang was deviating from Dr. Sun Yatsen's political idea.

Seeing Mr. Masuda Wataru Homeward Bound (P.41)

(1) Masuda Wataru (增田涉, 1903—1977), a Japanese scholar of Chinese Literature, has translated Lu Xun's works into Japanese.

(2) In Chinese legends Japan is the place where the sun lives in a gigantic tree.

(3) In ancient times, the Chinese people broke a twig of willow to send to a friend who was leaving.

(4) In 1902—1909, as a student, Lu Xun studied in a medical college in Japan.

Nanjing Ballad (P.43)

(1) In September 18th, 1931, when the Japanese imperialists invaded the Northeast territory of China, the two split governments

of the Kuomintang compromised with each other. They founded a united government in Nanjing at the end of the year, and the leaders went together to Dr. Sun Yatsen's tomb to hold a memorial. This poem is a satire that under the guise of the memorial they were still at strife.

(2) Mourning in silence for three minutes was the rite; "ten minutes" here is an exaggerated wording.

An Untitled Poem (P.45)

(1) From 1930 to 1931, the Red Army of China smashed thrice the "encircle and suppress" campaigns of the reactionary army. Here it means the blood of the revolutionists will bolster up the revolutionary strength.

(2) In January 1931, when a coalition government was formed, Chiang Kai-shek resigned his office, and Wang Jinwei (汪精卫, 1883—1944), Vice-President of the Kuomintang Party, left the capital on the pretext of illness, while Sun Ke (孙科, 1891—1973), the new head of the Executive Yuan unable to rule the country, went to cry over the tomb of Dr. Sun Yatsen, who was his father and also the father of the Chinese Republic.

An Impromptu (P.47)

(1) Lu Xun meant here that the country under the rule of the reactionaries was a dark place for the man of letters. He thought of Japan, where he had lived and studied in a medical college when he was young, but the imperialist Japan was also a place inadequate for the development of art.

To Pengzi (P.49)

(1) Yao Pengzi (姚蓬子, 1902—1969), a writer and a communist in his early years, betrayed the party after he was arrested by the Kuomintang in 1933. His son, Yao Wen Yuan (姚文元, 1932—), has become a member of the notorious "gang of four" since 1966.