

Silent poetry

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Long time ago, a realm situated towards the sunrise was reined by a malicious ruler QIN. Having ambitions to establish an Empire, he conquered many neighboring small realms. To defend his enormous Empire against external enemies, QIN decided to enclose it by connecting the old fortification walls. For this immense long construction, the mountains were shattered, large quantity of stones and rammed earth were transported. All subjects were forced to leave their homes and were taken to the border. As bricklayers they constructed the Emperor's wall. In their thorny work, they devastated the natural habitat of countless animals and plants. To keep down the rise of any revolts against this subjugation, the Emperor suppressed the freedom of speech, suggesting that the historians spread defamatory lectures and the poets sing false praise. By the imperial decree all books and manuscripts on history and poetry, written on the rice papers and bamboo slides were immured in the wall. The remaining writings were shattered and used as a glue to cement the wall. All historians, scholars and poets ought to be banished.

In this gloomy period, a desperate poet by the name of BAI-JUYI visited a philosopher XIEMENG. On this occasion, he received the following advice: «Use the power of silence.»

BAI-JUYI: «Most honorable, could you explain the path, how does one use the power of silence?»
 XIEMENG: «Flowers, butterflies or birds inspire the painters. The artists create in the silence, and their paintings are wordless narrative, or powerful silent poems. The birds' tunes inspire poets, too. However, poets do not comprehend the secret messages like «chew, chew, tweet, tweet». The poets ought to create poems with secret messages. Secret messages are powerful silent messages. Even in the dot, after every verse, the powerful silence is hidden.»

Therefore, the painters painted so marvellously, that every spectator neared to smell the flowers and listen the singing of the colorful birds. All paintings were bought by the unaware Emperor, who had them hanged up on the walls of the palace. The paintings with clear historical background were the eternal evidence of the Emperor's malice.

The poets created verses with secret messages. The first encoded verse appeared on the second new moon in the year of wooden hen (GONGJI):

*«This summer, the petals all have fallen,
 but the mountain temple's peach-blossom
 has just begun to bloom.*

*I regretted so much that spring had gone without a trace,
 I didn't know that it had only moved up here.»*

It signifies: The petals are the «stones», the great peach-tree in blossom is the «mountain». In this way, the poem has the new secret meaning: «The Emper-



or's wall-builders shattered the mountains, devastated the landscapes and destroyed the Kingdom of nature with all the plants and animals.»

For every new moon, poets created and encoded verses. Alas, all hundred forty-five verses were gloomy, until the last explanatory verses. Written a day after the death of QIN, exactly on the third new moon in the year of wooden hen (GONGJI):

*«You ask for what reason I stay on the green mountain,
 I smile, but do not answer, my heart is at leisure.
 Peach-blossom is carried far off by flowing water,
 Apart, I have heaven and earth in the human world.*

*Poems dash like the lovely birds towards the heaven.
 Between the idle clouds, the Silence welcomes new arrivals.
 When the rainbow strokes the celestial vault, a silent
 poem is born.*

*Every poem dreams to unite with Silence.
 Only then, it is accepted with a joy,
 in the realms towards the sunrise,
 and the realms towards the sunset.»*

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