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Poem of the Peach Spring

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POEM OF THE PEACH SPRING

桃
花
源
詩

In the age when the First August Emperor violated heaven
Sages hid themselves from the world.

As Hwang and Chi in their times went to Shang Mountain,
These went to the Peach Spring.

Their footprints were buried as in mist,
The paths of their coming, weeds and waste.

嬴氏亂天紀

賢者避其世

黃綺之商山

伊人亦云逝

往迹浸復湮

來逕遂蕪廢

Together they furrowed and sowed their land
And rested with the setting sun.

Mulberry and bamboo drooped with shade,
Beans and millet were cultured in proper times.

In spring the silkworms yielded long silk,
And the ripeness of fall brought no king's taxes.

相命肆農耕

日入從所憇

桑竹垂餘蔭

菽稷隨時藝

春蠶收長絲

秋熟靡王稅

The roadways lost, travel to Peach Spring was forgotten.
Together geese and dogs cackled and barked.

The ancient rituals were performed,
And the old clothing was worn.

Children ran singing through the land,
While grey-haired ones roamed to visit.

荒路曖交通

鷄犬互鳴吠

俎豆猶古法

衣裳無新製

童孺縱行歌

斑白歡游詣

From luxuriant grass one knew calm seasons
From falling trees, the fierce wild times.

No histories were kept, no chronicles,
But years grew from their seasons.

In harmony there was enough that pleased.
Why would they fret for knowledge?

草勞識節和
木衰知風厲
雖無紀歷志
四時自成歲
怡然有餘樂
于何勞智慧

Their traces of wonder were hidden for five centuries,
Until the age I discovered the divine borders.

Their sincerity was not my flippancy,
So I returned and left the land to its solitude.

Now I demand of those restricted and restless:
What do you know more than noise and dust—the world?

I wish to walk on wind,
In high places raise my search for harmony.

奇蹤隱五百
一朝啟神界
淳薄既異源
旋復還幽蔽
借問游方士
焉測塵囂外
願言躡輕風
高舉尋吾契