



1987

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Recommended Citation

Po, Li (1987) "Li Po," *Inscape*: Vol. 7: No. 1, Article 29.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/inscape/vol7/iss1/29>

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Li Po

Li Po (A.D. 705–762) lived during the golden age of Chinese poetry, the T'ang Dynasty, and perfected the short poem known as the Chyue-chiu. "Spring Night" is an example of this form. A chyue-chiu consists of four lines, seven characters to a line. Each character in the first and second lines corresponds to each other, as do the characters in the third and fourth lines. The compact nature of Chinese allows for a great deal of movement within each line.

In the poem, *Cheng* means *City*; *Lo Cheng* is *Lo City*. *Lo* is Li Po's abbreviation of Loyang, the capital city. Homesick, Li Po hears someone playing a flute and wonders who could be playing so intently and convincingly of home.