

Chinese Literature

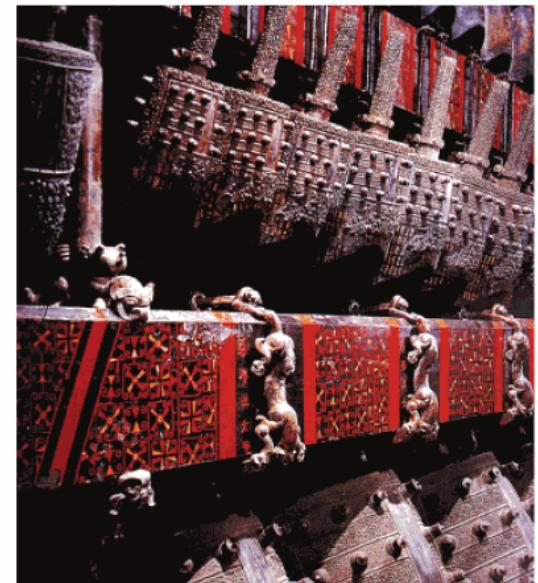


Ancient Chinese Literature

- 诗经 *Shijing* The Book of Songs
- 305 poems written in 500 years
- Western Zhou – Spring and Autumn
(11th – 6th Century BC)
 - 1) Folk songs and ballads
 - 2) Advice poems
 - 3) Songs for sacrificial rites

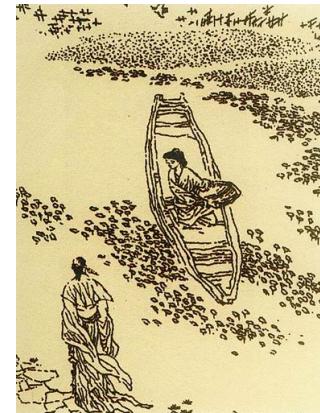
Book of Song

- 风 *Feng* ‘ballads of folk song’
 - Originally referred to the local music
- 雅 *Ya* ‘court hymns or odes’
 - Court music
- 颂 *Song* ‘sacrificial songs’
 - Slow tempo dance music



Love Poem

- 《关雎》 Crying Ospreys
关关雎鸠 Merrily the ospreys cry
在河之洲 On the islet in the stream
窈窕淑女 Gentle and graceful is the girl
君子好逑 A fit wife for the gentleman



Various Schools of Thoughts

- Spring and Autumn – Warring States (770-221B)
- Decline of the Zhou royal court
- War and chaos
- Unemployed scholars toured various states to publicize their ideas
- 诸子百家 *Zhuzibaijia* ‘Prose writings of various schools of thoughts during the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States Period’

An Age of Wise Men

- Spiritual Liberty
- Debates: different scholar stuck to their own views on how each state should be governed
- Prose writings: reasoning
 - Philosophical and abstract thinking
 - Metaphors
 - Imagination and concern for the life of people

Taoist School

- 老子 Laozi (470BC)
 - Spring and Autumn Period
 - Native of Chu State
- 道德经 *Tao Te Ching* ‘Classic of the way and virtue’
 - 81 chapters (5,000 characters)
 - Tao Ching (Classic of the Way)
 - Te Ching (Classic of the Virtue)

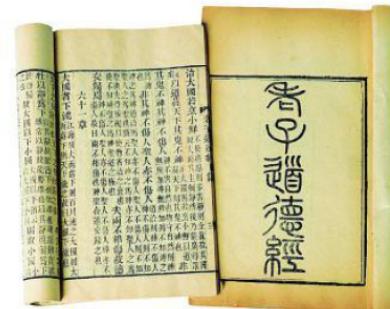


Tao

- 道可道， 非常道
- dao ke dao, fei chang dao
 - “The Tao that can be spoken of is not the eternal Tao”
- 无为而治 wu wei er zhi
 - “through actionless activity all things are duly regulated”

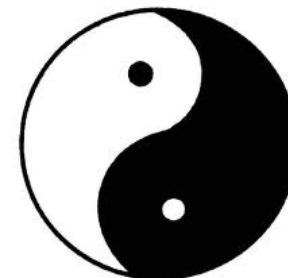
● Political ideal

- How to solve disputes between people
- How to guide people's activities to follow the naturalness and spontaneity of the 'Tao' → non-action
- How to make people's life free from political interference



Relativism

- Therefore, by opposing each other/
Existence and nonexistence come into being/
Difficult and easy form themselves/
Long and short are distinct/
High and low contrast/
Sound and voice harmonize/
Front and back emerge/



Confucian School



- 孔子 Confucius (551-479BC)
 - Spring and Autumn Period
 - Minister of Public Works and Justice of the Lu State
 - Toured various countries and started his teaching career
 - 3,000 pupils
 - 72 of whom were outstanding and renowned in all Six Arts – ceremony, music, archery, chariot driving, writing, and mathematics



- Revising and compiling the literary works of ancient China
 - *The Book of Documents*
 - *The Book of Songs*
 - *The Book of Changes*
 - *The Spring and Autumn Annals*
 - *The Record of Rites*
 - *The Record of Music*

Quotes from Confucious

- 论语 *lunyu* ‘The Analects’
 - Confucius’s words recorded by his pupils
- 己所不欲，勿施于人
- ji suo bu yu, wu shi yu ren
- “Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no feelings of opposition to you, whether it is the affairs of a State that you are handling or the affairs of a Family.”

Ritual

- A set of systems and social norms
 - “To look at nothing in defiance of ritual, to listen to nothing in defiance of ritual, to speak of nothing in defiance of ritual, never to stir hand or foot in defiance of ritual.”
- Rulers governing the people

“Govern them by moral force, keep order among them by ritual and they will keep their self-respect and come to you of their own accord.”

Records of the Historian

- 司马迁 SIMA Qian
- Western Han Dynasty (145-86BC)
- 史记 *Shiji* ‘Records of the Historian’
 - Developments in the fields of politics, economy, and culture over 3,000 years



- Five forms
 - Emperor's biographies
 - Memorials to the emperors
 - Treaties
 - Hereditary houses of nobles and princes
 - Biographies of historical figures



Tang Poetry

- Tang Dynasty was the golden age of Chinese poetry
 - 李白 Li Bai (701-762)
 - 杜甫 Du Fu (712-770)

Li Bai



- Outstanding representative poet of the High Tang period
- His poems are impassioned, bold and unrestrained, and romantic
- Long loved by the Chinese People

● 《静夜思》

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
举头望明月
低头思故乡

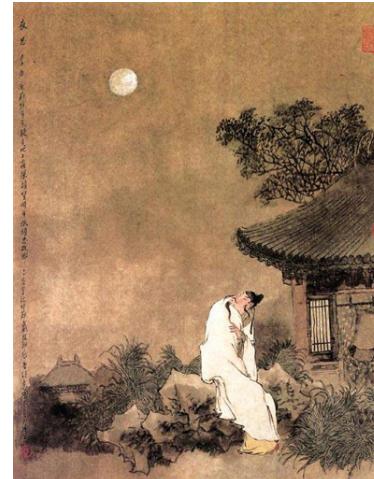
Thoughts on a Tranquil Night

Before my bed a pool of light

Can it be frost on the ground

Looking up, I find the moon bright

Bowing, in homesickness I'm drowned



- Profound thoughts and sentiments
 - 飞流直下三千尺， 疑是银河落九天
“Its torrent dashes down three thousand feet from high/ As if the Silver River fell from the blue sky”
- A frustrated official career
 - 安能摧眉折腰事权贵， 使我不得开心颜
“How can I stoop and bow before the men in power/ And so deny myself a happy hour”

Drinking Alone in the Moonlight

《月下独酌》 Drinking Alone in the Moonlight

花间一壺酒	A cup of wine, under the flowering trees
獨酌無相亲	I drink alone, for no friend is near
舉杯邀明月	Raising my cup I reckon the bright moon
對影成三人	For he, with my shadow, will make three men
月既不解飲	The moon, alas, is no drinker of wine
影徒隨我身	Listless, my shadow creeps about at my side
暫伴月將影	With the moon as friend and shadow as slave
行樂須及春	I must make merry before the Spring is spent

我歌月徘徊
我舞影零乱
醒时同交欢
醉后各分散
永结无情游
相期邈云汉

To the songs I sing the moon flickers her beams
In the dance I weave my shadow tangles
While we were sober, three shared the fun
Now we are drunk, each goes his way
May we long share our odd, inanimate feast
And meet at last on the Cloudy River of the sky



Du Fu



- Tang Dynasty
 - Extreme prosperity and strength
 - Hidden social conflicts and crisis
- Du Fu's poems
 - Sense of anxiety and responsibility he felt for the country

Song of the Road

《自京赴奉先系咏怀五百字》 Song of the Road – Going from the Capital to Fengxian

朱门酒肉臭	The mansions burst with wine and meat
路有冻死骨	The poor die frozen on the street
荣枯咫尺异	Woe stands within an inch of weal
惆怅难再述	Distressed, can I tell what I fell?

Ballad of the War Chariots

车辚辚

Chariots rumble

马萧萧

And horses grumble

行人弓箭各在腰

The conscripts march with bow and
arrows at the waist

爷娘妻子走向送

Their fathers, mothers, wives and
children come in haste

尘埃不见咸阳桥

To see them off; the bridge is shrouded
in dust they've raised

...

信知生男恶

If we had known sons bring no joy

反是生女好

We would have preferred girl to boy

生女犹得嫁比邻

A daughter can be wed to a neighbor

生男埋没随百草

A son can only be buried under the grass

Song Ci Poetry

- Song Dynasty (960-1279)
- 词 *ci* ‘words to a tune; short and long lines’
- Flower School (School of Ci)
 - 温庭筠 Wen Tingyun
 - Writing words for tunes
 - Established the writing style of Ci poetry

Pusaman

《菩萨蛮》

Pusaman

小山重叠金明灭

Like ranges of mountains, the screen flickers in morning sunlight

鬓云欲度香腮雪

Cloudlike black hair over her temples, flows down sweet-smelling fair cheeks in disarray

懒起画峨眉

Listlessly getting out of bed, she paints eyebrows

弄妆梳洗迟

Sluggishly, she washes and dresses

照花前后镜

In the mirror are her beautiful face and flowers

花面交相应

Her beauty putting the flowers to shame

新帖绣罗襦

Thin silk dress shines with fine embroideries

双双金鹧鸪

Two golden francolins, a loving couple

Yuan Opera

- Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368)
- 杂剧 *za ju*
- Golden age of Chinese opera
- 关汉卿 Guan Hanqing
 - Most important playwright
 - *Snow in Midsummer*
 - *Riverside Pavilion*
 - *Lord Guan Goes to the Feast*



Ming & Qing Classical Fiction

- Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)
- Four Great Classical Novels
 - 罗贯中 Luo Guanzhong (1330-1440)
 - 三国演义 *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*
 - 施耐庵 Shi Nai'an (1296-1370)
 - 水浒传 *Water Margin*
 - 吴承恩 Wu Cheng'en (1504-1582)
 - 西游记 *Journey to the West*
 - 曹雪芹 Cao Xueqin (1715-1763)
 - 红楼梦 *Dream of the Red Chamber*

