

[Skip to main content](#)

r/Poetry



Search in r/Poetry



Create



r/Poetry • 8mo ago

No-Expression-6892



[POEM] Mountain Shao Revisited - Mao Zedong

SHAOSHAN REVISITED

--a lu shih

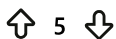
June 1959

I visited Shaoshan on June 25, 1959 after an absence of thirty-two years.

Like a dim dream recalled, I curse the long-fled past--
My native soil two and thirty years gone by.
The red flag roused the serf, halberd in hand,
While the despot's black talons held his whip aloft.
Bitter sacrifice strengthens bold resolve
Which dares to make sun and moon shine in new skies.
Happy, I see wave upon wave of paddy and beans,
And all around heroes home-bound in the evening mist.

Original Screenshot

Like a dim dream recalled, I curse the long-fled past--
My native soil two and thirty years gone by.
The red flag roused the serf, halberd in hand,
While the despot's black talons held his whip aloft.
Bitter sacrifice strengthens bold resolve
Which dares to make sun and moon shine in new skies.
Happily I see wave upon wave of paddy and beans,
And all around heroes home-bound in the evening mist.



5



3



Share

Add your reply

Sort by: Best ▾



Search Comments



No-Expression-6892 OP • 8mo ago

This is my second favorite poem of Mao Zedong, and it's a shame that my knowledge on English literature does not allow me to polish this translation online. I slightly changed the title (Shaoshan = Shao shan, shan = mountain) according recent Chinese-made translations.

Here's the original text of this poem:

别梦依稀咒逝川，故园三十二年前。

红旗卷起农奴戟，黑手高悬霸主鞭。

为有牺牲多壮志，敢教日月换新天。

[Skip to main content](#)[+ Create](#)

(Literally "Reading History ~ Congratulations to the Bridegroom", the latter part being the "Ci Formulation"). This poem currently doesn't have an official translation, and I can't find a satisfying self-made one, so here's the original text:

人猿相揖别。

只几个石头磨过，

小儿时节。

铜铁炉中翻火焰，

为问何时猜得，

不过几千寒热。

人世难逢开口笑，

上疆场彼此弯弓月。

流遍了，

郊原血。

一篇读罢头飞雪，

但记得斑斑点点，

几行陈迹。

五帝三皇神圣事，

骗了无涯过客。

有多少风流人物？

盗跖庄屨流誉后，

更陈王奋起挥黄钺。

歌未竟，

东方白。

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



No-Expression-6892 [OP](#) • 8mo ago

For those interested, there is an informal version of its translation:

Man, to the ape, waved farewell.

Having stone tools to fight the odds,

Which was his infancy road.

[+ Create](#)

But a few thousand years ago.
On earth broad smiles are rarely seen;
On field bows drawn phased like moon.
All plains are red,
With blood that's shed.
One volume read, and you'll be old.
Recalling but some regal feuds,
Old traces taken from older quotes.
The legends of sacred kings retold,
Have fooled countless human sloths.
How many are hailed in odes?
Let Spartacus^① win his fame,
Shall peasants aroused to wield their forks.^①
Songs unsung,
A brand new dawn.

① These two sentences are heavily modified to a context easier to understand by foreigners. The original text used "盜跖" "庄蹻" and "陈王（陈胜）", all of them are ancient slave/peasant revolt leaders which are described as villians in history books written by royalist historians in their time and all of China's feudal era.



2

[Reply](#)