

Swallows/ 燕 燕

O Swallows, travel to and fro
Wings flutter wide or narrow.
You're going away to marry;
I have come to see you off.
At the turn of your back, tears
Drop on my lapels in a row.

O Swallows, soar up or dip low
Wings spread or slightly fold.
You're departing for the country;
I have come to bid goodbye.
As you recede into a distant view,
My body trembles from head to toe.

O Swallows, sing in varied note,
To each other for sweet succor.
You're heading to the south;
I have come to face the moment.
As you vanish in the distance,
Sadness and sorrow in me grow.

My dear one, you are so
Generous and gentle
Competent and prudent.
In perfection you forever glow;
Your full devotion to our lord,
I am inspired to steadily follow.

-----Trans. by Yuemin He from *The Book of Songs* on August 10, 2015

燕 燕

燕燕于飞，差池其羽。
之子于归，远送于野。
瞻望弗及，泣涕如雨。

燕燕于飞，颙之颙之。
之子于归，远于将之。
瞻望弗及，伫立以泣。

燕燕于飞，下上其音。
之子于归，远送于南。
瞻望弗及，实劳我心。

仲氏任只，其心塞渊。
终温且惠，淑慎其身。
先君之思，以勖寡人。