

2.

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世 事 兮 何 據? 手 翻 覆 兮 雲 雨。
Shi shi xi he ju? Shou fan fu xi yun yu.
 As for worldly affairs, which are reliable? A hand turning (can bring) clouds and rain.*

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過 金 谷 兮 花 謝, 委 塵 土。 悲 佳 人 兮
Guo Jin Gu xi hua xie, wei chen tu. Bei jia ren xi
 As it passed through Jin Gu a flower died, and was put in the earth. I mourn that beautiful woman's

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薄 命, 誰 爲 主? 豈 不 猶 有 春 兮?
bo ming: shei wei zhu? qi bu you chun xi?
 sad fate: who was her protector? How could there be no more of you of spring?

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妾 自 傷 兮 遲 暮, 髮 將 素。
Qie zi shang xi chi mu, fa jiang su.
 This handmaiden, for herself distressed, awaits sunset, hair about to turn white.

* (m.29ff) Sun Xiu demanded the wife of Shi Chong (249-300), who had an estate at Jin Gu, near Loyang; when he refused Sun Xiu arranged for Shi Chong's execution on political grounds; the wife then committed suicide.