

文君操 *Wenjun Cao*: Song for Wenjun (1539; 鳳求凰)

1.

有美人兮，	見之不忘。
<i>You mei ren, xi</i> ，	<i>jian zhi bu wang</i> .
There is a beautiful woman, ah;	having seen her I cannot forget.
一日不見兮，	思之如狂。
<i>Yi ri bu jian, xi</i> ，	<i>si zhi rukuang</i> .
If the whole day I don't see her, ah;	thinking of her leads to madness.
鳳飛翱翔兮，	四海求凰。
<i>Fengfei aoxiang, xi</i> ，	<i>si hai qiuhuang</i> .
The male phoenix flies, soaring and roaming, ah;	
	over four seas searching for his mate.
無奈佳人兮，	不在這東牆。
<i>Wu nai jia ren, xi</i> ，	<i>bu zai zhei dong qiang</i> .
Unfortunately that beautiful woman, ah,	is not at this eastern wall.

2.

張琴代語兮，	聊寫那微腸。
<i>Zhang qin dai yu, xi</i> ，	<i>liao xie na wei chang</i> .
I use the <i>qin</i> in place of words, ah,	better to express my true feelings.
何日見許兮，	慰我徬徨。
<i>He ri jian xu, xi</i> ，	<i>wei wo pang huang</i> .
What day will see her acceptance, ah,	and relieve my restless anxiety?
願言配德兮，	攜手相將。
<i>Yuan yan pei de, xi</i> ，	<i>xi shou xiang jiang</i> .
A willing word brings me her virtue, ah;	hand in hand we'd be joined.
不得于飛兮，	使我這淪亡。
<i>Bu de, yu fei, xi</i> ，	<i>shi wo zhei lun wang</i> .
But if we cannot fly off together, ah,	it will cause me misery and ruin.

Coda.

想人生會少，	離多。
<i>Xiang ren sheng hui shao</i> ，	<i>li duo</i> .
I think people in life are together seldom,	separate often.