

# 文王曲 Wen Wang Qu

## 9. Songs of King Wen

**Music:** Ninth piece in 太古遺音 *Taigu Yiyin*, a 古琴 *guqin* handbook published 1511, with 36 melodies either compiled, edited and/or composed by (黃山) 謝琳 Xie Lin of Huang Shan (Anhui province); all have lyrics, mostly from known historical sources

**Lyrics:** three poems (as indicated) from the 大雅 *Da Ya* section of the 詩經 *Shi Jing*, traditionally said to have been compiled by Confucius, ca. 6th c. BCE; these poems concern the background and foundation of the Zhou dynasty, ca. 10th c. BCE

**Background:** Duke Dan Fu took the people of Zhou from Bin to Qi; his descendent King Ji married Lady Ren, who bore Wen. After marrying an unnamed lady, Wen and a Lady Xin had a son, Wu, who defeated Shang to establish the Zhou dynasty

**Reconstruction:** John Thompson (1999); *Taigu Yiyin* has music tablature (see line under each system below) paired with lyrics (first line within each system; second line has transliteration; third line has translation); original had no punctuation

**Translation:** John Thompson (1999), in consultation with 唐健垣 Tong Kin-Woon; 馬持盈: 詩經今註今譯, Ma Chiying: *Shi Jing* Newly Annotated and Translated (Taiwan, Commercial Press, 1971); plus the translations by Waley and Karlgren

**Tuning:** the seven strings of the guqin are tuned **1245612** (1 = do, 2 = re, etc); this is relative pitch: for example, the C (1, do) in the transcription is played as B or B flat in the qin recordings by John Thompson (main notes are *so* and *re* [5 and 2]).

*slow and free* *rit.*

**Shi Jing #236**  
(Waley #246)

大明：文王有明德，故天復命武王也。  
Da Ming: Wen Wang you ming de, gu tian fu ming Wu Wang ye.  
Great Brilliance: King Wen had shining virtue, so Heaven reassigned its mandate to King Wu.

明 明 在 下，赫 赫 在 上。天 難 忱 斯：  
Ming ming zai xia, he4 he zai shang. Tian nan chen2 si1:  
\\ illustrious down below, \\ glorious up above. Heaven is difficult to count on:

不 易 維 王。天 位 殷 適，使 不 挾 四 方。  
bu yi wei wang. Tian wei Yin1 di4 shi3 bu jia si fang.  
it's not easy to remain a king. The celestial seat of the Yin heirs was effected so they could not hold their lands.

A.  $\text{♩} = 66$

7

11

©  
John Thompson

## B

14

[illegible]

16

16

周                  曰      嬪      于                  京。      乃      及      王                  季                  惟      德      之      行。  
*Zhou,*                  *yue*      *pin2*      *yu*                  *jing.*      *Nai*      *ji*      *Wang*                  *Ji*                  *wei2*      *de*      *zhi*      *xing.*  
*Zhou,*                  (so) she became a wife   in the   capital.   Thus   with   King   Ji   she joined in   virtuous   deeds.

(九)      九      呂      七                  九      五      六      呂      七                  九      七      九      七  
 六      五      上      上                  四      五      上      上                  四      上      四      上  
 上      上      上      上                  上      上      上      上                  上      上      上      上

## C

19

19
19



太 任 有 娠， 生  
Tai Ren you zhen4, sheng  
Tairen became pregnant, and gave birth



此 文 王。  
ci Wen Wang.  
to (the future) King Wen.



維 此 文 王  
Wei ci Wen Wang,  
As for this King Wen,



小 心 翼 翼，  
xiao xin yi4 yi4,  
(since he was) careful and reverent,






太 任 有 娠， 生

此 文 王。

維 此 文 王

小 心 翼 翼，

Tai Ren you zhen4, sheng

ci Wen Wang.

Wei ci Wen Wang,

xiao xin yi4 yi4,

Tairen became pregnant, and gave birth





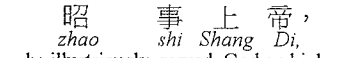
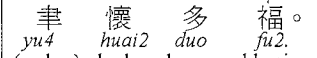
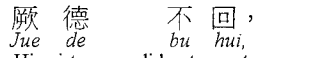

to (the future) King Wen.

As for this King Wen,

(since he was) careful and reverent,

23

23
*rit.*

 <p>昭 事 上 帝， zhao shi Shang Di, he illustriously served God on high,</p>	 <p>聿 懷 多 福。 yu4 huai2 duo fu2. (and so) harbored many blessings.</p>	 <p>厥 德 不 回， Jue de bu hui, His virtue did not go astray,</p>	 <p>以 受 方 國。 yi shou fang guo. so he absorbed / local states. (neighboring)</p>
 <p>外 下 三</p>	 <p>フ = 勻 尼</p>	 <p>フ = 勻 尼</p>	 <p>フ = 勻 尼</p>

## D

27

27

天 鑒 在 下， 有 命 既 集。 文 王 初 載， 天

*Tian jian4 zai xia, you ming ji4 ji. Wen Wang chu zai3, tian*

Heaven examined what was below, and had its mandate put into / nest. (King Wen's) During King Wen's early work, heaven

天 鑒 在 下， 有 命 既 集。 文 王 初 載， 天

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30

作 之 合： 在 洽 之 陽， 在 渭 之 涘，  
zuo zhi he: zai He2 zhi yang, zai wei zhi si4,  
made for him a match: from the He River's north side, to the Wei River's bank,

六 立 上 六 半 廿 四 五 六 勾 勾 豈 勾 勾 九 五 又

## E

33

33
王 文 王 嘉 止 大 邦 有 子 大 邦 有 子 倪 天 之 妹

Wen Wang King Wen

jia1 zhi, her,

da bang1 you zi. a great country had a daughter.

Da bang you zi, The great country had a child,

xian4 fair as

tian zhi mei4. heaven's sister.

五 立 句 止 姓 邑 通 句 二 作

五 立 句 止 姓 邑 通 句 二 作

五 立 句 止 姓 邑 通 句 二 作

37

37
3

文 定 厥 祥，  
Wen ding jue2 xiang2,  
Marriage gifts set their luck /,  
(i.e., wedding)

觀 迎 于 渭，  
guan1 ying yu Wei,  
she was welcomed at the Wei River,

造 舟 爲 梁，  
zao4 zhou wei liang,  
by the making of boats into a bridge,

不 顯 其 光。  
pi1 xian3 qi guang1.  
= ㄆㄧˊ ㄒㄧㄢˇ ㄑㄧˊ ㄍㄨㄤˊ  
dazzling in their brightness.




羞 四 笱 造 造 四 笱 尾 笱 羞 四 笱 造 造 笱 羞 四 笱



I-30

H

55

牧 Mu  
Mu Ye's

野 Ye  
(fields)

洋 yang  
were very broad,

洋, yang,

檀 tan2  
the wooden war chariots

車 ju3

煌 huang2  
were brilliant,

煌, huang,

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

57

駟 si  
the teams of horses

駟 yuan2

彭 peng2  
were powerful,

彭, peng,

維 wei  
as commander

師 shi1

尚 Shang  
was Shang Fu.

父 Fu.

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

59

時 Shi  
At that time (Shang Fu) was

維 wei

鷹 ying1  
powerful as an eagle.

揚, yang.

涼 Liang2  
With him assisting

彼 bi

武 Wu  
Wu Wang,

王, Wang,

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

61 *sl*

肆 si4  
they

伐 fa  
attacked

大 Da  
Great

商, Shang.  
Shang,

會 hui  
and by dawn

朝 zhao

清 qing  
everything

明, ming.  
was clear (since they had won the battle.)

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

I-32

73
Then, together with Lady Jiang, upon arrival they all lived together.

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are written in a simplified notation style, with some notes having a '1' above them. The lyrics are written in English and Chinese characters below the notes. The English lyrics are: 'Then, together with Lady Jiang, upon arrival they all lived together.' The Chinese lyrics are: '爱及姜女，聿來胥宇。' (Ài jí Jiāng nǚ, yù lái xū yǔ.)

C

75

周 原 膺 膺，  
Zhou yuan wu3 wu3,  
The Zhou plain was fertile,  
(lit.: had dried meat)

藟 荼 如 飴。  
jin tu2 ru yi2.  
(even its) bitter plants (tasted like) sweet cakes.

爰 始 爰 謀，  
Yuan2 shi yuan mou2,  
(So) here they began, here they planned,

大九 七 比 巳 外 早 草 二 尸 芳 七 菊 七

78
rit.



爱契我龜，  
yuan qí4 wǒ guī1,  
here they notched (their) tortoises //,  
(for divination)

曰止曰時，  
yuē1, "Zhǐ"; yuē, "Shí";  
(which) said, "Stop"; (and) said, "Now is the time;

築室于茲。  
zhù2 shì yú zī1.  
build houses in this place."

81

洒 慰 洒 止， 洒 左 洒 右， 洒 疆 洒 理， 洒 宣 洒 畝。

*Nai wei4 nai zhi, nai zuo nai you, nai jiang1 nai li, nai xuan1 nai mu3.*

So they made homes, so they stopped // (to rest), so (they lived to) left and right, so (they made) large plots and small plots, so they reclaimed land and opened fields.

E

90

F

I-34



97

削屢馮馮。  
xiao4 lyu3 ping ping.  
shaping the walls they made scraping noises.

百堵皆興，鑿鼓弗勝。  
Bai du3 jie xing, gao1 gu fu2 sheng1.  
In all 100 cubits were raised, and the drum beaters no longer made sounds //  
(i.e., the work sounds were greater than those of the accompanying drumbeats)

(大) 弓 立 E サ 六 大 三 尸

[illegible]

102
102

應 門 將 將。

ying men jiang jiang.

and the inner gate was strong.

迺 立 冢 土，

Nai li zhong3 tu,

So they raised a meeting space // ,  
(on a terrace)

戎 醜 攸 行。

rong2 chou you xing2.

from which enemies // could be driven away.  
(i.e., the tribes who used to live on that land)

(\*) 厓 四 𠂔 𠂔

𠂔 三 𠂔 𠂔

𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔

[illegible]

108 *rit.*

行道兌矣，混夷駢矣，維其喙矣。  
 xing dao duì4 yi, kun2 yi2 duì4 yi3, wei qi hui4 yi.  
 roadways were cleared, and the Kun and Yi tribes rode away, and so their numbers declined.

I *a tempo*

112

虞芮質厥成，文王蹶厥生。  
 Yu2 Rui4 zhi4 jue cheng, wen Wang guì4 jue sheng.  
 (The people of) Yu and Rui pledged their allegiance, (so) King Wen improved their lives.

114

予曰：“攸疏附”；予曰：“有先後”；  
 Yu yue, "You1 shu1 fu4;" Yu yue, "You xian hou;"  
 // One said, I say, "I can attract people from distant places;" (another said,) I say, "I can put things in their proper order;"

116 *rit.*

予曰：“有奔奏”；予曰：“有禦侮”。  
 Yu yue, "You ben1 zou;" Yu yue, "You yu4 wu3."  
 (another said,) I say, "I will travel around working for you;" (yet another said,) I say, "I can correct those who make insults."

**Shi Jing #238**  
(Waley #249)

*slow and free*

119

桤 櫟。 文 王 能 官 人 也。  
 Yu4 pul. Wen Wang neng guan ren ye.  
 Oak trees. King Wen has the ability to promote good people.

**A**  
122 *a tempo, then gradually freer*

芄 芃 櫟 櫟， 薪 之 標 之。 濟 濟 辟 王， 左 右 趣 之。  
 Peng2 peng yu pu, xin1 zhi you3 zhi. Ji3 ji pi4 wang, zuo you qu4 zhi.  
 Luxuriant (are the) oak trees: make them into firewood and burn them. Numerous are the kings: on left and right they rush to serve him.

**B**

126

濟 濟 辟 王， 左 右 奉 璋。 奉 璋 峨 峨， 髦 士 攸 宜。  
 Ji3 ji pi4 wang, zuo you feng4 zhang1. Feng zhang e2 e, mao2 shi you1 yi2.  
 Numerous are the kings, left and right they hold up scepters // to him They hold up scepters solemnly, as eminent men they are befitting.

**C**

130 *slower*

淠 彼 涇 舟， 烝 徒 楫 之。  
 Pi4 bi Jing1 zhou, zheng4 tu ji zhi.  
 "Pi" // those Jing river boats, vigorous are those who row them.

132

周 王 于 邁, 六 師 及 之。  
 Zhou wang yu mai, liu shi ji zhi.  
 The Zhou king going forth, (has) six battalions accompanying him.

ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ

D

134

倬 彼 雲 漢, 爲 章 于 天。 同 王 壽 考, 遐 不 作 人。  
 Zhuo2 bi Yun Han, wei zhang yu tian. Zhou Wang shou kao! Xia2 bu zuo ren!  
 Clear is the Milky Way, as it makes its display in the sky. King of Zhou: "Long life!" How could he not make men anew!

ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ

E

138

追 琢 其 章, 金 玉 其 相。  
 Dui1 zhuo2 qi zhang, jin yu qi xiang.  
 Chiselled and carved are his emblems, of gold and jade is their substance.

ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ

140 *slow*

勉 勉 我 王, 網 紀 四 方。  
 Mian3 mian wo wang, wang3 ji3/4 si4 fang1.  
 Working and working is our king, making a net of all the lands.

ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ ㄉㄨ ㄣ