

**The Macau Bride: Ballet Scenario**

by Xu Xin (1944-2013)

(English translation by Marie Imelda Macleod)

**Overture**

The sea winds  
Ruffle the ancient charts;  
The shipping route yearns to resist  
The fury of towering waves.

Seagulls fall in with the bleached sails  
Calling tales of loves untold;  
The silk route cutting through the seas  
Casts its memories yet on Macau.

**Act I: Prosperity in Macau**

The Goddess A-MA  
Pulls her protective web around Macau's harbour.

The sea breeze rallies behind  
Her vast compassionate soul;  
The sun's rays cast a glow  
Of beauty and kindness;  
Sacred incense wafts up  
From the worship of believers;  
Red joss sticks light  
The desires of ardent followers.

Prayers murmured  
Offered up to A-MA:  
Patroness of seafarers  
Bless us on our way.

Sumptuous silks from Suzhou unravel and fall in folds.  
Tea from the dragon's well releases its heady aroma.  
Porcelain from Jing De Zheng dazzles in its delicacy.

Afar the sails of a Portuguese ship unfurl,  
Coins of Spanish silver tinkle  
Against the Arab's golden cash.

Centuries have come and gone  
Tides have swelled and ebbed  
Yet China's strength has endured  
And Macau's prosperity prevailed.

Winds blown from Europe  
Opened up the gates to A-Ma's temple  
Rainwater falling from Asian skies  
Filled the cool depths of Lilau Fountain.

Tides swirl around the Inner Harbour  
Lapping at the departing ships.

Chon Kou, a Macau-born sailor  
Joins the Portuguese captain  
Embarking on the Santiago.  
Creating a golden bridge  
Between Asia and Europe.

**Act II: Pictures of Portugal**

Chon Kou, a handsome Chinese lad,  
His body toned to its prime,  
His will cast in iron  
His thoughts as deep as the sea  
And a passion fired with desire.

Maria do Mar, a charming Portuguese girl  
Her eyes as blue as the heavens,  
Her body as soft as a cloud,

Her soul as bright as a glistening pool  
Her smile as radiant as the sun.

A chance encounter at Belém  
And the two are caught in love.  
One flame reaches out to the other.

Under a ceiling of glittering stars,  
Summer stands in awe:  
Chon Kou's gaze falls on fertile ground  
Maria do Mar's heart is quick to respond.

Thunder and lightning  
Come hand in hand  
Too late to turn back in hindsight.

Under the silvery light of the moon  
Summer stands in awe:  
Chon Kou's heart  
Is lost amongst the flowers  
Growing in the garden of Maria do Mar's home.

A soft melody played on harp and flute  
A poem pencilled in the sand,  
Complicity heightening desire.

A girl in love  
Feeds her feelings by day  
And caresses her longings by night.  
Hidden in a chest,  
She sails to the Orient with her lover.

Love, the essence of life,  
A flourishing sun. Night raises  
A glass of wine reflecting the stars.

**Act III: Storm at Sea**

Storms destroy the mast and sails  
A furious sea rocks the ship.  
Pirates covet her precious cargo  
And the beauty of the stowaway.

When greed goes unfettered  
Peace at sea is shattered.  
The captain seeks to reverse the rudder...  
But now it is too late.

**Act IV: Marriage**

Black clouds crush sea and skies,  
The girl pushed to the edge of darkness,  
Around her a dreadful hush  
Calls up the terrors of hell.

Breaking the silence,  
The poor girl's sobs  
Echo in the shadowy cave.

Maria do Mar, loyal, unswerving  
Holds her light aloft,  
Hankering after a deeper corner in her heart.

Passion boils the blood,  
Passion girds the loins.

Thunder peals like a war drum  
Lightning cuts like a honed sword.  
Chon Kou is ready to pounce  
In his struggle to regain Maria do Mar.

Love fears nothing.  
Love is a weapon invincible.

Two lovers in a single embrace  
Dissolve in happiness  
Under a starlit sky.

Maria do Mar, a milky lotus-flower  
Her roots in a distant land  
Blooms in the city of the Name of God.

Out of the mud came exquisite beauty.  
Out of the peril sprang love anew.

A ship, its cargo passion  
Wrecked by blood and fire,  
Sails across the vast China Seas.

Maria do Mar's kisses burn  
Through Chon Kou's lips  
The Hot Tears of a loving mother

Clasping her children to her.

The port of A-Ma  
Has always been a cradle of peace  
Generation after generation.

The majesty of Saint Paul's Church  
Towers over myriad steps.

The light tones of a suona  
Accompany the overflowing cup,  
A red sedan chair  
Pristine wedding gown  
And a festive atmosphere.

Chon Kou and Maria do Mar, their hands clasped  
Ascend the steps of Saint Paul's Church  
To the clamorous joy of Macau's folk, one and all.

### Simplified Chinese

#### 一【唐】李郢 《送友人之岭南》

关山迢递古交州，  
岁晏怜君匹马游。  
谢氏海边逢素女，  
越王潭上见青牛。  
嵩台月照啼猿曙，  
石室烟含古桂秋。

回望长安五千里，  
刺桐花下莫淹留。

#### 二【宋】苏轼 《惠州一绝》

罗浮山下四时春，  
卢橘杨梅次第新。  
日啖荔枝三百颗，  
不辞长作岭南人。

#### 三【明】张乔 《送黎美周》

春雨潮头百尺高，  
锦帆哪惜待江皋。  
轻轻燕子能相逐，  
怕见西飞是伯劳。

#### 四【清】陈恭尹 《九日登镇海楼》

清樽须醉曲栏前，  
飞阁临秋一浩然。  
五岭北来峰在地，  
九州南尽水浮天。  
将开菊蕊黄如酒，  
欲到松风响似泉。  
白首重阳惟有笑，  
未堪怀古问山川。

#### [11] I. Bidding Farewell to a Friend South of the Five Ridges by Li Ying (Tang Dynasty)

The overlapping mountains of old Jiaozhou,  
Late in the year I pity you who ride alone.  
Xie meets a simple girl by the seashore,  
While the Emperor Yue sees a green cow  
at the watering-place.  
Gorillas cry at the raised ridges  
when the moon shines until dawn,  
The autumn is embraced by smoke  
at the stone-built room.

Looking back at Changan five thousand li away,  
One should not feel nostalgia  
under the thorny phoenix flower.

#### [12] II. The Best for Huizhou by Su Shi (Song Dynasty)

Under the Luofu Mountain all seasons are spring,  
Mandarins and plums will ripen in turn.  
I take three hundred lychees each day,  
And would not mind staying in Lingnan, south of the peaks.

#### [13] III. Bidding Farewell to Li Meizhou by Zhang Qiao (Ming Dynasty)

Rain in spring has caused tides to rise a hundred chi,  
The fair sail will not fear the raised river level.  
The agile swallows can chase one another,  
But shrikes are afraid of flying westward.

#### [14] IV. Ascending the Zhenhai Tower at Chongyang Day by Chen Gongyin (Qing Dynasty)

When I empty the wine-flask I need to be drunk  
by the trailing fence,  
Climbing to the balcony in autumn  
one grows to feel a hero.  
The five summits from the north lie firmly on the ground,  
And at the southern end of the nine boundaries  
water seems to be floating on sky.  
Chrysanthemums open their petals  
displaying a yellow colour like wine,  
Wind blows through pine trees and rustles like a fountain.  
When one's hair grows white at Chongyang Day  
one can only smile,  
It is too much to be nostalgic and to question

mountains and rivers.

*English versions by Lam Ching Wah*

Traditional Chinese

一【唐】李郢  
《送人之嶺南》

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謝氏海邊逢素女，  
越王潭上見青牛。  
嵩台月照啼猿曙，  
石室煙含古桂秋。

回望長安五千里，  
刺桐花下莫淹留。

二【宋】蘇軾  
《惠州一絕》

羅浮山下四時春，  
盧橘楊梅次第新。  
日啖荔枝三百顆，  
不辭長作嶺南人。

三【明】張喬  
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四【清】陳恭尹  
《九日登鎮海樓》

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飛閣臨秋一浩然。  
五嶺北來峰在地，  
九州南盡水浮天。  
將開菊蕊黃如酒，  
欲到松風響似泉。  
白首重陽惟有笑，  
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