

Lyrics: Great Ming United (大明一統 *Da Ming Yi Tong*)
Profound Airs Spread Like the Wind (風宣玄品 *Feng Xuan Xuan Pin*; 1539)

大明一統，聖壽萬年。

Dà Ming yī tǒng, shèng shòu wàn nián.

The Great Ming is united, may the emperor live myriad years!

有詔頒降，許人直言。

Yǒu zhào bān jiàng, xǔ rén zhí yán.

His decrees are sent from above,
(but) allow people to voice (their opinions) directly.

君量寬海，聖德光天。

Jūn liàng kuān hǎi, shèng dé guāng tiān.

The ruler's capacity is magnanimous,
his sacred virtue brightening the firmament.

賞善罰惡，納諫任賢。

Shǎng shàn fá è, nà jiàn rèn xián.

Rewarding the good while punishing the bad,
giving reprimands while rewarding the worthy.

崇儒鑒史，固國輕權。

Chóng rú jiàn shǐ, gù guó qīng quán.

Venerating Confucian thought and examining history,
strengthening the country with gentle power.

清心寡慾，益壽彌堅。

Qīng xīn guǎ yù, yì shòu mí jiān.

A pure heart with few desires, adding years to lives full and strong.

踐祚念苦，欲民從輕。

Jiàn zuò niàn kǔ, yù mǐn cóng qīng.

Having ascending the throne he recalls the bitterness (that preceded it),
(and thus) wishes to be lenient with common folk,

用度節儉，儲積豐盈。

Yòng dù jié jiǎn, chǔ jī fù yíng.

When spending he is careful and frugal,
accumulations bringing prosperity.

隄防邊塞，操練精兵。

Dī fáng biān sài, cāo liàn jīng bīng.

Defending the frontier, drilling skilled soldiers,

明正綱紀，太平風聲。

Míng zhèng gāng jì, tài píng fēng shēng.

Clear and just principles, spreading the clarion call of peace.

天長地久，海晏河清。

Tiān cháng dì jiǔ, hǎi yàn hé qīng.

Heaven and earth will last forever, with seas calm and rivers clear.

兆民賴之，萬邦以貞。

Zhào mǐn lài zhī, wàn bāng yǐ zhēn.

All the people have trust (in him),
all countries rely on what is correct.

有德皇猷，無憂羽翼。

Yǒu dé huáng yóu, wú yōu yǔ yì.

Having virtuous imperial wisdom,
he does not distress his assistants (e.g., magistrates).

百事具忠，直言諫勸。

Bǎi shì jù zhōng, zhí yán jiàn quàn.

In a hundred affairs all are devoted, in plain words counseling (what is right).

居草茅以何酬兮，瞻金門而難入。

Jū cǎo máo yǐ hé chóu xī, zhān jīn mén ér nán rù.

Living in thatched homes what can one use for rewards?
(We can) gaze at the golden gates but it is hard to enter.

托情悃於絲桐兮，聊申懷於雅趣。

Tuō qíng kǔn wū sī tóng xī, liáo shēn huái wū yā qù.

(So we) express sincere feelings through the silk and wood (of the *qin*);
and expand emotions with elegant taste.

鳳凰翔於霄漢兮，覽德輝而斯寓。

Tuō qíng kǔn wū sī tóng xī, liáo shēn huái wū yā qù.

The phoenix soars to the Milky Way,
gazing at brilliant shining virtue while residing there.

麒麟見於郊藪兮，遭聖明而斯集。

Qí lín jiàn wū jiāo sǒu xī, zāo shèng míng ér sī jí.

Unicorns are seen in remote marshes,
meeting sacred personages as they collect there.

吁嗟吁嗟黼黻兮，我曹何能及。

Xū jiē xū jiē fǔ fú xī, wǒ cáo hé néng jí.

Alas! Alas! O ancient sacrificial dress:
at my level how can (my clothing) compare?

懷九州而想君兮，草莽俱同一。

Huái jiǔ zhōu ér xiǎng jūn xī, cǎo mǎng jù tóng yī.

We cherish the country and fondly think of its leaders,
(even people living in) the wild think the same.

直言疏進忠義兮，此心何絕期。

Zhí yán shū jìn zhōng yì xī, cǐ xīn hé jué qī.

Having used plain words to give advice with loyalty and righteousness,
how could this heart forget you?

高山流水志在兮，白雪陽春陶隱逸。

Gāo shān liú shuǐ zhì zài xī, bái xuě yáng chūn táo yǐn yì.

High Mountains and Flowing Streams: the aim is here;
White Snow and Sunny Spring: pleased hiding in retirement.

大明一統號琴名，萬古千秋明聖治。

Dà míng yī tǒng hào qín míng, wàn gǔ qiān qiū míng shèng zhì.

The Great Ming uniform rule is called out in the *qin*'s name,
through all eternity is the sacred Ming rule.

皇帝萬歲萬萬歲。

Huáng dì wàn suì wàn wàn suì.

To the emperor: long life! Long long life!