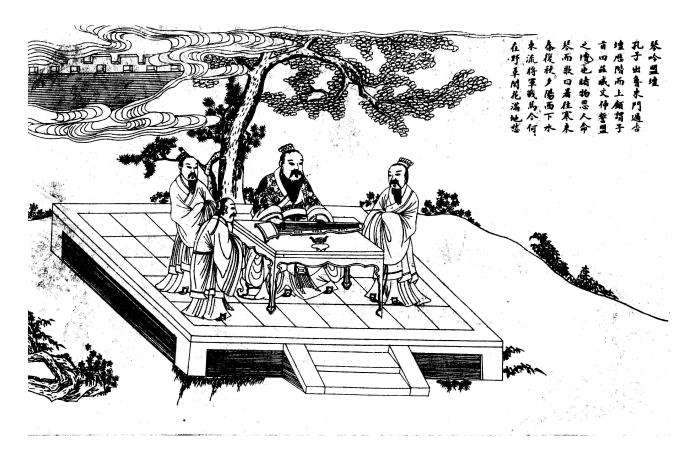
Old woodblock illustration of Confucius playing qin at the Apricot Tree Pavilion



The Apricot Tree Pavilion (杏壇 Xing Tan) is the place in Qu Fu where by tradition Confucius taught his students. In the inscription accompanying this woodblock illustration, Confucius tells a story then underlines its message by singing the following lyrics, which are also to be found in section 8 of the version of the qin melody of that title published in the qin handbook called Xilutang Qintong (1549).

Summer goes, winter comes, spring turns to fall; Shu wang han lai, chun fu qiu; 暑往寒來,春復秋;

Stars and sun set in the west, water flows eastward. *Xi yang xi xia, shui dong liu.* 夕陽西下,水東流。

Generals fighting on horseback: now where are they? *Jiangjun zhan ma: jin he zai?* 將軍戰馬,今何在?

Wild grass blocks out the flowers, covering the earth in gloom. *Yecao xian hua, man di chou.* 野草閑花,滿地愁。