

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。