

# Deer Calls (鹿鳴 LuMing)

From the 理性元雅 *Lixing Yuanya* (1618)

## 1.

呦呦鹿鳴、食野之萍。

"Yo yo" the deer call one another,  
as they eat the wild duckweed.

我有嘉賓、鼓瑟吹笙。

I have honored guests:  
strike the *se* zither, blow the *sheng* mouth organ

吹笙鼓簧、承筐是將。

Blow the *sheng*, strike the *huang*.  
Offer up baskets filled for them.

人之好我、示我周行。

People's love for me,  
Shows me the correct (Zhou) path.

## 2.

呦呦鹿鳴、食野之蒿。

"Yo yo" the deer call one another,  
Eating the wild artemisia.

我有嘉賓、德音孔昭。

I have here honored guests;  
Their virtuous fame grandly brilliant.

視民不忒、君子是則是倣。

Showing people not to be mean,  
Gentlemen follow the rules and the models.

我有旨酒、嘉賓式燕以敖。

I have good wine,  
And the honored guests can carouse as they wish.

## 3.

呦呦鹿鳴、食野之芩。

"Yo yo" the deer call one another,  
Eating the wild marsh plants.

我有嘉賓、鼓瑟鼓琴。

I have here honored guests ;  
Strike the *se*, strike the *qin*.

鼓瑟鼓琴、和樂且湛。

Strike the *se* and strike the *qin*,  
Harmonious music also goes deep.

我有旨酒、以嘉樂嘉賓之心。

I have good wine,  
To gladden the hearts of honored guests.