

*Dragon's Tail.*⁴

*A plain cloth robe often brings forth the fragrance of musk.
Now I have come to the shore of the Tung-t'ing Lake,
The side of the hundred-foot tall tower.*

(goes up the tower; speaks) What a fine tall tower this is!
(sings again)

*It leans against cloud and sky,
Reflects on the rivers Hsiao and Hsiang.
Here I climb up the flying ladder,
Gaze my eyes.*

*It seems thirty thousand feet from the mortal world,
Good for Kao Huan to keep himself cool from heat,⁵
And for Wang Ts'an's thinking of home.⁶*

CLERK: I will stand at the door and see who comes here.

LÜ: (sings—tune of *Yü-hu-lu*)

I can see twelve balustrades linking with the sky.

CLERK: (calls out) Customers, come and taste my wine.

LÜ: Don't shout!

CLERK: Why do you tell me to stop shouting?

LÜ: (again singing)

*I feel you may frighten the Jade Emperor.⁷
Who would then permit you to build a brewery near the Big
Dipper?*

CLERK: Can't you see the sign hanging on the tower and the characters written on the sign? It reads, "In the world there is no other wine; under the sky there is this famous tower."

LÜ: (continues singing)

*It is written: the Yüeh-yang Tower is strategically important
and majestically beautiful.*

*In addition, the Spring of Tung-t'ing⁸, a good wine is newly
warmed.*

CLERK: Sir, take a look at the magnificent scenery on this side.

LU: (sings)

With waves rolling below, it overlooks the River Han.

CLERK: Not only the Han River, even the Tung-t'ing lake, the Po-yang lake, and the Ch'ing-ts'ao lake can also be seen.

LÜ: It is just the season when chickens are fat and crabs strong.⁹

(sings again)

It is the chrysanthemums of autumn, it would not intoxicate

*T'ao Yuan-liang.*¹⁰

CLERK: Sir, you have come too late, I have sold all my wine. No more is left.

LÜ: Did you say there is no more wine?

(sings again)

What can I do with those round-naveled, pregnant crabs?¹¹

CLERK: I have some wine here. What can you pay me with?

LÜ: I have no money, but . . .

(sings—tune of *T'ien-hsia-lo*)

I could pawn my jade belt for a drink.

CLERK: In that case, I really have no more wine.

LÜ: You said no more wine. Can't you smell it?

(sings again)

What is that so pure, sweet, smooth, hot and fragrant?

CLERK: All right, there is wine. But if you get drunk, you won't be able to get down the stairs.

LÜ: (sings)

*Even you could make you old master drunk to death, he
won't ask you to pay for his life.*

CLERK: Sir, it is very chilly on this tower.

LÜ: It is still early. (sings)

*How could you know that the days and months of us immortals
are long?*

(speaks) Waiter, what deity do you worship?

CLERK: This is the first wine maker, Tu K'ang. Because I worship him, customers fill my shop everyday.

LÜ: (sings—tune of *No-cha-ling*)

I'll get for you, Po-yang, the immortalized,¹²

And the pot-hanging Ch'ang-fang,¹³

*For they are much better than the profit-making Tu K'ang
whom you worship.*

CLERK: Sir, I buy fresh fish as an appetizer.

LÜ: (sings)

*Don't talk about the golden scaled fish and new brewed wine,
To lure those passing merchants or travelers.*

(in tune of *Ch'üeh-t'a-chih*)

*Since the Sui and the T'ang, there have been several rises and
falls.*