

## NOTES:

1. The P'an-t'ao Festival, in the Taoist legend, is one honoring the birthday of Queen Mother of the West, the highest and most powerful deity of Taoism.
2. The T'ai-hua Mountain, known as the Hua Mountain, is one of the five holy mountains in China, located in modern Shensi Province. Its highest peak, shaped like palm, is called the Fairy's Palm.
3. The five Lis and three Changs were apparently famous ink makers in old China.
4. The "Dragon's Tail" was the name of a famous ink-slab made in Anhwei Province.
5. Kao Huan was the founder of the Northern Ch'i Dynasty. Once he built a high tower so that he could keep himself cool there in the summer.
6. Wang Ts'an was a famous poet of the Wei Dynasty. Once he went to take up a post in a different district. When he stayed there too long, he became homesick. So he wrote a prose-poem expressing his nostalgia, and its title was "Teng lou fu", or "Climbing up the Tower."
7. The Jade Emperor was regarded the highest deity in the Taoist Belief.
8. The "Spring of Tung-t'ing" was a name of a famous wine.
9. "The season when chickens are fat and crabs are strong" usually refers to the autumn.
10. T'ao Yuan-liang was another name of the famous poet T'ao Ch'ien of 5th century China, who loved wine and chrysanthemums.
11. When crabs are fully grown and pregnant with yellow matter, their navels would become round.
12. Po-yang is another name of Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism.
13. Ch'ang-fang had a family name Fei. He was a man of the Han Dynasty. When he served as a magistrate in a small district, he met an old man who sold wine at the market-place by hanging his wine-pot upside down. When the market was over, the old man jumped into his wine-pot and disappeared. The old man was a Taoist immortal. Fei Ch'ang-fang later gave up his political career, and learned the secret of the Tao and the trick of pot hanging from the old man.
14. The Silver River here refers to the Milky Way, or Heavenly River in Chinese legend.
15. The story related to a certain man named T'ao Ku who once obtained a maid from a Tang household. On a winter day T'ao melted snow and brewed some tea with the fresh snow water. Thinking that he had a rather unusual enjoyment, T'ao asked the maid whether her former master had anything like it. The maid answered, "How could those boorish people have anything like this? Only they lived in their golden-lined curtains, singing songs and drinking lamb wine. That's all." Having heard this, T'ao remained silent for a long time.
16. Tung-p'o is of course another name of Su Shih, the well-known Sung poet. One of his close friends was a monk named Fo-yin. There were so many stories concerning these two men. At times they tried to out-smart the other either in composing poems or in making wise-cracks.

17. Wei Yeh and P'an Lang were two poets of the Sung Dynasty. Wei was a man of Shensi (modern Shensi Province), and near the city of Shen in its suburb he built a grass hut to live in, and thus he gave up all his ambitions of seeking fame and wealth, but spent his time writing poems. When Emperor T'ai-tung of the Sung Court heard of his reputation and offered him a high position in the government, Wei refused. P'an Lang was a native of Taming (in modern Hopei Province). He called himself "the Wanderer". When he lived in a city of Lo-yang (near the Sung Capital, K'ai-feng, in present Honan Province) he made a living by selling herb medicine. He also loved poetry. When Emperor T'ai-tung heard of his reputation, he offered him a high position on his Court, and granted him an honorary degree. But later on, this honorary degree was retracted because of P'an's arrogant and irresponsible conducts. The story of Wei's meeting with P'an on his mule is nowhere recorded.
18. Wang Hung was a man of the Chin Dynasty (ca. 3rd century). He heard about the great poet, Tao Ch'ien, and wished to meet him very much. Finding no way to introduce himself to Tao from a distance. One day Wang heard that T'ao was going to the mountains. He brought food and wine and awaited T'ao by the roadside. When T'ao came by, Wang Hung presented him with wine and food. T'ao drank the wine, ate the food, but didn't even to bother to ask the name of his benefactor.
19. According to one of the legends concerning the great poet T'ang, Li Po (ca. 700-760). He became drunk one day when he was riding in a boat on the river. He saw the bright moon reflected in the river, and decided to fish it. He jumped into the river and got himself drowned.
20. Liu Ling was a man of the Chin Dynasty, and a member of the famed Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove. He was a poet as well as a wine lover. He loved the wine so much that he wrote a piece of poetry praising the virtues of wine. He usually rode in a deer-drawn carriage with a wine pot in hand. He ordered a man to follow him behind with a shovel. He instructed the man, "If I should get drunk and die, then dig a grave and bury me there wherever it may be."
21. P'ing-k'ang Lane was located in the northern region of Ch'ang-an, Capital of the T'ang Court. It was known as the district of sing-song-girls. Since it was located in the northern part, the lane was also known as Pei-li, or North Lane. It was reported that when young scholars passed their palace examinations, they would visit this lane to celebrate.
- 21a. Here the idea behind the sentence suggests the ambitions of Confucian scholars for fame and merit which cannot be achieved unless they could pass the examinations. Thus the ink-stick was a very necessary item used by scholars more than anybody else.
22. The expression "Half a sheet of paper" is probably referring to the paper used by scholars in the examinations.
23. The three Hsiangs here refer to the three districts in Huan (now Hunan Province) all named with the character 'hsiang', which, incidently, was the ancient name for the entire area, the three districts were Hsiang-hsiang, Hsiang-t'an and Hsiang-yin.