Tangshi I. 1. (26)

元結  YUAN JIE
TO THE TAX-COLLECTORS AFTER THE BANDITS RETREAT

唐詩  TANG SHI

An anthology of 320 poems. Discover Chinese poetry in its golden age and some of the greatest Chinese poets. Tr. by Bynner (en).

暫時  TAN SHI

I still remember those days of peace –
Twenty years among mountains and forests,
The pure stream running past my yard,
The caves and valleys at my door.
Taxes were light and regular then, And I could sleep soundly and late in the morning—
Till suddenly came a sorry change.
...For years now I have been serving in the army.
When I began here as an official,
The mountain bandits were rising again;
But the town was so small it was spared by the thieves,
And the people so poor and so pitiable
That all other districts were looted
And this one this time let alone.

...Do you imperial commissioners
Mean to be less kind than bandits?
The people you force to pay the poll
Are like creatures frying over a fire.
And how can you sacrifice human lives,
Just to be known as able collectors? –

...Oh, let me fling down my official seal,
Let me be a lone fisherman in a small boat
And support my family on fish and wheat
And content my old age with rivers and lakes!

---

very interesting

Wait... what, huh????
Oh, this must be a comment board

Patricia – 1 – 2007/12/06

Baobao – 8 – 2007/12/06

Tang Shi 1. 1. (26) 㐻 edImage