

qǐ luó

C014: 綺羅 (Silk Dress)

(Picture and video obtained through the Internet.)

(To find article: go to MATHisacommonLANGUAGE.com → Traditional → lower right)



qǐ luó

C014: 綺羅 (Silk Dress)

In the process of finding a good Chinese song, I hit upon a gold mine. I knew the song. But when I began to do some research, I realized that it was based on a thousand-year-old poem. Parts of the poem have been quoted by people from time to time. Now I finally realized where they come from.

The poem:

fong2mén
蓬門

wèi shì
未識

qǐ luó
綺羅

xiāng
香

, (A girl from a poor family never

knows the fragrance of a richly embroidered silk dress;)

[poor family] [never knows] [richly embroidered silk dress] [fragrance]

nǐ
擬

tuō
託

liángméi
良媒

yì
益

zì shāng
自傷

。(the idea of a good go-between-er only

makes her sadder.)

[intents to] [entrust] [good go-between-er] [more] [makes oneself sad]

shuí ài fong1 liú gāo gé diao4
誰 愛 風 流 高 格 調 , (Whoever appreciates her classy elegance;)

[who] [loves] [elegance] [classy style]

gòng lián shí shì jiǎnshūzhuāng
共 憐 時 世 儉 梳 妝 。 (all the boys in town with one dazed eye adore the max-factored faces.)

[all] [tender-hearted] [trendy] [makeup]

gǎn qiāng shí zhǐ kuā piānqiǎo
敢 將 十 指 誇 偏 巧 (Having trained her ten humble fingers in proud and nimble embroidery skills;)

[dare] [*] [ten fingers] [boast of] [nimbleness]

bù bǎ shuāngméi dòu huà cháng2
不 把 雙 眉 鬥 畫 長 。 (no time for her to pencil two vying brows long and flirtish.)

[not] [*] [two eyebrows] [vie, flirt] [draw] [long]

kǔ hèn

苦恨

after year was spent in pressing the golden threads,)

niánnián

年年

ya1

壓

jīn xiàn

金線, (How bitter and hateful! Year

[feels bitter and hateful toward] [year after year] [presses] [golden threads]

wei4 tā rén

爲 他人

other girls.)

zuò

做

jià yī shang

嫁衣裳

。 (and engaging herself in wedding gown embroideries that always belong to

[for] [other people] [makes] [wedding gowns]

The song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVPpKSHVt6g> [*this one doesn't have lyrics on screen but is the best.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vRpUXuxHig> [*sung by six singers, all have lyrics.]

fong2mén

蓬門 (Poor family)

wèishì4

未識

qǐ luó

綺羅

xiāng

香 (never knows the fragrance of a richly embroidered

silk dress)

[does not know] [richly embroidered silk dress] [fragrance]

tuō

托

liángméi

良媒

yì

益

zì shāng

自傷

(The idea to entrust a good go-between-er only

makes herself sadder)

[to entrust upon] [good go-between-er] [more] [makes herself sad]

xiāng yī

相依

yǒu

有

dì mèi

弟妹

(As the eldest, her siblings depend on her)

[depend] [there are] [younger siblings]

shēngxiǎo

生小 (When a young kid)

shī

失

diēniáng

爹娘

(lost her parents)

[lost] [Mom and Dad]

zhuāngchéng

妝 成

shuí

誰

xī

惜

jiāo

嬌

móyàng

模樣

(Morning makeup done, who are there to

wow her delicate looks)

[finishes doing makeup] [who] [appreciate][delicate][looks]

ā

啊~ (ah~)

bì yù niánhuā

碧玉年華 (Emerald-and-jade-like years)

fāng

芳

chūn

春

shí jié

時節

(Fragrant-spring times)

[fragrant] [spring] [seasonal times]

ā

啊~ (ah~)

kōng zì

空 自

huícháng

迴 腸

(Nothing but sad loneliness goes round and round in her bosom)

[vainly] [goes round and round in one's bosom]

mèng huí

夢 迴 (Following the wondering dream)

hé chù shì jiā xiāng

何處 是 家 鄉 (Where is her childhood hometown)

[where] [is] [old hometown]

yǒu fú yún yǎn yuèguāng

有 浮雲 掩 月光 (Passing clouds partly hide the moon)

[exist] [floating clouds] [cover] [moonlight]

wèn shuí lián ruò zhì

問 誰 憐 弱質 (Let her ask who are there to pity her weak self)

[asks][who] [pity] [weak quality]

yōu yuàn

幽 怨 (Sulky and feeling the right to complain)

tuō qīngshāng

託 清 商 (Only music she can trust)

[entrusts] [music belonging to a classic style]

wǔ shān xiù
舞衫(袖)

gē shàn
歌扇

zēng
增

chóuchàng
惆悵 (Long-sleeved dancing dress and singer's fan but make her

regret more)

[dancing dress] [singer's fan] [increase][regret]

ā
啊~ (ah~)

碧玉年華

芳春時節

啊~

空自迴腸

夢迴

何處是家鄉

有浮雲掩月光

問誰憐弱質

幽怨

託清商

舞衫(袖)歌扇增惆悵

啊~

suí fēng chù

隨風(處) (Following the wind)

piāo

飄

píng

萍

(Floating like duckweeds)

[floating][duckweeds]

pín nián

頻年

yà

壓

xiàn

線

(Year after year in pressing the golden threads)

[year after year] [presses][threads]

kōng zì

空自

qī liàng

悽涼

(Nothing but sad loneliness engulfs her)

[vainly] [nothing but sad loneliness]