

dà jiāng dōng qù

C015: 大江 東去 (River of No Return)

(Video obtained through the Internet.)

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dà jiāng dōng qù

C015: 大江東去 (River of No Return)

sānguó yǎn yì

三國演義 (The Romance of the Three Kingdoms) is one of the greatest Chinese novels of all times. It is based on the history at the end of the

Han4 Dynasty. China was divided into three competing kingdoms; therefore the term “<sup>sānguó</sup>三國” (Three Kingdoms). The novel starts with a poem:

gǔngǔn

滾滾

zhǎngjiāng

長江

dōng

東

shì

逝

shuǐ

水

(Rolling on and on the east-flowing Yangzi

River,)

[rolling on and on] [the Yangzi River] [east] [vanishing] [water]

lànghuā

浪花

táo jìn

淘盡

yīngxióng

英雄

(its foaming waves washed away all the heroes.)

[foaming waves] [sifted away] [heroes]

shì

是

fēi

非

chéng

成

bài

敗

zhuǎntóu

轉頭

kōng

空

(Whether one was right, wrong, successful, or otherwise

became insignificant even while one turned his head.)

[right] [wrong] [successful] [failure] [turn head] [empty]

qīngshān

青山

yī jiù

依舊

zài

在

(The green mountains remain.)

[green mountains] [as always] [remain]

jǐ dù                      xī yáng                      hóng  
幾度                      夕陽                      紅 (How many times has the evening sun shone red ever since?)

[how many times] [evening sun] [red]

That was the first part of the poem, and it makes a person feel so “Chinese” -- it puts almost everything Chinese into a nutshell: history, values, ... -- especially if you are a boy. The novel mostly talks about young men joining the different sides of the competitions. While you read, you see their courage, cowardice, cunningness, wisdom, righteousness, shamelessness, ... everything. I can't help feeling amazed that such great piece of literature has been existing for more than one thousand years in the very language we speak daily!

Now, let us go to the other side of the planet and dial the time forward two thousand years. In the United States of America, there was a movie “The River of No Return.” I do not watch movies a lot. But I know the female movie star was Marilyn Monroe. In the movie, she sang this theme song. What I didn't know was that this song was sung in Chinese by a female Chinese singer more than 60 years ago in that part of the world.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=weichi+liang+%e5%a7%9a%e8%8e%89+%e5%a4%a7%e6%b1%9f%e6%9d%b1%e5%8e%bb&view=detail&mid=AA2C3EE30923C717C83FAA2C3EE30923C717C83F&FORM=VIRE>

kàn                      liú shuǐ                      yōuyōu  
看                      流水                      悠悠 (Watch the river flow leisurely)

[watch] [flowing water] [moving leisurely]

kàn                      nà                      dà jiāng                      yí qù                      bù huítóu  
看                      那                      大江                      一去                      不回頭 ( Watch the great river once gone will never return)

[watch] [that] [great river] [once gone] [never returns, never turns head backward]

yǒu shí            làng            tāo tāo  
有時            浪            濤濤 (Sometimes, the waves roll and roar)

[sometimes] [waves] [roll high and wild]

tā    yǒu shí            jìngqiāoqiāo  
她    有時            靜悄悄 (Other times, she is quiet without a sound)

[she] [sometimes] [quiet without a sound]

\*\*\*\*\*

ài qíng xiàng            liú shuǐ  
愛情 像            流水 (Love is like a river)

[love] [is like] [flowing water, river]

xiàng    nà            dà jiāng            dōng qù            bù huí tóu  
像    那            大江            東去            不回頭 (Like that great river flowing east of no return)

[like] [that] [great river] [going east] [not turning head, without return]

yǒngyuàn    xiàng            dōng            liú  
永遠    向            東            流 (Forever flows east)

[forever] [toward] [east] [flows]

liú dào cānghǎi bú tíng liú  
流 到 蒼海 不停留 (Flows until it hits the ocean)

[flows] [until] [the blue seas] [without stopping]

\*\*\*\*\*

wèi le nǐ  
為了你 (For you)

[for] [you]

wǒ wèi dàjiāng zài hūhuàn  
我為 大江 在 呼喚 (I shout for the great river)

[I] [for] [the great river] [\*] [call]

kàn tā xiān qǐ làng tāo tāo  
看 她 掀起 浪 濤濤 (I watch her rolling and roaring waves)

[watch] [her] [stir up] [waves] [rolling high and wild]

\*\*\*\*\*

wèi le nǐ  
為了你 (For you)

[for] [you]

wǒ wèi ài qíng zài hū hao

我為 愛情 在呼號 (I shout for love)

[I] [for] [love] [\*] [shouting or calling]

zài hū hao

在 呼號 (shouting)

[\*] [shouting or calling]

\*\*\*\*\*

zǒubiàn

nà

hǎijiǎo

hé

tiān yá

走遍

那

海角

和

天涯

(I roam all over the lands and the seas)

[walk all over] [the] [corners of the seas] [and] [edges of the skies]

yì zhōngrén ní

hé chù

xúnzhǎo

意中人兒

何處

尋找

(Where do I find the love of my heart)

[person in my mind] [where] [search]

kàn

liú shuǐ

yōuyōu

看

流水

悠悠

(Watch the river flow leisurely)

[watch] [flowing water] [flow leisurely]

kàn            nà      dà jiāng            dōng qù            bù huítóu  
看            那      大江            東去            不回頭 (Watch the great river flowing east of no return)

[watch] [that] [great river] [flowing east] [without turning its head]

\*\*\*\*\*

走遍 那 海角 和 天涯  
  意中 人兒 何處 尋找  
看 流水 悠悠  
  看 那 大江 東去 不回頭

為了 你  
  為了 你  
  那 大江 東去 不回頭

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(\*When you watch this video, it is best that you watch in the full screen. The subtitles were superbly done.)