

bái rì yī shān jìn huáng hé rù hǎi liú
白日依山盡，黃河入海流。

yù qióngqiān lǐ mù gèngshàng yī céng lóu
欲窮千里目，更上一層樓。

[The sun sets beyond the mountains in the west; the Yellow river pours its water toward the oceans in the east.

If you want to see farther beyond, all you have to do is to climb one story further.]

The beauty of poems such as this is that they are not difficult to read. The rhyming comes so naturally that one can repeat so many times without being bored with monotony. On the contrary, the “spiritual chords” of the readers resonate as if a musical instrument. That is why poems such as this one are so popular.

Remember: the Chinese language is both picturesque and musical. [Picturesque: as plain as one can see; musical: the language is tonal.]

In these ages of post-industrialization and post-computerization, I am sure there are many who want to go back to a life of simplicity even if only for a visit. ¹

¹ Credit: WangZhiHuan of the Tang Dynasty 唐，王之渙