

Though the Turtle Has a Long Life

(Three Kingdoms) Cao Cao

The miraculous turtle is blessed with longevity,
Yet it will cease to breathe one day.
Though the mythical snake can ride the mist,
At last it'll fall and come to dust.
The aged steed, bent low at the trough,
Still yearns for a gallop long and tough.
When a man of ambition wanes in age,
The youthful hopes in his bosom still rage.
All changes and vicissitudes in life of men
Are not merely due to the will of Heaven.
Always a cheerful heart to sustain
Is the way a longevity to maintain.
Oh, for a happy life ever long,
This is my wish couched in the song.

Translated by Wang Jianzhong

【赏析】曹操（Cáo Cāo, 155–220），是中国历史上著名的政治家和军事家，也是建安时期承前启后的文学家。这首四言诗，原是《步出夏门行》的第四章，抒发了作者不服老、不信天、奋发有为、老当益壮的雄心壮志。

【注释】1. 神龟：传说龟能活千岁以上，故有“神龟”之称。寿：长寿。2. 竟：终结，終了。3. 腾蛇：传说中能腾云驾雾的一种神蛇。4. 骥：千里马。枥：马槽。5. 烈士：这里指有抱负、有才干的人。暮年：晚年。6. 已：止。7. 盈缩：进退、升降、成败、祸福等。8. 盈缩二句意思是成败祸福，并不全由天定。9. 养怡：调养性情，使之愉快。10. 养怡二句是说只要注意养生，精神乐观，可保长寿。

Ballad of Chile

(A Yuefu Song of the Northern Dynasties)

The country of Chile extends wild
Under the Yin Mountains.
Heaven, as a domed yurt,
Hangs over the extensive land.
Beneath the deep-blue sky,
Across the country wild,
A passing wind bends low the grass.
And reveals the grazing cows and sheep.

Translated by Wang Jianzong

