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The Torment of Lady Daffodil

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The Torment of Lady Daffodil

Author Bio

Rivolia Chen Xiao-Yu (March 19, 2000–), is a Chinese Confucianist warrior and professionally a poet, author, scholar, translator, and an organizer of cultural-spiritual China activities. She studies, analyzes, and follows Chen Zi-Ang (659–700), a medieval Chinese poet, author, scholar, twice-prisoner, and a martyr. She also studies, analyzes, and promotes the Chinese Confucianist warrior psyche (such as the contributions of Huang Zongxi, a Confucianist warrior); in addition to appreciating and manifesting cultural-spiritual China.

The Torment of Lady Daffodil

RIVOLIA CHEN XIAO-YU

Within my melancholic meditations,
The half-scattered lotuses were pink and white
Amidst green princess bamboos;
Beneath swaying, thin clouds sunken in sorrow
Fragmented branches were twisted.
I remember how, when thinking on my flesh's upcoming separation
From hallowed China, my profuse, dense grieving
Flowed into tragic rivers, infusing my impassioned heart
From which I recite my traditional lines echoing medieval heritages.
It was several years after a gangster against people
Seized an enormous earthbound power and wealth complex
Combined with a position—keeping a tight grip into the present.

My words resembling pearls and jades were interconnected
By my sorrowful contemplations; after my banishment, from the remote
I gazed at the south of China, the Light, the Blossom, and the Magnitude
While upholding my beauty; my tender-voiced sobs were interwoven.
My fine face was paled by my fervent troubles
And I felt like an aloeswood incense on immolation;
My slender shadow was similar to a phoenix wounded at her wings.
Densing autumn small frosts have dyed my dark hair
While my embroidered dress quivered in night blows.

From indomitable soul that has been as cleansed and pure as rivers in the
wilderness
I have been weeping blood while my flesh suffers from nose-bleeds:
My anguish has ensanguined all leaves in my vision—
Their glow has intersected with yellowish autumn branches.
Above the orchids hills, ghosts cried within luminous, flowing moonbeams
While my heart drenched in my torments knotted more agonies
And twined me in pains. Various flowers that once bloomed in splendor
now wither

While my pure tears followed; the fading green leaves shriveled
As does my flesh webbed in illness.

Who has ever consoled me—

A young Confucianist warrior banished from China, the hallowed land,
Because of the current bloodthirsty gangster against people and his impact.
My beauty resembles spring apricots, and I have been weaving
My traumas into my chantings—he hues of my tears
Have imprinted and dyed the embroidered silks of my lapels.
Every year, my torment and physical infirmity intensify
As I pause myself in my prolonged, lonesome standing
And envy—in vain—birds soaring southwards
To their native lands.

Original Traditional Chinese composition began in 2021 CE, using exactly
the same meters, rhythms, and form as those of Liu Rushi's (1618–1664
CE) “Ballad of Lotus-Gathering.” Traditional Chinese original and English
translation finalized in 2022 CE.

Traditional Chinese Original:

水仙怨 用柳如是〈採蓮曲〉瑤韻。

殘荷粉白妃竹綠，流雲慘淡殘枝曲。沅湘淒冷楚情濃，斷腸聲繼三十六。
珠璣字字怨思牽，望郢悲歌嬌咽連。美人憔悴蜜香消，瘦影偏如折翼鸞。
迷離秋霰染青絲，羅衣瑟瑟夜風吹。貞魂澄澈如江水，斑竹恨血映枝黃。
蘭皋鬼哭月濛濛，愁心漸結千千網。繁華零落清淚從，墜綠支離瘦骨同。
誰念無眠天杏子，襟頭淚色染羅綺。年年愁病苦相加，延佇空慕南歸雉。