

There is no Frigate like a Book
Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886)

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry---
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll---
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human soul.

讀山海經

陶淵明(365 – 427)

孟夏草木長，遶屋樹扶疏。
眾鳥欣有託，吾亦愛吾廬。
既耕亦已種，時還讀我書。
窮巷隔深轍，頗迴故人車。
歡然酌春酒，摘我園中蔬。
微雨從東來，好風與之俱。
泛覽周王傳，流觀山海圖。
俯仰終宇宙，不樂復何如？

From the unfinished manuscript of
Serendipitous Encounters on a Road
from Babel, a collection of English and
Chinese poems translated by Tommy
W.K. Tao.

沒有巨艦及得一本書
迪更生(1830 – 1886)

沒有巨艦及得一本書
把我們載往異地
亦沒有任何駿馬及得
一頁跳躍的歌詩---
此橋願載最貧窮的人
不取壓迫的路錢---
擔負着人類的靈魂的
輕車是多麼清廉。

譯者：陶永強

Reading the Book of Mounts and Seas
Tao Yuanming (365 – 427)

Summer's here, the grass grows tall;
Lush the trees around my walls.
Birds take comfort in their nests;
I too love my thatched shack.
The plowing's done, seeds been sown;
There is time to read my books.
My lane is far from the thoroughfare;
Visitors' coaches oft' deterred.
Pour some spring wine now with joy;
Pick some produce of my toil.
A drizzle drifts in from the east,
Carried by a gentle breeze.
So I sail through The Kings of Zhou,¹
And meander o'er The Mounts and Seas.²
At a glance, I span the universe.
Tell me, how can I be unhappy?

Translated by Tommy W.K. Tao

¹ The Kings of Zhou: a history book about one of the earliest Dynasties that marked the ascent of the Chinese civilization.

² The Mounts and Seas: one of the oldest books of Chinese myths.