

shui diao ge tou

By Su Shi

When will the bright full moon appear?

Lifting my wine, I ask the night sky.

Tonight in the halls of heaven

What season is it, I wonder?

I would like to ride the wind and make my home there,

Only I hide in a jade room of the heavenly mansion,

As I cannot bear the chill up high.

So I rise and dance in the moonlight and wonder,

How our world can compare with yours!

Circling red chambers,

Low in the curtained door,

You shine on the sleepless.

Surely you mean no harm —

Why then must you be so round

At times when we are parted?

Through sorrows and joys, meetings and partings,

The moon waxes and wanes

Since the beginning of time.

May we be blessed with longevity,

So that we may share the beauty of the moon together,

Though we are far apart.