

Selected Buddhist Poems by Ancient Chinese Emperors -- Emperor Dezong of the Tang Dynasty

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《七月十五日題章敬寺》

Inscribed at Zhangjing Monastery on the Fifteenth Day of the Seventh Lunar Month

招提邇皇邑

The Caturdiśah is quite near the imperial capital;

複道連重城

Roads and waterways connect it to the city.

法筵會早秋

As a Dharma banquet is being held in early autumn,

駕言訪禪局

We drive out in our carriages, arriving at the monastery door.

It is an opportunity to listen to the Great Immortal's teachings

嘗聞大仙教

On how a clear and pure mind leads to the realization of non-production.

清淨宗無生

The seven precious things are not our inherent treasures;

七物匪吾寶

Instead, the myriad practices are what we should first seek to accomplish.

萬行先求成

When the notions of both names and marks have been extinguished,

名相既雙寂

What glory is there in possessing all the worldly splendors?

繁華奚所榮

A light golden westerly brings cool relief

金風扇微涼

As distant clouds gather in the crystal-clear sky.

遠煙凝翠晶

In the silent pine courtyard, the sight of moss greets the eye;

松院靜苔色

From a secluded bamboo cloister comes the sound of an inverted bell.

竹房深磬聲

Amidst such serene surroundings, our inner thoughts are at peace;

境幽真慮恬

In a place where the Way is superior, external objects lose their significance.

道勝外物輕

When the mind is enlightened, there is fundamentally nothing to speak about;

意適本非說

By expressing it in writing, the state of emptiness will revert to that of emotion.

含毫空復情

古代帝王佛詩選

唐
德
宗