

# 空空 EMPTINESS

南來北往走西東，看見浮生總是空；  
天也空來地也空，人生渺渺在其中。  
日也空來月也空，來來往往有何功；  
金也空來銀也空，死後何曾握手中。  
權也空來名也空，轉眼荒郊土一塚；  
田也空來屋也空，換過多少主人翁。  
妻也空來子也空，黃泉路上不相逢；  
愛也空來恨也空，啼笑都是在夢中。  
朝走西來暮走東，人生恰似採花蜂；  
採得百花成蜜後，到頭辛苦一場空。  
夜深聽得三更鼓，翻身不覺五更鐘；  
仔細從頭思想起，便是南柯一夢中！

Coming south and heading north, walking west and east,  
I have seen this passing life is merely emptiness;  
The heavens and the earth as well are emptiness,  
The lives of people insignificant within their midst;  
The sun and moon as well are emptiness,  
Coming and going, coming and going, what merit is in this?  
Coins of silver and gold as well are emptiness,  
Once death has passed, we cannot keep them in our grip;  
Authority and fame as well are emptiness,  
In a moment we are buried in the wilderness;  
Fields as well as houses are just emptiness,  
How many times have they exchanged their owners?  
Wives as well as children are just emptiness,  
We never meet them on the road to realm of death;  
Love as well as hatred are just emptiness,  
Laughing, crying, all within a dream.

Walking west at dawn and east at dusk,  
We live our lives like bees among the flowers,  
Gathering a hundred blooms for honey thereafter,  
Only in the end to find our toil was in vain.

Deep in the night we hear the drums of the midnight watch,  
And roll over, fast asleep when the bells toll at dawn.  
Bring this to mind anew and consider it with care;  
This is just a dream of grandeur, nothing more.