APPENDIX

Jiang Yan’s Poems in Diverse Forms

1  Old Song of Parting 古離別

遠與君別者  Since we parted you are far away now,
乃至雁門關  As far away as Goose Gate Pass,
黃雲蔽千里  The yellow clouds cover a thousand miles;
游子何時還  When will you return, O wanderer?
送君如昨日  It seems like yesterday that I sent you off,
檐前露已團  But now dew lies heavy before the eaves,
不惜蕙草晚  I’m not sorry the patchouli plants are late,
所悲道里寒  What I lament is the chill on the road.
君在天一涯  You are at one edge of the sky,
妾身長別离  Separated from this woman forever.

5  愿一見顏色  I wish I could see your face and aspect once more,
不異瓊樹枝  That so resemble one bough from a tree of jade.
兔絲及水萍  Hare floss and floating duckweed,
所寄終不移  What they depend upon will never be fickle.

1 A complete translation of the series is presented here for convenience of the reader. There is one previous English translation of the series (Marney, Chiang Yen, 74–130).
2 Translated in chapter 3.
3 The strategic Yanmen 雁門 Pass is located in the northwest of Dai 代 county, Shanxi province.
4 The image of dew alludes to Mao shi 94, “There is creeping grass on the moor” 野有蔓草, about a meeting of a pair of lovers.
5 This couplet is based on “Old Poems” #1: “Since you have gone ten thousand leagues and more, / We are each at one side of heaven now” 相去萬餘里，各在天一涯.
6 In the imitation, “what they rely on” are the pine tree and water, respectively. The couplet is based on “Old Poems” #8, line 4: “As hare floss attaches to pine gauze” 兔絲附女羅. Duckweed usually symbolizes the homeless wanderer, floating freely in the water, but here the emphasis is on the duckweed’s constant reliance on the water itself. Tusi 兔絲 “hare floss” is the same as tusizi 兔絲子, Cuscuta chinensis or Cuscuta japonica, “dodder” or “love vine,” an herbal parasite. But dodder was often confused with a parasite of the pine tree, also known as níluo 女羅 or songluo 松羅. There seems to have been a common belief that hare floss was related to hoelen, since both are parasites of the pine tree. Jiang Yan is borrowing the name from “Old Poems” #8.
2 Commandant Li Ling: In the Army 李都尉陵：從軍
樽酒送征人 With a goblet of wine I send you off, soldier,
踟蹰在親宴 While we dally at a feast of intimates.
日暮浮雲滋 As day turns to dusk the wavering clouds spread,
握手淚如霰 Clasping hands, our tears fall like sleet.
悠悠清川水 The clear river waters flow on without end,
嘉魴得所薦 Fine bream find a place to abide there.
而我在萬里 But we are ten thousand leagues apart,
結髮不相見 Since we bound our hair not ever meeting.
袖中有短書 In my sleeve is a brief letter that
願寄雙飛燕 I would dispatch with a pair of flying swallows.

3 Favored Beauty Ban: Poem on a Fan 班婕妤：詠扇
紈扇如團月 This fine silk fan is like the round moon,
出自機中素 Deriving from the white silk of the loom.
畫作秦王女 A painting shows the Princess of Qin,
乘鸞向煙霧 Who rides a simurgh into smoky haze.
彩色世所重 Bright colors are most prized by the world,
雖新不代故 But new ones can never replace the old.
竊愁涼風至 I worry that the cool breeze comes,
吹我玉階樹 And blows on us by the trees on the jade steps.
君子恩未畢 While my lord’s favor has not been used up,
零落在中路 I wither and perish midway through the journey.

4 Cao Pi, Emperor Wen of the Wei: Revels and Feasting 魏文帝曹丕：遊宴
置酒坐飛閣 We toast each other, seated in soaring pavilions,