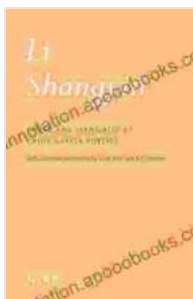


Delve into the Lyrical Depths of Li Shangyin: A Master Poet of the Tang Dynasty



In the vibrant literary landscape of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Li Shangyin emerged as a towering figure, renowned for his exquisite craftsmanship and evocative imagery. His poetry, a delicate tapestry of emotions and

ethereal beauty, has captivated readers for centuries. Now, with the release of "Li Shangyin: NYRB Poets," translated by the acclaimed Chloe Garcia Roberts, English-speaking audiences can immerse themselves in the enchanting world of this literary giant.



Li Shangyin (NYRB Poets) by Chloe Garcia Roberts

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 459 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 176 pages



The Enchanting Translator's Note

Garcia Roberts' translator's note serves as an enchanting portal into Li Shangyin's world. She provides a captivating account of her journey to understand the cultural and historical context that shaped his work, immersing the reader in the poet's intricate web of emotions and experiences.

A Kaleidoscope of Love and Longing

Love and longing are the beating heart of Li Shangyin's poetry. His verses explore the myriad facets of human connection, from the ecstasy of passion to the agony of separation. In "The Lady of Ch'in," he captures the yearning of a lover separated by time and distance:

"The Lady of Ch'in, in her tower, Her face turned toward the south wind.
And her thoughts, as now, a thousand miles, Intricate, like silkworms,
spinning."

Li Shangyin's love poems are not mere romantic musings; they delve into the depths of human desire and heartbreak, unveiling the bittersweet nature of human longing.

The Fragility of Existence

Alongside love, the fragility of existence is another recurrent theme in Li Shangyin's poetry. Many of his poems grapple with the transitoriness of life and the inevitability of loss. In "Remembering Chang'an," he mourns the passing of his beloved Chang'an, a symbol of the ephemeral nature of all things:

"Chang'an is far distant in my dreams, I am old and think of Chang'an."

Li Shangyin's verses remind us of the preciousness of life and the importance of cherishing every moment.

Nature's Resonant Voice

Nature plays a significant role in Li Shangyin's poetry. He depicts the natural world with a keen eye, using its imagery to evoke emotions and convey complex ideas. The moon, in particular, is a frequent motif, representing both beauty and melancholy:

"The moon slips behind the curtain, The magpies have settled. My heart is desolate with the old mountains, The ancient rivers."

The natural world becomes a mirror for Li Shangyin's own emotions, reflecting his longing, sorrow, and longing for connection.

Musicality and Imagery

Li Shangyin's poetry is renowned for its musicality and vivid imagery. His lines flow with a lyrical grace that captivates the ear and creates a lingering impression in the mind's eye. In "Farewell Gifts," he employs striking metaphors to convey the depth of his affection:

"When they were presented to me, The tears fell like rain; I open the box and see The silk-silver from your quilt."

The richness of Li Shangyin's language allows his readers to experience his emotions in a visceral way.

Legacy and Impact

Li Shangyin's poetry has had a profound impact on Chinese literature and beyond. His intricate craftsmanship and evocative imagery have inspired countless poets and scholars throughout history. His work continues to resonate with readers today, who find solace and inspiration in his timeless verses.

Nyrb Poet Series: A Seal of Excellence

The Nyrb Poets series, published by the prestigious New York Review Books, is renowned for its commitment to presenting the highest quality translations of world literature. Chloe Garcia Roberts' brilliant translation of Li Shangyin's poetry is a testament to the series' dedication to excellence.

"Li Shangyin: Nyrb Poets," translated by Chloe Garcia Roberts, is an essential addition to any bookshelf. It offers a captivating window into the mind and heart of one of China's greatest poets. With its exquisite craftsmanship, evocative imagery, and profound insights, this collection invites readers to immerse themselves in the enchanting world of Li Shangyin and experience the timeless power of his words.



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