

ORIGINAL TEXT BY LI BAI	MIDDLE CHINESE PINYIN* BY CHEN YIHAN	ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY CHEN YIHAN
李白	li' bhrag	Li Bai
蜀道難	jhüog dhao' nan	Hard is the road to Sichuan
噫吁嚱	'i huo hrieh	Eee hooo heee!
危乎高哉	ngrië hho gao zei	How daunting! How tall!
蜀道之難	jhüog dhao' ji nan	Hard is the road to Sichuan,
難於上青天	nan 'ie jhiang' cêng tén	hard as climbing the sky!
蠶叢及魚鳥	dzom dzoung ghrib ngie bhuo	Can Cong and Yu Fu
開國何茫然	kei gweg hha mang nyén	founded a state, immemorial.
爾來四萬八千歲	nyé' lei sih muonh bréd cén süëih	Forty eight thousand years have gone,
不與秦塞通人煙	bu ye' dzin seih toung nyin 'én	never linking Shaanxi with human life.
西當太白有鳥道	séi dang taih bhrag u' déo' dhao'	To the west, only by a bird's path on Mount Taibai
可以橫絕峨眉巔	ka' yi' hhwang dzüéd nga mri dén	can one surmount Mount Emei's peak.
地崩山摧壯士死	dhih beng shén dzoi zhiangh dzhi' sí	Earth shattered, mountains crumbled, heroes died,
然後天梯石棧相鉤連	nyén hhou' tén téi jhiég dzhanh siang gou lién	then were the heavenly ladders and stone planks linked.
上有六龍回日之高標	jhiang' u' liug lüong hhoi nyid ji gao bié	Above, six dragons entwine the sun at the tip;
下有衝波逆折之回川	hhra' u' qiüong ba ngriég jhiéd ji hhoi qién	below, raging waves clash back the twisting stream.
黃鶴之飛尚不得過	hwang hhag ji bui jhiang' bu deg gwah	Even the flight of a yellow crane cannot pass;
猿猱欲度愁攀援	uon nao yüog dhoh zhu pran uon	monkeys wish yet fear the climb.
青泥何盤盤	céng néi hha bhan bhan	Mount Qingni, how it twists,
百步九折巖巒巒	brag bhoh gu' jiéd 'üéng ngiem lwan	nine bends in a hundred paces wind through the rocky slopes.
捫參歷井仰息	mon shim lég züéng' ngang' hieb sig	Touching the Three Stars and crossing the Well, gazing up, afraid to gasp;
以手撫膺坐長歎	yi' shu' po' 'ing dzwah drhiang tan	with hand on chest, sit and sigh.
問君西遊何時還	mun gun séi yu hha dzhi hhrwan	Asking when you'll return from your western journey,
畏途巖巖不可攀	'uih do zham ngram bu ka' pran	fearing the towering cliffs, unclimbable.
但見悲鳥號古木	dan' génh bri déo' hhao go' moug	Only mournful birds cry in olden trees,
雄飛雌從繞林間	ung bui cié' dzüong nyé' lim grén	males flying, females trailing, encircling the woods.
又聞子規啼夜月	uh mun zi' güé dhéi yah nguod	Hearing the cuckoo's call in the moonlit night,
愁空山	dzhu koung shén	saddened by the empty mountain.
蜀道之難	jhüog dhao' ji nan	Hard is the road to Sichuan,
難於上青天	nan 'ie jhiang' cêng tén	hard as climbing the sky!
使人聽此凋朱顏	sh' nyin téngh cié' déo jüo ngran	Hearing this, color drains from one's face.
連峯去天不盈尺	lién puong kieh tén bu yéng qiég	Chains of peaks less than a foot from sky,
枯松倒掛倚絕壁	ko szüong daoh grwéh 'rié' dzüéd bég	withered pines, upside down, cling to sheer cliffs.
飛湍瀑流爭喧豗	bui twan bhough liu zhéng huon hoi	Rushing torrents and roiling falls rage in uproar,
砢崖轉石萬壑雷	pring ngé drüén' jhiég muonh hag loi	smashing cliffs, spinning rocks, thunder echoes through ten thousand ravines.
其險也如此	ghi hriém' ya' nye cié'	Such is the danger.
嗟爾遠道之人胡為乎來哉	zia nyi' uon' dhao' ji nyin hho rüé hho lei zei	Why, you from afar, have you come?
劍閣崢嶸而崔嵬	gjemh gag zhéng rüéng nyi' dzoi ngoi	The Sword Gate, towering and imposing,
一夫當關	'id buo dang grwan	one man guards the pass,
萬夫莫開	muonh buo mag kei	ten thousand fail to breach.
所守或匪親	shie' shu' hhweg bui' cín	The guard may not be kin,
化為狼與豺	hrwah rüé lang ye' dzhei	may turn into a wolf or jackal.
朝避猛虎	driéo bhieh mrang' ho'	Flee from tiger by day,
夕避長蛇	sziég bhieh drhiang xhia	flee from snake by night.
磨牙吮血	ma ngra xhün' hwéd	Teeth grinding, blood sucking,
殺人如麻	shéd nyin nye mra	killing like slaying hemp.
錦城雖云樂	grim' jhiéng süi un lag	The City of Brocade, though said to be blissful,
不如早還家	bu nye zao' hhrwan gra	better still to go home soon.
蜀道之難	jhüog dhao' ji nan	Hard is the road to Sichuan,
難於上青天	nan 'ie jhiang' cêng tén	hard as climbing the sky!
側身西望長咨嗟	zhg xin séi muang drhiang zi zia	Turn your gaze to the west, let out a long sigh.

*Middle Chinese Pinyin was developed by the composer to make Middle Chinese more accessible to readers unfamiliar with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), particularly Chinese singers who are already familiar with pinyin. It uses pinyin letters with their familiar pronunciations wherever possible, while preserving all distinctions found in the Qieyun system.