

*FACING THE SEA WITH SPRING BLOSSOMS AND OTHER POEMS*

**By Duane Vorhees**

Starting tomorrow, I'll be a happy man,  
grooming my horses, chopping my wood, travelling anywhere.

Starting tomorrow, I'll raise grains and veggies  
and live in a house facing the sea with spring blossoms.

Starting tomorrow, I'll write all my dear ones  
to report on my happiness.  
I'll tell everyone I'm struck – by blessed lightning.

I'll give every river – every mountain -- a loving name.

Strangers all, I'll wish you every bliss.

May you have an incandescent future.

May you spend your life with one you love.

May you enjoy every happiness in the world.

I only want to face the sea with spring blossoms.

--after Hai Zi

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***THREE BY LI BAI***

**[To Wang Lun]**

I, Li Bai, anxious to leave.

Noise and commotion ashore.

Peach Blossom Pool, kilos deep:

our friendship goes deepermore.

**[Looking at Tianmen Mountain]**

As my boat approaches Tianmen Mountain I can see the Yangtze cut.

The green east-running river zigzags sharply in, sharply out.

Jagged green cliffs rush upon me on both sides of the river.

A single sail bends to the wind where the sun strikes the water.

**[Quiet Night]**

The pool of moonlight:

frost surrounds my bed.

Look up, the moon's bright,

bow down, homesick thoughts.

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***PASSION FOR LIFE***

I care not if my destination is reached

since I have courage to walk forward  
regardless of winds and the rains.

I care not if any of my love is reaped.  
Since a rose is my whole emotion  
my address is brave and sincere.

I care not if hostile winds and rains freeze me  
since my horizontal goal abides.  
The world's shadow is behind me.

I care not whether the road's flat and unstraight.  
Since I hold such a passion for life  
I can never be lost in mind.

--after Wang Guozhen

### **Bio**

**Duane Vorhees** used to teach. He taught in the US, Korea, and Japan. In all those places he edited, wrote, reported, sang badly, and read in public. Now he lives in Thailand. He publishes a daily e-magazine devoted to the creative arts, [duanespoetree.blogspot.com](http://duanespoetree.blogspot.com) and hopes that you will peruse it and perhaps submit something you would be proud to show the world.