

关关雎鸠 - 《诗经》，周南

guan- guan- ju- jiu` shi- jing- zhou- nan'

"Guan, guan!" Go the Fish Hawks

From *The Book of Poetry*, "Songs from Southern Zhou"

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(简体版 Simplified Chinese Script, http://www.tsoidug.org/Literary/Guan_Guan_Simp.pdf)

(繁体版见 For Complicated Chinese Script see: http://www.tsoidug.org/Literary/Guan_Guan_Comp.pdf)

[注：这是古典《诗经》著名的第一首诗。《诗经》源于公元约600年，而首部是从中国各地收集的诗歌。这首诗来自周国南方。看来好像无可争论，是一首爱情歌，但是传统儒家学者把它解释为比喻君王（男方）对贤臣（女方）的渴望。]

[Note: this is the famous first poem of the classic *Book of Poetry*, which dates from the 600's B.C.E. and the first part of which is a collection of songs from each of the areas of China. This poem is one of the songs from Southern Zhou. It appears to be a love song pure and simple, but has been traditionally interpreted by Confucian scholars as, like the other love songs in *The Book of Poetry*, another allegorical allusion to the desire of the sovereign (the male party) for virtuous ministers (the female party).]

TEXT 原文

(拼音四声 4 tones in Pinyin denoted as 1: di-, 2: di', 3: di^, 4: di`)

关关雎鸠，在河之洲。

guan- guan- ju- jiu` zai` he' zhi- zhou-

"Guan, guan!" go the fish hawks, on an islet in the river.

窈窕淑女，君子好逑。

yao^ tiao^ shu- nv^ jun- zi^ hao` qiu'

The elegant virtuous maiden - the noble person would love to marry her.

参差荇菜¹，左右流之。

can- ci- xing` cai` zuo^ you` liu' zhi-

The uneven water spinach¹ - the water flows to the left and right.

¹ 荇菜 xing` cai`: this is *Limnanthemum nymphoides*, a wild water plant with yellow flowers and round leaves. In ancient China this plant is picked from the water and eaten as a vegetable. See <http://www.mandarintools.com/cgi-bin/wordlook.pl>.

窈窕淑女，寤寐求之。

yao[^] tiao[^] shu- nv[^] wu[^] mei[^] qiu' zhi-

The elegant virtuous maiden - day and night seek her.

求之不得，寤寐思服²。

qiu' zhi- bu[^] de' wu[^] mei[^] si- fu'

You seek but cannot get her; you think² day and night about her.

悠哉悠哉，辗转反侧。

you- zai- you- zai- zhan[^] zhuan[^] fan[^] zhai[^]

Long, O long is the time; lying down you turn this way and that.

参差荇菜，左右采之。

can- ci- xing[^] cai[^] zuo[^] you[^] cai[^] zhi-

The uneven water spinach - pick it on the left and right.

窈窕淑女，琴瑟³友之。

yao[^] tiao[^] shu- nv[^] qin' se[^] you[^] zhi-

The elegant virtuous maiden - with the small and large zithers³ befriend her.

参差荇菜，左右毛之。

can- ci- xing[^] cai[^] zuo[^] you[^] mao' zhi-

The uneven water spinach - pluck it on the left and right.

窈窕淑女，钟鼓乐之。

yao[^] tiao[^] shu- nv[^] zhong- gu[^] le[^] zhi-

The elegant virtuous maiden - with the bell and drum gladden her.

² An ancient meaning of the word *fu'* 服 is to think about. See *Ci Hai* (*Sea of Terms* 《辞海》), Shanghai 1989, p. 1697.

³ Both the *qin'* 琴 and the *se'* 瑟 are plucked stringed Chinese musical instruments comparable to a zither, with the *qin'* 琴 being smaller and having only seven strings, hence the "small zither", and the *se'* 瑟 being larger and having twenty-five strings, hence the "large zither".