

# 木蘭詞 逸名

mu` lan' ci' yi` ming'

## THE BALLAD OF MULAN – Anonymous

馮欣明英語翻譯及拼音

English Translation and Pinyin by Feng Xin-ming

(Note: Pinyin to enable entry by ordinary keyboard:

ji- = first tone, ji' = second tone, ji^ = third tone, ji` = fourth tone.)

唧 唧 復 唧 唧，木 蘭 當 戶 織。

ji- ji- fu` ji- ji- mu` lan' dang- hu` zhi-

ji ji again ji ji, Mulan in-front-of door weave

**“Ji ji,” and “ji ji,” Mulan weaves in front of the door.**

不 聞 機 杼 聲，惟 聞 女 歎 息。

bu` wen' ji- zhu` sheng- wei' wen' nu^ tan` xi-

not hear machine shuttle noise only hear daughter sigh --

**“Now we don't hear the loom shuttle; we only hear our daughter sighing.**

問 女 何 所 思，問 女 何 所 憶？

wen` nu^ he' suo^ si- wen` nu^ he' suo^ yi-

ask daughter what of think ask daughter what of remember

**Daughter, what are you thinking about? What are you nostalgic over?”**

女 亦 無 所 思，女 亦 無 所 憶，

nu^ yi` wu' suo^ si- nu^ yi` wu' suo^ yi-

daughter also none of think daughter also none of remember

**“I am not thinking about anything, and I am not nostalgic.**

昨夜見軍帖，可汗大點兵，

zuo' ye` jian` jun- tie' ke^ han' da` dian^ bing-

last night see army notice khan -- big roll-call soldiers

**Last night I saw the conscription notice; it's the Khan's Great Call-up.**

軍書十二卷，卷卷有爺名。

jun- shu- shi' er` juan` juan` juan` you^ ye' ming'

army book ten two roll roll roll have father name

**There are twelve scrolls of army rolls, and every scroll has Father's name.**

阿爺無大兒，木蘭無長兄，

a- ye' wu' da` er' mu` lan' wu' zhang^ xiong-

“ah” father no big son mu lan no elder brother

**Father has no elder son; I have no big brother.**

願為市鞍馬，從此替爺征。

yuan` wei' shi` an- ma^ cong' ci' ti` ye' zheng-

wish for market saddle horse from now for father campaign

**Let me buy saddle and horse, and go to war in Father's place.”**

東市買駿馬，西市買鞍韉，

dong- shi` mai^ jun` ma^ xi- shi` mai^ an- jian-

east market buy fine horse west market buy saddle saddle-skirt

**In the east market a fine horse is bought; in the west market, a saddle and its skirt;**

南 市 買 轡 頭 ， 北 市 買 長 鞭 。

nan' shì mai<sup>^</sup> pei` tou' bei<sup>^</sup> shì mai<sup>^</sup> chang' bian`

south market buy bridle -- north market buy long whip

**In the south market, a bridle; in the north market, a long whip.**

旦 辭 爺 娘 去 ， 暮 宿 黃 河 邊 ，

dan' ci' ye' niang' qu` mu` su` huang' he' bian-

morning leave father mother go evening sleep Yellow River side

**In the morning she says good-bye to her parents; in the evening she sleeps at the side of the Yellow River.**

不 聞 爺 娘 喚 女 聲 ，

bu` wen' ye' niang' huan` nu<sup>^</sup> sheng-

not hear father mother call daughter sound

**She doesn't hear the sound of parents calling her,**

但 聞 黃 河 流 水 聲 澗 澗 。

dan` wen' huang' he' liu' shui<sup>^</sup> sheng- jian- jian-

but hear Yellow River flowing water sound "jian" "jian"

**But hears the sound of the Yellow River's water going "jian, jian."**

旦 辭 黃 河 去 ， 暮 宿 黑 山 頭 ，

dan' ci' huang' he' qu` mu` su` hei- shan- tou'

morning leave Yellow River go evening sleep black mountain head

**In the morning she says good-bye to the Yellow River; in the evening she sleeps on the Black Mountains.**

不 聞 爺 娘 喚 女 聲 ，

bu` wen' ye' niang' huan` nu<sup>^</sup> sheng-

do-not hear father mother call daughter sound

**She doesn't hear the sound of parents calling her,**

但聞燕山胡騎聲啾啾。

dan` wen` yan` shan- hu` ji` sheng- jiu` jiu`

but hear Yan Mountain barbarian horsemen noise “jiu” “jiu”

**But hears the sound of the Yan Mountains' barbarian horsemen going “jiu, jiu.”**

萬里赴戎機，關山渡若飛，

wan` li^ fu` rong` ji- guan- shan- du` ruo` fei-

ten-thousand mile attend war opportunity, passes mountains cross like flying

**For thousands of miles, she goes wherever the battle takes her, crossing passes and mountains as if she flew.**

朔氣傳金柝，寒光照鐵衣。

shuo` qi` chuan` jin- tuo` han` guang- zhao` tie` yi`

northern air transmits golden night-watch-claps<sup>1</sup>, cold light shines-on iron clothes

**Frigid air transmits the night watch claps; frosty light illumines the iron armor.**

將軍百戰死，壯士十年歸。

jiang- jun- bai` zhan- si^ zhuan` shi` shi` nian` gui-

general -- hundred battle die strong men ten years return

**Generals die after a hundred battles; heroes return after ten years' time.**

<sup>1</sup> *Ci Hai* 辭海，1989 ed., Shanghai, p. 1453 under entry “tuo” 「柝」：巡夜者擊以報更的梆子 (the clap board that night watchmen hits to announce the hour). It's interesting here that the clap board is referred to as being a “golden” or metallic one, perhaps yellow copper, as ordinary night watch clap boards are made of wood. Perhaps in the army the night watch clap boards are made of metal?

歸 來 見 天 子，天 子 坐 明 堂，

gui- lai' jian` tian- zi^ tian- zi^ zuo` ming' tang'

return come see heaven son heaven son sit bright hall

**They return to see the Son of Heaven, sitting in the Bright Hall.**

策 勳 十 二 轉，賞 賜 百 千 強。

ce` xun- shi' er` zhuan^ shang^ ci` bai' qian- qiang'

scroll merit ten two promotion, award gift hundred thousand strong

**The merit scrolls confer twelve promotions<sup>2</sup>, awarded to thousands of strong men.**

可 汗 問 所 欲，木 蘭 不 用 尚 書 郎，

ke^ han' wen` suo^ yu` mu` lan' bu` yong- shang` shu- lang'

khan -- ask what want mu lan don't use administer books official

**The Khan asks what she wants. “Mulan doesn't need to be an Imperial Cabinet Official<sup>3</sup>,**

願 借 明 駝 千 里 足，送 兒 還 故 鄉。

yuan` jie` ming' tuo' qian- li^ ju' song` er' huan' gu` xiang-

wish borrow bright camel thousand mile feet send child return old village

**I'd like a good camel's thousand-mile hooves, to carry me back home.”**

<sup>2</sup> *Op. Cit.*, p. 1511, under the entry “zhuan” 「轉」：遷調官職 (to change official position).

<sup>3</sup> *Op. Cit.*, p. 1258, under the entry “shang shu lang” 「尚書郎」：“魏晉以後尚書各曹有 ... 官 ... 綜理政務，通稱尚書郎 Since the Wei and Jin Dynasties the various departments of the Imperial Cabinet ... have officials ... who administer overall affairs and are generally known as *shang shu lang*。”

爺 娘 聞 女 來，出 郭 相 扶 將。

ye' niang' wen' nu^ lai' chu- guo' xiang` fu' jiang-

father mother hear daughter come, leave city-wall each-other support support-help<sup>4</sup>

**Hearing that Daughter is coming, the parents come outside the city walls, supporting each other.**

阿 姊 聞 妹 來，當 戶 理 紅 妝。

a- zi' wen' mei` lai' dang- hu` li^ hong' zhuang-

“ah” big-sister hear little-sister come, in-front-of door puts-on red makeup<sup>5</sup>

**Hearing that Little Sister is coming, Big Sister puts on her makeup in front of the door.**

小 弟 聞 姊 來，磨 刀 霍 霍 向 豬 羊。

xiao^ di` wen' zi' lai' mo' dao- huo` huo` xiang` zhu- yang'

little little-brother hears big-sister come, grind knife “huo” “huo” towards pig goat

**Hearing that Big Sister is coming, Little Brother sharpens the knife, eyeing the pig and goat.**

開 我 東 閣 門，坐 我 西 閣 床。

kai- wo^ dong- ge' men' zuo` wo^ xi- ge' chuang'

open my east bedroom<sup>6</sup> door sit my west bedroom bed

**“I open up my east bedroom door; I sit on my west bedroom bed.**

脫 我 戰 時 袍，著 我 舊 時 裳。

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 1120 under entry “jiang” 「將」：扶助 (support and help).

<sup>5</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 1120, under entry “zhuang” 「妝」：妝飾，... 如 ... 「... 對君洗紅妝」 (makeup, as in “... in front of you, sire, I wash off my makeup”).

<sup>6</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 998, under entry “ge” 「閣」：臥室 (bedroom).

tuō- wó<sup>^</sup> zhān- shí' pào' zhuó' wó<sup>^</sup> jiù' shí' shàng`

take-off my war time coat put-on my old time clothes

**I take off my wartime clothes; I put on my old times dress."**

當窗理雲鬢，對鏡貼花黃。

dāng- chuāng- lí<sup>^</sup> yún' bìn` duì` jìng` tiē- huā- huāng'

at window arrange cloud temple-hair, facing mirror paste flower yellow

**At the window she arranges cloud-like hair; facing the mirror she pastes on her yellow forehead ornaments.<sup>7</sup>**

出門看伙伴，伙伴皆驚惶，

chū- mén' kàn- huó<sup>^</sup> bàn` huó<sup>^</sup> bàn` jiē- jīng- huāng'

come-outside door see partner -- partner -- all afraid shocked

**She comes out to see her comrades; her comrades are all shocked.**

同行十二年，不知木蘭是女郎。

tóng' xíng' shí' èr' nián' bù` zhī- mù` lán' shì` nǚ<sup>^</sup> lǎng'

together march ten two years do-not know mu lan is female lady

**"We march together for twelve years, and we don't know that Mulan is a lady!"**

雄兔腳撲朔，雌兔眼迷離，

xióng' tu` jiǎo<sup>^</sup> pū- shuò` cǐ' tu` yǎn<sup>^</sup> mí' lí'

male rabbit feet hops beginning<sup>8</sup>, female rabbit eyes indistinct unclear<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 634, under entry "hua huang" 「花黃」：裝飾... 以金黃色紙剪成星月花鳥等形貼於額上... (ornament... pasting on the forehead golden yellow paper cut into the shape of star, moon, flower, or bird...)

<sup>8</sup> *Op. Cit.*, p. 1709, under entry "shuo" 「朔」：初始 (at the beginning); 此二句則形容如何辨別雄雌兔 then it's possible that these two lines describe how to distinguish between male and female rabbits. 但亦有可能「撲朔」為擬聲辭，形容雄兔走路 but "pu shuo" may also be an onomatopoeia, describing the male rabbit's run.

**“The male rabbit hops from the beginning; the female rabbit’s eyes are misty;**

兩兔傍地走，安能辨我是雄雌？

liang<sup>^</sup> tu` bang` di` zou<sup>^</sup> an- neng` bian` wo<sup>^</sup> shi` xiong` ci`

two rabbit along ground run how can distinguish I is male female

**Both rabbits are running along the ground; how can you tell whether I am male or female?”**

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<sup>9</sup> *Op. Cit.*, p. 1183, under entry “*mi li*” 「迷離」：模糊不明 (indistinct, unclear).