

李煜

破阵子

四十年来家国，三千里地山河。凤阁龙楼连霄汉，玉树琼枝作烟萝。几曾识干戈？

一旦归为臣虏，沈腰潘鬓消磨。最是仓皇辞庙日，教坊犹奏别离歌。垂泪对宫娥。

Li Yu

Tune: "Po Zhen Zi"

Farewell Song

Forty years of family and reign.
Three thousand *li** of river and mountainous scenes.
Phoenix pavilions and dragon towers
rose to the sky.
Deep into the mist were beautiful trees,
flowery branches, and vines.
How little I knew about weapons
and military might?

Suddenly I have become a captured prisoner.
So emaciated I now have the look of
Shen's slender waist and Pan's hoary hair.**
How could I forget the day I hurriedly
left my ancestral shrine?
The imperial musicians played farewell songs
as we said good-bye.
I faced my court ladies with tears in my eyes.

**li* is a Chinese unit of length that is equivalent to about a half kilometer.

**Shen Yue (441–513) was an official and scholar of the Liang Dynasty.

Pan Yue (247–300), known for his attractive appearance, was a scholar in the Jin Dynasty.

李煜
lǐ yù

破陣子
pò zhèn zǐ

○ = 平声 (ping or flat tone)

△ = 仄声 (ze or deflected tone)

● = 平声韵 (rhymed in ping or flat tone)

▲ = 仄声韵 (rhymed in ze or deflected tone)

四△十△年○
sì shí nián
forty years

來○
lái
over time

家○國△
jiā guó
home and country

三○千○里△
sān qiān lǐ
three thousand li

地△
dì
in distance

山○河●
shān hé
mountains and rivers

鳳△閣△
fèng gé
phoenix pavilion

龍○樓○
lóng lóu
dragon tower

連○霄○漢△
lián xiāo hàn
join the sky

玉△樹△
yù shù
beautiful trees

瓊○枝○
qióng zhī
decorated branches

作△煙○蘿●
zuò yān luó
form misty vines

幾△曾○
jǐ céng
how little

識△干○戈●
shí gān gē
(I) know weapons of war

一△旦△
yī dàn
once

歸○為○
guī wéi
(I am) included as

臣○虜△
chén lǚ
captive subject

沈○腰○
shěn yāo
Shen Yue's waist

潘○鬢△
pān bìn
Pan Yue's temples

消○磨●
xiāo mó
wear and tear

最△是△
zuì shì
to be especially

倉○惶○
cāng huáng
flee in panic

辭○廟△日△
cí miào rì
day of leaving
ancestors' shrine

教△坊○
jiào fāng
musical institute

猶○奏△
yóu zòu
still played

別△離○歌●
bié lí gē
parting songs

垂○淚△
chuí lèi
tears falling

對△宮○娥●
duì gōng é
(I) faced court ladies