A TRAVELLER'S SONG

Meng Jiao (751 — 814)

Threads in an affectionate mother's hands
Are clothes on a son who's going away.

Finer and finer she puts
her stitches before he leaves,
For fear his return may run into long delay.

Our heart, tiny as an inch-long blade of grass,
Who says the sunshine of spring[1] it can repay?

遊子吟

孟郊（751 — 814）

慈母手中線，
遊子身上衣。

臨行密密縫，
意恐遲遲歸。

誰言寸草心，
報得三春暉。

1 This is a metaphor. The sunshine of spring to a blade of grass is like motherly love to a son that can never be adequately repaid.

NIGHT VIEW ON A BRIDGE IN LUOYANG

Meng Jiao (751 — 814)

New ice is formed
the Tianjin Bridge[1] below:
On the footpaths of Luoyang,
not a single man would show.

Elms and willows look thin,
houses desolate;
In the bright moonlight,
clearly seen is Mt Song's[2] snow.

洛橋晚望

孟郊（751 — 814）

天津橋下冰初結，
洛陽陌上行人絕。

榆柳蕭疏樓閣閒，
月明直見嵩山雪。

1 An ancient bridge in the city of Luoyang in Henan Province.
2 One of the five large mountains of China (五嶽之一). It is in Henan Province.

UPON PASSING THE STATE EXAMINATION

Meng Jiao (751 — 814)

My humble past
isn't worth boasting in any way,
But I'm unrestrained
and full of inspiration today.

Riding high in the spring breeze,
off I go at full gallop,
To view all the flowers
of Chang'an[1] in one day.

登科後

孟郊（751 — 814）

往日齷齪不堪誇，
今朝放蕩思無涯。

春風得意馬蹄疾，
一日看盡長安花。

1 The capital in Tang Dynasty. It is now the city of Xi'an.

Background:
This poem was written immediately after the poet knew of his success in the State Examination and was filled with exaltation. He failed twice in the past.