

Wendy Mulford
From I CHINA AM

OVER THE HEART line

from the Underworld

A pair of wounded cats

Where

Is she speaking

The sea-hawk places

his blue mark

It was

China

by the Laeisz route

It may be 83 days

Depending upon

The DRAGON strays

into our UNIVERSE

Red blessings bring luck nine times

TRANQUILLITY

the pellucid sea

Floating screens

disguise military

manoeuvres

Give back the scholar poet

shape science self-

knowledge an

incomplete reference

to all you did not know

Late in life the

Shaman insists

No more floating. To be

anchored

by the inkstone should permit

monochrome drift

Meanwhile there is the sea

The poet's friend and the habit

of perfect brightness

II

Three instructions to the jade(d) planet

Inauspiciously beautiful summon the bamboo

flute do you hear

the cranes calling surround

the five-clawed peach PROSPERITY spins

a silken floss

- they cannot see the bones they must eat

sumptuous information rules

only the BRONZE hound can restore

movementís lost

Restless the scholar hoards the
poet lists assiduous rituals
SO MANY SHADES OF SILENCE

III

Pearls Pearls Pearls
Just
No justice
Chimes
Asylum Tatters

IV NUMBERS FOR SHOU - Long Life

White pen numbers dreams
Other pearl fishermen place incense
Cormorants catch heart-images
The tattered seal-script drops
Lapis-lazuli in the
Nine-walled city fabulous pomegranates fall
Silence returns to virtue
Palest blue, coral, lingzhi
Each unknown presence instructs
The ear
Different satins Bodsivatta bells the
Heavenly bodies
A toe-hold awareness in the
Four Treasures

Deliver a garden across the world
for broken souls

Within the scrolls across the gaps
His mind wanders timeless endeared
Folded into SILENCE

Working Note

This poem was composed for performance at 'Swayed to the West' - an event held in conjunction with "Starting at Zero: Black Mountain College 1933-57", Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, 3.xii. 2005
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