

# Lights and Shadows

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## Liwei (Crape Myrtle)

Sijia Yao

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紫薇  
姚思佳

七月阿拉巴马的土地上到处绽放的是江南的精灵，  
那一簇簇的色彩，过去，于我太繁复，  
在异乡却显得格外独特迷人。  
白的，红的，粉的，紫的，如此绚烂和热烈，  
那美，最是在阳光下随风飘扬的一阵落花，如雪花，如红尘，如恒河胸前的花环。

细雨中的一地落红，深蓝色的雨和墨绿色的泥土，  
幽径上的你饱含东方哲学和情怀——如此清雅，玄密，接近永恒和来处。

那样的美，为何只有在落地后才焕发出呢？  
那光芒如同昙花，  
被曲解的美最是委屈的，  
千年前的那个少女，手拿荔枝，如同初见。

*Ziwei (Crape Myrtle)*

Sijia Yao

The Spirits from China is ubiquitous in July Alabama,  
Its glaring color, to me in the past was too heavy and superfluous,  
But is uniquely enchanting now when I'm thousand miles away from home.  
White, scarlet, pink, purple, so splendid and vigorous,  
There is no paradise on earth equal to a gust of falling petals in the golden sun,  
Light and pure as snow;  
Warm and brilliant as red wine,  
Mysterious and exotic as wreath of Ganges.

By the old stone castle lies Ziwei sparsely,  
Companied with blue drizzle and dark green soil,  
On the green-lichen hill steps filled with your oriental philosophy and affection,  
purely innocent and profoundly mysterious,  
Close to eternity and Being.

Why is beauty revealed when it touches the earth after falling?  
That light is as ephemeral as night-booming cereus.  
Distorted beauty,  
what a grievance!  
That girl holding lichee thousand years ago is standing under Ziwei as real.