Li Bo Unkempt

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Chapter 18. Writing Brushes

Li Bo worked in private halls of the imperial palace, drafting proclamations and mandates for the Bright Emperor. In the twelfth lunar month, the period known as “Great Cold,” the brushes froze, and no one could write a word. The Emperor ordered several dozen palace concubines to stand on Li Bo’s left and right, each taking an ivory-handled brush and breathing on it. This succeeded, and he was able to write the proclamations.

Li Bo was the recipient of the sovereign’s tenderness like this.

From the Tianbao yishi (Lost matters from the Tianbao reign period [742–756])

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