Chapter 60. “In Prison, Submitted to Chief Minister Cui Huan”

From exile, the Bright Emperor appoints the upright Cui Huan 崔渙 (d. 769) as Chief Minister. From jail, Li Bo sends Cui Huan this poem.

In prison, submitted to Chief Minister Cui Huan

Barbarian horsemen have captured the Eastern Capital, and blood flows across the fields of battle. Farms stand abandoned, gates barred against the sun, and human life is as fragile as a morning’s frost. But now a wise minister breathes life into the land, once more we can celebrate the health of sea and sky. A fabled sage presides at court, and officials line up to serve. Like stars circling the Pole, they adorn the ruler of the three realms and reflect the brilliance of the Two Suns. If you think of me under this upturned pot, I will wipe away my tears and prostrate to the light of Heaven.542

獄中上崔相渙

胡馬渡洛水，血流征戰場
千門閉秋景，萬姓危朝霜
賢相燮元氣，再欣海縣康
台庭有夔龍，列宿祭成行
羽翼三元聖，發輝兩太陽
應念覆盆下，雪泣拜天光