

### THEME Heaven

Let me be reverent, let me be reverent, in attending to my duties;  
The way of Heavenly God is evident,  
And its mandate is not easily preserved.  
Let me not say that It is high aloft above me.  
It ascends and descends about our doings;  
It daily inspects us wherever we are.

敬之敬之！天維顯思，命不易哉。  
無曰高高在上，陟降厥士，日監在茲。

*Jingzhi* 敬之 (Be Reverent)

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### THEME Mountains

Grandly lofty are the mountains,  
With their large masses reaching to the heavens.  
Through these mountains the Heavens sent down a Spirit,  
Who gave birth to Dukes Fu and Shen.

崧高維嶽，駿極于天。  
維嶽降神，生甫及申。

*Songgao* 崧高 (The Lofty Mountains)

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### THEME Bird totemism

Heaven commissioned the dark bird,  
To descend and give birth to the founder of our Shang dynasty.  
His descendants dwelt in the rich land, and it became great.

天命玄鳥，降而生商，宅殷土芒芒。

*Xuanniao* 玄鳥 (The Dark Bird)

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### THEME Temples

Very grand is the ancestral temple; --  
A true sovereign made it.  
Wisely arranged are the great plans; --  
Sages determined them.

奕奕寢廟，君子作之。  
秩秩大猷，聖人莫之。

*Qiaoyan* 巧言 (Beguiling Words)

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### THEME Ritual

And from Heaven is our prosperity sent down,  
Fruitful years of great abundance.  
Our ancestor will come and enjoy our offerings,  
And confer on us happiness without limit.

自天降康，豐年穰穰。  
來假來饗，降福無疆。

*Liezu* 烈祖 (Ancestors)

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### THEME Banquet

The bells and drums sound in harmony;  
The sounding stones and flutes blend their notes;  
Abundant blessing is sent down.  
Blessing is sent down in large measure;  
Careful and exact is all our deportment;  
We have drunk, and we have eaten, to the full;  
Our happiness and dignity will be prolonged.

鐘鼓嗶嗶，磬筦將將，降福穰穰。  
降福簡簡、威儀反反。  
既醉既飽、福祿來反！

*Zhijing* 執競 (The Toughness)

'The Spirits have drunk to the full.'  
The impersonator of the dead then rises,  
And the bells and drums escort his withdrawal,  
On which the Spirits tranquilly return to their place.  
All the servants, and the presiding wives,  
Remove the trays and dishes without delay.  
The descendant's uncles and cousins,  
All repair to the private feast.

神具醉止，皇尸載起。  
鼓鍾送尸，神保聿歸。  
諸宰君婦，廢徹不遲。  
諸父兄弟，備言燕私。

*Chuci* 楚茨 (The Dense Puncture Vines)

*Original poetry translations by James Legge.*