

# *Return to Hometown Residence*

translated from the traditional Chinese

by Daniel Truong

歸園田居

少無適俗韻，  
性本愛丘山。  
誤落塵網中，  
一去三十年。

羈鳥戀舊林，  
池魚思故淵。  
開荒南野際，  
守拙歸園田。

方宅十餘畝，  
草屋八九間，  
榆柳蔭後簷，  
桃李羅堂前。

曖曖遠人村，  
依依墟里煙；  
狗吠深巷中，  
雞鳴桑樹顛。

戶庭無塵雜，  
虛室有餘閑。  
久在樊籠裡，  
復得返自然。

**Return to Hometown Residence**

Without the immoral taint of youths  
My calling was the hills and mountains  
But by mistake, I fell into the earthly path  
And once gone, thirty years had passed.

As the restrained bird longs for the old woods  
And the pond fish, the deep  
I return to the outback west  
To be there for my hometown.

An acre half is my land  
The grass huts, numbered in 8-9  
In the back, the Elm Willow shades  
In the front, the peach plum grid.

Oh warm is the distant village  
And Cozy the kitchen smoke  
In the alley depths are dogs barking  
On the mulberry peak, the rooster perched.

My halls are untouched by filth  
My rooms vacant and free  
An eternity in the village cage  
But to me, a return to the natural.