



# Taking Leave of a friend

Blue mountains to the north of the walls,  
White river winding about them ;  
Here we must make separation  
And go out through a thousand miles of dead grass,

Mind like a floating wide cloud,  
Sunset like the parting of old acquaintances  
Who bow over their clasped hands at a distance.  
Our horses neigh to each other  
as we are departing.

*Rihaku*

*from the Chinese (version by Ezra Pound)*

*from the "Collected Shorter Poems" by Ezra Pound (1885-1972). Reprinted by kind permission of its publishers Faber and Faber Ltd.*