



Question in the Mountains

You ask me why
 I live in the jade mountains.
 I smile, unanswering.
 My heart is calm.
 Peach petals float on the water,
 never come back.
 There is a heaven and earth beyond
 the crowded town below.

Li Bai (701-762)

李白

問余何意棲碧山
 笑而不答心自閑
 桃花流水杳然去
 別有天地非人間

山中問答

Translated from Mandarin by Tony Barnstone, Willis Barnstone & Chou Ping. Reprinted by permission

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