

Shu is Away

Shu is away in the hunting-fields,
There is no one living in our lane.
But of course there are people living in our lane;
But they are not like Shu,
So beautiful, so good.

Shu has gone after game.
No one drinks wine in our lane.
Of course people do drink wine in our lane
But they are not like Shu,
So beautiful, so loved.

Shu has gone to the wilds,
No one drives horses in our lane.
But of course people do drive horses in our lane.
But they are not like Shu,
So beautiful, so brave.

*Anonymous, from The Book of Songs, c. 800-500 B.C.
Trans. from Chinese by Arthur Waley*