FROM THE EDITOR

Cultivating Almond and Peach Trees

Written by Bai Juyi

Translated by Zhuang-Zhong Lehmberg

No matter where I am— At the edges of the sky or ends of the earth, I make my home.

Not expecting to hear my native music, I cultivate almond and peach trees—
Awaiting their blossoms.

Original poem in Chinese

種桃杏

白居易

無論海角與天涯, 大抵心安即是家。 路遠誰能念鄉曲, 種杏栽桃擬待花。



Author

Bi Juyi (772-846 A.D.) of Tang Dynasty was one of the greatest poets in Chinese history. He is known as the poet of common people.

Zhuang-Zhong Lehmberg (U起) is an assistant professor of English at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan, where she co-founded Marquette Children's Academy of Chinese Language and Culture (MCACLC) with friends Jingfang Niu (比对信) and Jeannie Wagner. She wishes to dedicate this work to Jeannie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chian (蜀山 中 以) who were grandparents to all who attended the Third Annual Chinese Summer Camp sponsored by the MCACLC. Mrs. Chian's account of her experience in the U.S. inspired the translation of this poem.