UNIT 5

Lessons 31—32

Two Warrior Women

Both of these texts date from the “Six Dynasties” period (222-589 C.E.); for most of this time, north China was under the control of a series of non-Chinese empires and the south was ruled by a series of short-lived regimes. We know most about the cultural life in the south during this time because most educated Chinese lived there, but a number of literary texts survive from the north as well.

The story of Li Ji 李寄 is preserved in the Sōushénjì 搜神記 (in English Record of Searches into the Magical), a fourth-century southern collection of odd anecdotes and legends. It is a principal source for so-called 志怪 (“recording the strange”) narrative, and it is one of the earliest anthologies to demonstrate Chinese fascination with ghost stories and other occult phenomena.

The “Poem of Mulan” 木蘭詩 is probably the most famous poem to survive from the north during the Six Dynasties period, though no one is quite sure when it was written (the fifth century seems to be most likely). It is composed in a popular ballad style and may have come from a folk song, though it was probably “cleaned up” by the highly literate scholars who transmitted it.

Lesson 31

李寄

東越閩中有庸嶺, 高數十里。其西北隙中有大蛇, 長七八丈, 大十餘圍。土俗常懼, 東冶都尉及屬城長吏多有死者。祭以牛羊, 故不得福。或與人夢, 或下諭巫祝, 欲得啖童女年十二三者。都尉令長並共患之, 然氣厲不息。共請求人家生婢子, 兼有罪家女, 養之至八月朝, 祭送蛇穴口, 蛇出吞嚙之。累年如此, 已用九女。爾時預復募索, 未得其女。將樂縣李誕家, 有六女, 無男。其小女名寄, 应募欲行, 父母不聽。寄曰: 「父母無相, 惟生六女, 無有一男, 虽有如無。女無緹縈濟父母之功, 既不能供養, 徒費衣食, 生無所益, 不如早死。賣寄之身, 可得少錢, 以供父母, 奚不善耶?」父母慈憐, 終不聽去。寄自潛行, 不可禁止。寄乃告請好劍及咋蛇犬。至八月朝, 便詣廟中坐, 懷劍將犬。先將數石米糍, 用蜜麨灌之, 以置穴口。蛇便出, 頭大如囷, 目如二尺鏡, 聞糍香氣, 先啖食之。寄便放犬, 犬就嚙咋, 寄從後斫得數剑。瘡痛急, 蛇因踊出, 至庭而死。寄入視穴, 得其九女髑髏, 聲出, 啥言曰: 「汝曹怯弱, 爲蛇所食, 甚可哀愍。」於是寄為女緩步而歸。越王聞之, 聘寄女為后, 拜其父為將樂令, 母及姊皆有賞賜。自是東冶無復妖邪之物, 其歌謠至今存焉。
VOCABULARY (1033-1092)

1033. 越  M: yuè  J: otsu オツ, etsu エツ  K: wol 월  C: yuht

Yue (general name given to a coastal region of southeast China; previously a state name). Radical 156 (走).

1034. 閩  M: mǐn  J: min ミン  K: min 민  C: máhn

Min.

Name of a section of 越, this character is now often used as a poetic term for Fujian 福建 province. Radical 169 (門).

1035. 嶺  M: lǐng  J: rei レイ, ryō リョウ, mine みね, ne ね  K: lyeong 령  C: líhng

Peak, mountain range.

Radical 46 (山).

1036. 蛇  M: shé  J: ja ジャ, da ダ, hebi へび  K: sa 사  C: sèh

Snake, serpent.

Radical 142 (虫).

1037. 八  M: bā  J: hachi ハチ  K: pal 팔  C: baat

Eight.

Radical 12 (八).

1038. 丈  M: zhàng  J: jō ジョウ  K: jang 장  C: jeuhng

Zhang (measurement of length, equal to approximately 10 English feet).

Radical 1 (一).

341a. 土俗  M: tǔ sú  J: tozoku とぞく  K: to sok 토속  C: tóu juhk

The local population; popular sentiment.
Although in this lesson's text the term is obviously meant to refer to the local populace, the compound is very close in meaning to 世俗 (227a, Lesson 28).

1039. 常  M: cháng  J: jō ジョウ, shō ショウ, tsune つね  K: sang 상  C: sèuhng
1. Always, invariably. *
2. Constancy; constant rule. 
Note: The literary Chinese meaning of this character is slightly different from its modern Mandarin meaning, "often." Radical 50 (巾).

1040. 冶  M: yě  J: ya ヤ K: ya 야  C: yéh 
To smelt, to fuse.
Here, this character is used in a place-name. Radical 15 (氵, "ice").

863a. 東冶  M: dōng yě  J: tōya とうや  K: dong ya 동야  C: dūng yéh 
Dongye (name of a district).

1041. 都  M: dū  J: to 托, tsu つ, miyako みやこ  K: do 도  C: dōu 
City, town, capital 
Radical 163 (阝).

1042. 尉  M: wèi  J: i 이 K: wi 위  C: wai 
Commandant, commander, colonel. 
Radical 41 (寸).

435b. 属城  M: shū chéng  J: zokujō ぞくじょう  K: sok seong 속성  C: suhk sīhng 
Municipal.
The meaning of 屬 here is 435-1. In bureaucratic language this character can be prefixed to administrative units to indicate the scope of a public office.

High-ranking officials.

1043. 夢  M: mèng  J: mu, yume ゆめ  K: mong  C: muhng
Dream; to dream.
Radical 36 (夕).

1044. 諏  M: yù  J: yu, satosu さとす  K: yu 유  C: yuh
To inform, to tell, to warn.
Radical 149 (言).

1045. 巫  M: wū  J: fu, miko みこ, kannagi かんなぎ  K: mu 무  C: mòuh
Wizard, witch, shaman.
Radical 48 (工).

1046. 祝  M: zhù  J: shuku シュク, shū シュウ, iwau いわう  K: chuk 축  C: jūk
To invoke, to pray to; to congratulate.
Here, this character implies the term 祝者, “priest,” “priestess.” Radical 113 (示).

1047. 啖  M: dàn  J: tan タン  K: dam 담  C: daahm
To bite, to devour.
Radical 30 (口).
173a. 令長  M: lìng zhāng  J: ryōchō りょちょう  K: lyeong jang 령장  C: lihng jeung
District magistrate.

1048. 並  M: bìng  J: hei ヘイ  K: byeong 병  C: bing
Together, all.
Here, this character is used as part of a synonym compound, 並共. Radical 1 (一).

1049. 気  M: qì  J: ki キ  K: gi 기  C: hei
Vapor, miasma; essence, inner substance.
Radical 84 (気, “qi”).

1050. 婢  M: bì  J: hi ヒ, hashitame はしため  K: bi 비  C: péih
Maidservant, female slave.
Radical 38 (女)

1051. 送  M: sòng  J: sō ソウ, okuru おくる  K: song 송  C: sung
To send, to see off, to escort.
Radical 162 (辵).

1052. 穴  M: xué  J: ketsu ケツ, ana あな  K: hyeol 혀  C: yuht
Cave, hole.
Radical 116 (穴).

1053. 噬  M: niè  J: kitsu キツ  K: gyo 敎  C: ngiht
To bite, to chew.
Radical 30 (口).
1017a. 阿爾時 M: ěr shí J: kono toki このとき K: i si 이시 C: yíh sìh
At this time (variant for 此時)

1054. 須 M: yù J: yo -pills K: ye 은 C: yuh
To prepare, to make ready.
Radical.181.(頁).

1055. 募 M: mù J: bo ボボ, tsunoru つのる K: mo 모 C: mouh
To draft, to conscript.
Radical 19 (力).

1056. 索 M: suǒ J: saku サく, motomeru もとめる K: sak 쌓 C: saak
To search, to look for.
Radical 120 (糸).

Jiangle (name of a county).

1057. 李 M: lǐ J: ri り, sumomo すもも K: i 이 C: léih
1. Plum.
2. Li. [a surname]*
Radical 75 (木).

1058. 諧 M: dàn J: tan ダン K: tan 탄 C: daan
1. Birth.
2. Preposterous’ ridiculous.
Here, this character is a personal name. Radical 149 (言).

1057a. 李誕  M: lǐ dàn  J: ri tan りたん  K: i tan 이탄  C: léih daan
Li Dan. [a proper name]

To send; to lodge, to stay temporarily.
Here, this character is a person's name. Radical 40 (宀).

1060. 緹  M: tí  J: tei ティ  K: je 제  C: tàih
A kind of light-red silk.
Here, this character is part of a person's name. Radical 120 (糸).

1061. 躹  M: yíng  J: ei エイ  K: yeong 영  C: yìhng
To wind around, to coil.
This character is a variant of 繹, and it is used here as part of a person's name. Radical 120 (糸).

1060a. 緹縈  M: tí yíng  J: teiei ていえい  K: je yeong제영  C: tàih yìhng
Tiying (name of a filial girl from the Han 漢 dynasty).
This girl's full name was Chunyu Tiying 淳于緹縈. In the second century B.C.E., when her parents were convicted of a crime, she offered herself as a slave to redeem them. The emperor felt sorry for her and freed her parents. Radical 120 (糸).

1062. 濟  M: jì  J: sai サイ, sei セイ, sukuu すくう  K: je 제  C: jai
To rescue, to assist.
Radical 85 (水).
1063. 早  M: zǎo  J: sa サ, sō ソウ, satsu さつ  K: jo 조  C: jó
Early; morning.
Radical 72 (曰).

1064. 錢  M: qián  J: sen セン, zeni ゼに  K: jeon 전  C: chihn
Copper cash.
Radical 167 (金).

1065. 憐  M: lián  J: ren レン, awaremu あわれむ, urayamu うらやむ  K: lyeon 련  C: lìhn
To love, to cherish, to feel sorry for; to admire, to envy.
Radical 61 (心).

283a. 告請  M: gào qǐng  J: tsugete kou つげてこう  K: go cheong 고청  C: gou chîng
To request.
This term is a synonym compound.

1066. 咬  M: zhà  J: seku セク, kamu かむ  K: sa 사  C: ja
To bite.
Radical 30 (口).

1067. 庙  M: miào  J: byō ビョウ  K: myo 묘  C: miuh
Temple, shrine.
Radical 53 (广).

1068. 石  M: shí  J: seki セキ, shaku シャク, ishi いし  K: seok 석  C: sehk
1. Stone, rock.
2. Shi (measurement for liquids, roughly equivalent to an English gallon)*
   Radical 112 (石).

1069. 米  M: mǐ  J: bei ベイ, mai マイ, kome こめ, yone よね  K: mi 미  C: máih
   Rice.
   Radical 119 (米).

1070. 米  M: cí  J: shi シ, mochiもち  K: ja자  C: chih
   Rice ball.
   Radical 119 (米).

1071. 蜜  M: mì  J: mitsu ミツ  K: mil 밀  C: maht
   Honey.
   Radical 142 (虫).

1072. 麬 M: chǎo  J: shō  K: cho초  C: chú
   Roasted barley flour.
   Radical 199 (麥, “wheat”).

1073. 灌 M: guàn  J: kan カン, sosogu そそぐ  K: gwan 관  C: gun
   To water, to soak, to flow into.
   Radical 85.(水).

1074. 囲  M: qūn  J: kin キン, kon コン  K: gyun 군  C: kwān
   Grain bin.
   Radical 31 (囗).
1075. 尺  M: chě  J: seki  shaku  シャク  K: cheok  췕  C: chek
Chi (measurement of length, equivalent to about 10 inches; usually translated as “foot”).
Radical 44 (尸).

1076. 鏡  M: jìng  J: kyō キョウ, kagami かがみ  K: gyeong  경  C: geng
Mirror
Radical 167 (金).

1077. 香  M: xiāng  J: kō コウ, ka カ, kaoru かおる, kaori かおり  K: hyang  향
C: hēung
Scent, fragrance; fragrant; incense.
Radical 186 (香).

1078. 斬  M: zhuó  J: shaku シャク, kiru きる  K: jak  작  C: jeuk
To cut, to hack
Radical 69 (斤).

1079. 瘡  M: chuāng  J: sō ソウ  K: chang  창  C: chōng
Wound.
Radical 104 (疒).

1080. 痛  M: tòng  J: tsū タツ, itamu いたむ  K: tong  통  C: tung
Sore, aching, painful
Radical 104 (疒).

1081. 急  M: jí  J: kyū キュウ, isogu いそぐ, aseru あせる  K: geup  급  C: gāp
1. Severe, sharp. *
2. Swift, quick; to hurry.

3. To be anxious; to be in a state of crisis.

This character is common in all of these meanings, though only meaning #1 occurs in our texts. Radical 61 (心).

1082. 躍 M: yǒng  J: yō ヨウ, odoru おどる  K: yong 용  C: yung
To leap, to jump.

This character is also written 躍 (774). Radical 157 (足).

1083. 髸 M: dú  J: doku ドク  K: chok 총  C: duhk
Skull

Radical 188 (骨).

1084. 髏 M: lóu  J: ro ロ  K: lu 루  C: làuh
Skull.

髏髏 is a common synonym compound (in fact, it is rare to see these two characters separate from each other). Radical 188 (骨).

1085. 咤 M: zhà  J: ta 타  K: ta 타  C: jā
To upbraid, to pity.

Radical 30 (口).

1086. 怯 M: qiè  J: kyō キョウ, obieru おびえる  K: geop 겁  C: hip
Timid, cowardly; to be afraid.

Radical 61 (心).

1087. 忍 M: mǐn  J: bin ビン, min ミン, awaremu あわれむ  K: min 민  C: máhn
To pity.
Radical 61 (心).

1088. 緩  M: huǎn  J: kan  カン, yuruyakana ゆるやかな, yukkuri ゆっくり  K: wan 완  C: wūhn
Slow, gradual; slowly, leisurely.
Radical 120 (糸).

1089. 聘  M: pìn  J: hei  ヘイ  K: bing  빙  C: ping
To marry, to wed, to betroth.
Radical 128 (耳).

1090. 拜  M: bài  J: hai  ハイ, haisuru はいる, ogamu おガム  K: bae 배  C: baai
To bow; to do reverence to; to appoint [to a post].
拜為 is a standard way of saying “was appointed as...” Radical 64 (手).

1091. 妖  M: yāo  J: yō  ヨウ  K: yo  요  C: yíu
Strange, weird, supernatural; demon, phantom; bewitching, seductive.
Radical 38 (女).

1092. 歌  M: gē  J: ka  力, utau うたい, utai うたい  K: ga  가  C: gō
Song; to sing.
Radical 76 (欠).

**COMMENTARY**
31.1. 東冶都尉及屬城長吏多有死者(l. 2): The grammar here is ambiguous: Is this saying that quite a few officials died, or that quite a few members of the officials' households died? I favor the former.
31.2. 故不得福(ll. 2-3): 故 is odd here; its meaning can be derived from the context. The author probably uses it as a synonym for the common 如故, “as before”—that is, “all along” (without change).

31.3. 或與人夢, 或下諭巫祝(l. 3): “Sometimes it would give people dreams, and sometimes it would descend and inform shamans and priests.” Note the other meaning of 或 here (579-2), as opposed to “someone.” The snake, which is really a demon, is communicating through visions to the local population, telling them what it wants.

31.4. 然氣厲不息(1. 4): Here, it becomes clear that the snake-demon is not killing people directly, but generating a poisonous aura so that local people are dying of illness.

31.5. 人家生婢子(l. 4): "Maidservants born into people's families."

31.6. 有罪家女(l. 4): "Daughters from households that had committed crimes." If the principal male of a family committed a crime, it was not unusual for the entire family or clan to receive punishment.

31.7. 無有一男, 雖有如無(ll. 7-8): “You have not had a single son; even though you have [children, i.e., daughters], it's as if you had none.” Even though technically ungrammatical, 無有 is occasionally used for emphasis purposes.

31.8. 可得少錢(l. 9): This is a good example of how 可 came increasingly to be used with an active meaning (contrast with 7.3). It may be used here as it is typically used in medieval Chinese, to convey a mild suggestion or request.

31.9. 咋蛇犬(l. 10): "a snake-biting dog." Evidently, a dog trained to hunt snakes (even 80-foot-long demon-snakes!).

31.10. 得數劍 (1. 13): "She obtained several sword [blows]." Note two idiomatic usages here: first, words for "sword" or "knife" can be used to mean "wounds [inflicted by those weapons]"; second, in Chinese, when one "gets"
得 such a wound, it means (unlike in English) that one has inflicted it, not received it.

31.11. 爲蛇所食(1. 14): This is the fourth, and last, way of indicating the passive voice in literary Chinese: 爲 + actor + (所) verb. This pattern can still be found in modern Mandarin, especially with 被 substituting for 爲. Consequently, this phrase means "were eaten by the snake."

**Vocabulary Hints**

東(863) 庸(463-2) 高(92) 西(623) 隙(576)
餘(301) 圍(263-2) 祭(415) 牛(928) 羊(933)
福(14) 或(579-2) 童(684) 共(249) 厲(515-1)
息(545-2) 兼(1011) 累(575) 縣(6531) 應(658)
聽(211-2) 相(264-3) 惟(839) 功(613) 費(599)
益(632) 不如(4a, L4) 賣(729) 耶(345) 慈(64)
潛(437) 禁(16) 止(409) 朝(38-2) 便(972-2)
語(352) 懷(535-2) 目(22) 先(150) 聞(124-2)
放(990-2) 庭(692-2) 曹(346-2) 若(372) 哀(579)
步(870) 后(687-1) 令(173-2) 姐(567) 賞(822)
賜(159) 物(72) 存(811)

**Character List**

i. 八夢寄尺巫常急拜李歌氣濟石索越送都香麨(19)
ii. 丈嶺並廟憐早祝穴蛇米緩錢鏡(13)
iii. 妖尉灌痛聘誕預(7)
iv. 冶募咋咤啖嚙囷婢怯愍斫瘡蜜糍萦緹諭踊閩髑髏(21)

**Lesson 32**

木蘭詩
唧唧復唧唧，木蘭當戶織。
不聞機杼聲，唯聞女歎息。
問女何所思，問女何所憶。
女亦無所思，女亦無所憶。
昨夜見軍帖，可汗大點兵。
軍書十二卷，卷卷有爺名。
阿爺無大兒，木蘭無長兄。
願爲市鞍馬，從此替爺征。
東市買駿馬，西市買鞍韉。
南市買辔頭，北市買長鞭。
朝辭爺娘去，暮宿黃河邊。
不聞爺娘喚女聲，但聞黃河流水鳴濺濣。
旦辭黃河去，暮至黑山頭。
不聞爺娘喚女聲，但聞燕山胡騎聲啾啾。
萬里赴戎機，關山度若飛。
朔氣傳金柝，寒光照鐵衣。
將軍百戰死，壯士十年歸。
歸來見天子，天子坐明堂。
策勳十二轉，賞賜百千強。
可汗問所欲，木蘭不用尚書郞。
願借明駝千里足，送兒還故鄉。
爺娘聞女來，出郭相扶將。
阿姊聞妹來，當戶理紅妝。
小弟聞姊來，磨刀霍霍向豬羊。
開我東閣門，坐我西閣床。
脫我戰時袍，著我舊時裳。
當窗理雲鬢，對鏡帖花黃。
出門看火伴，火伴皆驚惶。
同行十二年，不知木蘭是女郎。
雄兔腳撲朔，雌兔眼迷離。 30
雙兔傍地走，安能辨我是雄雌。

**VOCABULARY (1093-1160)**

1093. 啾 M: jī J: shoku ショク, soku ソク K: jeuk 즉 C: jik
Clack.[onomatopoeic]
Radical.30().

1094. 蘭 M: lán J: ran ラン K: lan 란 C: làhn
Orchid.
Here, this character is part of a plant name. Radical 140 (艸).

882a. 木蘭 M: mù lán J: mokuran もくらん K: mok lan 목란 C: muhk làahnh
Magnolia.
Here, this plant name is used as a woman's name.

1095. 析 M: zhù J: cho チョ, hi ひ K: jeo 저 C: chyúh
[Loom] shuttle.
Radical 75 (木).

1096. 思 M: sī J: shi シ, omou おもう K: sa 사 C: sī
To think, to think of, to long for.
In poetry this word often has connotations of longing for one's absent spouse or lover. Radical 61 (心).

1097. 億 M: yì J: oku オク, omou おもう K: eok 엥 C: yīk
To think, to remember, to think of.
Radical 61 (心).

1098. 昨 M: zuó J: saku サク K: jak 쟈 C: johk
Past [days], yesterday.
Radical 72 (日).

1099. 帖 M: tiě (1); tiē (2) J: chō チョウ, jō ジョウ K: che 체 (1); cheop 첩 (2) C: tip
1. Record book, legal document, proclamation. *
2. To stick, to adhere, to apply. *
The second meaning is used later on in the poem, couplet 27. Radical 50 (巾).

121a. 可汗 M: kè hán J: kakan K: ga han 가한 C: hāk hôhn
"Khan" (northern tribal ruler). [sinicization]
Note that 木蘭 is living under one of the “northern” non-Chinese dynasties that occupied the Yellow River plain from the fourth to the sixth centuries. The character 汗 (which literally means “sweat,” “perspiration”) is used here in the second tone in the sinicization of the term.

1100. 點 M: diǎn J: ten ケン K: jeom 점 C: dím
Speck, dot; to check, to count; to select, to choose.
Radical 203 (黑).

1101. 書 M: shū J: sho ショ, fumi ふみ, kaku かく K: seo 서 C: syū
Letter, book, document; calligraphy; to write calligraphy.
Radical 73 (曰).

174a. 軍書 M: jūn shū J: gunsho ぐんしょう K: gun seo 군서 C: gwān syů
Military conscription lists.

1102. 巻 M: juàn J: ken ケン, kan カン, maki まき K: gwon 권 C: gyún
Scroll; chapter (in a traditionally arranged book).
Radical 26 (卩).

1103. 爺 M: yé J: ya や, jii じい, jijii じじい K: ya 야 C: yèh
Father [informal]; master, elder.
Radical 88 (父).

1104. 阿 M: ā J: a ア K: a 아 C: a
[Colloquial prefix particle used to designate affection; often affixed to kinship terms an personal names.]
Radical 170 (阝).

1105. 児 M: ér J: ji ジ, ni 二, ko こ K: a 아 C: yìh
Son, child.
Radical 10 (儿).

1106. 鞍 M: ān J: an アン, kura くら K: an 안 C: ōn
saddle.
Radical 177 (革).

1107. 替 M: tì J: tai タイ, tei テイ, kaeru かえる, kawaru かわる K: che 체 C: tai
To replace, to exchange.
Radical 72(曰).
1108. 買  M: mǎi    J: bai    K: mae    C: máaih
To buy.
Radical 154 (貝).

1109. 鞍  M: jiān    J: sen    K: cheon 천    C: jīn
Saddle blanket.
This type of blanket was placed underneath the saddle to prevent it from
chafing the horse's back. Radical 177 (革).

1110. 鞬  M: pèi    J: hi    kutsuwa くつわ    K: bi    C: bei
Reins, horse bit.
Radical 159 (車).

1111. 鞭  M: biān    J: ben    muchi むち    K: pyeon  편    C: bīn
Horse whip, riding crop.
Radical 177 (革).

1112. 娘  M: niáng    J: jō    musume すすめ    K: nang 냥, lang 랫    C: nèuhng
Mother [informal, colloquial]; girl, woman.
Radical 38 (女).

1113. 暮  M: mù    J: bo    kure くれ, kureru くれる    K: mo 모    C: mouh
Dusk, twilight; to grow late; late.
Radical 72 (曰).

582a. 黄河  M: huáng hé    J: kōga こうが    K: hwang ha 황하    C: wòhng hòh
The Yellow River.
1114. 邊 M: biān J: hen へん, atari あたり, hotori ほとり K: byeon 변 C: bīn
Side; beside.
Radical 162 (辵).

1115. 喚 M: huàn J: kan カン, yobu よぶ K: hwan 환 C: wuhn
To call to, to summon.
Radical 30 (口).

1116. 但 M: dàn J: tan タン, dan ダン, tadashi ただし K: dan 단 C: daahn
1. Only. *
2. But, however.
The first meaning is more typical of literary Chinese, but the second meaning can be found as well, especially in more colloquial writing. Radical 9 (人).

1117. 鳴 M: míng J: mei メイ, naku なく, naru なる K: myeong 명 C: mìhng
To sing, to chirp, to make noise, to ring.
As you can see from the radical, this character originally referred to the noises made by birds, but it can apply to anything that makes noise. Radical 196 (鳥).

1118. 濡 M: jiàn J: sen セン K: cheon 천 C: chín
To splash; [descriptive of water splashing].
Radical 85 (水).

1119. 黒 M: hēi J: koku コク, kuro くろ K: heuk 黒 C: hāk
Black.
Radical 203 (黑).

1119a. 黒山 M: hēi shān J: kokuzan こくざん K: heuk san 쌍산  C: hāk sân
Mt. Black.
This mountain is located along what was China’s northeastern frontier.

1120. 燕 M: yān J: en エン  K: yeon 연  C: yīn
Yan
Name of a state in modern Hebei 河北 province; it also becomes the general name for the area. Radical 86 (火).

1120a. 燕山 M: yān shān J: enzan えんざん K: yeon san 연산  C: yīn sān
The Yan Mountains.
A range of mountains located along what was China's northeastern frontier.

1121. 啾 M: jiū J: shū  K: chu 쥐 C: jāu
[Onomatopoeic for the noises made by birds, babies, or animals.]
This term could mean the whinnying of enemy horses; however, in poetry it is applied more often to the twittering of birds, and hence, it is likely that here it refers to the seemingly “nonsensical” sounds of an alien language. Compare the English word “barbarian,” derived from a term of the ancient Greeks, who thought foreigners made a “barbar” noise when they talked. Radical 30 (口).

1122. 関 M: guān J: kan カン, seki せき  K: gwan 관  C: gwāan
Mountain pass; customs barrier; border post.
Radical 169 (門).

1123. 飛 M: fēi J: hi, tobu とぶ  K: bi 비  C: fēi
To fly.
Radical 183 (飛).

1124. 朔  M: shuò J: saku サク K: sak 삭 C: sok
Northern.
Radical 74 (月).

1125. 柝  M: tuò J: taku タク K: tak 탁 C: tok
Watchman s rattle (sounded by the night watch in military camps and in cities).
Radical 75 (木).

1126. 照  M: zhào J: shō ショウ, terasu てらす K: jo 조 C: jiu
To shine [on], to gleam.
Radical 86 (火).

1127. 鐵  M: tiě J: tetsu テス K: cheol 철 C: tit
Iron, steel
Radical 167 (金).

309b. 將軍  M: jiāng jūn J: shōgun しょうぐん K: jang gun 장군 C: jēung gwān
General; commanding officer.

6c. 天子  M: tiān zǐ J: tenshi てんし K: cheon ja 천자 C: tīn jí
Emperor (lit., “son of Heaven “).
Note that here the author uses a standard Chinese term, instead of the earlier non-Chinese 可汗.
548a. 明堂  M: míng táng  J: meidōめいどう  K: myeong dang명당  C: mihng tòhng

Hall of Light (special audience hall erected in imperial palaces).

1128. 策  M: cè  J: sakuサク  K: chaek책  C: chaak

Plcn, scheme; to plan; bamboo slips for writing (hence, “to record,” “to make a rem of”).

Radical 118 (竹).

1129. 勳  M: xūn  J: kun, isaoいさお  K: hun훈  C: fān

Merit, honor, meritorious achievement.

Synonym: 功 (613). Radical 19 (力).

1130. 轉  M: zhuǎn (1); zhuàn (2)  J: tenテン  K: jeon전  C: jyún (1); jyun(2)

1. To turn, to revolve.
2. Revolution, spin, stage, level, promotion. *

Here, meaning #2 (“stage,” “level,” or “promotion”) is being used in a technical military sense. Radical 159 (車).

668a. 尚書  M: shàng shū  J: shōshoしょうじょ  K: sang seo상서  C: seuhng syū

Secretariat (high-level government bureau).

This common bureaucratic term uses meaning 668-2 of 尚 (“to esteem,” “to honor”).

1131. 郎  M: láng  J: rōロウ  K: lang랑  C: lòhng

1. Lad, boy, young gentleman. *
2. Chief, head (used in bureaucratic titles). *
Meaning #2 occurs first, in couplet 20; meaning #1 occurs in couplet 29. 
Radical 163 (阝)

1132. 借 M: jiè J: sha シャ, shaka シャク, karu から K: cha 차 C: je
To borrow.
Radical 9 (人).

1133. 駝 M: tuó J: da ダ K: ta タ C: tòh
Camel.
Radical 187 (馬).

Home village; home.
This term employs meaning 674-2 of 郷.

1134. 郭 M: guō J: kaku カク, kuruwa くるわ K: gwak 곽 C: gwok
City walls; outer city walls.
Although this term is used vaguely to refer to city walls in general, it 
sometimes designates outer defense works, as opposed to 城 (375), the city 
wall proper. Radical 163 (邑).

1135. 扶 M: fú J: fu フ, tasukeru たすける K: bu 부 C: fûh
To support, to prop up, to aid; to lean on.
Radical 64 (手).

1136. 妝 M: zhuāng J: shō ショウ, yosoou よそおう K: jang 장 C: jōng
To put on makeup, to adorn oneself; adornment.
This word often appears as the character 祧. Radical 38 (女).
1137. 磨  M: mò  J: mi み, migaku みがく, suru する, togu とぐ  K: ma 마  C: mòh (to whet); moh (whetstone)
To rub, to scrape, to polish, to sharpen, to whet; whetstone.
Radical 112 (石).

[Onomatopoetic for the sharpening of a knife.]
In ancient Chinese, this word would have ended in a glottal stop, producing something closer to a “hwak” sound—much more appropriate than the modern Mandarin pronunciation. Radical 173 (雨).

1139. 向  M: xiàng  J: kō コウ, kyō キョウ, mukau むかう  K: hyang 향  C: heung
To face; previously, recently.
For more on this character and its usage, see note on 郷 (674). As this character can have both temporal and spatial significance. Don't confuse it with 尚 (668)—although literary Chinese writers sometimes did. Radical 30 (口).

1140. 豬  M: zhū  J: cho チョ K: jeo 제  C: jyū
Pig.
Radical 152 (豕).

1141. 開  M: kāi  J: kai カイ, hiraku ひらく, aku あく, etc.  K: gae 개  C: hōi
To open; open, opened.
Radical 169 (門).

1142. 閣  M: gé  J: kaku カク K: gak 각  C: gok
Room, chamber, pavilion.
Radical 169 (門).
1143. 床  M: chuáng    J: shō ショウ, toko とこ    K: sang 상    C: chòhng
Couch, bed, raised dais.
This word also appears frequently as 牀. Radical 53 (広).

1144. 脫  M: tuō    J: datsu ダツ, nugu むく    K: tal 탈    C: tyut
To remove, to take off, to shed; to escape [from a difficult situation].
Radical 130 (肉).

1145. 袍  M: pào    J: hō ホウ    K: po 포    C: pòuh
Long gown, long robe.
Radical 145 (衣).

1146. 著  M: zhuó    J: chaku チャク, kiru きる    K: chak 착, jeo 저    C: jeuk
To wear, to put on [clothes].
Radical 140 (艸).

1147. 舊  M: jiù    J: kyū キュウ, furu ふる    K: gu 구    C: gauh
Old, previous, former. Radical 134 (臼).

1148. 窗  M: chuāng    J: sō ソウ, mado まど    K: chang 창    C: chēung
Window.
Radical 116 (穴).

1149. 髭  M: bìn    J: bin ビン    K: bin 빈    C: ban
Side tresses, hair at the temples.
Radical 190 (髪, “hair”).
1150. 花 M: huā J: ke, ka 力, hana はな K: hwa 화 C: fā
Flower.
Radical 140 (艸).

1150a. 花黄 M: huā huáng J: kakō かこう K: hwa hwang 화황 C: fā wŏhng
"Flower yellow". (a yellow makeup powder spread on the forehead).

1151. 看 M: kàn J: kan カン, miru みる K: gan 간 C: hon
To see, to look at.
Radical 109 (目).

1152. 伴 M: bàn J: han ハン, ban バン, tomonau ともなう K: ban 반 C: buhn
Companion; to accompany.
Radical 9 (人).

749a. 火伴 M: huǒ bàn J: kaban かばん K: hwa ban 화반 C: fŏ buhn
Army chums; army squadron (a 火 consisted of five men).

1153. 惶 M: huáng J: kō コウ K: hwang 황 C: wŏhng
Afraid, surprised, astonished.
Radical 61 (心).

195a. 女郎 M: nǚ láng J: jorō じょろう K: nyeo rang 녀랑 C: neuih lŏhng
Young woman (possibly with a punning sense: “female boy”).

1154. 雄 M: xióng J: yū コウ, osu おす K: ung 楹 C: hùhng
Virile, masculine; male (of a species).

Radical 172 (隹).

1155. 兔  M: tù  J: to ト, *usagi* うさぎ  K: to ト  C: tou
Rabbit, hare.
Radical 10 (儿).

Foot, leg.
Radical 130 (肉).

To beat, to strike, to pound.
Here, this character is part of a binome. Radical 64 (手).

1157a. 撲朔  M: pū shuò  J: bossaku ぽっさく  K: bak sak 박삭  C: pok sok
To leap about (?).
This term seems to be a poetic binome, but its meaning is unclear. See 32.7 below.

Female (of a species).
Whereas 雄 (1154) is quite often used figuratively (bold, strong, forceful, etc.), 雌 tends to be used only as a technical indication of female gender or sex. Radical 172 (隹).

To wander, to be lost.
Radical 162 (辵).

1160. 雙 M: shuāng J: sō ソウ K: ssang 쌍 C: sēung
Pair, couple.

Radical 172 (隹).

**COMMENTARY**

32.1. Note on style and metrics: This ballad was composed sometime between the fourth and sixth centuries, in north China (then suffering under a series of short-lived and violent non-Chinese dynasties). It is written in early Chinese ballad style, with folk-like repetition and dialogue. Those who know Mandarin will also notice that in this latest of lesson text we have studied, there appear many of the words (especially colloquial expressions) that are found even today in ordinary speech.

Most Chinese poems are written in couplets (with even lines rhyming), and poems tend to be written exclusively in lines of either five characters or seven characters. However, folk poetry sometimes varies its line lengths. Whereas this ballad is basically written in five-character lines, there are extra characters in couplets 12, 14, 20, 21, 24, 29, and 31.

The rhyme changes several times in the course of this poem; modern Mandarin pronunciation, though often different from the ancient Chinese, still allows one to more or less hear the changes. Rhyme groups here fall into the following couplets: 1-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12, 13-14, 15-17, 18-29, and 30-31.

32.2. 聞女何所思(couplet 3): The flexibility of the character 女 leads to some ambiguity of meaning here and in following lines. Here, it suggests some observer addressing 木蘭: “I ask you, girl, is there something/someone you're thinking of?” This possibility is made more likely by the occasional substitution of 女 for the character 汝 (525).

Since 思 can mean “to long for” as well as “to think about” (especially in poetry), it is likely that the speaker is asking 木蘭 if she is thinking of an absent lover. (Other ballads of this era describe lonely women thinking of their absent lovers or husbands as they work over their looms).

32.3. 卷卷有爺名(couplet 6): Reduplication of a noun (especially in poetry) is used to emphasize inclusivity: “Every single scroll...” Since every family was
required to contribute an able-bodied man to the army, there is no one in 木蘭's family who can go except her father.

32.4. 策勳十二轉(couplet 19): “Her recorded merit [showed] twelve degrees.” This refers to meritorious deeds that resulted in promotion—in the course of the war, 木蘭 has been promoted twelve times. Note also that 強 is used here in an early colloquial sense, meaning “over,” “and more.” Less colloquial literary Chinese would have used 餘 (301) instead.

32.5. 木蘭不用...(couplets 20-21): These lines are 木蘭's speech to the 可汗. Note the inside joke with the reader in the last line: “To see me, your son/lad home.”

32.6. 開我東閣門(couplet 25): Although the folk style is often very sloppy in the way it uses pronouns, the use of 我 here suggests that 木蘭 is speaking now (and it is likely that she is speaking until the end of the poem).

32.7. 雄兔腳撲朔...(couplets 30-31): Here, we have reference to some bit of rabbit lore that is no longer known. The main point is obvious, though: Whereas those who know rabbits well may be able to detect the difference in the sexes, when they're running together in the fields, no one can tell the male from the female.

Vocabulary Hints
當(187-1) 織(793) 機(848-1 and 848-3) 息(545-1) 夜(282)
軍(174) 市(522) 頭(496-2) 從(625-3) 征(854-1)
駿(245) 但(590) 流(222) 胡(925) 騎(611-1)
赴(984) 戎(756-2) 度(944-3) 氣(1049) 金(583-1)
寒(901) 光(403) 壯士(633a, L17) 賞(822) 明(548-5)
送(1051) 還(198) 衣(833) 理(44) 雲(914)
鏡(1076) 眼(647) 徒(777) 地(354) 走(869)
安(620-1)
Character List
i. 但兒卷向思暮書照燕策舊花著轉迷開關雄飛鳴(20)
ii. 惜勳床憶扶昨朔看脫蘭買鬡邊郎郭鬌阿雌雙鞭鬡點(23)
iii. 伴兔啾妝窗鐵霍鞍(8)
iv. 嘅喚娘帖惶撲替杼潵燇爺磨腳袍豬篔駝(17)