

## X. Ast. (uncertain grave). (Transcript only.)

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
 ○ ○ ○ ○ 淚 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
 ○ ○ 悲 ○ 垂 路 一 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 日 元  
 ○ ○ 號 殞 珠 摧 朝 難 作 ○ ○ 已 年  
 ○ ○ 鄉 逝 更 泣 物 留 室 俱 也 亥 歲  
 ○ ○ 閩 卽 添 仰 化 致 之 備 斯 除 次  
 ○ 宗 痛 以 斑 思 掩 使 棟 百 乃 薩 戊  
 ○ 族 惜 其 竹 嘉 逐 冬 櫟 行 稟 納 辰  
 ○ 號 鳴 日 春 德 風 栢 何 無 性 王 九  
 ○ 咷 呼 殯 秋 尚 光 摧 期 虧 純 雅 月  
 之 隣 哀 葬 一 想 隣 柯 逝 爲 和 者 壬  
 土 里 哉 斯 百 餘 里 春 川 鄉 景 西 午  
 尔 痛 其 陵 有 風 悲 蓀 靡 里 行 州 朔

The *chi-hai* day, [the eighteenth] of the ninth moon, the first day of which is *jên-wu*, in the *mou-ch'ên* year, the first [of *Tsung-chang*<sup>1</sup>].

The Ch'u-sa-na<sup>2</sup> Wang Ya-chê was [a native of . . .<sup>3</sup>] in Hsi-chou. His natural disposition was simple and friendly. His illustrious conduct<sup>4</sup> . . . , . . . both perfect. In all his acts there was no deficiency. He was the . . . of his village, the pillar<sup>5</sup> of his house: how could it be anticipated that he would pass away like running water? Not . . . , . . . hard to detain, causing the winter cypress<sup>6</sup> to be destroyed root and branch, and the spring shoots . . . One morning he was metamorphosed<sup>7</sup>, following the play of wind and light: the neighbouring hamlets mourned . . . , beating their breasts and weeping on the . . .<sup>8</sup> highways, thinking with admiration of his noble virtues, meditating on his exemplary character<sup>9</sup>, dropping . . . tears like pearls, and adding to the number of speckled bamboos<sup>10</sup>. He passed away at the age of a hundred and . . .<sup>11</sup>, and on the same day he was encoffined and buried in this tomb<sup>12</sup>.

. . . uttered cries of lamentation,

The whole countryside was overwhelmed with grief.

Alack and alas!

<sup>1</sup> 28 October, 668. Read 總章元年 . . . 十八日, etc. The day of the month is deducible, of course, from the cyclical name *chi-hai*; the reign-period from the fact that no other in the T'ang dynasty begins with the year *mou-ch'ên*.

<sup>2</sup> Taking Ch'u-sa-na as some foreign title. Or it might be a place-name: 'Ya-chê, Prince of Ch'u-sa-na'. In any case, it is clear that he was of non-Chinese origin.

<sup>3</sup> The missing words at the top of the third column are probably 高昌縣人: 'a native of Kao-ch'ang Hsien'. Cf. Nos. VIII and XII.

<sup>4</sup> A phrase borrowed from Odes, II. 7. iv. 5. It is usually interpreted as 'the great road', but here the meaning adopted in 辭源 *Tz'ü yüan*, 辰 36, seems preferable.

<sup>5</sup> Literally, 'the lesser and greater beams' forming the roof.

<sup>6</sup> The deceased is compared with the evergreen cypress on account of his hale old age: see *Lun yü*, IX. 27.

<sup>7</sup> A Taoist euphemism for death.

<sup>8</sup> The missing word is probably 巷 'lanes'.

<sup>9</sup> The phrase 餘風 occurs in *Shu ching*, V. xxiv. 8. Here it seems to mean the moral influence exerted by Wang which continued even after his death.

<sup>10</sup> When the Emperor Shun died at 蒼梧 Ts'ang-wu (the modern Wuchow in Kwangsi), his two consorts went thither to mourn for him, and wept so bitterly that their tears soaked into the bamboos and gave them a speckled appearance. This speckled variety of bamboo is still common in many parts of Hunan and Kwangsi.

<sup>11</sup> The second figure is missing.

<sup>12</sup> What follows is in verse. Cf. No. VIII.