关关雎鸠 - 《诗经》，周南

"Guan, guan!" Go the Fish Hawks
From The Book of Poetry, "Songs from Southern Zhou"

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(繁體版 Complicated Chinese Script, http://www.tsoidug.org/Literary/Guan_GuanComp.pdf)
(简体版见 For Simplified Chinese Script See: http://www.tsoidug.org/Literary/Guan_Guan_Simp.pdf)

[注：这是古典《诗经》著名的第一首诗。《诗经》源於公元约600年，而首部是从中国各地收集的诗歌。这首诗来自周国南方。看来自像无可争论，是一首爱情歌，但是传统儒家学者把它解释为比喻君王（男方）对贤臣（女方）的渴望。]

[Note: this is the famous first poem of the classic Book of Poetry, which dates from the 600's B.C.E. and the first part of which is a collection of songs from each of the areas of China. This poem is one of the songs from Southern Zhou. It appears to be a love song pure and simple, but has been traditionally interpreted by Confucian scholars as, like the other love songs in The Book of Poetry, another allegorical allusion to the desire of the sovereign (the male party) for virtuous ministers (the female party).]

TEXT原文

(拼音四声 4 tones in Pinyin denoted as 1: di-, 2: di`, 3: di^, 4: di`)  

關關雎鸠，在河之洲。

"Guan, guan!" go the fish hawks, on an islet in the river.

窈窕淑女，君子好逑。

The elegant virtuous maiden - the noble person would love to marry her.

參差荇菜1，左右流之。

The uneven water spinach1 - the water flows to the left and right.

1 荇菜 xing` cai`: this is Limnanthemum nymphoides, a wild water plant with yellow flowers and round leaves. In ancient China this plant is picked from the water and eaten as a vegetable. See http://www.mandarintools.com/cgi-bin/wordlook.pl.
窈窕淑女，寤寐求之。

yao^ tiao^ shu- nv^ wu` mei` qiu' zhi-
The elegant virtuous maiden - day and night seek her.

求之不得，寤寐思服\(^2\)。

qiu' zhi- bu` de` wu` mei` si- fu'
You seek but cannot get her; you think\(^2\) day and night about her.

悠哉悠哉，辗转反侧。

you- zai- you- zai- zhan^ zhuan` fan^ zhai`
Long, O long is the time; lying down you turn this way and that.

参差荇菜，左右採之。

can- ci- xing` cai` zuo^ you` cai^ zhi-
The uneven water spinach - pick it on the left and right.

窈窕淑女，琴瑟\(^3\) 友之。

yao^ tiao^ shu- nv^ qin` se` you^ zhi-
The elegant virtuous maiden - with the small and large zithers\(^3\) befriend her.

參差荇菜，左右毛之。

can- ci- xing` cai` zuo^ you` mao` zhi-
The uneven water spinach - pluck it on the left and right.

窈窕淑女，鐘鼓樂之。

yao^ tiao^ shu- nv^ zhong- gu^ le` zhi-
The elegant virtuous maiden - with the bell and drum gladden her.

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\(^2\) An ancient meaning of the word *fu' 服* is to think about. See *Ci Hai* (“Sea of Terms” 《辭海》), Shanghai 1989, p. 1697.

\(^3\) Both the *qin' 琴* and the *se' 瑟* are plucked stringed Chinese musical instruments comparable to a zither, with the *qin' 琴* being smaller and having only seven strings, hence the "small zither", and the *se' 瑟* being larger and having twenty-five strings, hence the "large zither".