

All newly fabricated characters are

purely demonstrations and should not be construed as an endorsement of a particular way of writing the character. As the abundance of explanatory notes will make clear, the kind of simplification enumerated in Appendix A still requires that a large number of specific choices be made. I ask that judgements be made on the basis of the system as a whole, not the perceived good or badness of any specific simplification, as these can always be rectified individually.

Drinking Alone Under the Moon

Li Bai

月下獨酌²¹

月下獨酌²¹

李白

李白

花間²²一壺酒²³，

花間一壺酒，

獨酌無²⁴相親；

獨酌無相親；

舉²⁵杯邀明²⁶月，

把酒邀明月，

對影成²⁷三人。

對影成三人。

月既²⁸不解飲，

月既不解飲，

影徒隨我身；

影徒隨我身；

暫伴月將影，

暫伴月將影，

21 The phonetic 勺 "spoon" may make a semantic contribution to the meaning "drink, pour", in which case it should be left unaltered.

22 This character is taken as an enlargement of 聞. 門 is a possible phonetic component, but in the absence of strong positive evidence I have not treated it as such, partially because this would leave 月 as a nonsensical semantic sign.

23 I do not know whether 酉 is indeed an enlargement of 酒, but this seems plausible.

24 The ancient variant revived as the PRC simplification reduces stroke count nicely.

25 This character is a nightmare to analyze. To avoid strange results, I have taken it as a normal *xingsheng* character. However, it could be that the phonetic contributes meaning (in which case the character should be left alone, or perhaps altered only to clarify the 手 radical by bringing it out front and to incorporate any simplifications of the phonetic component), or that the character is an enlargement of its phonetic. In this case, the character would be merged into 與 and then possibly into 昇. This would result in both 舉 and 與 being written 昇, although another possibility would be to use the PRC simplification of 與 and write both as 与.

26 I have sidestepped the question of whether to analyze this as a *xingsheng* character on the basis that it is transparent as a semantic composite and is popularly understood as such.

27 Following the algorithm in this case adds strokes, and may not be desirable.

28 There is a slight chance of semantic input from the phonetic component here. Also, the signfic could quasi-usefully be broken down into 白, although the appearance of 白 would be misleading.

行樂須及春²⁹。

行樂須及春。

我歌月徘徊³⁰，

我歌月徘徊，

我舞影零亂；

我舞影零亂；

醒時同交歡，

醒時同交歡，

醉後各分散³¹。

醉後各分散。

永結無情遊，

永結無情遊，

相期邈雲漢。

相期邈雲漢。

How Can I Help Thinking of You?

Liu Bannong

教我如³²何不想他？

教我如何不想他？

劉³³半³⁴農³⁵

~~劉半農~~ 劉半農

天上飄著些³⁶微³⁷雲，

天上飄著些微雲，

地上吹著些微風。

地上吹著些微風。

啊³⁸...

Y...

29 I have followed the algorithm here, taking 屯 as a hybrid phonetic/semantic sign. My analysis may be quite wrong, resulting in a different result for the algorithm. In any case, there may be a case here to deviate from to algorithm to create a compromise like ~~屯~~ or ~~屯~~.

30 A possible enlargement of 回, though I have not treated it as such.

31 The use of 榦 for its enlargement solves the problem the pathological left side of this character, but creates confusion with the use of 林.

32 女 may be phonetic here, but I have left it in the absence of positive evidence.

33 Keeping two semantic signs may be overkill here.

34 半 is here returned to 八 + 牛.

35 This character should be left alone according to the algorithm, but is quite complex, and is probably best altered. Options include the PRC simplification, creating a new *xingsheng* character, and changing the character to reflect its slightly more logical etymology.

36 The status of 此 and its internal structure are unclear to me, and I have left it alone.

37 It is possible that a modernized version of an ancient form could work here.

38 It hardly seems necessary to maintain the mouth radical, considering if there are only phonetic symbols present, the lack of a radical creates the same expectation as the mouth radical.

微風吹動了我的頭髮³⁹， 吹動了我的頭髮，
 教我如何不想他？ 教我如何不想他？
 月光戀愛著海洋， 月光忽忽在湧流，
 海洋戀愛著月光。 湧流忽忽在月光。

啊...

這⁴⁰般蜜也似的銀夜⁴¹， 這般蜜也似的銀夜，
 教我如何不想他？ 教我如何不想他？
 水面落花慢慢流， 水面荇荇慢慢流，
 水底魚兒慢慢游。 水底魚兒慢慢游。

啊...

燕子你說些什麼話？ 燕子你說些什麼話？
 教我如何不想他？ 教我如何不想他？
 枯⁴²樹在冷風裡搖， 枯樹場場冷風裡搖，
 野火在暮色中燒。 野火場場暮色中燒。

啊...

西天還有⁴³些兒殘霞， 西天湧又些兒殘霞，
 教我如何不想他？ 教我如何不想他？

39 Although not indicated by the algorithm, a simplification of the radical to, say, 彡, might be called for.

40 The structure of this character is unclear to me.

41 My analysis here is more convenient than satisfying.

42 It may be worthwhile to violate the algorithm to preserve this character, though I have not done so.

43 I have interpreted this, perhaps wrongly, as pure *xingsheng*.

44 This may be taking the merging of etymologically related characters to a ridiculous extreme, but I include it for the sake of consistency and whimsy.