

Weekly Written Response #8:
Selections from Medieval Chinese Literature

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Reflection for “*Selections from Medieval Chinese Literature-The Sound of Autumn*”

The poem "Sound of Autumn" describes autumn as the minister of punishment and how this season represents stern execution. The reason why the author had such a sad impression of autumn was actually a reflection of his state of mind at that time. He used to be an official in the palace, but because he had been devalued and saw the changes in the dynasty and the inaction of the powerful people, he felt that people are like the fading leaves of plants in autumn because life is so fleeting, and we should always reflect on ourselves. There are two kinds of autumn mentioned in the poem. The author starts with the sad and sorrowful sound of autumn to build up the momentum for the "sounding autumn" that follows. Then he moves from the destruction of plants and trees through autumn to the physical and mental suffering caused by human sorrow. This is the "silent autumn". I think it is interesting for the author to use the seasons to reflect his state of mind and to show that writing can bring out not only superficial things but also profound meanings. Autumn has always been my favorite season in my heart. When the weather starts to cool, the maple leaves turn yellow, and everything has a lazy afternoon atmosphere. That is why I chose this poem as a response because I did not expect anyone to have such a different view.