

.....  
**Professor Yeh Chia-ying**  
Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*  
Citation

Professor Yeh Chia-ying, style Chia-ling, was born into a traditional family in Beijing. She graduated from Fu-jen University with a major in Chinese literature, and was a pupil of the poetry master Ku Sui. Professor Yeh is a world-renowned sinologist, and, in particular, an eminent master of *shih* and *tz'u* studies. She had taught at National Taiwan University and the University of British Columbia (where she retired as Professor Emerita), and has been a visiting professor at many universities in the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, the United States and Canada. Professor Yeh is currently Director of the Institute of Chinese Classical Cultural Studies at Nankai University in Tianjin, as well as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Literature of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Yeh has been engaged in the study and teaching of Chinese *shih* and *tz'u* poetry for most of her life, and is especially adept in applying modern Western literary concepts to the elucidation of classical Chinese poetry in a flexible, undogmatic manner. Her critical work integrates intuitive understanding and analytical precision, often resulting in unique, masterly perspectives, bringing difficult and elusive concepts to light in crystalline language. What is more, her surpassing talent and intelligence is not only blended with an elegant felicity of expression, but also refined by a lifetime's trials of experiential hardship, uncertain peregrination, and even domestic tragedy. The baptism of life's vicissitudes has elevated her innate sensitivity, enabling her to reach beyond the normal range of feeling and perception in her critical writings, delving deep into the artistic and cultural essence of Chinese literature. With lively and precise language, she inspires her readers to assimilate the creative process and inner spirit of classical *shih* and *tz'u*, the sense and sensibility of ancient Chinese poets, and from there to reflect on human nature and existence itself. To date Professor Yeh has published over two dozen book-length critical works in the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United States, many of which have become modern classics in *shih* and *tz'u* criticism. They include, for instance, *Chia-ling lun-shih ts'ung-kao*, *Chia-ling lun-tz'u ts'ung-kao*, *Chung-kuo ku-tien shih-ko p'ing-lun chi*, *Chung-kuo tz'u-hsüeh te hsien-tai kuan*, *Ku-tien shih-tz'u chiang-yen chi*, *T'ang-Sung tz'u ming-chia lun-chi*, *Wang Kuo-wei chi ch'i wen-hsüeh p'i-p'ing*, *Tz'u-hsüeh ku-chin t'an*, *Wo-te shih-tz'u tao-lu*, etc. In addition, Professor Yeh has also published *Chia-ling shih-tz'u kao* and *Chia-ling tza-wen chi*, creative works in classical poetry and modern prose. A relatively comprehensive 24-volume set of her collected works has been published in Taiwan.

Besides serving as a bridge between past and present, China and the West in her critical writings, Professor Yeh is also a talented and sensitive poet who goes beyond most critics in testing critical knowledge with artistic praxis. Dating back to her teenage days, Professor Yeh's poetry is marked by both delicate restraint and heroic exuberance, exuding a dynamic spirit through a tender sensibility. Here are a few examples of her blend of vigour and gentleness:

Building a house doubtless requires a lot of timber;  
Who'd know a scattered tree carries native roots?  
How can a scholar find a way to serve her country?  
It's hard to forget Li Bai and Du Fu's poetic soul.

Beyond the seas drifts a longing for the motherland;  
Where in the world can a kindred spirit be found?  
One day, if my wish to return home is fulfilled,  
This old horse still aims to travel afar.

I love to fix my gaze from the high mansion:  
The sea is vast and the sky remote;  
A stretch of blue waves reaches afar.  
Faintly, a fairy isle seems visible;  
A lone sail intends to search for it.

[stanza break]

The bright, tender moon comes to pillow-side:  
In nine nurseries I've grown orchids,  
Unable to shelve my longing for the flowers' scent.  
Tidings of my old home tarry for the will of spring;  
Daily I reckon the moment of blossom in my heart.

In the Chinese cultural tradition, poets of an idealistic bent are also intellectuals with a spirit that "cannot but be strong, for the responsibility is heavy and the road is long." The above poems reflect precisely such a sense of duty to society, country, and life itself. As an intellectual, Professor Yeh's sentiments and endeavours are especially admirable in her educational work. During a teaching career that showed continuous expansion into new domains over five decades, there have been many laudable

episodes worthy of special mention. One was Professor Yeh's return to the Chinese mainland to set up an Institute of Chinese Classical Cultural Studies at Nankai University upon her retirement in Canada in 1990. Throughout a convoluted course of twists and turns, Professor Yeh not only laboured as the Institute's Director, but also donated half of her retirement pension to set up a student scholarship fund, devoting her evening years to passing on the Chinese literary and cultural heritage. In addition to a succession of lecture tours and critical writings, Professor Yeh has edited classical poetry learning materials specifically for teenagers and children, as well as prepared tapes of poetry reading and chanting, dedicating herself to the spiritual and artistic cultivation of the younger generations. Even today, well aware of her advanced years, Professor Yeh is still shuttling across the seas and continents, applying herself to the transmission of Chinese literature and culture.

Mr Chairman, Professor Yeh Chia-ying is veritably a shining example of the modern intellectual. Whether as scholar, educator or poet, she has made a distinguished contribution to the promotion of Chinese literature and culture. It is with the veneration of beholding a lofty mountain that I present Professor Yeh Chia-ying to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*.

# 葉嘉瑩教授

## 榮譽文學博士

### 贊辭

葉嘉瑩教授，號迦陵。生於燕京舊家，畢業於輔仁大學國文系，是詩詞名家顧隨先生的入室弟子。葉教授是世界知名的漢學大家，更是詩詞研究的一代宗師。曾任教於國立台灣大學及不列顛哥倫比亞大學（現為該校榮休終身教授），又歷任中國大陸、台灣、美國和加拿大多所大學的客座教授，現任南開大學中華古典文化研究所所長，亦是加拿大皇家學會院士及中國社會科學院文學研究所名譽研究員。

葉教授一生從事中國古典詩詞的教研，擅長以深入淺出的文字，把當代西方文學概念融匯、應用於中國古典詩詞的探討和詮釋，以直悟配合精析，見解獨到，卓然成家。葉教授天資敏慧，才思出眾，加上典雅細膩的文筆，以及半生顛沛流離、漂泊異鄉、浮世坎坷的憂患經歷，使她在談詩論詞之際，往往感常人所未感，悟常人所未悟，深入中國文學的藝術和文化精髓，並以精確生動的語言，使讀者感發興起，領會中國詩詞的創作過程和精神情韻，以至古代詩人的才性與品格，進而透視世變，深省人心。葉教授著作等身，已經在中、台、港、美刊行的論著包括《迦陵論詩叢稿》、《迦陵論詞叢稿》、《中國古典詩歌評論集》、《中國詞學的現代觀》、《古典詩詞講演集》、《唐宋词名家論集》、《王國維及其文學批評》、《詞學古今談》、《我的詩詞道路》等二十餘種，其中不少已成為現代詩詞學的經典著作。至於創作方面，則另有《迦陵詩詞稿》及《迦陵雜文集》。目前比較完整的合集，有出版於台灣的《葉嘉瑩作品集》二十四冊。

除了在治學方面博通今古，融合中西以外，葉教授更是一位才氣縱橫、情思深邈的詩人，證真知於實踐，尤為難得。葉教授自十餘歲起便開始寫詩填詞，她的詩風並兼婉約靈秀和豪壯激越，透英氣於淑襟，具剛柔之雙美。下面是一些例子：

構廈多材豈待論，誰知散木有鄉根。書生報國成何計，難忘詩中李杜魂。

海外空能懷故國，人間何處有知音。他年若遂還鄉願，驥老猶存萬里心。

愛向高樓凝望眼，海闊天遙，一片滄波遠。彷彿神山如可見，孤帆便擬追尋遍。

明月多情來枕畔，九畹滋蘭，難忘芳菲願。消息故園春意晚，花期日日心頭算。

中華文化傳統中懷著理想的詩人，在精神上也是「不可以不弘毅，任重而道遠」的士人。以上的作品，正展現出一種對社會、家國和人生的責任感。葉教授這份讀書人的情懷和承擔，在教育工作方面尤堪敬仰。在她超過半個世紀，目前仍然不斷開拓新領域的教學生涯中，有不少特別足以稱頌的美事。其中一項，是葉教授一九九零年於加拿大退休後，回國成立南開

大學中華古典文化研究所。在幾番周折的過程中，葉教授不但一直擔任所長至今，而且更把自己一半的退休金捐出，成立獎學金栽培後輩，全心全意地將一生的餘力，獻給中國文學和文化的承傳工作。除了巡迴講學、著書立說之外，葉教授更特別為青少年和孩童編印了學習古典詩歌的材料，做了誦讀和吟唱詩歌的錄音帶，致力於下一代的心靈及藝術培養。直到今天，自謂「老之已至」的葉教授，仍然穿梭於兩岸三地和五湖四海之間，為中國文學和文化的承傳而努力。

主席先生，葉嘉瑩教授無疑是現代知識分子的典範。不論作為學者、教育家或者詩人，葉教授都對中國文學和文化的弘揚作出了卓越的貢獻。我謹懷著「高山仰止」的尊敬心情，恭請主席先生頒授榮譽文學博士學位予葉嘉瑩教授。