

## Hongri Yuan

Translated by

Yuanbing Zhang

### Golden Giant

Who is sitting in the heavens and staring at me?  
Who is sitting in the golden palace of tomorrow?  
Who is smiling?  
Golden staff in his hand  
flashes a dazzling light.  
Ah, the flashes of lightning-  
interweave over my head...  
I walked into the crystalline corridor of the time-  
I want to open  
the doors of gold.  
Lines of words in the sun-  
Singing to me in the sky-  
I want to find  
the volumes of gold poems  
on the shores of the new century  
to build the city of gold.

Laozi with rosy cheek and white hair-  
Smiles at me in the clouds,  
A phoenix dances trippingly  
and carries with it, a book of *gold*.

Lines of mysterious words  
made my eyes drunken,  
countless giant figures  
came towards me from the clouds.

Ages through seventy million years  
emerged leisurely before my eyes,  
the cities of gold  
surrounded with crystalline gardens.

A sky of sapphire  
sent out a colorful miraculous brightness,  
onto green hills of jasper,  
dragons and phoenixes were flying

Exquisite pagoda-  
with majestic palace of gold,  
the airy pavilions and pagodas  
stood within the purple-red clouds

Laughing girls  
riding the colorful husbands and wives,  
propitious clouds  
sprinkling the colorful flowers.

I opened the door to a golden palace,  
saw the rows of scrolls of *gold*,  
a giant who had the haloes all over his body-  
there was a golden sun over his head.

Smiling, he picked up the books of gold  
recited the sacred verses-  
Intoxicated with the miraculous wonderful words  
I was enveloped with purple-gold flames.

A golden lotus  
bloomed beneath my feet,  
lifted up my body,  
wafting it up out of the golden palace

The red clouds  
drifted by my side,  
in the far distance I saw  
another golden paradise

the leisurely bells  
calling to me.  
There- countless giants  
roamed in a golden garden,

with skies of ruby,  
rounds of sun  
like the golden lotus  
blooming in the sky,

intoxicating fragrances of flowers  
like sweet good wine,  
golden trees  
laden with the dazzling diamonds,

wonderful flowers  
in bloom for a thousand years,  
this land of gold  
inlaid with the gems.

The pavilions of gold were  
strewn at random, clustered in multitude.  
Someone was playing chess  
Someone was chatting...

Quaint clothes  
colossal statures  
miraculous eyes-  
happy and comfortable.

White cranes  
flying in the sky,  
husbands and wives  
crowing leisurely.

Beside an old man I approached  
as if he were waiting for me  
in this golden pavilion.  
He opened an ancient sword casket-

A glittering ancient sword  
engraved with abstruse words and expressions,  
which were clear and transparent, like lightning,  
dimly glowed with purplish-red patterns.

He told me a metaphysical epic:  
The sword came from nine billions years ago,  
made from hundreds of millions of suns.  
It was a sacred sword of the sun-

It could pierce the rocks of time,  
open layer after layer of skies,  
let the sacred fires forge the heaven and the earth  
into golden paradises.

The old man's eyes were deep, archaic, difficult to discern-  
Dimly showing the joyful flames.  
He let me take this sword  
to fly towards a new golden paradise:

The huge golden lotus floated leisurely-  
I flew among the skies, for a thousand miles.  
Huge pyramids  
loomed impressively in front of my eyes

Mountainous figures of giants  
walked about in front of the pyramid,  
the huge pyramids of gold  
far taller than the mountains.

The giant trees of gold  
like a forest  
stood in the sky  
laden with the stars.

The multi-colored propitious clouds  
were like a colossal bird  
in a silvery sky,  
crowing joyfully.

I came to the front of a pyramid-  
a door was opening wide for me,  
a group of blond giants  
sat with smiles in the grand palace.

An old and great holy man  
recited in monotone.  
The temple was painted with the magical symbols  
and giant portraits of Gods.

The palace was full of silvery white light  
blooming with magnificent flowers,  
a peal of wonderful mellifluous bells  
that made one suddenly forget all time.

I heard an immemorial verse  
that was written hundreds of millions of years past,  
relating countless eras of giants,  
the creation of the holy kingdoms of heaven.

Their wisdom was sacred and great  
knowing, omnisciently, the past and the future of the universe.  
They flew freely among the skies  
landed on the millions of planets in the universe.

They altered time per one's pleasure,  
encompassed other powers, such as-  
turning stone into gold,  
making gold bloom into flowers.

They were like the bulbous sun,  
which could erupt with sacred flames  
let all things blaze in *raging* flames..  
Manifest imagination into reality..

They landed on planets  
establishing golden paradises  
and with their magical, cryptic wisdom  
built platinum cities.

I saw the splendid words  
spied from the volume of *gold*  
and the magical wonderful halos  
rotating like colorful lightning in the sky.

I came to another wonderful planet,  
saw a massive monumental edifice of platinum,  
the whole city, an intricate work of art  
emanating, softly, a brilliant white light.

A huge round square  
encased unearthly works.  
Giants of great stature  
came and went leisurely in the street.

They wore spartan, common clothing  
covering their bodies,  
all with smiles upon their faces,  
both men and women looked beautiful.

They spoke a wonderful language  
intriguing and pleasant as welcome music.  
Some of them travelled by spaceship  
flying around silently in the sky.

I walked into a towering edifice of platinum-  
saw a magnificent hall,  
its platinum walls were inlaid with gems,  
among which was a row of unusual instruments.

Their eyes were like bright springs  
and they wore multi-colored clothes.  
Some were operating the instruments.  
Some were talking softly among themselves.

I saw a fascinating picture, a simulacrum that  
drew giant planets,  
arranged cities on those planets,  
with crystal gardens.

I opened a crystal door-  
noticed a group of men and women, who were happily,  
singing softly,  
with glittering books of *gold* in their hands.

Arrangements of flowers and glasses filled of golden wine  
sat on the huge round table.  
Golden walls were sparkling  
carved with all kinds of wonderful images.

I saw a demure girl,  
with sparkling golden halo above her head,  
adorned in a lengthy purple-gold dress  
peerless in its quality.

Pages- were marked with cryptic glyphs  
or lines of ancient magic words or symbols,  
each of their books were made of gold  
inexplicably constructed in golden crystal.

I understood their euphonious songs-  
*They were singing the sacred love*  
*They were singing great ancestors*  
*They were recounting the civilization of the universe*

Gardens filled their city, everywhere,  
surrounded with the sweet rivers.  
The whole earth was a piece of jade,  
the clay, a translucent layer of golden sands.

I saw enormous bright, white spheres  
suspended high above the city,  
emanating outwards a dazzling light-  
illuminating the skies and earth- bright as the crystal

The towering, great buildings stood in great numbers  
As if carved by a singular piece of platinum.  
Doves and colorful birds  
were flying among the heavens.

A mono-train was  
flying swiftly through the sky,  
the streets were illuminated in bright white,  
and any moving vehicle could not have been seen.

These people's bodies were unusually strong.  
Playing a wonderful game-  
they piled up the pieces of great stones  
arranging into grotesque works.

Similar to giant eyes  
and ancient totems,  
there were strange birds  
covered with lightning feathers.

I saw a couple of tall lovers-  
aviators, riding in their spaceship.  
Their eyes were quiet and bright,  
colorful halo around their bodies.

This wonderful space was gyrating leisurely  
like a huge, resplendent crystal.  
I said goodbye to the unusual city,  
towards a space of golden light.

The cities flashed in the sky.  
I flew over the layers of the sky again  
and I saw a new-fangled world:  
the multi-colored city of crystal.

The high towers were exquisitely carved  
displaying multi-colored pearls,  
layers of its eave painted with dragon and phoenix,  
hung with singing golden bells.

The earth was a crystal garden,  
the palaces were limpid and crystal,  
huge mountains were like a transparent gems  
lined with the golden trees.

I saw the tall giants-  
who wore their purple clothes,  
with heads of round suns,  
bodies enshrined with halos.

They sat up in the main halls  
singing a mellifluous song.  
Some were roaming leisurely in the garden.  
Some were summoning the birds in the sky.

The crystalline airy pavilions and pagodas  
were beset with jewels and agates,  
a huge jewel on the spire,  
shining golden lights.

I saw a holy giant  
sitting in the middle of a main hall  
the purple-gold flame, flashed around his body,  
which filled with the whole majestic main hall.

Full-bodied fragrance filled the hall  
like a cup of refreshing wine.  
Solemn expression was merciful and joyful,  
a huge book was in his hand.

The hall was full of men and women  
listening quietly to the psalms of the saints,  
the lotuses were floating in the sky  
where the smiling giants sat.

The golden light poured down from the sky  
bathing the whole of this crystal kingdom.  
The jewels above the giant towers-  
the golden suns.

The golden walls of a golden tower  
were carved with the lines of *golden* words I had glimpsed-  
hovering around the dragons and phoenixes,  
as if they were intoning the inspiring poems.

The smiling giants in the sky-  
With wide halo flashing around their bodies,  
were each dignified and tranquil,  
floating in the golden translucent sky.

I flew over this crystal kingdom,  
saw a vast golden mountain in the distance  
sending out the brilliant lights in the sky  
where the propitious clouds were blossoming.

This was a *golden giant*  
sitting in the golden translucent sky  
his body composed of thousands of millions of constellations  
the golden sun rotating on his forehead.

He lit up the whole marvellous universe-  
the kingdoms of heaven shone in the sky.  
Here there was no the sky nor earth,  
lights of pure gold emanated in every direction.

The smiling giants were sitting  
on the *gold*-engraved pavilions.  
The pavilions levitated in the translucent sky  
shining the layers of purple-gold light.

A scene of multi-colored translucent mountains,  
propitious clouds floating in the heavens,  
large wonderful flowers blooming in the mountain peaks,  
trees of pure light.

A river flowed from the sky  
and with river bottom reflecting a layer of golden sand.  
There were strange and beautiful birds and beasts  
some like aerial phantoms.

This was a world of light.  
Everything was made of light.  
The divine light formed all things  
and the golden paradises.

The *golden giant*-  
shines the kingdoms of heaven within his body.  
The cities of *gold*-  
brilliant and fascinating in his bones.

I observed lines, words of incredible profundity  
arranged into a huge book in the sky.  
It seemed as if they were the bright stars  
constituting a wonderous drawing.

There was a golden pavilion in the sky  
guarded with behemoth dragons and phoenixes.  
An old man with a whisk  
waved to me and smiled in the pavilion,

I seem to be attracted by some sort of magic-  
leisurely came to his side.  
He told me the golden giant  
was namely my great ancestor

This was an eternal palace-  
There's no concept of time here.  
Holy light- was exactly the God.  
What I witnessed was better than the heavens.

He pointed to the huge book in the sky  
told me that it was the mystery of the universe.  
The book contained magical wisdom,  
created the countless worlds of *gold*.

He pointed to a pagoda in the sky,  
told me that it was the temple of words.  
The light turned into the sacred words,  
and the words created the time of *gold*.

He held up a very large pearl  
in which flashed the pictures (and all images).  
He told me that it was the future time-  
the embodiment of all the wonderful worlds.



He told me that it was another universe.  
Still desiring to go to these paradises,  
he gave me the magical pearl,  
to let it be my future guide.

I said goodbye to the old holy man,  
set afoot onto a new road towards the heavens again.  
I sat in a golden pavilion-  
*lightly flew to the distant outer space...*

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### **About the Poet**

Yuan Hongri (born 1962) is a renowned Chinese mystic, poet, and philosopher. His work has been published in the UK, USA, India, New Zealand, Canada, and Nigeria; his poems have appeared in Poet's Espresso Review, Orbis, Tipton Poetry Journal, Harbinger Asylum, The Stray Branch, Acumen, Pinyon Review, Taj Mahal Review, Madswirl, Shot Glass Journal, Amethyst Review, The Poetry Village, and other e-zines, anthologies, and journals. His best known works are Platinum City and Golden Giant. His works explore themes of prehistoric and future civilization.

### **About the Translator**

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