

Mid-Summer Festival: Dialogues with Heaven – Qu Yuan’s Legacy

Theme: Cultural Roots in Seasonal Festivals

Selected Verses from *Questions to Heaven*:

“Why do the sun and moon move alone in the sky?
Why do the stars keep their distant paths?”

My Answer (poetic reflection):

They glide across the dark ocean of night,
not for us alone, but for all who wander.
The sun warms the earth,
the moon tugs at the tides-
their dance is a promise,
a memory of time before memory.
The stars refuse to stray
because even distance has a home.

Original “Questions to Heaven” Inspired by Modern Life:

1. Why do voices crack in protests, yet echoes ring louder than bullets?
 2. Will our digital prayers ever reach you, Heaven-
or are they lost in static?
 3. In a world of endless screens, who still listens
to the rivers that once sang to Qu Yuan?
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Reflection on Qu Yuan’s Exile and Modern Life:

Qu Yuan’s exile speaks to the timeless human experience of dislocation and the search for justice. Like him, many today face political turmoil, environmental loss, and a sense of alienation in a world moving too fast. His questions to Heaven remain urgent: why does corruption thrive? Why are the pure-hearted cast out? His poetry lives on because it dares to ask what we all wonder but cannot say aloud.

If Qu Yuan could see our modern ‘Warring States,’ I believe he would ask:

- “Why do walls rise higher even as we promise bridges?”

- “Who guides the voices of the lost in the endless data streams?”
 - “How can one find clarity in a world of fractured truths?”
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Optional Visual Response (AI-generated concept):

Picture a single boat gliding down a misty river at dawn, ancient verses dissolving into the sky like breath, while modern city lights flicker in the distance—a bridge across time and culture.

Final Note:

In weaving my own questions and answers alongside Qu Yuan’s verses, I feel connected to a thread that runs through centuries of longing and hope. His voice still whispers to the rivers, and ours echo back—questions that seek the stars, answers that ripple outwards like the dragon boats on festival waters.