CLEAR WHITE STREAM

Clear white stream – a dead horse drifts; its legs are branches piercing the sky.

Clear white stream – a child dangles her pole; deep in the water a lungfish bites.

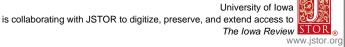
Clear white stream a man mooring a boat; his cormorant is diving with rope around its gullet.

Clear white stream a woman pounds hemp; headbent, she hums, "ripples washing sand."

Clear white stream a ripe red sun drags its head across the hollyhock.

Clear white stream how all will pass: days and nights, one horse's demise.

Clear white stream – above my forehead blue flies tarry around a naked bulb.



Clear white stream – am I river or horse, man or cormorant, woman or child?

Or Chuangtzu's bad dream shorn of an awakening.