

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 26
Number 2 *Open Mind*

Article 53

Spring 5-1-2006

Lao Shi

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College of DuPage

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Recommended Citation

Morris, Wilda (2006) "Lao Shi," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 26 : No. 2 , Article 53.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol26/iss2/53>

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Lao Shi

Wilda Morris

Dew sparkles greening leaves.
Hibiscus perfumes morning air
but the stonemason does not rise
or open dark eyes.

Long years of labor
to make a good life
for his son, Shi Xing,
are over.

Sitting still on the mountain
listening for the sound
of sandaled feet

awaiting the return of a son
grown ungrateful

the stonemason
turned to stone.

Look! Centuries later
he still waits
in vain.