

Red Beans Grow in the South

红豆生南国

Zhang Guangkui

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For the 30th Anniversary of South China Business College

献给南国商学院三十周年校庆

Zhang Guangkui

张广奎

Leoman Publishing Company

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Note on Translation and AI Assistance

This collection includes some translations from Chinese into English, some translations from English into Chinese, and bilingual works whose two versions do not necessarily correspond line for line. Where appropriate, AI tools were used to assist with light linguistic polishing and minor adjustments to rhyme and metre. All poems and translations were reviewed, revised, and approved by the author, who assumes full responsibility for the final text.



谨以此诗集
献给南国商学院建校三十周年

This collection is dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of
South China Business College.

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Preface

Among the countless poems of the Tang dynasty, few lines are more tender or moving than these from Wang Wei's "Longing":

*Red beans grow in the South;
How many branches bloom when spring returns?*

Everyone knows that the red bean is an emblem of longing, yet few realise that the "South" in Wang Wei's poem refers to the fertile lands of Lingnan in the south of China, and that its red beans are those of the red-bead tree, which still grows widely across the region. Rooted in China's southern soil, the tree is nourished by warm winds and abundant rain. It puts forth new branches in spring and bears scarlet seeds in autumn. Lustrous and pure in colour, gentle in appearance yet enduring in nature, these seeds have for centuries been cherished by poets and scholars as symbols of deep affection, sincerity, and steadfast devotion. They have become a poetic emblem unique to the South.

As South China Business College, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (hereafter "Nanguo," a Chinese name meaning "the South") celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, this collection takes its title, *Red Beans Grow in the South*, from Wang Wei's celebrated line. The title carries a twofold resonance and a depth of meaning.

First, it speaks to the landscape and literary heritage of the South. Nanguo is situated in Guangzhou, in the heart of Lingnan, amid a landscape rich in poetic beauty. Its setting and cultural inheritance echo from afar the geography and literary tradition embodied in Wang Wei's verse. Here, the poetic vision of the Tang dynasty, carried across a thousand years, takes living form in the scenery of the campus and the vibrant everyday life of Nanguo.

自序

千古唐诗，最温柔动人者，莫过于王维《相思》中的：“红豆生南国，春来发几枝。”

世人皆知红豆寄相思，却鲜有人知：诗中南国，正是岭南沃土；诗中红豆，即今岭南大地广为生长的海红豆。此树扎根南疆，沐南风、承雨露，春生新枝，秋结赤实，籽色莹红纯粹，温润坚定，千百年来被文人奉为深情、赤诚、守望的象征，成为南国独有的诗意图腾。

今值广东外语外贸大学南国商学院（以下简称“南国”）三十周年校庆，本诗集定名《红豆生南国》，一语双契，寓意深远。

一契山水文脉。南国坐落岭南广州，坐拥一方诗意水土，与王维诗中地理、文脉遥相呼应，让千年唐诗意境，落地为眼前的校园风物、南国烟火。

Second, it honours the founding spirit that has endured for thirty years. Scarlet as cinnabar, the red bean evokes both purity of heart and devotion to education. For three decades, the tradition of teaching and learning has continued unbroken. Generation after generation of teachers have devoted themselves to their calling, nurturing young minds quietly and faithfully; class after class of students have come bearing books and aspirations, setting forth in pursuit of their dreams. Each red bean thus embodies a measure of perseverance, a season of youth, and the ardent love that belongs to every member of the Nanguo community.

What, then, is longing? For one's alma mater, it is the devotion born of thirty years of patient cultivation. For its students, it is an abiding attachment to the years spent in study. For those of us who take up the pen, it is our most heartfelt gratitude for the land, for youth, for our teachers, and for the institution that formed us. The poems and writings gathered here celebrate the scenery of the campus, recall the footsteps of youth, voice aspirations as far-reaching as mountains and rivers, and cherish the tenderness of passing years. With poetry as their medium and words as their witness, they preserve the grace and warmth of Nanguo's first thirty years.

The spring breeze knows its measure, and Nanguo remains ever green; the red beans bear their message, and the years do not betray us. May this collection flourish like a red-bead tree of the South, carrying forward the literary heritage of Tang poetry and bearing witness to the glory of Nanguo. With this volume, I pay tribute to the thirtieth anniversary of Nanguo—South China Business College. May the flame of learning be passed from generation to generation; may the College press ever onward, flourishing year after year, with life and learning renewed without end.

Zhang Guangkui
Autumn 2026
Guangzhou

二契卅载初心。红豆赤红如丹，喻赤子之心、教育之诚。三十载弦歌不辍，一代代师者深耕杏坛、润物无声，一届届学子负笈而来、逐梦而行。一粒粒红豆，便是一寸寸坚守、一寸寸青春、一寸寸属于南国人的滚烫热爱。

何为相思？于母校而言，是三十年朝夕耕耘的守护；于学子而言，是数载求学时光的眷恋；于我辈文人执笔而言，是对山河、青春、师恩、母校最真挚的感念。此书所辑诗文，或咏校园风物，或记青春步履，或抒山河远志，或念岁月温情。以诗为媒，以字为证，收纳南国三十载的风华与温度。

春风有度，南国常青；红豆有言，岁月不负。愿这本诗集，如一树南国红豆，承唐诗文脉，载南国荣光。谨以此卷，致敬广东外语外贸大学南国商学院三十华诞，愿学府薪火相传，步履不停，岁岁芳华，生生不息。

张广奎
二〇二六年秋
于广州

Opening Rhapsody

Rhapsody on Nanguo Tower

In Lingnan's halls of learning,
A tower rises in solemn grandeur.
Its design echoes the grace of a distant tradition;
Its name belongs uniquely to Nanguo.
It gathers the mist of Baiyun Mountain
And receives the tidal notes of the Pearl River.

Conceived at the College's founding,
It drew upon that cultural lineage without imitating old forms;
Rooted deep in Lingnan for thirty years,
It has grown into a cherished landmark.

Its bricks bear maxims that inspire learning;
Its lamps illumine the traces of steadfast endeavour.

Morning recitations circle its walls;
Books and scrolls rise beside its steps.

The wisdom of commerce mingles with the cadences of Guangdong;
The work of education remains true to its founding purpose.

卷首赋

南国塔赋

岭表黉宫，有塔岿然。
形制遥承远韵，名标独冠南国。
衔白云山霭，纳珠水潮音。

初创掇其文脉，不事规摹；
卅载深根岭海，蔚成地标。

砖镌励学之训，灯照笃行之痕。
晨弦绕壁，简册堆阶；
商道融于粤韵，育人守以初心。

Now, on this anniversary,
I inscribe these words in commemoration:
The tower stands to illumine the heart;
The spirit of Nanguo shall ever endure.

Note: I offer this rhapsody as a supplement to what remained unsaid in the Preface and dedicate it to the thirtieth anniversary of South China Business College.

This tower graces the campus and has become one of the College's defining landmarks. Moved by the flourishing tradition of learning in Lingnan and by the College's commitment to education and to putting its ideals into practice, I composed this rhapsody in commemoration.

The tower's grandeur lies not only in its form but also in what it signifies; the reach of learning lies not only in knowledge but, more profoundly, in the cultivation of the heart. It draws upon a distant cultural heritage without being bound by old forms; rooted deeply in the soil of Guangdong in China, it has nurtured a voice of its own. Thus, the words "The tower stands to illumine the heart; The spirit of Nanguo shall ever endure" commemorate more than the story of a single tower: they also express the hope that generations of students to come will remain true to their principles and strive continually to better themselves.

This rhapsody seeks no needless elaboration, but values substance; its language makes no show of brilliance, but aspires to endure. May it be preserved among these pages and await those yet to come.

Composed by Zhang Guangkui
Autumn 2026

今逢华诞，勒文为铭：
立塔明心，恒存南韵。

【小注】谨以此赋补自序未竟，献给南国商学院建校三十周年。园有斯塔，已成一校风物之望。余感岭表弦诵之盛、育人践道之怀，乃撰此赋以纪。

塔之巍，在形亦在义；学之远，在知更在心。遥撷文脉而不泥旧迹，深植粤壤而自育新声。所谓立塔明心，恒存南韵者，非徒铭一塔之迹，亦寄后学以自守自砺之意。文不求繁，取其质；辞不务骋，贵其久。藏之简册，以待来者。

张广奎 谨撰
二〇二六年秋

Red Beans Grow in the South

Red beans take root where southern breezes blow;
Through thirty years of storms, their blossoms grow.

Tower and arcades guard each treasured page;
One stream of light fills halls from age to age.

红豆生南国

红豆根栽南国香，
卅年风雨育芬芳。
拱廊塔影存书卷，
一脉清辉接讲堂。

A Lingnan Spring Note

Spring wind wipes old scars;
Lingnan leaves yield to new green—
New hands carry on.

南国春记

春风拭旧痕
岭南残叶让新魂
赓续有来人

Weeping Willows at Nanguo

Nanguo night lingers;
Willows trail, winds cross the pond—
Waves shatter the moon.

南国垂柳

南国夜未央
柳丝垂岸风过塘
波碎月一汪