

Saying Goodbye to Meng Hao-jen at Yellow Crane Pavilion

You said goodbye at Yellow Crane Pavilion  
and sailed west, down into the valley  
through the flowers and mists of spring  
until your lonely sail vanished  
in the blue sky's horizon,

and I was left watching the river  
flowing gently into heaven.

Li Po (701-762)

Translated from the Chinese by Sam Hamill (from Crossing the Yellow River)