

The Image of the Poet in Li Bai's Collected Works

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Of the collections of Li Bai's works compiled during his life, Wei Hao's "Li Hanlin Jixu" presents Li Bai as an individual human, while his image as a poet in Li Yangbing's "Caotang Jixu" gives readers a somewhat different impression. His origins are written in the style of the Tang Dynasty, his birth modeled after that of Laozi, Emperor Xuanzong's kind treatment of him presented as the apex of his career. For his last moments, it appears that a vision of a sacred realm was used. Was this a result of him entrusting himself to the world-view of the Xuanzong's Court, or which held Laozi to be an ancestor and the highest god of Daoism, from the essence of the *Laozi Daodejing*.