Observations build legends
   Legends build beliefs
   Beliefs build traditions
   Traditions build culture
Brick by brick
We build culture in a staggered step
Tiers of knowledge dependent on each other

Centuries of building creates our people, shapes our thoughts
Will it all be toppled,
Will it all burn down,
With the building of a great wall?

Confucius, oh great teacher, you teach us that
“The Superior Man is all-embracing and not partial.
The inferior man is partial and not all-embracing”

Your words die in a dance of flames as an inferior man turns his back

Will we live now in this world without knowledge?
With one inferior man choosing our path?
He who judges what is right
He who selects the truth
And who sends the alternatives to the pyre

And what of the dissenters?
What of those who stand in the path of flames,
Who will not stand for our history being toppled?

For the superior men, a new challenge arises.
Again they build, piling bricks
One on top of each other, heavy stone breaking their sweat
Their backs
Their spirits
Building a wall that blocks the world out
As the flames and ash cloud our vision

But superior men, men of virtue
Find hope in words as ash on the wind
“Virtue is not left to stand alone.
He who practices it will have neighbors.”