

Poetry

Cite this article: Zieneldien T (2024) The silk road. *Palliative and Supportive Care* **22**(6), 2235. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951524000312>

Received: 25 January 2024

Accepted: 28 January 2024

Email: Tarekz@usf.edu

I would have journeyed the Silk Road
From Chang'an to Constantinople
To find a trader with a cure
For the growths in your heart
I would have traded all of my lapis lazuli

I would have slept in Dunhuang's caravanserais
Dwelling in the fantasia sung by the sand grains
And followed the slowly fading footsteps in my fever dreams
For the hope of a better prognosis

But the disease is too heterogeneous
It's a shapeshifter eager to spread
Like invasive weeds in fertile verdant lands

So even though I cannot go on that journey
I will hold your hand
And ensure you do not explore these newfound times alone

Competing interests. The author declares no conflicts of interest.