ABSTRACT

Qu Yuan (屈原) was a poet of the 'Warring Period' (3rd Century B.C.) while Wen Yiduo (闻-多) lived around the first quarter of 20th century. Although they lived about two thousand years apart, there were characteristics in their lives and achievements which gave rise to possible and fruitful study of their similarities and differences. Thus, this academic exercise mainly aims at providing a comparative study of the two poets.

Structurally, it is divided into three sections. The first section concentrates on a concise discussion of the life of Qu Yuan, including the background of his birth, his political aspiration and misfortune. This section also includes some evaluation of his literary works.

Section two consists of a brief assessment of the life of Wen Yiduo as a poet, a scholar and a patriot. This includes a short account of his study in his hometown—Hu Bei (湖北)—and while he was in Ching Hua (清华) and America. Further, it explores his literary achievement and political experiences.

The last section attempts to make a thorough comparison between Qu and Wen. It is found that since Wen was influenced by Qu in many ways, there were many things they shared in common, for instance, both of them were very determined and persistent in achieving their aspirations; they were also very patriotic.
towards their country and loyal to the people. However, there were other characteristics which differentiated them, for example, in terms of poetry-writing, Wen used excessive metaphors whereas this did not apply to Qu. In addition, Qu's poetry was more imaginative than Wen's.

In sum, the exercise provides fresh information on Qu Yuan and Wen Yiduo through a process of comparison of the two poet's achievements in politics and literature.