

# I Don't Want to Go to Chengdu

Lyrics: Gary McGath, Copyright 2022  
Music: Gary Ehrlich, "I Don't Want to Go to Pennsic"

          C          F          C  
When it's August I'll see people packing  
          F                          C  
To take a plane to the Far East,  
          F                          C  
They tell me I really should join them  
          D                          G  
When the fans throw a Chinese-style feast.  
          C          F          C  
But I value my life and my freedom  
          F                          G7  
And the news tells of doings malign.  
          F                          C  
I would much rather be dragged to Pennsic  
          D                          G  
Or go to a filksing online.

*Refrain:*

          C          F          C  
I don't want to go to Chengdu  
          F                          C  
And spend the week 'neath watchful eyes.  
          F                          C  
I much prefer freedom to speak out  
          D                          G  
When people in charge utter lies.  
          C          F          C  
I don't want to go to Chengdu.  
          F                          G  
It's not what I'd most like to do.  
          F                          C  
If I went to the Worldcon in Chengdu  
          C7  D          G          C  
I might never come back home to you.

Now it's true that I love foreign travel  
And learned German just for a con.  
But there I'm not in too much danger.  
S. S. and Gestapo are gone.  
I do not want to hear Lukianenko  
Declare that they've moved to Ukraine  
Where Putin has brought liberation,  
Since I'm not completely insane.

I enjoyed Liu's "Three-Body Problem,"  
But he has to follow the line,  
So when he is asked about Uyghurs,  
He must say oppression's just fine.  
To keep up his good social credit,  
The system he has to defend.  
He knows that to voice criticism  
Would bring his career to an end,

With the Chinese fans I have no quarrel.  
They're stuck living under Xi's rule.  
They do what will let them live safely.  
An S.F. fan isn't a fool.  
But they aren't ever going to tempt me  
To join them where tyrants hold sway.  
If they want to come here, I'll say "Welcome,  
And if you would like to, please stay!"