

Section 23. Now at street-level, a barber shaves his customer at a stall resting against the base of the wall. On the other side of the street, above the camels, merchants stand with their goods in front of an official writing at a table. They may be paying a value-added tax on the goods they are bringing into the city.

To the left, a man tests a bow in a barrel shop in front of the most elaborate structure shown in the scroll—a three-storeyed inn with the now-familiar trellis of a tavern. A laborer raising his arms obscures the second character of a sign whose first character reads “fragrant” and may offer fragrant wine. Just to the left of this sign, group of women stands in front of the inn by a large basket filled with brooms. Their proximity to the tavern suggests they might be prostitutes. A plump man, with a baby on his shoulders, supervises them closely.