

THE SUPREME MASTER CHING HAI

The Love of Centuries





SUPREME MASTER CHING HAI

The LOVE
of Centuries



*Supreme Master
Ching Hai*

ST. MARTIN CENTER, FRANCE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2008

Dedication

*M*ost Beloved Master,

In obeisance, we express our sincerest and deepest appreciation to You, the universe's Compassionate Master, for your guidance in the gathering, translating, and introducing the magnificent poems in Your immense river of poetry to the world. Each verse gently flows with cooling freshness, like a nectar spring that softly enters the consciousness of all beings, awakening the compassion in each soul on the journey of eternal love.

May humanity eternally radiate with grace from the everlasting love of Your wondrous poems.

May all living beings soon return to the Shore of Enlightenment, blessed by Your boundless compassion.

Our gratefulness, Master, for the verses
The Love of Centuries on the shore of Paradise
Listening to each pearl, each golden word
Into my mind it flows,
A multicolored light it becomes
A thousand years the river of poetry shines
A visit to the Original Source the ferry takes the travelers.

In Your boundless blessings,
Your disciples

Acknowledgments

The poet wishes to thank all the Divine Blessing and loving people whose dedication and diligence go beyond ordinary work to bring this poetry collection into beautiful creation for all to enjoy. Bless you!

♥♥ Supreme Master Ching Hai

TRANSLATION AND EDITING

Wing Yin, Ken, Eleanore W., Sara Kudinsky,
Lynn McGee, Bea, Penelope D., Faith Goodwin, Phụng Hoàng, Ken Ngô,
and The Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association Book Department

COVER DESIGN

Bie Lee

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Diệp Quốc Bình

IMAGES

Worldwide Photography Group and Supreme Master Television

IMAGE EDITING

Wang Bor Tang and Yu Hui-Chun

ARTIST LIAISONS

Formosa Taipei Center, Formosa Changhua Center,
and The Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association

Also, thanks to all the artists and organizations for their many talented contributions:

BOOK COVER CALLIGRAPHY

Trần Đình Thục

PHOTO CREDITS

Trần Đình Thục, Joshua Tan, Dreamstime Inc., DepositPhotos Inc., SXC,
Courtesy of NASA, ESA, S. Beckwith (STScI) & the HUDF Team

REFLECTIONS

Former Director-General Karl Min Ku, Poet Phạm Thiên Thu, Composer Fred Karlin, Composer Bill Conti, Composer Phạm Duy, Composer Nguyễn Văn Tý, Composer Phạm Mạnh Cường, Composer Vũ Đức Sao Biển, Composer Chu Minh Ký, Composer Trần Quang Lộc, Composer Tô Thanh Tùng, Composer Kim Tuấn, Professor Chang Kuang-Bin, Professor Chiang I-Han, Poet Wu Sheng, Author Lin Wu Hsien, Chief Editor Lin Hsu Wen Er, Performing Artist Tang Mei-Yun, and Author Kang Yuan.



Biography of Supreme Master Ching Hai

The Way of Love



Supreme Master Ching Hai is a world-renowned spiritual teacher, artist and humanitarian, whose loving assistance extends beyond all cultural boundaries. She was born in central Âu Lạc (Vietnam), studied in Europe, and worked there for the Red Cross. She soon realized that suffering exists in all corners of the globe, and Her yearning to find a remedy became the foremost goal in Her life. She was happily married at the time to a German physician, and although it was a difficult decision for both of them, with Her husband's blessing, She left to fulfill this ideal. She then embarked on a journey in search of spiritual enlightenment. Eventually, in the Himalayas in India, She received from a true Master the divine transmission of the inner Light and Sound, which She later called the Quan Yin Method. After a period of diligent practice, She attained the Great Enlightenment.

The Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association emerged in the 1980s around the teachings of Supreme Master Ching Hai. At the earnest request of those around Her, She shared the Quan Yin Method of meditation with others, encouraging them to look within to find their own divine greatness. Before long, invitations arrived from the Americas, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa as well as the United Nations for Her to give lectures.

Supreme Master Ching Hai's compassionate heart has also been reflected in Her meticulous care for the less fortunate in various circumstances. Her benevolent work

transcends all limitations to reach the disadvantaged, the elderly, the incarcerated, those with physical or mental challenges, the homeless, and veterans. In these urgent times, due to the effects of global warming, Supreme Master Ching Hai has generously contributed millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and requested our Association members go to help countless victims of natural disasters throughout the world. In addition, the planet's precious animals and the environment have been recipients of Her tender care. Her loving kindness has touched the hearts of millions the world over and has inspired others to follow Her altruistic example. The income generated from Her artistic creations, such as paintings, lamps, clothing and jewelry designs, have enabled the support of Her mission of comforting God's children in times of need.

Recently Supreme Master Ching Hai has authored books that have become #1 international bestsellers, namely *The Birds in My Life*, *The Dogs in My Life*, and *The Noble Wilds*. Now translated into several languages, these volumes reveal many telepathic and spiritual insights into the deep emotions and thoughts of our treasured animal co-inhabitants, highlighting their gracious spirit and unconditional love.

Wishing to acknowledge others for their actions and influence toward developments of goodness in the world, Supreme Master Ching Hai founded the Shining World Leadership Award in March 2006. Since then, She has also established other prestigious awards, such as the Shining World Hero Award, Shining World Compassion Award, Shining World Honesty Award, and Shining World Invention Award, etc. The honored recipients are individuals, nations and organizations whose exemplary works have significantly contributed to the harmony, beauty and sustainability of our Earth. Some of these recipients include the 2nd President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Janez Drnovšek; the 45th U.S. Vice President Al Gore, 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change (IPCC); Chief of UN IPCC and Director-General of The Energy and Resources Institute India (TERI), Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, 2010 UN-HABITAT Cities Lecture Award recipient; Head of the NASA Institute for Space Studies, Dr. James E. Hansen, 2009 Recipient of the Carl Gustaf Rossby Research Medal; and renowned British primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, to name a few.

Our precious animal friends have also been presented with distinctions such as the Shining World Hero Award, Shining World Intelligence Award, etc., for their selfless and noble deeds in rescuing lives at the risk of their own, and for exhibiting remarkable bravery, intelligence, and care through their loving acts.

Supreme Master Ching Hai has given much to our world, both spiritually and materially. Although She does not seek acknowledgment, in recognition of Her selfless contribution, government representatives and private organizations worldwide have presented Her with prestigious awards on numerous occasions. Among these are the Gusi Peace Prize (2006), First-place Silver for the 27th Annual Telly Awards (2006), Los Angeles Music Week Certificate of Commendation (2002), World Spiritual Leadership Award (1994), and World Citizen Humanitarian Award (1994). In addition, February 22 and October 25 have been proclaimed by government officials in the United States as the Supreme Master Ching Hai Day. Her dedicated aid to the world continues to this day, with millions of grateful hearts among leaders and their co-citizens alike.

Supreme Master Ching Hai is among notable pioneers in our society today who wisely and courageously express concern about climate change. In fact, for more than 20 years, She has talked about preserving the environment. She introduced the Alternative Living and SOS global warming campaigns and appeared as honored Guest Speaker

at conferences to bring to the public's attention the root cause of the planet's current disasters and their prime solution: a compassionate, vegan lifestyle. "Be Veg, Go Green 2 Save the Planet!" is now a well-known motto that originated from Supreme Master Ching Hai.

Being well aware of the immense impact our food choices have on the climate and to facilitate humanity's transition into a more benevolent, Earth-sustaining way of living, Supreme Master Ching Hai also inspired the development of a chain of vegan restaurants called "Loving Hut." With many locations throughout the world, these popular dining establishments advocate a healthy diet by providing a cuisine of a vast array of delicious, affordable and nutritious vegan dishes, and in so doing, promote the best solution to protect the world, its citizens and all its co-inhabitants, and our future generations from the devastating effects of global warming.

In our era, Supreme Master Ching Hai is truly a selfless and dedicated individual who is tirelessly helping world citizens create a bright future for our beloved planet.



A LITTLE MESSAGE

In speaking of God, or the Supreme Spirit, Master instructs us to use original, non-sexist terms to avoid the argument about whether God is a She or a He.

She + He = Hes (as in Bless)

Her + Him = Hirm (as in Firm)

Hers + His = Hiers (as in Dear)

Example: When God wants, Hes makes things happen according to Hiers will to suit Hirmself.

Contents

• Dedication	iv
• Acknowledgments	v
• Biography of Supreme Master Ching Hai	
The Way of Love	vi
• Foreword	xii
• Preface	xiv
• Reflections from Celebrated Artists on Supreme Master Ching Hai's Poetry	xvi
PART 1 – YOUTH AND LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND	
01. My Home *	2
02. Nostalgic Summer *	4
03. On a Day *	8
04. And One Day *	12
PART 2 – LOVE FOR ALL BEINGS	
05. A Puppy's Heart *	18
06. Words of a Hen *	20
07. Words of a Piglet *	23
08. Imagine It's Thee!	27
PART 3 – LOVE THAT TRANSCENDS SPACE AND TIME	
09. The Love of Centuries *	32
10. Dream in the Night *	40
11. Shade of Time *	42
12. An Ancient Love *	44
13. The King of My Heart *	46
14. To the Love of My Lives	50
15. To Prince	54
16. Congratulatory Note to Prince	60
17. London	62
18. Old Lover	66
19. The Fragrant Path	68
20. You and the Kingdom	72
21. Condolence Note	74

PART 4 – FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

22. The Golden Lotus *	81
23. Sayonara *	83
24. Spontaneously Written for Hoàng Cầm *	85
25. To Thu Hồ *	87
26. For Lê Uyên Phương *	89
27. For Thái Hằng *	91
28. To Phạm Duy *	91
29. The Quiet Hero	92

PART 5 – DIVINE LOVE

30. Please Wake Up! *	99
31. Please Don't! *	104
32. A Word with the Buddha Stone-Statue *	108
33. Talking to a Stone Buddha	110
34. It Is Not So, My Love *	112
35. Let's Love *	114
36. The Ideal Beloved *	119
37. When You Said You Love Me	122
38. Bird of Paradise	124
39. Song 4 the Sun	126
40. Moon of Mine	130
41. Precious Stars	134
42. I Am	136
43. Praised Be the Providence	138
44. God Loves You So!	140
45. Good Nite Baby	146
46. When Shall We Meet Again? *	152
• List of Performed Poems	155
• The Supreme Master Ching Hai's Publications	156
• How to Contact Us	164

* Originally in Aulacese (Vietnamese)





Foreword



Poetry is an artistic, stylistic expression and reflection of the spirit. Wu Tzu's poems transcend the preconceived thinking of worldly people, just like a pure lotus amidst the dusty world, a radiant lighthouse in the stormy sea, and a rainbow across a dark cloudy sky.

The style of Wu Tzu's poetry is sometimes soft and gentle as a slow flowing stream, or sometimes vibrant and forceful as a thousand horses racing. Her verses are imbued with graceful and otherworldly qualities. When expressed in the Poet's simple, conversational words, these verses often belie their profound meanings and pure lyrical beauty.

With a refreshing choice of words and harmonious rhythms in Her poems, the Poet has created a beautiful, ethereal world, as well as a poetic style that is at once romantic and splendid. Above all, these poems seem to have been created with total spontaneity, and yet their effect is total enchantment.

In addition to their unique artistic quality, these poems often convey the great compassion from the Poet's heart. It is therefore not just the beauty of the verses but the love expressed through them that will elevate the readers' spirits and bring them to an ultimate state of Truth, goodness and beauty.

I would like to recommend this book to our readers, and I hope you will also enjoy the spiritual message and the romantic beauty in these poems. Through reading this poetry anthology, the readers will appreciate the Truth, goodness and beauty from the heart of the Poet, Wu Tzu, and thus realize the true meaning of life.

~ **Karl Min Ku**, Former Director-General of the National Central Library (NCL), Formosa, R.O.C., former member of the Standing Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLAI), UNESCO, former president of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP).

Note: "Wu Tzu" is Supreme Master Ching Hai's pen name, meaning "no death, life eternal."



❧ Preface ❧

With a spirit of oneness and eternal light of Truth, Supreme Master Ching Hai deeply feels sorrow for the suffering people in our world, as Her heart merges with each vicissitude of this illusory human life.

In such an ephemeral sphere, life is at times like silent footsteps and forlorn as a boat on the high sea, longing for a return to shore to find the loving home of yore. Yet the beloved is forever like the silhouette of a bird that has flown far away from Eden. What remains is an inconsolable yearning:


*“Last night, I dreamt
Of restful sheets and pillows
As fragrant sandalwood wafting through the air
Heartfelt was the time
When we were still together
When our love was still forever.”*

(Dream in the Night)

The Love of Centuries is a poetry collection featuring 46 exquisite poems composed by Supreme Master Ching Hai. It conveys love, reminiscence, and the resonance of a soul sympathetic with human lives and the fates of all humble, fragile co-inhabitants. With abounding changes in life, whether lofty or worldly, no one can escape from the transmigratory wheel of birth and death. In this uncertain river of life, Supreme Master Ching Hai feels a deep concern for humans' plight. Thus, Her verses are imbued with anguish and compassion:

*“Tears dried up and I'm wordless
Weeping in sympathy for the tormented!”*

(Please Wake Up!)



Supreme Master Ching Hai's poetry harmoniously weaves words and emotions, spirituality and everyday life. Her poetic expression is gentle, profound, and flowing like the moonlight shining on each soul's hidden corners. At times Her verse is like a lonely boat carrying wishes of love across the river of misery to the shore of happiness, at times it is pure like the summer rain, refreshing our spirits in all the paths of this fleeting world. The Poet earnestly prays for humanity to soon awaken to the True Self, to the benevolent and noble lifestyle, and to face the reality and henceforth transform our planet into Heaven on Earth, where humans and all co-inhabitants can live in peace and harmony:

*"O brother, wake up at once
Proudly walk on great seas and rivers
Look straight at the flaming sun
And vow sacrifice to save all beings."*
(Please Wake Up!)

We invite poetry lovers to enjoy the verses in *The Love of Centuries* and to experience an unwavering love and a realm of enlightenment so a longing "to reunite with the beloved" in the heart of the one away from Home shall endure evermore.

We are grateful to Supreme Master Ching Hai for gifting our world an everlasting source of love and hope through Her magnificent poetic verses:

*"To the luminous land of bliss, we shall return
Heavenly winds echoing ubiquitous ocean sounds."*
(When Shall We Meet Again?)

**~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association
Book Department**

Note: Words or phrases in italics are excerpted from this poetry collection.

