



*Pebbles
and
Gold*



THE SUPREME MASTER CHING HAI

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Biography of The Supreme Master Ching Hai

The Supreme Master Ching Hai was born in Central Au Lac (Vietnam). At the age of eighteen, Master Ching Hai moved to England to study, and then later to France and then Germany, where She worked for the Red Cross and married a German physician. After two years of happy marriage, with Her husband's blessings, She left Her marriage in pursuit of enlightenment, thus fulfilling an ideal that had been with Her since Her childhood. This began a time of arduous pilgrimages to many different countries that ended only when She met a perfect living Master in the Himalayas. Master Ching Hai received 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 Perfect Enlightenment.

To satisfy the longing of sincere Truth seekers, the Supreme Master Ching Hai offers the Quan Yin Method of meditation to people of all nationalities, religions and cultural backgrounds. Her message of love and peace brings spiritual liberation and hope to people throughout the world, reminding all to uphold Truth, Virtue, and Beauty in life.

Apart from setting a noble example, Supreme Master Ching Hai also encourages others to beautify the world through inspired creativity. Expressing Her inner joy through diverse media such as painting, poetry, jewelry and clothing designs, and musical compositions, Master Ching Hai seeks to enhance the outer as well as the inner beauty of all people with whom She comes in contact. Her artistic creations, displayed in exhibitions throughout the world, remind us of the inner spiritual realms. Her poems have served as a source of inspiration for many renowned composers, who have adapted the poems to music and performed the compositions to worldwide acclaim.

At a banquet honoring The Supreme Master Ching Hai in 1993, Mayor Frank F. Fasi of Honolulu, Hawaii, proclaimed: "The Supreme Master Ching Hai brings love to places around the world still plagued with hatred. She brings hope where there is despair, and She brings understanding where there is misunderstanding. She is the light of a great person, an angel of mercy for all of us."

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Foreword

Pebbles and Gold is a collection of the very first poems composed by The Supreme Master Ching Hai. Many of the poems included in this collection have been obtained from relatives and friends who cherished and were able to preserve them.

The poems in *Pebbles and Gold* were written during The Supreme Master Ching Hai's youth. Central to each is the theme of love, sometimes personal and sometimes universal. Just as the view from under the sea is richly different than what can be seen from looking down at the ocean's surface, the poems composed by The Supreme Master Ching Hai contain a depth of meaning that extends to worldwide humanitarian concerns and divinely inspired love for all beings.

In the first section are poems written in the early school age years of the Poet. The verses are pure and innocent, yet they also reveal dreams for an entire generation:

I am still so young,
I yearn to live in innocence,
Not wanting to listen
To the roaring guns
And the piercing explosions!

(*To Mr. Comrade, 1962*)

Even as a young student, The Supreme Master Ching Hai's open and loving heart was unavoidably affected by Her profound understanding of war and the suffering of human life. This tension manifests as compassion, bringing a vivid clarity and depth to Her poems:

Abruptly one day, winter turned bleak and clouds saddened
As news came: my teacher departed,
Some bullet had punctured his heart!
Bright blood flowed, heedlessly soaking the grass!
Soft, green blades turned to red mass.
His wife knelt down at his side,
Face covered in mourning white!...

(Mourning Mr. Binh, 1965)

Growing up in a country that was full of upheaval, The Supreme Master Ching Hai soon recognized that true peace is born from within the heart of each human being. She expressed this understanding as a loving rebuttal to the longstanding belief in the inevitability of war:

Writing sad poems, I started at age eight.
Though not becoming wiser at such a tender age,
Men grow old quickly; wartime causes such haste.

If you aspire to be audacious heroes,
Be formidable, conquer the self,
And naturally, on Earth peace will prevail.
Use gunpowder to make firecrackers lighted red
Happy Spring celebration sounds will fill all walkways instead,
With young and old dressed in their best.

(The Self-Triumphed Hero)

In the section of *Pebbles and Gold* that depicts personal love, each poem is like a brilliantly illuminated candle that radiates The Supreme Master Ching Hai's spontaneous expression of human feeling through an elevated vision of reality to all earthly beings:

When Spring commences,
I set my affection on butterfly wings,
Soaring toward a world, infinite,
Where there is someone, beautiful as a dream!...
(*Four Seasons of Love*)

This irreplaceable 'candle' held high by The Supreme Master Ching Hai is also a symbol of transformation. The romantic love referred to in Her poems can also be recognized as describing the universal love that lights the way to ultimate liberation:

Because we are in love, the Earth is so ravishing,
Because we are in love, the world becomes joyful!

I believe only in love,
Everything else on Earth lacks meaning.
Even if this world is leveled to the ground,
Even if the seas dry up and mountains wear down,
Love will live forever in the infinite universe.
(*When We're in Love*)

We are honored to invite fellow poetry lovers into the literary garden of *Pebbles and Gold*. May this collection of splendid verses inspire you to linger over their heavenly fragrance and come ever closer to your true Self.



Part 1:

Human Love

Borrowed Verses

Borrow poetry from Heaven and Earth

Will repay all due interest

“When was that, and when will be?”

Well! Who cares the least!

To me, time is meaningless.

New Year's Eve

*Atop the stoves cooking rice cakes
Hot water boils,
Flames fiery red!*

*People gather round.
Some chat merrily,
Some prepare the feast
New Year's Eve!*

Central Au Lac – 1958

Loving Note for Father

*Dear father, what must I do to warm your heart
With a child's falling tears?
As your dreams of affluence faded,
Heard you not mother's silent sighs?
Her frail body toils from morning 'til night,
Knowing neither joy nor peace.
Her beauty and youth faded
Shouldering with you sadness and sorrow.*



To Mr. Comrade

*I am still so young,
I yearn to live in innocence,
Not wanting to listen
To the roaring guns
And the piercing explosions!*

*On New Year's Days, especially,
I like to wear colorful dresses,
Receive red envelope with lucky money,
Plus plus more goodies!...*

*And then all night long
Play with neighborhood friends,
No need to sleep sooner
Due to curfew hours!*

*I long to live in peace,
Playing throughout my childhood years.
I don't want bloodshed
Guns pound in the ears,
The bombings all night
Shake me up in fear!*

*If you have children,
Ask any of them
If they like the war?
"Not even in dreams!"*

Central Au Lac – 1962

The Widower

*Yesterday, together, you were laughing.
“What a beautiful couple!” everyone praised.
Today, became a widower,
Unable to cry.*

*She was barely eighteen in years.
To the newlyweds, neighbors had just sent cheers.
Soon the promise of a new life to cherish
Mother and child, both now perished.*

*(Two innocent souls,
One straying bullet!!)*

*Aghast with shock
I could only gaze
Around your head—the mourning band—
What can I say
To the one who suffered in such an agonizing way!!!*

*Young, not knowing how to offer comfort,
I could merely express my sympathy
Through a few lines of poetry,
Hoping time will heal
Your painful memory!*

*Oh, war!
How vicious you are!*

To Mr. Thu
*Vinh Binh Village – 1966

*Vinh Binh means “Eternal Peace” (!!!)

Love for Mother

*This evening, I returned to the home of my youth.
Into winter, fall has turned.
Looking at my mother's gray hair and weathered face,
Tears of sorrowful remorse
Dripped from my soul.*

Central Au Lac – 1968



Chronicle

*Silent, dismal days elapse
Heart ruptured by countless tears of separation
Clinging to a slowly faded feeling,
These verses I write, my hopes to sustain.*

*Within my heart is a stormy sea,
The torment from which ancient scriptures cannot free
A time of innocence, too soon removed from Heaven,
Left stranded to wander in this gloomy desert alone.*

*Amidst a sandstorm, I walk in desolation,
Faith no companion in this isolation.
Heedlessly enduring my own torment,
I drift through the boisterous settlements.*

*Upon the clouds back to the old harbor
My soul would soar
A verdant isle, yearning for a true love to requite
In the vast ocean a sailboat lost
Nostalgia rising with every crested wave.*

*Motionless, a tiny hermit crab listens to the blustering wind
Forsaken, like a sea shell on the shore, I hide within
Lonely nights, accompanied only by dejection
Solitary days, greeted with shattering sadness.*

*When the night rain falls in this humble town,
Silent books and I, depression surrounds
School lectures resemble monotonous prayers.
How I yearn to escape this suffocating despair
Only then to face life, the fractured mirror
Reflecting savage mankind.
Oh gruesome war,
How persistent, how foul you are!*

Quy Nhon – 1967

Dalat Cafe

*Misty rain whitens the city at dusk
Damp winds cross lonely barren hills.
A small cafe huddles in the chill
Bitter drink, lonely heart, just as cold!*

Dalat – 1968

To the Girl Named Hoa

*The young maiden bears the emotions of a woman
Palms together, she mourns a time of innocence.
Quietly contemplating the past,
She endures her pain in utter silence –*

*Let's salute sorrowful regret.
To the faults of men, let's smile and forget.
As a human, who has not been mistaken?
Pity the credulous woman!*

Quy Nhon – 1968

To My Older Sister

*You loved him with all your heart,
Offered him your first love, all your hopes and dreams.
Ten years later, the happy marriage ends
Awakened one day, weeping over cruel fate!*

*Love, like the clouds—here today, gone tomorrow.
Returning home just to face your own shadow
As the night wanes and the lamp burns low.
You promised to love each other 'til hairs turned gray,
Yet, in its prime, your love walked away!*

*Your faithfulness could touch Heaven.
One can only blame Creation
For not sparing human's heart!*

Saigon – 1969





Love for Grandma

'Tis evening, so melancholy

How I miss Grandma

Enduring the lonely city

Within mist as silvery

As the strands of her hair.

1969

To the Blind Elder in the Village

*Near the house, bamboo trees and banana groves,
Thanks to the grace of Heaven, stand so lustrous and green!
Yet why do humans like you lack warm cloths,
Worrying about food each meal?!*

*The two elderly live like shadows
Surviving day by day in a thatched hut
With shaky walls and poles falling away,
Cold ashes in the stove: no fire for days.*



*Only a one-stringed zither left to play
Do re mi in melancholy, ancient melody...*

For Uncle Sa – 1965

Tribute to My Older Brother

I love my brother who is bound by family duty.

Dreams and talents of old, he had to bury.

Over the mundane life, he just smiles.

Like fallen autumn leaves,

He nurtures young trees.

1969

Mourning Mr. Binh

*My teacher, sweet and gentle as the old plum tree in the village,
Morning and night taught children in the countryside.
His wife, lovely and virtuous,
Cared for him; they lived a happy life!*

*As a small child, I was his student,
ABC, I learned to trace and draw.
Leaving the village for higher education
I had not returned to visit since then.*

*Abruptly one day, winter turned bleak and clouds saddened
As news came: my teacher departed,
Some bullet had punctured his heart!
Bright blood flowed, heedlessly soaking the grass!
Soft, green blades turned to red mass.
His wife knelt down at his side,
Face covered in mourning white!...*

*D*ratted war! Where from have you come,
That in your wake lay scattered flesh and bones?
I beg you now to cease your ugly slaughter,
So parents no longer weep for son or daughter,
Husbands and wives are no longer parted.

*O*n both sides, dear heroic soldiers
Of same Origin, we are all brothers,
So why has rivalry turned to brutality?
Why not compete by building the country?
Since ancient time, war has brought but sorrow,
Fertile fields turned burial grounds.

*L*et us stop this insensible hatred,
Grass has dried over thousands of tombs.
What does one get in the end,
Being enemies instead of friends?
“One general came back with medallions
Ten thousand men turned dry skeletons!”

Central Au Lac – 1965

Dodging Bullets

*Yesterday at school,
Bullets shrieked beside.
Hundreds of frantic students
Ran for a place to hide.
How indifferent are guns and cannons,
A few could die in just one second!
On the riverbank, bodies decompose –
Where have their souls drifted to then?!*

*Watching flesh rot, skin smoldering
I care not to fathom the hearts behind such suffering!*

Central Au Lac – 1962





To Myself

*Pity my fate, like a bird in the boundless sky,
Flying alone in the vastness of life.
My wings will tire from the distances one day
Where's the warm nest I can return to and stay?*

1970

To My Younger Sister

*In the few years I haven't been home,
How fast you have grown,
Now a young lady
Of tenderness and beauty.*

*You have tasted sweetness,
And the joy of life.
You help organize
In and out just right!*

*On you, Mom and Dad depend,
Replacing me, to them you attend.
My destiny is still adrift
In a life of uncertainty and hardship!*

*Soon you will settle down in marriage,
Life will be so beautiful
Full of family together,
Every day in joy and laughter.*

*As for me, I am destined to be away
Toiling day by day.
A stranger in this foreign land
With no one to confide and understand!...*

Central Au Lac – 1974
(Visiting home from London)

To Nguyen Duc Son

*Dropping by to see you at the College of Agriculture
I wonder how happy your life has been
In this fickle world of impermanent nature.
Nonconforming is your trait from the Divine.
In this corner of the world, free to live your life
You laugh at fame and richness
Fleeting like hot sunrays, on end-of-summer days.*

1969

The Market at Sundown

*Mother is preparing to leave:
Wares put away, the market stall emptied.
Yellow leaves here and there
Mingle with red dust swaying in the air...
At the counter, late customers linger
Still bargaining, bartering
Oblivious to the setting sun!*

*It's sundown, people fade away,
Like the life of my dear mother
Whose hair is turning gray!...*

Central Au Lac – 1966

Pity for Self

*Once giving flight to dreams far and wide,
The colorful childhood now cast aside.
Indebted to this material world
Until what lifetime shall we suffer
Because of each other?*

Dalat – 1969

Tribute to the House Servant

*Same pink cheeks, same youth,
Why does Heaven mistreat the good!?
Temporal food, borrowed shelter,
Laughing today, crying tomorrow,
In this ephemeral world!*

*Being born in this realm, like entering the market—
Even without feelings of attachment,
How crazy it can make anyone!*

*Looking at your eyes, bright as diamonds:
Is it possible you only feign ignorance,
Acting in servility just to pass your days?*

To Miss Le
Central Au Lac – 1967

To N. D. Son

*One late afternoon, passing by your house,
It's so desolate and barren,
Where are you now?
Under dismal sky, a spider is spinning its web.
Even with talents, your life's still at an ebb.*

Bao Loc – 1969

The Self-Triumphed Hero

*Writing sad poems, I started at age eight,
Though not becoming wiser at such a tender age,
Men grow old quickly; wartime causes such haste.*

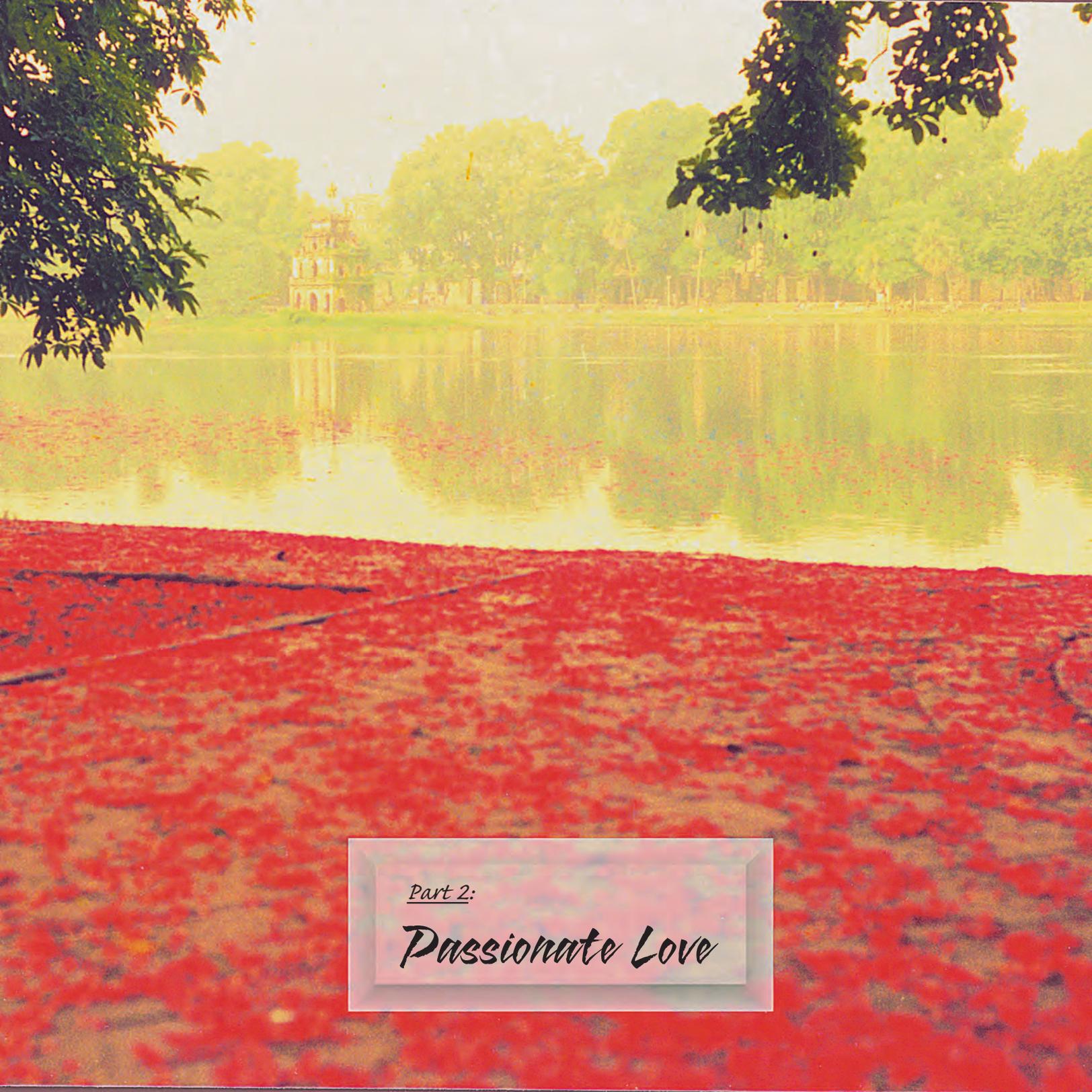
*Bullets and bombs devastate the young,
Fertile fields becoming barren deserts!*

*Bloodshed and hatred continue for generations,
Lacking happiness, men suffer desolation,
Though laughing tonight, they fear weeping tomorrow,
Gasping quick breaths for fear of dying in sorrow,
Fearing prisons, terror, and darkness
Fear that springtime might be haunted with burials,
Their kindred might abruptly depart,
When ceasefire time arrives,
No matter which side survives.*

How the country is darkened by hatred!
Let us rise like The Prince of Heaven!
Shatter jealousies!
Lay down feuding hostilities!
Be courageous, turn away from darkness.
Put an end to greed for wealth and fame,
Burn up false, senseless doctrines.
What righteousness should cause bloodshed and bones to be shattered?
What dogma should cause homes to be ruined, families scattered?

*If you just hold to your beliefs, I to my opinions,
Through human language, we can come to reason.
Animals instinctively protect their kind,
How can human hands smell of fellow friends' blood!
If you aspire to be audacious heroes,
Be formidable, conquer the self,
And naturally, on Earth peace will prevail.
Use gunpowder to make firecrackers lighted red
Happy Spring celebration sounds will fill all walkways instead,
With young and old dressed in their best.
Apricots will flower, happy smiles shall bloom,
Daffodils blossom, new lives resume.*

*It is for this simple thing
The people have been long waiting!*



Part 2:

Passionate Love

Wild Angel

*Now in Quy Nhon, I'm dreaming of you in the land of Quang,
Sky is gray and summer dressed in white, mourning.
Verdant trees and bleached jacarandas are despondent,
Withered rays of light cast lonely shadows on fading walls.*

*Would you still remember the paths we walked by?
And your passionate gaze, I avoided with a sigh?
Enchanting evening, whimsical butterfly fluttering,
Flowers and leaves tingle with our love: the first, and the beginning!*

*Accept our fate if tomorrow life is plagued with tumult.
If God, without mercy, should torment my romantic soul,
I would still forever love your mellow voice
And your hair, dancing in the cool breeze.*

*Downtown, on a merry, bright Sunday,
Your sweet lips moistened as if with honey,
I am intoxicated by your effervescent smile,
And your figure, an angel, wild!*

*If in the next life you will be a girl,
I will reincarnate as a lad.
Our passion will be forged by then,
I shall love you even if chastised by God.
Every night I will bow my head in repentance
And pray for the liberation of my soul in love's holy land.*

Quy Nhon – 1967

There Is

*There is a gentle someone
With rose-colored lips and lovely eyes,
Tender gaze like the full moon's ray
And smile, the scent of sandalwood.*

*Many a sleepless night I have spent,
Wanting to speak but remained reticent!
Wanting to look at you, yet I turned away,
Containing this burning love that I have.*

*Every day when you walk by,
Your hair a distant cloud, floating with delight,
And your sweet breath in the air,
Swaying my naive, one-sided affair.*

*These arms want to embrace,
To hold on tight to my dream,
To make time stand still, unmoving,
To keep a budding love from fading.*

*Darling, don't you know my heart?
It is shy and cannot speak aloud.
When you look deep into my eyes,
You will see waves of love that cannot subside.*

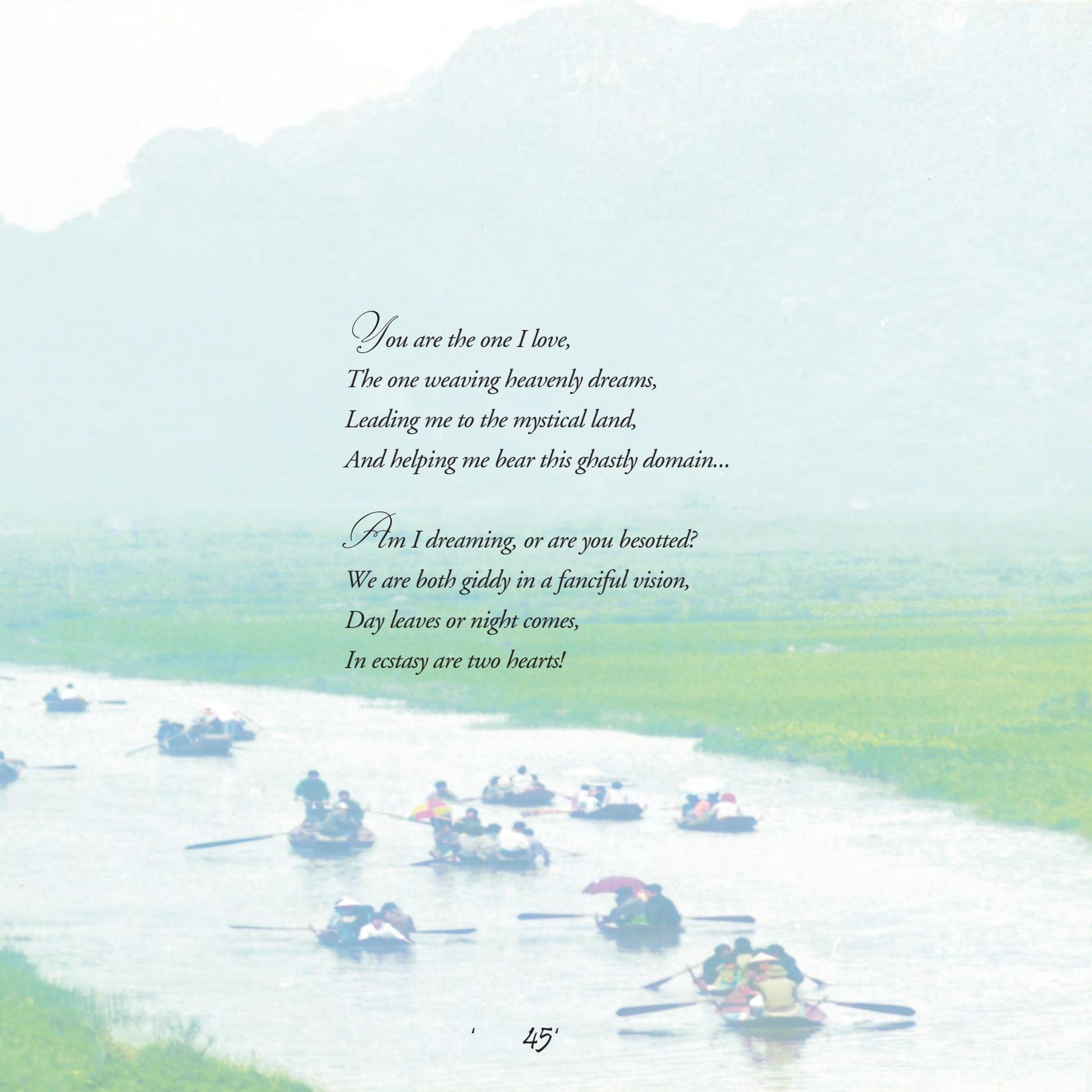
*Your cool lashes fill me with exhilaration,
Your warm lips drench me with passion.
Oh, love!...
Oh, my love!...*

The One I Love

*Your skin, the scent of honeyed milk,
Your lips, the color of rose,
Forehead, vast as a white-sand beach,
Hair, silky, smooth velvet.*

*Your eyes are promises,
Your embrace tender as a lullaby,
And your endearing words
Will last through endless time.*

*Your mind as pure as a child's,
A heart soft as a lotus petal.
Love is a warm ocean,
Love is a romantic river.*



*You are the one I love,
The one weaving heavenly dreams,
Leading me to the mystical land,
And helping me bear this ghastly domain...*

*Am I dreaming, or are you besotted?
We are both giddy in a fanciful vision,
Day leaves or night comes,
In ecstasy are two hearts!*

Love Dream

*I dreamt of your angelic figure,
You dreamt that the Milky Way came by to visit!
I loved your eyes, sparkling like a full moon,
You loved "the dazzling smiles"!
I adored your voice so sweet,
You worshiped golden hair floating in the clouds.
I cherished your slender fingers,
You cherished romantic lyrics.*



*Together my fate and yours,
A wondrous bond to last forever...*

For Luu of May

For You

*Together, we take each other to the highest regions,
Away from the city's dust and din.
At twilight, we gaze at Bao Loc in the driving rain,
And hear our souls revived in green hues of woods and highlands.*

For N.D.S.

Four Seasons of Love

*When Spring commences,
I set my affection on butterfly wings,
Soaring toward a world, infinite,
Where there is someone, beautiful as a dream!...*

*When Spring commences,
First love as fresh as a new page,
Poetic verses unbridled,
Flying over remote country hills,
My heart becomes a festival!...*

*After Summer comes Autumn,
Where has the time gone?
All the world in abandon!...*

*Winter arrives gently,
Life is always Spring.
Birds sing songs of courtship,
The wind croons a soulful imperial dance...
Dawn the color of amour.
Twilight the color of love.
Summer the season of amour!
Autumn the season of love!...*

*When Spring commences,
We search for one another in each breath.
A rose bud just blossomed
In love's fragrant garden...*

When We're in Love

*Darling, can you see we are like a pair of swallows,
Soaring in the endless sky?
Can you see we are as butterflies
In a spring garden fragrant with life's blooms?
Can you see we are like the river,
Flowing broadly toward the open sea?*



*Because we are in love, the Earth is so ravishing,
Because we are in love, the world becomes joyful!*

*I believe only in love,
Everything else on Earth lacks meaning.
Even if this world is leveled to the ground,
Even if the seas dry up and mountains wear down,
Love will live forever in the infinite universe.*

*Just to love each other,
Loving each other is enough.*

*Then our souls will flourish, assured.
Walking amid turmoil and misery as if in Heaven,
Our hearts will not shiver despite the raging storm.*

*When in love,
No one minds external scenes;
Everywhere is Heaven.
The couple is
Eve and Adam!*

New Love

*You are a golden dream,
Cheeks as rosy as the coming of Spring,
Eyes a sparkling lake,
Your laughter, beautiful music.*

*I gaze at you with tender passion,
Forgetting all worldly tribulations.
My heart follows wherever you are,
My longings travel a distance far.*

*Those days we are together,
Oh, what a sweet love melody!
We gather close the universe,
Our passion to feel more deep!*

*Thus it has been for ten moons.
My love is a rising tide,
My life is a Spring garden,
My heart is the immense sky!*



*Let us love each other forever,
Entering the sunrise together...*

Passion

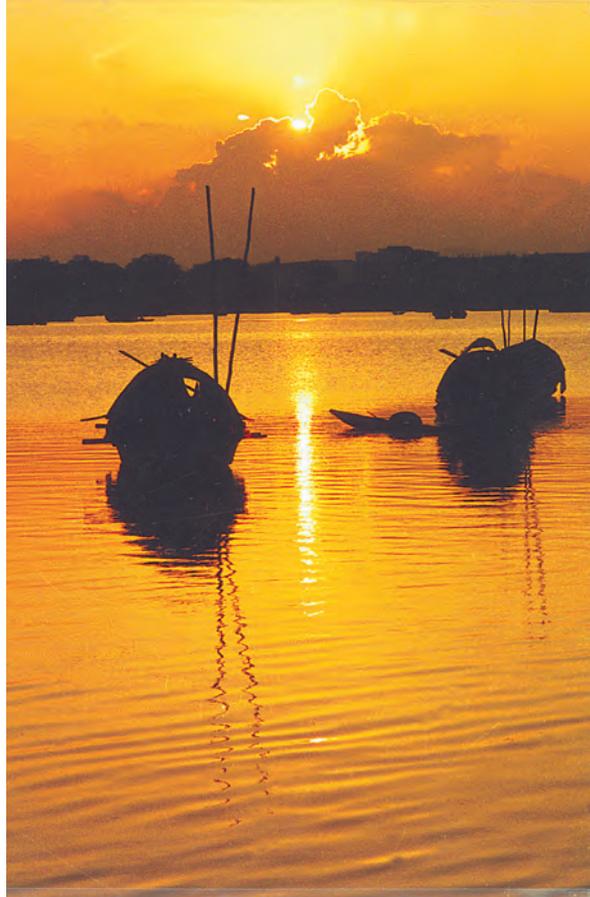
*You press your lips close to mine,
Kisses overflow with sweet honey.
I close my eyes,
The river and sea spin around me...
A new surge of life
Awakened like cascading waterfalls,
Musical tones aflame with loving chords.*

*I devote my life to you, precious,
You enjoy my youth so passionately.
Our hearts spark fire, the earth burns.
The universe is intoxicated, the stars drunken!*

*We are bound together, time stands still.
The night is still young, our love still new.
Tomorrow, the day after that, and always,
We will be together, side by side, for eternity.*

Love... love... love... oh, love me...





When in Love

*When in love, people live only in dreams,
Speaking not the language of the planet,
Nourished by forbidden fruit.*

*When in love, people live on blue clouds,
Words become redundant,
Perchance only a few verses of romantic poem...*

*When in love, people don't need wine
Yet are still intoxicated.
They care not for sunlight
Or rain!
Having each other is all contentment.*

*When in love, people think with the heart
They don't even think!
Looking into each other's eyes, they forget life.
The world is just those two.*

*...That is heaven,
Darling!*

Please
Keep
Forever

*Please keep forever the crushes and foolish love,
Like a fledgling bird, a newly risen sun, fresh flowers,
Like the age of shy innocence hiding behind a smile –
A soul so vibrant and a heart so beautiful...*

*Speak only to each other words of tenderness.
Look at each other only with star-dazed eyes.
Give each other only sweet honeyed kisses,
And a love that never dies.*

*Walk softly,
Speak gently,
An intimate embrace
In the realm of fragrance and fairytale –
We joyously celebrate our reunion.*

*Keep our love diamond
And hearts innocent,
Like a rose that has just bloomed,
Like a cloud that has just given rain.*

*Because, my love,
I fear so much
Anything broken.*

*Protect
One another.
Live always the first moment.
Okay, dear!*

To Be Able to Love You

*Let us love each other
Like the first time we met.
Let us find one another
So that love will endure...*

*Let us remember each other
As when love was new.
Let us love one another
Since our years are few!*

*To be able to love you,
I thank the heavens.
To be able to love you,
Is for lives to remember.*

*If through a lifetime
We 'chance' to love someone:
Our hearts'll be humble
In the realm of true amour,
And forget life's transience!...*

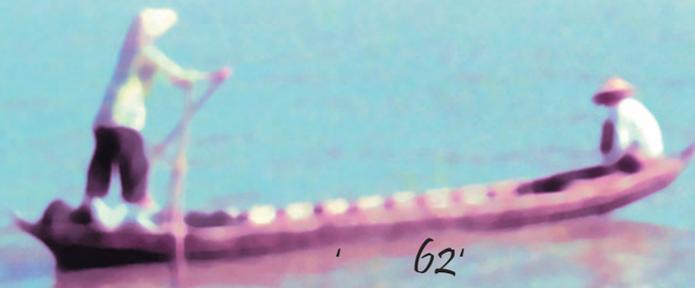
*Loving you today,
Even if we part on the morrow's night.
I offer an eternal heart.
I offer my lasting love.*

Tell Me

*Tell me those endearing words,
Let us love each other like those heavenly days.
What else can we dream of in this world?
Who else can we love in this life?*

*Let us wrap our love in pretty paper,
Make it a gift for each other, today and tomorrow.
Let us create a mythical realm of affection,
And embroider verses of passion.*

*Let us nurture our embraces, soft as velvet.
Let us walk together on the flower carpet called life.
I offer to you my everlasting love,
You bestow on me your heart divine.*



Loving

Let us love like the cascading waterfall!

Let us love like the stormy ocean on a wintry shore!

Let us love like the howling wind,

Let us love like the pouring rain...

...The moon and stars burning bright,

We journey

To a region of exuberance –

To the realm of exquisite silence...

I Love You

*I love you, so I can compose poetry.
I leave you, so I can pity my loneliness.
Dearest, let's not give each other disappointment
Dearest, don't cause the heart to cease dreaming.*

*Keep your heart like that of the white dove,
Like smooth, soft skin not yet covered by life's dust.
Go on, speak truly in gentle tone,
Love like a faithful companion.*

*Don't step onto the murky shores.
Don't suspect even the complicated human's heart.
Don't spin the webs of bitterness.
Don't dry up smiling lips.*

*My love has a saintly soul,
My love's amour is eternal.
His words as soft as silken mist,
His eyes as lovely as a crystal spring,
His hair a forest of fond memories.*

*A pair of loving lips –
The first time I return home:
I know passion.*

*I love you with no remorse.
I love you with a rare gladness.
I follow the footsteps of true feeling
To the vast Garden of Eden.*

*Birds sing in my heart,
Butterflies flutter above my eyes.
I close my weary lashes
And rest in your embrace.
From today will be happy days
Because I love only you.
Miss you,
Love you,
And... you only.*



Love

Love is so fiery hot.

Love is so icy cold.

Love is like the Inferno.

Love is like Paradise.

Why is love so binding?

Why is love so free?

Love is stone and rough gravel.

Love is silky gold.

Oh, love is like always being needy,

But love is like being filled to overflowing.

Love is like a gentle breeze,

But love too is like a hurricane!

*In the morning, love is still there,
And then quietly dies at night.*

*Like a newly in bloom, short-lived flower,
It now drowns amidst the algae!*

Love, oh love,

Oh, why so graceful?

Why so deeply enigmatic?

Life and death arise by virtue of amour...

Love makes us miss each other,

But love also wants us to soon forget.

Love is filled with turmoil,

Love too is so serene!

Love leaves.

Love returns.

Love is sweet,

Love is burdensome!

Love conveys us to the sky.

Love drags us to the abyss.

We wail,

We plead,

But love still won't release.

Love surrounds us

The whole life long...

Love is like the sea.

Love is like the mountains.

Love is like green jade.

Love is like threads of nebula.

We're lost in the alluring maze.

See the hopeless night,

See the sunrise.

Forget mortality,

Forget our real identity!

Love encompasses

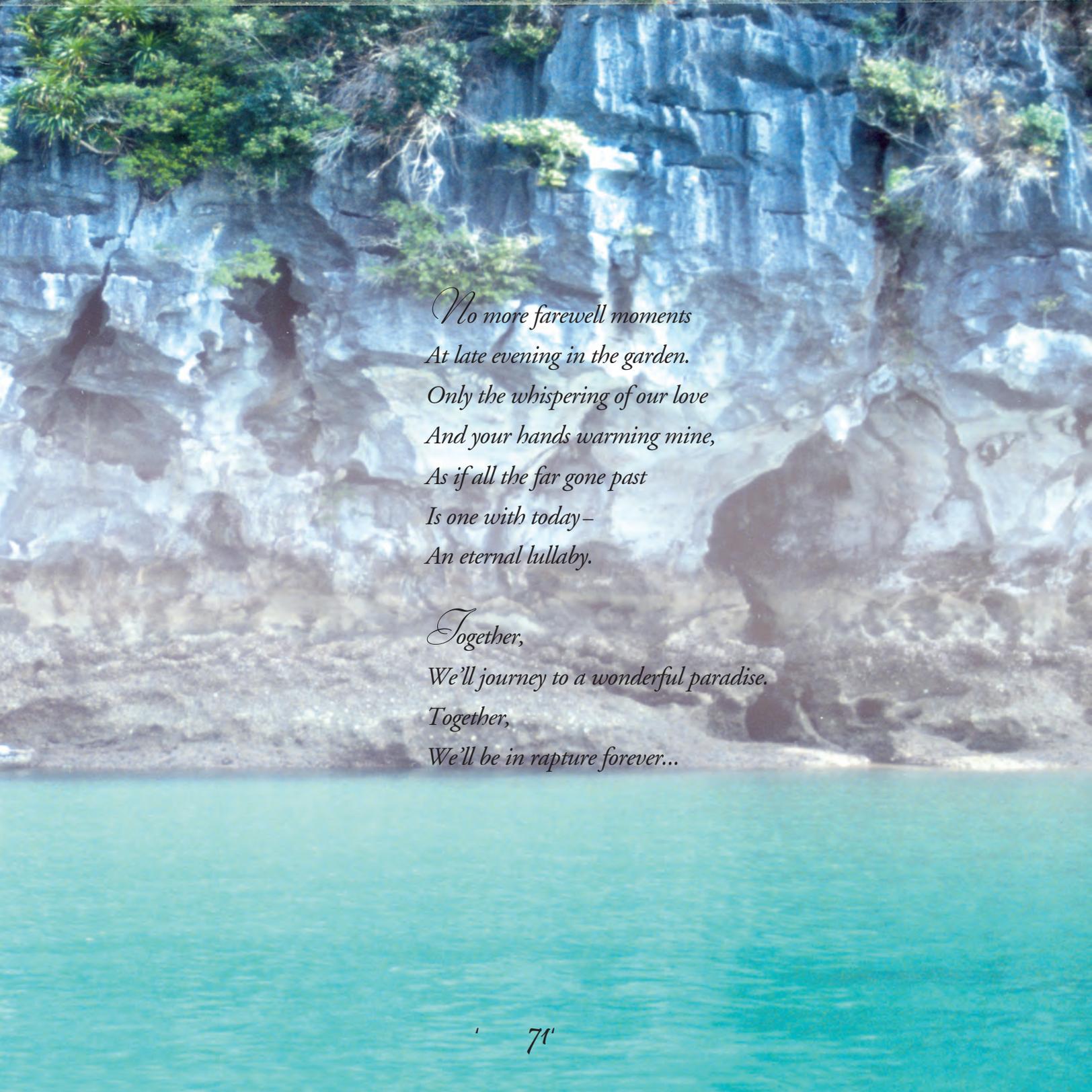
Our whole destiny!



If

*If love no longer exists
It would be the realm of Death.
Our spirits would feel so spent,
With nowhere to turn.*

*My dear, carry on this beautiful dream,
Innocent as our childhood.
Let us whisper tenderly,
In words as fragrant as orchids.*



*No more farewell moments
At late evening in the garden.
Only the whispering of our love
And your hands warming mine,
As if all the far gone past
Is one with today—
An eternal lullaby.*

*Together,
We'll journey to a wonderful paradise.
Together,
We'll be in rapture forever...*

Promises

*I will write a thousand leaves of poetry
Praising the grandeur of love.
I will sing to you sweet romantic tunes.
I will laugh aloud, waking stars and moon,
So you won't ever be lonely in your heart!*

*I will love you forever,
Like the promises of the gods.*

*I will color for you
The world's most exquisite paintings!
I will wait for you no matter how long,
Even if there are no more humans,
Even if the sun is extinguished,
And I have no one as companion!...*

*I will light for you a thousand radiant candles
To shine in our Eden on moonless nights.
If in this world love still exists,
I will be the first
To glorify true romance,
To sing the praise of glorious passion!*

*God gives birth to you and me,
To preserve eternal happiness.
We will care for each other like priceless gems.
We will be deeply grateful to the infinite Splendor.*

*This love is like a bud that blooms but once,
Never to fade again.
We will lead each other into eternity,
To the realm of uncommon memory...*

P. S. Love you!

Evening Dream

*Sitting by the window, alone in the evening—
I sadly gazed at the distant horizon.
Hearing someone's footsteps at the gate,
I thought it was you who came to visit.*

*But the street was still deserted,
And I sighed, with dismay,
The curtain hanging in melancholy,
The blanket so silent!*

*Clouds floating by,
The sun already bid farewell for the day,
But I'm still sitting here by the window,
Casting my eyes toward the ocean.*

*Oh, golden days,
Won't you—just once more—return?
Now and forever, won't you stay
And delight two youthful souls again?*

*The day we reunite will turn into a festive-season,
Side by side, our life will brighten.
The moon and stars will become new again,
And flowers will blossom in our hearts.*

Farewell Dream

For D.T.

*In the soft shadow of darkness,
I will close my eyes
And smile for you alone, my sweet,
For tomorrow, we'll be separated.*

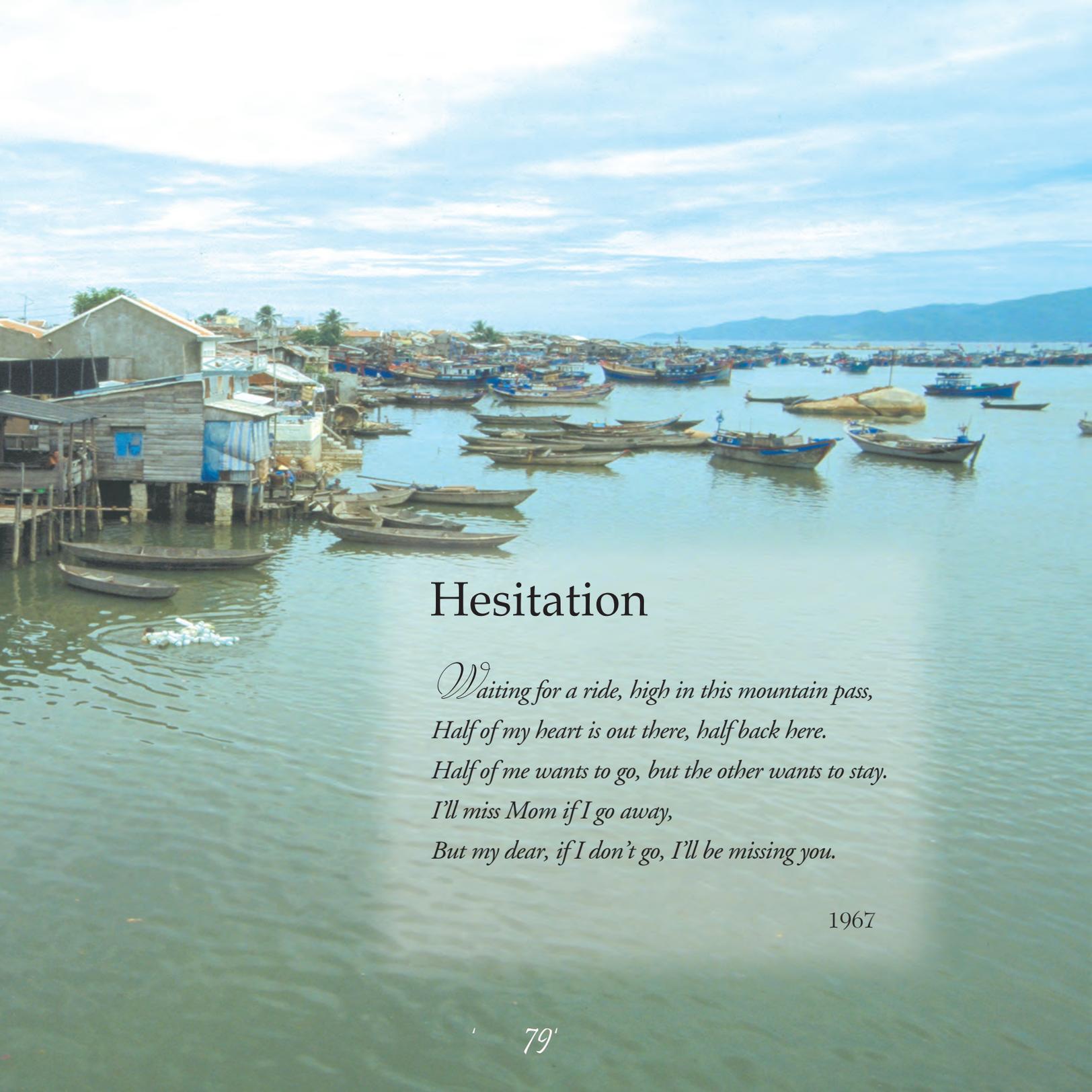
*I am but a stranger,
Wandering in this life.
Home is too far away,
With months and years just passing by.*

*I seem to travel forever,
With my two soft feet
And an innocent heart.
Many evenings pass, and countless sunrises.*

*Each of us traveling a different path,
I shall meet you at the destination.
But tomorrow, we'll be apart under the sky,
The stars will Lament and Cry!*

*In the soft shadows of darkness,
I will close my eyes,
And shed one tear for you alone, my sweet,
For tomorrow, we'll be separated.*



A photograph of a coastal town, likely in Southeast Asia, with numerous small wooden boats docked in the water. The buildings are built on stilts, and the sky is overcast. The water is a mix of green and blue tones.

Hesitation

*Waiting for a ride, high in this mountain pass,
Half of my heart is out there, half back here.
Half of me wants to go, but the other wants to stay.
I'll miss Mom if I go away,
But my dear, if I don't go, I'll be missing you.*

1967

Do You Miss...

*When you're there
And I am here,
Do you miss me, my precious,
The one with beautiful eyes?*

*The river continues flowing,
The rose bush is sad and lonely.
Clutching the single pillow,
I dream of our glorious time together.*

*It's no fun to live an empty life,
To long for someone far away!
Do you miss me, my dearest,
The one with luscious lips?*

*Seagulls are flying low, aimlessly
And boats sadly tost here and there!
The bay this evening seems so distant.
Your every breath I'm missing!*

*As nights pass and days float by,
I can't cease thinking of you!...*

Missing You

*I miss the smell of your hair,
Permeating throughout the East veranda.
I miss your lips, pretty as a rose,
Your blushed, young cheeks,
Smooth as petals of a flower,
Your eyes filled with love, like the pure ocean.*

*When I am with you, I compose love songs,
When I am away from you, I weave love poems.
When near you, I love desperately,
When away from you, I miss our time, gone!*

*I miss you when it rains,
I long for you when it's sunny.
I kiss you in my dreams,
I adore you in silence.*

*When you are here, I am happy.
When you leave, I wait for you.
This world is yours,
This world is mine.
Paradise is you,
Paradise is also I.*

Return to Each Other

*A long, fitful night,
A cold, wintry bed,
Who roams a thousand miles?
Who stays home forlorn...?*

*Dearest, do come home,
We'll climb the hill of joy.
Side by side, we'll watch the waves
And clouds floating by.*

*The end to all our days in the void,
Filled with sorrows and turmoil,
Filled with the silent death of solitude,
Filled with endless longing.*

*If one loves, then love completely!
Don't let the other yearn and wait.
Life's hundred years is too short
To mourn a youthful past!...*





Remembrance

*Love and longing come on solitary wings,
Heaven and Earth wither in lovesickness.
By the roadside, a remnant of autumn remains.
By the window, a lone figure watches the falling rain.*

*Does the river still recall its old shore?
Wild, untamed moments in an evening downpour,
A silky embrace, a pair of warm lips,
Love as ravishing as a poem!*

*If you leave, please hasten back.
Time slips by so quickly and melancholy will ripen.
When reunited, we'll chant the song of endless time,
Sharing joys and sorrows 'til our hair grows gray.*

Return to My Side

*Oh, night, why am I yet wakeful
In solitude, pondering one gone?
Drapes and covers, oh, so dispirited,
As if our love has long waned!*

*Suddenly, the day seems to linger,
And the wind, so frigid on a summer night!
Cold and lonely, I sit like a granite sculpture,
Like the rising tide in rainy twilight.*

*If there isn't you in life
The flowers will forget to smile,
The sun will refuse to rise,
The moon and stars will hide behind the clouds.*

*Do you see
That being apart, life is too melancholy?
Let's return to each other's side,
So our hearts can exude the fragrance of life.*

*We'll pluck fragrant blossoms,
Tuck them in our vibrant hair,
Croon to slumber with lullabies of love,
And ornament our faces with kisses.*

*Nights will cease being fitful,
Days cease dragging on.
Life will become joyous, brilliant,
And our love will never fade.*

Longing for You

*I await you expectantly—
You, who haven't returned to me.
The world is laden with sorrow,
Somber tears fill the sea!*

*I long for you so distant,
Departed to a foreign land.
Melancholy spins its web,
Romance is like blades of grass.*

*You are like a racing river,
Flowing in the vastness of life,
Taking with you the sweet sediment,
To nourish more strife!*

*I number all the sorrowful days
And the nights cloaked in mist.
Bowing my head and kiss our memories,
My yearning embrace feels so empty!...*



Distant Lover

*I want to clutch you in my arms
Just now,
Kissing your enticing lips,
Drowning in your hypnotic eyes!*

*I need you to love me passionately,
Like a night in summer
When the bud of love newly blossoms,
And what's left of us is only fragrant breath.*

*Let's grant each other a love without question,
Forget the world in our treasured moment—
Here an embrace,
Here tender lips,
Here a lover's glance.*

*Time seems to cease, condensing,
As the Earth exudes the ardent love scent.
I love you, let us love each other!
...Oh, do you often recall
The days when we were one?*

*Let's bring to each other a whole new life,
Renew a love that never dies.*

Do You Know?

*Do you know, waiting for each other a day
Is as drawn out as a century?
Life no longer retains its savor,
And the heart is like an empty shore!*

*Why do we keep living with our minds?
Let's live with our hearts.
Let's converse in words of tenderness,
Prolonging the day of celestial bliss.*

*Do you know, being apart an hour,
Life becomes like the realm of Death?
Gilded mattress, warm blankets—only symbols of sorrow,
Shrouding an icy solitary heart.*

*If you just now understand,
Then let's to each other return,
Overlooking all the days of sadness
And exulting in our reunion.*

*Forget the evenings filled with yearning.
Life is a song of love
Forever.
Okay, dearest!*

Conciliation

*I need to be a soldier of peace,
To offer a hand of friendship.
Because if you wait for me,
And I, another,
We'll wait eternally for each other...*

*Then our youth will be lost,
Love will be conflicted,
Friends become enemies,
High mountains turn to bottomless seas,
And human language will grow useless.*



*Why must we cry
When we may laugh?
Why must we forsake bliss
In search of suffering?*

*Let's take each other's hand,
Soaring above the realm of chaos
To gaze down on life,
Our laughter resonating through Heaven and Earth.
My very dear!*

*We will hold each other close,
Speaking words of compassion,
Whispering words of love.
Let's remake a paradise
Of olden days:
The days we first entered each other's lives.
Yes, dearest love of mine!*

Visiting You

*I set out,
Spreading my wings to the heavens.
I proceed to call on you,
The one I cherish...*

*The Earth is vibrant,
Exulting in our reunion,
An uncommon day of happiness,
Together as on our first meeting.*

*Let us overlook
The nights of our distress,
Because from now
We are together
A long time... a long time!*

*V*ast, open arms,
A profound, tender kiss,
Together this night,
Let's forget yesterdays
And the rest.

We depart at sunrise,
Return at twilight,
Sing on full moon nights,
Chorus on breezy days.

*L*ife is an aromatic flower garden,
Oh, Mein!

Reunion

*Early tomorrow morning
I return to see you,
The perfumed wind in all directions
Stroking my hair,
Caressing my smiling lips.*

*Blue evening,
I gaze into your shimmering eyes.
Birds return to their nests,
Singing and rejoicing in our reunion.
The two of us
So much to share...*

*Golden night,
Together we revel in the moonlight,
Our hearts like luscious honey,
Our love like a cooling breeze.*

*I love you
You love me.
Life's garden is infused with the scent of blossoms...*

The background of the page is a scenic landscape. At the top, a dark, jagged rock formation, possibly a cave entrance, frames the scene. Below it, a body of water is visible, with several large, green, limestone karst formations rising from the shore. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. In the foreground, there are some green trees and foliage, partially obscuring the bottom of the page.

That and This Day

*Love and longing come on solitary wings
Heaven and Earth drown this space in loneliness.
By the roadside, remnants of dying autumn fall
By the door, a lone figure peers at the deserted shore.*

*The waves beyond churn up longing.
White lilies in the yard, too, are withering!
A narrow path, pouring rain, fading flowers,
Empty balcony, the moon steeped in shades of sorrow.*



*But then, you returned—
Flowers abound, the clouds, wind beckons!
Hand in hand by the crystal river,
Side by side, we share to heart's content...*

*Heaven and Earth now a festival
Two souls, buoyant in paradise,
Loving one another.
Each day brimming, boundless...*

Pebbles and Gold

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The SMCHIA Book Department
with guidance from the Author

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The Supreme Master Ching Hai is a world renowned philanthropist, artist, and spiritual teacher. Gifted as a poet from an early age, She has long used Her unique creative powers to fashion beautiful and profoundly moving verses, which have been published in numerous languages and set to music by distinguished composers.

She expresses both universal truths and touchingly human feelings in Her writings, and through them has inspired countless souls to greater inner peace and spiritual understanding. Since Her earliest years, The Supreme Master Ching Hai has worked to alleviate the suffering of humanity through Her words and deeds, and Her poems reveal the wisdom gained through Her spiritual enlightenment and tireless devotion to the education and upliftment of others.

As Oscar- and Emmy-winning composer Fred Karlin stated, "Many of Her poems speak in very strong metaphorical language about a person trying to reach the inner Self... The kind of time and love that She gives to all of Her humanitarian and artistic efforts is really remarkable and unusual - not many people have that combination of instincts and impulses. The poems continued to get deeper as I worked with them. They not only remained deep but continued to get more multi-dimensional. I just found myself feeling privileged to be able to work with Her through these poems."

