

*VIET HUU TRAN*  
Pen Name : HUU VIET

1. A CANDLE POEM

Is it true that candles tend to cry at night?  
Reminded of the nameless evenings  
Ha Noi's New-Year's-Eve streets  
The year dawdles  
                  but New Year is always in haste  
Gardens rushing cherry blossoms  
                  forever calling the spring

All are done so it seems  
Candles have fallen asleep  
Dreams have ceased to come back knocking on the door  
In solitary flowers bloom uselessly red

Suppose again you're indifferent  
For me the spring is there as if it weren't there

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

2. COUNTING RAIN

Dreams are yet mine  
Fantasies still far from memories

The new season rain misses  
Sapphire flashes following to the cot  
Joy is like an unfinished card game  
Night fades...

Will rain arrive from the longing place?...

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

### 3. COUNTING SEASONS

Hiding from the autumn sitting behind a door  
Crumbly counting golden autumn leaves  
The sunlight's soul calls out to the South  
Autumn is being so much Northern

Season-owed streets look perplexed  
My distant beloved, are the streets still in you?  
Who has pressed on the last note  
that the scale unloads unmelodiously?

Who feels chilled in the evening in place of the fog?  
*Autumn strides at loss not knowing the street name*

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

### 4. THE LITTLE PINK GLASS

The little pink glass  
Sings a song into halves  
A sad, fragrant pillow absent of cheeks

The blossoming pomegranate in front of the gate  
Bubbling rain out in the courtyard  
The crimson silk cloth left out in the wind  
So who has dropped it...?

So I have dropped it

The little pink glass  
An azure ribbon  
Falling on the withered-leaf porch

Wandering about the soul  
picks up pieces  
of the sky's pieces

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

5. BOATHOUSE

Have the lamps fallen exhausted? Yet the trees have drifted into rest  
Willows wave unpossessed  
Suddenly the familiar hair's fragrance--orphaned

A rendezvous bar  
    alone  
    bitter beer  
Who said the autumn is deeply in love  
That I a lonesome chair

At day's end don't sweep too roughly  
That love will fly astray in the cold lake breeze

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

6. PURPLE THE AUTUMN AFTERNOON RAIN

Wish I were your child  
Lulled into sleep in your sun-warm arms  
To be unstartled on cold-orphan nights

Let the mite swarm hover the afternoon  
Purple dress please don't languish  
A rain drop bursts into halves, a boat floats adrift  
To live is to share thirstiness evenly

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

7. UNTITLED

Ephemeral dreams choked like green rice lost in black frost  
Sowing predestined love late harvests but sorrows  
Dampening rain, a love match wouldn't light

Regretfully losing you like losing a chance  
Slipped out of hand

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

#### 8. A LOVE ACCOUNT

Please register a heart account  
At Joint - stock Banks "Loving you forever"  
Kind eyes  
    why limit the youthful time?  
Pray  
    that you won't go sparkly bankrupt

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

9. YING YANG STREET

Street first day. Street full-moon day  
Strolling, skipping streets  
Happy sad luck hapless...  
You can buy if you wish

Street post-office ying yang  
Street hell's bank  
Hence... there are the streets  
so many years?

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

## 10. EVACUATION DAYS

Evacuation I had yet come of age  
 Used to sleep in the day and weep at night  
 Perhaps I was born thirsty for milk

Chewing on grandma's hidden blouse to suppress lovesickness  
 Singing, swinging the afternoon autumn hammock  
*"You live with grandma, she has no breast*  
*You live with daddy, he's a man"*  
 Upon each visit  
 Often my mother discreetly wiped her tears

Growing up I joined the village children  
 Learned to tend buffalo, fly kites and clip grass  
 Warded off the rice-gleaning kids  
 from the neighboring village  
 Sun-burnt skin, auburn hair  
 Who would have thought my home...the city

Ten years grandma's tomb covered with grass  
 My heart still autumn still hammock swing  
 I return to the evacuation site of the past  
 Memories pour out playfully in alleys  
 Hide-and-peek for a time at the age of ten  
 The former poor landlord's home has turned into a manor  
 Dollars from a distant cousin  
 Emigrated to the other ocean shore

How I miss the dreamy, wandering age  
 So far away is the past  
 and so blue is the far away

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

## 11. IF YOU TURN AND LOOK

Milk flowers are now here, my dear  
 Returning to the roads the breeze lies gently asleep

If you turn and look  
Your hair sways aside, your cheeks are the full moon

Paid off the moon but then I owe the sail  
A swift bird in the drenched evening  
Please stop looking at me proudly  
The autumn almost slips away

If you turn and look  
All but one lotus wilts in the pond  
Wake up the fragrance for the dead-leaf season

And there is still a piece of my soul that  
Gently shivers on the tree tip in the freezing wind

*(Translated by : Y NHI)*

## 12. BLUE RAIN

Branches wept transparent dews  
Clear as deep skies of blue  
Rain sauntered through alleys  
In drops fallen anew

Dreams parted your fragrant lips  
Your hidden scent quivered  
Bashfully the rain unclothed  
Upon your hair, rivered

Innocence hastened into dusk  
Reflecting face that lined  
You cried no longer, yet  
Your smile's sorrow disguised.

*(Translated by : ANH NGUYEN)*

## 13. SUMMER STROLL

Trees brush their branches mirrored in the streets  
 Rain's ceased, the leaves turned to the sun  
 Blissful, the jammed intersection

The avenue rainbowed  
 Dreaming of festivities  
 The train returned to the crowded station  
 Whistle stifled by its smoke-filled lungs

Peaceful breezes unfurled before eyes unfettered  
 Tiled roofs lined the pathway as if an allurement.

*(Translated by : ANH NGUYEN)*

#### 14. FRIENDSHIP

Each of us must one day depart  
 Let's treasure our time together  
 Our friendship borne of hardship  
 Sibling by birth though we were not  
 Blood brothers, what we were

Often, each other we misjudged  
 For self gains, we planned and schemed  
 Sometime wish we'd never met  
 Now, the grief increased in folds  
 Yearnings heaped upon yearnings  
 Regrets piled upon regrets!  
 Penitent of missed union  
 Remorseful of cruel words  
 Longed for those fleeting happy days forever passed  
 How short-lived the kind-hearted friends?  
 Or is Hades lacked gentle spirits  
 Alas, present now, then swiftly gone.

*(Translated by : ANH NGUYEN)*



## 15. MONOTONY

There were days the work seemed monotonous  
The phone. Fax. Email. Tiresome.  
Migraines. High blood pressure. Cankered gums.  
Cigarette fumes. Playing cards. Computer games : LINE  
Each day I aged a year  
Selling - buying contracts –  
Two goats clashing horns on a bridge  
Taxes bleed  
Getting sanitary rich  
Is always still the hardest  
To each God bestowed only one talent  
Is my source our source?

*“One misstep, a life-long regret”*  
I squandered those youthful years  
Now, in threadbare cloths I greet the full moon

*(Translated by : ANH NGUYEN)*