

BĪNG XĪN

CHINA (1900–1999)

LANGUAGE: CHINESE

一〇

YĪ LÍNG

嫩綠的芽兒，

Nèn lǜ dí yá er,

和青年說：

huò qīng nián shuì:

“發展你自己！”

“Fā zhǎn nǐ zì jǐ!”

談白的花兒，

Tán bái dí huā er,

和青年說：

huò qīng nián shuì:

“工資按你自己！”

“Gōng zī àn nǐ zì jǐ!”

深紅的果兒

Shēn hóng dí guō er

和青年說：

huò qīng nián shuì:

“犧牲你自己！”

“Xī shēng nǐ zì jǐ!”



Bīng Xīn was the pen name of Chinese writer Xie Wanying. Her chosen name, which literally means “Ice Heart,” describes the purity of her optimism and love for the world. Bīng Xīn’s poetry was so different from any other style that it was named “Bīng Xīn style” after her. During her lifetime she traveled all over the world, writing down her reflections about things she saw and people she met. No matter where she went, she always connected to young people and continued to write for them.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
CHARACTER	PINYIN	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
按	àn (v.)	make certain of obtaining or providing something	make sure of, check, guard, control, secure
白	bái (adj.)	the opposite of black	white, arctic, blank, bright, clear, snowy
的	dí (prep.)	belonging to or related to someone	of, -'s
兒	er (adj.)	usually added to a noun to imply smallness or affection	little, baby, tiny, -lets, -kins
發展	fā zhǎn (v.)	literally <i>send</i> and <i>open</i> —grow or cause to grow and become more mature, advanced, or elaborate	develop, blossom, grow, sprout, unfurl
工資	gōng zī (n.)	literally <i>work</i> and <i>reward</i> —something given as a reward for something done	payment, wage, pay, earnings, salary
果	guō (n.)	the sweet and fleshy product of a tree or other plant	fruit, yield, produce, berry, harvest
紅	hóng (adj.)	of the color of blood, fire, or rubies	red, scarlet, vermilion, crimson, ruby, cherry; revolutionary
花	huā (n.)	the seed-bearing part of a plant, typically surrounded by brightly colored petals	flowers, blooms, blossoms, florets, posies
和	huò (conj.)	in addition to	and, together with, along with, plus
绿	lǜ (adj.)	of the color between blue and yellow like grass or emeralds	green, verdure, jade, unripe
嫩	nèn (adj.)	young, immature, and vulnerable	soft, tender, delicate, young, fragile
你自己	nǐ zì jǐ (pron.)	used to refer to the person being addressed	yourself

CHARACTER	PINYIN	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
青年	qīng nián (n.)	literally <i>young</i> and <i>year</i> — young people	youth, young, teenagers, kids
深	shēn (adj. or adv.)	adj.—very intense or extreme adv.—to a great extent	deep, dark, profound; very, greatly, deeply
說	shuì (v.)	utter words so as to convey information, an opinion, a feeling or intention, or an instruction	say, tell you, persuade, pronounce, insist, urge, claim, suggest
談	tán (v.)	to utter words in order to give information or express ideas or feelings	say, talk, speak, chat, discuss
犧牲	xī shēng (v.)	literally <i>sacrifice</i> and <i>animal</i> —to offer or kill something for the sake of something more valuable	lay down your life, sacrifice, give up, surrender, offer up, forgo
芽	yá (n.)	compact knob-like growths on a plant that develop into leaves, flowers, or shoots	buds, shoots, sprouts
一〇	yī líng (n.)	literally means <i>one</i> and <i>zero</i>	10, ten

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
