

顧城

GU CHENG

CHINA (1956–1993)

LANGUAGE: CHINESE

遠和近

YUǎN HÉ Jìn

你，

Nǐ,

一會看我

Yī huì kàn wǒ

一會看雲。

Yī huì kàn yún.

我覺得

Wǒ juéde

你看我時很遠，

Nǐ kàn wǒ shí hěn yuǎn,

你看雲時很近。

Nǐ kàn yún shí hěn jìn.



Gu Cheng said that he wrote his first poems in a pigsty. Though he was born in Beijing, his family was forced to move to the coastal province of Shandong when Gu Cheng was only twelve years old. They were one of many families deported to the countryside during the Cultural Revolution (1966–1967), a period of heavy restrictions in China. The government made it illegal to publish literature or art, and in Shandong Gu Cheng's formal education ended. He returned to Beijing and began to write a new kind of poetry that was personal and lyrical. He and other like-minded poets became known as "Misty Poets," because the government criticized their poetry, calling it "obscure" and "misty." He is known for wearing a cut-off piece of a pant leg on his head as a hat.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
CHARACTER	PINYIN	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
和	hé (conj.)	in addition to	and, plus, as well as
會	huì (n.)	a very brief period of time	moment, instant, split second, flash, minute
近	jìn (adv.)	with very little space between	near, nearby, close, close by, next to, in the vicinity of, approaching
覺得	juéde (v.)	to perceive by a sense or senses	think, feel, sense, get the idea, imagine, reflect
看	kàn (v.)	to direct one's gaze toward someone or something	look at, glance at, stare at, see, watch, observe
你	nǐ (pron.)	referring to the person or people that the speaker is addressing	you
時很	shí hěn (adv.)	at or during the time	when, while, at, during
一	yī (art. / adj.)	one single	a, one, single, lone, individual
遠	yuǎn (adv.)	at, to, or by a great distance	far, far away, distant, remote, far-off, far-flung, away
雲	yún (n.)	visible masses of condensed water vapor floating in the atmosphere	clouds, nebulas, fog, mist
我	wǒ (pron.)	referring to the speaker	me, I

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHRASE BY PHRASE

遠和近

YUǎN HÉ Jìn \_\_\_\_\_

你,

Nǐ, \_\_\_\_\_

一會看我

Yī huì kàn wǒ \_\_\_\_\_

一會看雲。

Yī huì kàn yún. \_\_\_\_\_

我覺得

Wǒ juéde \_\_\_\_\_

你看我時很遠,

Nǐ kàn wǒ shí hěn yuǎn, \_\_\_\_\_

你看雲時很近。

Nǐ kàn yún shí hěn jìn. \_\_\_\_\_



## REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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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?

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

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

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