

PRAGUY PRACHYA

THAILAND (1964 - PRESENT)

LANGUAGE: THAI

บนราวตากผ้ายามบ่าย

Boan rao-dtak-pah yaam bai

เสื้อผ้า

Seua-pah

รำเรงกับลมฝน

rah-rerng gub loam fon

ไม่รู้ชะตากรรม

mai roo shatah-gum



Praguy Prachya began writing poetry in high school, after the massacre of student activists in Bangkok in 1976 (known as the “October 6 Event” in Thailand) propelled him to put pen to paper. Since then, he has published nine collections of poetry, many of his pieces political in nature. His work has been very influential; however, having shunned the local literary-awards circuit for thirty years, he has never won a major prize, leading him to be dubbed as “the Crownless King” of contemporary Thai poetry. Prachya lives in the eastern Thai province of Chonburi.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
THAI	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
บน	boan (prep.)	physically on top of	on, upon, over
ราวตากผ้า	rao-dtak-pah (n.)	line or rack on which clothes are hung to dry	clothesline, rail, line, rack
ยาม	yaam (prep.)	at the time of	during, in, while, in the course of, over, in the middle of
บ่าย	bai (n.)	time after 12 pm but before 5 pm	afternoon, after lunch
เสื้อ	seua (n.)	clothing worn on the top half of the body	shirt, top, blouse, clothing
ผ้า	pah (n.)	fabric or something made of fabric	cloth, textile, linens
เสื้อผ้า	seua-pah (n.)	things worn to cover the body (compound of above two words)	clothes, clothing, laundry
ร่า	rah (v. or adj.)	in a state of being visibly happy	cheerful, cheery, giddy
เริง	remng (v. or adj.)	in a state of having fun, being in a good mood or feeling happy	cheerful, bright, giddy, happy
ร่าเริง	rah-remng (v. or adj.)	in a state of having fun, being in a good mood or feeling happy (compound of above two words)	cheerful, giddy, happy, in good spirits
กับ	gub (prep.)	accompanied by, due to	with, by, because of, in
ลม	loam (n.)	current of air	wind, storm, gust
ฝน	fon (n.)	liquid precipitation	rain, monsoon, precipitation
ไม่	mai (adv.)	word of negation	not, no
รู้	roo (v.)	to have knowledge of	to know, to realize, to sense, to be aware of
ชะตา	shatah (n.)	what the future holds for someone, what befalls someone	fate, future, luck
กรรม	gum (n.)	a past deed that comes back to affect one's present	karma, fate, misfortune
ชะตากรรม	shatah-gum (n.)	what the future holds for someone, what befalls someone (compound of above two words)	fate, end, destiny, lot, future, luck

Translator's Note: Thai does not use spaces between words, and therefore it is sometimes possible to read compound words as their separate component words."

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

บนราวตากผ้ายามบ่าย

Boan rao-dtak-pah yaam bai _____

เสื้อผ้า

Seua-pah _____

รำเรงกับลมฝน

rah-rerng gub loam fon _____

ไม่รู้ชะตากรรม

mai roo shatah-gum _____

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?
