

Once in a Darkest Night

依群 (高中22屆)

[This poem was written in Remembrance of 初中廿屆校友
Zhong Jia Qi (鍾佳齊) and Wen Yan Feng (文衍鋒),
two dear classmates who passed away at Vietnam]

In the winter of 1960,
We left My Tho for Soc Trang by boat;
For the first time I saw the mighty Mekong River,
And we sang an unforgettable song.

In a night with no moon or stars shining,
So dark and quiet I couldn't recall what went on that night;
Only boat engine noise cut into the sky,
I slept through the whole trip, missing all the wonderful sights!

10 years ago I came back to the Mekong River,
From Ben Tre to Can Tho I took a tour;
The mighty river still rushed through,
Except it was only myself without you two!

My heart sank deeply into the bottom of the river
Wondering why you both left this world so hastily?
I reminisced the old good days at TriDung,
When we studied in groups speedily.

The summer of 1958, we went to Pham Thiet,
Enjoyed the sunset by Nha Trang Beach,
And marveled at the waterfalls in Dalat,
And climbed the Nui Ba Den mountaintop.

Where are you now, my dear friends?
Some day I shall come to meet you two.
Once again we will retell old stories,
Our friendship and love are always true.

Mekong River continues its flow to Eastern Sea,
You are so vast; your stretch seems no end,
Tell me when I should return to see you soon?
In your bosom I send my love to these two friends.

(Still remember two dear friends freshly in the early Fall of 2011)

