

Poetry Series

**Roland Cho**  
**- poems -**

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# Roland Cho()

# A Fake Storm

Like a bird perches on a greening lawn in early spring,  
My eyes fell on that rare beauty and cost reason its place.  
A sudden feeling it was, and a genuine feeling I wished it were  
Wishing I could slide on dust, just to pamper if I could  
For, I really wished to be telepathic, and transplant the epicentre  
Of this powerful and wave-like but innate tumult.  
I could feel It rocking within me,  
Nearly thwarting and rupturing my raison d'être in that classroom.

Seconds grew into minutes, hours, days, weeks and then months.  
Her sight often rekindled the rocking, but reason regained its place,  
Giving room to brain-based observation and analysis.  
Yeah, "not all that glitters is gold", I began to think.  
But, two lessons I remembered: in the country of the blind,  
The one-eyed is the king. □  
Also, the cyclical nature of things that: spring comes right after winter,  
Just before summer and then autumn ushers in another winter.

Roland Cho

# A Farewell

My sweetheart, I can't sing to you as I go.  
No drum could bit the chill off my heart.  
As we part, one wish will I make to you,  
Hold to it as long as I have value:

Be good, sweetheart. As your love's hunters  
Get disappointments, so do you get respect.  
I will return to meet you with a fresh  
Heart to love, and more from my harvest.

Roland Cho

# A Fool's Almanac

We like to understand things  
Even beyond our levels of understanding.  
Seeking to understand what we should know,  
And never knowing what we should understand.

Those who know are never fooled,  
Because, they understand fools.  
Those who sought understanding all, are always fooled;  
Since fools understand that they know.

Knowing is enough and easy to understand.  
But, not understanding the un-understandable  
Is what we don't know  
If you know this poem, you need to understand it  
To understand fools!  
If you understand this poem, then you  
Know what you can't understand.  
Don't be fooled by a fool!

Roland Cho

# A Song For Binzhou

I saw you first a long time ago  
When you seemed just beginning to grow  
I got into your arms  
And round me you clad your arms  
A life you changed, my hope you enhanced  
And my thoughts between you and Home balanced

When Binzhou grows, everyone knows  
When Binzhou grows, love flows  
Seeing Binzhou grow, you want to bow  
For binzhou's growth let's all bow

Roland Cho

# Amazing “huang He”

Calmly and elegantly you flow!  
Deeply my imagination you blow!  
Like a kingly bed is your flatness,  
Like milked-coffee is your brownness!  
Though I wander, you make me wonder  
How much or less pressure you are under!  
In your quietness lies the beauty of silence,  
And in this beauty mother Nature shines!

Roland Cho

# Battle For Life

Like the lion, we want to be,  
Holding everyone suspect,  
And thinking its flesh is fresh.

Like the ant, we work seriously and quickly,  
Knowing not where we go, or what we do,  
But holding to our destination.

Like the snake we slide,  
Fearless to go into any hole.  
After all, if life ends in a hole,  
That's the way it was meant to be!

Roland Cho

# Bin Zhou

To Her I came for sustenance!  
In Her open arms I sheltered, though still trembling;  
Because Her arms remained wide open to fall out of  
Though still vulnerable or so I felt,  
Like leaves on a tree Her people shed me.  
Time brought us closer;  
Home She played and comfort She gave me.  
My other half She brought closer to me  
My own seed She brought to life, a family I now head.  
From you it is hard to depart, Binzhou  
Because to you much appreciation I owe.  
Your wings ever so quickly you spread  
Your eyes ever so widely you capture.  
To you ever so closer I feel  
In you ever so secure I feel  
To you ever so earnest I wish to be  
For, in you I found my feet  
Through you I had my own feather- My first Red Feather  
And then again  
Fun like food you offer in lumps  
Friends like fiends you conjure  
Always holding me alert  
My fears and tears you mix.  
Oh Binzhou! My smiles and tears you've seen!  
Pains and gains you give and take!  
I can't say how much I love you!

Roland Cho

# Birthday Smile

On your birthday, I was happy,  
For I knew you wouldn't be catty.  
I felt I could call you 'honey',  
But I feared you could be funny.  
In my heart, I could shout,  
But I couldn't say it out.  
I felt that I had love to share,  
But you said you hadn't love to spare.

So came the time to choose,  
And I wouldn't let myself loose,  
For fear of being rejected,  
Even though I had not been accepted.  
And then came the moment to sing,  
I was ushered into the ring.  
I wasn't in the mood,  
But I thought it would be good.

I murmured, "you're the queen of my heart",  
But chanted, "There's rainfall in my heart".  
Ears widened, and fidgeting dwindled.  
She dimmed hers eyes and then focused.  
So, I added: "Give me a smile,  
And I'll feel the sun shine".  
Just then appeared a smile on her face,  
I felt like I was in space.  
Joy gripped my heart.  
Getting your smile was an art.

Roland Cho

# Bossing The Boss

See me the way I am  
Take me for whom I am  
Know me for what I am  
And then, you'll know real me!

Treat me the way you treat him  
Praise me the way you praise him  
Cover me the way you cover him  
And then, you'll be a real boss!

Look not always at my weaknesses  
See how my strengths out-number them  
Ignore not always his weaknesses  
See how he ignores you!

If you like what I do, like me as well  
If you are not racist, treat us equally  
Pay me in silence and on time  
For, everything of his is done on time!

Roland Cho

# For Being Black

For being Black, I am feared;  
But by some I am revered.  
Because I am Black explorers "Treat" me.  
Since I have darker skin employers cheat me.  
"He's not white! ", some say.  
"His is the lower pay! "  
Just Because I am Black&#65281;

For being Black, I get lots of favours;  
But for some I should get no leisures.  
For the fair, the best I should get,  
For the bare, only the afters should I get.  
That I can to many I swear,  
That I can't so many fear&#65281;  
Just because I am Black&#65281;

Roland Cho

# Hao Peng You

May that radiant smile that's always  
On your face  
Continue to glow,  
Because it makes friendship flow.

It brightens the way,  
And can make one's day.  
Many people always have smiles  
That are perceptible from miles,  
But you can't say what they mean,  
Because you don't know if they are genuine.

Although smiles may come in a dozen,  
Only few smiles can be like an oven  
That'll bake a good cake for dinner,  
A nice smile like on that face of Selina

Roland Cho

# Inaudible Shouts

Were it just for friendship, I would understand.  
Because, it can start and end with or no jingles!  
Were it just because you are a beauty, and I, a male,  
I would think it is why I need you!  
Were it because I need to feel; feel like a man whom I am,  
Then any woman can fill and make feel.

But, it is for something deep down,  
Beyond my senses, but along my sentiments.  
This kind of feeling is what I can't say,  
But I know it is what I want to save.  
Saying that it is difficult is making no point.  
Waving the difficulties is getting the point.

Roland Cho

# Judgment Days

Does Man become animal?  
Or animals become Men?  
Who thinks? Who feels? Who cares? !  
True that; Man is able to think.  
True that; Man feels and cares,  
He thinks of fellowman and animals,  
And cares about his feelings to fill.  
Thus, He cares for animals, fish and birds.  
Fattening them for Judgment Days;  
Judgment between Man and slices  
Lying still, and never to hear the verdict.

Roland Cho

# Lie Lie Juju-Man

Just promises you never stop making  
Promises you never can deliver.  
Promises you've made, promises forgotten  
"Strong Juju-Man" you claim to be  
My cursers you claim to know  
My troublers you claim to see  
My future you claim was paved  
That future you say is waived  
And yet you claim you can remake!

Roland Cho

# Life's Blues

I still kiss you in my dreams  
And dream about you when I kiss  
I'll regain you someday, it seems.  
You are the only thing I really miss!

Our yesterday was made of merry promises  
Our today balanced on the sides of a divide.  
No chance to talk about our near misses,  
But I know you'll be my bride.

I seem to hear echoes of my croons  
And see visions of us in the shrine  
Asking why our hearts aren't moons  
That'll make our love to always shine.

Roland Cho

# Mei Guo

You are in everyone and in everything,  
Spoken of by everyone.  
Your seven-lettered name evokes reactions.  
Good are some, bad are others:  
Admired and desired, hated and cursed!  
Many and diverse are your defenders;  
Many and disguised are your attackers,  
But you keep spreading and spending.  
You want to be everywhere  
You want to help everyone.  
Some measure their successes,  
Others, their ambitions,  
All using the American Ruler.  
Oh "Mei Guo", land of beauty and values!  
You are charming, loved ...  
You are also WANTED!

Roland Cho

# Memories

Out in the night so dark  
I crave a moon so blue!  
Wishing even lightning would spark  
Just so I can see you!

Out in the woods, I enjoy the calm.  
I think of what loving you requires.  
Missing your drawings in my palm,  
Just because you are now the squires

Roland Cho

# Mothers In Women

Long are their hours of labour!  
Servants with no eye on the clock...  
In this slow drowning aridity!  
Still protesting; though no longer in tight holes!  
Always hoping they'll cope.

Subjects of mental and physical stings!  
Stings from those they love, soothe and cherish.  
"Sorry" is what I mean, for my own stings on her back  
For a sudden shake from a sudden punch from Him.

I know she has this picture now on her floor,  
Even though mine with them is still well fixed up.  
True, they're not at destination, but departure was effective!  
I will push wherever I meet their van.  
Mothers are mums because they are women!

Roland Cho

# My Own Country

People talk and people invite or visit  
Talk about Home, invite or visit Home  
People visit and visit again and maybe again  
'Cos there's something to talk about or visit  
Things to see and places to cherish  
But, OH! I can't, or I dare not  
Ha! My own country

Five year plans, ten year plans, ...  
Plans for this and plans for that. Plans for Life!  
New faces now and then, new faces here and there.  
New faces new ideas, new ideas new plans  
New plans new hopes, new hopes better lives  
But, OH! We haven't or maybe not enough  
Ha! My own country!

Roland Cho

# My Queen

I know I don't know much,  
But I know how much I love you  
I know I don't have much,  
But I know how much I owe you  
If I could re-make my heart,  
I will re-make my life  
If I could wish and have,  
I don't know what I will not wish you  
Queens are those that kings admire and revere  
I'm not a king, but you are the queen I prefer

Roland Cho

# No Tomorrow Today!

My heart leaps before these seas of human remains.  
Is there nobody to stop it?  
The scenes have been frequent and scary!  
Nobody knows when it is coming,  
But, everyone knows when it has come!

Nyos is a perennial memory!  
Nsam, the nameless barbecue!  
Iraq, the unnamed experimental slaughter field!  
HIV, daughter of the queen of suffering!  
Storms of all appellations, sweeping the sleeping! .  
Tsunami, Wenchuan, ... and then Haiti  
Imposing their own town-planning schemes,  
Or pop. control policies,  
In the most horrendous of manners!

Some see in these the Prophecy in the Book,  
Others see a hidden hand in these open laboratories.  
Science blames it on human negligence...!  
So, which way from here?  
Is there no tomorrow today?

Roland Cho

## Of M.S...

That you are beautiful, this I know  
Because we are!  
That you will come safely, this I know  
Because we pray so!  
That you will be strong, this I know  
Because Someone Listens!  
That you are great, this I feel  
Because you cause many to wait!  
That you bring more joy, this I see  
Because We feel more joyful now!  
That you'll bless as you are blessed, this I believe  
I'm getting more glories!  
That you'll marvel people, this I know  
Because you are born in this country  
(a country that is marveling the world)  
That you'll rise to authority, this I believe  
Because it's the year of the Tiger!  
That all will be well with you, this I'm sure  
Because the tiger is so revered here!  
That you will lead, this I believe  
Because Tigers are leaders!

Roland Cho

# On Living

We would enjoy humility,  
If we were not prescribed such humility.

Humility in character draws;  
Humility imposed bores.

Be what you are,  
And work for what you want.

The branch that prevents the others  
Soon has no strength for its own fruit.

The branch that preserves the others  
Is sure to get water and sunlight for its fruits.

Roland Cho

# Our Lives

Lives like mine, from birth like an ignited engine,  
Rise and fall, as sound changes  
With the manipulation of the accelerator.  
The manipulator of whom we have but a vision.

Life, like an engine, starts and ceases  
Only when the Driver wishes.  
But unlike an engine, Man must move;  
Even when unable to sustain, because,  
Mr Hope is always in view,  
A view beyond our view.

Roland Cho

# Our Nation – A Rulers' Playground

Rulers in our nation abound  
Rulers for whom Ours is a playground  
Rulers more vocal than practical  
Rulers more tactical than technical  
Rulers as they think they are  
Rulers' image we know they mar  
Rulers hungrier than those they rule  
Rulers more used to misrule  
Rulers who ignore those they rule  
Rulers who enjoy misuse of the rule  
Rulers who shout for change  
Rulers who hate to face change  
Rulers more attuned to praises and wishes  
Rulers less concerned when value diminishes  
Rulers who see only evil in fairness  
Rulers who pounce in all readiness  
A Ruler everyone wants to be  
A Ruler whose role is key

Roland Cho

# Our Nation- The State Of Mistakes

Mistakes made and acknowledged

❑ Mistakes made and abolished

❑ Mistakes not made but assumed

❑ Mistakes made but consumed

❑ Mistakes made in choices

❑ Mistakes blamed on voices

❑ Mistakes tele -propelled

❑ Mistakes to be fore-told

❑ Mistakes everyone makes

❑ Mistakes whose blame no one takes

❑ Mistakes clearly avoidable

❑ Mistakes very unimaginable

❑ Mistakes in what is done

Mistakes in how it is done

Mistakes we don't want to be made

Mistakes we always try to shade

Yes, mistakes maybe they were

But "No! " not mistakes anymore!

Roland Cho

# Papas!

To my father for whom he is!  
The one who caused me to see,  
See this world; a place for everyone,  
Everyone who has a father like mine;  
A man like any other,  
But with a mind not like any other.

To my father for he's what he is.  
I think he is never really pure,  
But I know he is ever ready to cure.  
Just an ordinary man; I know,  
A man like any other,  
But with a mind not like any other.

Roland Cho

# Rare Hug

Then came a hug.  
Least imagined, never expected.  
From a yellow-skinned new acquaintance.  
Hardly seven days since our maiden contact,  
Merely a third miserable verbal session.  
But, she, full of insights about me,  
Seeking to explore or confirm, could apparently  
Not help leaning chest to chest, and crediting me  
For positive attributes I still had to understand then.  
Surprised and moved by her gesture,  
I felt almost in the middle of the sea of thoughts,  
And then couldn't help thinking of Vickie,  
And so, picked a quick tear running down a cheek.

Roland Cho

# Smiles

Everyone smiles with you  
Even when you've no smile to give.  
Everyone smiles at you  
Even when you think they'd rather cry.  
Smiles from everyone, smiling for everything.

Smiles quite hard to interpret,  
Very spontaneous to ease,  
Too frequent to be real.  
I enjoy them though.  
Even though they sometimes end joy.

If smiles are a deal for you,  
They'll deal with you!

Roland Cho

# Song Of Adoration

Of you, I can swear anything  
For you, I will do anything  
With you, there is no fear of anything  
Like you, there are few in many ways!

Touch me and hold me, caress me  
Squeeze me, rock me and ride me  
Till we can fly no more!

In you, I see life every time  
With you, I feel love every time  
By you, love is life anytime  
From you, life is love in many ways!

Roland Cho

## To A.O Who Finds Love

As you go about, remember to be wise!  
Love has lost its ears, and now has four eyes!  
Tell her She made the world go round when she was true.  
Today, it is hard not to say that she is through.  
She became 'it' when she lost her ears  
And now her extra eyes feed her with solace from lies.  
Tell her that granny is angered  
Because her grand sons are endangered!

Roland Cho

# To V.T.N. Whom I Really Love

Since I met you, many years have gone,  
Many ups and downs have we known.  
Many are those who have seen us,  
Some have merely heard about us

Many have praised and envied,  
Some have cursed and wished it ended.  
We have sometimes gone astray,  
But we still come back to play.

We have learnt to love,  
And lived in love,  
And love to live as One.

Good to be here for our tomorrow,  
But I fear this night period,  
Because, nights breed evil.

Since I met you, my whole life has changed,  
And may the change remain unchanged  
If loving you is wrong,  
Then, I'd be happy to always be wrong.

Roland Cho

# We Must Stand

We must stand up now  
We must start the fights; fights not fought or forgotten!  
Why do we see ourselves more unable to do what we can?  
Why do we always think the West can help us or should help us?  
Ancestors helped them stand, parents helped them grow  
Now we are keeping them going, even as they call us names;  
And belittle our guys: social humiliations, economic dependence  
And permanent seconds and thirds we have remained  
When we know we can or are actually firsts of the firsts.  
We must stand up now, we must get our rights  
Not granted or trampled upon!

Roland Cho

## When Love Was 'she'

When love was 'she', everyone needed her!  
When love was love, men enjoyed her and could die for her.  
Women gave her life, and love meant love!  
Children had homes, and streets had pedestrians.

Now, love is 'it' and thinks it lives!  
Men have lives shortened by love!  
Women have been driven into insincerity!  
Now, children seek shelter, and streets have occupants!

Roland Cho

# When We Know What We Want

No! Not now! I know it's easy,  
But I'm not silly!  
I've known it, and have when I want it.  
You have it, and may be good at it;  
This I know.  
But it's hard to know what is odd  
If we know not God  
No! No, please! Not now!  
I know what I want.

Roland Cho