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## Yang Tianshui

## 杨天水

### SPRING HOPE

Trees by the river send their tenderness to the prison  
intense grassy perfume drifts from hillsides  
Beside the wall wutong leaves face green into the wind,  
peach blossoms on the hillside show red through the rain

Fog obscures the way home, as orioles murmur,  
immense mist, dreamlike, at the way station  
No one has ever stopped time,  
in a night, my hair turns grey

Spring, 1996

### RAINY NIGHT

Incessant spring rain flows in a clear stream  
Toads' thunderous croaking shakes the land  
Green prairie wind gathers into a bugle call  
In the cell the heart shapes an iron-clad plan

A thickness of a few feet makes a thousand-*zhang*\* wall  
A few autumns become a millennium  
May we ever live in Spring,  
Striving, heads down, oxen for the people

Spring, 1991

### 七律 春望

江树多情对狱中 飘香山草万千重  
墙边梧叶迎风碧 岭上桃花隔雨红  
雾断归程莺自语 烟茫驿站梦相从  
光阴自古谁留住 一夜青丝染雪容

### 七律 雨夜

连天新雨注清流 蟾吼雷鸣动九州  
青野风成军号曲 牢房心造铁戈谋  
厚墙数尺犹千丈 天宇千年似数秋  
但愿人生春永在 孺牛俯首奋无休

Translated by J. Latourelle

These poems first appeared in Chinese online: "Yang Tianshui's Collected Works," Boxun, <http://www.boxun.com/hero/yangts/>.

\*about 3 and a half meters