

O Motherland, Dear Motherland

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. <u>I am</u> the <i>old broken</i> waterwheel beside your river	● “old” <i>diction</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. That has composed a <i>centuries-old song</i> of weariness;	● technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. <u>I’m</u> the <i>smoke-smudged</i> miner’s lamp on your forehead	● 4 end stops
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. That lights your snail-like crawl through the <i>cave of history</i> .	● 5 punctuation characters
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. <u>I’m</u> the <i>withered</i> rice-ear , the <i>washed-out</i> roadbed ,	
	6. The barge mired in a silt shoal	
	7. As the tow rope cuts	
	8. Deeply into your shoulder	
	9. —O Motherland.	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	10. <u>I am</u> <i>poverty</i> ,	● <i>negative diction</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. <u>I’m</u> <i>sorrow</i> ,	● 4 end stops
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. <u>I’m</u> <i>bitterly painful</i> hope	● 4 punctuation characters
	13. Of your generations	
	14. <u>I am</u> the flowers strewn from Apsara’s flowing sleeves	
	15. That after thousands of years still have not reached earth	
	16. —O Motherland.	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	17. <u>I am</u> your untarnished ideal	● 5 end stops
	18. Just broken away from the cobweb myths;	● 5 punctuation characters
<input type="checkbox"/>	19. <u>I’m</u> a bud of the ancient lotus blanketed under your snow,	
<input type="checkbox"/>	20. <u>I’m</u> your smiling dimple wet with tears;	
	21. Your newly-drawn lime-white starting line.	
	22. <u>I’m</u> the scarlet dawn emerging with long shimmering rays	
	23. —O Motherland.	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	24. <u>I am</u> numbered among your billions,	● “body” <i>diction</i>
	25. The sum of your nine million square kilometers.	● positive diction
	26. You with the <i>scar-blemished breast</i>	● 6 end stops
	27. Have <i>nurtured</i> me,	● 10 punctuation characters
	28. Me the confused, the ponderer, the seething,	
	29. So that from my <i>body of flesh and blood</i>	
	30. You might eke out	
	31. Your prosperity , your glory , your freedom	
	32. —O Motherland,	
	33. My dear Motherland.	

Written by Shu Ting (July 1979)

Translated by Fang Dai, Dennis Ding, and Edward Morin

Excerpt from *The Red Azalea: Chinese Poetry Since the Cultural Revolution*