



Wang Yu: To the Students at Tiananmen

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WANG YU

From the time you gathered at Tiananmen
Our daylight dissolved into your midnight
To become a white night enmeshed in nightmares
As twilight descended upon your shoulders
Dawn's light slowly ascended
Our terrified eyes
Irrepressible cries of horror
As yet another white night arrived

We lived in
A nightmare between
The eastern and western hemispheres
Between one night and the next and one dream and the next
The direction shifted
And crisis concealed itself beside you
From the first it was a group of you
Betraying yourselves
Beware!
Youth of China
History bowed its head in shame
The badge of revolution rusted
And warped
A thief's cunning
A butcher's treachery

Exhausted
We glued our eyes to the news
On the glittering screen
In the newspaper
We joined our hearts to your bodies

The white night scorched us
At some unknown time

The troops appeared
 And shouted with rage—
 Your echo
 Resounded across the globe
 You were our hope
 China's future
 In the heart of the motherland
 With youth you attacked
 Withered arteries
 And transplanted them with living
 Democracy and freedom
 In May 1989
 The world watched you in hope
 Youth of China
 As you shed your light on the darkness
 And lit a lantern in the heart of the motherland

Where darkness transited into white night
 Hope battled despair
 Blind to the tanks
 Blind to recklessness

Have no fear that someone will oppose the future
 An eternally unobstructable willpower
 Is passed from one generation to the next
 Youth of China
 Marching heroically toward
 The breach of dawn.

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Translated by Stacy Mosher

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