



Born into an intellectual family in 1950 in Beijing, Li Zhilin is the son of ZHOU Shanfeng, Professor of English at Peking University and LI Zongjing, a famous artist and painter. He attended the Elementary School and High School affiliated to Peking University. In 1968 after the Cultural Revolution was launched, he went to work in a village in Shanxi Province, one of millions of “send-down youth” who went to China’s countryside to be reeducated. He was

transferred back to Beijing in 1974 to work as a quality inspector in a state-owned factory that produced electrical appliances. In 1995 he was laid off from his post and became a retiree from his place of residence.



Thinking of you, I feel desperate;
Feeling desperate, I think of you

At this moment,
Between me and death
Stands Kafka.

Hope, friends that will never be seen again
I saw the Me of the past, as if in a crowd
Seeing my own back....

I walk back and forth,
Listening to my own footsteps.
In the day, the night, in reality, in a dream.

Early morning, a pale green corner.

Like a meadow in the morning mist

“Oh green, How much I love your green color.”

I was not born with the gift of being a rover.

I cannot but run about in this desolate,

Frigid world ...

1973 Fragments (translated by Alexander Llewellyn Turner)