

Chân quê- Nguyễn Bính (1936)



Hôm qua em đi tỉnh về
Đợi em ở mãi con đê đầu làng
Khăn nhung quần lĩnh rộn ràng
Áo cài khuy bấm, em làm khổ tôi!

Nào đâu cái yếm lụa sồi?
Cái dây lưng đũi nhuộm hồi sang xuân?
Nào đâu cái áo tứ thân?
Cái khăn mỏ quạ, cái quần nái đen?

Nói ra sợ mất lòng em
Van em em hãy giữ nguyên quê mùa
Như hôm em đi lễ chùa
Cứ ăn mặc thế cho vừa lòng anh!

Hoa chanh nở giữa vườn chanh
Thầy u mình với chúng mình chân quê
Hôm qua em đi tỉnh về
Hương đồng gió nội bay đi ít nhiều.

The Bucolic- Nguyễn Bính (1936)

Here you've been back from the town
I was waiting for you at the dike far end
Crushed bandanna, black silk pants
Blouse buttoned
all on you have tormented me bad

How come you have swapped all these
The coarse silk plastron
The tussore waist belt dyed this spring
The four-part brownish dress
The crow-beak shaped bandanna
The loose dupion pants ...
Where are all those usual, my darling?

Dare I tell you all this
for fear you may've felt offensive
May you keep your true colors I wish
Like the time you were attending the service
You could've made me more than happy that way

The lemon is blooming in the lemon grove
Our parents are all rooted bucolics

Here you've been back from the town
The colors are somehow fading now





Aspects	Traditional Poetry (Thơ cũ)	New Poetry (Thơ mới)
Form	Strict rhyme and tonal rules (Tang verse, 7-7-6-8, etc.)	Freer rhythm, flexible rhymes, irregular line lengths
Language	Classical, symbolic, and filled with Sino-Vietnamese allusions	Natural, everyday, emotional, and concrete
Voice	The collective “we” – serving moral or social ideals	The individual “I” – expressing personal feelings and thoughts
Emotion	Formal, restrained, focusing on nature, loyalty, or duty	Spontaneous, intimate, centered on love, loneliness, self-awareness
Cultural influence	Deeply influenced by Chinese literary tradition	Inspired by Western Romanticism and Symbolism (especially French poetry)