

1<sup>ST</sup>



# POETRY

CHALLENGE-TO-COLLAB

READERS'  
CHOICE

WEEK 3

# YUGTO NG PAGDADALAMHATI

## by Mamyaw Gajitos

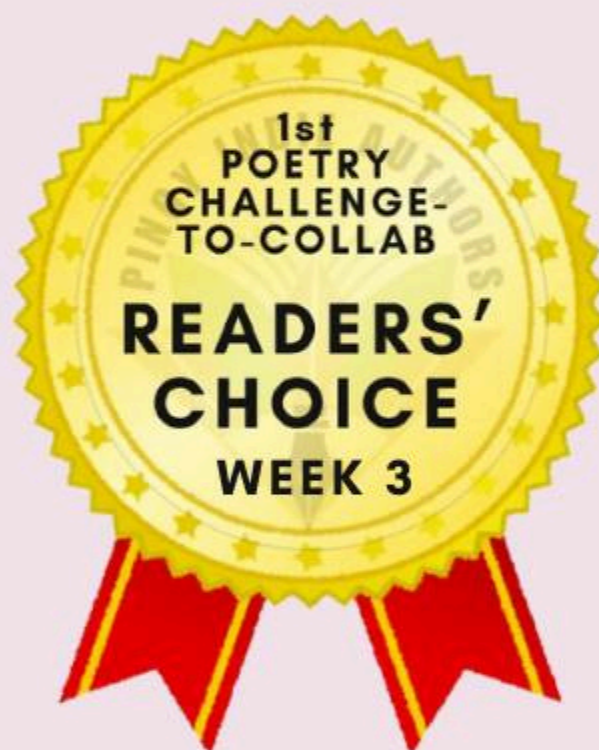
nagtago ang haring araw  
sa likod ng mga ulap  
sisilip-silip pansamantala  
hanggang sa di na makita pa  
dumagundong ang mga kulog  
gumugulong ang ugong sa hangin  
habang ang mga kidlat na matatalim  
ay gumuguhit sa kalangitang makulimlim  
ang hanging kanina'y banayad  
ngayon pawang nangangagat  
isang buhawing nagdarabog  
walang habas, walang kaabug-abog  
saka lumuha ang kalangitan  
pinukaw ang uhaw ng kapatagan  
subalit ito'y hindi bunga ng kabutihan  
bagkus ito'y pagluluksang matagal na iniwas  
bawat isang patak ng rumaragasang ulan  
ay lumulunod sa aking warat na kaisipan  
kahit anong pilit na languyin ang daluyong  
lalo lamang akong nababaon  
hanggang sa ako'y tuluyang napagod  
at pinili na lamang na magpatianod  
ipinikit aking mga mata, at nanalangin  
bahala na ang unos sa akin  
nang ako'y muling mamulat  
tahimik ang lahat  
humuhuni ang mga ibong pipit  
samantalang ako'y balot ng putik  
aking minalas ang kapaligiran  
warak ang mga gusali at tirahan  
subalit kahit na ganoon man  
ang pakiramdam ko'y maalwan  
tinangay na ng unos  
ang pagluluksa kong lubos  
sa aking unang pagtapak sa bagong umaga  
daramhin ko ang bagong pag-asa



# THE SHAPE OF WATER

## by Mamyaw Gajitos

ebb and flow  
as above so below  
I have lived since aeons ago  
come learn of the secrets I know  
I came from beyond the stars  
dreaming in frozen slumber  
heat woke me upon entry  
into this once-barren rock  
I stood naked among the rubble  
molten rock sizzling beneath my feet  
each step dousing the fire  
raging all around me  
I came upon a lake  
placid and tranquil  
at my presence, my brethren rose  
to welcome me into the fold  
among my kin, I knew I belonged  
but there is something for which I longed  
soon I left them to tend to new life  
and I flowed along my own current  
I became a river, quick and swift  
sometimes laughing, sometimes raging  
I ran faster than any creature  
and I bore through any rocky feature  
on and on I tore through  
swathes of land which became forests  
on and on my currents plowed through  
villages which became cities  
'twas then that my pace was halted  
when man in his foolish hubris  
soiled my pristine body  
rekindling the rage within me  
I overflowed my banks  
I took their lives  
such blatant disrespect  
I shall not let slide  
centuries passed before these imps  
learned of their grievous sins  
they tried to correct their grave mistake  
I pray that for them it is not too late  
yet deep down, I know  
there is only one way this will go  
I am patient, I have all the time  
once again, these lands will be mine

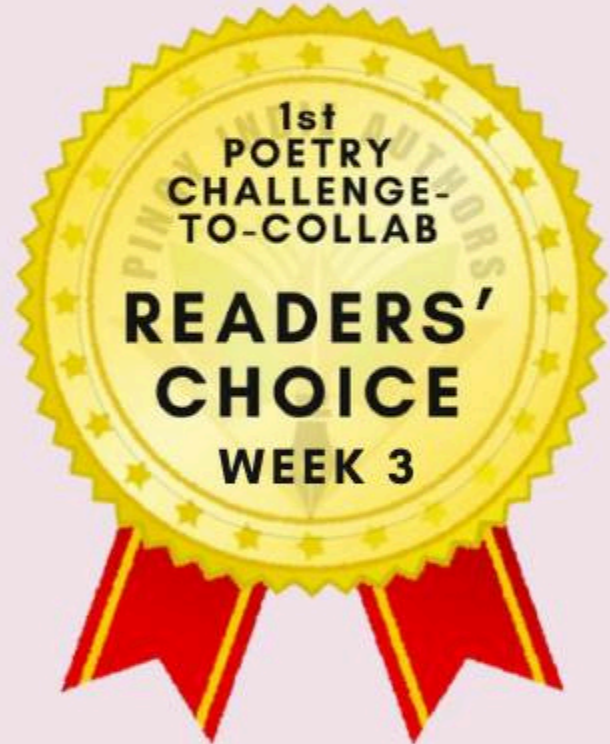


**PPCC 3:2**

# FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

by Mamyaw Gajitos

nestled in the dark  
swaddled by the warm earth  
I dream of light  
I heard the rain  
I felt the rumble of thunder  
I drank my fill  
is this all there is?  
I feel through the gloom  
pushing out, up and down  
on and on I seek  
something I'll know  
only when I find it  
push.  
break.  
through.  
is this light?  
so warm, so different  
I want more of it  
I unfurl my leaves  
soaking the light in  
dreaming of a future  
where I will tower above all



PPCC 3:3

# A TRAIL OF BLOOMS

by Yeyet Soriano

## A Trail of Blooms

I've lost my way  
Led astray  
Can't find my way back  
Can't get on the right track

As I panic and walk around  
A single red rose on the ground  
My heart suddenly remembers  
Turn left, Dear, my husband whispers

I follow the path, hopeful  
Yellow tulips, a bouquet full  
A smile crosses my face  
Mama, turn right, my eldest daughter says

I walk faster, determined  
Pink carnations and a card pinned  
You're doing great, Mama, she wrote  
My second daughter left a note

I continue on, confident  
Blue hydrangeas are my present  
My son's voice fill my head  
Mama, turn right at the end

My heart is full, complete  
I hold all the blooms I picked  
I run as fast as I could  
Towards my loving brood



PPCC 3:4

# FEATHER by Yeyet Soriano

MOUNTAIN complained loudly  
I don't understand humanity

They like looking at me  
They get a kick out of climbing me  
They get their rush from jumping  
from me  
They love skiing down me

They are so keen on conquering me  
They sometimes forget to see

I can make it so that they get lost  
in me  
They can fall from me, get hurt  
while exploring me  
They can die while trying to conquer  
me  
I can spew out fire and brimstone to  
level their community

WIND howled in laughter  
Humans sure are fun fodder

They need me gentle when they're  
hot and feeling fried  
They need me strong to power their  
sailboats and their pride  
They need me to generate the  
electricity their homes need inside  
They need me to lift them while  
they travel on air or glide

But they hide when I need to show  
Just a little temperament though

They forget I can destroy with a  
single sneer  
Everything they have built, with a  
slight jeer  
I can level everything they hold  
dear  
With a single puff from me, all  
cavalier

SEA nodded in understanding  
Humans think they are our masters, and  
we'll just do their bidding

They want my beaches for their enjoyment  
They want me to birth and nurture their  
food for their nourishment  
They need me to connect their countries  
through movement  
They want me pretty and docile and follow  
their commandment

But they conveniently forget  
I control majority of the planet

I can swallow their countries up whole  
I can destroy their entire specie with no  
rigamarole  
I can give, I can take, I am nothing they  
can control  
They are no match for me, I beat them body  
and soul

MOUNTAIN, WIND and SEA tittered

And if we three work all together?

Humanity is doomed, broken from its  
tether

They'll just disappear into the ether

They still consider they are, to all  
of us, the master

We are Mountain, Wind, and Sea, they  
are all but a FEATHER



PPCC 3:5