

What's new in Paris, my Love ?

Phạm Gia Thụ

*(after a poem by Nguyễn Sa
and the ballad by Ngô Thụy Miên)*

Since I left Paris last fall, my Darling,
Only half of my soul is with me, here,
The other half stayed there, quietly floating,
To keep you company and our spirits near.

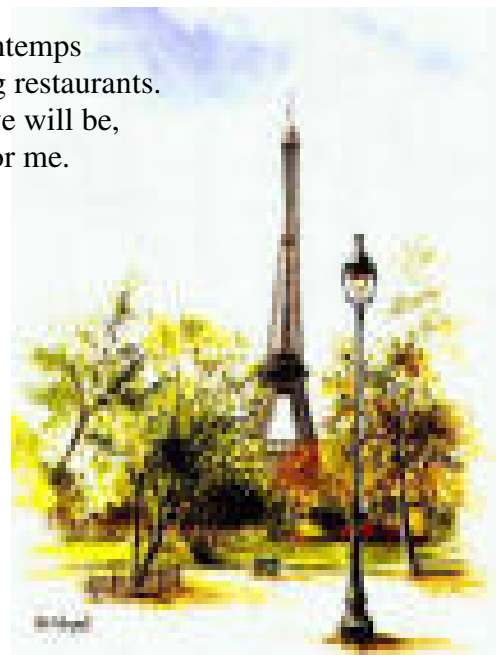
Are you still wandering along the Seine river,
And go under its bridges, as we did together ?
Didn't we ride, on the bateaux-mouches, hand in hand
After visiting, along its quays, the old book-stands ?

Do you recall our walks in the Luxembourg Garden
In the early morning, with nature hardly awakened ?
And the endless hours we sat, with each other, at cafés ,
Among other lovers, at the Champs-Élysées ?

What's new lately in Paris, my Love ?
In your heart do I still find a welcome cove ?
I always remember your tears at our separation
Under the sad yellow lights of Gare de Lyon.

I shall be back in Paris, if you like, my Darling,
At Orly airport you will be, for me waiting,
We will again go to the Eiffel tower
Under Paris bright sunshine or light shower.

We will eat under the glass dome of Printemps
Or in District thirteen, in small charming restaurants.
At Montmatre, Trocadero, Le Louvre, we will be,
If in your heart, you still keep a place for me.



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Promotion 1962 -Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada