



2008 International PEN China Campaign
Poem Relay
Guide for Centres and Translators

English Translation of June by Shi Tao, Chip Rolley

六月
师涛

所有的日子

都绕不过“六月”
六月，我的心脏死了
我的诗歌死了
我的恋人
也死在浪漫的血泊里

六月，烈日烧开皮肤
露出伤口的真相
六月，鱼儿离开血红的海水
游向另一处冬眠之地
六月，大地变形、河流无声
成堆的信札已无法送到死者手中

June
by Shi Tao
as translated by Chip Rolley, Sydney PEN

My whole life

Will never get past “June”
June, when my heart died
When my poetry died
When my lover
Died in romance’s pool of blood

June, the scorching sun burns open my skin
Revealing the true nature of my wound
June, the fish swims out of the blood-red sea
Toward another place to hibernate
June, the earth shifts, the rivers fall silent
Piled up letters unable to be delivered to the
dead

Literal Translation of June by Chip Rolley

Stanza 1

所有	的	日子								
All	particle used after attribute	1. day 2. days 3. life 4. time								

Stanza 2

都	绕不过	“六月”								
1. all; 2. particle used when preceded by a plural subject	绕过 (verb + complement): bypass; steer clear of. 不 (used here between the verb and the complement): not	June; literally the sixth moon or month.								

六月	我的	心脏	死	了						
June	my [我 = I; 的 is a possessive particle]	heart	(verb) to die	1 particle after verb indicating completed action 2 particle at end of sentence indicating change of situation or state						

Stanza 2 continued...

我的	诗歌	死	了							
my	poem; poems; poetry	(verb) to die	1 particle after verb indicating completed action 2 particle at end of sentence indicating change of situation or state							

我的	恋人									
my	Lover; amorous partner; lovers									

也	死	在	浪漫	的	血	泊	里			
also; too; as well;	to die	(particle that combines with 里at the end of line to indicate location): be, at, in, or on a place	1 romance; 2 romantic; 3 bohemian; unconventional; loose	(particle indicating attribute or possession)	blood	pool	in; within; inside; 在...里 is a prepositional construction indicating the subject is “in, within, inside” that which is between 在 and 里			

Stanza 3

六月	烈	日	烧	开	皮肤					
June	strong; violent; intense; burning; scorching	sun	burn; burns	(complement to the verb here): open	skin					

露	出	伤口	的	真相						
to show; to reveal; to expose	(complement after a verb to indicate outward direction, completion, or success)	(noun) wound(s); cut(s)	(particle indicating attribute or possession)	the real situation; the true situation; the actual state of affairs; truth						

六月	鱼儿	离开	血	红	的	海水				
June	fish (singular or plural)	to leave	blood	red	(particle indicating attribute or possession)	海= sea; 水 = water				

Stanza 3 continued...

游	向	另	一	处	冬眠	之	地			
to swim	preposition: toward	adjective: different; other; another	one; a	place	winter sleep; hibernation	Attribute: particle	place			

六月	大地	变形	河流	无	声					
June	Earth; mother earth	Be out of shape; become deformed	river(s)	not; nothing; nil	sound; voice; tone					

成堆	的	信札	已	无	法	送	到	死者	手	中
form a pile; be in heaps	particle used after attribute	letter(s)	already	not; nothing; nil	method; way (of doing something)	Send; deliver	complement to the verb: to	死 = to die; 者 = particle used to indicate individuals, persons. 死者 = dead people; the dead	hand(s)	In; among; amid