



春天了！我可以想像你那邊姹紫嫣紅開遍，大街小巷、馬路兩旁、中央分隔石壁上，怒放著至今於我仍是不知名的花朵，大叢大叢的、傲然奔放地開著。你就是那麼四季分明，用似錦繁花、嫩綠樹梢來提醒我們，春天來了！寒冬已遠去。

在兩年多寄居的日子裏，我見識了你的風采。



房屋署
高級法定語文主任
魯潔華

春天是看花的好時節，就說我最喜愛的鬱金香吧。在這裏，鬱金香都是一束一束的嬌貴的供奉在花店裏，待價而沽；在你那邊，百色紛陳的她們，都給種成了花田、花海，那麼的自由自在，漫不經心，卻叫人看得心花怒放。靠近香山公園的植物園，是看花草樹木四時變化的好地方。一年四季，都有不同景色相迎。

夏天，你卻展現最無情的一面。火紅的大太陽放肆地烤炙著大地，我們只得鎮日躲在有空調的辦公室、商場、家裏避暑。回想那幾個夏天如何度過，腦海竟一片空白，只記得戶外活動幾乎完全停頓，周末外出往往要苦候至正午過後才敢出門。不過，話得說回來，夏天有我最愛吃的水蜜桃，好歹給炎炎夏日加了些分。那是種既好看又好吃的水果，現在提起來，仍教我回味不已。

一到秋天，你又回復嬌美可親的一面。舒爽的涼風，偶然展現的藍天白雲，叫人心神不定。縱然身處辦公室，百務纏身，但稍一停下來，心便飄走——飄到香山，那個經典的觀賞紅葉好去處；飄到慕田峪——我最喜愛的一段長城，只見滿山黃、紅、綠交疊，煞是好

看！還飄到釣魚台國賓館外大街兩旁聳立的銀杏樹前。最近聽說銀杏是國樹大熱之選，心裏直叫“英雄所見！”不知多少次，我叮囑秋季到你那裏觀賞紅葉的友人，切記也要好好的看看銀杏。試想像，金黃色茂密的葉子在陽光下閃閃發光，那種美態，錯過了要算罪過。我當然不會忘記在前往慕田峪路上的紅螺寺，廟前兩株參天銀杏。時值金秋，我和友人都看得傻了眼，方知何謂“百看不厭”。我如今也愛看樹，的確是由你啓蒙的。從來只知賞花，卻不知看樹也是賞心樂事。

你的千姿百態，恐怕不能一一盡錄，但不可不提的，是二零零一年一月那場漫天風雪。雪下了整整一個周末，趁皚皚白雪未被污染前，我趕快到頤和園的白色世界細看你的冬日銀裝。美極了！原來白雪真有淨化作用，雪中世界是那末澄明、那末空靈。再數下去的話，當然還有那閉日風沙，還有漫天飛絮下的浪漫淒迷……一幕一幕的，仍舊歷歷在目，如在昨天。

我的老朋友，我的第二故鄉，有說別離是為了重聚，那麼，請珍重，後會有期！

Plant Language

We may be so used to all those wonderful flowers and trees around us that we no longer stop to admire them on the road. For the same reason, few of us ever wonder at how plants have taken firm root in our language.

Plants have such a prominent position in people's daily lives that the use of terms and expressions related to the floral world has long gone far beyond the practical realms of farming and horticulture. We think it perfectly natural, for example, to compare the rise and fall of a nation to the growth process of a tree. Other references to plants crop up in our writing frequently, as you will see from the following passage which is dotted with plant metaphors. Imagine how lacklustre it would become if all those metaphors were weeded out:



'Over the past few years, traffic congestion has become a *thorny* issue in the city of Bauhinia. This *stems* from the rapidly *growing* population and the *flourishing* economy.

In an effort to *nip* the problem in the *bud*, the government introduced the Sky Train system. This was a great success. Demand increased so rapidly that Sky Train has *mushroomed* into a big business with retail outlets along the rail line also *blossoming*.

Sky Train has since *branched into* property development in order to diversify its business. At the same time, in order to stay competitive, Sky Train has cut back on costs by *shedding* jobs despite the huge profits it currently *reaps*. *Cultivating* the concept of doing more with less amongst staff takes time, and the management's downsizing efforts have inevitably created a *hothouse* atmosphere in the company. Nevertheless, the management maintains that *pruning* the workforce will result in enhanced efficiency and productivity and will *lay the ground* for the company's future growth.'

He that plants trees loves others beside himself.

Thomas Fuller