After the Cultural Revolution ended, a group of disillusioned avant-garde poets emerged; they were the Misty Poets, and Gu Cheng was one of the most notable voices among them. Gu Cheng’s style, or lack thereof, is typical of Misty Poets who used dreamy logic to obscure their meanings. These selected poems were translated by a collection of experts in the field, and the translation was approved by Gu Cheng.

“A most distinctive voice what will be remembered for a long time to come.”  Michelle Yeh in World Literature Today

ABOUT THE AUTHOR  To use Gu Cheng’s own words:  “The dark night has given me dark eyes./ Yet I use them to search for light.”  Born in 1956, Gu Cheng’s adolescence was shaped by the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), and he said he started writing in a pigsty.  Ever an eccentric, even among the Misty-Poets, Gu Cheng decided to leave China for New Zealand in the late 80s, where he would not have to deal with political pressures.  In 1993, months shy of completing what would be his final novel, he attacked his wife and took his own life.