



# Poetry Rock

Rev. Dr. Byung Sub Van

September 2009

**Asian Garden, Bear Creek Park Garden,  
Bear Creek Park entrance southwest of 140 St & 88 Ave**

Poetry Rock consists of a large piece of raw granite engraved with a poem composed by Surrey resident Dr. Rev. Byung Sub Van. A distinguished Korean-Canadian writer and theologian, Rev. Van composed the poem titled "Mere Water am I", which is inscribed on the rock in both Korean and English. It addresses the universal theme of water in its many forms, from raindrops to rivers to oceans, and through its many uses, from slaking thirst to producing power for factories. At the same time, the work uses the metaphor of water to celebrate social unity and cultural diversity. The work is a gift to the people of Surrey from Rev. Van, his family and his sponsors.



**About the Artist:**

Dr. Rev. Byung Sub Van was from South Korea and was ordained there as a minister. He received his Masters degree in theology in Kyoto, Japan in 1968 and moved to Canada in 1970. In 1987, he earned a doctoral degree in theology in San Francisco Theological Seminary and also became a permanent resident of Surrey. He has written hymns and published a dozen books of prose and poetry in the Korean language, for which he has received numerous literary awards. In 1992, he founded the Vancouver Korean Writers Society and has been very active in the Korean-Canadian community. An earlier poetry rock by Rev. Van was installed at VanDusen Gardens in 1995.



나는 그저 물이면 된다

농생 반별첩 목사 서인

슬기가 되고  
구름이 되고  
다시 빗발 쏟아지고  
그렇게 되돌아와도  
나는 그저 물이면 된다

망울 방울이 모아지고  
함께서 같이 되고  
모두는 바다로 가고  
그렇게 되돌아오지 않아도  
나는 그저 물이면 된다

목마른 자의 컵에 담겨지고  
공장의 기계를 돌리고  
천소루의 기계들 밟고  
그래서 라수가 되던지  
나는 그저 물이면 된다

저심으로 스미는 길에  
밤에는 남몰래 불길에 머물고  
낮에는 지표에 스며  
가는 목근의 피가 되고  
지하 깊어  
어느 장강의 지류가 되고  
나는 그저 물이면 된다

Mere Water Am I

By Dr. Rev. Byung Sub Van

Becoming vapour  
cloud  
rain drops  
returning  
Mere water am I

Drop by drop  
making streams  
flowing to oceans  
not returning  
Mere water am I

Filling a cup for the thirsty  
moving factory machines  
washing workers' mops  
then discarded  
Mere water am I

Clinging to evening grass  
soaking daylight soil  
blood of tree roots  
seeping deep into earth  
buried tributary  
of an enduring river  
Mere water am I

