

Chiranan Pitpreecha (Thailand, 1955)

## First Rain

Wednesday 13 December 2006, by [PITPREECHA Chiranan](#) (Date first published: 1992).

The first rains in May

Stream down, red

Steel rains, violent

Bodies-piercing, blood-flowing

Like water, flooding the streets

A rank stream of blood.

How many stars fell and crashed?

How many hearts are broken and crushed?

The wound of our native soil

When will it ever heal?

What devilish power

Dare kill the people?

Fighting blood lives on,

Death rousing people

The soul enduring,

Protecting the justice of the people.

The first rains seep into the ground and disappear into the earth

Leaving meaning and memory

Enriching the earth with their moisture

Nourishing the crops of democracy.

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## Chiranan Pitpreecha

Chiranan Pitpreecha was born in Thailand in 1955. She was a well known figure in the 1970s student movement in Thailand. Following the violent suppression in 1976, she, along with thousands of Thai students, fled to the jungle and joined the Communist insurrection. Almost immediately after she returned from the jungle in 1981, under the protection of amnesty law, her poem, *Cracked Pebble* was selected "The best Poem of 1981" by P.E.N. International, Thailand. She then resumed her education at Cornell University in the United States where she received a B.A. and M. A. History.

Chiranan is one of Thailand's best known authors, and has produced a wide range of writings for Thai periodicals and newspapers, from poetry, history, travel articles to social commentaries. In 1989 *The Missing Leaf*, her first poetry book based on personal experiences in the jungle, won the prestigious South East Asia Write Award. In 1992 *First Rain* was selected as "The Best Poem of the Year" by P.E.N. International, Thailand. Her works have been translated into English, French, German, Japanese, and Malay.

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### P.S.

\* From the XVIth International Poetry Festival of Medellin  
Festiva.BR> [http://www.festivaldepoesiademedellin.org/pub/en/Revista/ultimas\\_ediciones/71\\_72/pitpreecha.html](http://www.festivaldepoesiademedellin.org/pub/en/Revista/ultimas_ediciones/71_72/pitpreecha.html)