

The Bridge Player's Lament

(tune of "My Way", first performed 1993 Asean Championships, Bangkok)
(published in 1994 Asean Championships souvenir programme, Genting)

And now, a hand is here
The card I hold is just a curtain
My friends, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain
I played more like a fool
Defended hands in every wrong way
And more, much more than this
I bid it my way

Doubles, I've had a few
But then again, no need to mention
I played and went down five
Though it was not my intention
I planned each deep finesse
Each careful squeeze for the end play
And then, to my dismay
I went down my way

Yes there were times
I'm sure you knew
When I bid more
More than I should
But through it all
When there was doubt
I just bid on, no matter what
I took the risks
For one big kiss* (*kiss=X=Malaysian slang for double)
And bid it my way

Then I gave ruff discards
I've had my shame, of being thrown in
And yet right from the start
I should have seen it was coming
To think I did all that
I have to say, in a shy way
Oh boy, don't say 'twas me
I bid it my way

For what is a hand, what has it got
If not some shape then it has rot
To bid those games you feel are there
But without points don't bid on air
I make my call
I psyched them all
And bid it my way

LET'S DO IT

(first performed at the 28th Asean Bridge Club Championships in Singapore, 2006)

Guys do it, girls do it
Titled ladies with their pearls do it
Let's do it, let's play bridge

One or two can do it
Best if four do it
Here in Singapore we all do it
Let's do it, let's play bridge

Next year in Philippines we'll do it
Somewhere in Makati
The hosts will see to it
We'll have a real grand party

Omar Sharif did it, Deng Xiao Peng did it
K.T. Liao and A.K. Heng, they won it
Let's do it, let's all play bridge

On land they do it, at sea they do it
For five days at Clarke Quay we do it
Let's do it, let's play bridge

Kings do it, Czars do it
Churchill with his fat cigars did it
Let's do it, let's play bridge

For 28 years we've done it
Each time in a different place
P'raps one year we'll do it
Somewhere in outer space

At night they do it, at noon they do it
Couples on their honeymoon, they do it
Let's do it, let's all play bridge

Written for the 2007 Asean Championships in Manila as a tribute to the many instant partnerships formed for the Mixed Teams event between partners who may well be

STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT

Strangers in the night exchanging cue-bids
Wondering as we might, what were those new bids
We have to explain, even though we can't name

Something in my hand, was so exciting
When you jumped to three, was that inviting?
Something in my heart told me we must have game

Strangers in the night
Who've never played together
It was sheer delight
Right from the moment when we said hello
Now I really know
Though we say goodbye in Makati
We'll meet again next year in Bali

Here we are tonight
No longer strangers
Forgot to ask you
Your no trump ranges
Just friends who've not met
Not strangers in the night

FESTIVE GREETINGS

(tune of “White Christmas”, first performed at RBSC Centenary Tournament, Bangkok,
December 2001)

I'm dreaming of the right contract
Just like the ones my teammates know
Where the trumps are breaking
And games are making
Not hear one more tale of woe

I'm dreaming of the right system
On each convention card I write
May your play be brilliant and bright
And may all your finesses be right

QUE`SERA SERA

(written for 2008 Asean Championships, Semarang; first performed 2009 Asean, Kuala Lumpur)

When I had just began to play
I asked my partner, what should I bid?
Shall we play Gerber, maybe weak twos
Here's what my partner said

Que Sera Sera
Whatever you bid you bid
Just always prepare your bid
Que Sera Sera
Always overbid!

Then I grew up and played in clubs
I asked my partner, how should I lead
Always fourth highest, Ace from Ace King
Just like Garazzo did

Que Sera Sera
Whatever you lead you lead
Just don't underlead your Ace
Que Sera Sera
What you sow you reap

Now when I play on BBO
I ask myself now, how should I play
Go for a finesse, play for a drop
Or simply sit and pray

Que Sera Sera
However you play you play
Remember to count your tricks
Que Sera Sera
When you're on display

YESTERDAY

(published 1999 Asean Championships souvenir programme, Genting)

Yesterday, all my doubles seemed so far away
Now it looks as though I have to pay
Oh I believe in yesterday

Suddenly, you've not half the points you said there'd be
Eleven hundred hanging over me
And forcing pass, what misery

Why they doubled me I don't know they wouldn't say
I bid something wrong, I'm not strong, just keen to play

Yesterday, I had such an easy hand to play
All my finesses were just one way
How I wish it were yesterday

MEMORY

(Written for and performed at 2011 Thailand Women's Bridge Festival and 2013 Asean Championships, Manila. Additional lyrics written 2014)

Midnight, why must we play till midnight?
It's so hard on my memory
When we play after ten
By eleven no one knows what four no trumps is
Maybe Blackwood, maybe not

Memory, so useful when you're bidding
One of those funny systems
No one ever heard of
In confusion, the bidding cards all dropped at my feet
While the clock keeps ticking on

Every new bid, seems to have some strange conventional meaning
Someone doubles, and we got into trouble
And rescue won't be coming

Silence, not a sound from my partner
Has the guy lost his memory
Maybe he's just asleep?
When the dawn comes, he will wake with memory refreshed
With just two more boards to go

Smoky smells of toasted burgers fill your nostrils with longing
Distant rumbling, sounds like broken plumbing
And soon it will be morning

Wishing somehow you will be dummy
Ignoring noises your tummy
May be making again
In post mortem, try to recall who bid what when
Loss of memory has began