

RHYMIN'COVID-19
By Edgardo S. Tugade

on covid-19

outside it looks like a bright, breezy day.
the warm wind blows our viral fears away.
the leafy trees lift up their limbs and sway.
light, air and earth will triumph come what may.

let me shake your hand and give you a kiss
and let me wrap you in a warm embrace.
may you see sunny days and level ways.
let me wish you joy and may you have peace.

no, I was just wishful thinking aloud
and remembering the old formal times:
reckoning life through reasons that rhyme,
singing in the rainless days of the proud.

may you live in interesting times, old
chinese say, in colors of blood and gold.
**22 March 2020*

Lent

A little sonnet to say I'm still me.
A few verses to show I'm still alive.
Fourteen lines that say I cheerfully give.
A little sonnet to say I'm still me.

A few verses to show I'm still alive
And each day I fall in and out of love
In the limited space that I can rove.
A few verses to show I'm still alive.

Fourteen lines that say I cheerfully give
From the little that I myself have earned.
To share from the generous I have learned.
Fourteen lines that say I cheerfully give.

I'm still me, I'm still alive and I give,
I fall in love, I rove, I still believe.
**05 April 2020*

New Life

These captive days I cannot do my work
Nor worship God nor see my closest friend,
I almost feared these days would never end
And wallowed in the slough of despond's murk.

But listening to the priests and the Pope
Who in these days live the virtue of hope,
I find the cheer to get up and to cope
And leave behind the I that used to mope.

I come to know my place in life and work
And let be and let alone and let God,
And let the world judge what is good or bad
And step aside when judgment goes berserk.

I draw my pay and save some to pay bills.
I wear my mask and buy our meals and pills.
**13 April 2020*

GCQ

Yesterday they relaxed the quarantine.
I was sent to SM to pay some bills
And get some groceries. Walked uphill
Slowly before I got a ride and then

I had to pay the fare for three persons.
The crowd was small, being early morning,
And there were no little daughters and sons
To see the department store opening.

I had to line up to enter the mall,
I had to line up to withdraw money.
I had to line up at the grocery,
I had to line up at the cashier's stall,

A tricycle ride and a downhill walk
Over branches and leaves that the storm broke.
**17 May 2020*

Our Frontliners

I have five cousins who are frontliners
Against COVID-19 in the US,
An x-ray technician and four nurses.

Let us remember them in our prayers.
Cheche is a doctor who works as nurse.
His second wife Medy is the head nurse.
Both Tetet and Sarah too are nurses.
Walley the radiologist left us first.
Just as the noble families of old
Sent representatives to fight in war,
The Tugade family sent them all far
And wide with heart's blood warm and spirit bold.
Protect and bless them more, Lord Jesus,
Who find time to be generous to us.

**24 May 2020*