This is a translation of the poem 再別康橋 (Zài Bié Kāngqiáo), “Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again”, by the Chinese poet 徐志摩 (Xú Zhìmó) who had studied at King’s College, Cambridge England and wrote the poem on a return visit in November 1928.

**Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again (**translation modified by Phil Desjardins)

Lightly I leave as lightly I came; I lightly wave goodbye, to the sunlit clouds in the western sky. The golden willows at the riverside are brides in the setting sun; their glimmering reflections in the water, ripple in the depth of my heart.

The waterlilies in the soft mud, sway splendidly under the water. In the gentle waves of the pond, I would be a water plant!

That pond in the shade of the elm trees, is not the water of spring, but a heavenly rainbow that bridges the floating grasses; a rainbow that will soon seem like a dream.

Looking for dreams? Push a punt upstream to where the grass is greener still, it becomes a boat laden with starlight, singing freely in the glorious light of constellations. But I cannot sing freely, silence signals and serenades my departure, even the summer insects are quiet for me. Tonight's Cambridge is silent!

Quietly I leave, as quietly I came; reaching out my sleeves a little, but not taking even a strand of cloud away.