

Mangow

By Pornjana Lodder

Time to say goodbye Mangow, goodbye  
Time for you to go back to the wild  
No tears or sorrow, our friendship will never die  
You are my friend, you are my love, you are my pride

Together we worked, together we hiked, together we played  
Through the woods, crossing the rivers on our holidays  
You kept me warm with your trunk, flapped your ears to keep the insects away  
I wish you safe, wish you happy, I always pray

To meet and to part is the fact of all beings  
I hear your voice when the wind is blowing  
I see your face when the stars are shining  
Distance and separation for us have no meaning

Dear Mangow, I keep you in the depths of my heart  
Our friendship is like a work of fine art  
Two souls united until both shall pass  
Gliding through heaven's gate, together at last

NB:

Mangow is a female elephant I befriended around 1981-82 while I lived and worked with an ethnic group in a very remote region on the border of Thailand and Myanmar.