

## Four Pantuns

Muhammad Haji Salleh<sup>1</sup>  
Malaysia

Black birds fly at the yellow sunrise,  
They come aperching on the mangrove,  
Let me glow like the pulsating flies,  
Most bright when I'm in love.

In the sky cranes in flight,  
They wing across the dunes,  
Fireflies glow in the darkest night,  
A romantic rendezvous behind the moon.

Listen to the sigh of the breeze,  
And you can hear songs in the sky;  
Let me row you under the trees,  
For romance is like a glowing firefly.

The banks are dry and brown,  
The wet season is in a whirl;  
You are like a single glow worm,  
Pulsating over the darkest world.

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<sup>1</sup> **Muhammad Haji Salleh** is a Malaysian National Laureate and the best known bilingual poet in the country. Winner of several national and international awards, including the SEA Write Award, he has more than 40 books of creative as well as critical writings to his credit. He was a professor of literature at University Science Malaysia (USM) until recently.