
Pro Rege

Volume 22
Number 2 *Arts Issue*

Article 14

December 1993

How to Praise

Mike Vanden Bosch
Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vanden Bosch, Mike (1993) "How to Praise," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 22: No. 2, 15.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol22/iss2/14

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

How to Praise

by Mike Vanden Bosch

“I would like to have you for my teacher forever.”

The words have bounced like pool balls
against the cushions of my heart
since my Chinese student first said them—
words I'd never thought to say,
not even to classroom giants.

I'd been teaching her how to speak English;
she taught me how to say thanks.

Had she called me Emperor, I'd have laughed;
Chairman Maok, I'd have winced;
Rabbi? She couldn't have known Rabbi—
not the word, not the man.

Rabbi—once I stood before assembled saints
and said I'd follow one.

I was too green to mean

“I would like to have Him for my teacher forever,”
but now I see how to praise.

One who had not heard the Word
by grace found words beyond my heartless reach
to move my Rabbi's heart with praise.