

2016

## A Profusion of Parallel Tracks: Why Mongolian Roads of Dirt and Gravel Branch, Multiply, and Fuse Endlessly

Bill Yake  
yake@comcast.net

---

### Recommended Citation

Yake, B. (2016). A Profusion of Parallel Tracks: Why Mongolian Roads of Dirt and Gravel Branch, Multiply, and Fuse Endlessly. *Landscapes: the Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language*, 7(1). Retrieved from <http://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol7/iss1/9>

This Poetry is posted at Research Online.  
<http://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol7/iss1/9>

## **A Profusion of Parallel Tracks: Why Mongolian Roads of Dirt and Gravel Branch, Multiply, and Fuse Endlessly**

Whether crossing mountains, steppes,  
or the Gobi, we meet no fences.

The way is paved with fragments  
of bone; the insistent long lift  
of winds that breathe out sage

and the fragrance of crushed onion sprigs.  
We are our own police. and though there  
are few bridges, we will find a thousand

fords. Having learned from nimble horses  
to innovate—we dodge the washboard rattle,  
the boil of dust, the shock-shattering potholes,

and winter's brickhard ruts. We juke the herds  
of random camels & randy goats that balk and bolt

to uncertain rhythms. We make do.

You dally, my friend, and I will swing wide  
& forge another passing lane.

-Bill Yake

**Bill Yake** examined water, sediment and air quality for environmental agencies before retiring to focus on poetry, travel and natural history. His collections include *This Old Riddle: Cormorants and Rain* and *Unfurl, Kite, and Veer*. In addition to having been featured on National Public Radio, his poems show up in magazines and anthologies serving the environmental and literary communities—from *Wilderness Magazine* to *Anthropology and Humanism*,

from *Open Spaces Quarterly* to *Fine Madness*, from *Rattle* to *ISLE*. Other interests include photography, natural history, evolution and hiking.