

Fly Heads and Bird Claws

蠅頭與鳥爪

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蠅頭與鳥爪 梁秉鈞詩集

Published by MCCM Creations 2012

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Acknowledgements / eduArts, Dexter Lee

鳴謝 / 啟智藝術教育, 李彥鐸

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ISBN 978-988-15217-8-1

梁秉鈞詩集

Leung Ping-kwan

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Picking Plums
Variations on Hong Kong Nursery Rhymes

our little Jenny
stole a little penny
to buy a bun
muck instead of make-up
crack-pot on her head
just for fun

run run run
run down the road
and pick a plum
sweet sweet plum
good road to run

ginger and coconut sandwich
a dozen kinds of scrambled egg
granny next door—baking a bun
“smell good, son?”
say no, get a smack—on the bum

run run run
run down the road
and get a rhyme
funny funny rhyme
good road to run

little master Jackie
bought some sugarcane, gone all yucky
bought some biscuits, gone all holey
always at the midden getting brooms
in the midden getting strange strange dreams

2004
Translated by Brian Holton

執個橙

阿蘇蘇
偷錢買鬆糕
有粉唔搽搽鑊撈
有帽唔戴
戴個爛沙煲

行行行 行行行
行到街邊執個橙
橙好鮮甜路好行

椰子夾酸薑
雞蛋撈埋十五樣
隔離婆仔燒炮仗
問你響唔響
唔響打阿蘇兩巴掌

行行行 行行行
行到街邊執句話
話好盡鬼路好行

阿蘇公 唔知搵乜東東
買碌蔗 又生虫
買個餅 又穿窿
成日係垃圾堆執竹筒
垃圾堆裏執出奇怪夢

2004
* 改編自香港童謠

The Human-faced Olive*

bitter green skin gripping the self tight
and always attracting incoherent encounters
unwilling to be mistaken for olive or cloudberry
always wanting to tell its own flavour

hugs and knocks leave black stripes behind
on the plate they suffer gentle steaming
no longer bothered by slowly-stretching skin
exposing the world-weary face on the kernel

softer and gentler, but they're summer's sourness still
infecting a thousand dishes and being infected again
reviving these many years numbed appetites
still looking for a fresh start beyond the banquet

1999

Translated by Brian Holton

* Also known as Chinese *dragonplum*

人面

青澀的表皮緊抓住自我
又總招引不相干的邂逅
不願被誤當橄欖或山稔
老想說清楚自己的味道

擁抱過也碰傷留下黑斑
在盤中飽經文火的蒸熬
不再計較皮膚緩緩舒開
露出了核上滄桑的人面

柔和了又仍是夏日酸澀
感染千重菜餚又被感染
翻新多年來已麻木胃口
飽饜外再尋清新的開始

1999

Green Salad

naked strands pour layers of time over green threads
freshly washed, bright 'n shiny and crisp
search for a curled leaf in the greasy din
open its perplexing colour to find resentment
listen closely and know sadness—
no longer in love with the colour? the pieces too tough
sit here quietly drinking up life, loneliness
taste this tender leaf, so mild and captivating

yesterday's passion is now an empty seat
as if the purple has rusted into a new colour
swaying shadows are a noise of red-sauce
layer upon layer—and what else is there
sharing a table could mean not sharing the way home
clusters of dew on dawn leaves are worlds apart
banquet blossoms bloom and fade—this we know
carved in gold and jade words can never say it all

knife and fork pick up the strands of age-old entanglements
lean red fat green diluted bitter cabbage
shaggy shoots of bamboo love the yellow pepper
not fond of sweet and glutinous, there's hot and spicy
cloves of human relationships hide you and me
on a road so long oranges taste like durian
separated by acres of corn we meet here again
light and shadow dancing—stop this glass, this wine

shallow plates teach us how to chew deeply
dabs of rouge revive an old-time grandeur
new and upbeat sounds chattering all around
neon lights a thousand leaves as the conversation turns cold
when you speak soundlessly of licorice of almond yellow
an experience from thick to thin is slowly re-tasted
these days, more than ever, I love this fresh bitterness
holding so many broken pieces in no particular order

青菜沙律

青絲 素縷上 澆層層 時間
新淨 明麗的 還有 那清爽
膩膩 喧嘩裏 尋一株 彎捲
撥開 詭祕顏色 發現 怨對
用心 聆聽 明白 那是憂傷
已不愛 五彩嗎 片片 硬脆
會心靜坐 喝出 生命 清冷
嚐到 葉嫩 淡薄 令人出神

曾經 情盡意竭 如今 留空
彷彿 紫鏽 蝕出了 新顏色
虛晃的 影子 醬紅的 喧嘩
疊疊層層 底下 還有 甚麼
同桌 可以 有不同的 方向
叢叢黎明 葉露 相隔 萬家
盛宴 繽紛 開落 自然知道
金鏤玉刻 言語 不能 盡意

刀叉 牽起 絡繹 前塵糾結
綠肥紅瘦 給 苦白菜 沖稀
重疊參差 甘筍 喜歡 黃椒
不愛 甜稠 也可以 愛苦辣
瓣瓣 人際關係 掩映 你我
長長的 路上 柑橘 似榴槤
相隔 萬畝玉米 相遇 於此
光影 晃盪裏 停下 這杯酒

淺碟 教我們 也想 嚼深呢
幾層 胭脂 裝扮 舊的排場
四周 寒暄 自有 新的高昂
霓虹照 千重葉 話語 涼了
等你說 無聲的 甘味 杏黃
經歷 由濃而淡 逐一 咀嚼
如今 逐漸 愛苦澀的 清新
包容 種種 破碎 不知秩序

1988