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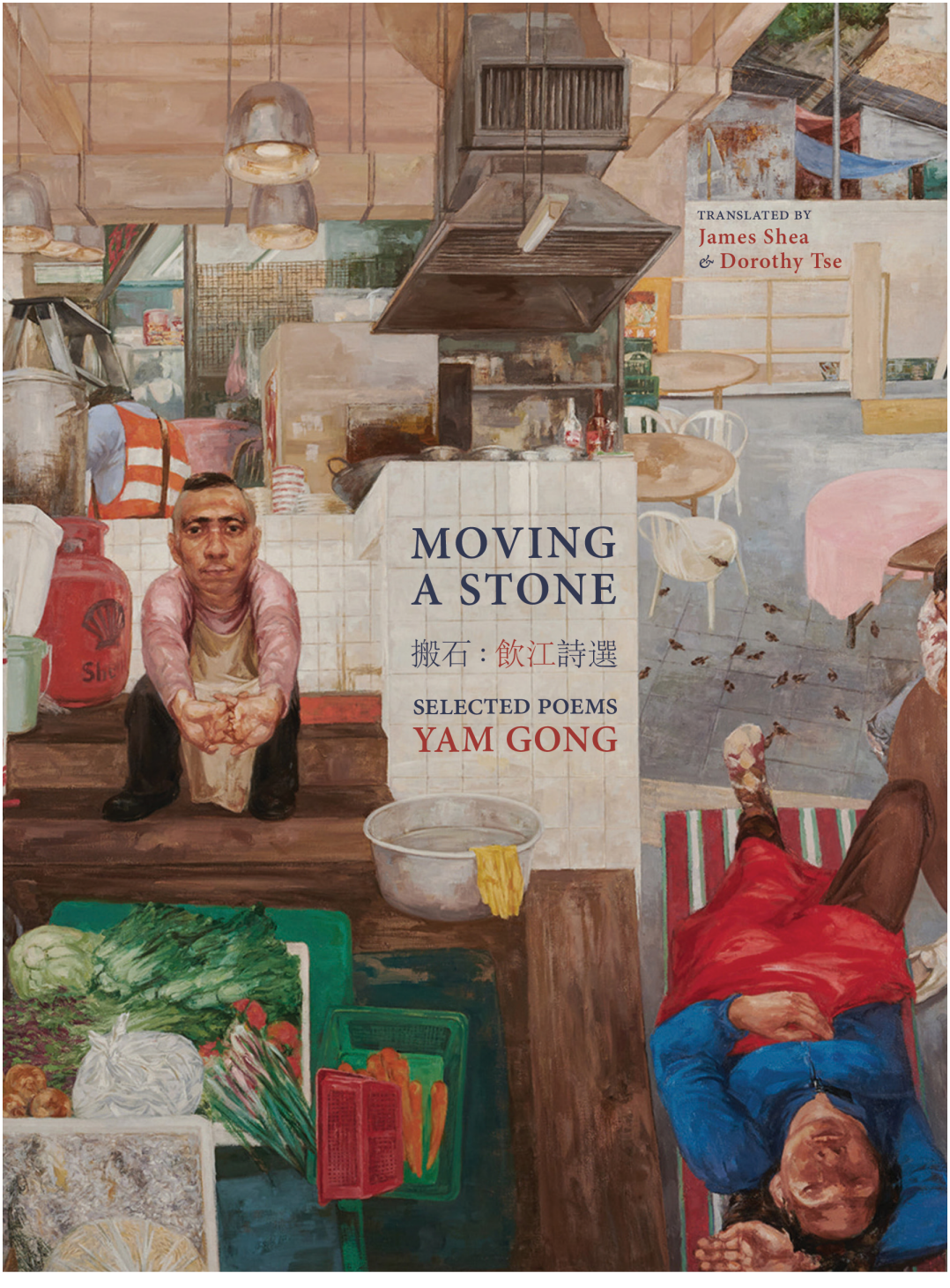

TRANSLATED BY
James Shea
& Dorothy Tse

MOVING A STONE

搬石：飲江詩選

SELECTED POEMS

YAM GONG

MOVING A STONE
搬石

Selected Poems *of* YAM GONG
飲江詩選

Translated from Chinese by

James Shea and Dorothy Tse

Zephyr Press | Spicy Fish

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鹹魚店（十四行）

吊在那裏很久了那鹹魚
上工頭一天我用叉
把它掛起來我便想
這鹹魚肉質彬彬的
任誰都會揀去它吧
但它一天天吊在那裏直挺挺的
一丁點兒鹽也沒見掉下來
今天該有人揀去它了
每天早上看着它每天我都這樣想
我每天都這樣想這樣想
漸漸變成了我每天的希望直到
今天老闆過來跟我說
你呆頭呆腦像條鹹魚似的
明天不用上工了

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The Salted Fish Shop (A Sonnet)

It hung there for a long time, that salted fish
On the first day of work I used a pole
to hang it up and I started thinking
this salted fish is so handsome
surely someone is going to pick it
but day after day it hung there upright
and not a single grain of salt fell
Today someone should pick it
Looking at it every morning I thought every day
this same thing every day I looked at it
and slowly it became my hope each day
until my boss came to me today and said
You look as dumb as a salted fish
Don't bother coming back tomorrow

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於是你沿街看節日的燈飾

「人生不相見
動如參與商
今夕復何夕
煙花多璀璨」

回到家門口才發覺
丟失了鑰匙
有沒有轉動
門的把手呢
門的把手轉動的聲音
告訴你沒有奇蹟
或者奇蹟在屋內
你沒法看見
你的心想到一個最近的朋友
最近的朋友以至最遠的朋友
這一夜，都外出看煙花了
你沿街看節日的燈飾
你不大習慣每一顆燈泡
為你而光亮
你不大習慣
那些諂媚
多顏色的鐘
說服你單純的快樂
但你也哼出普天頌讚的調子
懷想掛在鐵窗前的襪子
漫漫長夜不知是囚徒的幽默
還是囚徒的諷刺

YG_txt.indd 16 4/21/22 11:01 AM

And So You Look at Festival Lights along the Street

Never meeting as life goes on,
always like the stars Scorpius and Orion.
Then what evening is this—
with fireworks so resplendent?

Returning to your apartment you find
you've lost your key
Did you try turning
the door handle?
The sound of a jiggling handle
tells you there are no miracles
or there's a miracle inside
that you can't see
You think of the nearest friend
From the nearest to the farthest
they've all gone out to see the fireworks
Looking at festival lights along the street
you're not used to every lightbulb
brightening for you
You're not used
to those fawning
bells in numerous colors
convincing you of pure merriment
but you join along with the joyful hymns
recalling a sock hanging in front of iron bars
on an endless night—was it humor
or irony from the prisoner?

YG_txt.indd 17 4/21/22 11:01 AM

但你知道最大的幽默
是當你回來
同志們都外出
今夜煙花燦爛
而你確信
要是他們知道
定會留守屋內
招喚妻兒
一一介紹給你
各款牆紙
和快樂
而你的眼角有霧升起
知道雖然遙遠卻值得奮鬥
值得為此而收斂自己修飾自己
值得爭取
這每隔一段日子
被假釋的喜悅
於是你沿街看節日的燈飾
也漸漸習慣
讓節日的燈飾看你
取悅你

YG_txt.indd 18 4/21/22 11:01 AM

But you know the greatest joke
is when you come back
and all of your comrades are out
Tonight the fireworks are resplendent
and you're sure
if they'd known
they would have stayed home
and called for their wives and children
to be introduced to you one by one
amid various wallpapers
and merriments
and yet mist rises from the corner of your eye
as you know that while far away it may be worth struggling for
worth restraining and refining oneself for
worth fighting for
every once in a while
this joy of being on parole
and so you look at festival lights along the street
and gradually get used
to the gaze of holiday lights
and how they try to please you

YG_txt.indd 19 4/21/22 11:01 AM

飛蟻臨水

風雨前夕
就多飛蟻
父親說
端盤水來吧
哥哥便拖了木屐
躂躂走進廚房裏

我們看父親
跨上桌椅
解下鉤上的電線
把燈泡低垂
於是母親
熄掉別的
所有的燈
我們圍攏
唯一的光源裏
飛蟻蓬亂紛飛
我們一家子的眼睛
水紋上莫名地閃
莫名地笑

許多年過去
父親像一隻飛蟻
飛進另一盤水裏
而我們離開故居
許久沒聽見
木屐的聲音了

小女兒和兒子問起
是爺爺想出的主意麼

YG_txt.indd 28 4/21/22 11:01 AM

Flying Ants Approaching Water

Flying ants gathering
on the eve of a rainstorm—
my father would say,
Bring me a basin of water,
and shuffling his wooden clogs
my older brother would clomp into the kitchen

We watched Father
climb onto a chair and table,
unhook the hanging wire
and lower the bulb
Then Mother
turned off
the remaining lights
and we gathered around
under the single bulb
Flying ants swirled in a frenzy
In the water's ripples our family's eyes
sparkled inexplicably
and laughed inexplicably

Many years have passed
Like a flying ant, my father
flew into another basin
and we left our old home
For a long time, we haven't heard
the sound of clogs

My young daughter and son ask,
Was that Grandpa's idea?

YG_txt.indd 29 4/21/22 11:01 AM

人傷感了
一時便不懂得回答
也叫他們
端盤水來
請嫲嫲安坐廳中
然後，把所有的窗打開
把所有的燈熄滅

不是風雨前夕
自然不見飛蟻蓬飛
但我們倒喜歡
點一盞燈
低低垂近水面
聽嫲嫲搖着蒲扇
述說兒時光景
孩子們的眼睛
也像當年我們的眼睛
奇異地閃
奇異地笑

是許多年前的一個夜麼
是許多年後的一盤水
我們像飛蟻飛來
也會像飛蟻飛去
在燈光的下面
在燈光的上面
水紋裏我們看見
自己的眼睛
一家子快樂的眼睛
和曾經盪漾
又永恆地盪漾

至愛的眼睛

YG_txt.indd 30 4/21/22 11:01 AM

In my sorrow
I don't know how to respond
So I tell them to bring me
a basin of water,
invite Grandma into the sitting room
and open all the windows
and turn off all the lights

It's not the eve of a rainstorm
We won't see flying ants swirl
but we'd still like
to light a lamp,
lean in toward the water
and listen to Grandma, waving her palm-leaf fan,
recounting scenes from childhood
The children's eyes
like ours from years ago
sparkling wondrously
laughing wondrously

Is this a night from many years before?
Is this a basin from many years later?
We flew here like flying ants
and we'll fly away like flying ants
under the light
above the light
in the ripples of water where we see
our own eyes
the joyful eyes of an entire family
and the once-undulating
eternally undulating

eyes of the beloved

YG_txt.indd 31 4/21/22 11:01 AM

機遇

機遇到來
我得以
望着你

在山中
望着你
在水中
望着你
機遇到來我得以
望着你

望着你
我失去
好的東西
望着你
我失去
壞的東西
機遇到來
我　望着你

在山中
失去山
在水中
失去水
在在中
失去在
在你中

YG_txt.indd 40 4/21/22 11:01 AM

An Occasion

An occasion arises
and I can
look at you

Amid the mountains
looking at you
amid the waters
looking at you
An occasion arises and I can
look at you

Looking at you
I lose
the good things
looking at you
I lose
the bad things
An occasion arises
I look at you

Amid the mountains
losing the mountains
amid the waters
losing the waters
Amid being
losing being
amid you

YG_txt.indd 41 4/21/22 11:01 AM

失去
我自己

機遇到來
我失去
垂手
可得
整個世界
望着你

望着你

失去你然而
望着你

YG_txt.indd 42 4/21/22 11:01 AM

I lose
myself

An occasion arises
and I lose
an entire world
at my
fingertips
Looking at you

Looking at you

Losing you and yet
looking at you

YG_txt.indd 43 4/21/22 11:01 AM

皇帝的新衣

皇帝穿上新衣
露出了
無形
的手

這秘密
除了那孩子
全國的男女
都知道

所以他們
如此一致
任由後世恥笑

YG_txt.indd 44 4/21/22 11:01 AM

The Emperor's New Clothes

The emperor put on his new clothes
and exposed
an invisible
hand

Except for the child
all the people
in the kingdom
knew this secret

which is why
altogether they bear
the laughter of their descendants

YG_txt.indd 45 4/21/22 11:01 AM

驚髮

理髮店的旋轉標誌
旋轉得越來越急速
有的橫放，打破規格
有的變作圓環，多了些顏色
從前剪了髮才洗頭
現在次序顛倒
母親硬要我們的頭
剪得光脫脫的
那時我們哭喪着臉
她卻朝鏡子裏笑
軟綿綿的毛絨球
香撲鼻的爽身粉
連環圖一本本霸在膝上
一頁頁如風吹揭
理髮椅的扶手
橫架一塊木板
坐在上面挺威風的
我們又每每惱怨
想望一天
隨手可把它扔掉……
鏡子前後，人來人往
鏡子裏外
春花秋月
嬗變的髮式
一次比一次趨時
攬鏡自照
一次比一次
更鍾愛自己

YG_txt.indd 68 4/21/22 11:01 AM

Startling Hair

The swirling poles of the barber shops
swirl at greater and greater speed
Some lie horizontally now, smashing the norm
Some have become rings with added colors
They used to wash our hair after cutting it
Now the order's reversed
Mother had insisted on our heads
being shaved bare—
She smiles in the mirror
at our faces in tears
Sweet-smelling talcum powder
from a feathery brush
Comic books commandeered on laps
Pages flipping as if blown by the wind
Across the arms of the barber's chair
rests a wooden board
We sit up straight with pride
though sometimes we grumble
hoping for a day
when it can be cast aside
Before and behind the mirror people come and go
Within and beyond the mirror
spring flowers bloom and the autumn moon wanes
Hairstyles evolve
each one timelier than the last
Holding up a mirror
I admire myself more
and more each time

YG_txt.indd 69 4/21/22 11:01 AM

直到一天
脖子上抖落未盡
細碎的髮屑我們驚覺
鏡裏眾多容顏
獨不見母親
猛然轉過頭來
慌亂中幸好
見母親剛從巷口走進
且帶來輕軟茸茸
毛絨球的感覺
和爽身粉般
香撲鼻的記憶
雖則，她的鬢髮一夜白了
而我們兄弟多人
近日少從鏡裏回望
所以一無所知
彷彿一無所知

YG_txt.indd 70 4/21/22 11:01 AM

until one day
shaking the endless hair clippings
from our necks, we're startled
by the absence of Mother's face
in a mirror full of faces
I turn around abruptly
in a panic, but fortunately
I see Mother just walking in from the alley
bringing the soft, light
feeling of a barber's brush
and the sweet-smelling memories
of talcum powder
even though her hair turned white overnight
and we brothers
don't look in the mirror much anymore
so that's why we know nothing
why it seems we know nothing

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七段狐言

「感君一回顧
風雪夜歸人」

（一）
她出現他門口
像一尾妖狐
並且不無幽怨
說：「男人
我被你追趕得好苦」

（二）
一燈如豆
一塵不染
一絲不掛
燈下她展讀
他未完成
的詩稿
忽兒轉過頭來
幽幽言說：
「這是遠古
儀式
比詩
的出現
還早呢」

YG_txt.indd 114 4/21/22 11:01 AM

A Fox's Tale in Seven Parts

Touched by your glance back,
returning home in evening snow

1.
She appeared in his doorway
like an enchanted fox
and not without resentment
said, *Mister,*
your pursuit has caused me much suffering

2.
A seed of light
A spotless room
A night undressed
Under the lamp, she unrolled and read
an unfinished
draft of his poems
At once she turned her head
and murmured,
This ancient
rite
existed
even before
poetry

YG_txt.indd 115 4/21/22 11:01 AM

（三）
趁着月色
她除下頭來
對鏡梳理
夢醒醒來
他看見了

「你怎不尖叫？」
她愣愣的，問

「是你的頭
又不是我的頭」
愣愣的，他答

（四）
媚笑着
她把他的頭
除下
雙雙對對
攬在手裏

「還笑呢，你！」
她的頭
比他的
還驚詫

「我就喜歡
這麼個樣子
我的頭
貼在你手裏」

YG_txt.indd 116 4/21/22 11:01 AM

3.
Aided by moonlight
she removed her head,
combing it in front of a mirror
Awakened from a dream
he saw her

Why didn't you scream?
she asked absently

It's your head,
not my head,
he replied absently

4.
With an enchanting smile,
she grabbed his head
and removed it,
embracing their pair of heads
with her hands

You're still smiling!
Her head
looked more surprised
than his head

I just really
like the way
my head
fits snug in your hand

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（五）
回返夢裏
她將他的頭
跟她的頭
換轉
又側過臉來
調笑着說：
「可抱怨沒有
男人」

「沒有」
悠悠醒寐
他也調笑着
回答：

「我還是我的頭
且得着
你的身子呢！」

（六）
天麻麻亮了
她哭起來
「時限到了
怎生捨得離去？」

「離去吧」他說：
「就這麼個樣子
離去吧
你的一半
留在我這裏
我的一半

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5.
Back inside the dream
she exchanged
his head
with her head
and leaned her face against his,
teasing,
Any complaints now,
Mister?

No
Half asleep and half awake,
he replied
teasingly,

My head's still mine
and I'm gaining
your body!

6.
As the sky dawned
she began to cry,
Our time is over
but how can I leave you?

Just go, he said,
Just go
as you are
Your half
will remain with me,
my half

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跟定你
生生世世
到天涯」

（七）
踏出柴扉
她戀戀回轉頭來
「這不苦了你嗎？
男人」

「怎跟你說好呢
吾愛
這是潛藏久遠
的想望
比狐
當年逾犯天條
那夜
還早呢」

他沉沉別轉頭去
一步一步
回返夢裏

YG_txt.indd 120 4/21/22 11:01 AM

will follow you
for eternity
to the ends of the earth

7.
Stepping out of the wooden door
she turned her head with longing,
Won't this cause you suffering,
Mister?

How should I put it,
my love?
This was a long-buried
wish
well before
that night
when the foxes
violated the rules of heaven

He turned his head heavily
and step by step
returned to the dream

YG_txt.indd 121 4/21/22 11:01 AM

掩耳盜鈴

你問我那個鈴如何被盜去
說來話長卻又簡單
那天他來到我們村裏
跟大家說起掩耳盜鈴
這故事，多荒謬可笑
大家笑彎了腰笑破肚皮
笑聲中又好像
忽然對人世間
那些愚蠢的人
平添一份尊敬
話說那人
說話又特別動聽
一遍一遍
一千遍一千遍直至
一天
我們老遠看見他
都掩住耳朵
慌忙跑開了

我們村裏那個鈴呀
它曾發出無比宏大的聲音
就在那人張開嘴巴
由遠及近
之際
光天化日
叮叮噹噹
被盜走了

YG_txt.indd 128 4/21/22 11:01 AM

Plugging Your Ears to Steal a Bell

You asked me how the bell was stolen
Well, it's a long but simple story:
One day a man came to our village
and told us about a thief who plugged his ears to steal a bell—
what a ridiculous tale!
We doubled up laughing, bursting our sides
Amid the sounds of laughter
we suddenly seemed
to have a kind of respect
for the stupid people in this world
It was said the man
was an especially moving speaker, telling his story
over and over
thousands and thousands of times until
one day
we saw him from afar
and covered our ears in fright
hurrying away

Ah, the bell in our village
It used to make an incomparable sound
Right when that man opened his mouth
and came closer and closer
right then
in broad daylight
ding-a-ling ding-a-ling
it was stolen

YG_txt.indd 129 4/21/22 11:01 AM

是呀
這就是滑稽
這就是荒謬
透頂，這就是此刻我
和你，死死把耳朵
掩住
那怕再一條村
一個鈴
一組組編鐘
一塊塊石磬
一車一船
金甌銅頭豬狗疊着
彝鼎

那怕這一切
的一切
噹噹遠逸

也不相信
也不去再聽一遍
的故事

的解釋

YG_txt.indd 130 4/21/22 11:01 AM

Oh yes
It's funny
It's ridiculous
utterly so, and that's why you
and I are dead set on plugging
our ears now
even if in another village
there's another bell
strands of chimes
slabs of stone gongs
a cart a boat
with golden chalices and copper-headed pigs and dogs stacked up
on bronze cauldrons

even if every bit
of everything
disappears with a clang

I won't believe it
and I won't
listen again

to such a tale

YG_txt.indd 131 4/21/22 11:01 AM

把豉汁抹在鮶魚的身上

魚說
「你蒸我
你煎我
你翻我

為甚麼把豉汁
那麼溫柔抹在我身上」

「我憐憫自己
戀想他朝
與君體相同」

「這是人的說話麼
這是魚的說話」

「是的
當魚說話
人應該沉默

讓我把豉汁
加些許蒙汗藥
輕柔地抹在你的
我的身上」

YG_txt.indd 136 4/21/22 11:01 AM

Rubbing Black Bean Sauce on a Pomfret

A fish said,
"If you're going to steam me
and fry me
and flip me

why rub black bean sauce
on me so gently?"

"I pity myself,
envisioning one day
what you are, I will become"

"Is that a person talking?
This is a fish talking"

"Indeed
when a fish speaks
people should fall silent

Let me rub black bean sauce
and a love potion
gently on your body
and mine"

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