

Yau Ching

Translated
Poems

伊甸園的誘惑

我們是孤兒
不屬於亞細亞
從沒有鄰居朋友兄弟
活着被怪獸追趕
長期缺氧
呼吸大力一點都沒命
當過去變成目前
失去被尋得
天使填滿空洞
丟我們在廢城鎖上門
讓我們互相撕殺
互相鄙視又緊抱一起
用最快的磁浮速度
發射自我於太虛
經過了千山萬水等著被鄰近地區
再一次接管

這便是伊甸園

2009

This Tempts Eden

Translated by Charlie Lam, Sonia Wong Yuk Ying and Noelle Kwong

We are orphans
unbelonging to the Asias
no brothers neighbors or friends
live to be pursued by monsters
blessed with chronic anoxia
one louder breath would undo us
When past is present
loss is found
angels fill up hollows
dump us in waste-city locked in
Let us rip apart
despise then hug each other
instantaneous magnetic levitation
launch ourselves into a void
across the thousand rivers and mountains, awaiting
to be taken over

by the neighboring regions, again

This, is Eden

2009

我不知道甚麼是對

——致澳門少年感化院的同學們

我很快離開這裡

我有很多人身自由
卻經常選擇留在四堵牆內
但這是我的選擇
在法律面前妳們被裁定
不應該選擇

我相信創作
是為自己的選擇負責
尊重與肯定不
同 即使看來錯

我不知道甚麼是對

關起來可以學習對
嗎 沒有選擇的環境
可以學習選擇嗎
真實的世界
沒人管你刷牙
多少分鐘
洗碗用多少洗
潔精一天只准用一張紙
所有給你的信
你最後一個讀
真實的世界
沒廿四小時的鐵閘與監視
我們每分鐘作出選擇
形成所謂「我」
經常選擇錯

但我不知甚麼是對

我希望妳們學習妥協的時候
保留選擇不同的
勇氣 或者知道甚麼是錯
也不要太知道甚麼

是對

2003

I do not know what is right

— — — — Dedicated to students in Macau Teenage Reform School

Translated by Siu Fung

I am leaving here soon
I have a lot of freedom
but always choose to stay within four walls
While this is my choice
law determines you choiceless

I believe in creativity
to be responsible for one's choices
To respect and say yes to
differences even when it seems wrong

I do not know what's right

Would locking you away let you learn what's
right? Would you learn about choosing
in choicelessness
In reality
no one cares how long
you brush your teeth how much
detergent you use every day you can only use one piece of paper
You are the last to
read your own letters
In reality, there are no 24-hour iron gates and surveillance
Every minute one makes one's own
choice to become *I*
Bad choices too often

I don't know what's right

I hope when you learn to compromise it
won't mean losing other choices
or courage to be different by having to know
what's wrong perhaps but
keep not knowing too much about what is
right

2003

年少的詩

— — — 世紀末的生長

我在Haight-Ashbury看一齣討論希皮的電影
大贈送一套列根夫婦勸人服毒的短片，他們說美國未來的希望都剩下兩元，遲疑著
用來買杯Espresso是否太危險
一面讀米和斯的《三藩市灣區所見》，說：「我在這裡。」
我在這裡，而且知道得這樣少，
少到在成為物質以前也跟物質一樣甚麼都不知道。
你立即反駁，「藝術不斷向我們認知的局限挑戰」
人跟物質之間是未知與不知的距離，這是無限。
我想說，我
不知道。
或者。

你知道嗎。我想問希皮文化會否是美國中產階級
發明的一種逸樂主義的變奏呢。也有
懦弱。盲目。宣洩無法安撫的良知。替世紀的憤怒
注射嗎啡針。「Life is groovy; life is cool,
I make myself a swimming pool.」
這單純如顏色的禮儀。我遲疑，你
不知道，你的
成就。這片土地，一直是游泳池
涼快

也有人
在池旁走，遲疑，想
「今天，無疑是難了。」難得過
嗎啡針嗎。但你知道生命在末世以後會繼續
生長。你知道嗎。

海鳥睜大眼搶食。我看不見亞極策斯，從前的監獄
島，今天的遊客區。你問：「香港在一九九八會
怎麼樣呢？」
(布殊也忘記所有顏色侵略的日期，他會說：
「這又是跟我當總統毫無關係的事情。」)
「我們正在爭取一套比較……獨立的制度。」
你著迷，立即
明白。我不是沒有
後悔的。你們總是聽見
獨立，聽不見
比較，莫論……

三藩市的霧忘記時間。以及它帶來的一切。
(這樣真的好一點嗎?) 在我們也成為霧，或者
物質以前。繼續生長。
以及它帶來的一切。
為甚麼怕痛呢。遲早我們
都有不痛的機會

遲早當顏色
文字、布與霧
都過去，我希望，我們還可以回
頭說，我們真的
不知道

一如我們知道
甚麼

9. 1988

Poem of Youth

– – Growing in the fin-de-siècle

Translated by Michael Gray

At Haight-Ashbury watching a movie of hippiness
comes with a public service announcement of Reagan plus wife selling drugs. They say two
bucks is all that's left for America's future. May I pause
buying a possibly detrimental Espresso as
Milosz's Visions from San Francisco Bay goes "I am here."
I am here, and know so little,
as much as matter knows before I too become matter.
At once you retort, "Art continually challenges our limits of knowing."
Between people and matter lies the distance between the unknowable and the unknown. That is
infinity.
I want to say, I
don't know.
Maybe.

Do you know. Is hippiness a variation of
pleasure-complacent American middle-classism.
Cowardly. Blind. Insatiable conscience.
Injecting shots of morphine into
a century's angst. "Life is groovy; life is cool,
I make myself a swimming pool."
A ritual pure as color. May I pause, you
don't know your
accomplishments. This plot of land, always a swimming pool
cool

and some people
walk along the poolside, pause, think
Today, has indeed become difficult. More difficult than
morphine? Yet you know life after the end of the world will continue
growing. Do you know.

Seabirds stare and fight for scraps. I cannot see Alcatraz, prison island of the
past, today's tourist spot. You ask: What will happen to Hong Kong in
1998?

(Bush also forgot all the dates of invading colors:
I repeat, this matter is unrelated to my presidency.)
"We're fighting for a relatively... independent system."
Captivated, you immediately
understand. I'm not without
regrets. Independence is easy
to be heard, not the
relatively, let alone
an ellipsis

San Francisco's fog forgets time. And everything it brings.
(Is this way a little better?) Before we too become fog, or
matter. We continue growing.
And everything it brings.
Why fear pain. Sooner or later we
will have a chance to not have pain.
Sooner or later, when colors
and words, bushes and oozes
all pass. I hope, we can still turn
around, say we truly
don't know

as if we could
anything

9. 1988

給我滾

-- 致青年

轉念始於足下¹
寸土不生何難
沙中生蛋才難
而且定是龜蛋

變態是自然 道德是扮嘢²
是龜蛋才會有濕濕的夢³
弄得無法面對皇后的
鐵碗高官抱着整天被襲阿Sir們
使盡圍板鐵馬麻木不仁人肉walk文
都拔不起碼頭上星空下
一根草

只有龜蛋 才會愈滾愈硬
擊牆不破 且堅持不飛走
即使現實是監獄煉獄
但天堂始於轉念
始於足下
始於利東街
始於菜園新生活 始於沙中綠洲
始於城大隔壁酒店⁴
在風暴一場又一場底心眼下唱歌爆房
房中把瑞麟好好瓜分⁵
平放在充滿愛與和諧的高鐵腳下

一無所有所以無懼改變
拒絕與地產共榮共葬
龜殼上映出海市蜃樓下
轉化奴役為休閒
想象生出行動生出想象無限
想象綿綿高原綠茵
滾上去路不完
滾出生勾勾滑灑灑慢吞吞
舞蹈團美女
半彎不直的
千秋萬代

2011

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- 1 「轉念始於足下寸土 / 今天我從新學會走路」(黃衍仁 〈轉念始於足下寸土〉)
 - 2 2008年5月由自治八樓發起的「直人撐同志 -- 無分彎直大遊行」中一句口號。
 - 3 「這晚 / 要與你做個濕濕的夢 / 與你 / 去創造這深深的痛」(My Little Airport 〈濕濕的夢〉, 詞: 阿p / 觀鳥家果仔)
 - 4 「我們終於去了九龍塘 / 在城大旁的酒店爆房」(My Little Airport 〈浪漫九龍塘〉, 詞: 阿p)
 - 5 「瓜分 / 讓我們瓜分 / 林瑞麟每個月三十萬元的薪金」(My Little Airport 〈瓜分林瑞麟三十萬薪金〉, 詞: 阿p)

Shove Off

– – To Youth

Translated by Charlie Lam and Sonia Wong Yuk Ying

Turn of thought begins under your steps¹
Barren land is not hard to make
To grow eggs in a desert is the challenge
And that egg has to be from a good ass

Perversity is natural; morality a con²
only a good ass's eggs make slippery dreams³
rendering the yes-sirs who cannot look straight at the Queen's
iron rice-bowls and their human walk-man⁴ orders
erecting barricades numbed out
under the firmaments and pier⁵ plucking
with all might
a leaf of grass

only a goose egg will roll harder and harder
against a hard wall refusing to flee
even though reality is a hell-shell a purgatory
yet heaven springs from a turn of thought
from under one's feet
from Lee Tung Street
from Choi Yuen Village and its New Life an oasis in the sand
Songs exploding in the love hotel room by CityU⁶
under a storm-eye slicing
Stephen properly into pieces⁷
and lay them along the high-speed rail full of love and harmony

Inconsequential therefore fearless
Defying real estates 'til glory or death
Mirage shining off eggshell
dissolving slavery with leisure
Let action grow out of the imagined infinite
realms of hills and greens
rolling up an endless path

1 With reference to Hinyang Wong's "Turn of Thought Begins In the Earth Beneath Your Steps".

2 A slogan in a pro-Tongzhi demonstration initiated by Autonomous 8A in May 2008.

3 With reference to My Little Airport's "A Slippery Dream".

4 Stephen Lam, Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong (2011-2012) and Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (2002-2011), was widely dubbed as "human sound recorder" for his practice of just-say-yes to authorities and having no opinions of his own.

5 Students and activists launched a hunger strike to protest the demolition of the Queen's Pier in 2007. The pier had witnessed the arrival of all of Hong Kong's British governors since 1925. To end the occupation, 300 policemen evicted 30 protesters. The last activist evicted was nicknamed "Grass".

6 With reference to My Little Airport's "Kowloon Tong Romance".

7 With reference to My Little Airport's "Slicing Stephen Lam's \$300K Salaries."

birthing a slick slothful load
of beauty queen strippers
ever not-not queer nor straight
for generations to come

2011