

Family Reunion: Once, and Forever

By Changming Yuan

Yuan Hongqi, may your spirit, dad, come and
Join us from Pure Land in this short poem
With Liu Yu, my mother, who is paying us
A visit from the other side of the world
Let's gather together behind these thin lines
Where I and Hengxiang Liao, my old girl
Have prepared a big dinner according to
Our own recipes. Please, sit here with Mom
Above my central metaphor. First, take a sip of
Luosong Soup, our only family specialty
Both George Lai and Allen Qing, my two sons
Even Hyunjung (George's Korean wife)
Like to drink. Now, try some consonance
Fried with Tofu, a course you never
Tasted before. Look, right beside you is
Julian Han Yuan, your most favored grandson
The pride of our family who's doing his PhD
In New York; across the table are Liu Yun
My brother and his current wife Chen Jing
Still working far away in Jingzhou , China

Since you are a vegetarian, a Buddhist
Let's have internal rhyme instead of wine, let's
Celebrate our grand family reunion. Cheers!

World of Walls

By Changming Yuan

Every wall is built to shield
The storm, the sunlight, to stop
The friends, the strangers, to blockade
The songs, the noises, or

To divide between two realms
Such as hell and heaven

Day and night
Freedom and confinement

Whether with or without doors

But all and only
In the human world

Pine Tree

By Changming Yuan

Sitting on a boulder
Like Thousand-Hand Thousand-Eye Guanyin
You reach out all your deeply tanned arms
Pointing all your evergreen fingers up to the sky
Not to take in moisture from the surrounding mists
But to give out the freshest air you could

With eyes held in as many hands
You are witnessing the sounds of the world
Still, in spirited stillness