

Contents

I. Map of the Heart

- What the Lotus Said 3
Where We Are Born 4
The Earthquakes in Taiwan 5
A Chinese Theory of Strings 7
In Shi Lin Night Market with My Lover 8
At Drunken Moon Lake 9
City of Eternal Spring 10

II. Exile

- The Old Man 13
Noodles in Gong Guan with Godfather 14
Crushing Peanuts in a Hakka Village 15
Tea Plantations and Women in Black 16
Meeting Old Friends at Drunken Moon Lake 17
The Long Walk Up to Mao Zedong's Retreat 18
Buying a History of the Language 19
The Fish We Ate 20
On Hearing that Michael Jackson Died 21
MRT 22
Da Mo Meets Ronald McDonald 24
The Three Black Goats of Mei Nung 25
On Visiting Yu Jian 26
In Shenyang City 28
Eating Vegetarian in Taichung with Chien Cheng Chen 29

III. Memories

- Oya at He Nan Temple 33
Archaeology of Time: The Past 34
Archaeology of Time: Returning 35
Archaeology of Time: Convertibles 36
Archaeology of Time: Gambling 37
Archaeology of Time: Stations 39
Archaeology of Time: Shadows 41
Archaeology of Time: Waste 42
Recognition 43

IV. Intimacies

- A First Love Poem 47
Night Walk in Taipei 48
The Abacus Speaks to the End of Geometry 49
Cold Mountain and the Maiden 50
Night at the Opera 52
What the Rains Bring 53
A Dream 54
America, a Challenge to Love 55
Nice to Meet You 56
Walking to the Tree of Ancestors 57

V. Soul Space

Daoist Festival of the Great Pig 61

Unspoken 62

Flux 63

Mind 64

Kings 65

Mirrors 66

Space 67

Truth 68

Nerves 70

Du Fu to Li Bai 71

Homesickness 72

The Workers in Beijing 73

Being Chinese 75

Notes 77

Acknowledgments 81