

## **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