

Lobster Cantonese

Jim Washington

Imagine a family
with just enough
money to celebrate
birthdays & anniversaries
with lobster, a stew,
two dissected, placed
into a scalding pot,
pork, egg, scallions
& seasonings
so anticipated.
A meal stretched
beyond comprehension,
a near religious
moment – togetherness.
& then comes a day
of brighter earnings.
Same seven settled
for celebration, but
this time dinner
from a lobster pot
near boiling over
with each our own,
no compromise
of togetherness,
heads still bowed
over steaming bowls,
same, but now meaty
lobster set on white rice,
cartoon eye-swelling bounty,
never seen before,
for a meal, in truth
that somehow
had lost
much of its
remembered taste.