

**Clefting**  
**Yuan Changming**

Between two high notes  
the melody gives a crack  
long enough  
to allow my entire selfhood to enter  
like a fish jumping back  
into the night water.

Both the fish and I leave no  
trace behind us, and the world  
remains undisturbed as we swim  
deeper and deeper in blue silence.

Upon my return, I find the music  
still going on, while the fish has  
disappeared into the unknown.

Yuan Changming published monographs on translation before leaving his native country. Currently, Yuan lives in Vancouver, where he edits *Poetry Pacific* with Allen Qing Yuan. Credits include ten Pushcart nominations, Best of the Best Canadian Poetry (2008-17) and BestNewPoemsOnline, among others.