Cha Reading Series x PEN Hong Kong

Matches Polished into Lights: Tiananmen Thirty Years On

3 June 2019

Item #1

填鴨門傳說的海角殘碉¹(亦名 Darligorsiuyantal)

Duckgate² legend's bastion at the corner of the sea aka Darligorsiuyantal

Lian-Hee Wee

奸佞當政,罪在昏君,革君。

Evil courtiers rule, fault on the fatuous emperor. Remove monarchy.

奸佞依然. 罪在.....?

Evil courtiers nonetheless, fault on ...?

雷雲外, 一聲轟隆:

Cumulonimbus beyond, thunder rolled:

...darligorsiuyantal...³

罪在百姓, 唔通因為有集體效仿屈原?

Fault on the masses, perhaps because they had not collectively emulated Wat Yuen (poet, patriotic, dead)?

抵死被綁成個糉, 去屈臣氏打工。

Deservedly tied into a dumpling, working at Watson's.

端午節睇到一氧化碳聚焦魯冀遼條衛星片,4

May 5th Festival saw a satellite footage of carbon monoxide cloud concentrate in the northeastern provinces of China,

據聞係共建華夏時,權蔭下,從維多莉亞時期,

T'was reported that when together building the flower (Cantonese: *wah*) nation, under the shade of authority (Cantonese: *kuen*), from the Victorian era

由港上飄。

Drifted northwards from Hong Kong

彌敦道河石屎萬壑中廈谷外,天際蕩回飄響:

Nathan River in the valley of concrete, from the skies echoed:

...darligorsiuyantal...

³ HK Post accepts *tsing lung tal* as an alternative to *Tsing Lung Tau*. I tried to send myself letters; they arrived.

¹ This is a HK Cantonese poem, unconstrained by "proper" pronunciation, formalities of register or the Chinese English distinctions. It is a collage of stories that I fear might be forgotten or forbidden. Thanks to Dr Ng Kum Hoon for being primitive reader and for his insightful comments.

² [t^hein ja]。

⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZBnJYuen5E

頭頂飛過來自工業革命嗰啲現代化

Flying overhead the modernizations of the industrial revolutions

還有官為民僕之德(謨克拉西)教義

and principle that officials are servants of the demos(crasy)

仲有揸 (史睇死) 女神矇住雙眼條絲巾。

Also the blindfold of Lady Jus(tice).

樑上凌駕三清嘅魔嬰.

SEE WHY a demonic babe ranks above the three sanctities,

雖別於紫霄殿個老二,也有兩面三刀法器。

Although different from No.2 in the Jade Emperor's court, too wields a three-bladed two-faced implement

頸外蒲出孽瘤啲僂儸, 歡聚廟前, 合掌恭誦:

minions with malignant tumors of *ipso regina*, congregate in the temple; a chorale: ...darligorsiuyantal...

某愛詩騷客立於神像前作振臂一呼狀,

OI! SEE how the poet before the statues of the deities, summoning,

續而冒出其心不如禽未進化嘅猿。

YOU'RE ON (nb: in legato) an ape with a heart no better than a fowl,

義犬必須反叛, 所以走咗,

The good dog must rebel, hence has left,

揸女神像旁嘅德經,翻到可能六朝已有嘅古咒語。

Lady Jus with the scriptures of demos turned to an ancient curse from the Six dynasties,

眾信徒高頌:

The devotees chant:

...darligorsiuyantal...

正義應係奉旨維護全國強姦。一大地才能聚富。

Hall of the Righteous rightfully protects nationwide rape^{conquest} of the land to be rich

CEO 字面譯: 行政(executive)長(chief)官(officer)。

CEO means: Chief Executive (officer)

商業 至係正信, 揸女神同德教,

Commerce is the religion, Lady Jus and the cult of demos,

任邊個一聽就知係西毒。

Evidently western toxins.

不想被人蝦嘅女奠僕, 左手背摀著塊面, 右手前後擺,

The CARRYing girl at the altar unwilling to be bullied, her left hand's back on her face, her right swinging,

喊著論盡地逃亡,默禱:

crying in her awkward escape, prays:

...darligorsiuyantal...

奠女籌到多88支配對木籤得以飛昇,

Carry-girl got an excess of 88 wooden lots and anointed goddess,

老虎機嘔銀啷啷凝成左嘴角翹起微笑。

The tiger machine puked clanging coins that made her left cheek twitch into a smile.

《通勝》有經云:南無 昔士 ___ 噎 乃吾(三稱)。

The almanac had a mantra: Nama six, ____ eight, nine (three times).

對壘揸神座下啞顏素麗巾幗阿修羅。

Facing Lady Jus's disciple who is an asura of plain grace.

混淆教育和教條,

Mixing education with indoctrination,

新漆人肉錄音機播放辯答:

the newly anointed human recorder answered:

...darligorsiuyantal...

山嵐清幽,

The serene mountain breeze,

命懸於絲一撮馬年冬孵出嘅蜘蛛仔,

precarious baby spiders from the year of the Horse blown with their webbed balloons,

海拔 495m 上, 慰問咗未凍死啲骨,

495m above sea level, asking after the yet undead cold bones,

我拖住你, 投奔道德高地, 然後失足跌落山崖。

I hold your hand, embracing moral high ground, then loose our footing at the cliff. 眼角一道黑字黃符,敕令:

From the corner of our eye, a yellow talisman, commands:

...打你個小人頭 (I'll hit your head you despicable cad)!

First read at the Worldwide Reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Sep 6, 2017 @ Outreach, Wan Chai, by PEN Hong Kong. This poem was written in June to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the not-to-be-named-incident on May 35th. It speaks to the fast eroding civil liberties of Hong Kong and the marginalization of local culture and identities.

Two days before the Chinese New Year of the Boar in 2019, the Education Bureau of Hong Kong was reported by D100.net to have described Hong Kong Cantonese as "a Chinese dialect not recognized by the authorities".

Translation for non-Chinese readers.