



Wild Geese Sorrow

The Chinese Wall Inscriptions at Angel Island

BY

Jeffrey Thomas Leong

Poem 4

*I, young son of the Wong clan from Heung Sehng,
straightened up, tossed my writing brush,
to quest for America's capitol.
I bought an oar, came to the place of Gold Mountain.
Who knew I would be sent to this island?
If my country were strong, it would not be like this.
When the ship docked, up a gangway straight to shore.*

*Written at dawn,
24th day in the 13th Year of the Republic,
the idle pen of a lazy boy from the City of Iron.*

“Wild Geese Sorrow”

DESCRIPTION

The first new translation in 40 years takes readers through the deep anger, sorrow, and loneliness felt by Chinese immigrants detained at the Angel Island Immigration Station between 1910-1940. Sequenced to narrate their experiences, these poems tell of arrival, long detentions, medical exams, political outrage, and for some, eventual deportation. Readers will also learn the nuances of literary translation and about a critical period of American immigrant history, information essential to our contemporary policy debates.

“Poems are nuanced, affecting, and informed by a haunting but astringent music.”

—**DAVID WOJAHN**, author of *Interrogation Palace* (Pulitzer Prize finalist)

“In a time of anti-immigrant sentiment, important reading for all Americans.”

—**ARTHUR SZE**, author of *The Compass Rose* (Pulitzer Prize finalist)

ISBN-13: 978-1-944593-06-3

PUBLICATION DATE: March 1, 2018

FORMAT: Trade Paperback, 214 Pages

PRICE: \$17.95



CALYPSO EDITIONS

www.calypsoeditions.org



AUTHOR BIO

Jeffrey Thomas Leong is a poet and writer raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. While earning his MFA degree at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, he began to translate anew the Chinese wall poems found at Angel Island. His writing has appeared in *Bamboo Ridge*, *Crab Orchard*, *Hyphen*, *Spillway*, and other publications. For over twenty years he worked as a public health administrator and attorney for the City of San Francisco. He lives with his wife and daughter in the East Bay. For more info, please visit him at www.jeffreythomasleong.com.