



Writ

BY

Jeffrey Thomas Leong

*...Though here, I won't drill down so small because
this ancestor of whom I imagine rests*

*a chin upon backs of interlaced fingers,
positing a next glyph in a mostly monosyllabic tongue,*

*further pictograph to add words, end upon end,
and image to image, to leap*

*across that secret middle, the arrive of classical Tang poets,
for he thinks, betwixt is where presence lies,*

*in white space, or the air
of no page, and I think, where absence can fill*

*the interval between beings,
where two may brace the emptiness.*

“In White Space”

DESCRIPTION

In his first collection of original poems, Jeffrey Thomas Leong fiercely imagines the experience of the Angel Island detainees, their determination, wit and tongue-in-cheek irony that helped them to endure. Gathered in part as a companion to the translations of *Wild Geese Sorrow*, these verses were written by the 21st century son of Chinese immigrants, interrogating race, power and discrimination, seeking in a father's story a measure of redemption.

“In this elegant and affecting book, we are reminded that poetry is a medium
for mysteries that can't be solved.”

—**NATASHA SAJÉ**, author of *Vivarium*

“This rich, moving portrait defies erasure, the father-son connection ‘revealed,
even sharper than before.’”

— **BRIAN KOMEI DEMPSTER**, author of *Topaz*

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AUTHOR BIO

Jeffrey Thomas Leong is a poet and writer raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. While earning his MFA at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, he began to translate anew the Chinese wall poems found at Angel Island now gathered into his book *Wild Geese Sorrow* (Calypso Editions, 2018). His writing has also appeared in *Bamboo Ridge*, *Crab Orchard*, *Hyphen*, *Spillway*, and other publications. Find out more at www.jeffreythomasleong.com.

