

## Hong Kong Scenes

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### I

Thick yellow bamboo  
lush green in the valley  
outside, down to the sea  
hills 30% of territory  
a small crested bird chirps  
from dawn to night

### II

in hospitals wear face masks  
and great coloured fish outside  
imported from Japan  
in a pond  
mostly dappled but  
single colours prized

### III

British overlay overlaid  
western names as well;  
double-decker buses  
and pseudo-English police in  
dark blue uniforms  
but no helmets.

the street names clash  
with the shops and the people  
Connaught road with Tang's tailors.  
the port, junks and cargo ships  
people, people everywhere

### IV

lunch at a large round table  
a stadium of dishes  
a chariot race of eating  
each dish triumphantly announced  
from provinces galore.

Even

barramundi buried in chopped lettuce  
its sauce boiling from a meths heater  
a long way from home.

V

public housing estates of tiny flats  
heaped up  
40 floors high  
in towers crunched together  
in dense stands  
pastel colours mustard  
green blue in sequence

VI

yellow marble malls  
shining palaces of shopping  
great resplendent chambers  
lace edged with brand-name shops  
Asian steppes of consumerism  
joined by chrome-plated stairs.

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