

Naming

by Carrie Green

—*Guangdong Province, China, 1858*

The Sun-king visited the Moon-queen
 the night of your birth.
 He flew to the Palace of Great Cold
 and the moon's surface shimmered,
 a bright mirror through branches.
 I squatted in the grove and pushed,
 a sundering beneath their joining.

Small red fish with eyes shut tight;
 I opened your squirming arms
 and lifted you to stars.
 The Moon-queen offered you cinnamon
 to hide life's bitter taste,
 and the Sun-king gave you warmth
 to ease your skin into cold new air.
 That night the gods' twined light
 spilled upon you,
 my Gim Gong,
 my Double Brilliance.