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## Chinks in the Armor

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## Chinks in the Armor

Angel Zhong

*The Chinese Exclusion Act, formally the Immigration Act of 1882, was the first and only major federal legislation to explicitly suspend immigration for a specific nationality.*

distilled mahonias arraign  
    bespoken flesh—delineating  
    frontiers: id est  
    the earthen quilt  
that blankets the roof  
of my grandfather's mouth  
as he gambols through jade levees—  
my grandma in the distance,  
illuminated by moonstruck love;  
    That which marks our unifying pursuit—  
the maw where all blood rivers  
inevitably converge—blindness obscured by  
ancient shadows. there, we envision family.  
envision unburnished tables still splintering—  
    and jars of pickled shishitos nestled  
close—platonic throngs along  
    slanted sills,  
projecting slivered kaleidoscopes  
    fanned across the shedding walls.  
envision bones—good bones—holding them up.  
and then tell them they aren't worth  
faces of their own.  
    his knees:  
envisioned red—  
    threadbare—  
        scarves  
    —scented with crumpled peonies;  
        render us specters at will. neither outside  
        nor  
        inside, but the limbo  
between—meaning: remain—  
    unfazed, in the face of being  
    unfaced.