

The Malaya I first got to know was Wong Phui Nam's,
a spectral realm of unregenerate spirits
and revenants, unfulfilled

squatters from a moment gone

completely sour
(impossibly?)

yet what I tasted
of that concentrated bile had it in

a licorice sweetness & might I say
an unexpired magic

the same frisson I felt when Phui Nam & I
sucked durian seeds on the streets of Geylang

or when he powered his shuddering wreck of a car
through the KL of his mind, where
old oligarchs continued to reign & ravage

Malaya had me,
him & his family
of ghosts

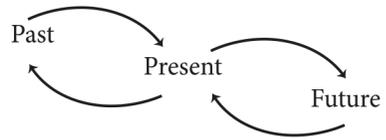
(in its barrenness lay
its fecundity)

ghosts do not just speak of what is past
they are aborted possibilities, reeking
of what could have been
& so following this scent I have come
to this threshold
where you & I now momentarily reside

I am a visitor in this vale of unrelenting progress, a BTO of our own making, a representation

In my mind in-vi-ti-ro
we are always going a floating
space, inhabiting

a pocket dimension where



co-a-lesce

an ongoing act of collective being

who-say-can

dreaming
imagining
forgetting

'we' are unencumbered
fit neatly in a jar

of enterprise
fit neatly into words

moulded by my tongue
in sentences put together

by another mouth. My own?

My-Own are strung together in a web

of unrepeatable syllables

My Malaya is a collective of pissing thoughts.
It aligns with yours – whatever they may be.

I am a visitor in this vale of unrelenting progress, a BTO of our own making, a representation
this is the place for misfits
who chafe at straitjackets
of nation-state
those who wish to dream beyond

immigration counters & automated gates

this is a pool of simple forgetting

We make do with the dowry
I am beside myself
How long do we suffer the company

The riverbank ends

where I say it ends,

It ends at the end of the page gushing in an instant

and forever into eternity

like what S. Rajaratnam tried to say
in his first draft of the Singapore Pledge
before LKY edited it – "to forget differences
of race, language or religion and
become one united people"