

JEFFREY YANG

琮

CAVE

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琮*

Alive in the fragments
heaven-shattered shards
of stone divine particles
gleaned in the half-light
perquisite of the gods bestowed
in the shadow of the signs by
the gravity of the center
seated spirit humanity encodes
for the given sequence a
simplicity of form channeled
energy entombed for
millennia now un-
buried useless
absolute in the actual
object function lost to time
and circumstance civilization
long gone its power lost
its aura unfading gently
tapers down the carved
symmetry corner
bars theriomorphic mask
heaven embedded in earth
ladder bracelet or
marked ancestral heraldry
found around the dead
body placed in a circle
the relevant passage

* *cong* (or *tsóng*): Neolithic ritual vessel made of stone, often jade, carved as an elongated square block that encloses a hollow, cylindrical tube. Its original use possibly astronomical.

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Carbon handprint in a cave

beside a ferrous oxide antelope

Figure approaching a gate
to sun, one standing astride

flowering star, swallow nests of mud
above: barnacles on the cliff-face

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Tim & Caitlin sew the blue sail
at the center of Echo City

hoist Pythagoras's "friendship
makes the many one" with Sun

Congtian's "books occupy
the same position in the universe
as the soul does in the human body"

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Like the land of the lost
driving down to the old fort
Pterodactyls
in the air
really glossy
ibis, passers-by
watering in the pool
at the center of the flat crater
orbiting the air, returning to water