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In Lam's

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About the Contributor (Optional)

Ryan Culpepper is a junior English and Spanish double major. "A raid of my writings would reveal that, for some reason, Chinese food keeps coming up. There's something strangely poetic for me in the whole atmosphere, the idea of foreign food in American take-out boxes with dragons on them."

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Her arthritis didn't hinder her
as her fingers fumbled with the fortune cookie wrapper
(because she soaks them every night
in wax so hot it steams up the windows
in her trailer during *Diagnosis: Murder*)
She snapped a clean crack in the cookie,
tugged the paper strip out gently
and pronounced to the table:

"Others look to you for Wisdom, and you give sound advice"

We all bobbed our heads like buoys.
It's hard to respond to fortune cookies.
There was no obvious joke, no cheap laugh to go for
and since we couldn't wisecrack we all got uncomfortable
and stammered "Hmph" or "Interesting" or "Well, there you go"

She cackled with no regard for the noise level in the restaurant
then wiped her nose and exhaled a breathy "who!"
"Honey, I got news for you,
That ain't sound advice, that's just sass."