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Tomorrow's Living Room

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ONE ART

At ten, I wanted to be a kung fu master
like Bruce Lee, bare-chested, sideways, intent
on hitting my way out of disaster.

In the unmade and unimagined fluster
of being young, I hadn't yet spent
much time on *how* to be a kung fu master,

except to watch Lee get meaner, get faster.
He seemed genuinely pissed off, like he meant
to kill every actor, cause *real* disaster.

They attacked one by one (why?), and the last, or
next-to-last had knives and guns that went
nowhere. "You want some?" (Me, as kung fu master.)

That childhood is now both remote and vaster,
and Lee is a death and a continent
away. He'd already had his disaster

by the time I was watching every gesture—
his kicks, a flip, a scream. It's evident
why I wanted to be a kung fu master,
as though desire alone could prevent disaster.