

2008

Prayer for the Underground Supplicant

Karen An-Hwei Lee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lee, Karen An-Hwei. "Prayer for the Underground Supplicant." *The Iowa Review* 38.1 (2008): 36-36. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6393>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

KAREN AN-HWEI LEE

Prayer for the Underground Supplicant

Remember old flowers cast in your rustling arms,
liverwurst wrapped in newspaper, one blistering pound...

or the moon's cracked birch bark
frail as a dollar on a blind woman's face, pale hydrangea

shredded and falling in rare archives, a paper subway
in a supplicant's underground darkness, swaying,

and a melanin-rich flower in this fluorescent tube
translocating water to and from unassailable air.

This is your graduated body, no ordinary
engine in the night.