

# The Broken Gourd

## I.

After the last echo  
where fingers of light  
soft as *laua'e*  
come slowly

toward our aching earth,  
a cracked *ipu*  
whispers, bloody water  
on its broken lip.

Long ago, wise *kānaka*  
hauled hand-twined  
nets, whole villages shouting  
the black flash of fish.

*Wāhine u'i*  
trained to the chant  
of roiling surf;  
*nā keiki* sprouted by the sun  
of a blazing sky.

Even Hina, tinted  
by love, shone gold  
across a lover's sea.

II.

This night I crawl  
into the mossy arms  
of upland winds,

an island's moan  
welling grief:

Each of us slain  
by the white claw  
of history: lost  
genealogies, propertied  
missionaries, diseased  
*haole*.

Now, a poisoned *pae 'āina*  
swarming with foreigners

and dying Hawaiians.

III.

A common horizon:  
smelly shores  
under spidery moons,

pockmarked *maile* vines,  
rotting 'ulu groves,  
the brittle *clack*  
of broken lava stones.

Out of the east  
a damp stench of money  
burning at the edges.

Out of the west  
the din of divine  
violence, triumphal  
destruction.

At home, the bladed  
reverberations of empire.

# GLOSSARY

'āina	Land, earth
'āina aloha	Beloved land
'āina hānau	The land of one's birth
aku	Bonito, skipjack tuna
Akua	God; supernatural; divine
ali'i	Chief
aloha	Love, greeting
'apapane	Hawaiian honeycreeper with crimson body and black wings and tail, found on all the main Hawaiian Islands. Its feathers occasionally were used for featherwork.
'ehu kai	Sea spray, foam
'elepaio	A species of flycatcher with subspecies on Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and O'ahu
Hale'iwa	Small community on the north shore of O'ahu; literally, house of frigate birds
Halema'uma'u	Firepit in Kilauea crater, island of Hawai'i; one of the many places where the volcano deity, Pele, lives; literally, 'ama'u fern house
haole	Foreign; also, white people
hāpu'u	Endemic tree fern of the Hawaiian archipelago, found in abundance in forests at Kilauea volcano
Haumea	Earth mother who, with her husband, Wākea—sky father—created the Hawaiian people

Hawai'i	Largest of the eight major Hawaiian Islands; home of the volcano goddess, Pele
He'eia	Lush land division on the windward, Ko'olau side of the island of O'ahu
He'eia Uli	One of two parts of the He'eia land division; called dark ( <i>uli</i> ) He'eia because it is in the lush, green uplands, as opposed to He'eia Kea—white He'eia—which is near the sea
heiau	Temple of worship. Many temples existed in traditional Hawai'i, including large, elaborate temples for human sacrifice.
hihimanu	Various eagle rays and stingrays
Hi'iaka	Deity of the forest on the island of Hawai'i; one of the sisters of Pele
Hina	Goddess, the moon
honi	Kiss; traditional greeting where noses are pressed in affection
honu	Turtle
Hōpoe	Beloved friend of Hi'iaka whose emblem is the flowering <i>lehua</i> tree of the island of Hawai'i
hunehune	Fine or delicate, as in fern or mist
i'iwi	Scarlet Hawaiian honeycreeper
ipu	Gourd, drum made from a gourd
'iwa	Frigate bird or man-of-war bird
Ka'a'awa	One of sixteen traditional land divisions ( <i>ahupua'a</i> ) in the Ko'olaupua area of O'ahu
Kahana	A valley, bay, and stream on O'ahu

Kahiki	Tahiti; place where Hawaiians return upon death
Kalihi	Section of Honolulu
kamani	Native hardwood tree that grows near the beach and has large leaves with fall colors
kānaka	The Hawaiian people
Kanaloa	Major Hawaiian male deity of the Pacific Ocean
Kāne	Major Hawaiian male deity of the land. Kāne appeared in many manifestations, including breadfruit and banana.
Kānehekili	God of lightning
Kāne'ohe	Land division on the windward side of O'ahu known for wetlands, the majestic Ko'olau mountains, and a large, calm bay; literally, the bamboo of the god Kāne; or alternately, bamboo husband
kanikau	Dirge, lamentation, chant of mourning
kapa	Cloth made from pounded bark; clothes
Ka'ū	Land district on the island of Hawai'i; literally, the breast
Kaua'i	One of the eight major Hawaiian Islands, known for its lush beauty
ka wā mamua	"The time before": a reference to ancient times
Kilauea	Active volcanic crater on the island of Hawai'i; said to be the home of Pele, goddess of the volcano

kino lau	Many forms taken by a god, such as the <i>ti</i> leaf as a form of the <i>mo'o</i> (lizard) god
koa	Large native forest tree, with crescent leaves; fine red wood formerly used for canoes, now for furniture, calabashes, and ' <i>ukulele</i>
koa'e	The boatswain bird
Kona	Place on the island of Hawai'i; also, the dry, leeward side of any of the Hawaiian Islands
Kōnāhuanui	Peaks above Nu'uauu Pali, O'ahu; literally, his great testicles
Kona Kai'ōpua	Poetic name for Kona. <i>Kai'ōpua</i> refers to the billowy clouds above the vast reefless sea of Kona.
Ko'olau	Windward sides of the Hawaiian Islands
Ko'olau Poko	One of the districts of windward O'ahu
Kualoa	Land division, point, and beach park on the windward side of O'ahu considered one of the most sacred places on the island
kuapā	Wall of a fishpond
Kūhaimoana	Largest and most celebrated of Hawaiian shark gods
Lahaina	Place on the island of Maui; once a whaling town, now a popular tourist haven despoiled with trinket shops, hotels, and foreigners
lāhui	People, nation
lā'i	<i>Ti</i> leaf

Lā'ie	Land section and bay on the windward side of O'ahu
laua'e	A fragrant fern
lehua	A bright red fuzzy flower of the 'ōhi'a tree; also the tree itself; symbol of the island of Hawai'i
lei	A wreath worn around the neck, usually of flowers, leaves, or shells
lei hulu	Feather <i>lei</i> , formerly worn by royalty; a beloved child or person
liko	Leaf bud of the 'ōhi'a <i>lehua</i> tree
limu	General name for all plants living under water, salt or fresh
lipoa	Many-branched edible brown seaweed known for its strong, distinctive smell
lioli	Sea cucumber
mai'a	Banana
maile	A native twining shrub with fragrant shiny leaves used for decoration and <i>lei</i>
Mākaha	Land division from the mountains to the sea between Wai'anae and Kea'au on O'ahu, famous in modern times for huge winter surf
makani	Wind, breeze
Makapu'u	Rocky point that juts into the ocean at east O'ahu; literally, bulging eye
Mālaekahana	Land division and stream near Kahuku on O'ahu's north shore
mana	Divine power
Maui	Trickster god of Polynesia; also, the second largest island in the Hawaiian chain



Mauna Kea	Massive mountain on Hawai'i Island; literally, white mountain
mele	Song
moana nui	The deep ocean; literally, big sea
mo'o	Lizard; reptile of any kind; water spirit
nai'a	Porpoise
nā keiki	Children
Nāmakaokaha'i	Elder <i>mo'o</i> sister of Pele, goddess of the volcano
nā 'ōiwi	The Hawaiian people
nā wahi pana	Sacred places
niu	The coconut palm, a male symbol
'ohe	All kinds of bamboo; flute
'ōhelo	Small native shrub in the cranberry family
'ōlapa	Several native species of forest trees with green leaves that flutter like aspen trees; dancer as contrasted with the chanter; dance accompanied by chanting and drumming on a gourd drum
oli	Chant, especially with prolonged phrases in one breath
Olomana	A beautiful, pointed peak in Kailua named for a noted O'ahu island chief of ancient times
pae'āina	Group of islands, archipelago
pala'ā	The common lace fern, wild in Hawai'i
palai	Native Hawaiian fern, important to Laka, goddess of the <i>hula</i> , i.e., of Hawaiian dance
palapalai	Different types of native fern, ranging in height from one to four feet

Pana'ewa	Place on the Hilo side of Hawai'i Island, famous for <i>maile</i> and resistant Hawaiians
Pele	Goddess of the volcano, who may appear as a young or old woman; also the fire of the volcano itself
Pele'aiahonua	Pele, the volcano deity, who literally eats the land ( <i>'aiahonua</i> )
Pelehonuamea	Another name for Pele, as in "Earth Mother"
pikake	The Arabian jasmine, introduced to Hawai'i from India; very fragrant small white flowers often used for <i>lei</i> and other decoration
Pō Mahina	Night of the full moon, night for lovers
pū	Large triton conch or helmet shell used as a trumpet
pua	Flower
pulu	A glossy yellow wool on the base of tree-fern stalks
Puna	District of Hawai'i Island, famous because it is home to Pele and her sisters
Punalu'u	District on both O'ahu and Hawai'i; on the latter island, famous for black sand beaches
Pūowaina	Hill on O'ahu where the American National Cemetery of the Pacific is located; literally, the hill of sacrifice; also known as Punchbowl
Rarotonga	Island to the far south of Hawai'i, part of the Cook Islands in central Polynesia

taro	Starchy tuber that is the staple of the Hawaiian diet; <i>kalo</i> in Hawaiian. Metaphorically, <i>taro</i> is the parent of the Hawaiian people.
ti	A woody plant in the lily family with long, bright green or multicolored leaves, used to make <i>lei</i> and other adornments
tiare	Tahitian gardenia
'ulu	Breadfruit
wa'a	Canoe
wahine	Woman
wahine u'i	A beautiful woman
wai	Water
Waiāhole	Land division on the windward or Ko'olau side of O'ahu
Wai'anae	Hot, dry district on leeward O'ahu
Waihe'e	District on Maui; also the name of the first elected governor of Hawaiian ancestry after statehood in 1959; name translates as "runny squid water"
Waikiki	Place in Honolulu, world famous as a tourist destination; literally, spouting water
Waimānalo	District on the windward side of O'ahu, famous for long beaches with fine white sand