

# Gravel

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ໂງ່າ /ngó/

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ងាង /ngó/  
Para Vadhahong

I am a fur-covered, miraculous  
red shell, a globe of tender flesh

and what I lack in grace I save  
open for tenderness, cold relief,

bejeweled into tropical import  
you lick from a lover's navel;

to meditate me on the tongue  
is to handle the syrup of borders.

Remove me from customs,  
peel away my native defenses,

lap up all my strange sweetness.  
I am humbled into ripening:

eat of me until you grow full again.