

## ORIGINS

Derived from kale,  
from spinach, from carrots,  
from wooden crates  
filled with burgeoning oranges.  
Derived from bitter lemons and sweet bananas,  
bright limes, a moon-shaped cantaloupe,  
a blue basket of ripe red strawberries.

Derived from the muscular dimensions  
of squash, of rhubarb,  
sweet potatoes in their rough skin,  
of sweet peas in their pods,  
eggplants in their purple casings,  
limbed celery,  
the black-seeded clarity of watermelon.

Potatoes were my tutors,  
and it was a hand of broccoli  
that rocked the cradle,  
while cauliflower performed  
all kinds of amusement  
to entertain the mind of a child.

Derived from tangy tangerines and grapefruit,  
from spiky pineapple and milky coconut,  
from blueberries, raspberries, blackberries,  
from garlic, ginger, basil, oregano, rosemary,  
from moist mushrooms and stalky asparagus,  
dumpy turnips and twisting kohlrabi,  
from moustaches of green beans  
and ears of husky corn,  
from all the edible gifts of the earth.