

Winter 2013

Economics

Clinton Craig

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Recommended Citation

Craig, C. (2013). Economics. Jostes: The Journal of South Texas English Studies, 4(1), 39.

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As the bowl is passed down and rich men eat,
fierce cackling, given as a gift
brings wealth to those who carry it in their pockets.
And I wonder
if when that bowl of life comes to me,
will I eat?
And will my wife eat?

Unfortunately, undoubtedly powerful human inventions
destroy manifestations of spirit,
processes human souls through smokestacks
of industry and dollars,
while barren women walk naked
beneath a smog of nations;
while men,
unthinking, fearing, working,
resemble testicles.
And life of the past
with fire and strength
gives way to kitchens and cubicles
(first cells of the new generation)
in spite of the relative scarcity of the amount
of money, time, effort.

For a few moments, silence gathering—
but rather the spirit dries and cracks
under pressure of
solitude.
And in the barely breathable air,
swirling amidst blackened birds
and a deadened sunset:
the burnt particles of hope.