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## Coal's Reply

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Coal's Reply · *Ai Qing*

Where do you live?

In ten thousand years of steep mountain  
In ten thousand years of cragrock

And your age?

It is greater than the mountain's  
Greater than the cragrock's

How long have you been silenced?  
Since the dinosaurs ruled the wilderness  
Since the earth felt its first tremor

Have you perished in this deep rancor?

Death? No, no, I'm still alive  
Let me have fire, please, let me have fire