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Longing as Hoppin John

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Pollack: Longing as Hoppin John

LONGING AS HOPPIN JOHN

Iain Haley Pollock

From the ecstatic blue flameburst of coiled burners,
the rising funk of black-eyed peas & collards.
Remember when we staked ourselves here,
in this small, open kitchen of want?
Not to hem appetites grown ragged,
but to be transfigured like spice—
ground into cumin or cayenne,
mixed with slides of onion,
stirred in, steeped, stewed,
simmered to sauce,
spilled over rice,
folded by spoon,
again & again,
into grains of
soon &
yes.