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## Viewing the Jade Bitter Gourd at the Palace Museum in Taipei

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# Viewing the Jade Bitter Gourd at the Palace Museum in Taipei

*by William Marr*

Despite their sweet aftertaste  
my wife refuses to include bitter gourds  
in her menu

Standing in front of the glass case  
I watch my favorite delicacy  
simmer in the slow flames of time  
while the tip of my tongue  
swims naked  
in the saliva  
of her memory