

Grace

BY ROB COOK

Let's take a moment to give thanks to
everyone who made this meal possible:
to the cooks who prepared the food
to the grocers and the farmers

To Frederick McKinley Jones
who invented the Refrigerated Delivery Truck
without which the food would have rotted on the way

To the Bronze Age merchants
who invented money so we don't have to
haul around a boatload of cows to barter for Cheetos

To the countless generations of early humans
who found out the hard way which plants were poisonous
who eventually got tired of all that hunting and gathering
and started domesticating food like this squash and this turkey

To our pre-human ancestors especially Australopithecus
who figured out how to control fire and invented cooking
which got more calories out of food which fueled larger brains
which let us develop language which lets us read squash recipes
and gossip and say grace and work out the principles of thermodynamics
needed to invent the Refrigerated Delivery Truck

To the Precambrian microorganisms who preceded animals
with a special shout-out to the lazy bum who first smacked
its little proto-lips and gobbled up an unsuspecting neighbor
instead of doing its own damn photosynthesis

To the sun for showering us with the photons needed for photosynthesis
to generations of stars before the sun that fused hydrogen atoms
into the elements that form the molecules in this food and these bodies

To the Big Bang for creating all that hydrogen in the first place
to gravity for holding the whole shebang together
so we can be sitting at this table on this planet
not floating around out in space somewhere

To the miracle that any of this exists at all
and that we get to be here for it

To the generations who came before us
and the rituals they passed down to us
like special meals where we gather
together with family and friends and
take a moment to take it all in and go *wow*
and raise our glasses in gratitude. Cheers!