

# POEMS - POEMS

## SUSAN BASSNETT Asia of My Imaginings

I said to you, I said  
I am going to Japan  
I have never been so far away  
from you, from home.

A laugh in the darkness,  
You did not say you felt  
I had already gone that far  
and farther.

The curve of the world  
the sun an orange streak behind  
I am flying into blackness  
I am flying across Siberia.  
When I left the house  
the sun was still sleeping,  
You did not stand at the window  
You did not wave me goodbye.

I am the dragon queen  
flying over the earth  
silver coils wind down from mountains,  
clouds and water join.  
Great wings beating the air  
the blinding hands of the sun  
distance, space without end.

The Forbidden City with its red pavilions  
has one gate only.  
The moat around the City  
is deep and green.  
Red carp swim in its unfathomable waters.  
I am the Gatekeeper.  
Knock, if you dare, at my defended heart.

Let me give you silken sheets  
perfume and a painted dish.  
Let me offer you light and rejoicing.

Let me erase the memory  
of your silent room, your cold bed,  
your desolate heart.

Bulgaria in safety  
The dark currents of the Bosphorus  
flow on without me.

I am a creature of the mists  
the coldness of the North Country  
my sign of home.

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