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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