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Vázquez-Valarezo Poetry Award

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2015

Solitude

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Solitude Marissa Gasper

I wish it would rain

too bright, too light, too heavy I miss the sharpness, the sting of winter that little sliver of sun that creeps through the rice paper go away

nothing then a path then a cliff overlooking the ocean a bucket of warm water heat sinks from my head down my arms to my hands then my stomach digests it a smile submerged this warmth is pleasant I chose it unlike the invasion of the sun be this place real or not real for me it is safe now just for now

if I were to disappear in this place . . .

if I could run here live here enjoy life

I poke my responsibilities with a stick from where I sit peacefully gross

don't think about that add slip don't think about money or finances pour another bucket of warm water immerse yourself in it breath in breath out ebb and flow push and pull tranquil

the smell of peaches and plum blossoms the scent of sweet pea and lilac the scent of the sweet saltiness of Waikiki the earthy milky scent of hong kong tea

what do cherry blossoms really smell like?

sinking into the liquid perfection hiding under the crystal heat never coming out

breath in breath out

Sun filters through rice paper hair fwoosh when I brush pink yoga pants, so like her the milky film remnant on the rim of my cereal bowl melted snow imitates a waterfall the Do-Not-Disturb sways just outside the way fingers dance around an instrument or typing hands draped over the hilt of a sword the sway of hips mimics the sway of branches outside the window hair splayed across the pillow like roots of trees the cliffs or Ireland are your body fresh and clean and exciting GREEN I would miss grass

I wish it would rain