

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Jamie Asaye FitzGerald: Words for an Embroidered Bird

Jamie Asaye FitzGerald · Tuesday, October 22nd, 2013

Jamie Asaye FitzGerald has poems forthcoming in *Works & Days* and has appeared in other journals including Literary Mama, Media Cake, the anthologies *Hunger and Thirst* and *Ariel XXII*, as well as on Seattle public buses. Her essay, “Loose Sushi,” was recently published by *Discover Nikkei*, as part of its Itadakimasu! project. She currently works for *Poets & Writers*.

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## How It Might Have Happened

*for Mémé*

*I want to live,*

she said before she died—

the tumors grown quick

as mushrooms after rain.

It wasn't what he'd expected.

In his scheme, he died first—

falling from a ladder

while painting the window trim grey.

At his services, the relatives said:

*He could have lived to 100!*

His picture stood near his parents'

on the family shrine,

where his only son, the eldest child,

placed fresh rice and lit incense.

She left crocheted doilies,

gold jewelry between pillowcases,

money in the rice,

the memory of food.

He sat in the outrigger,

her ashes in his lap,

as the paddlers took him out

to sea.

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## Feels Like Freckles

I wish there were words  
for an embroidered bird  
or for the eyelids  
of Chinese parade dragons  
other than these words.  
Perhaps the words needed  
are not for these items  
but for the feelings  
they represent.  
Does an embroidered bird  
feel happy or sad?  
Do the eyelids of Chinese  
parade dragons feel  
like pleasure or fear?  
Maybe the feeling is another  
item entirely. Maybe the eyelids  
of Chinese parade dragons  
feel like butterflies in the belly  
or like falling in a dream.  
Maybe an embroidered bird  
feels like a rain drizzle  
on flushed cheeks. Maybe  
it feels like freckles.

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