

**Katherine Mansfield Society**  
**Online Creative Works Series**  
**Poetry**  
**Tracy Miao**  
**‘Elegy’**

# ELEGY



*the eternal escape*

Tracy M  
24 May 2012

# ELEGY

## *the eternal escape*

Allow me, Dearest, to take you  
To the Oriental land of escape--  
Where daisies lean against purple trees,  
Cranes bury their heads under the white wings;  
Where clouds linger--  
like your New Zealand mist,  
And the snail crawls away from  
That ONE leaf, stenciled with your name--  
Nature's elegy to the cherry blossom spirit  
Wrapped in cool winter breeze--  
Where you can lay your head  
On your knees,  
And the wind, caressed by  
Dark rocks  
Takes you back  
To your heart's True Place.

*May 2012*

Notes: when I finished I realized how the shape of the poem looks like a vase or an urn.

The poem is inspired by the image of Katherine Mansfield as shown on the first page, which is a sketch I did based on a photo of her taken in ca 1912<sup>1</sup>. Her gaze is mesmerizing--so steady and gentle, like the close-up of a Qing Dynasty lady portraiture, and then it occurred to me: has an *oriental* elegy been written for her sake? In an oriental Babylonian garden, KM belongs with the undying spirit.

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<sup>1</sup> 79, Ed. Harris, Lurel, Mary Morris et al. *The Material Mansfield: Traces of a Writer's Life*. Auckland: Random House, 2008.