

## ***Tea Ceremony***

*Tea and honey  
fill lulls in conversations  
watching sunbeams play across the table  
i draw warmth from my cup  
Between sips of tea  
speech lapses into irregular familiarity  
Formalities exchanged, we settle  
Into comfortable silence*

*Steam rises sedately,  
mélange of cinnamon, clove  
    jasmine and mint  
perfumes the room*

*You refill my cup  
the porcelain pot  
lustrous like lacquered wood  
the same pot  
    that i gave you years ago  
when we drank brandy in our tea  
and plotted revolutions*

*Your glasses fog  
As you drink  
Soften the harsh lines of the world  
You were always the more forgiving one*

*Afternoon wanes  
the tea is cold  
taking my leave  
i don coat and muffler  
i won't say good-bye  
we've forgotten the words*