

Terra Mater Soon
by Michelle McMillan

A swift October wind drives early snow
Slices through my solitude
as cleanly as katana through flesh and bone
I pull a scarlet shawl over my silk kimono
Seek the comfort of its weight
Evoking your image
I study your stillness
against the gathering storm

A snowflake crosses the boundary
between our worlds
Lands silent on your open palm
Absorbs into your being as
my longing sinks into your darkness
Tears fall from the edge of my abandon, pool
and slip along the curve of your forearm –
Vanish

Precious warrior, you are a dark pearl
from an unknown sea
yet my waters have washed over you
in some distant place and time
Remember your elegant contours
Your commitment to the tide

I will rise again into the billowing sky
Drip from the blushing petals of the cosmos
Flow over your devotion
Return to Terra Mater. Soon
in the brooding twilight of winter
I will transform
Lie shimmering on a field of freshly turned earth
And when the sun lights on the land
I will soften under its touch –
Surrender