

Eclogues in a Mustard Seed Garden

Glenn Mott

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In the age of pandemic, poetry refuses to budge in its commitment to hospitality for all, and with *Eclogues in a Mustard Seed Garden*, gleeful Glenn Mott arrives with a quiver of eclogues, couplets, Zen epigrams, and you-name-it literary mischief. The fun is all ours. A China scholar and translator, Mott was the recipient of a Davis Fellowship for Peace from Middlebury College, and was a Fulbright Scholar at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

CEREMONY

A doyenne of the arts was offended. Her quickly drawn fantasy of my youth had not been accepted, and she would not withdraw it, continuing to assert that I had grown up as someone she had compared me to, flattering and aspirational. Not accepting her fantasy for me was an assault on modesty, but also on her imagination. She implied I was not clever enough to see that she had invented for me a past that I should adopt as being more plausible and attractive than the reality. Even if it didn't jibe, she knew the myth would carry me better, take me farther, make me more welcome to her group of believers. Who was I to refuse ...

MATT SUTHERLAND (March / April 2021)

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