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Intermezzo

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Intermezzo

Cover Page Footnote

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Intermezzo

-Paul T. Keppler

How do I entreat this Oriental saga?
A bravura engaging these periodic eyes
Its ignoble payoff unlike
 The Egyptian slave,
 The Bohemian gypsy, or
 The Roman diva.

One's mind agape in tragic splendor
Seeking inviolate vision anew
That I may wrest purpose from sin.

Wherein lies the greater tragedy:
Earthly term flecked with goaded naivete
Or to know Satan at eighteen?
Prepped to expect a reciprocal
Love that wandered east
In search of unquestioning ears
While the voiceless issue shunned.

The advantaged officer who would
 Calculate a foreign quest
 Disown his benign betrothed
 Skew the mind and
 Annex the soul but
Dampen not her spirit
O'er three years yearning.

And she, clement her ductile heart
Admonished by Blunt to discern:
The valiant from the pompous
The righteous from the abusive
Constitution from empty promise and to
Enjoin the wind and embrace
The family once forsaken.

Her enduring sorrow prodded
By the destiny of text
None but a silken kimono
To shield the intruded viscera.
A martyr as the curtain falls
That we may know the treachery
Of the human heart.