



Mosaic artwork from 149th Street subway station by José Ortega for MTA Arts for Transit

from *A Bouquet*


Bei Dao (b. 1949)

Translated by Bonnie S. McDougall

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Between me and the world

You are a calendar, a compass

A ray of light that slips through the gloom

You are a biographical sketch, a bookmark

A preface that comes at the end

Between me and the world

You are a gauze curtain, a mist

A lamp shining into my dreams

You are a bamboo flute, a song without words

A closed eyelid carved in stone

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