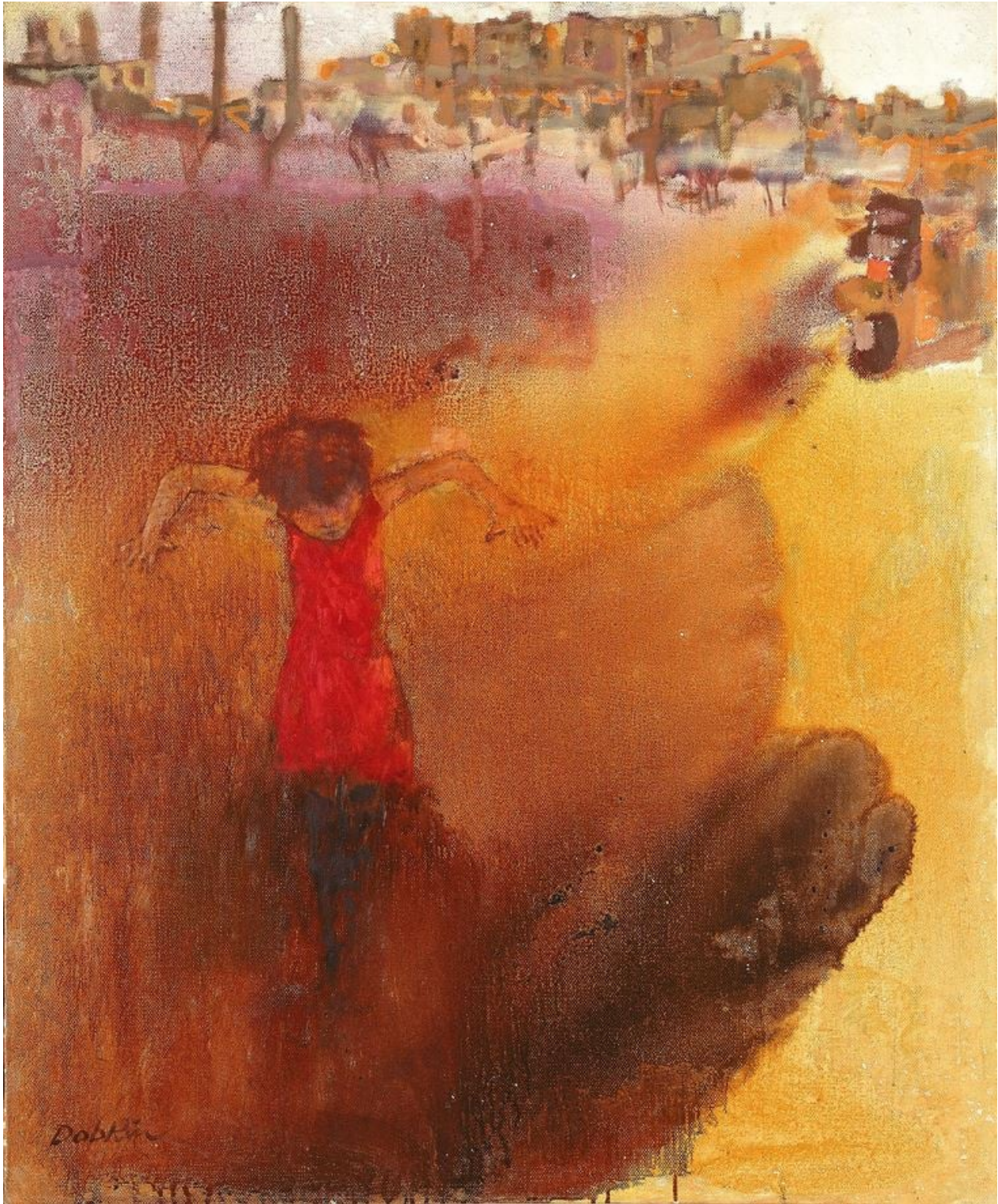


Rain Sparrow

by [Changming Yuan](#) (March 2024)



Little Sparrow, by Alexander Dobkin, 1961-62

Rain Sparrow

This poem is inspired by Qi Hong (齐弘)

Above this wild wild world covered
With layers and layers and layers
Of red dust, my selfhood
Has long been tired
Tired of flying
Flying alone
Day & night

But where can I perch?
Do I have a nest at all?

O for a solid
Respite before
Continuing my lonely
Flight, snuggling my inner-
Most being in the heart of your
Soul, and settling my weathered body
Right at the A-spot of your tenderness

Khöömei

A deep double-
Throat, singing
From beyond
Heaven (or hell)
Echoing in nature
As it finds itself
Heard in
A human voice
Like a whale's call

Perceivable
By its like
Even afar across
The whole Pacific

Winter Wait

With their most tender touches, snowflakes
Have painted the whole night white
Including the darkest corner in sight
Even within a forgotten dream

Except the plum tree, standing alone there
Under the eastern sky, whose
Flowers are blooming boldly against
The entire season, more vibrant than blood

The Tuner: a 50-Word Trilogy

In the mid-teens
You gave me a tuner
In Mayuhe, which I've

Treasured as a love-token
For five decades (when
We remained totally
Lost to each other
On Earth's opposite sides)
Until now after horizontal

Refreshments you clarify
You had just meant to help

Set the tune for my *erhu*

East vs West: A Synoptic Cultural Comparison

During the great flood
Noah hid himself in the ark
 While Dayu tried to contain it
 With his bare hands

Prometheus stole fire
From Olympian gods
 While Sui Ren got it
 By drilling wood hard

Smart Daedalus crafted wings
To fly away from his prison-tower
 While Old Fool removed the whole
 Mountain blocking his way

Helios enjoyed driving his chariot
All along in the sky
 While Kuafu chased the sun
 To take it down & tame it

Sisyphus rolls the boulder uphill
Because of his deceitfulness, while
 Wu Gang cuts the laurel as a punishment
 For distractions in learning

I/你, U/你 & E/你: a Modest Proposal

As classic Chinese suggests, we can
Reasonably attain linguistic equality

In English as long as we all agree
To use I, still for the first person singular
But U for the second, &
E for the third

All single-lettered
All capitalized
All sexes inclusive
Either case applicable, subject or object
& all equal in creation as
In speech acts

So, say after I:
I Love U
U love E
E loves us all

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Yuan Changming edits *Poetry Pacific* with Allen Yuan in Vancouver. Credits include 12 Pushcart nominations for poetry and 2 for fiction besides appearances in *Best of the Best Canadian Poetry* (2008-17), *BestNewPoemsOnline* and 2019 other literary outlets worldwide. A poetry judge for Canada's 2021 National Magazine Awards, Yuan began writing and publishing fiction in 2022.

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