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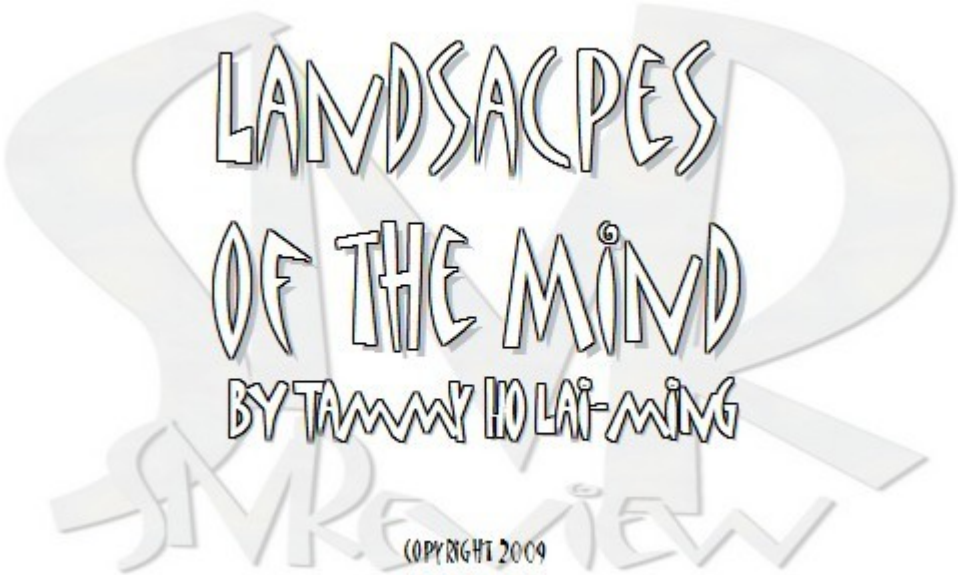
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LANDSCAPES OF THE MIND

BY TAMMY HO LAI-MING

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Inventing words
To describe geographic features of the mind.

One word ends with the consonant /k/
Sharp and quick,
Explains the plateaued mind:
When it rains, you look forward
To the jogging sun to shine again through the rims
Of rippling & scrambled clouds.

Another word has a long vowel in the middle,
Speaks of the wide oceans in the mind,
Where you can stretch your spirits & be generous.
Joy is all yours
When your sister becomes honest;
And confesses
In youth, too jealous, she stole your
pearl necklace, a gift from a dying aunt;
Now it looks delightfully relevant & modest
On your wrinkled neck.

One word, bi-syllabic, tells the moment of
Sudden realisation of constant luck,
Like a magnificent explosion of a volcano:
A train is approaching to carry you
(And your bagful of fresh cherries),
Across the country and one small desert,
To witness the birth of your
Third grandson.

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