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## Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

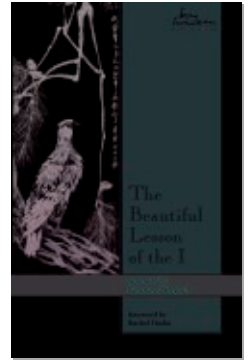
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## THE RAT

Not the dapper  
bespectacled little grandfather  
with quilted silk coat and leather boots  
but the long-tailed, appallingly limp  
carcass left by the cat in freezing wind.  
Neck twisted like a cleaning rag,  
mouth leaking syrup,  
bead-glass eyes of a doll—  
And here are the diligent maggots  
scrambling over disquieting continents.