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## Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

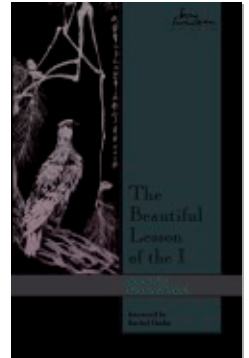
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OLD STORY FROM THE HOUSE WITH PUPPETS

Exhumed from darkness, the ancient marionettes rotate on hangers  
strung from the rooftops of the tall houses.

Weighted with sawdust, they're immense and floundering.

The dancer on tiptoe presents the rose of her sexuality.

Jack-in-the- box leers, *Have the goodness, here's the goblet!*

*Keep your eye-blobs to yourself!*

A vagabond and, afterward, soft gray sewer rats pursue the one-legged  
soldier until the drooping

sides of his paper boat slip through the grates of a culvert and he is

followed by the horn-scaled

fish, tail streaming like an underwater kite, who swallows him.

*Then the beloved is arranged*

*in the weighted sleep of a banquet*

*fish—on a platter.*