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Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

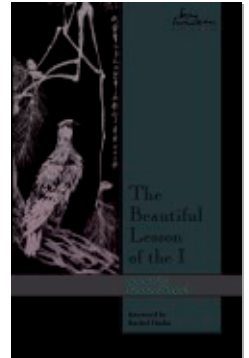
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THE BEAUTIFUL LESSON OF THE I

Three chimerical figures: dragonfly, beetle, cockroach,
each with a human head.

Setting: Far behind them, an uncut field and a wooden house.

A little man leans from the window.

Stage effects: Wind sifts through etched clouds.

Choppy rumbles in the bass.

Quiet and repeated broken chords for melody.

Grave serenade.

Narrator (Pointing to the slightly smudged image in drypoint):

Notice how the insect, with its exterior skeleton, approaches real form.

The dragonfly poses in cameo and the beetle gazes straight ahead
with mustachioed expression of tension.

The cockroach (crying, he is a protesting baby): *Wahhhhh!*

The beetle (speaking to the dragonfly in his lowest voice):

I don't believe I can trust anyone with my solitary thoughts.

Narrator: *Notice the cage of the beetle's abdomen.*

The dragonfly (she is slightly agitated):

But I woke you from an exhausting dream.

The Beetle (his voice, again, is very low):

I'm sorry, here is my broken face. I don't want to talk.

The cockroach (his mouth open wide): *Wahhhhh!*

The dragonfly (just remembering):

I want to find beauty in nothingness.

In The Doctrine of Emptiness there is no eye.

Narrator: *One must put art where it belongs.*