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2010 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Shanghai's Genuine Panacea

When I faced the medicine peddler on Thanksgiving,
When he enumerated proven certificates and accounts
of strangers' experiences,
When I was solicited to test the efficacy of this panacea
promoting health and refreshing fatigue,
When I was in the peddler's clutch listening to his gabble
as absurd sound come out of his warped tape
and he tap danced on the subway tunnel,
No wonder I walked out on him dwelling on the tedious tale
As if he were an evangelist, selling the precious medicine falling
down from the shadowy sky,
Looking around, a glittering immaculate world covered in white,
Summersaulted in snow drifts, breathed a draught of fresh cold air,
and healed.