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Transports of Delight: An Aromatic Journey in Verse from East to West on the Wings of Perfume

David Pybus

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Transports of Delight is a celebration through verse of man’s extraordinary sensory world of smell connecting East and West. Here is a fascinating and delightful anthology, drawn from around the world, capturing a kaleidoscope of emotions, moods and memories, all of which are energized and enhanced by smells of every kind – ‘smells which match our moods, promote our passions, provoke a sense of awe in the natural world around us, and bring us closer to our gods’.

The anthology, containing over a hundred poems and citations, ranges from excerpts from The Teachings of the Buddha to Ben Johnson’s intoxicating ‘Drink to me only with thine eyes’ (ode to Celia), taking the reader from Japan to China, Tibet and the East Indies, on to India and the Levant, then to Europe and finally to the Americas.

A poet himself who has also contributed to the volume, David Pybus has spent much of his professional life closely connected to the world of aromas through his involvement in the cosmetics, toiletries and perfumery industry.

‘When the east wind blows
Send me your perfume
Blossoms of the plum:
Though your Lord be absent
Forget not the spring’

SUGARAWA-NO-MICHIZANE [Japan, 843–903]

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