

taps (c.1996-97)

jam ismail

'you want to be there one last summer..' cousin echo-mocked,
amused. 'that's just like, wanting to be one last time with the girl you plan to leave .. when
she is at her most seductive! ... the vancouver summer ...'

he sighed reviewing night, blue
beauty a glow earthspun moon eclipsing bottom lit bright star gathering to itself amber of
north shore, zircon of grouse lazuli, east deep as the lapis the chunk, miniatur in the
national palace showcase of the 'temporarily absent 23rd province'

cloudbreath hilled the neighborhood as uhhh walked from stop to stop, looking back, should
bus come, would sprint stress fallen arch? the comet high shuttlecock brooding cloud wing

for - 'in order to plan well, you must exceed the personal'

returning turtle raised hand to knocker. a taped plastic shopping bag, red & yellow, declared
'wellcome'.

the uterine red on tv - in an order based on the number of strokes – a cervical seal on curtain -
remained on a bullish footing

the uses of the inevitable
at the end of being empirod
as identities cascade - irredenti - the wrong lips
as secs puls down to zero – vye, diminuend / brim - itch
mopiko'd, relieved of promiscuous osmoses
as cog of the wog hums 'twilight of the dogs'
as 1-1_ supercedes 1111 /
as second-hand becomes pre-loved
as scotch rum gulp *mao toy gaah fan*
as the iconomy changes
as that's the kind of day it's been

between long march rocket
& cirque du soleil, on this park bench at 3pm between 2 sleepers; a greyhair, nylons frayed &
the darkhair rumple who yawns

when sundisc nicking edge of penthouse lashes sight to needles of

raintree, were you once called casuarina

jam ismail

language-hobbyist **jam ismail** materialized in the british crown colony of hong kong, 1940. contexts past & present include: *koran*, *masculinities without men* (hongkong); ezra pound, *sacred texts of the east* (edmonton); frantz fanon, lisa robertson (vancouver); henry corbin, hamid dabashi (london); *gayatri mantram* (bangalore). jam studied & taught in hong kong & western canadian departments of english. her graffiti include: 'from *diction air* ' (1989), 'from *scared texts* ' (1991), 'translit-' (1997), & 'perch' (2001). for anthologized texts, see *many-mouthed birds: contemporary writing by chinese canadians* (vancouver:1991); *shakti's words: an anthology of south asian canadian women's poetry* (toronto:1993); *outloud* (hong kong:2002); & wwnorton's forthcoming *contemporary voices of the far east* (2007). for publications in journals, see *contemporary verse 2* (winnipeg:1988), *ankur, canadian literature* (vancouver:1992), *westcoast line* (vancouver: 1997), *prairie fire* (winnipeg: 2001), & *how2journal.com* (indian innnovation, vol.2 no.4. spring 2006). jam lives in the special administrative region of hong kong, china.