

Gau, small prayer box (Tibet) 455#

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A Box of Peaches

You locked your Wisdom in a gilded box
Placed dainty flowers where metal bars
Cross to hold them

You made a window for Compassion
To look out onto the golden world
Glowing with the presence

Would the talisman of the Smiling One
In your pocket save you? Draw luck
To your game of cards?

Let it be, let the ancient words fall -
A carpet of bronze petals on your path
Dappled with tree shadows

Walk slowly through the magic
Orchard filled with an avalanche of peaches,
Ripening in the sunset

Stoop to pick one, feel its warmth
In your hand, taste the mellow richness
beneath the fuzzy, wrinkled skin

Say to no one in particular –
The sun maybe, or the tree, or this late hour –
Thank you, yes, thank you very much



Illustration by Maja Trochimczyk