

## Form A: Resident Alien

### Article I

“you carry your motherland in you,” his pale hands grow  
all over

my soil skin  
textured like the trade-marked fabric of the ancient Road  
transported from one land  
to another

like a river I flow

raining from a mildew wound,  
I am the monsoon season

in the Southern end of my motherland  
drip dropping to form streams

to form rivers

The lost Mother River

that breast-feeds all who breathe in the Yangtze Delta, including  
the paddy fields that yield the plumpest, pastiest rice in harvest

smell: her (diffused) blood in me  
taste: an innocent  
grain of earthy descent

Stay, before it's ground, crushed, pulped

into something it is not

### Article II

he folds me like a sheet of rice paper,  
I yield

with the docility of a people  
acquainted with the rain

he furrows the land for spring

### Article III

my skin spreads thin

I vegetate  
a blue-green birthmark sprouts from my lower

Back

*Congenital Dermal Melanocytosis*  
is its encyclopedic entry,  
though commonly known as  
the Mongolian spot:

bruise-like  
stamp-shaped,  
it has ceased growing since I escaped

the flooding River of milk and silk

Now I wear the sun-gown of a foreign land, having swept away my marked body  
under the wet ashes of memory,  
bleeding weary water in a forgotten womb

(dis)

until the Mongolian spot becomes the only

integrating  
remains  
of my illegitimate birth

### Article IV

(Re) orienting

this boundless body

Turning the page

let him stamp

a date of entry on my grainy lips

let him search

(in my overweight

Carry-on)

for smuggled plants, animal parts, human hearts

let him drain whisper and sigh

let him erase (as if he could)

this moldy mark on my

Back

which I cannot see

but continues to be

for six thousand miles of wild Pacific rain  
still failed to wash away the possessive land and water  
preying on my hunched

Back

flowing in my veins

**Article V**

he has planted  
a  
Resident Alien  
  
under my skin

**Sign Here**

Under Item A

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