

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BUDAPEST

Niki Marangou

translated by

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From inside the train how the image
is lost and fleets away
the sorted gardens
the sowed fields
unfamiliar trees
the man with the rain coat and the worn suitcase
the sequence of the shots
as the train darts into the trees
routes taken with the carriage
by merchants from Kozani or Moschopolis
carrying silk threads, cloths, and saffron
'foreigners from Ainos in foreign land for foreigners'
having lived in righteousness for thirty-six years.
I wasn't noticing the nature
chased by
the zest for studying
and the order of the letters
the outdated alphabet book
where the 24 letters are found
variously inscribed
sphinx, thief, dusk.

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