

1-1-1990

In Hand

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Recommended Citation

Petter Westra, Helen (1990) "In Hand," *Grand Valley Review*: Vol. 6: Iss. 1, Article 11.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol6/iss1/11>

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In Hand

HELEN PETTER WESTRA

Open the brocade box
that nests my name
you carved in Shengli stone
wrapped in silk
holding the breath
of your small room,
aniseed, curry, and beancurd,
hot peppers sunlit
on your windowsill, and through
thirteen time zones,
round the world,
the thought of you comes firm
as the red-inked rock
you cut with your hands
and here I cup in mine.