

ELIZABETH T. GRAY, JR.

Had She

Had she stayed
Had she not stepped up
Into the train that carried them down
From the hills to the plane
Home through Rangoon and Vientiane
She would know that
What *kailāśaranashiva*
chandramoulīphanīndramātāmukutī
zalālīkārūnyasindhuhavadukhahārī
thujavīnashambomajakonatārī
In the cripple's mouth after he spat
At them at the standing boxcars
Means is
O Lord Shiva on Mount Kailash
Moon-Jeweled Serpent-Crowned
Ocean of Mercy Remover of Delusion
Protect me I surrender