

## Creating Otherness

I greet you with  
a genuinely interested  
but somewhat anxious manner  
and in an effort to establish  
who you are inquire  
“Where are you from?”  
Or more gently,  
“Have you lived here long?”  
and for a brief interval  
I am embarrassed,  
For I sense that I have  
tried to place you, to define  
an otherness.  
How long must one  
reside someplace  
before she can respond,  
“Oh, I come from here  
just like you,”

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