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Plunder

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Factually speaking, the Korean War is
ongoing and according to
Dr. Millard,
the celebrated American
plastic surgeon who brought his
double eyelid surgery to Korea,

“The Asian monolid gives the effect of an expressionless eye sneaking a peep through a slit.”¹

Millard mused, in his words, how to “deorientalize” the patient.

Unable to find research in English,
he devised his own method of raising
the bridge of the nose to widen
the space
between our eyes.

“Alas, folds that were exotic in Pusan or Kyoto will become strangely foreign to Main Street of a mid-west town or under the columns of a southern mansion.”

Sangapul magic
to plunder our body facts as
end-of-war goodwill.

Skin extracted as
porcelain, *jinju*,
the pearl of the “Orient.”

Peregrinating in his “Asian wood,”
He moved skin and hair to new parts of our bodies.
We were, “alas, folds that were exotic”
like this wrinkle that is the

¹ All quotes taken from David Ralph Millard’s essay, “Oriental Peregrinations.” *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 16, no. 5 (1955): 319-36.



slit through which
sight is blunted—
the man in the drive-thru window at the local
Dairy Queen,
staring through my sisters and me.