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Cloud

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Salgado Maranhão

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Alexis Levitin translating *Salgado Maranhão*

Cloud

for Lilia

You are the petal
crossing through the rain
and the garden of swords.

And you carry in your womb
the light of grain.

You are the refuge
that troubles ancient warriors,
for whom noble death
begins time once again.

A cloud of sandalwood
makes a nest in your poplar trees;
a cloud that carries away
the strong
 and the weak
like me.