

Sonnet Scroll

Fado for Beginners

By Jean L. Kreiling

Fado (Portuguese): fate, and also a Portuguese style of music for solo singer and guitar, usually expressing *saudade*, or longing.

Most of us long for something—love or wine
or one more hour before we say goodbye—
or feel an ache that we can't quite define,
the pulsing of our blood a silent sigh.
In Portugal, we see the shiny thrones
of kings who yearned for women and for land;
we taste the port and tread the cobblestones,
admire bright tiles—but only understand
this place when we hear passion made of song:
when *fado* marries fervent poetry
to music. Then it's clear that we belong,
for we too know desire and memory.
As if returning from a long exile,
our pulses, too, sing *fado* for a while.