

ON BECOMING ALIJAH

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by  
ALIJAH GORDON

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NASKAH PEMELIHARAAN  
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

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DEDICATED TO MY MOTHER

ERNA KREUDER GORDON

who took her own life in 1966 at the age of 59

I am thinking of a woman  
who walked into the waters of a river  
with stones in her pockets.

I am thinking of the waters of the rivers of my life.

I am thinking of the stones  
in my pockets.

All women are born with stones in our pockets.

Empty them, empty them,

swim.



Anonymous, "HOMAGE TO VIRGINIA WOOLF", *off our  
bucks* (February 2, 1997).

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