

## In the Pleasant World of Rats and Dampness

Do you have any kind of doors  
install them and fix them in place  
Not to hear Them  
not to see Them.

Any kind of doors  
as long as they are doors  
Their closing system to be functioning well  
but their opening system to be easy to break  
by help of simple mechanism to close them  
and not to open them any more.

Not to hear Them how They hear Themselves  
not to see Them how They see Themselves.

With Their sounds  
made of empty cans  
In Their clothes  
made of spotted cellophane.

Let us tie around our necks  
washed ties  
let us put on our pants from dry cleaners  
Let us throw away the receipts which were given for service  
when we carried away our watches  
to be repaired  
And let us close the doors with excellent mechanism  
to prevent those who are with us  
inside  
from coming from outside.

Close the doors  
and order one door more from the fat repairman  
secure yourself with locks  
and security devices

when you will be asleep with a sweet dream  
that They do not come to you to have tea and biscuits without rights.

Move yourself into the basement  
live with the rats  
and with dampness  
in the pleasant world of rats and dampness.

Don't allow Them to knock at your doors  
order doors without knocking  
Invincible  
thick doors  
can help you  
only those  
Doors which are still being perfected  
and are produced one by one  
by very complicated tools in the open space.

Hammer in thick boards  
on the slot made for the small letter that we expect to come  
and make children's boats  
of the paper  
which you were keeping for the answers.

Make children's boats  
and let them go through the drainpipes  
let them be small submarines.

Live off doors  
on their inner side  
Bite them  
eat  
drink them  
Lose your weight because of them  
and gain your weight because of them  
Cultivate them  
warm yourself on them  
and shiver close beside them.

Die  
but do not revive memories  
of an elevator  
which brought you where you are

of a travelling companion  
and tomato juice.

Only sometime  
so that you do not become mad  
allow your friends to visit you  
but let Them come in through other passageways  
Those doors *do not open*.

*Translated by the author and Branka Imamovic*