

In the last hours  
you stared wide-eyed.  
You were terrified that you would not  
be able to talk any more  
not even inside yourself  
about the one thing.  
Now the noise is so violent  
so furious the shaking-up of all reality  
that even down there in the end  
the tremor must reach you  
felt as it was in the cellars once, in the war.  
I shall not have time enough to reckon up, even now  
it's too late for that.  
And this is the very thing  
I did not know before.  
Now you know it too  
we know it  
while about to be reborn.

*translated by  
Michael Hamburger*

### IN MEMORIAM III

The little girl crushed the mantis with a rock.  
It jerked its head at each blow.  
From its abdomen an omelet of seed  
a stain of eaten meals.

The mandibles bit.  
The knives of the claws slashed  
air. One half  
of an insect fulfilled itself.

*translated by  
Michael Hamburger*