**Herculaneum**

how many Shakespeares

have been buried under the dust

breathless in the presence

of a low and terrible sky?

how many times was a Mozart born

only to die a child’s death?

how many times

has this question been asked

by those who weren’t me

but could almost have been?

in the East was a girl

so much smarter than me

that she looks down on me like an angel

we will find her ashes

when we stir the soup of history