

的丁铁而啸地望绝且而的看撼猛经神一根一每的塔之志意
了醒也魂能复我星张客成是这么凛救了解是避我海分不一断天的江你么落到旗
必须新人自来为一个一的后在夜雷的到不一断天的江你么落到旗
原必新单来为这么一个凛救了解是避我海分不一断天的江你么落到旗
复我星张客成是这么凛救了解是避我海分不一断天的江你么落到旗
魂能复我星张客成是这么凛救了解是避我海分不一断天的江你么落到旗
的臂星一张嗽永远是黑呼不敌人枝比青也愁了一粒有来一阵说漏巨影
灵的不是一是的咳永说有黑呼不敌人枝比青也愁了一粒有来一阵说漏巨影
我的没有寞价当题是这痛而且的回忆内时候断每有始河西一在檐的收起
我是欢没寂悬季主只见呼后长例孩量是小听露珠成黄河像从斜没有收
岸条事西颅冬那我看网之个女活还我着的珠拔河我问又湃湃倾还没有收
彼一千往以头的事那我看网之个女活还我着的珠拔河我问又湃湃倾还没有收
知道么唉是下个中国物馆烟纪年一这肺伤陪我握的天念恒啊意落到撑一
静来什西我零一个中博狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
的知过来以业在一说在火狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
肃我过没日职业是火狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
严我伸你职业是火狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
握着的点啊落的歌唱是我将在火狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
猛握渡的一子在们外故事当你恨在火狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
经握渡的一子在们外故事当你恨在火狱半五笔希望的外再然晴的永烛有落为灵魂还
神紧未的浪事使户个荣年中的半的疯狂每一战有究声那每一心我是无霏霏灯
一根紧于秘的往天在千和十膛边分这不首见那世界母一个号粒颤寂像到了守最的
一手异神场事白持一耻五意岸一们的有一听那世头个号粒颤寂像到了守最的
每的将自战往是坚全羞你敌的前我战有也面在这哪每一光沉地到了守最的
的臂我运古的话你安一个像的助之在应方沙下我要日风吹年无说守夜人
塔铁的命情你童者且一个像的助之在应方沙下我要日风吹年无说守夜人
之着渡但无有说或而是一个像的助之在应方沙下我要日风吹年无说守夜人
志咬既我上没外人言远我完历史半一只敢说听吧票握的只千有从的守夜人
意紧道的太新成以语永像吐在纪任相丽风睡小脐珠分项外摇停最后空更
I know The man across can never come back
Let Night and Death on the border of danger
The Last Watchman by the Last Lamp to protect

廖旦李金发徐志摩郭沫若卞之琳余光中艾青著胡适译林徽因
icketBeeMothButterflyLacewingFly编Ant排Wa
意丹希瑞西马泰阿韩中研究英印荷法德越俄葡挪芬匈捷保爱其
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著译者	余光中
编排者	Lacewing

编者序语

为什么花时间把别人已经出了书的作品再编一次？刚开始，这只是我一时兴起，想用自己喜欢的诗人的作品练习 Typst 罢了：中文诗作，由作者自己翻译成了英文，我再编排出来；这岂不是华文与英文文学、中英翻译和排版都有所涉及？我恰好对这三个领域感兴趣，便做了。这也是正文按中英配对，两面相接的原因。

至于正在读本文的你呢？如果你恰好对余光中的诗，或者中译英的工作感兴趣的话，那是再好不过；我们可一同品味作者独特的视角（有他这样经历且写成诗的人可不多）和他在翻译自己作品时的思考。若是来看 Typst 的排版功能，我恐怕得为此书打上“仅供参考”的标签——此前我只简单用 Typst 排过几篇论文，也未受过任何专业排版训练，更没有什么拿得出手的作品；且算作业余人自作自乐吧。

没有激起你继续阅读的欲望？还请在此页稍作休息，容我念叨一会。从学前到高中，我都不觉得自己是什么有“文学气息”的人，每日看的都是科技政经，从未想过涉猎语文艺术；至于中国学生必经的“语文”之科目？我从来都不是个“好学生”，不愿意按照模版去解读“作者的深意”，自然没有驱使我进一步学习的正反馈。

此间虽偶有我愿做文学鉴赏或创作的机会，都没起显著的效果。后来我得大把空闲时间思考时，读与写的念头才回到脑中。作为一名“刚刚接触互联网的 00 后少年”，长时间钻在物理化学课本中，有太多的问题从来没有被回答；既“悟以往之不谏”，却不知“来者之可追”，也许这是青春常见的问题？只知当时我有多么烦闷和困扰，直到我重新自愿拿起文学读物：网络博客、经典小说、古今诗歌……直到我开始做文学相关的工作：文学分析、中英翻译、文档写作……“春风化雨”，我会用这个词形容这一段经历，正如电影《死亡诗社》也被译为此名。

有太多问题科学还要很多年才能解答，可惜我不能在此间呆太久，没法一直等待。而文学告诉我为何提出问题，且予我不解答问题的勇气。

虽然余光中来自我不熟悉的时代，但许多他面临过的问题正困扰着我和其他很多相同或不同时代的人。不妨在闲时打开某一电子文档（或更传统一些，翻开某一纸质文档），读读别人的思想，写写自己的评论；或许就这一本？

Lacewing
2024-05-04

特别感谢

12 公里（原蓝天作文网）

我文学创作的起点。

石老师

我当时的语文老师，鼓励我尝试文学创作。

Ms. Lim

我后来的中华文学老师，带我领略文学的魅力。

复活在我，生命也在我

tModLoader 社区

我翻译工作的第一站，其对本地化的重视让我倍受鼓舞。

万象元素（昵称）

支持我对翻译的初次尝试，也为我打开了另一扇门。

裙形态（昵称）和 **棱镜**（昵称）

引我了解 LaTeX 和 Markdown，以及排版语言的世界。

夜谷紫幽（昵称）

我排版与文档编写之旅上的同伴，相互答疑解惑。

余光中

感谢余光中先生，你的创作带我走出低落时刻，拂开障目一叶。

Typst

感谢 Typst，你精巧的功能和热情的社区是我编排此书的动力和助力。

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西螺大桥

Hsilo Bridge

^{chù}
矗然，钢的灵魂醒着
^{kēngqiāng}
严肃的静铿锵着

西螺平原的海风猛撼着这座
意志之塔的每一根神经
猛撼着，而且绝望地啸着

而铁钉的齿紧紧咬着，
铁臂的手紧紧握着
严肃的静

于是，我的灵魂也醒了，
我知道

既渡的我将异于

未渡的我，我知道

彼岸的我不能复原为

此岸的我

但命运自神秘的一点伸过来

一千条欢迎的臂，我必须渡河

面临通向另一个世界的
走廊，我微微地颤抖

但西螺平原壮阔的风

迎面扑来，告我以海在彼端

我微微地颤抖，但是我
必须渡河

矗立着，庞大的沉默
醒着，钢的灵魂

Hsilo Bridge

西螺大桥

Loomingly, the soul of steel remains awake.
Serious silence clangs.

Over the Hsilo Plain sea winds wildly shake
This design of strength, this scheme of beauty; they shake
Every nerve of this tower of will,
Howling and yelling desperately.
Still the teeth of nails bite, the claws of iron rails clench
A serious silence.

Then my soul awakes; I know
I shall be different once across
From what on this side I am; I know
The man across can never come back
To the man before the crossing.
Yet Fate from a mysterious center radiates
A thousand arms to greet me; I must cross the bridge.

Facing the corridor to another world,
I tremble a little.
But the raw wind over the Hsilo Plain
Blows against me with the tidings
That on the other side is the sea.
I tremble a little, but I
must cross the bridge.

And tall looms the massive silence,
And awake is the soul of steel.

七层下

Seven Layers Beneath

一时松风退涛，落日在内战以西
残雪兀自封锁着边界
秃柯瘦成听觉的神经
肃然的寒气中，灌木丛在倾听

日落时，坏脾气的乌鸦
在那边的桦树林中咒骂
骂米德将军断剑的雕像
百里内，惊动多少耳朵

怪石如颜，鬼面之后有鬼面
不久冷雾泛起，夜空下
露滴侵蚀铁炮的骨髓
锈青了的寂灭中，爬着霉绿

内战之后，血斑皆酣然
酣然，铜号，酣然，失蹄的嘶马
内战之后，一整幅战场
在静听一只迟归的鸦

天狼在雉堞^{zhì dié}的齿隙升起
累积的时间感，全部的重量
向肩胛骨最酸处压下
夜色泻下，沿着谁的冰颊

踏。踏七层死去的秋
七层枯脆在履底悲泣
踏碎一些心形的图案
一些多情的执着，一些徒然

太上无情。古战场的浪子啊
你没什么往事，没有一星星
新大陆太新，没有你的往事
往事在落日以西，唉，以西

—— 盖提斯堡战场魔鬼穴

Seven Layers Beneath

七层下

The wind now ebbs among the pines. The sun sets
West of the Civil War. Only snow garrisons the frontier.
Thin are the bald branches, like starved nerves of the ear.
In the chilled hush the shrubs are listening.

At sunset, the ill-tempered crow in the birch trees
Begins to curse, in dissonant blasphemies,
General Sedgwick with the broken sword.
Startled and strained are the statues ears.

Featured are the rocks; masks hide behind masks.
Soon the cold fog will rise, and under the biotite sky
The dews will nibble the marrow of the guns
In the rusted silence where mildew creeps.

After the war asleep are the stains of blood.
Mute are the bugles, must the neighing horses that shied.
After the war the vastness of a battlefield
Is listening to a lone, last crow.

Then Sirius rises from between teeth of battlements.
The weighty sense of Time cumulated falls
On my fatigued collar bone. Also falls
The night, slippery down my icy face.

Softly I tread. Softly, on seven autumn dead,
Seven layers of leaves, crisp and sobbing beneath the shoes,
Till trod and broken lie all the heart-shaped designs,
All the insistence and futilities.

WISDOM SURVIVES PASSION. Ah, exile roaming the battlefield,
There is no past for you, no, not a bit.
New Continent is still too new, past there's none for you.
Your past is west of the sunset, west of it.

— *Devil's Den, Gettysburg*

钟乳岩

Smoke Hole Cavern

史前的童贞夜咽下了我们
无首无尾的黑暗
生之前，死之后
冰润漱着细细的地下水

扪到冥川上游
山的盲肠不通向何方
日月都留在洞外
谁的手中一枝电筒

拔也拔不开的深邃
仿佛凝固的梦境
脚下是珊瑚丛
千盏琳琅是吊灯

石乳下降，石笋上升
盘古的白须缓缓地长着
千载以厘，万载一分
升降之间虚悬着永恒

永恒，永恒！缓降的石乳
对更缓的石笋耳语：
“何必如此匆匆地相约
我们又何必要终于相遇
在这石椁神秘的世纪？”

百年前，南军在洞里藏金
向导说，更早更早以前
戴羽绘面的红酋长
在洞口熏炙鹿肉

岩石也有音乐啊，他说
且扬杖击石
向琳琳珑珑的雕塑敲起
石器时代的流行乐

——西弗吉尼亚·烟洞岩

Smoke Hole Cavern

钟乳岩

Pre-historic virgin night devours us,
Such a headless, tailless darkness
Before our life and after our death,
Where, subterranean, blind, cold,
Gargles the trickle of a stream.

We grope upstream along the Lethe
To find the mountain's appendix lead
Nowhere, vaguely aware the sun
 and moon
Are left revolving somewhere outside.
In whose hand a flashlight

In vain tries to push aside
The impenetrability of it all,
Where a whim-dream has fossilized
Reefs of coral under our feet
And candelabra overhead.

So stalactites fall and stalagmites rise:
So slowly grow Creation's breads.
An inch's fall, an inch's rise
While outside, rise and fall
 the dynasties.
Eternity's where they never meet.

Eternity, eternity! The [stalactites]¹
Whisper to the stalagmites below:
"No hurry for us to grow and meet,
Who knows how many centuries
 will pass

In this mystery of a sarcophagus?"

A century ago the Confederates,
The guide says, here hid their gold.
And much, much earlier than that,
A feathered and painted
 Indian chief
Roasted his venison in the cave.

Rocks have their music too, he says
And beats them up and down
And beats them left and right
And upon such a subtle sculpture
Strikes up a pop tune of the
 Stone Age.

— *Smoke Hole Cavern, West Virginia*

¹原文为“stalagtites”

当我死时

When I Am Dead

当我死时，葬我，在长江与黄河
之间，枕我的头颅，白发盖着黑土
在中国，最美母亲的国度
我便坦然睡去，睡整张大陆
听两侧，安魂曲起自长江，黄河
两管永生的音乐，滔滔，朝东
这是最纵容最宽阔的床
让一颗心满足地睡去，满足地想
从前，一个中国的青年曾经
在冰冻的密西根向西瞭望
想望透黑夜看中国的黎明
用十七年未^{yàn}履中国的眼睛
饕餮地图，从西湖到太湖
到多鹳^{gǔ}的重庆，代替回乡

When I Am Dead

当我死时

When I am dead, lay me down between the Yangtze
And the Yellow River and pillow my head
On China, white hair against black soil,
Most beautiful O most maternal of lands,
And I will sleep my soundest taking
The whole mainland of my cradle lulled
By the mother-hum that rises on both sides
From the two great rivers, two long, long songs
That on and on flow forever to the East.
This the world's most indulgent roomiest bed
Where, content, a heart pauses to rest
And recalls how, of a Michigan winter night,
A youth from China used to keep
Intense watch towards the East, trying
To pierce his look through darkness for the dawn
Of China. So with hungry eyes he devoured
The map, eyes for seventeen years starved
For a glimpse of home, and like a new weaned child
He drank with one wild gulp rivers and lakes
From the mouth of Yangtze all the way up
To Poyang² and Tungt'ing³ and to Koko Nor⁴

²鄱阳湖

³洞庭湖

⁴青海湖

灰鸽子

Gray Pigeons

废炮怔怔地望着远方
灰鸽子在草地上散步
含含糊糊的一种
诉苦，嘀咕嘀咕嘀咕
一整个下午的念珠
数来数去未数清
海的那边一定
有一个人在念我
有一片唇在惦我
有一张嘴在呵我
呵痒下午的耳朵
下午敏感的耳朵
仰起，在玉蜀黍田里
盛好几英里的寂寞
向晚的日色，冰冰
弥满珍珠色的云层
灰鸽子在废炮下散步
一种含含糊糊的诉苦
含含糊糊在延续

Gray Pigeons

灰鸽子

The old guns muse and look afar.
Gray pigeons saunter on the lawn;
An obscure, subdued complaint
Now and then is heard to coo and croon.
On and on through the afternoon
A rosary's told and told and told,
The secrets of beads still unknown.
I have a hunch across the sea
There's someone murmuring my name,
Some unseen lips tickling my ear.
Itchy's the ear of afternoon;
The sensitive ear of early dusk
Turns up, with fields full of corn,
And holds a loneliness for miles.
The slow sun does more to chill than cheer,
Dimmed further by pearly clouds.
Under the old guns gray pigeons moan,
A complaint most inarticulate,
Which seems to stammer and hesitate
Off and on through the afternoon.

单人床

The Single Bed

月是盲人的一只眼睛
怒瞰着夜，透过蓬松的云
yín
猗猗的风追过去
这黑穹！比绝望更远，比梦更高
要冻成爱斯基摩的冰屋
中国比太阳更陌生，更陌生，今夜
家人无信，朋友皆远离
没有谁记得谁的地址
寂寞是一张单人床
向夜的四垠无限地延伸
我睡在月之下，草之上，枕着空无，枕着
一种渺渺茫茫的悲辛，而风
依然在吹着，吹黑暗成冰
吹胃中的激昂成灰烬，于是
有畸形的鸦，一只丑于一只
自我的眼中，口中，chuáng
幢幢然飞起

The Single Bed

单人床

The moon is a blind man's eye that glowers
At the night through shaggy, unkempt clouds,
Hounded by packs of growling winds.
Look, look up at the firmament
That's freezing into an igloo roof,
Farther than despair, loftier than a dream!
China is more remote than the sun tonight,
When family is remote and friends apart,
And addresses, once so dear, are all forgot.
Loneliness is a single bed
That endlessly extends and extends
Towards the four horizons of the night.
Between the moon and grass I sleep, pillowed
Upon a sorrow undefined, while the wind
Is blowing darkness into a block of ice
And into ashes the passion in my guts,
From which deformed crows, one uglier than the other,
Arise, winging and squawking from my mouth and eyes.

黑天使

The Black Angel

黑天使从夜的脐孔里
飞至，从月落乌啼
的天空，当狼群咀嚼
落月，鼠群窸窣啮尽

满天的星屑，我就是
不详天使，迅疾
扑至，一封死亡电报
猛然捶打你闭门不醒

的恶魔，我就是黑天使
白天使中我已被
除籍，翻开任何
黑名单，赫然，你不会看不见

我的名字，叫黑天使，我就是
夜巡的黑鹰
最黑最暗的
夜里，我瞥见最善伪装的

罪恶，且在他头顶盘旋
等垂毙的前夕
作俯冲的一击
我就是黑天使，我永远

独羽逆航，在雨上，电上
向成人说童话
是白天使们
的职业，我是头颅悬价

的刺客，来自黑帷以外，来自
夜的盲哑的深处
来自黢黢的帝国
的墨墨京都，黑天使，我就是

自注：写成后，才发现这首《黑天使》是首尾相衔的联锁体，段与段之间不可能读断。
Emily Dickinson 的 *I Like to See It Lap the Miles* 近于此体。

The Black Angel

黑天使

Swift swoops down the Black Angel
From night's innermost navel,
From a sky of setting moon and crows
When wolves are tearing the crescent
And swarms of rats are nibbling at

The remaining star-crumbs. I am
The Angel of Ill Omen
Who descends at the worst moment
With an obituary telegram
To bang your door and call you up

From amidst your
 nightmares and sweat.
Among all angels alone I'm black,
An outlaw to every angel white,
And on every black list, long or short,
Most conspicuous you never miss

My name, marked
 BLACK ANGEL. I am
The black angel cruising at night
Through the darkest, the most opaque
Blindness of a moonless,
 dawnless night
I never discovered
 the best camouflaged

Of evils but will circle over its head
To watch for its last breath of sin
And rush all of a sudden down
Upon its death long overdue,
For I am the Black Angel
 who never flies

But by himself through
 lightnings and rain.
To tell the grown-ups fairy tales,
To tell them that God never fails,
The white angels are
 more than well-paid.
But I am, with a high price
 on my head,

The Arch-Assassin none can stop
From breaking through the draperies
And rings of guards,
 from where the night
Is at its most deaf and blind,
 from outside
The Dark Tower overhanging
 the Dark Lord:

Where the Black Angel strikes, I strike.

有一只死鸟

There Was a Dead Bird

冬至以后，春分以前
那一种方言最安全？
如果你是一只鸣禽
美丽，而且有一身白羽
便可以将你剥制成标本
装饰那家博物馆，
栩栩如生
拉丁文的学名下，注明
一种鸣禽，能歌，能高翔
罕见的品种，日趋灭亡
或者你可以按时唱歌
堂皇的客厅，栖你在壁上
制造顺耳的室内乐，
可以乱真
钟叩七下，你就啮七声
顺着钟面的短针，长针⁵

或者你坚持在户外歌唱
在零下的冬季，当咳嗽
成为流行的语言，而且安全
你坚持一种醒耳的高音
向黑色的风和黑色的云
猎枪的射程内，你拒绝闭口
你不屑咳嗽，当冷飕
当冷飕射进你的热喉
杀死一只鸣禽，杀不死春天
歌者死后，空中有间歇的回音
或者你坚持歌唱，面对着死亡

⁵此处并未分段

There Was a Dead Bird

有一只死鸟

When winter solstice's here
And vernal equinox still far,
What dialect is most safe to adopt?
If you're a warbler of a bird,
Beautiful, white all over feathered,
You'll be a taxidermist's delight
To adorn that museum, vivid as if undead.
Under the Latin name will be noted:
A song bird, swift in song and in flight,
Of rare species now, all but extinct.
Or you can sing a timely song
To earn your place in a draped room,
Perched demurely upon a wall,
And pleasing chamber music to make,
Away from the wild woodnote call.
When the clock strikes eleven,
Eleven times, then, must you chime
Under the batons of short hand and long.
Or you will insist on an outdoor song
In the chill-spell of winter when
Sneeze and cough are in tune and safe.
You insist upon an ear-piercing pitch
Against black blasts of a dark night,
No shotgun within range can silence that itch
Not to cough, but to cry in despite
Of the icy blast at your throbbing throat.
No spring is murdered by killing a bird:
A singer dies, yes, but a song never does.
The air never forgets a martyred breath.
Or you can sing on in the teeth of death.

致读者

To the Reader

一千个故事是一个故事
那主题永远是一个主题
永远是一个羞耻和荣誉
当我说中国时我只是说
有这么一个人：像我像他像你

To the Reader

致读者

A thousand stories make one story;
The theme forever same's the theme,
Forever the shame and the glory;
When I say China I only mean
Such as myself and you and him.

双人床

The Double Bed

让战争在双人床外进行
躺在你长长的斜坡上
听流弹，像一把呼啸的萤火
在你的，我的头顶窜过
窜过我的胡须和你的头发
让政变和革命在四周呐喊
至少爱情在我们的一边
至少破晓前我们很安全
当一切都不再可靠
靠在你弹性的斜坡上
今夜，即使会山崩或地震
最多跌进你低低的盆地
让旗和铜号在高原上举起
至少有六尺的韵律是我们
至少日出前你完全是我的
仍滑腻，仍柔软，仍可以烫熟
一种纯粹而精细的疯狂
让夜和死亡在黑的边境
发动永恒第一千次围城
惟我们循螺旋纹急降，天国在下
卷入你四肢美丽的漩涡

The Double Bed

双人床

Let war rage on beyond the double bed
As I lie on the length of your slope
And hear the straying bullets
Like a whistling swarm of glow-worms
Swish by over your head and mine
And through your hair and through my beard.
On all sides let revolutions growl,
Love at least is on our side.
We'll be safe at least before the dawn.
When nothing is there to rely upon,
On your supple warmth I can still depend.
Tonight, let mountains topple and earth quake,
The worst is but fall down your lowly vale.
Let banners and bugles rise high on the hills,
Six feet of rhythm at least are ours,
Before sunrise at least you still are mine,
Still so sleek, so soft, so fully alive
To kindle a wildness pure and fine.
Let Night and Death on the border of darkness
Launch the thousandth siege of eternity
As we plunge whirling down, Heaven beneath,
Into the maelstrom of your limbs.

野炮

The Field Gun

五十年后，你将在博物馆看见
这尊黑凛凛的巨兽
吐完喉中的敌意，膛中的恨
在火狱和烟网，呼痛和呼救之后
搁浅在历史无助的岸边
不可解的一具尸骸，曾是恐龙
几分可骇，和更多的可笑，可悯
五十年后，你将在国立公园里看见
这重吨的黑魅，灵魂涤尽骄蛮
一个退休的屠夫，再度恢复
古金属的好脾气和纯朴
斑斓剥落的慈爱，冷静如僧
五十年后，他将柔驯地蹲伏
在健忘的草地上，任鸽群
任无知的鸽群在四周沉吟
任孩子们合唱，骑在炮管上，幻想
胯下是长颈鹿，是王子的白马
任年轻的母亲以他为背景
在橄榄树下准备野餐
而且微笑，向快门与镜头⁵

在半世纪，在半世纪之后
而且不了解，在半世纪，在半世
纪之前
一分钟的疯狂比五十年更长
当暴怒的巨灵啊你的铁臂举起
众神掩面，天使垂泪
也不可劝解，一寸，也不可挽回
铁臂举起，成一个褻渎的斜度
长膛正热，毒咒在膛中沸滚
你的斥骂洪亮一如真理
浓烟中，春泥飞溅如雨
你大声呵斥，掀起草皮
天痴，地騃⁶，你大声喝止
烂肺的呛咳，烂眼的呻吟
母亲的低泣，孤儿合唱队的啼声

⁶假借为“佻”

The Field Gun

野炮

After fifty years in a museum you shall see
This bullying black beast,
Done with the curse in his throat, malice in his breast,
And stranded, after the infernal fire and smoke,
The involuntary yelps for help and pain,
Full on history's helpless shore,
A body, unintelligible, of a dinosaur,
Calling more for wonder and pity than for dread.
After fifty years you'll see him in a national park,
A dark massive monster, cleansed of soul's arrogance,
A retired butcher who has long regained
The good humor and unobtrusiveness of old bronze,
Quiet as a monk now in his kindly rustiness.
After fifty years he'll demurely squat
There on the forgetful lawn with the doves,
The unmindful doves cooing in the neighborhood
And festive children astride the barrel imagining
They're riding a giraffe or the steed of a prince.
So young mothers trustingly will lean on him
And prepare their picnics under some olive tree,
Smiling at the camera the unsuspecting smile,
After fifty years, yes, after fifty years,
And never imagine that only fifty years ago
A moment's madness dragged longer than all the centuries,
When with raving monstrosity his lurid arm was raised
In the face of gods and all the tearful angels,
Not an inch to relent or to be dissuaded,
When the savage arm was raised to a blaspheming slant,
Mouth-belching, the curse about to burst.
Your profanity blasted no less than truth,
Amidst the smothering smoke spring mun splashed like rain,
Your flashing lectures turned up acres of turf,
Sky stupefied, earth stunned, and faint between your railings came
Coughs of rotten lungs, moans of rotten eyes,
Mothers sobbing, orphans wailing in unisons.

九命猫

A Cat with Nine Lives

我的敌人是夜，不是任一只鼠
一种要染黑一切的企图
企图噬尽所有的光
被祟的空间，徐徐，十二响
当古钟悚悚敲起
敲响午夜的心脏，忽然有风
宽大的僧袖拂脸过处
星象叮叮当当全被扫落，像死亡
一口气吹熄生日蛋糕的蜡烛
但死亡不能将我全吹熄
九条命，维持九盏灯
一盏灯投九重影，照我
读一部读不完的书
黑暗是一部醒目的书
从封面到封底，我独自读

A Cat with Nine Lives

九命猫

My enemy is not any of the rats, but the whole night,
An attempt to paint everything black
And nibble at the one remaining light.
In the haunted space, listen, twelve strokes
The ancient bronze bell slowly strikes
At the startled heart of midnight, when a sudden blast
With the immensity of a monk's sleeve flaps my face
And down come tinkling the stars, as Death
Puffs out all the birthday-cake candles with one breath.
But Death can't put me out all at once:
My nine lives keep burning nine lamps,
Each casting nine shadows. So I
Am reading a book without an end.
Darkness is an engaging book
I purr alone, from cover to cover.