

Bin Bin

Translated from Chinese by Ouyang Yu

SIMILE*

i write poetry in the darkest times
i write in the darkest times of poetry
i write poetry of the darkest times
i write the times of the darkest poetry
i write the darkest poetry of the times
i write the times poetry of the darkest
i write the poetry times of the darkest
i write the times in the darkest poetry
i write the darkness in the most times poetry
i write poetry in the most times darkness

such are the things i do

*Italian, as before.

WATCHING THE STARRY SKY

when dead
you are so close to the starry sky
you only have to close your eyes
see, that star

is your soul

WHAT I WAS REMINDED OF AT THE SIGHT OF THE SUNLIGHT
AND THE SHADOW OF THE TREES OVERLAPPING EACH
OTHER ON THE TRANSPARENT ROOF

when i die
i will be a tree
standing from morning till night
in the bright air

when i die
the shadow of these trees
will sprinkle these bright sunlights
on the shutters of your eyes

when i die
if someone fells me
let me be fire
or carved into a wooden fish*

*Translator's note: a wooden fish is a percussion instrument made of a hollow wooden block, originally used by Buddhist priests to beat rhythm when chanting scriptures.