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Summer in Verdun/Telephone Call

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summer in Verdun

the graveyards of Verdun
are full
with summer flowers

children are playing
hide and seek
among the crosses

their parents
 coke in hand
keep looking for the names
of their grand fathers
on the wooden beams

verifying the family album

swallows dive steeply
under darkening clouds
slowly approaching from the west
you try your best
to give them shapes
and faces

them
who then in noisy greyish nights
fell out of life

 bright red leaves
 crimsoned prematurely
 by sudden frost

W. H., Verdun, July 1994

telephone call

decisive words
 take their time

they reveal their significance
like buds unfolding
 nourished by the soil of doubt
 the rain of memory and meditation
gradually to the troubled soul

until the flower
 of loss

 suddenly
 in full bloom

makes you tremble
at its pristine
 relentless
 beauty

—WALTER HÖBLING
GRAZ, AUSTRIA