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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