

**DEATH FUGUE** by Paul Celan

Black milk of daybreak we drink it at evening  
we drink it at midday and morning we drink it at night  
we drink and we drink  
we shovel a grave in the air there you won't lie too cramped  
A man lives in the house he plays with his vipers he writes  
he writes when it grows dark to Deutschland your golden hair Marguerite  
he writes it and steps out of doors and the stars are all sparkling  
he whistles his hounds to come close  
he whistles his Jews into rows has them shovel a grave in the ground  
he orders us strike up and play for the dance

Black milk of daybreak we drink you at night  
we drink you at morning and midday we drink you at evening  
we drink and we drink  
A man lives in the house he plays with his vipers he writes  
he writes when it grows dark to Deutschland your golden hair Margeurite  
your ashen hair Shulamith we shovel a grave in the air there you won't lie too cramped  
He shouts jab this earth deeper you lot there you others sing up and play  
he grabs for the rod in his belt he swings it his eyes are blue  
jab your spades deeper you lot there you others play on for the dancing

Black milk of daybreak we drink you at night  
we drink you at midday and morning we drink you at evening  
we drink and we drink  
a man lives in the house your goldenes Haar Margeurite  
your aschenes Haar Shulamith he plays with his vipers  
He shouts play death more sweetly Death is a master from Deutschland  
he shouts scrape your strings darker you'll rise then in smoke to the sky  
you'll have a grave then in the clouds there you won't lie too cramped

Black milk of daybreak we drink you at night  
we drink you at midday Death is a master aus Deutschland  
we drink you at evening and morning we drink and we drink  
this Death is ein Meister aus Deutschland his eye it is blue

he shoots you with shot made of lead shoots you level and true  
a man lives in the house your goldenes Haar Margarete  
he looses his hounds on us grants us a grave in the air  
he plays with his vipers and daydreams  
der Tod is ein Meister aus Deutschland  
dein goldenes Haar Margarete  
dein aschenes Haar Shulamith