

## **Tombeau II for Paul Celan (1920-1970)**

to enter Hades do not go near the smokestacks  
stammer far apart trauma's other name  
saving yourself the cost of missing tongue  
where every appearance of forgiving is washed  
clean, cast to the winds, an amulet  
strapped to the left arm

memory's glove has brought you here  
to this cul-de-sac most likely to collapse  
at the faultline irreproachable prayers  
narrow your eyes, invert letters  
all is well for the deaf and dumb  
death sends her regards