



# Fate

The will to life is remorselessly exploding  
all eternity  
There is no death  
We must acquiesce  
There is now and then the yes  
yes we want it so  
we can't chose the absolute nothing.

**Ivan Blatný (1919-1990)**

*In 1948, soon after he left his native Czechoslovakia, Ivan Blatný was declared dead by the Communist authorities and forgotten as a poet. He lived the last forty years of his life in the UK, the majority as a psychiatric in-patient. It is only since his real death in 1991 that his work is being read and his stature recognised. He composed the poem above wholly in English. From "Modern Poetry in Translation", number 17, edited by Daniel Weissbort and Stephen Watts, published by King's College London 2001. Reprinted by permission.*

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