I heard a Fly buzz – when I died – (591)

By Emily Dickinson

I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –
   The Stillness in the Room
   Was like the Stillness in the Air –
   Between the Heaves of Storm –

The Eyes around – had wrung them dry –
   And Breaths were gathering firm
   For that last Onset – when the King
   Be witnessed – in the Room –

I willed my Keepsakes – Signed away
   What portion of me be
  Assignable – and then it was
   There interposed a Fly –

With Blue – uncertain – stumbling Buzz –
   Between the light – and me –
   And then the Windows failed – and then
   I could not see to see –

Notes:
Note to POL students: The inclusion or omission of the numeral in the title of the poem should not affect the accuracy score. It is optional during recitation.


Source: The Poems of Emily Dickinson Edited by R. W. Franklin (Harvard University Press, 1999)