The Garden

By H. D.

I

You are clear
   O rose, cut in rock,
   hard as the descent of hail.

I could scrape the colour
   from the petals
   like spilt dye from a rock.

If I could break you
   I could break a tree.

If I could stir
   I could break a tree—
   I could break you.

II

O wind, rend open the heat,
   cut apart the heat,
   rend it to tatters.

Fruit cannot drop
   through this thick air—
   fruit cannot fall into heat
   that presses up and blunts
   the points of pears
   and rounds the grapes.

Cut the heat—
   plough through it,
   turning it on either side
   of your path.