

Past And Future

*D*eath and dying: two words in ordinary language
An abstract noun and a present participle
“Death: A permanent cessation of all vital functions.”
“Dying: The cause or occasion of loss of life.”
How concise is the dictionary!
How exact its definitions!

But death for us is a mixture of moods
Tears, salt of self-pity, brine of resentment
Anguish over things that never have been
Bittersweet nostalgia
Remembrance of that gray day
A tear in the cloth, a handful of earth.

And now this moment
When we together cling to courage
We who have the right to mourn
It is the dignity of the soul
To hold on to the past
It is the dignity of the spirit
To take hold of the future.

To love and to forgive
Others and ourselves
To rise from grief
To sew the torn garment
To live, to love, to laugh, and to remember
always to remember.

