

Mario Benedetti, "That Battle"

How to reconcile
the devastating
notion of death
with this invincible
lust for life?

how can our horror
of the void that awaits us
contend with the overpowering joy
of mortal but true
love?

How to defuse gravestones
with furrowed fields?
a scythe
with a carnation?

for all we know man is just that
that battle...

(Translated by Louise B. Popkin)