

TRIMMING THE APPLE TREES IN WINTER

Reiner Kunze

Translated by Lori M. Fisher

With these,
I sever all the branches in me
that want to extend higher

Once more
concentrating on the buds

And on the outer branches

One must be able to climb through with a basket
through the very crown of an apple tree, say
the old gardeners

And overgrown sorrow and overgrown joy
must be able to make their way through
through us