

1970

# Corpse and Beans, or What Is Poetry?

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## THE UNIVERSITY ABANDONED OVERNIGHT

This is the university abandoned overnight.  
A few years ago they all left one night, students,  
Faculty, administration. No-one knows why,  
And it has remained a mystery. People  
Keep away, with rumors of being haunted, et cetera.  
I like to walk here at night,  
The complete echoes between the science plaza,  
The practice-fields, dormitories, classrooms, the millions  
Of books in perfect alphabetical  
Order. Everything is intact and repastful. This  
Could be the night before the night they left.  
I keep walking,  
Maybe I was a student or teacher here but it doesn't matter.  
Memories, even if true, would be out of place here.  
This is the university abandoned overnight,  
A perfected and necessary legend.

## CORPSE AND BEANS, OR WHAT IS POETRY?

I sit at my table and sometimes the question of poetry crosses  
my mind  
For example  
    The man who one night ate a big plate of beans  
Then got tired  
    Of everything and killed himself  
Next day at the burial  
Everyone said, What's that noise?  
Was it poetry?