

## That Which I Do not Want

That which I do not want will be like a source  
 Difficult to drink from. On my knees,  
 But my knees are weak, my neck stiff,  
 Each drop in my throat protests  
 Till I drink with no grudge,  
 No disgust. Just like that, gulp after gulp.  
 That which I do not want will be like a source.  
 To drink from it is not so difficult after all.  
 A grey-brown fish  
 Darts through the depths.  
 My shadow perhaps.

## We Took the Breath

We took someone's breath? For sure  
 And the air is again blue for us  
 Hem of the dawn bus stop  
 At the bus stop packed night already waits  
 With all that was and has left  
 Doesn't matter that someone is so  
 Short of breathing – nearly crying  
 Both day and shade came to claim us  
 It's time for us until the eve  
 May this star grow  
 To guide  
 When our time to depart  
 For it we won't return  
 our gathered breaths

## At Night Trees Bloomed

At night trees bloomed  
 In snow. To the full. Believe me,  
 They won't bring forth any fruit  
 As frost will come or thaw.  
 But for the moment it feels good  
 As in: just right. Neither too late nor early.  
 You waited for ripe cherries  
 Big orchard – the world at night.  
 Hung on the stars  
 Bloom apricot, pear and apple trees,  
 Frosty and strong. Up to the sky arc.

Translated by Elżbieta Wójcik-Leese



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**ERNEST  
BRYLL**

**Born 1935**

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### Selected foreign language translations

Ernest Bryll is one of the most important contemporary poets. His works have been translated in many countries including: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, the UK, Italy, Spain, Russia, Ukraine – in anthologies.

### Selected poetry collections

*Ciągle za mało stary*, 2015  
*Chrabąszcze*, 2009  
*Na ganeczku snu*, 2004  
*Golgota Jasnogórska*, 2001  
*Widziałem jak odchodzą z nas ci ludzie dobrzy*, 1996  
*Adwent*, 1986  
*Gołąb pocztowy*, 1986  
*Sadza, Czytelnik*, 1982  
*Twarz nie odstonięta*, 1963  
*Wigilie wariata*, 1958

Ernest Bryll is also a novelist, playwright, songwriter, journalist, film critic, translator and diplomat.

### Selected awards

Literary Award of the Capital City of Warsaw (2018)  
 Totus Tuus Award (2002) – nomination  
 Franciszek Karpiński Award (1998)