

## Fibrillations

Ana Hatherly  
Selected and translated  
into English by K. D. Jackson

**Translator's note:** One of Portugal's most creative, experimental and inventive artists, poets, and authors, with 50 years of poetry, film, novel, and graphic works, Ana Hatherly composed the short book of meditative poems titled *Fibrilações* (*Fibrillations*) while in the hospital, after her health became very fragile. Philosophical exercises or variations, the poems possess the brevity and simplicity of observed or revealed truths, with the restlessness of a probing and quick spiritual consciousness.

### To Whoever Wishes Me Well

How to jump out of my verses  
and into your arms?  
My poems are  
the inaudible cry of a dream  
(Sappho said so)

To wonder is to weigh  
mountains of foam:

The leap of the tiger  
or the jump of the frog?  
All is but different gesturing

Our task is to understand the world  
so said the ancients  
They well understood  
that we are their game  
(*the toys are us*)

The mirror broke  
the frame remained  
Now we see each other  
furiously

The threat of fear  
hovers over my breast  
Fibrillating insistently  
like sleepless eyelashes

The heart is a full-time  
worker  
it always opens and closes  
the same doors  
No one asks it if it wants to

Amid affliction  
one drowns in the air  
In a sea of unliquid waves  
soundless like burning emeralds

I observe  
a red rose  
in a red vase  
I see  
the absolute red  
of the absolute rose

What unconscious world is that  
where the ending is  
a white forgetfulness?  
Timidly audacious  
we flower into nothing

Travel without any baggage  
Go where you are saved  
and where you die  
nothing substitutes for adventure

Memory is  
where dreams go to sleep  
Waking  
they open windows in time.

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