

**Poem by Avrom Sutzkever**

(Translated from the Yiddish by Benjamin & Barbara Harshav)

**Gather Me In (From *Blind Milton* – 1954-64)**

Gather me in from all the ends of time, from wood and stone,  
Embrace me like letters of a burning prayerbook.

Gather me together — so I can be alone,  
Alone with you, and you — in all my limbs.

Find me in a grave between the other world and here,  
While weighing which of the worlds is better ...

Find me as you avenge half a tear,  
And when you see me cooling a hot knife in snow.

Remember, the cloud is sown through with my bones  
And rains down with my lightning face.

Gather me together — so I can be alone,  
Alone with you, and you — in all my limbs.

**1961**