I Sit, as a Fisherman, With a Tight Line on Memory

I sit, as a fisherman, with a tight line on memory.

The voice of my father

Clearly laughing up and hard within

And almost unable to case.

God what a distance from now.

I remember the room of many padded chairs

And wealthy women

Not giving birth, but only reflecting on its being given.

The beetles do not choose to choose.

Let us seize rare moments of comedy when they come And heartily laught

(1955)

