

selected stanzas from Mengeldicht #17, Pseudo-Hadewijch (late 14th century)

Nuwe mare
In doncker clare
 Vinden si,
Van hoghen prise
Sonder wise
 In verre bi.

*New tidings
in dark clarity
they find —
of great value,
modeless,
in the near distance.*

In dat eweghe wide
In alle side
 Sonder inden
Werdet si ghedeilt,
Ghebreidet, gheheilt
 In een verslinden.

*In that eternal expanse,
on every side,
without end,
they are unfurled,
broadened and healed
by being consumed.*

Die ghedachte
In stilre jachte
 Die dat onghemeten
Al in al
Venden sal
 Al ombegrepen.

*Thought,
in silent hunt,
shall find
this endless
'all in all'
ungraspable.*

Daer dunct hare baren
Sonder verclaren
 Een simpel iet,
Also in vertien;
Doch moet sijs lien
 In een bloet niet.

*There (it seems to her)—
inexplicably—
a 'simple something' is born;
and though fleeting,
it must be affirmed
in an empty void.*

In dat bloete
Staen die groete
 Die vercrighen
In hare in sien,
In sijn ontvlien
 Hare ontbliven.

*In that bareness
stand the great souls
who receive
in their vision—
in its vanishing—
what they lack.*

Bi dies sijn si ga
Ende volghen na
Die dit bekinnen,
Die donckere pade
Buten rade
Altoes van binnen.

*At this they rejoice,
those who confess it,
and they follow after
the dark paths
beyond reason
ever within.*

Daer werdense in
Hare ierste beghin
Met hem so een
Dat en mach ghelike
In eertrike
So sijn van tween.

*There they become,
in their first beginning,
so one with him
that there can be no two
upon the earth
so similar.*

In die naheyt
Der enicheit
Sijn selke pure
Binnen altoes
Bloet beeldeloes
Sonder figure;

*In the closeness
of the union
such pure ones
are inwardly ever
bare, imageless,
without figures,*

Alse ghevrijt
In eweghen tijt
Onghescepen
In stille wijt
Sonder crijt
Onbegrepen.

*As made free
in eternal time,
uncreated,
in a silent breadth,
unbordered,
ungrasped.*

—trans. John Arblaster

[untitled, 1914], Mina Loy (1882-1966)

There is no Life or Death,
Only activity
And in the absolute
Is no declivity.

There is no Love or Lust
Only propensity
Who would possess
Is a nonentity.

There is no First or Last
Only equality
And who would rule
Joins the majority.

There is no Space or Time
Only intensity,
And tame things
Have no immensity.