
O:JA&L 2024 BROADSIDE SERIES

Poetry: All Forms & Styles

WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

A Prose Poem by Mykyta Ryzhykh



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WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

I was looking for words that had not yet been invented. The bustling city did nothing to improve my vocabulary. The sounds of the city are a collection of random and incoherent words. I erased you as gently as possible and forgot the message. After your death, all the old letters and sounds lost their meaning, and nothing new followed. My voice can't do anything. When you died, my vocal cords died along with you. When you were dying of love for me, I was deaf. Today I am speechless. I hope your happiness is alive in laughter and a joyful language somewhere hundreds of kilometers away from my silence.

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About the writer:

MYKYTA RYZHYKH is a Pushcart Prize nominee and a frequently published mainstream poet from Ukraine. Ryzhykh is a winner of the international competition 'Art Against Drugs', a bronze medalist of the festival Chestnut House, and a laureate of the literary competition named after Tyutyunnik.

Image: *Breakers on a Rainy Day* by Arkhip Kuindzhi (1841-1910). Oil on paper mounted on cardboard. 22.8 x 14.3 inches. Between 1890 and 1899. **Public domain.**

