

*The Example*

Exposed, the corpse was blackening like some  
decaying fruit on the great roadside tree.  
It hung the proof of an unjust decree,  
and oscillated like a pendulum.

Its tuft of hair on top like a cock's comb,  
indecent nakedness, and stuck-out tongue  
gave it a clownish look. I stood among  
a group of kids in rags who laughed at him.

And what was left on the green scaffold there,  
the head bowed, mournful, scandalous, and shy,  
discharged its stench into the swirling air,

a censer slowly swung above the road.  
And the sun climbed up through a clear blue sky.  
The fields were straight out of a Latin ode.

*(Translated by Harry Thomas)*