

VIRGILIO PIÑERA

If I Die on the Road (1970)

translated by Martin Zicari, Alex Reynold, and Slow Reading Club

i

If I die on the road lay me no flowers.
If on the road I die lay me no flowers.
On the road lay me no flowers if I die.
Lay me not if I die flowers on the road.
Lay me not on the road flowers if I die.
No flowers on the road if I die lay me.
No flowers on the road lay me if I die.
If I die no flowers on the road lay me.
If flowers I die on the road lay me not.
Flowers if I die not on the road lay me.
If flowers I die lay on me the not road.
Flowers if lay I die me on not the road.
I die if lay flowers the on me on road.
The I die on if lay not me road.
If flowers I die lay on me the not road.
Flowers if lay I die me on not the road.
If I die on the flowers lay me not on the road.
If flowers I die lay me not on the road.
If on the road flowers lay me not if I die.
If on the I die lay me not on the road flowers.

ii

Going in a rust bucket, in a tin heap,
I'm going on the road.
I'm going, getting going on the road
I'm going to a flower garden that is by the road.

I'm going in a rust bucket, in a tin heap,
going to buy flowers for my dead.
But lay me no flowers if I die on the road.

iii

If I die on the road bury me in the garden
that is by the road, but lay no fowers for me.
When one meets their end on the road
One has no flowers laid for them from that or any other garden.

iv

If I die, if I don't die,
If I die because I don't die.
If I don't die because I die.
If I die on the road.
If I don't die but on the road I do die.
If I die because I don't die on the road.
If I don't die because I die on the road.
Lay me no f, lay me no l, lay me no o,
Lay me no w, lay me no e, lay me no r, lay me no s.
Lay me no flo, lay me no wers,
If I die on the r.