



## Setkání ve zdviži

Vstoupili jsme do kabiny a byli tam sami dva.  
Pohlédli jsme na sebe a už jsme nedělali nic jiného.  
Dva životy, okamžik, úplnost, blaženství...  
V pátém patře vystoupila a já, který jel dál,  
jsem pochopil, že už ji nikdy nespatřím,  
že je to setkání jednou pro vždy a už nikdy víc,  
že i kdybych šel za ní, šel bych za ní jako mrtvý,  
a že I kdyby se ona vrátila ke mně,  
vrátila by se už leda z onoho světa.

**Vladimír Holan**

© Vladimír Holan heirs  
c/o AURA-PONT Prague

## Meeting in a Lift

We stepped into the lift. The two of us, alone.  
We looked at each other and that was all.  
Two lives, a moment, fullness, bliss.  
At the fifth floor she got out and I went on up  
knowing I would never see her again,  
that it was a meeting once and for all,  
that if I followed her I would be like  
a dead man in her tracks  
and that if she came after me  
it would only be from the other world.

*translated from the Czech by Ian and Jarmila Milner*

*Selected Poems, Penguin Books, 1971. Reprinted by permission.*

*Celebrating the 2004 EU enlargement : poems from each of the 10 new member states - Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.*

**Poems for...one world**

<https://poemsforthewall.org>



Foreign &  
Commonwealth Office  
London

