



LITERATURE AND ART ACTIVITY



Go and open the door.
Maybe outside there's
A tree, or a wood,
a garden,
or a magic city.

Go and open the door.
Maybe a dog's rummaging.
Maybe you'll see a face,
or an eye,
or the picture
of a picture.

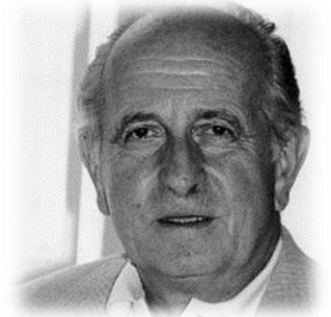
Go and open the door.
If there's a fog
It will clear.

Go and open the door.
Even if there's only
The darkness ticking,
even if there's only
the hollow wind,
even if nothing is there,
go and open the door.
At least there will be a draught.

Miroslav Holub

Miroslav Holub (13 September 1923 – 14 July 1998) was a Czech poet and immunologist.

Holub's work was heavily influenced by his experiences as an Immunologist, writing many poems using his scientific knowledge to



poetic effect. His work is almost always unrhymed, so lends itself easily to translation. It has been translated into more than 30 languages and is especially popular in the English-speaking world. Although one of the most internationally well-known Czech poets, his reputation continues to languish at home.

In English, he was first published in the *Observer* in 1962, and five years later a *Selected Poems* appeared in the Penguin Modern European Poets imprint.

In addition to poetry, Holub wrote many short essays on various aspects of science, particularly biology and medicine (specifically immunology) and life. A collection of these, titled *The Dimension of the Present Moment*, is still in print. In the 1960s, he published two books of what he called 'semi-reportage' about extended visits to the United States.