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**Poem Summaries**

# ABOUT THE POEM SUMMARIES

The initial push came from Francisco Bitar, who wrote his for social media and then published a booklet. Alejandro found and translated it and that is how we got going. Bitar's brevity came from microblogging; our taste for combining brevity and wit has been long in the making. We kept Bitar's intuition of brevity and humor, and the sense that the summaries should not make fun of the poem. We worked over the phone. We made a few and then kept going, learning things along the way (it gets easier if you do several by the same poet; some poets seem impossible to summarize). There was a balance of conversations about the poems and laughter as a clue to success. We developed certain aesthetic guide-words, such as "cheeky," to describe the style of a successful summary.

Above all, we hope these summaries bring you the same laughter, and guide you back to the originals.

Alejandro

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Joshua

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*I could...*

*take some line of Keats  
and paraphrase it in burocratese:*

*very funny.*

— Dick Higgins

**[ mufa :: poema ]**

***hors série***