

## **Mark Insingel**

Original titles and publishers

Het doel is wit (Poëziecentrum)

**Translation** Dutchinto English **Translator** Willem Groenewegen

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with heads held high

with heads held high and in straight lines

with heads held high and in straight lines and with banners waving

with heads held high and in straight lines and with banners waving and at a

steady pace

with heads held high and in straight lines and with banners waving and at a

steady pace and with songs resounding

with heads held high and in straight lines and with banners waving and at a

steady pace and with songs resounding and in bright uniforms

with heads held high and in closed ranks and with banners waving and at a steady

pace and with songs resounding and in bright uniforms

with heads held high and in closed ranks and following the flag at a steady pace

and with songs resounding and in bright uniforms

with heads held high and in closed ranks and following the flag and in march

time and with songs resounding and in bright uniforms

with heads held high and in closed ranks and following the flag and in march

time and with songs thundering and in bright uniforms

with heads held high and in closed ranks and following the flag and in march

time and with songs thundering and in battle dress

with grinning faces and in closed ranks and following the flag and in march time

and with songs thundering and in battle dress

with grinning faces and like a gang and following the flag and in march time and

with songs thundering and in battle dress

with grinning faces and like a gang and pursuing the people and in march time

and with songs thundering and in battle dress

with grinning faces and like a gang and pursuing the people and on the double

and with songs thundering and in battle dress
with grinning faces and like a gang and pursuing the people and on the double
and roaring and shouting and in battle dress
with grinning faces and like a gang and pursuing the people and on the double
and roaring and shouting and spattered with blood

Although I'd long since stopped expecting her

she suddenly stood there before me.

(All that time she had still been what I desired.)

She smiled, as if she knew

I wouldn't turn her down.

(All that time she'd been what I desired.)

I took her in my arms and

held her very tightly.

(For so long she was what I desired.)

Then she broke free, just laughed

at me – I failed to understand.

(As all that time she'd been what I desired.)

On my way here I thought, she said:

he'll surely mistake my intentions

- all this time I've been what he desired!

If I kill time I'll take my life before the mirror.

If I can be caught I will be guilty. If I invoke mistrust I will need alibis.

If I must search
I'll be in doubt. If I'm
obliged to know
I'll have posed questions.

If I've given up
I can no longer play along.
If I'm undressed
I will have washed.

If I stop fighting
I will draw the line.

If I draw the line
I will stop fighting.

If I have washed
I'll be undressed.
If I no longer play
along, I'll pack it in.

If I've posed questions
I will be obliged
to know. If I'm in doubt
I'll have to search.

If I need alibis
I will invoke mistrust.
If I am guilty
I'll be caught.

If I take my life before the mirror I'll kill time.

Beauty is never thereabouts.

It is therefore painful.

Beauty is precise.

It is therefore difficult.

Beauty is never likewise.

It is therefore unique.

Beauty is right.

It is therefore true.

## To the Dutch language

I exist in the way
in which I love you.
You form my lips, you
exist in the way
in which I'm understood.
I want to hear you and I
speak, I want to see you and
I draw you, body of
signs, in meaning
I have intercourse with
you, in intercourse with

What I find such a shame is what remains:
I find it such a shame.

That I find nothing else but: what remains is what I can no longer find.

That I find nothing of what remains but what I find a shame.

That what remains is such a shame that I can't find it anywhere.

That I just find and everywhere that what remains is nothing.

Once there was everything, once everything was good, once the good was everything.

Darling, now there's nothing, please hear me, everything is good apart from nothing. 'If I were not afraid

I would have the courage.

If I had the courage

I would succeed.

If I were to succeed

I would be able to.

If I were able to

I would want it.

If I were to want it

I would be able to.

If I were able to

I would succeed.

If I were to succeed

I would have the courage.

If I had the courage

then I wouldn't be afraid.'

Does she want to be in the right or him to be in the wrong?

Does she to be in the right want him to be in the wrong?

Does she want to be in the right to be able to say he's in the wrong?

Does she want him to be wrong as punishment for not letting her be in the right?

Does she need to be in the right to erase her feeling of being wronged?

Does she feel wronged because he wants to be in the right?

Is his being in the right her being in the wrong?

They defend what they have.

What do they have?

They have what they think they have.

What do they think they have?

They think they have what they defend.

What do they defend?

They defend what they think they have.

What do they think?

They think they defend.

What do they think that they defend?

They think they defend what they have.

What do they have that they defend?

the father is first, the son is further
the father is son first
further the son is father
the father and the son are son and father
first the father is further
the son is further first
first is further
first the father is first

She was so nice in his confusion.

He was so slender in her tenderness.

They were so exciting in each other's arms.

He was so slender in his tenderness.
She was so nice in her confusion.

They were so exciting in each other's arms. He was so nice in his confusion.

She was so slender in her tenderness.

They were so exciting in each other's arms.

She was so slender in his tenderness.
He was so nice in her confusion.