

# THE SPOON RIVER Poetry Review

*Yi Yon-ju*  
*Trans. Don Mee Choi*

La La La, There Is No Way of Knowing

Why does the helicopter shake the window?  
Why are you pulling down the blind  
and reading such an anti-play as the *Ohio Impromptu*\*?  
And why have you raised the flag?  
Ah, and why go inside the flag?

Buildings and houses on top  
flutter inside the flag,  
making the clicking sound of a fan  
inside a flammable hour.

Chan-u, Yong-ja, Mi-kyong, Ch'ung-nyol\*\*  
are all solving a strange math equation.

Existence, are you playing cute because you've been taken hostage?  
Cocaine, so called art, voraciously sucks up black milk  
and has been contemptuous to 270 tiny bones, but why  
has the helicopter come again today, hovering by the window, and...?

\* *Ohio Impromptu* is a play by Samuel Beckett, written in the early 1980s.

\*\* *Chan-u, Yŏng-ja, Mi-kyŏng, Ch'ung-nyŏl* are proper names.