

LAMENT IN IRON

—A *CENTO*

In the language of iron
the shovel is brother to the gun.
He loaded a shovel, and tried to shoot.

Each day I think more & more about the past,
what the iron has done to my brothers,
the hammer, the powder, the discharge, the bullet:
they are scattered about the world in jagged pieces.



Cento: a literary work made up of quotations from other works. In this case, lines taken from (in order): Elfriede Jelinek, Carl Sandburg, Mary Mapes Dodge, Gina Myers, Mahmoud Darwish (tr. Fady Joudah), Tony Barnstone, Ron Padgett