

STAN PERSKY / Sonnet about Orpheus (Friend)

after Jacques Derrida,
The Work of Mourning

The law of friendship is
one of us must die

before the other
Mourning begins

before death
We imagine a world

without the friend
Speaking is impossible

but so too would be silence or a refusal
to open one's heart

so the sorrow is shared
In the reader's grief

the work of mourning
keeps the dead who never die

in us alive within ourselves the world
the poem at a loss for words