

## NIGHT, FOR HENRY DUMAS

Henry Dumas, 1934-1968  
did not die by a spaceship  
or flying saucer or outer space at all,  
but was shot down, at 33,  
by a New York City Transit policeman,  
will be shot down, May 23rd,  
coming home, in just 6 days,  
by a New York City Transit policeman  
in the subway station singing & thinking of a poem,  
at Lenox & 125<sup>th</sup> in Harlem, Tennessee,  
Memphis, New York, Watts, Queens,  
1157 Wheeler Avenue, San Quentin above which  
sky swings down a giant rope, says  
Climb me into heaven, or follow me home,  
& Henry  
& Amadou  
& Malcolm  
& Oscar  
& Sean  
& King,  
& the night hangs over the men & their faces,  
& the night grows thick above the streets,  
I swear it is more blue, more black, tonight  
with the men going up there.  
Bring the children out  
to see who their uncles are.