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The trick is getting over the expectation that you should be rewarded for a lifetime of work. A comment of admiration, a few newspaper articles, a few roomfuls of people gathered expressly to honor that work. How much of your efforts does that add up to? Nothing to speak of or mention. Rather you should get past that. What you want is nothing people can plan for. No articles, no acceptance, no gatherings—you have stopped bringing your writing to poetry readings. Rather what you want is so much of yourself gathering unnoticed that when it does strike out of the blue it is like lightning, that it carries that much shock, jolt, that people will not have time even to appreciate it. Rather they will be prostrate by it. What you want is work that they don’t have the time to read. But not from its being boring, or uninteresting, or their not having the time, but rather because the work itself, the build-up of energy, of electricity, didn’t give them the time. That even though they were finally willing to pick it up, they were more quickly struck down.