



X. J. Kennedy

(1929-)

Emily Dickinson Leaves a Message to the World, Now That
Her Homestead in Amherst Has an Answering Machine (1992)

Because I could not stop for Breath
Past Altitudes -- of Earth --
Upon a reel of Tape I leave
Directions to my Hearth --
For All who will not let me lie
Unruffled in escape --
Speak quickly -- or I'll intercept
Your Message with -- a Beep.
Though often I had dialed and rung
The Bastion of the Bee --
The Answer I had hungered for
Was seldom Home -- to me --