

PARODY



Kenneth Koch

(1925-2002)

Variations on a Theme by William Carlos Williams (2005)

I chopped down the house that you had been  
saving to live in next summer.  
I am sorry, but it was morning, and I had nothing to do  
And its wooden beams were so inviting.

We laughed at the hollyhocks together  
and then sprayed them with lye.  
Forgive me, I simply do not know what I am doing.

I gave away the money that you had been saving  
to live on for the next ten years.  
The man who asked me for it was shabby  
And the firm March wind on the porch was so juicy and cold.

Last evening we went dancing and I broke your leg.  
Forgive me. I was clumsy, and  
I wanted you here in the wards, where I am a doctor.