justice

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In youth God-like.
Indestructible, yet not unyielding
Justice but with mercy
Productive, healthy, happy
Yes God-like
Youth, youth, youth. Why does it pass?
Time, time, time. Why does it not stand still?
Happy days, so few, so short, so futile.
So- So- So- So-.
In death Man-like
Destructibility and yielding
In death Justice???
Death, decay, debris, deceptive,
Debt, debt, debt
Was it her debt? Justice, Justice . . . . ?

In death Man-like
Eyes sightless
Lips speechless,
Breath rattling, rasping, raking, rallying
Rattling, rattling, rattling, rattling . . . . Death.
In death, tears, sorrows, memories! memories!
Memories!
In death — life!!!
Rebirth, life, happiness, indestructibility,
JUSTICE.

D. A. MERKEL '57