

## Keeping Quiet

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.  
For once on the face of the earth,  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for a second,  
and not move our arms so much.  
It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines;  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.  
If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves  
with death.  
Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead in winter  
and later proves to be alive.  
Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

— Pablo Neruda