

Suicide Notes with Smiley Faces

Up off our knees, tears wiped away,
uplifting melodies, hope if not faith,
defiance or at least a stoic or heroic stance

fools enough to think our coming together,
knowing one another without compunction,
would consummate in a unique human being

that all the compassion in the world could do more
than witness these deaths, consoling one another
with gestures confirming our mutual helplessness

that dexterity with words could bring us
to safe harbor through a sinister passion
of vowels and consonantal obscenities.