

“Counting Small-boned Bodies”

Robert Bly, who was born in Minnesota in 1926, is an American writer and activist. He is probably best known for his poetry, which is often written in a plain, imagistic style. He is also well-known for his work with the Mythopoetic Men’s Movement, a men’s self-help movement he helped found in the early 1990s.

Many of Bly’s poems explore themes of the beauty of nature, simplicity, and the complexity of the human experience. They also reflect his interest in contemporary masculinity and the unique challenges modern American men face. Let us take a look at one of his poems, “Counting Small-boned Bodies”:

“Counting Small-boned Bodies”

Let’s count the bodies over again.

If we could only make the bodies smaller

The size of skulls

We could make a whole plain white with skulls in the moonlight!

If we could only make the bodies smaller

Maybe we could get

A whole year’s kill in front of us on a desk!

If we could only make the bodies smaller

We could fit

A body into a finger-ring for a keepsake forever.