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## One Time translated by Vinio Rossi and Stuart Friebert

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ONE TIME

Of people become rich only  
on silkworms and reeling-mills, I believe  
there are no longer any: but once upon a time  
in the Comasco or at Bergamo, where  
my people come from,  
many fortunes were counted in mulberries,  
or how many girls would come to reel  
the cocoons scorched to kill the moths  
in the cold shops. If I think  
who the rich are now, what  
capital costs them, of the effort  
they've made to arrive, believing  
they're way up high on the ladder,  
I'm convinced everything's complicated, even evil.  
The faults of the owners  
were so simple once: whoever exploits  
his neighbor and pays him too little  
can do no worse. But now, who will it be  
who's at fault? Who wants too much,  
who profits from the poor?  
Perhaps each thing must, precisely taken,  
be done over and over again,  
injustice is in the air, the boss  
today, the board of directors  
or the stock brokers are all sinners  
and it bit too *sui generis* for me.

*translated by  
Vino Rossi and Stuart Friebert*