

Le Chat et L'oiseau  
(Jacques Prevert)

### **The Cat and the Bird**

The village did hear in distress  
the song of a nice bird in stress,  
wounded by a yellow cat,  
and the people saw all that  
when half-eaten was the bird  
and her voice was no more heard.

A funeral was organized  
although the bird was just half-sized,  
the yellow cat was also there  
with its careful combed hair  
and full of great regret  
to a little girl it said:  
“O, dear, do not cry,  
if only could have known I?  
I would have eaten it at once  
and would have given you no chance  
to think that it in fact was dead  
and not at liberty instead.  
In order not to see you sad,  
I would have told you simply that  
I saw the bird to fly above  
to join soon its flying staff.

I see a rule as bright as sun:  
A job must never be half-done!”

(Translated from French by S.K.Robev)