

## Upheaval: Hanover, NH January 31, 2001

on Friday  
in India  
the earth moved  
unexpectedly  
and shook down houses like matchsticks  
whole towns of 35,000 were leveled  
as many as 15,000 may have disappeared in the rubble  
--It is not a region  
one newscaster intoned  
--unfamiliar with disasters  
but such numbers defy belief  
rescue crews put the survival limit at 100 hours  
yet five days later people are  
delivered from the debris  
a woman is unearthed, her  
seven month old baby in her lap  
swaddled in blood  
still breathing

on Saturday  
in our narrow valley  
of students and scholars  
a region unfamiliar with such disasters  
our world unhinged  
as surely as the shifting of tectonic plates  
a sudden blow  
took your lives  
Susanne and Half

for weeks we huddled together in shock  
but rather than taking comfort  
we relive  
your last moments  
trying to imagine what we can not  
know about violent senseless murder  
over and over  
in desperation  
we try to bear with you  
as if our bearing your death  
could bear it away  
nothing could prepare us for this  
we are not ready to let you go