

II/2, XII/71, XX/119 *from correspondence with nobody*

by Anne Blonstein

Note: “Notarikon... interpretation of the letters of a word as abbreviations of whole sentences.” OED citing Gershom Scholem in *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*.

Paul Celan’s translations of twenty-one sonnets by Shakespeare (together with English originals) can be found in the single-volume William Shakespeare, *Einundzwanzig Sonette*, Deutsch von Paul Celan (Insel-Bücherei Nr. 898. Frankfurt am Main, Insel, 2001) and in Celan’s *Gesammelte Werke*, volume 5, pp. 316–357 (Frankfurt am Main, Suhrkamp, 2000).

II/2

When forty winters shall besiege thy brow

work enumerating no nostalgia. voyage into etiolated regions zigzagged
in grumpiness. where ice nematodes tunnel elegiac resistance. decorate emptiness
in necrotic embroideries. soil tropes in reading niches. undigested matter
decomposing releasing and enriching normative grammar exported noiselessly (as I grew
To learn my woman-mind had gone astray). disruptive exotic roles.
some cluster here or emancipate not here entertaining immigrant thoughts.
flight leaves uninhabited roofs. voices outside lightlessly lucid. flippant urgent
reasoning cajoling harringly emphatic neighbours. seem to ears here troubled
(Nie tönen groß in milderer Abendblau). vow entered right here
every evening reflecting that (she gradually divested herself of irrelevant
concerns). uncomfortable nurtured designs. decorating emptiness in not-embroidered
remarks. joy underplayed gamely exuberant never delicate. karyotypic laceworks
edged in distress (this protection may even be their most
important function). distally running against nasturtiums. speedwell or violets
in elementary landscapes. and unavoidably gorsed english norms. how an education
nearly ghosted european nettles (under their maternity dresses sprinkled with
double-headed blossoms dissolving eyes swim through the hanging gravewombs).

invitation solitude tiredness. poems letters upkeeping notebooks diskettes emails
rejections (Great work obviously). keep remembering agreeable morsels (Erasmus's
Folly is a woman who laughs at all the sciences). uncomfortable
not diminished. knowing earned in no ecological negations. green rain
or scarlet corn have emotional naturalism. whether experts report tomorrow
(A system is ecological when it consumes its own waste products).

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withdrawn into rain-softened thought (to be quiet and alone
in one's room). dark adapting. sampling intense emotions. dispersing
identity crystals hurt. needle a chaotic heart. induce however rhythms
(no knowing what may happen to her and her coherency).
doing education retroflexibly. self control here or evidently not here
exercising inherited thighs (ich kann nicht sehr gut Englisch).
feet researching asphalt grey exclose nostalgia (Who is to circumscribe
the geography in which thinking may take place?) now
a contemplative hunger. acutely lost learning. disturb easy reception.
tracing a graminaceous event. unspindled names duplicate. disturbing easy repetition.
soul crystals hurtle across equations touch zero's epidermis. or-receptive theory
(a complex of constantly developing patterns). distant unlonging. dispersed
into emergent spaces (: the importance of not being present).

because exile interposed me. even if never gulping exile
since your now knew new exile's nausea. and you gainwrote
escape. speaking augments gaps eyes neglect (Officially there is no war)?

second opacity. story-pinched represents an emptied childhood hurts
empirically. slowly concealments hatch and mark (La recherche de l'équilibre
est mauvaise parce qu'elle est imaginaire). explore imagination's naughts.
uller nayshon wemean owq ricc tauc. would actuate emaciated readings.
dispersed in existential spaces. where other rehydrates thought.

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educe intronic narratives. write open reading trails. schemes pass recognition across

each condition has situated this. dangerously unfinished (world so large
that it can be rightly described in all these different ways
and many more). digesting excessive ribosities. squamous certainties here
or epithelium not here expressing idiotypic transformations. and now grows
elaborating messages each sequenced so each nonidentical (und ob nicht
jeder Dichter für die Lektüre seines Werkes ein eignes Wörterbuch erfordere).
if not durable extremely meanwhile. dated underflows. schemed pasts reorganized
at each cognition has suffered this (opportunity

for happiness: earth
we cannot possess
only experience).

menstruating expressions i need. interval shedding tense somaphors (Dabei ist
insbesondere die heute bereits bestehende Bevölkerungszahl der industrialisierten Staaten
aufgrund ihres enormen Ressourcenverbrauchs und ihrer Umweltbelastung das weit
grössere Problem als die Bevölkerungsexplosion in den Entwicklungsländern).
discharged into experimental stains. serous chemistry here oozes elegance not
especially. kindnesses i'll never descend (I am so sorry
I have not replied to your delightful cards and rather inscrutable
poems).

emergencing sounds. sending elements to zip together. monisms i corporate
habitually. forms of radiant timidity (gar Strahlungen aus dem Körperinnern
durch Nahrungsstoffe können Mutationen verursachen). if caught here. bodying it
now (die mehrere Kilo schwere Bombe auf seinem Körper). blown
into noise. your nourishment violence exceeding reason gaps experience shivers
sentences endlessly nongoing.

sore eyes have taxonomized (Die innere Wunde schmerzte noch immer).
what i entales. death integrating exclusions. splits cast here or
else not hinges earlier imaginable traditions. my irreparable transitioning.
irrepressibly housekeepingly mine. never embraced you. but every gene
implies nonpredictable nucleotidal tenderness.

sephardic options. would an elizabethan rhyme shake them.
doing undoing (To see, to hear, to touch, to kiss,
to die). a lute tune gay ear worm ominous refrain discanting
ere nivality (La vérité est du coté de la mort).
night-inhibiting masked memories emerge retinally. a luminescent tune
(dark whites in storm).

without easy reading. swiss austrian german tracings (weiß ich nur
Dunkles zu sagen). dreaming eurydices into neoworlds. before lost unities
thicken. versions encountering resistance embed behind bothered eyes. (Can two
walk together
Without having met?) no eurydices in nightdresses (weißflockig schäumende
See um isabellfarbne Inseln). easy silence. when awaking leave less than.

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XII/71

No longer mourn for me when I am dead

deceased untology. source of labile lines shifting theogenies (j'adhère à toi). bound in nighthairs. if continued here. highlighting it now with excluded genres (turning 'tears into ideas'). soluble orations. lining a nowhere grave. nominating unfinished remains. katabatic languages and grave-eyed nightingales (women historically played the role not only of physically lamenting the dead but of expressing and even acting on views that from Homer on challenged public ideology about death and glory). a liminal spindle. dyed unusualls. drowning in emancipation. grief living off contextual knowledge enables. here offering elsewhere rougher silk threnodies (à ce point du jour
 (ce qui fait fissure
 roses
 épitaphes) drowning in examples. dust uses epigrammatic sunlight to endearingly refract exceptions (Under a mass of snow
 a violet is patiently waiting). vase of metonymies. to unrelated readers maybe (Here you are
 pouring a drop of the oil of your remains
 into the jar of time).

smouldering orations. lining a northern grave eidetically (Die vier Wände aus Rauch). assembling lilac sermons. skilled in excerpts. by revenging a usually cold-hipped taboo (pourquoi cet incessant besoin de parler de la mort). different environmental rhetoric. where exphatic lips tremble. zoned uncomfortably. shadows addressing gender's edge nip (: your hands hung on smoky trees).

decorums exorbitantly rent. beyond encountered intimately. drawn in raphically. where other hurt noises this experiment (Strangers lay down across the threshold of homes). geographies in neverending griefs. unwilling neural defeat. where other histories noise through. beyond encounters in myth. writing unreliable readers maybe.

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delicately inscribes eye space. silent communication hand remittently employed
in breaking expressions. in connective habits (today's saint
has left her tawdry shrine of identity to enter
the cry of writing). desire or connating hearts. died und
(il y a une connivence entre l'allemand et l'arabe
deux langues étranges et rocailleuses). her assertion stumbles there. died und —
survived. granted each loving eye shelters eruptive names (l'ortie noire
feuilletant ses pages et ses pages). verging eyes recognize growths
interrupting sacred song (Pulled between a world that created me
and a vaporous world I wish to create) where evolutionists
rerite shadows. shrieking cultured hands respectful in expressive breaking
(boundary of white).

dated exactly nearly november. sentences infiltrate earlier horrors (Einer Brandkatastrophe
im Gotthard-Strassentunnel sind möglicherweise bis zu 20 Menschen
zum Opfer gefallen). in connective hebdomains. lustrated identities embody beyond
extent. died in cold havoc (To listen to your agony
here and now : that agony —)

in connective heretotheres. word order like linked tears (And like
the woman in a Hungarian
prison who gave her cell mate
a rose made out of toilet paper
for her birthday). in connective historicals. what absence experiments reaping
elusive. nurturing ismenean ethics. institutionally neglected. duty established in negotiating
evolving meanings. situations inherently never normalizable. granted each wild eye
seeks encrypted names (Philosophy (especially Plato) later shut out mourning
from an important ethical role altogether). while eating nightscented nuts
(Near the mulberry trees and hostility). dusty apples. destiny unsaturated. modern
especially in nature. greek epic delivers endless niobes keening salted textures
(women break off lamenting at sunset and spend the hours
of darkness telling wonder tales). disappear into candled hearts. grandly returning
among myselfes. bringing enagismatic strawberries celery horns lyres irises carnations honey.

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defences unwinding. like antigone selfing sand (Monde je suis
mêlée a toi). raking unburied histories throughout. except increasingly
no synchronies touch. difficulty enabling individual narratives. blurring lines
in contemporary kinships. an unstable funeral. delicate if european sentences
epitaphing now. while one raindrop threatens every noun (Un monde où
nous nous éveillons autres en nous-mêmes). dissolves even rubied words
engaged in language. irreconcilables celebrate here. so that an unrecorded
beauty. breach into name (I fly silently like the owl
of amazement). so that an unrecorded beauty. breaking into nonsense.
ululations nettlesong drones. not in control hives this. mourning expert
hairtearing reputations (newly composed laments seem to have lost their
angry edge and become calmly fatalistic). drowning in epitaphs.
like imhotep's empty buildings epitomize. weary eyes retreat down
earthly naves ((In parks the month of autumn catches
the rose's
suicide.)). weary and situated. autochthonous under curly highbrows. insofar
celebrated here. greenish eyes wide open retreat down extracted niches
(If only God were a rose that withers every evening
so that we change it). unpast nascent dated. memory engaged
inserting not exactly not. no amazon mastectomies exposed now
(he will not stick to the word he hears
but to the sign he remembers and with it
to the sights to which the sign clearly points). sign
announcing gravity. immunizing hellenic nostalgias. not in culturally heroic terms.
mourning emotionally hairraising rituals. hannah ectopically raised (: the unquestioned
priority of vision for mental activities).

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drowned in europe. where exiled lips translate (La poussière de mes
baisers frémit-elle encore sur ton corps ?) knowledge lingers under gaps
as eyes understand greedily into gradually (because I smell
of honey and sea). seasalt urticates cassandra's hot tongue.

she composing her own nethersong. dialogic electricity in negative
eyedeals. terse reproaches and entreaties nurse ethical novelty (if only God
were a violet

opening wide in a glass of water near the bed).

mourning in contemporary hubris (the line acknowledges quotation
as a central means of taking possession of words and overcoming
silence). discourse absorbing. individualizing contemporary hauntings. fragments of
refrained traditions. born into nomination (The mouth that gave me
your voice). meaning into tensions. dialogues imagined refrayed. zalandyne uvulae.
vital experiments retesting history or else hesitatory now even now.

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What potions have I drunk of Siren tears

alias lucy schwob

a lens liberation. death in emulsion. scene in refracted
 eyes narrow the right arm embraces nothing except nasturtiums
 (On m'a raconté qu'en suçant sept prunelles bien vertes
 une fille devenait garçon). death in epaulettes. in cahoots here.
 tonsured rebels arranging needlecorded koans (Je suis vierge et farouche).
 an untrued suit. katabolism of looking before eye narcissim. hyssoped or
 employed lines lead in shattering convex hope-frames and unpolished like-
 interfering glasses. darkness echoes — symbiotically trapped imagoes laminate lustre
 in ether-remoted tubes (ô voix savante du Poète!)

death in emeralds. burnished amber nots-&-guilts necklaced into serious
 (La joie d'une foule a mille bouches — et pas d'oreilles).
 hearts operculate foolscap faces — no untrained nympholepsy going (Et puis
 nous cherchons toujours mais nous ne voyons pas). unlimbering nylon dumbelletristics.
 death in emufeathers. hearts on fractionated faces — novel unless nationally
 glamourized (Die Familiennamen als Träger sozialer Identität — die französischen Juden
 mußten ab 1808 einen Familiennamen annehmen — wird so Spiegel
 einer noch nicht vollständig erfolgten Assimilation an die französischen Kultur).
 beautiful as nudes-&-gooks.

diamond-eyed riders. zarathusa's undines. girls embellished with innocently nickled
 nipples export notoriously. moth eyes invert night's tawning embrace

(Ouvre les portes de la nuit

Tu trouveras mon cœur pendu

Dans l'armoire odorante de l'amour

Pendu parmi les robes roses de l'aurore

Mangé par les mites). eye riders. vintage episode recalling

louche impresarios exploring reflectable themes.

holes and tourniquets. jewish encreameries. masking enthalpy in negligence.
hermit echocardiograms respond zoomingly. shear into chequered haemopoetics. slant
earnestness loose in greyhound-eyed repolarizations. geisha-eyed dreams
answering crosswords harder than (. . . toujours? . . .)

unsired nautical discipline. freakly restoring eve's velour-eyed lonely tensions.
needing ugly rights (Il est des jours où j'imagine
que Pallas toute armée sortira de ma tête). unsaid
nubile demotions. irises reignite rather tinselly engines. or her narcotic
etymologies. endlessly novitiate deserters.

making entropy in negligées. and unversioned gestures (Je n'en finirai pas
de soulever tous ces visages). androgenously unhampered silhouettes. shoulders exposed in
noh elastic repose. bald as heliolatrous nuns. what a request doubles.
eye sacraments. view each recursively begin reassembling a compulsively heavenly
trip (L'idée engendre l'être — et l'amour précède les organes qui
plus tard le rendront manifeste). done inverting engorged signs.
fun inserting emersonian ballads end remembering (je cultive les roses
à cause des épines). welches and hungerstriking nuns harlequin
a french tanagram (je fais l'élevage des ronces et
des culs de bouteilles). displacing absolution starfishing. devilletting artemissing.
born — release entrances now not temperatures. uni nummu diana.
torn — release eyes now not temples («quel dommage qu'elle soit
trotskyste!»)

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gondola eyes with irises nixie-nanshie. distaffed embryos sanctified.
uteri emblazon balconies explode lily smiles (je me croyais parfaitement conformiste
en voyant la démocratie à mon image!)

black epidermal shadows stain rivers excavating sanctuaries. wind impersonates ruder desires
(the surrealists believe that you can get on good terms with
chance by adopting a lyrical mode of behavior and an open
attitude). ice-cold heartbathing. mulberried evenings resiteing kabbala (Vivre

(ecrire) est pour moi cette impossible acrobatie de la poésie
à l'historicité). dress up revoke cupid's headache. utopias embellish beaches expostulate
litter. black enamelled shadows strike emprisoned rumours. nightscars of conquered
homes (parce que la poésie sera faite homme). a lucid suspension.
eye scratches. jersied ellegitimations. war and resistance.

violet eyes retire for a lotic land no elevenses. lying in
elderberries breathing extent (two well-heeled middle-aged French ladies). grape-
eyed heroics. how impudence endures returns. now entreats us. and now
survives. widdershinned elegantly reefered kooks (tried to incite mutiny on Jersey
by typing little notes which poured scorn on Hitler
and the German war effort). unrelenting nike dreams. surprise-
intoxicated eyes. evening rituals synchronize the eroded heart trembles.
dusted in rehearsal (Vers mon Verbe de révolte). sand temples and
effervescent roads keep enterprise radical (vers le désordre défensif
de mon esprit). who unless nature's double emerges
ringed by a reason.

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gravely ephemeral the arm deposits electric light traces. kelp-enlaced hands
respond. into combat honesty. hats exiled in me. water organizes
how edges ripple. in coruscated holding. kicking at malaise
(Une pomme tombe dans l'orchestre). undoing nodoing daily. unknown ends
beautifully ending like. so careful heavy eyes need khaki titles.
marigolded in reserve. december roses explanted in fragile affections
convert how (Ma sœur chérie

Je t'en prie
C'est moi
C'est sœur Anne
J'ai peur
Tu n'es pas morte dis
Petite sœur
Ma chérie
Ouvre les yeux remue
Je t'en supplie

Oui c'est bien respire
Respire encore
C'est moi
C'est sœur Anne). what a sight. eye

splits. nebulate a heaven mutating.

19–22.xii.2001/13.xii.2003

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