

Draft 91: Proverbs

To pass a successful night in the forest, don't sleep in the clothes you cooked in.

We are living in the incalculable. Passport may not work.

A lump in the throat is never food.

Sometimes there's a loss of a sense of the verb.

How even is with odd.

A book: transparent pages, opaque letters, and errata.

Worship is a sinking ship.

Always calculate the cost of whiteness.

When flooded with shame, endure.

The one who broke the hinges should pay a double fine.

Zim-zum, strum, strum, zero sum, wikipedia.

How many times can books talk about books? How many stars are in the starry sky?

The torn are always laden with further burdens.

Birds of a schnozzle flock to the nozzle.

Shake it upside down; you will see capital falling from the Capitol.

Make the book an imitation mountain, but with real hard strata. Data.

Work is struggle in time with plenitude's scarcity.

Departing can be arriving.

This entanglement reveals ever more attractive labyrinths.

The beyond is in two places: here and there.

Whenever there is critique, there is a third grammar.

To read well, you must open the whole stained cloth.

The Spider poisons for only an hour; the Justice Department saturates.

Clean the lanterns once every year.

We need a last person singular.

To write is to choose.

Think of yourself before you obey.

What is redeemed is but a token of a token.

Modernity is the word “shame” in thirty languages.

Though always on time, you must run for the train in your dreams.

One can never stabilize the line of signs.

Better to have agon and discovery than the guidance of beneficent spirits.

Better still to have gloss.

When π is solved for, perhaps there will also be justice.

If legible, find the illegible in it.

The Global Leader in Portable Blank Media could be You.

When people burn schools, cry out.

Let the mite live. Let the girl become literate.

Economic bulimia equals social anorexia. But who is gathering up the vomit?

Even picking every 7th word is not random.

Take this question as your conceptual muddle.

Bends should be tied only in two ropes of the same size, stiffness, and smoothness.

On the other hand, not everything is rope.

Deep back in the cobble of languages, knot and knife are linked.

Thinking is a problem in knowledge.

Never believe the word “disinterested.”

Even the magisterial had helpers and companions.

Not hero, not polis, not story, but it.

If you are on crutches, people talk louder to you, and more slowly.

Wild horses wouldn't melt in my mouth.

In the event, perhaps polis, but gendered differently.

Language wants language.

Write only hungry sentences.

Do not always finish the same book.

Look down. Look down, your teeming site.

Can complexity be fathomed without personification?

Even the air you cannot breathe is your only air.

To redeem the pledge, give the thirsty animal a drink.

When the government rules it can read your laptop, take up cryptography and resistance.

If Duchamp is turned on his head, he is a unicycle.

“I give to you a paper of pins.” This is it.

There are red and yellow and blue. Then there is the unidentifiable “sad.”

Don't bottle honey in long-necked jars unless you own a very long spoon.

If rhyme is the motor, what is the machine?

“The implications of this gesture were enormous”: never to use the word “gesture.”

Look into your own heal and ride.

Reduplicate the awkwardness.

If you are a match, will you donate?

One one-off at a time keeps people in line.

Spotted dick is an example of a cultural difference.

Make sure the main socket has an earth-wire.

If you dream of numbers, watch out.

Keep things cut back or your hill will become bramble-thorns.

Things suddenly happen on a bed.

Integrity in the micro-space is seen from the stars. But even if it isn't!

Winnow the old words; harrow the new.

Adding sugar to make wine is not illegal, but think again.

Pitch knaves.

Deep back in the cobble of languages, knead and knock are kin.

Plant trees, but also water them.

Gamble on Language, that wager well beyond Pascal's.

When serifs get used as Law, back away slowly, but face forward.

Stand forth, mystery. Learn mobility. Learn humility.

Assume it is thirsty; give it drink.

Even if you sing a little, little song, still are the words behind the song you sing.

Much obliged. Obbligato. Obrigado. Say it.

Dog's letter for the wonder of it.

No matter what, it cannot be called back.

Is it possible to say what else might be found here?

Don't listen much to other people's rules.

Hold out the cup of dust; show it to those who control water.

Resignation is anger spread over long, wide acres.

Wake again into the wake of watchfulness.

August-September 2008

Notes to Draft 91: Proverbs. The upside down Capitol is a motif in Theodore Harris's collages. Draft on the line of fifteen.



The long poem project of Rachel Blau DuPlessis is collected in Torques: Drafts 58-76 (Salt Publishing 2007) as well as in Drafts 1-38, Toll (Wesleyan U.P., 2001) and Drafts 39-57, Pledge, with Draft unnumbered: Précis (Salt Publishing, 2004). In 2006, she published Blue Studios: Poetry and Its Cultural Work on gender and poetics, along with a reprint of the ground-breaking The Pink Guitar: Writing as Feminist Practice, both from University of Alabama Press. She is also the editor of the Selected Letters of George Oppen and co-editor of The Objectivist Nexus, along with other critical books and anthologies. DuPlessis teaches at Temple University; in 2008-09 she is at the National Humanities Center in Durham, North Carolina.

http://phillysound.blogspot.com/2008_03_01_archive.html

See <http://wings.buffalo.edu/epc/authors/duplessis>