from the DICATION AIR

jam. ismail

patriarchy 7 pay t.v. 8 reduction of sexes and genders to two. 9 fusion of sex & gender. 1 identification of ‘father’ with ‘male’ and ‘mother’ with ‘female’, hence (allusively), parenthood cf. trans’parent.

patriarchly ‘am i going to be a father’, she wondered. patriarchly. giving herself heirs.

pedigree his stance and gait ar not in vain. left arm straight ending in a shiny weight of shopping. right hand backs the head of an infant who, when last i saw it taken away a step, by step, down the stairs, was head back, eyes and mouth open as if for the face above. the look before fallen in love. now the man’s eyes touch this small sweet round in his hand. i make it a mutual ador. he’s not pedestrian, a younger heart with the most beloved face grows, out of his chest, daily, and he moves with it. one does not say: this is a father & child, one sees, essent, this is loving. contemplate. the van swung into parking puts him a meter behind the site of me. he stops, turned. face rifting into pleasure & misery. pave ment, i do look, echo no ledge. pond. what’s to say, do abridge, i go on to market. he too turn quick, open shut. new hardnes, begot with his sister. keep an ey on the good of one another. i mean, of rivals, too (6.viii.85)

photosynthesis in plants must be imagination in humans. what ar stories, for plants? we call them stores. what is narrativ, chemically speaking? trans’port.

prefix, e.g., con- (L.), with. 010 concoct (catachrestically) he. 111 concord with strings, attached. 09 concur girl in skiblue jacket, alsatian [german shepherd] alongside her bicycling. he’s lean, not from muscle, so it looks like a (picture of) cure, for health; although the steady stepping’s like dressage. sunlit north shore. . . thrills above snow line. her windy hair’s the colour of this blond grass. above horizon blue form even. disturb of sea with wave, that’s winter.

they ar about to curve from wall street onto kamloops, her head & hand reach down to stroke his face. 04 controls with dwarves, ferries, gnomons, and pick-sees.
race 3 leak of nations. 5 lunch fills the vegetarian restaurant on hennessey near perceval street. the waiter motions her to the table where i'm waiting for a dish of noodles. chat, of strangers, in cantonese. she says, yes i see that you'd enjoy sinking and tibet and uncultured places like those. not looking at my blue holofil vest. (the armadillo, ma calls it, it tells everyone you're from canada). she's come down from near shanghai, been in the colony 18 years, hairdressing, refers to the mainlanders as 'they', is joining her family in toronto, and, do you prefer hong kong or vancouver, she asks, splitting. i see now that it's been this way for 20 years. a day later i read in a book of ackbar's, 'writing is precisely working in the in-between' (helen cixous). 4 here at the film shop on commercial street rani says. you go home and see things. that they have done very well, are healthy, and the hygiene is good. that they have money and now are educated, yes. and that the buildings have changed, the standard of living is better. but it's not right for me because i don't see what i came to see. have you ever been hurt in that way places gone, sites reoccupy. 

in see-thru. 

stream the walking body picks up bits like gills in stream the red of sudden altars. an ashpit, 6 with me it was the same, madhu smiled. when i first came here in '53 it was love at first sight. oh in those days there were would you believe one-tenth the people in these streets! we are walking towards chhetrapati, to the tibet guest house where i'm staying. he says kirtipur is the way kathmandu was 30 years ago. the origin keeps moving. but janek says, why do you want to come back. people say that to me all the time and that is my question, why do you want to come back?

real 2 i bought him a rolex knock-off. that's what he wanted for his birthday. you know, taiwan is really getting very good now, you can walk in and ask for a cartier and they'll know what to give you. they make them really well and they're not cheap either, it costs us$150 but the real thing costs $7000. and it's so funny! he treats it like the real one, keeps it in the bank, takes it out to wear to meet the bigwigs! and the funny thing is that he has a real one that is all banged up & scratched, you know how rough he is, that he wears everyday to do the marketing in!

resist Where There's a Wont, There's A Way.

serendipity unreturning sticks to the thrower on the dock, the wheaty retriever continues uphill. aloofly flinging, drops of light, with every pad uphill, dancing fountain.

linger, and of the show. ahead and beside angles, sun is darkening trees & building. serene dipitty

following up the path, small stones may be seen sending shadows, times 10
sex a latin word meaning six (6) which has been pared down to two (2).
this may not be a bad thing, especially during family reunions and other group fares. dacoity is not for every one.

shirley, 17th january 1987

you know i'd put my goon yum [cantonese deity of compassion] into a fire, years ago. burnt it up. it's been, so long. after seeing yours, and sophie's, awe set in. once again, some phoenix. and i knew i couldn't just go buy another. as in the story you told, an encounter was indicated, or at least a tense. as with stars, or molecules. guide d, so a day or two goes, analept, befor it materializes, ceramically: hard milk: in a clearing in the backhills of cloudview road, in one of those wire-fenced open air workshops with a rubbish pit in the middle, and machinery around. she'd been set with care on some grey 4x4s, a little away from debris. on the dusty office desk one of two phones was ringing. i knew not to undo the camera from its pouch, nor did i squat to see better. a young man of sullen cast had noticed that someone had wandered in. on my way out, a smaller man with a thin mustache said, how may i serve you. i liked the uigyur of his face and his curtesy. as if i were from a family he respects. i do not live here, i reply, i am walking around looking. your goon yum is in a good spot. he nod & laugh delight. a few steps down the hill i hear him shout out the names to me, of the two people who'd placed her there. it was for the record. credit do.

sign in a temple near kathmandu

siblings brother: in thailand, a naked beautiful girl comes in and gets into the water with you. then you're put on the lie-low and she rubs you all over with oil. then
sister 1: she fries you.
brother: no! then she slides all over you
sister 2: with roller skates.
brother: no! she has this little plastic bowl with oil and water mixed together and a sort of whisk that beats it up and she
sister 1: bastes you.
brother: no! she

six afrodit's number. said pythagoras (corinne, 46)
sob i remember when you lent me peyton place. grace metalious, i'll never forget her name. i had to phone you up because there was one word i couldn't find in the dictionary, & i said, jam, this word s.o.n.o.f.a.b.i.t.c.h, it isn't in the dictionary, do you know what it means? there was a silence and i think you said something like, break it up shirley.

story ah little 2-storey in profile sitting empty and alone, full to the sense of sky. the moon unseen & night verdure it's been years! since i saw you in kits[ilano] last, somewhat outside, drawn onto a large paper in the room southwest. the winter they were there
suffix, e.g., -sibling (A.S.), gene'sis. 19 sensibling o, a sis. 18 responsibyl tran'sis'tor. 9 invisibling the sibling who isn't seen; also, solip'sis. 16 possibling takes courage, or heartage, sometimes by way of neme'sis.

**trans*parent (a tercet)**
mum. and/or d ad. in loco parenthesis. gone between

**verse/vers**
to ward
avers un toward
divers downward
angles, &
transvers analogs
collectible as

s i g h
t.time paradi m
dust iridesce
imaging , s train s a mere opticale
imagine :
airwar e . culler
evenings
here and there a seen, infinativ

**invert** he imagined her fate to be bleak famous.
all the while keeping happy , at home.

version versionity.

well . of loneliness . its good.
4.ix. feeling lonely & liking it.

oh the drag of a task befor (one gets to) the freedom
with in. attitude to word servants.
bum sits by window
fingers reach for , rose.
some roses wont depetal into hips.

hand ] writing | upon a □ surface.

It forms

A pencil, pen forth-
with, and then

To dig a grave.

this avid barter, switch on the sens of timing

**what** is your etymologist

'as soon as she received the book she knew immediately all that it contained' ('the liberation story of jomo memo' (1248-83) in tsultrim, 210)


*well what i did was, i phitcopied wieger and then i whited out the words & punctuation i didn't want. with liquid paper.*
entire fantasmagoria of the universe to the one who meditates' (alexandra
david-neel, *initiations and initiates in tibet*, english trans. by fred rothwell
words, incited (see also metonymy). words ar like money they hav no backing
other than us. 'man' still includes 'woman'. 'she' used to refer to 'he' as well,
and 'girl' used to mean 'boy' too (oxford). dorothy richardson said it, people go
on writing books using the same words with diffrint meanings. which may not be
the most efficient way to run a country. as goebbels said to fritz lang, mr. lang, we
are the ones who decide who a jew is (colette, 41). talk about sementics. no
wonder words slip, slide, perish, will not stay still. struggle, the secular hagadab
says, is better than boredom. PALESTINIANS AGREE.

words, of mouth. rani, madhu, janek, sheila ismail, leslie stokes, shirley omar-
thanks to helène mino for alexandra. hi renee!

[afterword to diction air]
i like to sweep the flat before i settle down to work. the lines of a page of
dictionary often remind me of the lines of dust that never get into the pan, they stay
on the floor. there are times i feel small dense print (especially the 13 volume
oxford dictionary ) as an arrangement of dust.
some dictionaries are born in times of great cultural turmoil & renewal, when
the house is such a mess of wires, pipes, & broken walls that all i can do is put
word-things in alphabetic order. i indexed some of what i’d collected over the
years: words i couldn’t use (e.g., serendipity); words i can say but not write; words i
keep on forgetting the meaning of; samples of rebus; definitions more sensible than
those given in the oxford & skeat's etymological; notes on (english) dictionary
(e.g., it's not a text that's meant to be read through; its tendency to definition by
polyglot synonymy; its absurdity; &c). And so on.
utility
after small writings, problemata, & decipherings became part of the file, the
name diction air presented itself. i was delighted, as if it meant i wouldn’t have to
write a novel after all, i can stay libretto.
aria (3 july) sky of dark & various cloud, bit blue it’s so laden above [water]
sea looks slated for a parking lot. tear of colour west that she will see further
south. we'll share this big roof for maybe a week mor. by the side of the park
where sparrows bathe & ezra used to drink, gravel streams. look. icy this
evening. nip in the air. mammifers all the diffrint currents your skin
feels. she is inside wat i hav imagined & doing wat i can’t. do you know the
troubadours? that's the 'spirit of romance'! i'm drinking last night's wi-
ne. the pocket of your cousin's husband's shirt is not easy to unstitch. roses.
& shamrock. it's night now where in sedro woolley ar you
about serendipity.  *oxford & brittanica* hav it that sarandib, a former name of ceylon (now sri lanka), is an arabic 'corruption' of the sanskrit simhaladvipa (dwelling-place-of-lions island); & that an englishman hitched -ity onto serendip to make serendipity. well, that's one way to do it. english a word by romanizing an arabesque of sanskrit & grafting on a latin tail. it's a tail that wags the dog, for latin sends on its imperializing ways. but a colonizing onomatopoeia (ceylon became a crown colony in 1802) needn't be an onomatopooper. one could learn by it to resuffix paris-ian with an -ite, or decline 'british' to 'brutish. me, i like e.s.l. trips, such as 'united sates'.

when serendipity was coined in the 1750s it meant 'the faculty of making happy & unexpected discoveries by accident'. a brutish example, from the 1750s, might be, the takeover of bengal; which financed the english 'industrial revolution', & so england went on to Empaaah. no of course i hadn't it figured this way when the word first buzzed me, testily, in the 1960s in hong kong. herstory comes & history goes and sensor's always here. it bothered me that the word was plucked from native tongues i did not speak. i dint want to ape the brits, stopped passing it, it went in bardo with other words i couldn't use until , well, untitled.

not that serendipity lived up to its meaning in english mouths, they often wore it like a meddle. i like the word, it still feels acute. something comic, or maybe karmic, in that lap of sound & sens. raphael (lui) says it's since become a word in science, example? the accidental discovery of mercury as a catalyst when someone broke the thermometer he was stirring a solution with. that's how we get minamata disease. pause . and is it true, i ask, that einstein apologized to a post-hiroshima delegation from japan? yes, raphael says he broke down & cried.

electrification is so recent & already unmanned light is endangered. some summers ago when i was loitering around deep cove in north vancouver i saw a dog come out of water & go uphill, dripping, to wher the sun disk flashed & dipped among the trees. someone on the dock called again & again until drawn into the evening's better temper. in that rich light, humans young & old appeared perfect, cast in gold, forever, sealed. and i went with the wet dog dancing fountain to the loom of dark evergreen.

later on, when i thought of placing that writing in *diction air*, i remembered the word serendipity. the news is that while i was typing the text, something else came along like a part of water or wink of sun sat & tapped itself in, 'serene dipitty'. now that's what i call evening , serendipity coming out. what did you say about language scars last year at sechelt, i ask helene (mino). it is 10 mins befor her clock is due to bcep at her. well, she says dreamy into the phone, they itch.