

Raymond Federman and Thomas Hartl

SINGULARLY BORED

[Remembering Samuel Beckett]

clear to him
at once at last
the dark
he always struggled
to keep under

nothing to express
nothing from which
to express
no power to express
no desire to express
but the obligation
to express

[after the unforgivable -]
the slightest eloquence
becomes unbearable

no use
rearranging words
into prodigal rhetoric

to say what
the authentic weakness
of being

nothing will come of
nothing

nothing is more real
than nothing

damned to fame

the dead tongue
the immediate vehicle
of innermost anguish

undecipherable to him
metamorphosing himself
into the joke
the argot
the stroke of local color

initiating the performance
the act of depth
in volcanic magma
fused
into a rich strangeness

harnessing the
undifferentiated
pell mell babel
of grammar

out of extreme pressure
nakedness of words
is born

and so
he strips and strips
to the bone
then to the bone's shadow

into lessness

least less

no sound no stir

ash grey sky

mirrored

within another

mirrored sky

monosyllabic

haunting cadence

pascal

joyce

syngé

dante

yeats

racine

swift

wilde

milton

conrad

ecclesiastes monodies

webern

giacometti

schubert

the eagle's skull

the eyes

the grey eyes

hot ashes

then all as before again

so again and again

stirring still

with blind power

into unheard wind

he emerges systematically

out of the void

a mandarin

a magician

a charlatan [perhaps?]

st. augustine

spinoza

berkeley

geulincx

the sharp triangulation

of mindful chaos

and descartes

of course

cunningly bringing

into shaping collision

the sphere of

a divine comedy

celia sucking dicks

in irish brothels

never never never never

yes yes yes yes

causing manifold

inspiration into

abstinence and wit

no	
laughter	in letter hand
	fingers move
without forgetting	ment
the hand	
the mouth	the stone of mouth
the skull	rootless in memory
the ass	
	one invents obscurities
said	rhetoric
take into the air	
my quiet breath	whenever
	the stroke
said	hits
the ass gives life	mine is not
to unborn ridicules	imagination
what would we do	word fart
without women	ass less art
we would explore	is nothing
other channels	
	he lost
fuck life	in his room the
	conveniences of fabul
in hand less words	ation
speaks the mouth	and spoke from the
	other side of far
of death in absence	ness
who said it all	making of realistic
was pebbles	playful exactitude
or was it by	la cascade de nuages
cycles	qu'elle nous emmerde
	plus
the pen is	linguistic plenitude
handsome in the	
mouth of word	he did not believe god

or fiction
running errands for him

come in he knocked
and was included
bethickettly

a dangerous bowler
on his day

a first-rate fielder

playing double or nothing
with real fictitious
voices
in closets

curious relation of terms
singular boredom

from primordial cry of disgust
to the last spasm
of laughter

how like the sun each day
having no alternative
he rises to go
to his writing table

how he understands
that no utterances
can ever give shape
to the chaos of life

how by simplicity
he engages vast ideas
in tiny trickles of
closely guarded language

how knowingly he faces
that great avalanche
of fortuitous events
we call the universe

how while waiting
for the hour to strike
he hopes that it will not
and fears that it will

how he eliminates
the superfluous
to bring forth
fundamental sounds

how his face
turns somber
in the presence
of indiscretion

how he goes silent
when confronted
with the fact
of his generosity

how a smile came to his eyes
during the final sentence
as he chanced upon the words
oh to end again

that confusing emotion
which was his life
a long yawn

so true it was that
when in the void

what little is possible
is not so
it is merely
no longer so
and in the least less
the all of nothing
if this notion can be
 maintained

the difficulty is
in the difficulty
so all is for the best

it only remains to dare
to fail as no other
dare fail
to fail better

je ne sais plus où
je finis

how tiresome
memories
how to go on
he should not have begun

ah what curse mobility