

SCHOOL FOR DEVILS

~

;or: 7 Flamelets  
Upon the Roof of the White House; or:  
the PLEIADES, a lost and Wayward  
Greek Play

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Mac Wellman

Fifth Draft

*SCHOOL for DEVILS*: Persons of the Play:

~

A man WITHOUT HORNS, who is conversing quietly with

A MAN WITH HORNS; and

an OLD LADY, who tells a scary story to an hideous IMAGE,  
possibly a replica of the Current Occupant of the White  
House.

~

Note: Action takes place as follows: In > Er (Scene 1) ; we are in the Oval Office of the White House, at Midnight; In ? Eerie (Scene 2); we are on the roof of the White House a little after [and before] and: In ? Ere (Scene 3); we are situated on a strange plateau on the other side of the moon where all we see is a fallen tower and the other side of the moon herself [long before the two previous scenes].

~

In the night all cats glow gray: An old saying: [In the night all cats glow gray]

> Er. Scene One. Lights up on two MEN; one with horns, one without. They are otherwise identical, and are played by women,

in fact two of the 7 FLAMELETS and DEVILS from ? Eerie. The others float in and out and manipulate the head and limbs of the man WITHOUT as though he were a puppet which in a sense he surely has become. The two MEN look at each other, each mirroring the other, for quite a long time.

WITH

So it's settled.

WITHOUT

Say is there a catch to this?

WITH

No catch. Everyone will be safe. All your friends can come along. No. Someone will be looking for something and someone and some other thing but. But will find someone and some other thing quite different from the one expected. Perhaps a large and malign forest here. And something precious and, um, perilous. An encounter will happen and also an encounter will not happen. By a crossroads in open country.

WITHOUT

Open country.

WITH

Yes open; but an open space deep in the heart of a great forest. Guarded by bears and. Jalbataals.

WITHOUT

And what?

WITH

Never mind. Bears. Big friendly bears. Smiling bears. [And under breath] And just a few jalbataals.

[A smiling pause

All nestled in the deep interior regions of a primaeval forest.

WITHOUT

And I say, Let's go to the crossroads and see what's up ...

WITH

That part comes a little later.

WITHOUT

...

What about my political enemies?

WITH

Everything will be fine. Just think, power and dominion. The moral man grows as vast as the shadow of what he seems to be. Seeming makes all he wishes come to be. Seeming make it so, opines the poet Machiavel. Just think on power and dominion and everything will turn out just fine.

WITHOUT

Power and dominion and. Seeming makes it so and. Everything will be. Fine. Okay okay okay.

WITH

Okay okay ...

WITHOUT

But what if that doesn't work? What? I mean, maybe there's a catch.

WITH

Just go to the crossroads where you where you will meet a certain gentleman and that gentleman will give you a cabbage.

WITHOUT  
Cabbage?

WITH  
Yes a cabbage. Very green. A cabbage about as large and wise  
as a human head.

WITHOUT  
Cabbage. A very green.

WITH  
Yes a very green cabbage.

[A vegetative pause

WITHOUT  
Okay.

WITH  
Now. Just repeat and just repeat. Now more than ever. Now  
more than ever.

WITHOUT  
—

WITH  
Did you understand what I am saying? It is very important that  
you understand the meaning of each word.

WITHOUT  
How come you say everything two times?

WITH  
Just say the sentence. Just say, now more than ever.

WITHOUT

– ?

WITH

–

WITHOUT

Now more than ever. Er. Do I have to say it twice?

WITH

No you do not have to say the sentence twice,\* but you have to repeat the sentence until you are very sure that you understand the meaning of every word.

WITHOUT

Now more than ever. Okay. Now more than\* ever.

WITH

I repeat everything two times because two is the number of my ataraxia. My ataraxia and antistasis. And I am fond of the game of gambling, a matter of twos generally.

WITHOUT

Oh.

[A tessarian pause in which a hidden die is cast]

Can Condi come along? And Donald and Karl? We got to have Karl and Dick too.

[No response]

Okay okay.

So. Now. What do I do?

WITH

You repeat what you've learned today.

WITHOUT

Now we know and and now we know and ...

... and by gosh we also do know that else now.

WITH

"Now we know" is also a very fine phrase but it is not the phrase we discussed.

WITHOUT

Oh.

WITH

Can you say it? Can you say what it is you were taught to say?

WITHOUT

Er,

WITH

Don't be frustrated.

WITHOUT

Er,

—

Hey, Do I got a number on me? Because if you have a number on you how come I don't have a number on me?\* I mean that doesn't sound fair. What did you say? I couldn't hear what you were saying on account of how I was talking.

WITH [Quiet

Of course you have a number and the number you have is the same.

WITHOUT  
The same as what?

The same as what?

WITH  
The same as mine.

WITHOUT  
Can't I have my own number?

WITH  
The set of rational numbers is limited. Finite, as we say in the mathematics of the. Skip it. So sometimes we have to double up.

And besides.

And besides the stylistics of calculation comes later. Right now we are dealing with the calculus of security and safety. They are contesserate.

WITHOUT  
What?

WITH  
Safety and. Security. They are friends.

WITHOUT  
Yes well I declare I do feel safe. Sure. Safe as hell. I sure do feel safer than I used to. Say is there a catch to this?\* Dammit safe as hell.

WITH  
No catch I promise.

WITHOUT

Power and dominion. And the rectitude ...

—

Sure there'll be enough room in that red wagon for all my friends?

WITH

—

WITHOUT

?

WITH

—

WITHOUT

Now more than ever okay now more than ever.

[We hear a ghostly singing from afar. Voices of the DEVILS on the roof. Voices both ghastly and ghostly. Perhaps we hear the pitter-patter of their little feet]

What is hell is that?

[Pause. A rather wicked pause as it is in the nature of Devil Time to flow backward]

You moved your hand. Did you mean anything by the movement?  
I thought you maybe meant me to come to you.

WITH

I meant something by this movement, which I can only express by this movement.

WITHOUT

Oh.

[Creepy pause the creepiest yet. The man WITH moves his hand ever so slightly]

Say is there a catch to this?

Will I feel safe? I just want everybody to feel safe.

WITH

Don't worry you'll do just fine.

[He is puzzled. Because of time's reversal, you see, the man WITHOUT is unable to follow what is being said to him. So would you.]

WITHOUT

Sounds spooky. Don't know if I want to go there.

WITH

Deep in the forest of whim. But first you must learn to count.

WITHOUT

Only, where are we going?

WITH

Okay okay,

WITHOUT

Okay?

WITH

They may all ride in your little red wagon.

WITHOUT

Can Condi come along? And Donald and Karl? We got to have Karl.

WITH

You may say anything you like. But you must admit nothing. Deny everything when the time comes. When the time comes to deny. And you must learn to count.\* Do you understand what it is I am saying? It is very important that you understand the meaning of every. Of every word. Do you? Say that you do. Say that you understand the meaning of every single word.

WITHOUT

Okay okay. If you like.

—

Er, one ...

[Perverse pause

Two, er ...

WITH

For no particular reason.

WITHOUT

Well, yes, I guess so.

WITH

Come here to make you mad.

WITHOUT

Okay okay.

WITH [Leaning close to him

I am an idea, yes, merely an idea. But from a world you have not known.

WITHOUT  
?

WITH  
Know the story of the wolf who lost his witz? Or of the forest hare? Or of the aluminum crutch and the glass eye that passed for a Perle of precious and perilous worth? Or of the man who all unknowing kept a small devil in his closet, yes, all those years, yes and still alive and likewise a shrunken and horrible replica of himself?

WITHOUT  
!

WITH  
But I can see that your faith is deep and. You know how to count.\* But then again ...

WITHOUT  
Well yes I suppose I do. Only ...

One, er. Two and ...

[Perilous pause

WITH  
But if you did know you would do the right thing I just know you would I can see it in your eyes the deep faith the deep faith in all the values we share.

WITHOUT  
Well yes only and. Well I don't think I do know truly. Er, one.

WITH  
Go on.

WITHOUT

Oh I know I know. It's just that well I don't know.

WITH

You are so close and yet you hesitate. So close to that encounter at the crossroads. Why hesitate. You have nothing to fear.

WITHOUT

Well yes I suppose so.

WITH

What? You know so much much more about the workings of the human heart than you care to express don't you?

And you can do mighty hard sums right there up in your head.\*  
You can calculate.

WITHOUT

Well, no ... um, yes.

WITH

But your faith is deep.

WITHOUT

One and one is ...

[A mathematical pause.

WITH

But you occasionally have doubts. Is that what you are saying?

WITHOUT

Well I suppose but.

[Several of the FLAMELETS hold up and light a match that burns for a suspiciously long period of time. The man WITHOUT is

caught in a pleasure pot and so is, mesmerized during the following]

WITH

Let us compare the phenomenon of thought and that of enkindlement– burning. For we are all a kindle of flames are we not. Does not burning flame seem mysterious to us? And flame more so than, say, furniture? And how do you clear up the mystery? And how is the mystery of thinking to be solved? Isn't a burning thing like a person thinking?

Isn't flame mysterious because it is impalpable? But why does that make it mysterious? Why should something impalpable be more mysterious than something you can grasp? Unless it is because we want to catch hold of it?

[An impalpable pause. Fire goes out]

WITHOUT

Well. Well I don't want to.

WITH

–

WITHOUT

Er,

WITH

–

WITHOUT

What about you?

WITH

–

WITHOUT

Why don't you say anything.

WITH

—

WITHOUT

What? What?

WITH

Do you know why the earth and the vault of heaven were created? Out of the flaming river of time? Do you? Do you? Do you know why, on the first day, out of nothing, something emerged? And. Do you know what happened on the second day? Do you have any idea what it was who stepped forth, fully formed in the image, almost, of the creator, on the second day?

WITHOUT

—

WITH

—

WITHOUT

Er,

WITH

Amid torrential hellspew and. And enormous vortices of steam and nitre, both wind driven and yes, driving the wind. Back in Midland, in Dimmit High School?

WITHOUT

Well I guess I was never. Because I have to say in all honesty I never got past, er, the Transcendental Deduction.

WITH

—

WITHOUT

But I *can* count, er.

WITH

Now you are being perverse.

WITHOUT

Sure I can.

Huh.

I dunno.

[Whistles.

Let's. Let's. Let's keep right on.

[A difficult to fathom pause.

Because what if we all got caught on wires and go, like, trippy?

WITH [Withering disdain

Go trippy?

WITHOUT

Yeah. Go trippy and suffer an exposure to.

[A gesture with the hand of something trippy.

WITH

Say that you have doubts and just be done with it. But you can take your friends with you. With you in the red wagon. And you can count.

WITHOUT

Hadn't put all that. Put that together.

But what if I'm wrong? I mean. What if my calculations are wrong?

WITH

Irksome. Yes it is irksome to have doubts.

WITHOUT

Irksome. Hadn't thought of that.

WITH

Well you should have.

WITHOUT

Well no.

Er, one.

WITH

Go on.

WITHOUT

One and one.

One and one and. One.

One and two.

One and one and one and one and one and one and one.

WITH

Very. Good.

WITHOUT

—

WITH

Very good now. Go on. You have almost arrived at the final point. The final place in a series that is. That is infinite, nearly.

WITHOUT

Two.

[Pause

Two.

WITH

And?

[Pause. An infinite series of dizzying possibility opens up]

WITHOUT

Oh [Brightening]. Now I see what you mean.

But then, is it possible for me to have gone wrong in my calculations? And if a devil deceive me,\* so that I keep on overlooking something however often I go over the count step by step. So that if I were to awake from the enchantment I should say: Why was I blind? And: Yes, to be sure, the calculation is wrong, but that is how I calculate.

WITH

Precisely.

[The man WITHOUT laughs softly, quite pleased with his break through]

WITHOUT

Now I see what you meant all along. It's okay. And yes, to be sure, the calculation is wrong, but that is how I calculate.

WITH

Precisely. Now more than ever.

[The man WITHOUT sits, immobile, pondering this happy thought, as all the FLAMELETS rush about like scraps of paper in a stiff breeze. Light shifts as we find ourselves now outside the building, which is revealed to be the White House, surrounded by the clouds and lights of approaching storm.

The fluttering FLAMELETS and the one who represented the man WITH HORNS reassemble as a kindle of DEVILS on the roof of the White House. Slowly, the one who played the man WITHOUT rouses himself (herself) and prepares to leave, unlike the others, on foot through the door.

Pause.

She looks back at the chair where she had been sitting facing her demonic antagonist. A small image of herself as the man WITHOUT appears in her arms, as if out of nowhere. In fact a totem replica of the Current Occupant. She cradles this thing tenderly, and then places it in the very spot where she had been sitting. She turns to leave. She turns slowly, blows a kiss to the replica, and goes out to join her DEVIL colleagues high up on the roof.

End of Scene.

> Eerie. Skene Duh. A pleiade of DIVELLS who sing a kindle of songs op de roof van ze White house.

ALL SING and cavort:

#### SCHOOL FOR DEVIL PEOPLE

School for evil evil thing;  
School for every evil thing;  
School where devil people sting;  
Evil rope and evil string  
To evil other other thing.  
All bring evil other thing.  
Evil ring and evil string and  
    evil evil evil sing.  
    Sing, thing, sing.

~

We understand.  
We live here too  
(Now more than ever,

Now we know);  
School for Devils, yeah.

We understand.  
We live there also  
(Now more than ever,  
Now we know);  
School for Devils, yeah!

We understand.  
We live somewhere  
(more than you see,  
More than you know);

---

Somewhere somewhere  
Nowhere, no.  
School for Devils, yeah.

~

O we gave it to the Shrub  
To insert in his bath tub  
Stick deep in his tub  
The leg of the duck  
The leg of the duck

Fuck up da Shrub  
Fuck up da Shrub  
Fuck up da Shrub  
Fuck up da Shrub

---

Hands struggle  
ROAR ROAR ROAR

(roar roar roar)  
Against the other ...

Fuck up da Shrub  
Fuck up da Shrub  
Fuck up da Shrub  
Fuck up da Shrub

~

La la la we did not steal no damn  
damn election.  
La la la cause we are fixin  
la la we are fixin la  
to return that gol darn thing  
la la la eight years from then.  
No we did not did steal  
la la la no damn election ...

—

[Spoken:]  
We merely borrow ze damn thing;  
evil evil evil sing;  
Sing, thing, sing.

~

In ze school for devils we  
Study root and branch ze devil tree  
O bite up ze rope and o let ze o  
Lead weight drop doop de dee.

O bite upon ze root o bite ze  
cord zat hold ze heavens stay up  
So down zay crash doop de dee

drop like lead upon ze head.

In ze school for devils we  
lead ze foolish foolish we lead zee  
Ones who mad mad up ze tree  
of devils where are are we.

Zen we bite we bite o we bite ze  
Belts off zair pantleg doop de dee  
Down fall zay trouser from devil tree  
drop like lead upon ze head of zee.  
One ze gods wish to destroy ze  
One who are think safety safety  
O bite ze rope and drop ze lead  
drop ze lead upon ze head of zee.

~

Emergency brake  
(For whose devil sake  
Open this cover  
(All devils will hover)  
Alarum will sound  
(Devils under ground)  
Pull ze crank up  
Pull ze crank down  
(Devil devil devil clown  
drink ze tea from devil cup)  
Devil devil devil sing!

~

We do the double backlash  
We do the triple blowback  
Snake people, people of the serpent.

O this way go and also that  
Devils on the roof with devil map  
Snake people, people of the serpent.

Our toy gun he go bapa tap tap  
Down the road a devil trap  
Snake people, people of the serpent.

We strike from far far away  
Before our enemy can he away  
Repent repent repent o repent.

~

Wide open country o country of  
Beautiful lies.

What is sacred kept hidden o  
Beautiful lies.

Road to nowhere o land of salvation  
Beautiful lies.

To the land of faith and just beyond  
Beautiful lies.

Restoration of faith faith beyond doubt  
Beautiful lies.

(FAITH!) That settles all and any argument

(FAITH!) That gives the lie to the Testament  
Beautiful lies.

—  
—

Wide open country o country of  
Beautiful lies.

What is sacred kept hidden o  
Beautiful lies.

Road to Damascus as the as the devil flies.  
Beautiful lies.

Wherever our our fury our fury take us  
Beautiful lies.

Revenge revenge and  
Beautiful lies.

Baghdad Pyongyang Teheran  
Beautiful lies.

Revenge revenge and  
Beautiful lies.

[Softly:]

Our faith is a faith beyond  
The mere lie of the land  
The lie of the merely democratic  
The lie of the merely true.

A faith that shall take us  
Prodigal one, ignorant many  
To the land of milk oil honey  
To the land beyond belief.

Beautiful lies.  
Beautiful lies.  
Beautiful lies.

~

All Arab mans they look alike  
Iraq Iran they look alike.  
Of Egypt and of Palestine  
All Arab mans they look alike.  
You kill the one you kill the other  
Whether of Shia or of Sunni  
All Arab mans they look alike.  
People of the fez people of turban  
No one can hardly tell ze difference  
For all Arab mans they look like  
what they look like.

(Except in place like silly France)

Politically indistinguishable  
you bet  
On the American man his  
television set.

No matter what the doubter sez  
Whether of turban or of fez.

~

Ann Coulter's legs go on for ever;  
Her legs like there is no tomorrow;  
Her legs and lies are infinite  
(they are far more numerous than truth).

Her lies will endure forever  
Where untruth keeps his little hut.

O but has the tooth of Untruth  
nicked her knee?

The shrub will fix it up yup.

Lies lies go past the seven veils of the  
Seven sisters of the Pleiades.  
Lies posses their own momentum.  
Lies go past go past the end of time,  
Where Rhyme spits out his teeth  
in ze cup yup.

—

Ann Coulter's legs go on forever;  
Her legs her legs like no tomorrow.

~

We talk to ze snake  
Snake talks to ze we.  
We talk talk about ze  
Food that best to eat.

The kind of people who zay whisperz on ze subway.

The kind of people who [Ad infinitum

—

Do all zees zings  
Yes yes you must  
Yes yes you must or ze  
Snake will eat you.

[And finally a slow slow song for the transition into = Ere. Song  
Dooz:]

Something something happens;  
(Something happens, sometime)  
Sometime something. Happens.

(Happens. Something sometime)  
Sometime upon a guess, maybe;  
(Upon a guess, sometime).  
Sometime upon a guess, concerning a –

Concerning a thing like a prayer, only –  
Like a prayer, er, only not a prayer.

Like a prayer (eerie) only not a prayer.

Like a prayer (in the ere – in the olden time)  
Only not a prayer.

—

If not prayer then what  
(Then what then what);

Then what is it? Is it what we  
still think it is?

[After the Slow Song (Song Dooz) of Something Something begins to slow we translate ourselves to the last scene, = Ere, which takes place behind the moon. All there is, aside from the 7 devils is a fallen tower and the moon.

En of skene]

=Ere. On the other side of the moon an OLD LADY (played by three Flamelets) tells a story to the little, writhing child who is the wooden-headed replica of the Current Occupant from Eerie ?. The other side of the moon exists in devil time and devil time is backward from ours. All this you can learn in devil school if you has been zat lucky.

OLD LADY

Oncet upon a time, but. But nothing comes to mind. So. I would tell you about Genevieve and the wolves but also nothing comes to mind. But wolves reminds me of wolf. And I have an image of lightness and things that fly.

No. Neither that too no. But one among the wolves the wolves other than the wolves belonging to Genevieve was special. He was the wolf who lost his witz.

But this was an horrible story, and one that terrified me and my seven sisters. So we did not like to tell this story.

Christmas was a very sad and lonely time for us all.

But you want to hear a story and so you will. So I will tell you about the man and his wife who one day discovered, it was Christmas eve I believe, zat rhymes, and they discover a small devil and a horrible shrunken image of the current occupant of the White House, in a secret closet of their house.

This horrible image he had a note pinned to ze collar– Fuck up da Shrub.

[She examines carefully the collar of the replica. No such note]

Just checking.

According to ze old philosopher, ze Greeks had no faith in their gods.  
They were a people without faith.

But they *were* afraid of them.

Loneliest Christmas eve ever.

[Long pause.

I am thinking about invisibilities. And a.

Description of the invisible city. Is what I see.

[The other FLAMELETS are getting fed up with this]

Yes that is what I see.

ANOTHER

And the story of the wolf who lost his witz.

ANOTHER

And the Perle of Perilous Worth.

OLD LADY

Shut up. Just\* shut up.

SEVERAL

Away and away.\* Away.

OLD LADY

A certain gentleman and a beautiful place. A city on a hill. A beautiful place where nothing can be heard because.

ANOTHER

Where nothing can be heard because nothing is happening [Snicker

SEVERAL

Away and away. And away.

AN INSIGNIFICANT DEVIL

Feeling safe. Better since we got him. The Evil Doer and devil in a box. Zettel. Zat is German for box. S The vast backyard and him the devil doll. And the other. All that electricity. You could feel it. Dark shapes being blasted being blasted in the night. Let's smoke him. Safety. Feel better now. Back from the cold thin place. A girl and her brother. Me and my sisters. Mom has returned to normal, almost normal. Dad is in the woods doing something he shouldn't. Doing harm. Ever since they found that that thing in the closet. Down the road some in the open place doing harm.

THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEVIL

A certain gentleman.

[Something strange happens and we are recomposed for the top of the scene.

The OLD WOMAN prepares to tell her story but is rudely interrupted:]

THE INSIGNIFICANT DEVIL

When I was a girl my name was Pleione, and I was the hidden one among us, seven sisters. The hidden one. Because I had six sisters and we were called the Pleiades all seven the Pleiades. We played a play.

THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEVIL

We played a play a lost Greekish play the kind that give you the willies. Seven sisters. Mom or someone else stupid tells the story.

OLD LADY

Shut up. Shut up.

THE INSIGNIFICANT DEVIL

We were chased by a bad man, Orion, a bad man of the earth who lived in the forest and we were changed into bright lights and were changed into stars and we were changed into Flamelets to escape him me and my sisters.

FIRST

Slick.

SECOND

Slack.

THIRD

Slip.

FOURTH

Slap.

FIFTH

Slank.

SIXTH

Scintilla.

SEVENTH

And me. Sloon.

THE INSIGNIFICANT DEVIL

First comes, er, the two-person scene. The two bad people are manipulated as puppets. Are the two bad people also played by puppets? [All: yes] Three scenes\* in all. [Skenes: THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEVIL] And what is it they are discussing? The rules of mathematics. And the fact that the adding of one and two are not ze two. The two of two devil ears. Are not two one plus one they are

four plus three they are seven and so she goes.

ANOTHER  
Whisperz.

ANOTHER  
Far far off in the horrid retinae of a plu. A plupurplish sunset  
someone (with the ears of a large and malign forest hare) does  
something to someone. Someone unwilling.

ANOTHER  
Whisperz.

ANOTHER  
Fragementa of lost Greeks. Xuthus and the Hyades. Xuthus and the  
Pleiades. High tragedy and obscene monkey plays. Minstrel shows.

ANOTHER  
Someone speaks in tongues. A long and painful sorites about the  
doings of Senator Flatmo.

OLD LADY  
The stylistics of a ritual.

[The devils animate the Wooden-head image, who comes to life as if  
out of a dream and speaks to the audience]

IMAGE  
I can't be making a mistake, but if worst comes to worst, I shall  
elevate my mistake into a principle.

[Pause. Silence. Pause.]

IMAGE  
I can't be making a mistake; I met today with that certain gentleman  
and he had a pair of the most expressive horns, er.

[Silence. Pause. Silence]

IMAGE

I can't be making a mistake, but if something should happen to speak against my proposition well then I shall stick to my guns and hope for the best.

[Silence. Silence. Pause]

IMAGE

I can't be making a mistake, but some day, rightly or wrongly I may realize I was not competent to judge. And by that time the thing will have been done. After all I cannot be mistaking the fact that I am just about to have lunch, can I?

{An unpleasant DEVIL first offers, then withholds, a sandwich. The IMAGE looks abashed}

[Pause. Silence. silence]

IMAGE

If I were to say, I have never been on the moon, but I may be mistaken— that would be idiotic.

Er,

Even if I came into a strange country where they believed that the people were taken to the moon in dreams, I could say to them: I have never been to the moon— of course I may be mistaken. And to their questions; May you not be mistaken? I should have to answer: No.

[Silence. Silence. Silence]

ANOTHER Kindle of DEVILS

Flatmo\* who is Batmo who is Catmo who is Datmo who is Fatmo who is Gatmo who is Hatmo who is Iatmo who is Jatmo who is latmo who is Matmo\* who is Natmo who is Patmo\*\* who is Qatmo who is Satmo who is Ratmo who is Tatmo who is Vatmo who is Watmo who is Xatmo who is Zatmo.

ANOTHER

When you have to approach something you desire very dearly, you must always encounter obstacles on the path. Never let these obstacles deter you.

ANOTHER

Is there a catch to this?

[All find this very serious]

ANOTHER

Bears. Bears and jalbataals.

[An Ursine Pause as All prepare for the secret Skull & Bones ritual]

ALL chant with solemn gusto:

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble moon

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble goon

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble spoon

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble maybe

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble crazy

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble lazy

Mumble mumble mystic monkey  
mumble mumble bones

O, O, O, O, O, O, O, O ~

~  
Maybe monkey moon  
Maybe monkey goon  
Maybe monkey spoon  
Maybe monkey maybe  
Maybe monkey crazy  
Maybe monkey lazy  
Maybe monkey bones.

~  
All the way to the way  
to the moon  
On the tip on the tip on the  
tip of a spoon  
Crazy goon crazy spoon  
crazy lazy crazy bones.

~  
MONKEY MONKEY MONKEY MONKEY

~  
Holding his silver his silver spoon

monkey monkey monkey wrench  
In his tightly coiled coiled tail  
Sail, monkey, sail  
All the way to the way  
to the moon

~

MONKETY  
MONKETY  
MONKETY  
MONKETY  
MONKETY  
MONKETY  
MONKETY  
MOP.

[Repeat this last x3

;They repeat the entire ritual 699 times more.]

Pause.

During which.

Now what. THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEVIL looks away in horror.  
The horror of the irremediable other and flagrant infidel. The  
OTHERS compose themselves and well gosh darn it takes time to  
come down from such an high. They secret they hats and sit on back  
on down in the chair as they were in the first place just some ordinary  
joe. Feeling better. Man to man. It is so good to have a tail and  
even better to have one that is hiding someplace]

THE INSIGNIFICANT DEVIL

Sure some fun.

OLD WOMAN

Sure fun, funny as hell. Old Skull and Bones.

[A monkey tailed pause]

THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEVIL

Here. Deep in ze forest of whim. Now.

OLD WOMAN

We sense all around us. Erness. Eerieness. Ereness. Something drawing horribly near.

[A monkey tailed pause of something drawing horribly near]

THE INSIGNIFICANT DEVIL

We were chased by a bad man, Orion, a bad man of the earth who lives in the forest. A bad man of the forest who wanted to posses what did not belong to him. And we were changed into bright lights and were changed into stars and we were changed into Flamelets to escape him me and my sisters.

FIRST

Slick.

SECOND

Slack.

THIRD

Slip.

FOURTH

Slap.

FIFTH

Slank.

SIXTH

Scintilla.

SEVENTH

And me. Sloon.

[Something strange happens and we are recomposed once more. Once more the OLD LADY prepares, and seeing nothing vexatious, begins her story:]

OLD LADY

Let us go over the stylistics of the process and the naag and the [devil tree] procedure and the maledictum maleficence. For the story is the story of the precious Pearl\* [THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEVIL: Me!] and the Perle of glass and of the Wolf without any witz, who declared war on the poor and dispossessed. For zair is a powerful lizard and and a naag called ze Regime Change. And the Perle of perilous worth was like all the others who take what is not theirs to take. Those who zay take what is not zairs, they find evil wherever they look, everywhere they look, but. But not in his own heart, which he has never explored. And that is why we have come here, to the other side of the moon, also a place never explored. All this is perhaps unclear.

But one thing is clear.

No one can win a war against ze poor and dispossessed. For zay are as the grains of sand in the desert, and truly they have nothing to lose, but zair pantleg.

[The scene, =Ere, should end here; only she does not.

Instead we have a Epilogue, for the beginning of the play:

SATAN comes forth to offer his final (preliminary) thought, as a small, fierce, unknown devil, does something he does not see just behind him. Something slightly disturbing. Oh. Something slightly unusual with her long wickedyellow hair]

SATAN

We enjoy the reprise of a song we have perhaps overlooked in the

preceding scene, ? Eerie. A song which one.

[But all except SATAN are already singing]

We enjoy the, er.

[And now they are done]

I am an idea, an idea from a world you have not known.

To make you to make you mad.

?

!

For no particular reason.

Say anything. Deny everything. Admit nothing.

[Waves his little red hand]

Some kind of puppet show as prologue.

Songs are mock prayers.

(Remember, I am merely an idea, not worth dying for)

Shall we begin?

Might as well.

[Again the play appears to be over but is not, for SATAN now leads  
the in the famous

Getting Around in Hell *Song*

Roll, roll, roll yourself up  
up into the roundest kind of ball.  
This is a round, round song  
about getting around in hell.

Roll, roll, roll yourself up,  
up into the roundest ball;  
this is round round song  
about getting around in hell

Because hell is all around.

Hell is the place where having a ball  
is a helluva

—

Is a helluva is a helluva

—

helluva what  
helluva what  
forgot what  
forgot what I was saying  
forgot what I was saying  
forgot because I was staying  
forever forever wound up in a ball  
in hell forever wound up

forever wound up in a ball  
in hell hell ...

Das play ist kaput:

End of play