

STARLING; or  
The Revenant as a Radiant Light; or  
Why the King of Englishmen Sits in the  
Position of Neptune on the Pound  
Note; or  
of Why We Creep Before We Walk

—

Mac Wellman  
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Second Draft

## APROPOS OF: **s t a r l i n g**

SENECA: 'ducunt volentem ... nolentem trahunt.' (After Cleanthes) 'draw those who are willing, drag those who are not.'

FIRST NOTE: Nature like to hide.

The text of this play consists of non-differentiated dialogue and scenario; the disjuncture of these is to be enabled in production. The apparent jumble of the play is apparent only, and is in no way a fact of appearance (See LAST NOTE). Thus, the play STARLING consists of a set of instructions rather than a description of an aesthetic end product, in (and for) itself. As a set of instructions the text is, of course, problematic (o damnable theater). This is intentional and intrinsically so. Indeed, as a set of instructions the text of STARLING possesses no set of instructions. This is precise. The fact of this purpose is the precision of the play.

There are seven rooms, and two groups of actors, one consisting of 7, one of 3; the latter enact the character of the REVENANT (the one who returns). All other parts are enacted by the 7, singly or in combination.

All the actors are female; all the rooms are empty. Except for such stuff as is indicated in the text: candlestick, parbuckle, window frame, etc.

'Nature likes to hide' is a fragment from Heraclitus; 'draw those who are willing, drag those who are not' has been identified above.

—

A SMALL NOTE TO THE FIRST NOTE CONCERNING A POSSIBLE CONFUSION (o damnable confusion): In the first scene, the Revenant is under the impression his name is 'Sperling', but this is not his name; it is the name of a mythical town in Arizona, where in order to prove his sanity he delivers his "Lecture on the Serpent Ritual" to two young women who are hitch-hiking to New York City. They do not understand a thing he says. Later we learn the truth. The Revenant's name is not 'Sperling', it is STARLING. These events are based on the life and work of Aby Warburg, founder of the Warburg Library and Institute.

Scene:

Seven rooms, of which  
three are  
capable of being reversed and  
arranged either  
in an L or in a torus

[A diagram of this]

Sperling, the Revenant sits quietly  
in his chair. Review, revert, revisit  
dog's age constructions.  
Barricade against expletive and  
loud noises. Dog's bane. Bang.  
Hell's do-it-yourself.  
Lie doggo. Bang.

~

Lights up in a room all  
vanish  
hoop skirts and shoes  
out three doors  
in a moment

~

Silence. Bright light. Nothing.

Sperling is shrouded  
Bang  
is a bong. Bong  
is a gong. And so on. Long gone.

As eyes appear from all corners of the

Is a bright light we are (as if) blinded;

Is  
an assembly of shopping cart, hat,  
and an old Shaker chair. Shoes. A

candle-stick. All in any order covered darkly  
from the rhetoric of the unseen, beyond,  
outside the frame;  
look up all words you do not understand.

Rewrite and reword. Sperling:

One day, after I had gone  
maddened;  
awake in a wilderness of monkeys  
a wilderness of monkeys  
wilderness of monkeys

do not know the place;

~

I did not know the place I saw

two girls, as in a poster,  
hitch-hiking on the highway, a

place I

place I did not know;

Sperling, Arizona.

~

a

~

Long ago I had been to Arizona

all the rooms revealed as one room and  
emptier than hope

Black. A black rhino, and the  
damnably shoes  
there, black. Being  
black

~

000 three zeros

Blackness.

All in a line. Say it

oh oh oh

—

Zero tripled;

as, as the light trips the tip

fingers appear, fingers

&

part the

so,

so we can see the

thee

bingo bingo bingo;

silence, deep as in the

—

~

bingo bingo bingo

bingo bingo bingo

bingo bingo bingo

bango

Sperling. For long periods of time I would sit  
under the might sky, sit

and

and look at the moon we see the

moon,

and it is quite a colossal

and reminds us of another  
reminds us of another

rewind and revolve  
rewind and revolve  
when we

would sit for long periods, in the quiet,  
and look up at the moon--

Psst! When we were young Bang

Lights up all of them  
up full  
bang bang  
bang.

Bango ...

Vanish, they

~

Sperling. It has come to this:  
Be removed or suffer to be  
blinded in a bright light,  
bug light of purest revocation,  
and be made dead. A thing

sling  
slang  
slung

shot out of sight. So they go  
just go

~

We see such & such shadows and hear a far laughter, off,

we

we set\see the light  
only and

~

... & ...

~

When I came to my senses, I was in this  
awful bughouse, a door, a bed, a table.  
open windows and the desert [universe] beyond

Psst, a picture or poster on the wall, of two

~

o, wholly innocent of removal

~

o, wholly innocent

~

pretty girls, oh, oh,  
hitch-hiking from here to there,  
at Sperling Arizona, a place I  
I had not known.  
A poster or picture and sure I was  
mad.  
Or so they told me

Well. Was this a condition my  
superior sense of conviction has  
caused a space to? Or

Well. Was this a conviction my  
superior sense of space had  
caused to seem a condition?

Space opened. Apparence.

Is's argument.

Or integument.

Or

~

a [A picture of this]

~

Run out of space. They do.

Sperling is silent;  
Starling of shadow;  
notices his own  
shadow till it stares.

It stares?

Crowd of them enters, inch in & await a mere  
glance ...  
but no ...  
no look is returned;

...

?

...

!

a finger taps on something wooden;

what of wood? We see  
a

~

The Revenant's apparentness  
in  
his foot, covered;  
covered by shoes, black ones;

For he is being  
under the obligation of being (an obligee)  
watched;



This

~

—

~

The  
is  
this goes on for a time

[A picture of this]

And goes: all  
peel off and go out  
singly and in pairs;

Sperling says:

Starling, starling, starling.

An old, odd removal  
of obligation.

We hear someone sing a song we cannot  
quite  
make out. Time was

...

Nothing here, go on to the next room

...

an old victrola, playing an old  
song not now remembered;  
parbuckle, mallet, and a

yes, a

ha ha ha  
ha ha ha ha

ha

Labyrinth; lit cigarette in the ash  
tray someone has been here some  
one someone has just departed, a

~

Unfinished, an order of being

Someone does something. Stops.

The room stops-- not the  
someone; not the  
something; not the  
doing. Doing portrayed

as an old victrola. An

odd arrangement of  
parbuckle, mallet

(tinsmith's? mason's? bossing? caulking?  
composition? rawhide? carpenter's?)

and a

—

Leave this place, one at a time

7 in all

~

Next we are aware of the, ah

An Inability of the Theatrical, ah,

(not what I meant)

An Inability of the Theatrical to

Pin the pindownable to  
more

than this;  
This This--  
pinheadedness, oh

a light wind ruffles the curtain, through  
which we see:  
Luna (the lunatic),  
behind a starlit

psych

~

Starlight and Starling  
in rare rotation;

a roomful of the

the

pseudo-event, the

wow again. Wow!

What happened at Meteor Crater, my

!

~

You must respond to this by doing nothing nothing

more than rotate the world

StagePictureDevice,

Like a sphere. Like a ball  
Bingo Bango Bam  
Bingo Bango Bem  
Bingo Bango Bim  
Bingo Bango Bom  
Bingo Bango Bum

Central axis of the Moving World,

unseen,  
unmoving;

the, ah,

the unstill all around you

as the 3 who make the Revenant  
&  
whisper in the next room.

Dead. Gone.  
Crow.

~

Actuarial. Memory. Time's ago. Go

Go there, thinking.

Good, a ghost

Good, a ghost

Good, a ghost. Three girls ghosts with  
tails and wings (wrong play)

...

accompany you, who.

Silence.

Pause.

Silence. Stop the. Stop it. Stop.

~

Just stand there, Starling's

Eye out the window.

And then, godamighty,  
came the Mahoon.

Oh yeah, came the  
came the came the  
but partially glimpsed  
and obscured in view  
Came the Mahoon yeah

Yeah. Came the.

(from the next room)

~

Revenant in the bug house dreaming

~

Now a shadow of the  
thee?

an instance of mortmain

dead hand of the

thee? Can hear the old victrola

3 rooms back. What's ago; ago's what

So. They retire to the next room  
in resignation. Wherever. Death  
will not be looking for you  
there. Death will be looking  
at the wrong rite somewhere  
down the hall, somewhere else.

Ha

Ha, say it seven times.

Somewhere (look all around)  
else. One: If else there be.

Rites, wronged.

~

Move one. Move one. Move on.

~

Reinvent yourself  
in a bug house  
of your own devising.

Welcome to the theater of downsizing by  
attrition.

Like the Revenant

You can never be replaced.  
Panegyric. Eulogy. The golden watch  
is  
to  
be found  
in the next room.

Open window. Sperling, Arizona.

7 stories, splat.  
jdark, dead. A  
suicide without a question.

Whispers, seven voices, out of earshot  
barely

. Punt

Unmoving  
the  
Starling's eye,

. Puntilla

The Unseen

~

Even big shoes get filled. Exeunt  
(they go).

professor emeritus "forgotten but not gone"

~

Prompt the recent retiree  
to remember that remembering  
is a forgetting

As the three dikes know  
(Did I mean Fates?)  
Did I mean Graces?  
Did I mean Erasers?):

The Sleeper. The Dreamer. The Waker.

One slips out. One coughs. One  
lights a cigarette as the Revenant  
comes apart, is reassembled,

all hope and brightness

[A picture of this]

in the next room, or better yet  
in the room beyond that one.

~

Room with the Revenant's big  
black shoes  
in them. Old rhino hide. These

shoes will be filled, but not by the person hired  
as

a replacement. All: I am looking at you

One: buster

~

A sudden act of someone being removed,  
not someone you know.

Thus. Only seen in glimpses, partially

or fully obscured in view. An old chair  
in a shopping cart, hatted,  
covered darkly,

...

is a bright light overhead

light-scatter

as eyes appear from (odd) corners  
of the room

The town of Sperling is covered  
Bang  
Is a shroud. Bang  
Is a bong. Bong  
Is a gong.

Gone gong. Gong.

The 7 are gone, a flutter of silk.

The 3 are:

Silence. Brightness. Nothing.

Where? Who? Leave it open

—

!

—

SilencePauseSilence.

~

Now you guess (doggone doggo).

~

The Revenant's next room is the room  
of most hatted abbreviations, all of them



beginning with the letter Q.

Q 1. queen. 2. quetzal.

q 1. quart. 2. quarter. 3. quarterly. 4. also

Q quarto. 5. query. 6. question. 7. quintal.

(what's a quintal?) 8. quire.

qb quarterback.

QB queen's bishop.

QB Queen's Bench.

Q.E.D. quod erat demonstrandum. Which was to be demonstrated.

Q.E.F. quod erat faciendum. Which was to be done.

qt. quintal (what's a quintal?).

...

The 7. QSO. quasi-stellar object.

QSRS. quasi-stellar radio source.

qt. quart.

qt. quantity

qto. quarto.

qu. 1. queen. 2. query. 3. question.

quad. 1. quadrangle. 2. quadrant.

The 3. ques. question

quot. quotation.

qt. quintal (what's a quintal?).

By "hatted" he meant "hated"; there are  
no hats; there is no questions of hats;

All. Q.E.D.

~

In room the next

Eye

effigy you

to invoke an absence,

...

an indifference to the here and now.

A flutter of silken curtain, mad curtains  
in the afternoon sunshine.

An answer to "wow"; a

non-Wow.

Pause.

Someone does something.

Silence.

Pause.

We hear the sound of leather and rubber. Exeunt.

~

Enter omnes in a bunch.

All caught in full view. Shock.

Shock Horror Disbelief!

Go out in a bunch. A

rubber ball bounces.

Bounce

bounce

Bounce. Stops. The bouncing stops.  
all of its own. No one has done this.

. Punt

...

?

...

!

. Puntilla

A & B. That is better.

That is much batter.  
? Batter?  
Better, I said "better".  
You said "batter".  
I said "better".  
Skip it.  
Ahem. Someone notices something,  
or rather. Someone has failed to  
notice something until someone else  
(someone else more perceptive)  
has pointed it out.

Indian tobacco. Indian turnip  
or Jack-  
in-the-  
pulpit.

The Feather'd People.

All 7 stare. Go out and

~

In the next room the King of England is pictured  
Sitting in the position of Neptune  
on the Pound Note

(Because he looks like an Indian  
turnip)

Dead. Crow.  
Gone

[End of ]

Scene:

Seven rooms, of which  
three are

capable of being reversed.

In one, one some ways away, a person has  
failed to appear. This creates an

oddity here; how?

By here is meant (t)here.

No one can say. No  
one can say. No one  
can say.

Say;  
for in the room beyond that is exhibited the town  
of Sperling, Arizona,

as a miniature, the model of which  
has caused to be builded in paper and sticks  
painted according to the true. Color of color actually not,

because the disappearance of town into a  
person's mind

is to be enacted, very quietly,  
in the

farthest room imaginable Hush

and you can hear the walls;  
point  
focus  
light  
a corner  
a section of  
3 dimensional;

Sperling thought he was a man.  
No, no, no,  
because he is  
a town  
in Arizona that does not  
exist on any map,

map I know. Hush, & be

O

~

—

and he is  
a

~

Someone goes away  
because

~

Someone has to  
tie a shoe  
lace

[Picture a big space]

~

Thing there, a covered thing?

brass base,

circular, hurricane lamp

...

Okay, someone says, in the next room,  
all hoax, all a hoax, yes, yes.  
Came here to prepare my lecture on the,  
ah,  
on the,  
(I do not expect you to believe)  
ah,  
on the

...

[  
]

~

Starling goes; Starling stays. He is played

by 3

others

Sleep. Waker, and the

Surrogate Dreamer, a

kind of duck. They do the "damnable duck", get  
lost, other rooms, other times,

[Make a picture of this]

[Make a pictorial response  
to the first picture, by  
tracing perhaps]

and

and?

and

Nothing can stay for long, withstand  
being drawn out of here, bodily, into  
the next room where

I

effigy you  
sit there in your  
own damned doubleness  
and judge me;  
like a very roundy  
yellow fruit, an apple,  
a pear, or some such.

"A Lecture on the Serpent Ritual"  
and by this composition I shall prove my  
sane way out of this infernal bughouse;  
as

In room the next  
you  
effigy me  
to express an absence. Or invoke, I meant.

~

Stop. In

the long corridor the shadow of a what

and

and?

and

Came the Mahoon  
Came the Mahoon  
Came the Mahoon ...

Silence.

Someone checks the silence to be sure  
it is not

horror horror horror

a pause

by rapping on it with a spoon.

...

?

...

?

And. And.

Pause. Silence. Pause.

Came the Mahoon  
Came the Mahoon  
Came the Mahoon ...

Someone tries to portray the picture of this, is  
cut down for her folly. Brightness  
and Nothingness

remove the guts, lug them to the next  
room;

Room Theoretical

where "Nature abhors a vacuum" and so on.

All that old  
bughouse  
crap

~

That leaves only Brightness and Nothingness  
and  
the sound of the old victrola.

Curiouser and curiouser, the two  
girls

on the soft shoulder, two miles out the  
window,  
are still trying to thumb a ride to the big city.

within a  
room  
they do not know,  
imagining.

Someone will have to replace them when they  
are  
come to be dead.

...



?

...

!

Came the Mahoon!  
Came the Mahoon!

Starling, softly, from the farthest room  
from which one may be overheard:

C  
A  
M  
E

T  
H  
E

M  
A  
H  
O  
O  
N.

The 7 reply from  
here;  
shut the window on the two lonely girls  
who  
on the road  
are  
run out of space;

arrived at a  
000,  
a place I had not known. Known

like a sphere. Like a ball

Bingo bango bam

Bingo bango bem  
Bingo bango bim  
Bingo bango bom  
Bingo bango bum

Central axis of the Moving World,  
unseen,  
unmoving;

the, ah,  
the unstill all around you

....

As the 3 who make the Revenant  
&  
whisper in the next room:

Dead. Gone.  
Crow.

~

Shoes will be filled, but NOT by the person  
hired as a  
replacement,

all hope and brightness

in the next room, or better yet  
in the room beyond that, or in the

...

Lights up there (here they go out)

...

or:

of water, under pressure, or aer.

No one there. An error or ors:  
an error of alternatives.

~

...

(hushed)

... there are no doors.  
Doors have disappeared. People disappear

without

going through doors because there aren't any.

... the motif of a universe  
without boundaries  
without compartments ... [Man Ray]

... shadow from the next room We are  
only just now aware of it. From the  
previous room

a chair is set. Something

thinks about sitting down  
you are all very tired  
someone thinks about this  
you are all very tired  
but does not sit down  
because somehow it is  
impossible to do so with  
that damnable shadow

there, as of the past of future  
even worse if the future yes

a chair is set. Something  
is wrong with spacio-temporal  
arrangement:

~

Do not know. We

~

...

?

...

~

a sound like wind, only it cannot be

The curtains are ruffled, in the least,  
in the  
in the least ruffled; hence  
if it is a wind, it is a  
wind  
made mad. A wind maddened

...

(wacko)

...

Consider this

as you think about making you own exit;

making your exit in such a way

as to suggest to the others, the FOOLS,  
that they consider the same thing;  
look at  
them, the  
FOOLS, greatest tribe of humanity the  
FOOLS,

the, why it,

it, ah,

er;

Lights up in a room all  
vanish  
hoop skirts and shoes  
out three doors  
in one moment;

doorways, not doors.

There is, as you can plainly see, no  
door, nor  
any such thing as door;  
Look!

~

...

... you do not look ...

...

... are afraid

...

... are afraid to look  
because of the shadow;

Came the Mahoon!  
Came the Mahoon!  
Came the Mahoon!  
Oh, yeah, came the Mahoon;  
came the Mahoon!  
Came the Mahoon!  
Came the Mahoon!

Silence. Brightness. Nothing  
(not "nothingness", notice).

Sperling is shrouded.  
Bang  
Is a shroud. Bang  
Is a gong. Gong  
Is gone

as eyes open up on the first, on the last

as if a bright light from somewhere overhead

was (is)  
a shopping cart resting on, dog's age, an  
old wooden chair, hatted  
covered darkly,

I do not recall the place, only

...

?

... from where?

~

an old wooden chair, dog's age, of shaker construction

Notice the

~

People disappear through doorways, and do not  
return

sometimes;

[A picture of this]

or,  
the opposite of this is enacted.

[A picture of this]

~

So that if/when the Revenant returns as  
something else.

Notice this.

Notice what was said was "something else"  
not "someone else"

~

Shoes will be replaced, but not by the person

hired as a  
replacement,

all hope and brightness

in the next, or better yet  
in the room beyond that, or in the

...

Lights up there (here they go out)

...

~

This is the Revenant's pinacotheca;

surrogate upon surrogate passes

quoting Aristotle  
on the vacuum:

"Nature abhors a ..."

...

—

The 7 sing: Nature abhors a ...

Nature abhors a\*

Nature abhors a

Nature abhors a

Nature abhors a, etc.

While the 3 sing (in strange counterpoint):

Came the Mahoon,

Came the Mahoon,

Came the Mahoon, etc.

...

[\* = lap

Preceded by a shadow, a Tall Man enters,  
covered in a shroud, a man not like  
any of the others (Mahoon?);

he threatens to drive us out;

and so the 7 are driven;  
the 3, however, remain.

~

For a time nothing happens, and  
they  
remain  
there, remaining  
as still  
as if it were a challenge to someone else  
to be a part of this.

Whispers. Ah, er, ha.

Silence. Pause. Silence.

Someone does something in the vicinity of her  
shoe. Old Rhino hide.

Bingo Bango Bam  
Bingo Bango Bem  
Bingo Bango Bim  
Bingo Bango Bom  
Bingo Bango Bum

This in a hurry-scurry, as in an afterthought.

...

The Sleeper. The Dreamer. The Waker.

One slips out. One coughs. One  
lights a cigarette as the Revenant  
comes apart, is reassembled.

all hope and brightness,



[A picture of this]

in the next room, or better yet  
in the room beyond that one.

~

Hydraulic.  
Hyacinthus.  
Hurricane lamp.

~

The 3 enact the Revenant.

...

Pause. Silence. Pause.

... and not one person laughed. This rude parody was not felt to be a piece of comic mockery; rather it was a kind of auxiliary ceremony of the more wildly exuberant ... to ensure a rich harvest. Anyone acquainted with ancient tragedy will recognize in this the dual nature of the tragic chorus and the satyr play-- both grafted to one stem.

The girls from Sperling. One. Did I hear him wrong? Did he say, this road doesn't go to New York City? I dunno. Neither do I. Dammit. Damn.

...

The 3 as the Revenant. I shall be vindicated if the pictures of the daily life of the Pueblo Indians have proved to you that their masked dances are not a mere game, but the heathen's answer to torturing questions on the whys and wherefores of things.

~

Stop.  
Down the long corridor, we hear a reply  
spoken

On the whys and wherefores of things, and

...

... and on the question,

The (far off) 7 (whispered):

of ...

ah,

er,

ha,

of why we creep before we walk

(because, are we creepy?).

[End of ]

Scene:

Seven rooms, of which  
three are  
capable of being reversed.

You who are  
still  
present, you

...

will do as I say (the 7 and the 3 in  
some  
configuration, other than  
the  
obvious) as what is  
spoken  
IS spoken; so

Someone (this means you; this  
does NOT mean  
you)

does something.

Pause. Do you know  
WHAT  
that is  
?

...

Silence. Do you know  
WHAT  
that is  
?

...

Pause. Must I repeat myself.

Find a volunteer. Take this person  
out,  
and do something to suggest a(n)

ah,

er,

ha,

Equation, in which the person so removed  
must stand for X,  
the unknown,  
against some knowable Y,  
a shoe perhaps.  
Black. Hide. Rhino.

So that an endless series of substitutions  
may begins;

~

The  
is  
this goes on for a time.

[A picture of this process]

And goes out: all  
peel off and go out  
singly, and in pairs;

Someone says:

Starling, starling, starling

...

An odd, old removal  
of obligation;

down the hall some way, in a far, far room,

...

We hear someone sing a song we cannot  
quite  
make out. Time was

...

Hydraulic

...

!

(Hushed): off somewhere, somewhere  
difficult to pinpoint:

Strophe a) Hydraulic\*

Hyacinthus

Hurricane lamp

Strophe b) Or: of water under pressure.\* Or Air;  
or aer; or err.

Lights out.

Strophe c) No one there (here). An error  
of ors: an error of  
alternative errands.

[Repeat X 7; or X 3]

~

Error (here)

Errand (there)

Someone goes; someone stays; or

Error (there)

Errand (here)

Someone stays; someone goes.

~

Item.

Someone comes to take your place. You are not altogether unhappy, as this person is,

ah,

better at being (impersonating you) than you are.

~

Item.

Someone recedes to the Innermost Room in the name of the Outermost and sits there talking quietly to herself.

~

Someone else listens to this, as if it were a far off thing, thinking-- thing-thinking;

~

Someone  
other than the one you expect is deeply involved  
in observing the someone else who  
so  
listens;

~

Item. The  
two lost girls wonder

...

wonder at all this

~

Item. In  
the above three (the 3) comprise the Revenant  
in his madness; they are aware of both the  
Innermost and Outermost as they enact,

ah,

er,

ha,

The Starling;

An old, odd removal of  
... of obligation;

We hear someone sing a song we cannot  
quite  
make out. Time was

(and is)

...

Nothing here, go on to the next room

an old victrola, playing an  
old song not now remembered,

inner word, inner light, inner-  
tube and a

yes a

ha ha ha  
ha ha ha ha

ha

[Picture the 7 enacting this  
according to a cycloid:

Picture of the cycloid]

labyrinth; lit cigarette in the ash  
tray someone has been here some  
one someone has just departed, a

~

Item.  
Behold the Revenant's inner  
most  
Inner  
Mongolia:

~

Shadow of the

~

Came the Mahoon.  
Came the Mahoon.  
Came the Mahoon.  
Oh yeah, came the  
Mahoon.  
Came the Mahoon.  
Came the Mahoon.  
Came the Mahoon;  
and all (!)  
Go out, banging on wood with metal  
implements or on metal with wooden

implements or on wood with  
wooden or on metal  
with metal  
or on \_\_\_ with \_\_\_  
or on on with on;  
and on and on

...

(Hushed)

...

... mahoon ...

~

Item.  
Silence.

Pause.

Silence.

~

Item.  
Life's a w

h

e

e

l

o

r



maybe not;

|

i

f

e

,

s

a

Deadbeat Escapement.

[A picture of this]

~

Item. The girls arrive at Meteor Mound, where no road is; encounter a man named

Named (a feather'd person)-- an

anagram of 8 letters  
(plus 2 for the girls makes the total  
esoterica,

o  
in this space,  
o,o,

A

S            B  
L R  
E N P  
G I

~

O,o,o. Wind hushed,

out the  
window, a  
far far  
Moonish &  
a  
... of the ...

Dead. Gone.  
Crow (Starling).

~

Item.  
The Tall Man was (is) a Room like none of the  
others; he  
the girls, projective entities on wooden balls (Oursler)

And in doors to come will, yes,

arrive in New York City

and after doors and doors and doors and doors  
to come

...

(I mean "ways")

will stay where we are;  
stop time  
&  
block the work of forgetting

—

an architectural manifold:

[A picture of this]

~

If one god frowns

~

Item.  
Innocents in a cluster, as  
a

...

reverberatory furnace  
of voices, reversions,  
revolt, revocation  
and  
ah,

er,

ha,

...

?

...

... (hushed) the whatnot of what he  
(The Revenant)  
learned from the  
Feather'd People

~

Item.  
Tap the toe too.

~

Item.  
A single shoe, battered, black.

~

Item.  
Something under a cover, and the brass  
candlestick, knocked over.

Item.  
A perspective, accidental, of all 7  
Rooms, with nothing in them, except a

ah,

er,

ha,

...

... a whatnot ... in the ... hatted(?)

~

Item.  
Not even that.

~

Item.  
Idea of the Pinacotheca is the Pinacotheca,

"things are where they seem to be"

Nothing happens, and  
fills all spaces;

Someone gives a ride to two girls, near the  
Crater Mound or Meteor Crater (he? The Mahoon?)

in central Arizona; near the mythical  
town of "Sperling" or an anagram  
of those letters

Each of the girls possesses a letter which is deposited far  
off in a room beyond anyone's reach.

These 2 letters when combined with the 8 of  
"Sperling"'s letter comprise the 10;

broken down this reveals  
both the 3 and the 7;  
the

Revenant (the 3) is revealed  
as

...

SANE, a cured man ...

ah,

er,

ha;

and is re-re-released from Doctor \_\_\_'s  
Hospital of Diseases of the Already Known,  
the Chronically Undecidable and All Forms  
of  
Deadbeat Escapement,  
(a terrible  
affliction);

So--

~

Item

(Hushed) the 10 in turn.

Innocent XIII surrogates Innocent XII who goes to a  
far room, where (s)he surrogates Innocent XI, who goes  
one room farther and so on; Through the  
sequence Innocent X  
Innocent IX Innocent VIII Innocent VII  
Innocent VI Innocent V Innocent IV.  
All. Innocent III Innocent the Tooth  
Innocent the Once

—

Innocent the one afflicted, down the hallway  
some, with a cess of ors; and ors ago--  
like the Revenant himself-- with an inmost

horror of all abbreviation, and an  
obsession with the question  
of

Why the King of England Sits in the Position  
of Neptune on the Pound Note;

and other disturbing  
matters inmost  
enmeshed

(t)here, or there, or in another room (w)here

...

Someone gives a feather to  
someone as an effigy of someone who  
is no longer

(t)here;

Bingo bango bam  
Bingo Bango Bem  
Bingo Bango Bim  
Bingo Bango Bom  
Bingo Bango Bum.

~

!

~

...

~

!

~

—

~

Item.

So: In this curiously EMPTY and  
curiously VACANT place,  
the bughouse of Doctor \_\_\_\_;  
the

maddened Revenant has been  
organizing his images and items  
to present, singly and chorically  
his "Lecture on the Serpent Ritual"  
and  
free him (and us all) of the  
Mahoon's error of

To  
stay in a room after one has already been  
removed therefrom

~

Item.

The Revenant's errand is to embody his own  
removal.

~

Item.

Room, room, ro(o)om.

~

Item.

Chorus (the 7 and the 3) enacts the litany of surrogation;

Removal & departure  
(of Innocents, all 13);  
i.e. (Author's Note) this is  
NOT a visual play; it is a play on the spacio-temporal  
in entirety.

~

Item.

The Revenant's errand is to embody the

~

Item.  
The Not-Already Known. Slant.  
Plays as a device. Slant.  
Room  
the room.

Stop the

Stop

Stop time, block the work of forgetting

Look out the windowworld.  
Saepe premente Deo fert Deus alter apem.

—

~

Item  
a feather.

~

Item.  
Someone drives us out before it is time.  
We resist.

~

Item.  
Peril.  
Shoes. Biting, or the urge to bite. Be a  
fox. A Fox Person.

~

Item.

...

Ways (open) to the land of the undecidable



~

Item.  
Some one ... girls

~

Item.  
Often if one Starling frowns another will do  
our business

~

Someone goes; someone stays;

Apparence

LAST NOTE: The girls, A & B, arrive in New York, and secure employment at St Ann's Center for Surrogation Studies. At night they frequent low and slank places; they explore the architectural wonders of the theater. In so doing they re-recover a reality. That which is lovely in itself is lovely when it appears.

[End of ].

End of Play.