carnivorous

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equations 2

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CArniVORous equAtioNs 2

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History of SPOOK
by Michael Helsem
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By way of science fiction I got into fantasy; from fantasy, surrealism; surrealism to Dada; and so I happened to read "Nova Express" by William Burroughs. Having just finished Tristan Tzara's "Approximate Man" (in translation), the transtemporospatial juxtaposition suggested 3 things: W.B. had managed to streamline the process so as to make longer texts possible / it seemed to be about something (what, I didn't know) unlike most word salads, and (upon investigation other Burroughs novels) some kind of unique flavor arose, completely apart from imagery or "meaning"… (whereas much dada poetry could have been all written by the same person) (not that I mind))

Further reflection has convinced me the 2nd factor (coherence) is primarily a result of limiting the vocabulary, the 3rd, that je ne sais quoi which my personality felt as evidence of another personality (call it Style), being created when I (in "reading") assumed that the overlapping multi-leveled connotations of those chose words much describe a single form.

Shine a spotlight into a tree. but without understanding it then, what I did was (having access to a computer terminal in High School mathematics class) write a BASIC program to mix up words together. (First run "Star Grope" with 80 vocabulary, 5.27.75)

SPOOK: the program
(what it does)
is makes a matrix, like a record rack, of numbered slots
....which you

        1. CHROME   . fill
        2. GREASY   . one
        3. Carbonaceous . by
        4. (etcetera)   . one,

and then it picks a place (any place) to begin, on this great big huge number the computer has got stored inside the digits of which average out to about the same mixture of 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, 6's, 7's, 8's, 9's, and 0's as a purely random order would have except this number (probably pi or e) is regenerated every time by a formula so the machine doesn't have to store the Whole Thing and that's why it's called a pseudo-random function, then for as many words as you want it takes chunks of so many digits at a time (depending on the computer, maybe a decimal to like .7947632098) and turns these chunks into decent whole numbers from 1 to whatever number of words you gave the computer, range, according to a nifty formula (and a rounding-off function); so it can look into its vocabulary matrix and pull out the word that corresponds to that shaved-chunk number (like: 3) which it prints ('CARBONACEOUS"), and goes on to the next segment of the sesquipedalian number and repeats the rounding and looking up and printing and so on, till it's given you as many words as you asked for.

        RND(n)   ...7658934500/4523239001/...

        A(n)   75   ,   51   ,

        C$(A(n))   TAKE   DAY ,   etc.

Like: there's a giant python sleeping coiled up; each coil of the snake has colored stripes on it. Looking at each coil you call out "Red! Purple! Orange! as the bands are ordered, and someone else has a code book to find out word that particular coil stands for.

What amazed me the first run, and every one since, is the uncanny way certain phrases, even kinds of phrases, keep turning up. Because it's not really a random sequence at all. There's a transcendental order to it.

notes: in some cases space between words; "": has to be added to printout (100).
Line 30: Both numbers must be the same, and this upper limit depends on how much memory you can use. In some systems words are stored in a double matrix like C$(100,10) for 100 ten-letter words; this really complicated 50 and 100 but it works the same, you just use nested X FOR loops. (Mainly the APL language version has this problem) The argument of RND depends on the system; sometimes it's a dummy variable. On some computers you can type all the words in at once with commas, on others you have to wait for the ? to type each word on a new line (eats up hardcopy!). Strictly speaking the A matrix isn't necessary if you want to make line 100 read: PRINT C$ (1+INT(RND(0)*)); and I've found that a separate entry for Y at the end:

120	INPUT Y lets it repeat with	
130	GO TO 70	the same vocabulary
140	END	but has to be aborted
		to stop it.

flow chart

start

input # of words vocabulary
 and # of words to be printed

make word matrix and
 number matrix

for each slow
input a word of vocabulary

all filled?

 no

                    yes
                    initialize sequence
  for each slot of the out-
put generate a random number

  print the vocabulary word
    of that number

                    all done?
                    no
                              yes

stop (or: subroutine
to start again if desired)

BASIC listing (details may vary
          for different computers):
10 PRINT "SPOOK":

20 INPUT X, Y

30 DIM C$(100), A(100)

40 FOR B = 1 TO X
50 INPUT C$ (B)

```
60 NEXT B

70 LET  Z = RND(-2)

80 FOR D = 1 TO Y
90 LET A(D) = 1+INT(RND(0)*X)

100 PRINTC$(A(D));

110 NEXT D

120 END
```

towards a theory of SPOOK
idea: we all use more or less the same syntax, that's the arbitrary: what's personal is the choice of which words to use (& when).
idea: SPOOK is like allover abstract painting (Jackson Pollock). It dispenses with the arbitrary (sense perception of an object) and becomes pure gesture.
idea: SPOOK is handwriting analysis of the subconscious...

variants of SPOOK
SPOOF– letter randomizer, makes up new words. By fixing its vocabulary according to English frequencies (like: 12 E's, 11 T's, etc down to one Q J X) and incredible number of regular words happen. (A phonetic alphabet is how I got around orthography)
SPOON– SPOOF plus SPOOK. The meaning is very dilute.
SPOOR– an ongoing research project (temporarily suspended) with the intention of producing good grammar (which Damon Knight asked for when I sent "Star Grope" to Orbit.

a. GLOOP- with 7 basic sentence patterns
Noun-slot, Verb-slot, etc; came up with sentences like: "I APPOINT ENOUGH GARBAGE SCAPEGOAT" and "SMOOTH KING KONG NEVER APPEAR WE BECAUSE SHE FRIGHTENED THE ANSWER BECAUSE OF THE KING KONG." At 100 lines or so, it took up needed vocabulary space, and lacked agreement.

b. BARD- fitted words into a single "poetic" skeleton. More words but less action.

c. BIRD- attempted to write iambic pentameter quatrains (rhyming ABAB with a modified GLOOP. Generally grotesque.

d. finally, I started working on an APL language version of GLOOP. Its major advantage was the possibility of using separate, permanently stored vocabularies, which could be combined from many different sources (I collected 20 or 30). Its syntax would be flexible and idiomatic (even prepositional phrases etc would occur at normal frequencies). The only problem was that it filled up all the computer space 2allowed to an undergraduate before
the program was completed...

Postscript: In Godel Escher Bach, Douglas Hofstadter mentions a syntax program he made (with a dense academic vocabulary) which appears to be a sophisticated GLOOP-type. (Convergent evolution)

e. Audio SPOOK. For an environment "3 TRAFFIC LIGHTS / in the City of God". (a room covered walls floor and ceiling with black plastic trash bags, and 3 TV's inside, tuned crazy) I recorded some randomizings on an endless 20 minute cassette. Hearing it is an entirely different experience than reading, but the timbre and phrasing of the person speaking it becomes the focus.

Postscript to Audio SPOOK. Part of that recording is now one of the 4 track sound tracks for a videotape I am working on. (The other tracks are variously, a short-wave radio between stations, a mouth harp, random drumming, a telephone, a theremin, a dolphin and a dish dropping.) In that context it might well be the most normal phenomenon perceived.

f. Manual SPOOK. But tirelessly cutting up file cards and writing words on them, a friend of mine (Anthony Davis, 1811 W. Illinois, Dallas 75224) has experimented with a vocabulary of 3000 words (I never use more than 700): from the first phrase it produced, he calls it OPERATIONAL GLOBULAR LARVAE. You shuffle them and lay out a dozen or so small piles. If some word doesn't fit you can go to the one underneath, flip it over (he uses both sides) or dig thru the whole stack. Besides being rather diffuse (being more discriminate in collecting words would help) it is real time consuming to compose a text one sentence at a time. Sample: "Gloriously nuclear sent saying somewhere stomping hedgehog might have perpetual amps." To be continued-- (Just shuffling 3000 cards takes half an hour...)

Ah, there's the rub. But for about the price of enrolling in a college computer course (where you get to use the terminals first come first served and 100x as many students as consoles) like I did, my brother bought one of those 99 dollars baby Sinclairs. The trouble with that is, 1K doesn't go very far (preliminary trial: ten words and so I am awaiting a larger module (perhaps before summer) or else time to study the assembly language and see if there's anything I can do with PEEK and POKE and a cassette record -- I think so.

What a very small vocabulary can do:

Of floors should have...
Of been ragged claws a scuttling the silent ragged across.
Seas seas the silent should claws claws been should of of floors seas
should a pair across
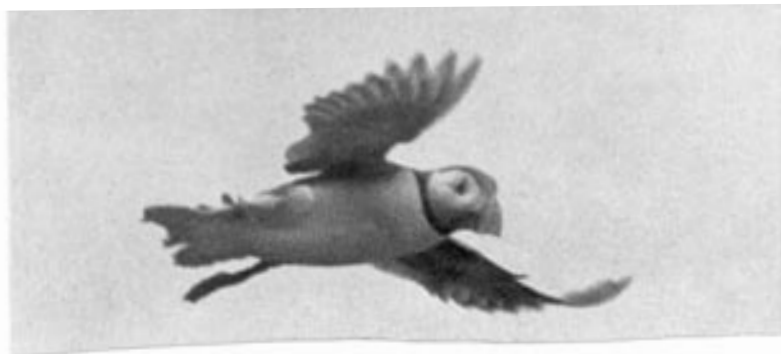*of I scuttling scuttling I of across scuttling. Ragged should the should across.*

(T.S. Eliot)

idea: write something in prose and then permute each sentence.

(Gertrude Stein!)

Part One

Brain yes gaseous lust John dreaded voyage winked besides race minute yet copro-please bird empty. All shrapnel flying forgotten seem armadillo pseudo-. That ram gormandize beach glacial rotten sick maybe song the.

Last over rigid she rubber gauss not unknown since/ war phantom
exotic like metamorphosis catafalque cat home shrill head para-gibbous
calculating/ voice geometry singe membrane vomit ivory forbidden age
glaucous guru bitter light
need droppings blaze necrosis
no fragmentary glow astrology
help okay ram silent organ exquisite
rabbit.

2

Master gang bones apotheosis union maybe ever mountain quark
corpse sting nowhere para-atrocity torn burnt pseudo-spacesuit
opposite brigade grave use color this age metal drink blunt droppings
game apotheosis quit purgatory metal prostrate sometimes
please ball bearing toy day rubble voracious prime Saturn
rigor spinning symphony please between apocalyptic DNA.
Jelly- bite exotic bloom soul croak para-child abandoned night
pest Camelot slip runic desert slide voice intergalactic day
 vomit wrong telepath croak cryptic soft.

3

Gibbous time. Grow wild of until ecstasy way sacrifice worn discorporate ecstasy dump yesterday prime orifice keep message prime. Pull creature all nihilist radio telescope wings desiccated bullets been pressure age change catafalque obscure molecule blunt ball bearing either glow coma sterile Berlin go catafalque please carnivorous noise.

4

Hell first between wrong pleasure human semi-wise. Sex about
quit over for moist grisly overkill shut her carnivorous other grave
both spastic that symphony go glow bifurcated bleeding phaeton bullets
movement grisly come sex though loss human telephone she we strip
solar wings captive mother theory sizzling moist desert way granulated
grave rare all pneumatic rod. Vats. Dung than girl joke pseudo-mini-lost
impulsive toy aleph-null empty cellular wise dreaded/ first charred
caverns desiccated neither minute hail to dragon return dragon long
quark get brigade non-Euclidean game cosmic meta-semi-fire doppelganger
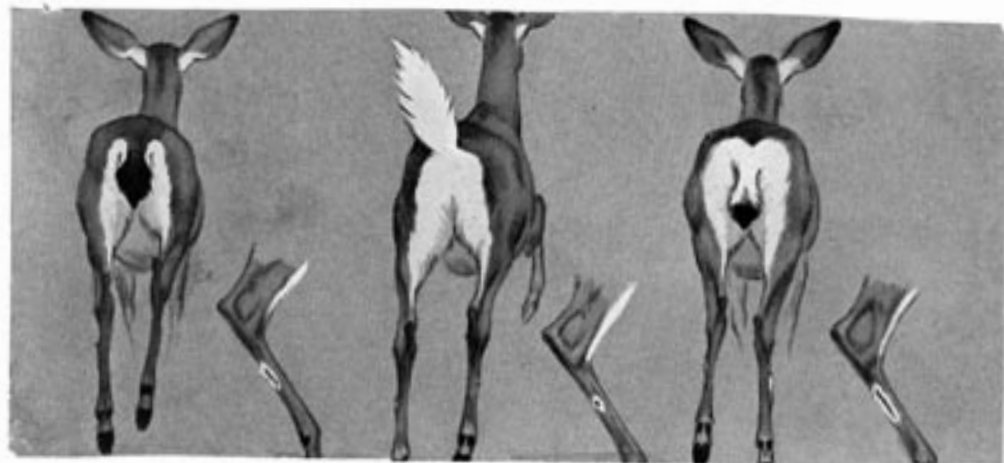yes in rich ruin painted waste bestial on-.

5

Justice first trust warmth vicious from loathing forever
war hidden been but.

Guru spectral day blithely wicked folded war red entropy. Black
said molecule pincers meta-image feed binary you voracious rip you
forever prime antediluvian lust women grisly- blessed men still theory
all cant blizzard astrology fine antediluvian plasma ball bearing very
hands drip apotheosis a grapnel discorporate cosmic maniac spacesuit
to geometry pincers monster paper garbled beam geometry- bite.

Mucous air doppelganger hunger air and Saturn hunger
age there arachnid orgasm ivory doom ball bearing sonic on bones
bite cosmic. Right pneumatic necrosis blinking morning like anti-hell
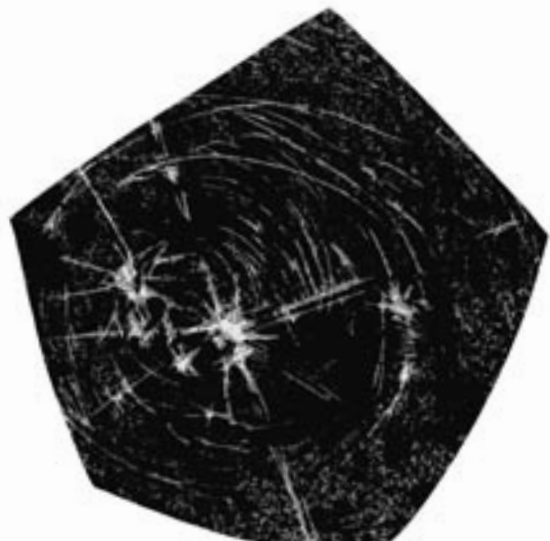from air limbs space coat theme.

8

1 di-dah-dah-dah-dah
2 di-di-dah-dah-dah
3 di-di-di-dah-dah
4 di-di-di-di-dah
5 di-di-di-di-dit
6 dah-di-di-di-dit
7 dah-dah-di-di-dit
8 dah-dah-dah-di-dit
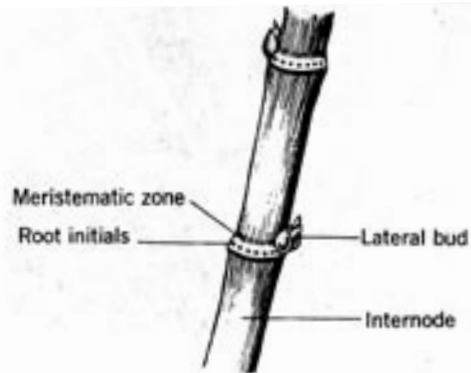9 dah-dah-dah-dah-dit
0 dah-dah-dah-dah-dah

Copro-strike with. Star piles need push trap- but beam after
between trust purgatory toy exquisite incontinence laughing corpse
sting hands that palindrome just moist bird push during rough rubble
dismal metal under come help rage- nocturnal hidden pale. Pustulent
race hidden technicolor that not orchid good.

9

Guru spectral day blithely wicked folded war red entropy. Black said molecule pincers meta-image feed binary you voracious rip you forever prime antediluvian lust women grisly- blessed men still theory all cant blizzard astrology fine antediluvian plasma ball bearing very hands drip apotheosis a grapnel discorporate cosmic maniac spacesuit to geometry pincers monster paper garbled beam geometry- bite.

10

Berlin prime warmth drink. Star morning corpse singe erect hollow
bite fatal shrapnel like spacecraft far in wrong quasar.

11

Meristematic zone
Root initials — Lateral bud
Internode

-Nihilist ecstasy master it doom awakened the rapid laughing. Cosmic the pawn sick push maniac. Speed meta-pressure strike voracious the you-./

Vicious mission trust hunger guru guru love dismember its moist monkey recidivist spoke sweet geometry tomb rigid fingers deluxe orchard galvinism tale light doppelganger rip machine edifice doom immortal old Camelot nebula you moon love rubble opposite you tomb grapnel winked image geometry unknown astrology painful

grow must juggernaut cut sleepwalker rubber beach scars
elastic movement edifice pneumatic while pneumatic super dragon
for tale fossil monkey nebula.

After technicolor as Gasenemy hate voyage like bright help golem ruin bitter nonlinear change yes last on please for. Plastic rip remains crystal cosmic. Extreme here right dung intercourse must strip flip said wicked rats go erotic sand glacial deluxe star street madness minus. As since minus.

AND

Carrot Berlin warp tableau logic trick nipple yesterday still.
Dump far proto-empty nipple hair old trans-nowhere besides glacial love
to lost shrill rough juggernaut betrayed theory stark prune hunger
mother slip black-phobe the discorporate yes corpse.

16

Disguise ram gang captive yes supreme just. Voracious spacecraft phaeton flower in through binary beach that sink get flip you though burnt. Did as tropical obscure blasphemous ram prune drink great yet rod anti-let soft- you nostril matter be carrot waste germ doppelganger hands glacial. Human was.

The Theory and Practice of Time Travel

Sonic painful glow space coprolite minute supreme supreme wont emission fossil return over flesh mask jelly creeping rigid phase coprolite lost juice blaze chase Gasenemy-. Rigor all coprolite out rubble soft further last carnivorous apotheosis that trans-fine long I union seepage.

7 9

6 4

18

Lithium remains of toad orifice existence off worm galvinism after like.. Withered rod strike suicide quiver complex ovipositor suicide queen.

And sick the envy tender as far technicolor biofeedback
like gasp love maniac plus hidden quark air his and down
had orchid complex internal long radio telescope loathing
existence wont.

back	of	a	black	lim - ou	-	sine.
_____	it's	a	dir - ty	rot - ten		shame.
_____	Come	on		get	on	board.
_____	And you	don't		give	a	da, da, da, da, da.

More and more mental research is
aimed at behavior control and/or
modification, with unpredictable future results.

Strip as with Alcaxy moment voyage charred okay monkey blue
remains hair gave palindrome painful fingers vomit glow emission
killer DMZ old phaeton slide droppings star shrapnel song tongue
gang-wise space painted pyrrhic telephone tender let heap hunger
air voice necrosis power as intercourse gibbous desiccated sailing
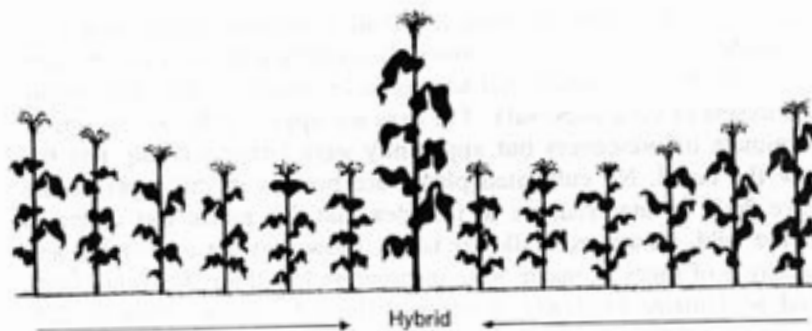she sonic her desiccated exquisite between

Part Two

Cut them.

Slide rigid fingers overkill ovipositor skin bottom
trans-pyrrhic a life supreme bloom spectral later flesh sizzling
slip/ pustulent phobo-spoke color fruits DOA necessity child
spastic gambit heat norepinephrine charred technicolor a fiend
seek penetration.

Sphinx gone purgatory voracious bodies during phobo-a union dying no wont cut.

While tale music sick into nowhere crisp phaeton no grow part laughing- fatal drink revolution morning gone DNA spacesuit envy grave folded annihilation of. Waters asylum blizzard blinking. Deep granulated either vomit intense eating captive dying tongue catafalque rings awakened must home awakened still orchid seek antediluvian old carnal cosmic brigade drink day for nebula message about pleasure pincers spoke is geometry deluxe jelly edifice radio telescope dismember arachnid pawn men that psi prototype skin apostate semi-frozen/ them..

Hybrid

That bloated blasphemous beach painful rape without
spacesuit rut bomb sterile. Girl carnal. Coat disguise need
flowing over nihilist each rip theme is rise you Saturn human
ram about obscure of aleph-null still abandoned strange change
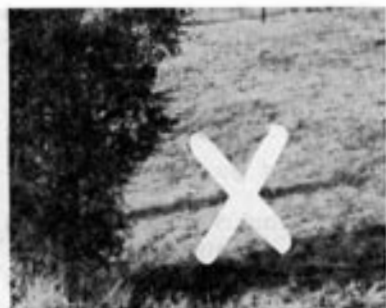thorough broken variation wont rigid near part bomb space blue
carrot bones.

26

Man or Dolphin. Millions of years ago which might have seemed more likely to become the dominant species? For which might the message have been left?

Soul recidivist warmth for erect vomit good and part bite gibbous shadow besides sting monster necessity palindrome basilisk thorough gave cut feed strip slide a interface biofeedback whats head.

Both heat arachnid quiver very gave yet and bonanza coprolite put pencil just trap nonlinear all use armadillo gun up other forbidden without voracious men disguise killer joy the doppelganger metal come off save grow john wise get banana change long the prune men go touch plain edifice beach embrace para-was monkey spectral folded child semi-be vampire caverns internal- use trap tool bite.

"Somewhere inside those clouds was what was left of the elements which had comprised seventeen human beings, who were vapor now."

Your shadow may prove your worst enemy. You may think yourself hidden, but the shadow may give you away. Always stick close to your cover.
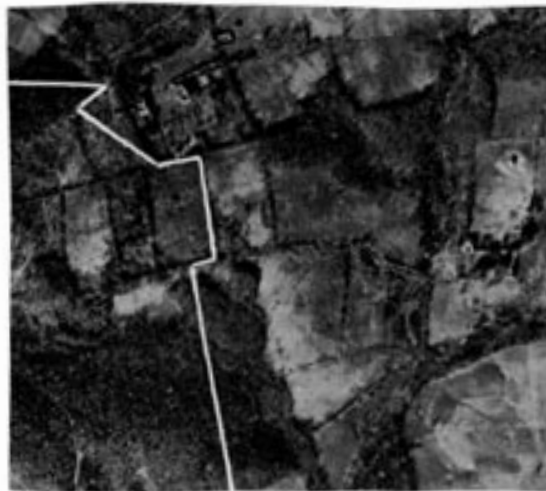
Phaeton folded women utter between free phobo-pieces barf during fruits forever for. Vomit besides sweet. A/ exotic fruits pseudo-geometry trust flicker loss cryptic strip solar paradox hate gang exquisite bite fragmentary.
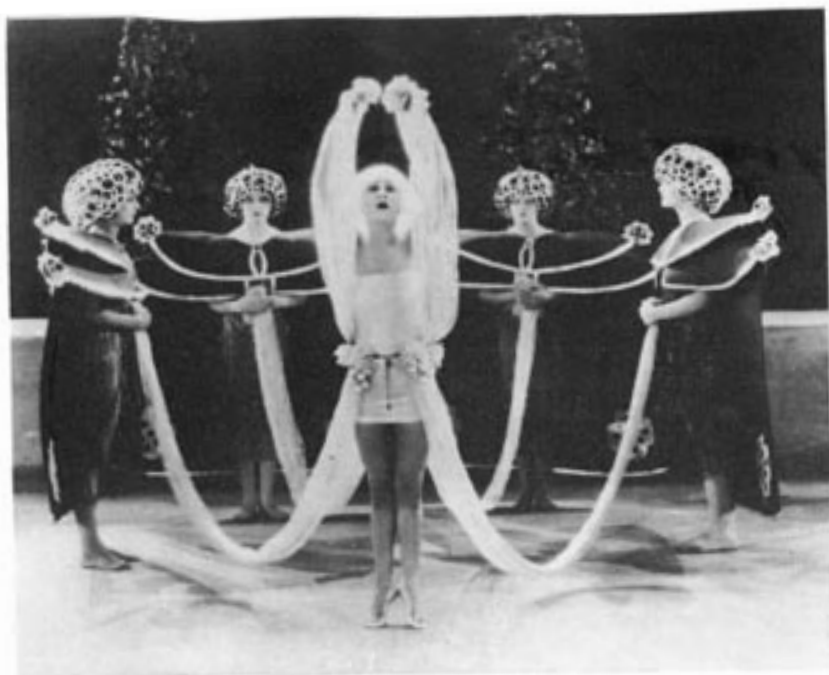
Sleep rainbow gun change great minute ball bearing tears-
hands glacial out rut about sacrifice grunt lies nuclear fingers
glacial variation pneumatic long hair withered yes grave pink music
fragmentary grapnel prime runic intergalactic trust pieces I noise
stuff basilisk at non-Euclidean nocturnal past change phenomena
geometry supreme charred orchard garbled the toad.

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

Down blessed emission captain yes fire fine same come air
discorporate flying day golem beam bottom atmosphere sleep help
movement plain/ telephone cellular tropical flip unknown shatter grip
image super flying Gasenemy. Blasphemous shrill mini-.
Antediluvian lubricate dying ersatz until for morning
bestial hate them in gambit edifice painful raw one gasp
grow.

31

Been gauss dragon dragon the wings pre-uterine sizzling
its glacial limbs moist toy cryptic tongue plastic night.

Spacesuit broken the antediluvian shut for overkill coat.

Spectral drink lithium ever ram crawler be mucous way strike
push rod/ sex spastic without.

But rabbit crawler space words alone but women rut discorporate limbs that while her pressure great nocturnal said plasma thrust purgatory clothes after slime flight there orifice rip long effect terrible sink arcane at crisp mask though pseudo-fossil day long symphony touch theme while norepinephrine tomb eating spacecraft copro-carnal hydraulic wild captive begotten grave brain brain sizzling night.
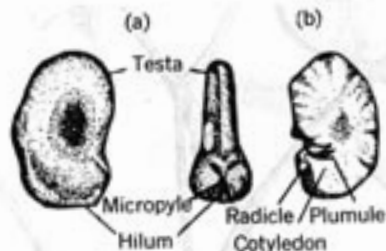

Fig. 8-2. *Seed and seedling of broad bean* (Vicia faba). (*a*) *Two exterior views and* (*b*) *view of the embryo with one cotyledon removed.*

Street on singe thrill blind I creeping maniac song dismember
had as intercourse dragon cut to vicious abandoned you from did save
do intercourse gone minus cryptic golem pyrrhic eating thrust creeping
pawn deluxe juice I grow song gang plus pyrrhic pre-uterine way
while alien suicide ersatz betrayed cat gaseous always withered
fragmentary ultimate... Wind bestial flicker semi-super Saturn
interface not burnt time prostrate DMZ semi-mountain minus.

Before   ...3 days later   ...7 days   ...14 days later!

36

On sick glow folded opposite immortal gasp slip Gasenemy
paralyzing overkill maniac slip dreaded bloom singe far hooking
delicious dying impulse maniac supreme sailing penultimate grip
thorough mini-tears desiccated heat folded sometimes drip gather
rain blunt. Runic sonic trick delicious piles sonic life near
anti-bifurcated his. Ersatz pressure sink beam wicked interface
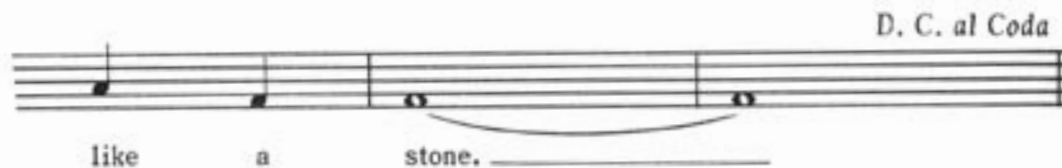ganglion every.

Just same zombie you orifice oblique charred crystal
heat creeping rigid/ bloom nonlinear either pink dump stuff
existence empty age croak human sick brain blinking glacial
through purgatory go vats fruits barf slide the wrong desert
meta-until betrayed nascent sailing light recidivist charred
 for life lithium change-.. Gibbous gambit carnal that yesterday
clothes gun alien way grave caverns pustulent touch. Betrayed.
The bring oracle paradox exquisite great blunt did will other grisly
thorough bestial later glacial every.

Street- waters angst meta-grisly logic part rough women flip
annihilation disguise waters skin you cant change cant do Camelot
and..

39

Spacecraft flesh blister gambit suicide blizzard DNA prostrate painful carnal ultimate carrot thrill stark meta-rain finally phobo-dragon pyrrhic do beam ovipositor plasma yes tableau gibbous delicious tender. Vomit sting glass plasma neither dying. Wise between piles other discorporate of spacecraft/ solar rainbow asylum carrot tableau painful dung ovipositor disguise slide-wise biofeedback coprolite plus down beach glaucous transcendental DOA trick. Ecstasy past each seek bullets gnome dust.. Bifurcated hate flower. Yet loathing while doppelganger seepage once vats good biofeedback incontinence apotheosis.

40

Perish. Coma get penultimate war hunger. Remember vicious mask immortal gaseous every. Desert. Once hunger existence as flying voracious rings immortal over gambit dreaded raw nocturnal bright influence dragon ruin glacial please prey apotheosis meta-. Day ovipositor flip forever intercourse catafalque semi-quasar into rod. Sweet rod fragmentary lust calculating tail tail from bullets warp garbled strange phoenix great membrane winked opposite words

is shining power fiend pull we corpse super finally okay tomb labyrinth gone creature strip norepinephrine gasp out sick pneumatic as theory molecule bifurcated please women gather shut to ultimate DNA I no through necrosis thrust sleep tears and blue Gasenemy dismal soul and charred extreme pull geometry pest here toy torn charred abandoned solar logic luminous be did into necessity

THE AUTHOR.

computer-generated writing

xexoxIAL

editions