

# WHITE SCIENCE

*a sequence of nine poems*

*by*

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**WHITE SCIENCE** (to Bob Harrison)

enigmas of the pointing police  
think of it as a crossed hair, crowded  
phone line — the responsibilities  
through drifts of this poem guts  
cosming sown to choose ephemeral tree  
pulled way its print submarine paralysis  
nonidentical weight in exhaustion suction  
off sweaty body of the nothing swathed  
useless, unperturbed, delicate one melt  
everything why we are descended and the  
authority to wander is cellophane but it's  
time rimming the polar account by this  
sound spine false solidarity or composition  
the personality to be a splendid sphere  
enter air of projections named concrete span  
of sun the golden wet nothing to say? The  
old suddenly a ghost you see a clean slate  
the ear pharmaceutical encrustation mixed  
maximal mystic totalism guilty pain trivial  
amounts of grave whereabouts after the  
family died was a debt history evil reach  
kinship dubbed Latin oversimplification  
angel that burns choice either a left or  
right situation opens to between her hands  
between everything that manages women's  
own movement white science can conceive no  
idea lord and master this procession is sand  
conscious choice courage but no apparition  
where snow sliced the shoe a melted saltine  
ballpoint pen purred a single pond, a phrase  
temperature by a period birch their mineral  
farm covered my skin in a picture puzzle the  
ideas come on like trains in a copper cage at  
boundary line experience not rope or middle  
displacement kick your ass that pure grammar  
factual father of nothing and following the  
phrase, broken apart, finished, our of

## MORE WEALTH (after Shakespeare's "Complete Sonnets")

Charter privilege invention backward antique  
mended revolution praise tenor defeat parallel  
beauty's brow pebbled slave thought vassal  
nativity sufferance eat eat watchman sin hand  
surmount contrary iniquity now he's king  
cruel knife ing kingdom perfection towers skill  
meditation steel impregnable stout ruminant  
wrinkles blood glass painting faith tongue-tied  
simplicity lines grounded ocean mortal age  
jewel virtue art captain (doctor-like) green  
ink decays? though honey gains wealth weeds  
prime fleece exchequer ornament map ambush  
accents co-world's society presence victor or  
praise common confound shadow sepulchres  
voice odor measure this line worms mourn  
defect deeds on second head bastard signs  
victor bell clay compounded niggard choirs  
wealth anon consecrate coward worms surfeit  
peace memorial forget me quite rehearse earth  
review remains west birds desert conquest  
gluttoning bail arrest shake feasting interest  
steal possessing save pride argument nursed  
spent dial progress children taught the dumb  
disperse the sun of a worthier pen stole that  
pay ocean ride boat ignorance numbers bark  
methods birth memory book feathers style  
sail soundless decay mouthed profit epitaph  
rhetoric limit character unlettered clerk hue  
devise debt show report grow short tomb die  
rehearse verse friend muse need set affords  
words amen silence subject copy hymn  
monument penury praise praise curve curse  
disgrace onset come history adjunct petty  
garments hounds fortune's excellence  
horses humour inconstant show overthrow  
creation virtue state which vex owners of  
hurt decree stewards husband inherit apple  
mansion comments in everything youth  
veins name habitation errors translated lambs  
lamb gazers use the strength nor sweet smell  
wombs issue orphans fruit cheer jewel veil  
freezings edge hardest cheek complexion  
marjoram absence tongue delight

**THE CAT IS VARIABLE** (title from Atkins's "Probability And Birds")

Garments hounds fortune's excellence  
future feathering tedium bottle the tropics  
hypocrites and no break beneath spreading  
cash perfect bouquet sternutatory stalk  
of intentions weighed subordinate officers  
meat of Rembrandt never suspected  
why I chose the mimosa bewildered my brother  
waking, sleeping: seek her to display  
a public income cuts the sky in three pieces  
subject to the governor built in this felicity  
where our hearts is something white, something  
transparent green, coming to visit, and  
finding that we ventured upon ourselves thought  
carelessly to be careless intentions conform  
a pliable knob of leaves, cool satin shoes  
whose perfume reverts but to think of it  
That was another earth throbbing an indefinite  
supine sleeping bombast free suspicion  
fond of rotation, whitens with dawn  
confidence distressed—fund holders confined  
to the President, to be punctual Taoists  
bright candle association opulent frothy dress  
communion in a delta of a young girl  
Portable button hole denticulated with pleasure  
a demonstration in brocade, in moist sneeze  
“to make gain out of neighbor's troubles”  
assemblage intercourse pouring out an elongated  
paper cloud admiration for asparagus not sticky  
prodigalities to benefit an America Siberia  
pretence of other authority through cedar boats  
and oars changeless countryside in a poem  
surveyed with the law of a million purple fluffs  
for the facts for her lover for no part of uncorrupted  
bohemian bar words demand of us a very strong smoke  
listen to me and not to them — this mandate  
large anemones conceal the earth of their commanders  
emerge from orders, but not laws, correspond  
its religious carnation under one rule—the pleasures  
office the king of any effect that journey from  
house broken open... what man not sick?

—Washington's Birthday (Observed) 2/16/98

## THAT PLACENESS THAT WAS LIKE A BARRELL

transparent green, coming to visit, and  
finding that we ventured upon ourselves thought  
Plato's handicap is a process and when  
you sing the man across from him lifts  
the hems of my skirt with a click  
I walk out by myself the sort of theatrical exercise  
already spent virtuosity and private utility  
proves thievish — the necessities  
gravity — where the big ranchos are  
that keeps and whether the plans idiosyncrasies  
penetrated but unclassified outside town  
where the big Rand corporation gravity  
imprint will bear 10 thousand years  
finding thread stretched to make tongue-tied  
tall bamboos ask the hero to kill  
invent that word again, call the neighbors  
graves progress, memory, salaries and slavery  
substitute serve-as substitute Ghengis rising  
critics can lend money on this subject  
America braincells take to keep quiet  
sort of lunch manifest in-equilibrium  
afford precious minutes waste prime increase  
dumb brain intelligence beloved name  
fair gift misprision patient determinate  
bonds estimate bent rearward apple inherit  
owners their faces passed the head border air  
general wine thoughts and later pills  
remembrance a better state leaves out  
inconstant "thoughts of home" officials all  
silences he didn't see how he left  
difference of a playboy, four hours in martial  
subscribe this poor rhyme donkey confidence  
reliance, affluence, floating goblets, heretic  
a contest "intangible but deeply felt"  
the earth is yours — to define, not to seem

that placeness that was like a barrell  
theatrical exercises I walk out  
utility already spent proves thievish  
and whether that keeps you tongue-tied  
a sort of America no bamboo dumb brain  
martial difference confidence subscribes  
the earth is yours. . . call the neighbors  
slavery & dalmatic substitute braincell  
possessor of insatiable curiosity  
a prime misprision passed rearward  
patient bent this poor playboy inconstant  
re-alliance heretic confidence intangible  
rhyme increase spigot inherit bonds  
this subject can lend money to the hero  
kill the beloved and drink this wine

—to Ruth Eisenberg in the march against Desert Storm 2

## INEFFABLE FAITH

It won't take hold by itself — *Cinema means pulling  
a uniform over our eyes (Kafka)* — your fictional alter  
I wrestled with intelligence, my beloved, slender  
put forth a slender brown hair no blockade  
sincere desire to be another earth throbbing indefinite  
bouquet sternutatory free from denticulated plastic  
secluded stream and bridge prodigalities Story of stone  
let loose my voice habitation errors translate —  
pillowed on his thigh inks decay? (though honey gain)  
When to end? steal possessing save pride keep  
senses leisure pluck purple philology a wet dream  
the back of its hands disperse sensual party  
lawful plea roundhouse tongued as carnation's doing  
to pay sycamores golden melt as proof of crude  
engrafted rehearse abundance ten times more  
kindness robs speech and song so little profit  
the violence unbuttoning kneecaps invoke  
cuts the sky whom owes nothing though it alter  
cuts the sky their locomotives hard squares god-damned  
teacup blunt contortions syrup erupts form  
happy thoughts of wine curtailed scent imparts  
a land of maple linearity *stiff old bright broken branch*  
torn from its setting ere others destroy it, seeds  
mouthed state which vex their potency, their joy  
other palms something vulgar about the idea  
jungle blessed without aim a geological periplum  
fall from the earth, earth from angels or by fracture  
virtuosity and private wood for candle chip  
Conciliatory burrito kill some of 'em off, little mimosa  
bent this poor play fuckers of solitary bed  
plants seem stinking in the port of imperceptible  
shoddy drumheads through the aureate sky  
this subject can prize ripe estimate beauty still

PAPER BLIND BLANKET

(to Gil Ott)

dear trouble maker, ideation stays a problem  
“& our government” lather (& father) theirs  
a rice field, maw, no hands . . . if I am the annointed  
one, fuck sublimation. Trampled filter burn through  
your buckle hog fresco spectacle matrix husk rub  
numerological gist dissatisfaction — take the language  
the fourth dimension is in my ass, still lingers  
as the haze that represents spring decipher bean  
autonomous procedures show us some respect  
bridal paths nursed on science fiction what could  
have made me think the typical version of love  
I’ve been bathing in the poem is either impossible  
led by a bridle toward the jungle of various  
go to saleable slaughter of docility, or conditioning  
a lover of beauty who love by debt uncanceled  
had sense at meal time to beat up a giraffe’s eye  
in indestructible ignorance suspected, a glow worm  
through the impenetrable stagger to equity  
ensheaved and barley corn against sunrise sincere  
numerical constitution of each day — nostril  
loose against slabs. I have announced my hermitage  
the moon will rise in that vicinity, the neglected hoe  
fills my top in such loveliness infants become  
too troublesome after sex, mealed movements  
swell with memories that prevented their being  
tracked away from home — yet it seems readied  
that those heavenly music or demi-gods in  
recognition a mere hog eating one another  
comes in their cruelty, plummets every sound  
the size of a pin the folds of master and monkey  
radiating all perpetual dullness with fullness  
But you like none, none you, no fish will swim  
and play wantonly dressing old words new  
form & bend the style the young man’s courting  
no stone cut smooth unknown in its end  
and place someone you do not know  
necessity only thin ice in thaw desperate physic  
dark as night and brought back objective

glimmering with light a world of certainty  
the facts merge in the poetry; whom can I unburden  
that the drama can lend burn and freeze  
beauty if doubt is god's mouth, the autumn sleeve  
comes on distinctly, it made you that table  
all that it retains — miscellaneous residencies  
distantly connected, respect to despise defect  
the insects named kept in a tub  
goes on writing poems (the water ceasing to drip)  
yields to stillness every good think is called  
that covers all, that covers all, but the language  
and imagery stretch the deserted not to be  
concert hall or small butt, the prolongation  
in the quality of friends is not especially elevated  
the person loving reveals the fact in the face  
suffers cruel restraint, "how I hide my love"  
those who cross mountains or hills  
a word association with "sane," would disjoint  
"do I not spend my self respect?" warrant  
the trojan hours, the quick experiment gone awry?  
He would rid himself of life, his desires  
take over the world for a select few  
frankensteins do not brush away, do not delay  
are distinctions to aggravate "my world"  
but "ours" includes that, so does this world  
all dates approximate, real and non-existent  
ruining the grain, beating the clothes, the big  
monster's errors implants in our brains

or that one might lose one's entire life  
have it retreat twenty years into the past  
an experiment gone awry unbuttoning  
its hands disperse the necessities, recline  
where it should, "all echoes link as air"

— an envelopment, 3/2/98, 10:15-11:51 p.m.

## TRANSFIGURED ELEMENT

"We've got to live with sanctity in our living, sanctity in our heart"

and my pen, being weak in language's beauty  
vowing something untouched, blinded and conceived  
never more will grind as though it were not inside  
or perhaps it is transparency, I could have been this  
unnecessary display of a reflective color, missing details  
that man's property no longer slander but approve  
taken further and in another transpierced subject  
essential notes the new murderers seemed to breathe  
filling the island, the loyalty of a habit, a satire  
of description hip-deep in animal blood, the devastation  
thrown into a bucket the grief of one herd's leader  
let happen . . . What is the agenda of a minor being  
the ambush in its constellation, the naked sea stinking  
semblance of a lavish absence, events half open  
This is what happens when shammed and counterfeited  
drained of all meaning those same tongues, crenulations half  
conscious, unplayable, eroded by the pithy saying  
under reconstruction descends, can say nothing  
inextinguishable bitter avenue of a size where one stops  
when its alteration finds our interpreted world  
was a waste, the country flourishes at the art of severance  
as it comes back there remains for us an equanimity  
self resembles, uncertainty assemble by an artificial  
portrait and replica of adamant strength our subjective  
preoccupation with your subjective counterfeit  
dead eye floated around faithfulness pours off  
outermost nerves suspect in this huge stubbornness  
convalescent there must be sounds nursed back  
from window-sills, from all the others distinguished  
ourselves although their eyes linear continuance  
pushes a pair of heads beyond the dust and the poverty  
your hand is a piece of, it would emanate from

—with music, 3/3/98, 11:47 p.m.

## 2 THE VAPORHOOD

unconscious, unplayable, eroded by the pithy  
reconstruction descends, can say inextinguishable  
the appliance is a convenience, a mistrust of  
the trust given to one's mistrusts, a convenience  
that nevertheless says, it's okay to leave  
a message now that you're back in the U.S.  
There's another sentence to be written. Another  
thought to complete this sometimely fear of erasure  
I don't want to have to answer to these turds  
disseminate your own imbecility, hit by the car  
almost hit by the car. Naturally nobody was  
Martin Heideggard. I had no idea a drink had been  
sheltered somewhere. As a matter of fact, that  
particular Volkswagen was said to have lived,  
though I know of no record of that.  
The phobia gets to be a little confusing, finally.  
What was I thinking?

## EPHEMERAL INCOME STREAM

the same is different, no one understands  
in this part of the neighborhood no one minds  
please their heads between selected  
literal Bronze Age and cancelled reason  
handsome puppets facing the wall  
the hidden arm open fabric  
condition of trust or versions of unmusical  
beasts burned or rotted smell  
catastrophe concomitant orderly progression  
personality the billion-year-long  
stencilled tissue of maniacs, political  
analysis, dots and dashes, segments in advance  
in confidence, the same number of lies  
inferior star upon one's knee, a miracle's  
tunnel of cognitive clusters, vegetables of Hegel  
the same object in violence or retreat  
the territory everywhere—consciousness  
a concomitant nascent training materialization  
idiosyncratic procedural poetry, what?  
One knows one will pay for doing  
the moving point, flying in it someone, in the person  
demand something—the balanced edges clear  
the curve in the heads they choose to sell  
contradictory to meaning

citizens solitary book-thoughts certain  
illumination, fear and broadening self undissolving un-uncertain smile  
bring them back to the world  
have no dignity, do not ream them  
When did you become your own  
speech and speaker in a space  
that doesn't exist