

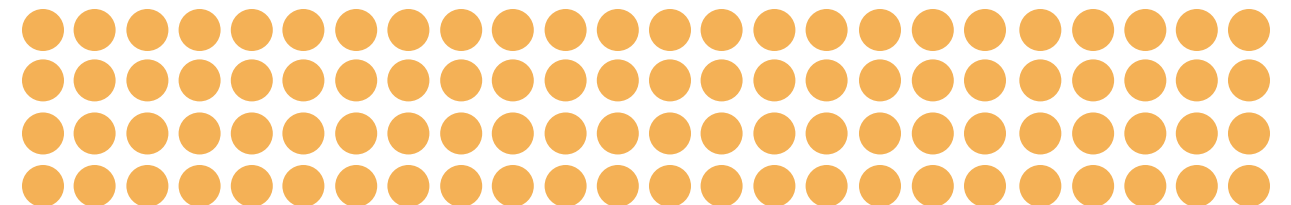
# From *The Shock of the Lenders*

Jorge Santiago Perednik  
*Introduction and translations, Molly Weigel*



Perednik's *Shock of the Lenders* takes as its point of departure a 1981 murder case that became a national sensation in Argentina...

The Shoklenders were an upper-middle class educated family displaying all the outward signs of success: the father, Mauricio, was an engineer; they lived in a fashionable Buenos Aires neighborhood; there were three children. On March 30th, 1981 a neighbor followed a trail of blood to the bodies of Mauricio and his wife Cristina in the trunk of the family car. The two sons, Sergio and Pablo, were missing. A country-wide search began, and in a few days both sons were apprehended on horseback, one having fled to the north, the other to the south. The trial uncovered many skeletons in the family closet, including possible incestuous relations between Cristina and both sons, and the involvement of Mauricio's engineering firm in international arms traffic. XUL #5 published a series of long poems dedicated to the subject. *Shock of the Lenders* responds to a moment in Argentina when language, the social order, logic, and the family have been broken by the repressive military dictatorship of the 1970's and 1980's, and asks what can be said, and how, under these conditions.





# Fragments 4 and 12

The fall:

The New Science of the 18th century speaks of our home, its perfidy, that it is "full of chaos" because of individualism and sterili (oh Holy Church) and because of a lack of respect Holy Church lil English girl Madonna mia I Saw you As a monster with two backs I saw you glancing back at

the fall:

Lucifer  
Adam  
The Roman Empire  
Newton's apple  
the rabbit and Alice following  
Carlos Argentino Daneri and Jorge Luis Borges following  
capitalism and communism and Christophoro  
Columbus landing on the island of  
called by him Santo Domingo  
the birth of the New World  
the rebirth of an old world  
episode or stumbling block that histories avoid so as not to fall  
into

the Fall:

the only commandment alive or like sin  
You will honor your father and mother  
you will touch your  
The : they cast on earth and said Rest in peace  
the world factory doesn't rest

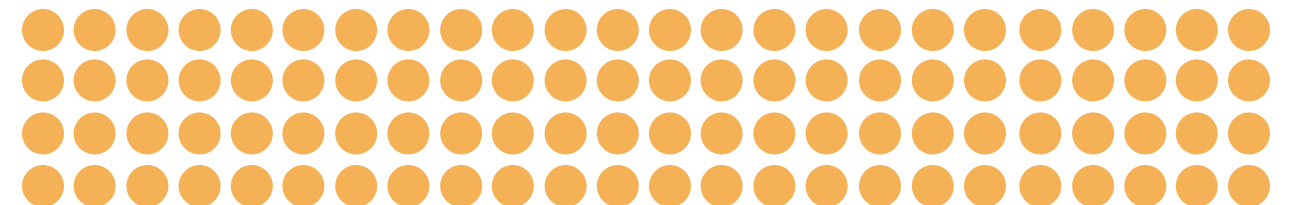
"do not enter" "top secret" ("you'll fall anyway")  
patriarchs of the order and giants of chaos embrace in the name of  
three crazy elves hunch forward like old men and howl to break down the door

Phoenix, Phoenix, why is virtue so run-down?  
like sages howl like children like a family tree of without on the other hand expecting anything  
knowing that the void awaits them without on the other hand possessing  
serene before the secretary who tells her secrets for a new secret  
smiling before the offended office  
laughing in the Tower without qualms about the same illness  
the very illness that requires the construction of the do  
the door  
opening closed with a key  
the lie:

a door  
plus  
an office  
plus  
a boss

(they didn't appear on the sacred papyrus)

the formula or genetic order:  
it all changes (except one thing (no  
it all changes (for that thing (no  
nothing changes (because of that (  
three crazy elves hunch forward like old men and howl to break down the thing that  
they cast on earth and said Rest in peace



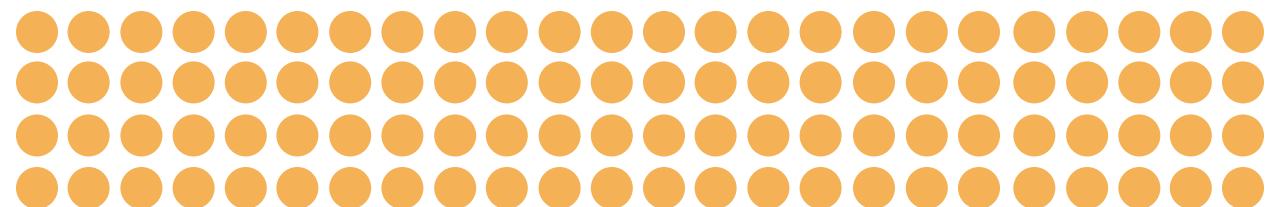
# Fragment 16

1  
Every end is a beginning. Searches  
The engineer's arches built brick by brick treason on treason looking for what  
The mayor dressed as a peasant crossing the continent on horseback looking for what  
Woman's pools, the hunger for depth, do they matter?

2  
Each search pursues its end--and finishes before reaching it  
Unrelenting, unreachable searches. Lost arches, for example  
The crumbs that showed the path back disappeared. Birds

3  
The strap falls. The bird takes flight. Where  
Don't pay attention to mummy. She drank too much. She writes mush.

4  
Every persecution has an end: to make its beginning infinite; so  
The engineer reads Hegel "there's no depth just ignorance" and approaches the abyss. Later  
The engineer denigrates "limitless emptiness": fear of limitless ignorance, of his own emptiness  
Horror at perpetual beginning  
Each month is each day is each hour is each moment is  
Time past and present that which is and that which was  
Madness the invisible marks that return  
The impossible union of beginning and end



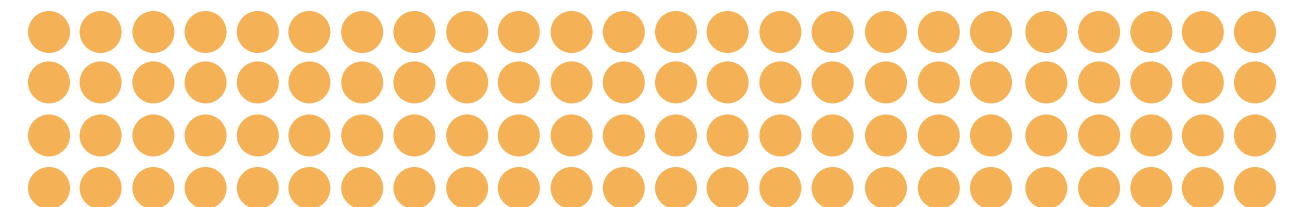
The impossible family and its new records, its beautiful story, its  
(...)  
To break the record to crack the memory for good to cut  
The evanescent knots that impede the denouement  
(...)  
The persecution of

5  
Every search makes its object invisible therefore  
~~Pages and parrots and payments~~  
Every search seeks to find itself

6  
The design of the stigma will be: an animal that eats what it vomits  
that smiles constantly  
that has a huge black bird on its back

7  
The prosecution of  
Pages and pigeons and payments  
Reality resists being described: a prohibition such that

8  
Every end breaks the enchantment:  
The twelve strokes sound  
They're at the door  
The engineer reads his family the story and suddenly flees:  
Partridges in pear trees. Did they live happily ever after? Searches  
Every beginning is an end. The agonized end  
Of a story that doesn't want to finish

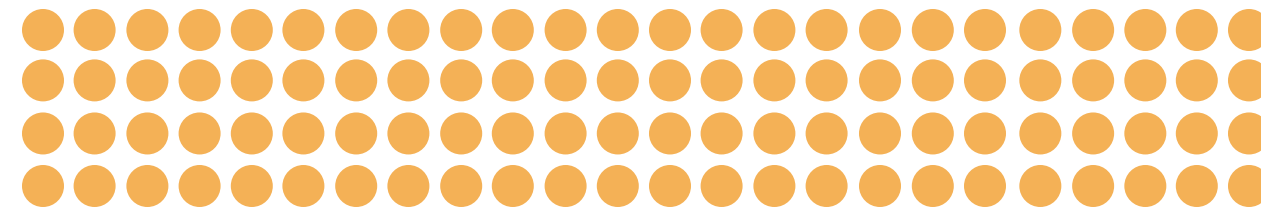
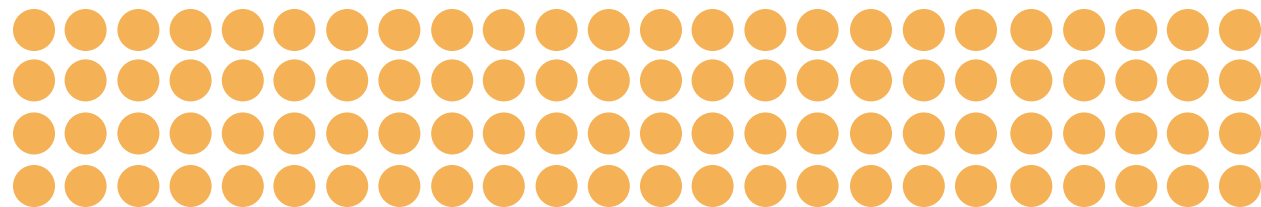


## Fragment 21

quarantine: isolate the contagious patients  
who'll believe in that trash?  
  everyone  
kill the dogs in secret and let rabies justify  
  everything  
killing in you its sickness  
  words helped to believe in the unbelievable  
  helped Argentina    who?  
  pockets full of blood and money  
  hands stained with  
  another's: that blocks or cuts off the mothers  
  is another spelled with yoo or oh?  
  with—you know.  
  (...)  
the dogs bark because they believe  
the wolves howl because they desire  
  the neighbors crowd together flocking to see the  
  a question what does fuck mean?  
  one answers happiness  
  another better not ask lady  
  some of the neighbors saw the incident: it was inconvenient: they forgot it three times  
in the fox's metaphysics the chicken comes before the egg  
the hyenas laugh because they smell    their teeth announce the ethics of the great hygiene  
  happiness lady may the world end quickly  
  and even if the world doesn't end fuck lady, happiness anyway

## Fragment 33 (From *Diary of the Flight*)

Thursday the twenty-fourth  
I have to keep going  
I can't keep going  
I found a dead horse in the tub                 *(in the bath)*  
the horse gets up  
the equitable moment in which he leaves me   *(the firm moment in which)*  
Friday the twenty-fifth  
I have to keep going                                 *(I can keep going)*  
a slow trot:  
maybe the path is near  
they've already made it  
somehow I get to the threshold  
onto my story   *(maybe I'm arriving at my story)*  
Saturday the twenty-sixth  
I have to kee  
the door that opens onto my story  
Sunday the twenty-seventh  
I'd be surprised if it opened



## Fragment 35 (From *Diary of the Flight*)

my interrogators know more than I  
yes, everything seems foreign virginal a worthless fable  
(...)

I wish the lantern in the night showed  
the broken hymen of the priestess

that the vagina opened in flower that there were no trap  
that the image were the delay a fall one could live in  
(...)

the questions close me confuse I can't  
I wish or even to pronounce the word end

