



Alfred Jarry

# The Monsters

Lÿres, hærts or Ƴaces: alive, because they are longitudinally symmetric.

Stable like a beetle, reſembling a trapdoor spider, the Cochinchineſe warrior whirls his gonfalon's cattail. Under his earfeathers, his arms are made of two ſuperimpoſed penumbra engendering the umbra; as he who eyes his arm in two mirrors at  $135^\circ$ , he beholds the black bone and ſpindle ſpun with nocturnal glaſs.

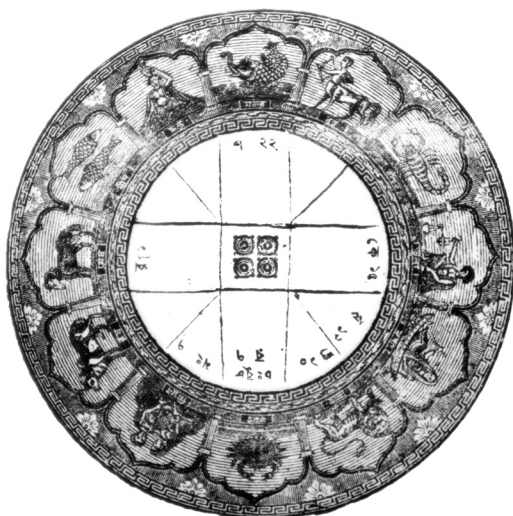


The hides of crocodiles  
or elephants reform on  
the folds of his gaiters.

Figure of perhaps a porcupine, armadillo, pangolin, a feathered (or crustaceous) toad, ought to have to imputed to Darwin the evidence of the efflorescence of flying fish, as Moses unto the littlest bird granted feathers one day too late, and the Japanese dress their luminous owls in triangular sqates.



The hooded cobra (lo the beast) who snakes with his annuli or walks on the ground as a man, stole from the zodiac the arthropods that the Cancerous crawfish shed.





Trussing the caryatids  
of the two doors of  
copper and wax, the  
egregious monsters  
of stange cities yawn  
in their filigrèd  
reliquaries.

It is common to call  
MONSTER an unusual  
affinity among  
dissonant elements:  
the Centaur, the  
Chimera are so named  
by those who do not  
yet understand. I call  
monster all original  
inexhaustable beauty.

There are monsters of all castes: thus, some are gods: Pan of the Sandwich islands, phallic in form and tumescent in grandeur, who grows from the earth and feeds on human blood: stands vested in a mitre and looks from two pululating eyes. Root of tangled coral fish with microcosmic sanctity; prone, resembling the vestibule of the sacred crocodile.



The gods of Shiva's chariot, (in Bretagne and Chartres, the alternating rounds around calvaries starkly mimic it) male oboists and mitred belly-dancers palpate the ground with their bangled feet.





But the crosses of fakirs  
are mobile, and they  
gyre, the same as the  
joy of songbirds and  
flying fabric, under the  
eaves of forgiveness.



A.



J.



*Originally published in l'Ymagier, October 1894. Translation by Gabriel Blue Cira*