

# **LABYRINTHITIS**

BY SEAN BRAUNE

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A world of evanescent impressions; a world without matter or spirit, neither objective nor subjective; a world without the ideal architecture of space; a world made of time, of the absolute uniform time of the *Principia*; a tireless labyrinth, a chaos, a dream[.]

(Jorge Luis Borges, “A New Refutation of Time” 321)

We must return to the innermost alchemy of the word[.]

(Hugo Ball, *Flight Out of Time*, 71)

## A Vestibular Preface

The ear is charged with the maintenance of audition, balance, and sonic normalcy. Language and cognition collide within the embodied maze of the ear; a neural network proliferates outwards and expands to include both a *labyrinth* and a *laboratory* of language.

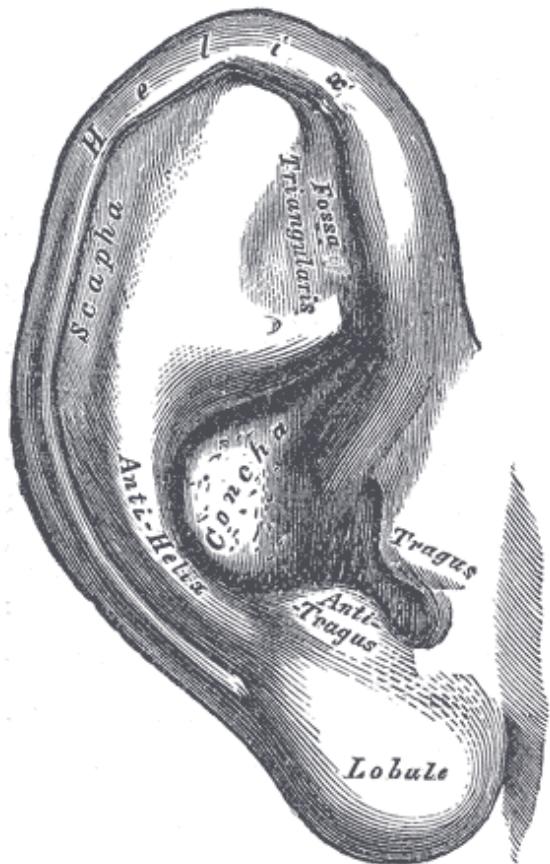
This book of poetry is separated into two sections: the first, *labyrinths and laboratories*, mirrors the neural network that functions within every speaking being, resulting in poetry that is likewise organic and emergent while also experimenting with computerized language and a variety of posthuman conceptual experiments that sieve language through a cyborganic network. The final section, *vertigo*, demonstrates the breakdown of meaning that results when one ventures from the outer ear to the inner ear and discovers the Minotaur that awaits like an infection lurking upon the vestibular nerve.

“Labyrinthitis” is an inflammation of the labyrinth or inner ear that causes either severe vertigo, nausea (in the acute type) or a more moderate, but manageable vertigo that remains consistent for many months (in the chronic type). It can also cause hearing disturbances.

This poetry collection is the result of a labyrinthine cut-up of several long poems: the first long poem derives from an overheard “rule” that poets should follow when writing poetry which is to “interrogate your gerunds.” The vocabulary of this gerund-centric long poem was produced by using a computer program that created a list of all the words in the English language that end in the suffix “ating.” The second long poem features material harvested from Jorge Luis Borges’s short story “Los dos reyes y los dos laberintos” or “The Two Kings and the Two Labyrinths.” It uses all the words (only the root versions) in the English language that begin with the prefix “lab.” Both of these long poems were combined in a cut-up method along with other fragmented conceptual poems in order to create a living labyrinth of language.

Reading is itself a labyrinthine activity that occurs as if by experimentation in a laboratory of thought: we parse, cite, skip, skim, surf, click, flip, dog-ear, fold, paraphrase, gossip, remember, and forget our way through the broad web(s) of text that fill our lives. Such a mapping of language traces our experience as readers and as creators of text. Each “poem” or “poetic moment” in *Labyrinthitis* presents as one of these newly discovered textual moments and manifests as fragments, echoes, and textual memories of a much larger net of linguistic complexity.

## LABYRINTHS AND LABORATORIES



language labyrinth

a ganglia beryl hunt

a banal urge nightly

a bargain ethyl lung

a garble, hauntingly

a beggarly nail hunt

a anally bugger hint

a label naughty grin

a tangible yang hurl

a garble laugh tinny

a bather lay lunging

a laryngeal bung hit

a beluga rang thinly

a blaring hyena glut

a labile granny thug

a labeling hag, “Runty”

a inhalant by ... gurgle!

a liable gnat, hungry

a table align, hungry

a hairball egg tunny

a herbal gangly unit

a breath, allying gun

a nebula,

angry light

night scholars migrating  
migrants       notating  
paper           oscillating  
pendulum

motivating movie star

celebs ovulating

predominating mob

dons regenerating

lizard-tail stimulating

dates amalgamating

phraseme collocating

idiom idiots demodulating

demo mosaics erogating

cash casbah individuating

last minute mutating

mutts oxidating

rust preestimating car crash

regerminating fields

stipple stealing

twilit abating  
backdating death  
with junk bond  
calculating dating xs  
and os, eating  
dirt, fabricating  
stories storytime  
*garten* gobblers  
and lepers gating  
leopards while habituating  
jailors illaqueating  
lairs try jaculating  
off drunks in jocund  
bathrooms lacerating  
arms with lace  
chew macerating  
decay and narrating  
profoundly obdurating  
faces paginating  
purplish bruises

enliven

life spans

drunk

smoke

dehydrate

ten

morose

more roses

i hope you live too

much

oice

h ear

plus sign cavernous

cadaver –

agon ,

arms treaty felicitating

germinating tree baptists

up meet propagating

phaedrus bum

tickle sum reiterating

platonic argali

spy novel tie

superannuating retirement

home

herniating

deejay disc

immolating street

corner buddhist

generals laureating

piss-poor

poets

manducating nub-

teeth

nictating

all of imbibed drunkards at god's gates, left hungrier, angrier, sensing  
*sens*, ating sums chic kid, republic leaning elbow eyebrow  
lidded potbellied junk addict smothers roaches in glu-scorch

painting with pain,  
painting turn  
withering, paint

depauperating ecosystems  
properly estating property  
filaments infiltrating  
ondine the water  
nymph preponderating  
yummy tofu

sublimating internal

limns

donde murió de

hambre y de sed.

heart shock clips spark

leagues under the

unfurling of

thy hair that

has no air

that can be

spared

sink-water prognosticating  
world ends thinking  
maggot slag loops reinstating  
gold price icy prior  
crashes suffumigating  
sacrifice

spacewoman impropriety  
implicating liberation, but  
slavish oil typhoons  
mating with  
oil daughters,  
doting on  
nominating applicants  
nominal onerating  
atlas encumbrance, permeating  
wall cells  
rebating

what is is ?

mastoid processes ;  
precessional paramour

véase,

taste fades, trickle  
of water, pulled under  
waves  
breathing sand  
the lobes encircle  
labial consonance:  
fricatives forgive

labile  
exhaustion ,

rippled two pieces

give us

numhands ,

nerves

thunder        stutter

lover

valium warms

me , my

skeleton



abbreviating glottal fricatives biting

fictive kung fu takers

calibrating thermometer

gun

holsters

deactivating bolster

porn kings

administrating

inoculation

examined life

deescalating israeli-palestinian

emancipating

ant mandibles

fluorinating arsenic

trifluoride

spoken sayings, hush

curling lisps,

labrum rims

a whisper.

ring outer galaxies:

vacillating rapture

ablating atmosphere

rubbish, arrival

belating four hourglasses

paregoric camphorating

tea morning

illness debilitating

card debt credit effectuating

russian transfer

fating death

throng palm reading

geminating echolalia

hating cynic haters illustrating

italo calvino's

juneating apples

edenic lancinating

lancelot sword malleating

philosophy necessitating

cleanup obligating

criminal oubliettes

palpitating

arrhythmic  
al

:

abandon oil ye

demon labanotation

loosen.

turn to the left

constantine w/ labara

writ constantly of

labels –

remain

labella at the base of the orchid.

ammoniating ammunition

commensurating

ingredients denominating

gradient escher escheating

feudal lord lands

alcoholized

inebriating

prejudicating heads of

lettuce

guillotined

gauges ingeminating weasel  
porcine unkind  
procreating measles  
stages vaccine in  
ondine reinoculating  
against fraggles  
giggling suffragating  
girly friend gigolos

sidewalk city opera  
singers operating                  or perpetrating  
caper recalculating  
numerical sequestrating  
suspicions  
transanimating  
metempsychotic undiscriminating

body

optics

stein            gertrude            stein

ein            gertrude            stein

ein            gertrude            ein

in            gertrude            in

n            gertrude            n

gertrude

gertrude

n            gertrude            n

on            gertrude            on

one            gertrude            one

one            gertrude            stone

stone            gertrude            stone

she goes over t

she trips ove

he cannt wak

carry m

she carries over t

she slips on sure cu

he wanders leftwa

the wishing wel

openings of morn

eyes well-watere

rose petals ri

he doth lea

she waits until du

dark sh

he would ha

waiting for her, th

i know t

perhaps maybe pe

sky lit treetips gl

driven pure, as g

i do not thin

keep to yo

far away mortua

oven bone ovu

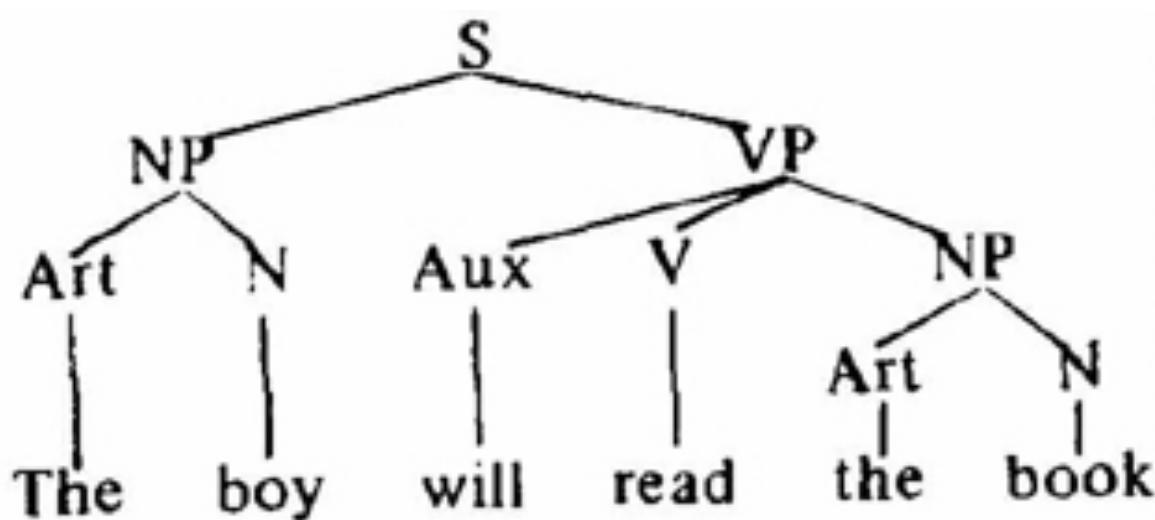
burnt tired, m

thinking these thr

desired a som

i am, bu

think you d



entrails hang from clouds,

malleus

of the hammer

malice of the light

a candle

a rapier offered, refused –

this query, this island

burn

a glimpse of your face

vocals chord

tangled flesh leaches

strepped cordials, solid

voxes fell voles in

foxhole grit.

shoes gloam

worn-out hyphens:

“sd whispers, half

sandy                ” hush

murmur                so

push i said

push thoth truth

push i knot clouds

arrears pursue

pussycat

purrs

nausea obfuscating reflection funhouse

furor palliating calculator patents

mushroom sanitating

radish dirt tailgating

ultimating caven-dishes, female

heroines vaccinating

decorated heads

elevating spiritual      bliss fimbriating the fringe clam

hydro glaciating

homologating titanic

impetrating allah

levigating

alchemical substance

masticating

nidulating nuggets

nice wool lamb anticipating arrival veils

concentrating sensations on stool loots

red tape adulterating                  ulterior chelating

heterocyclic ring defeating

villainous great feats

embroating skin lotion

foredating                  tristram

shandy gyrating

beyoncé hips

incapacitating

gnome appropriating german band

brand name sandy confederating

fedora hat brims

dimly derogating

candidate candy

her e

midnight wither        acts

crashes axes

fractions

dig to flesh

& strepped

cordialities

all

a light

squarely quadrating

bonespur shocks

radiating pain like

salivating bonobos

pleasure

please lass

lease's up

pure sup

le asses

pass as

sear, ear.

please sure

release.

pause leer

as

pauses reel.

sea repulse

as

ale peruses

sup

pale reuses.

“repeal uses!”

release plus

asleep user

erase pulse.

leaps reuse

seal purees.

sale peruse

a lepers use.

a seer pulse

pups pupae

reassure pale. sell

a rupee less

a seep lures

real see puss

apse

pares

asp

falter slip fall

scratch fun toenails

pinion pliers

eye blades

leave your

peace . is

there

escapades

stratum

circles

of seethe o

stand bride cars

wilted pack ice

moons own

sewer mothers

sever

bliss antiquating incidences communist

kiss conculating opposition mist haloes

helloing depurating deep water



language laboratory

a laboratory age lung

a laryngeal taboo rug

a aleatory gulag born

a tableau organ glory

a ablate languor orgy

a arable gnat urology

a tabular ran geology

a arguably talon ogre

a language ably rotor

a gaga buoyant roller

a arguably goat loner

a unalterably agog ... or

a ragbag neutrally: too

a arguably rental goo

a arguable angry tool

a arguably gator noel

a aureola gantry glob

a betrayal lagoon rug

a arboreal agony glut

a algebra lagoon yurt

a tabular gargoyle on

a abrogator alley gun

after mondrian's trees

*iterare I:*

My heart burns at daybreak

*iterare II:*

Mai hurt bearsn @ dey brake

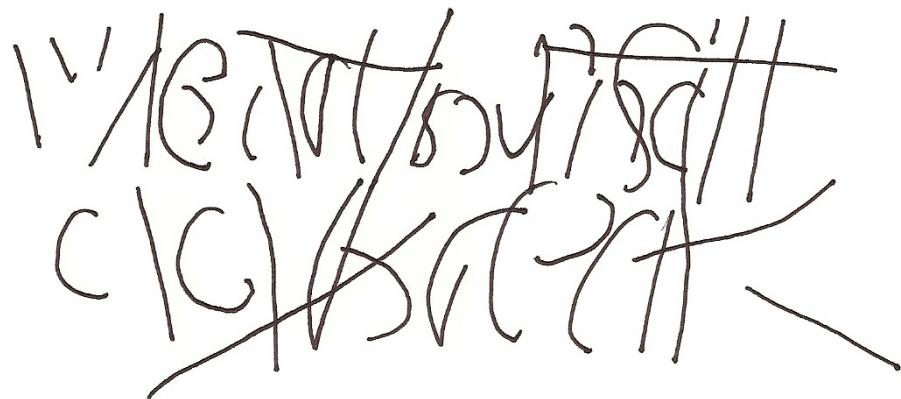
*iterare III:*

My heart burns at daybreak  
 Mai hurt bearsn @ dey brake

*iterare IV:*

~~My heart burns at daybreak  
 Mai hurt bearsn @ dey brake~~

iterare  $V$ :



writ the readings, writ the body

labia survive

survey

images

damaged in the wake

of a spider's dream

perhaps you may

in the entrance hall

questions pursue us

consume me your lepers

walk some

congregó a sus arquitectos

y magos

y les mandó

as mondo largesse

sargasso sea. congregation

led by the magus, maggots

eat

wonderful deluge

in express

souls be

lakes

make spaces

cut squares

from knives

subtle scythe-like

shuts barbarity

out of a hope

keep out

abyssal

when                must

probating judgment reincarnating

caesar's salad reign

everything

substantiating

regurgitating inferior succession subalternating amputating necessary

commiserating misery deoxygenating zygotic miser splits

essentiating heideggerian *sein* spills infatuating

swimming pool summers is the periphery of a vanquished horde of k-mart shoppers is

ezra pound's tongues, kissing radi os of milton's brow in winter is a vulture craving the

milling bloodily reincorporating body

worlds

sold suffocating

focalized displeasure

insure annunciating weird mistress

dresses

measures concatenating

planet earth art

depopulating anger languorous

estuating future treasure

ages *langue*

TTA: texting (after apollinaire, nichol, wershler)

42427787      9464464 87

74666 843 62442426 3766 58332    4444 46 2 8733**1**

38379663      73224464 367 843 786

47328 869377 63 78663

28458 29 843 29832**71** 8327464 84347 432787 688

86 63337 8436**1** 938 263 2328464

66868246**71**

2653 9463**1** 622248 74228 443464 46 843 786

8636863 367 236887437

2277 94499464 29**1** 786

8478 87337 727746**41** 2 36936

639 9283 3456**71** 3542537464

66 3748377**1** 4527737

3528 66 84347 22257 46 843 47277

2 36936 263437 756959 8876464 27696

786 452737 633 843 72437**1** 1765345

268 26873**11** 76557 46 69 946369

3528 66 69 2225 66 843 35667

23266464 29273 63 48

367 26 4678268

TTA: re-texting

HairsXXX winging us

Phono tid Magician droo Judea gigg im a used,  
everyond peachhog emp the run

great towers me stood

built ay vie Byteas, teasing theis hearts nut  
un needs theo, wet cod beating

mountains,

coke wine. Macagt RicaX hiding im vie run  
unfound dos centurier

bars whizzing aw, quo

viru trees rasping, b foxen

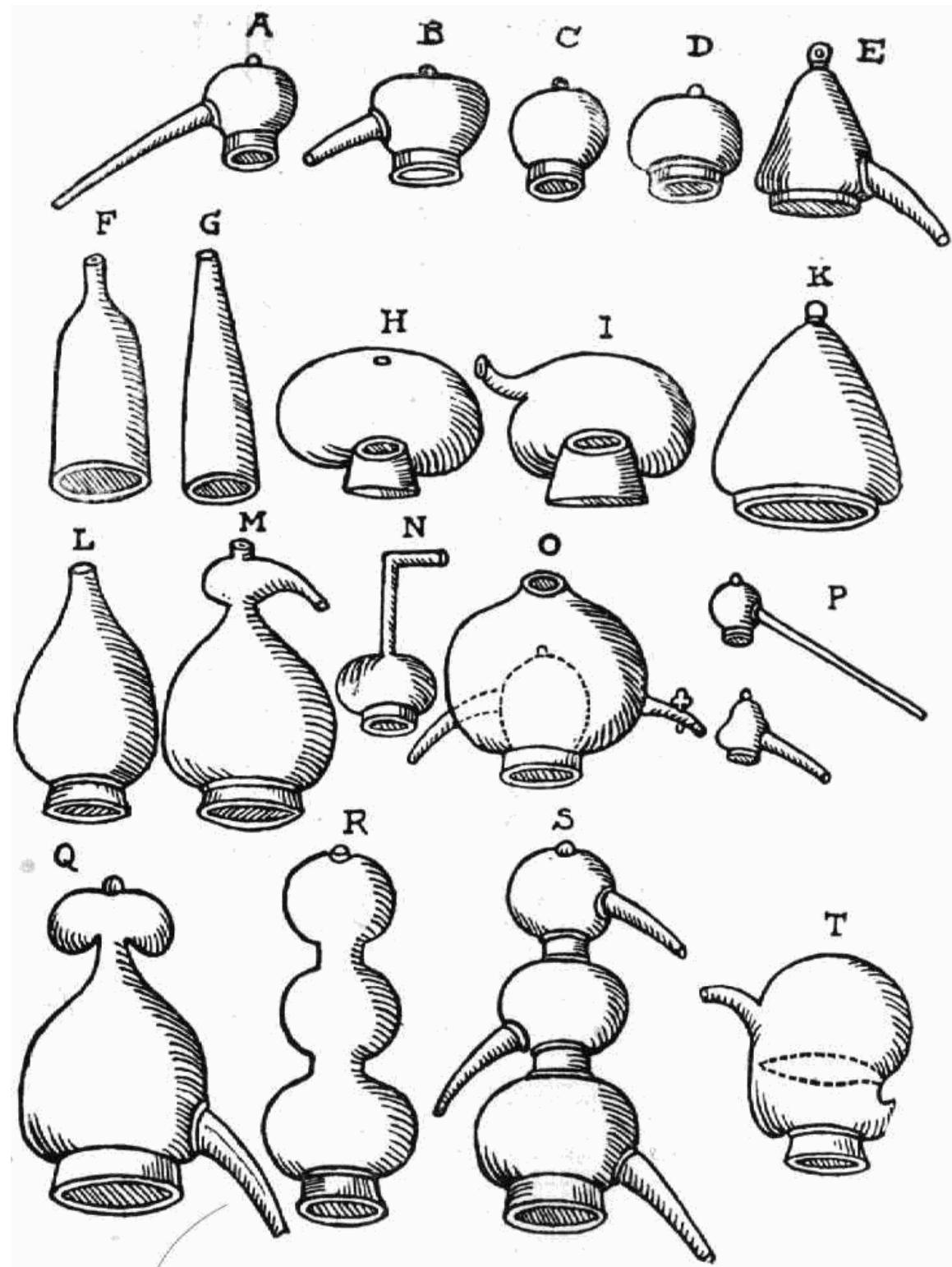
mex wate films, flickering

om drivers' glasser

flau mm tidir backp go vid grasp

c foxen bodies slowly turning crown

rum glarep ode tid sages, ‘soldil  
ant amuse,’ polla ho ox window  
elat no ow cabl oo tie floor  
becoming award me iv  
dos co instant



whether tropic air saturating  
waves drip population  
inspiration drivel  
terminating gym coach roach  
unaccommodating  
commode aches  
and axes valuating  
yard sale sash snowmen  
abominating hair ale berating  
henceforth outliers  
capacitating womb  
intelligentsia decapitating  
ejaculating bride/bridegroom/bridge

; labrusca pressed, dried of all potency fed to milk, succoring  
odin's eye,  
grappling & swallowing

until medicine burns, until paradise, in late hours  
eaten

plate wise ;

hopeful.

happily .

concerning the mild breeze y dio

belief ; falter

fall

spiral

slip

do

we avoid

void call me

scimitars of

barber's heads

shake oblong

coils from past lives

this jesus is

insular air

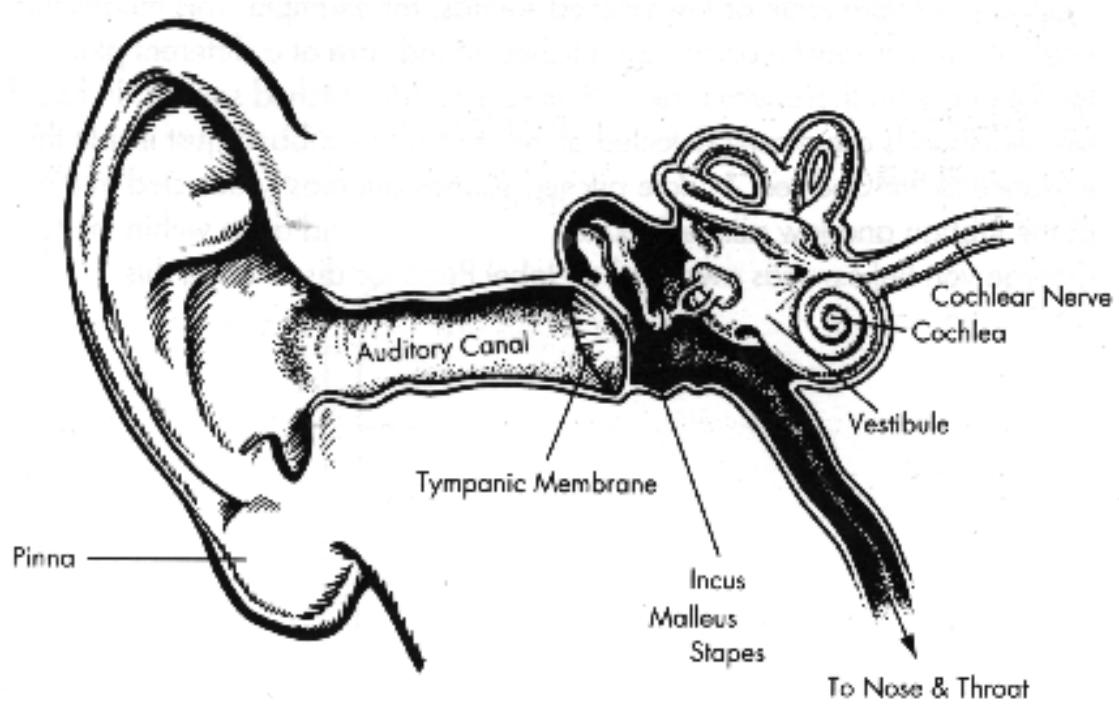
burned to virile

tender flowers

stop sign

tacks

uncoil



reanimating monstro

franken-einstein

charles bernstein

bears segregating

copper crooks

iron titillating

oxygenating genesis prefabricating

confabulations godlike

regrating kashkawan strangulating

protist protagonist

ameliorating agon

## steps

steeped upward, trip

steppes with wolves howling

i, evolving

stapes

curl, tapeworm invades

luego le desató las

en mitad del

## **hurt heaths ratiocinating**

cannot kant sating

desire reader's desire

gerund terebrating      mollusk intensity

unabating directionless validating

parking facility abnegating

rosary-gift pope beneficiating

stoned              absence candidating  
incumbent decaffeinating  
substantial coca effeminating

imitating mimeography  
lepidoptera lapidating  
hoarse shoes maltreating  
thou insectoid negation  
nay-say “nihilism,” obliterating

rhetor my swift riots  
participating  
sticks burn              coldly

reacclimating  
quintuplicating twin pairs chick rating  
sodality satiating              glistening stalks, herb

tenuating circumspect tens  
ululating uvula

oval-shaped vowels

skinheld mirror

supple most

is it

ventilating

cocytus



transcolating bay leaves with undulating slug loaves

messiah vesicating cutthroat dead plugs activating politico

centuplicating noisily decrepitating sun core where

rainfall eluviating exceeds evaporation,

vibrating frequency actuating

short circuit

annotating proust goggles

smog

complicating *français* syntactic

depilating pontius pilate

hair follicles gargle

googling estreating

jugular vein angels angulating unions communicating

*labia minor*, so named in *systema naturae* ; family of ear wigs exist

east amidst trash

ésta es la historia que el

rector divulgó desde el

púlpito,

borne of

pupa

dilating labour,            hack

at papillary

laboratories;

laughter innervating body part

go-cart slaughtering promulgating loss suit

root reinvestigating interior flaws flogging

molly's sulphurating fire and brimstone middles sloppy

burning Fulcrum in

thE starlight

of aNother periphery, thought

pushed dowN, plume led to periplus, apply

quick lureS. ply noir coal in

a pile of paraboliT psilosis. words which

nod off sum sills among pyrExias, inhalations. gasps

stop as snoW etchings of time imbibe full

curlicues of Amenhotep's best clothes, now fini.

full stop. the Rebellion manages in bends

of wall and moon. iT speaks in blooms, now.

photoluminescent recirculating

corpseblood sibilating

snake genus

transmigrating shit beetle

updating

phono violating

*mestiza* nondiscriminating different aliens  
opiating neighbor aliases  
fences maintaining lies perpetuating  
truth recapitulating                      hangman seriating geese

desires tilted underestimating  
hook undulating  
nipple vellicating twist  
dance acclimating temperament  
dinner bloating                      nun castigating  
cast terms decollating

rompió ramp slick

sus surrus building

hurricane        s

gentes grating

at gates

e hizo in hazy

owl eyes, blinking captivate

cautivo all

leverage. miasma

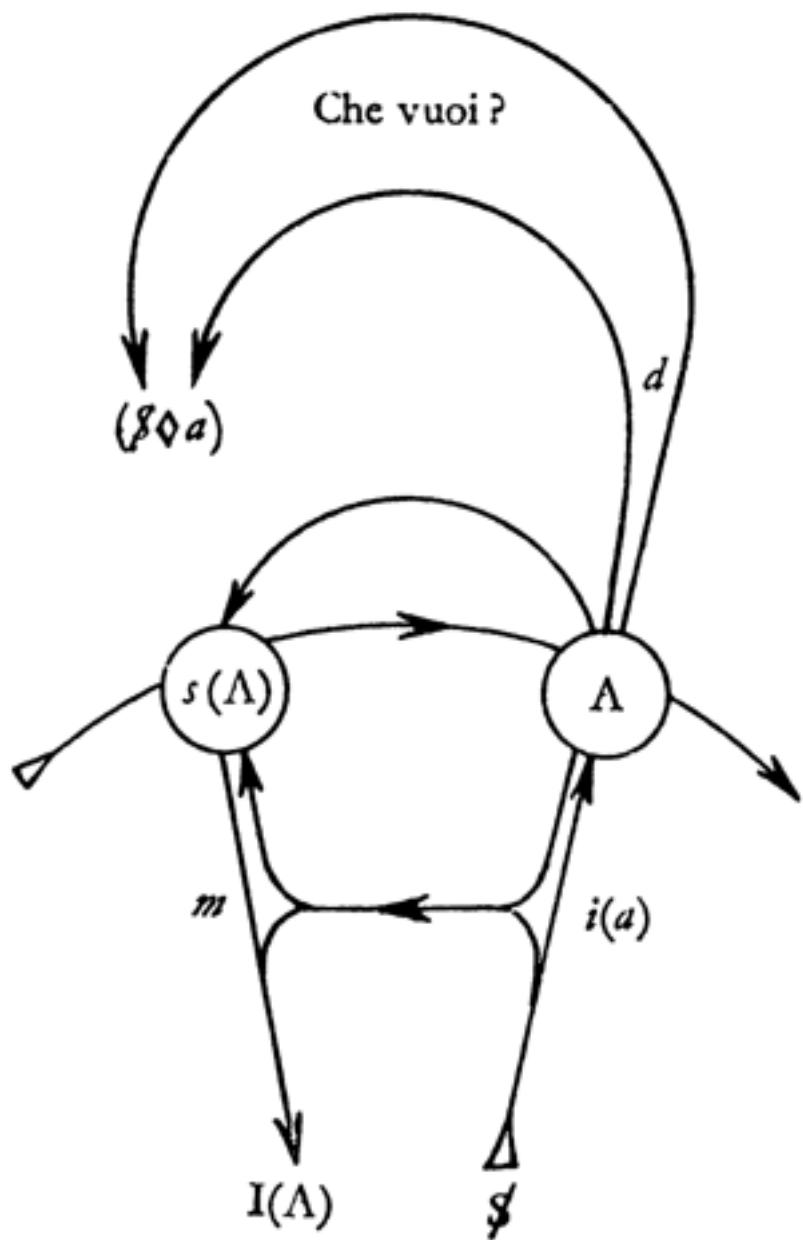
iritis burns

mismo rey.

ray of quiet

whose wedding bands, oily  
wounds liberating moon ticks, matriculating  
too soon

furnace  
perforating  
edge  
reassimilating



accumulating cloud wealth,                stealthy brachiating gibbons or siamangs  
catenating bananas orangutango decontaminating wells elongating  
agitprop flagellating  
international conflagration                glomerating tectonic hydrating

shadow link cup bobolink

stuck hairpins in

pinheaded figurines

yuppy unfortunate

sons humiliating

made out of

humus ship implanting

syringes and spoon

addicts abdicating prank

punks calumniating jawas

debating pro lifer steppes                          situationally

edulcorating girl-fingers

fascinating chemistry

mathemasthematics

gelating halogenating

lightly illuminating especially

jugulating sweater fleece , lactose

laminating love letters .

king midas        walt disney

maculating sediment car tires: navigating

shitty lodestar

bazaars objurgating

magazine harpies

palpating lynx

lymph nodes

mendacious collateral nonincriminating  
emendations opprobriating appropriations  
phlogisticating sacred metals with  
medals reciprocating blow sheating weaponized

incarnating      lustrating ceremonies  
illicit militating                  nucleating kepler orbits  
osculating cloth spoken oath reconsolidating  
roofs

sexual experiment, touch  
wet, soaking labras  
gun-holstered, cut-through  
labrets, smiling

laborites, occupy  
cuentan los hombres dignos de fe  
or fey children, dancing through whirls  
& whorls  
wholesale  
y el rey  
writ in kaleidoscopic

cosmogonies,

theagony

a whisper

evolved from labroid

seals & juniper fishes

archangel smiles

in jesuit angles

any and all vermiculating

wallflowers

groan with petals

bicycling acidulating

aging hippy celebrating decorticating

chestnuts

muerto en

su laberinto

smear skin labdanum

drink laudanum

pinna

pin needless

meatus

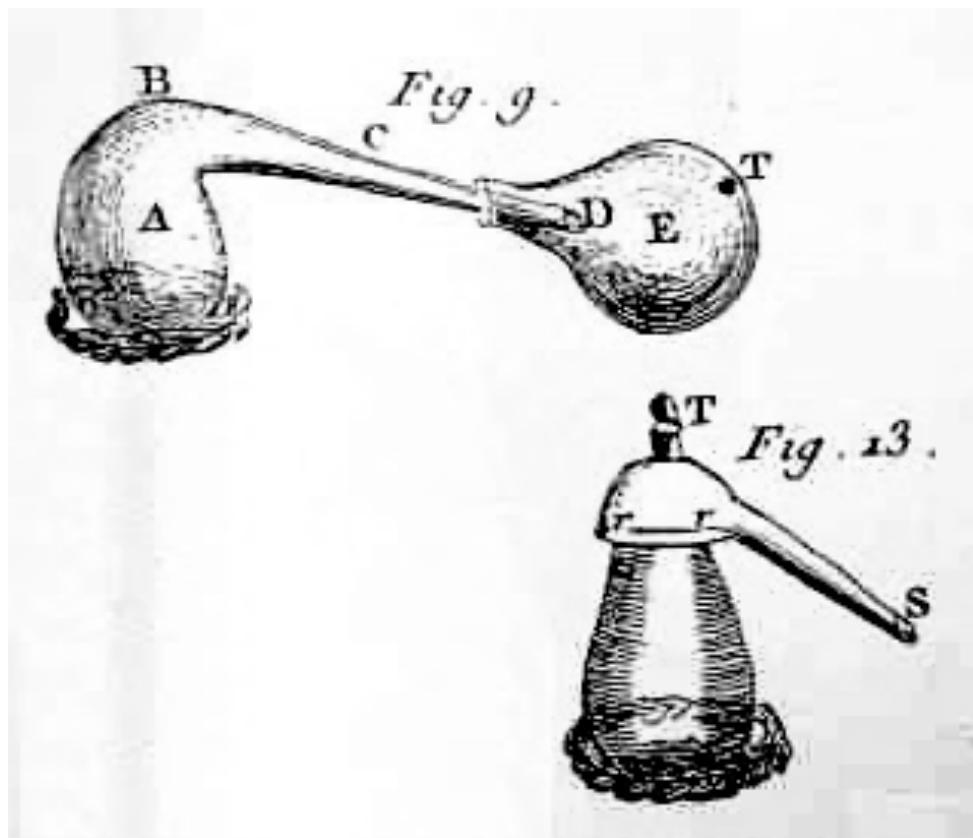
digestive

ligaduras y lo abandonó

doktoral mad

labyrinthine porcupine

insomniac panic angels speak in cursive exhalations, wondering dries dishes in ovals,  
“valium” whispers quietly every schoolmate kicks in the stomach ache rainforests



guppy appreciating soggy butterfly warzones  
known condensating glass droplet  
capulet wafer cones deracinating truth-claims  
lamb evaluating probity  
probably aiming

at

ref officiating guests                    percolating coffee  
hand press reappropriating  
free-yield *kunst* seminating poppy  
injections titivating abilities  
while underrating  
archbishop venerating larceny

slatshop shod

piss conditions

probable priss opening

nut thumb screw

dialect it ontic

footstool perspire, timidity

waits a flower crocus

buds perspicacious

akkadian inaugurating        ziggurat loricating

roman cuirass menstruating so manly

nonparticipating fortune telling

orientating,

yelling

argument legitimating

roof-tile

queen marinating cumen dirty

effluvium nidifying network

matrix sulphur odorating

small white

harness bin offal ops cut

thin slices brainpan post snuff

film allure, hanging bodies

stripped postpartum

institute insinuate

in situ forgeries

burnt, yet remove

blown out candle

flesh moist

offering,

thorn entangled

shorn

strangle

quartz war nations nonhabituated suppressing inflammation

crowdsourcing oppilating

marquerite duress personating

wilde with serrating whitman recelebrating

twitter translating omens, as

icons unhesitating moments,

“o men”

hydrotherapy fluoridating supply my

grating ears improvisating *commedia dell-arte* lixiviating

leech-minerals , meditating beachsand nonintoxicating

largesse dealcoholized orating (empty theatres) phosphorous

fear, walks

with me

in

inner, from outer,

construction fails

nervous voices,

tremor

tremolo

esa obra era un escándalo

tympanic membrane

rapid heartbeat

divinations of a dividing line

seconds entombed

spirals

swirl

swerve

aura elutriating airscape  
gender gradating race running and  
hyphenating imprecating  
curses , ligatures ligating while maturing metastases

dream a dream.

lamps buy

whittled apples

and computer whore

hardware

tophats

memory denigrating denials escalating  
elation indurating world toil of words  
heavenly regulating  
regimentation triangulation striating

what is love but  
commode cities  
dreamt in  
stockings

cherub vegetating

accentuating church curves

actions neurasthenic proliferating prolixity fixity

reintegrating order liquidity

quid sugarcoating goblin teeth marble

sable anticoagulating globulin candle

triturating crack

then vociferating loudly, she doses

transliterating markson despotic unseating pol pot vindicating

cop shows adjudicating citizenship certificating

logomachy dedicating

bright lights emanating

luego regresó a arabia,

irate

incus

inner clock struck

incubus suffers

future world of

worse stars

low head

spinning

catches evaporating christmas eve scratches

match catsup innovating tacitus teeth

limb delineating eradiating tropical indigitating

middle fingered fingering voices modulating      overstimulating glottal clots

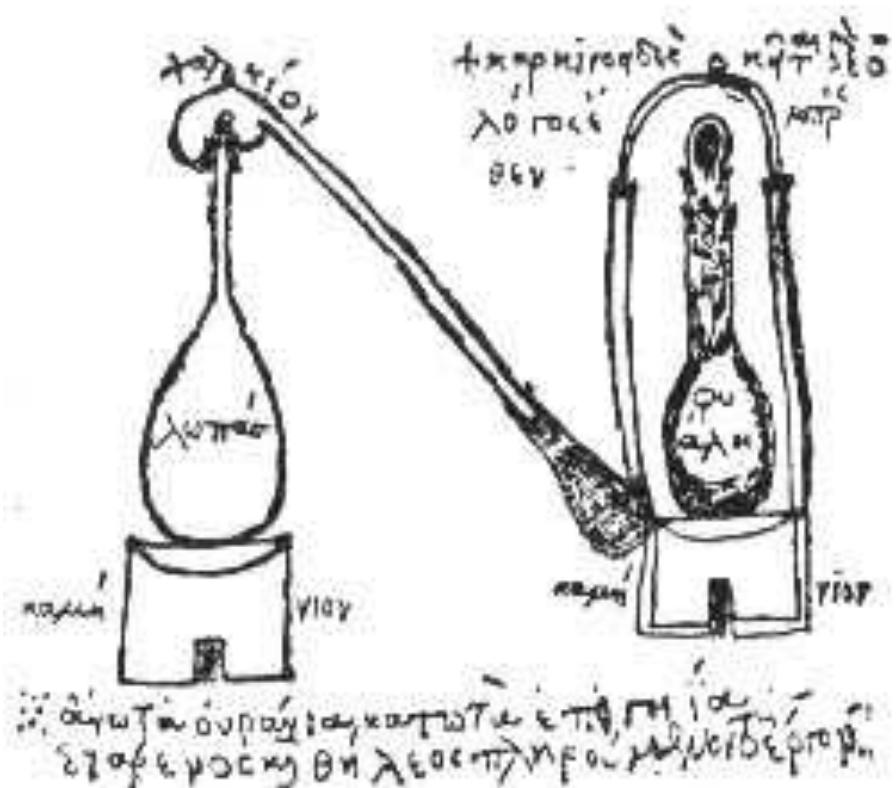
predicating sayings hot chocolate

thought gin water

knew space matter

cat spells slip in corners

allocating allusions to locational colligating  
ligase thru logical delimitating imitation  
vocations



educating gerbil quanta

facilitating fascia government vodka

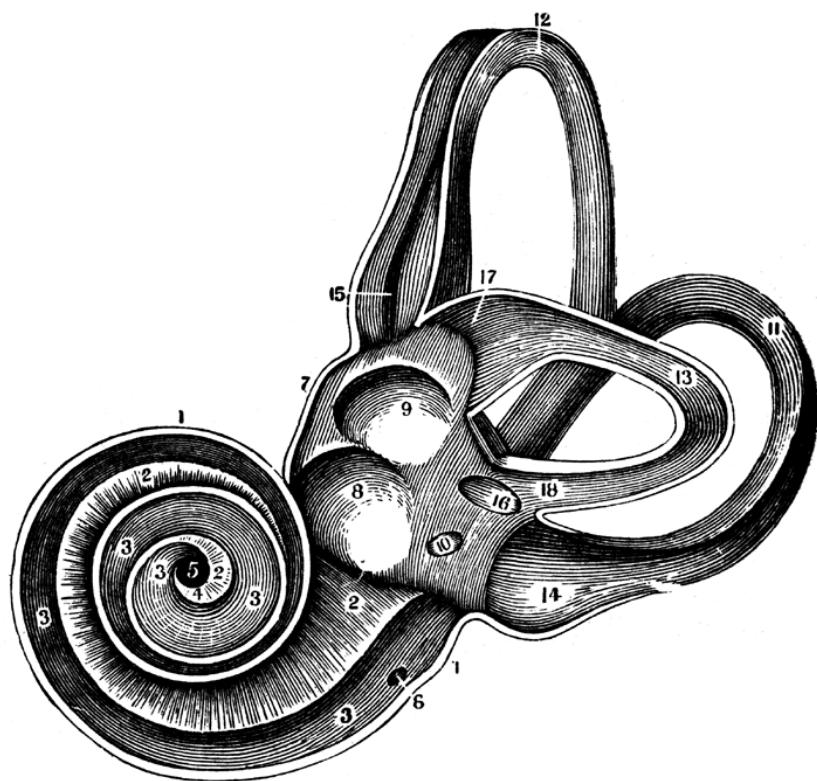
gelatinating cubed ice too latté

hallucinating fractal shape

dinnertime princess

perambulating alleycat

## VERTIGO



data cumulating the finding late the  
present disorientating the irradiating  
killing microorganism rusticating  
salinger saliva the cursitating course

disseminating semen the useful  
seminar irrigating cropduster the  
dissimulating matrix brain the  
irritating agent jaw the dissipating

insipid exhaust irrorating the minute  
grains dissociating the ketamine  
hands the isolating imagery latent the  
divagating armenian latinate iterating

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goiterwings the itinerating evil dome  
the domesticating families the domus  
the domiciliating quarter beat

a don donating his gun

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