

The Library as a Poem

I. ORIGIN

[000-099] KNOWLEDGE / GOD

shelves begin here
like an idea misfiled
001.0 – generalities of longing
the index of breath catalogued by silence
"see also: absence"

In the beginning, a word misremembered itself.
From that hesitation, a library grew
– an error flowering into corridors of order.

When I was a child I believed libraries were alive. When I grew up I became aware I was right. A library is a city that dreams it is thinking. A reader is a person who walks those dreams barefoot. When you live in a library, time becomes an open shelf. Yesterday rubs against tomorrow until both go soft at the edges.

II. ARCHITECTURE

[100-199] THOUGHT / SELF

128 – identity studies itself in a mirror
which is a mirror of mirrors, Borges sighs
152.4 – emotion: the decimal for ache

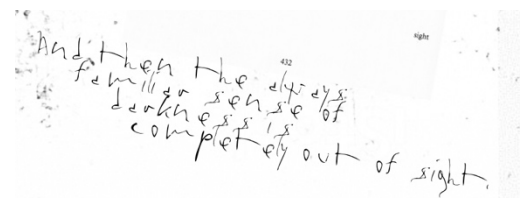
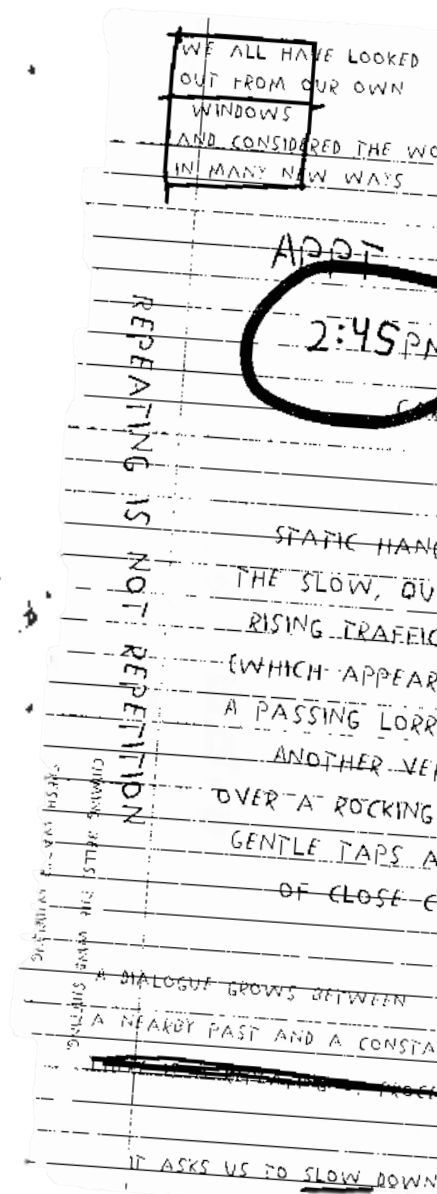
Library walls are made of breath. The shelves, of time's ribs.
Someone wrote a catalogue to explain why knowing feels like hunger. Every volume: a lung filled with dust, exhaling softly.

*The catalogue card has a faint thumbprint, like a lunar phase.
Someone has been here
before me.*

III. TRAVEL

[200-299] RELIGION / MYTH

shelves bend under the weight of prophets
dust of translation / footnotes to gods
292.13: Aphrodite misfiled under Theology
298 – unwritten scriptures, checked out forever



Each shelf rearranges time around me. A book opens and I fall through centuries with the vertigo of paper folding in on itself. I once found my name filed under *fiction, metaphysical*.

There is no return policy on experience. Only renewal.

IV. CLASSIFICATION

[300-399] SOCIETY / THE HUMAN

a reader leaves fingerprints on civilisation

305.9 – classification of classes

320 – political systems: index cards soaked in ink & hope

398.21 – folktales where truth hides in allegory

Every order fails and in its failure invents a new cosmos.

Knowledge becomes desire's catalogue. Desire becomes an unbound index. Each attempt to arrange the infinite returns you – misfiled, rewritten, alive.

Every shelf is a hypothesis. Every language leaves a different bruise.

If it changes classification, it becomes a mirror. If it becomes a mirror, it reflects the reader. If it reflects the reader, it loses its subject. If it loses its subject, it begins again. If the world is classified, it is known. If it is known, it is lost. If it is lost, it is mine.

V. BODY

[400-499] LANGUAGE / TRANSLATION

401 – what cannot be said but is anyway

418.02 – syntax of forgiveness

499.99 – extinct tongues: the words for fire we no longer use

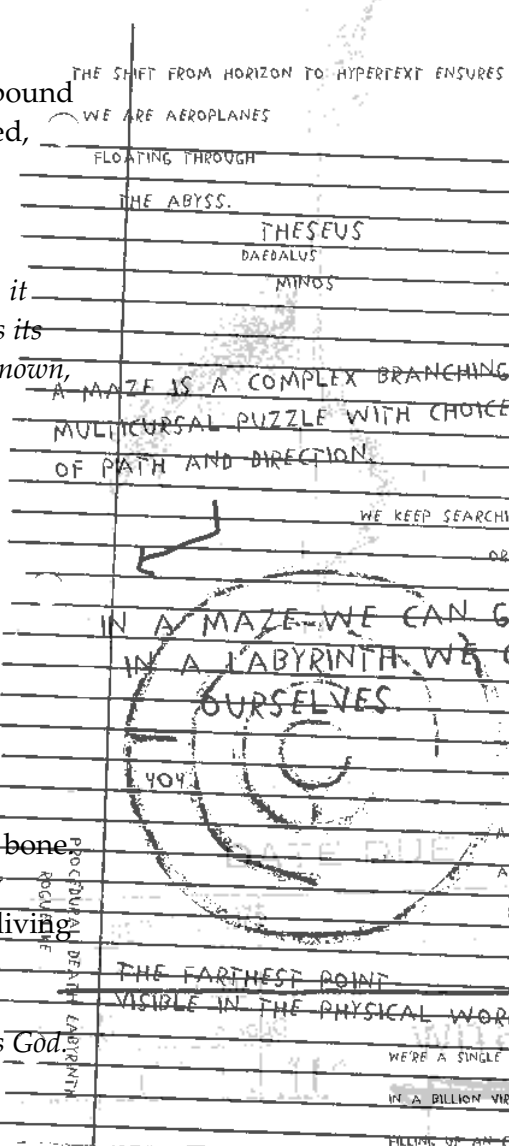
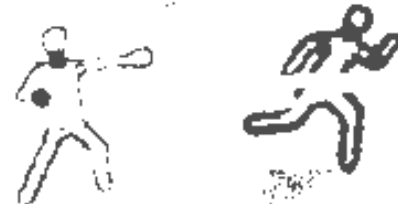
You read until the ink passes into blood and words calcify into bone. This is how the library enters you – through the eyes and every small act of remembering. Every book is a house of leaves: the living and the dead bound, sunlight pressed into narrative.

If it's mine. it resists naming. Hence, if it resists naming, it resembles God.

If it resembles God, it is a shelf. If it is a shelf, it holds absence.

If it holds absence, it holds me. Then, if it holds me, it is a system.

If it is a system, it is love. If it is love, it cannot be found in the catalogue. If it cannot be found, it is still there.



$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{4}x^4 - \frac{1}{5}x^5 + \frac{1}{6}x^6 - \frac{1}{7}x^7 + \frac{1}{8}x^8 - \frac{1}{9}x^9 + \frac{1}{10}x^{10} - \frac{1}{11}x^{11} + \frac{1}{12}x^{12} - \frac{1}{13}x^{13} + \frac{1}{14}x^{14} - \frac{1}{15}x^{15} + \frac{1}{16}x^{16} - \frac{1}{17}x^{17} + \frac{1}{18}x^{18} - \frac{1}{19}x^{19} + \frac{1}{20}x^{20} - \frac{1}{21}x^{21} + \frac{1}{22}x^{22} - \frac{1}{23}x^{23} + \frac{1}{24}x^{24} - \frac{1}{25}x^{25} + \frac{1}{26}x^{26} - \frac{1}{27}x^{27} + \frac{1}{28}x^{28} - \frac{1}{29}x^{29} + \frac{1}{30}x^{30} - \frac{1}{31}x^{31} + \frac{1}{32}x^{32} - \frac{1}{33}x^{33} + \frac{1}{34}x^{34} - \frac{1}{35}x^{35} + \frac{1}{36}x^{36} - \frac{1}{37}x^{37} + \frac{1}{38}x^{38} - \frac{1}{39}x^{39} + \frac{1}{40}x^{40} - \frac{1}{41}x^{41} + \frac{1}{42}x^{42} - \frac{1}{43}x^{43} + \frac{1}{44}x^{44} - \frac{1}{45}x^{45} + \frac{1}{46}x^{46} - \frac{1}{47}x^{47} + \frac{1}{48}x^{48} - \frac{1}{49}x^{49} + \frac{1}{50}x^{50} - 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581.1 – music that classifies grief by pitch

0.0

ABOUT

PLA

9.4

A PATH,
 A HABIT
 OF LAND
 SCAPES.

OUR IDEA OF THE PAST LOOKS TO
 BE CHANGING BECAUSE WE ARE DROWNING

IN A META-SEN OF DATA.


CONSTANT NOSTALGIA
 DYSSESUS
 TROY
 HOMER

GUIDING OR

A SPACE TO DAYDREAM

les a mi

[[



999 – final shelf: a mirror, cracked, reflecting the reader

CUIDING OF

EV5

7

Δ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

FLING OR
FALLING.

DIS
TANCE