

by JEFF HARRISON

These three poems require a reading as poetics near-simultaneous with their readings as poems. In "The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion", The asterisk'd notes put the graphic line as signifier on in the same invisible space as the signified (the lines are told and not shown). The numbers could be written, and must be spoken, as words; the words "Lyre" and "Night" could be represented as numbers (which could also be written as words - "four", "five", "one", "two", etc.).

Verses that softer spring from their cottony chapter

spring, verse,
your tune's
train borne
by no retinue --

were your
echoes to
rest, your
face yards
dark, what
darker night
could Jove
throw?

unless diminishment, why,
echoes were copies ever

and unless diminishment,
echoes were mimicry ever

rhymed

satyrs
(& the
rest of
that in-
corporeal
inventory,
combines
of hominal
& else)

(tales of satyrs,
centaurs, sphinx,
mermaids & such
in verse, portraiture
out the poets' throats
racing verse's echo
with speech's echo)

put the brakes
(periodical,
periodical, until
this dawdle is
drawn to millennia)
on undiminished
animalistic
enterprise
in ladies &
gents, but
the birds
& beasts,
participants
likewise

in song
passing
from
throat
to throat,

what
verses
did they
swallow
to circumvent
human
utterance?

I practiced these sands, the freshest crowns

I've sleeping for a book, – serenely desert, and
I'm, with the sands, in sleep, and in sleep I'm sand

how could anyone be ready for that verse tablet
when sands and maids readily amaze, and on which side
glint my Virginia triggers? the verse or the sands?
do the sands – wait –

160,000 maidens in this desert pour their water-vases into
the sands, saying "Appius Claudius, under your tutelage shine, this
night, only these waters, & their abashed coolness, far beneath earth"

do the sands favor the maidens, or the water far beneath their toes?

were it daytime, would the maidens shine with the sands?

with the sands piled upon my breast, I'll be repeated with each wave —
with each long-lulled read through the verse tablet 160,000 maids water

The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion

62* 14
-14** 6*
35

10**

8** / Lyre
22 / Night

56**
19
44*

* = circled or boxed

** = crossed out with diagonal line