

Days Dreams



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Days Dreams

We've our duty to attend Days Dreams

Bombay Diary

First Morning

everything wilting in the humidity: hair, towels, toast, newspapers
headlines today a mix of glibness, hysteria, home-spun philosophy
doing the Sunday crossword have to look up the word *apostasy*
apo: of, with, from? what does *rootstock* mean exactly—
an absolute erosion of my karma (a 100 years of misery!)
killing flies at the rate of six an hour

“your pleas today will be met again by the overwhelming refusal
to see

2nd Night

book covers curled in the humidity
wood-swell and the door stuck in the door jamb
and a long discourse on resemblance and dreams (& on silly Foucault)
with the resident rat confined both
to the balcony

“the dreamer and the dreamed overlapped
so completely in whose dream did the terror
begin and who was it sigilated to the sheets

4th Morning

flash showers a cascade
of horns a man selling
mosambis on the island
below marooned this
past hour on the first
letter of the alphabet

“you cannot dream your dream and face it
too Orpheus descent would seem to relate

6th Afternoon

while pruning branches of the banyan tree the man fell and
broke his leg he got drunk with money he received and sits
with his back to the compound wall berated by women in his
family their shrill voices carry up into the balcony

7th Afternoon

reading Foucault on Magritte: formidable stones

spell the airiness of dreams

in the caligrammatic double:

annulled and annealed

12th Evening

benediction of pigeon droppings
palm green fern green in violet
evening light an oaken staircase
risen into shadow guttered like
a candle looking down the long
chute of memory past the cricket
net's metal grating as in a dream
the uncanny means your being
there is nowhere to be seen

“in the shrouded hour a turning
thing unfolding there the abiding
blindness at its back

13th Morning

reading B.E.'s *Altman's Tongue* I describe (to myself) alternately as a "theatre of cruelty" or the "will to death" I have to look up the word *anamnesis* recalling it as I rise but wanting then to confirm that recollection

14th Night

a man with a blind person's cane shuffles in front of the car—will you be giving me a lift he asks—where to—Bhudwar park—I'm sorry I say I don't know where that is—and drive away what does or does not constitute today an adequate response to the world

16th Morning (*save a thought for Farnesiana tredici*)

builders are keen
to bulldoze it tenants
huddle in their tenements

far away and out of
reach I scheme in my
sleep a way to save
the unsuspecting plants
their cellar-dank dreams

20th Night

whatever there is in the light
that draws the moth the moth
may not have it it throws
itself against the glass its
dizzy and demented flight

23rd Morning

reflected bird flight
in the window behind
(vector, laser, light) cuts
through space as though
flown out of your eye

28th Afternoon

spelunking lost the word last night and found
it again in the crossword this morning

Excoriate It

excoriate it
eviscerate it
examine it
mismanage it
marry it
miscarry it
exchange it
nictitate it
nitrate it
vituperate it
vibrate it
masturbate it
migrate it
frame it
farm it
irrigate it
aggregate it
ostracize it
eulogize it
anthologize it
exorcise it
fratricide it
fraternize it
descry it
describe it
deprive it

deride it
protect it
protest it
extrapolate it
duplicate it
deploy it
curate it
create it
iterate it
gut it gouge
out its eye
gorge it re
gurgitate it
you deserve it

Says Oehler

Fundamentally, everything that is said is a quotation . . .

—(T.B. “Walking”)

on Monday
You see
on Monday and on Wednesday
in an incredible fashion
But it is good
You are altering your habit
~~Karrer~~
walking (and thinking)
I simply cannot imagine

If we *hear* something
the lie
~~does not need thought~~
ever more unbearable through our thinking
~~the same as conditions~~
what unbearable weather, we say
~~the most ruthless~~ and the most lucid
The art of existing against the facts
what is unbearable ~~and horrible~~
the facts
this fact
intellectual acuity
~~over~~ ninety eight percent
acuity of intellect
~~We have~~, it is true
what I maintain

the individual
sudden intellectual madness
madness is too fundamental for that
as far as Karrer

fanaticism for finding out
we can think too far
go too far in our thoughts
~~to return once again~~
~~Karrer had already analyzed that~~
The so-called human faculty of reason
if a faculty of reason were possible
~~a discovery of Karrer's~~
the so-called subfaculty of reason
If I had a faculty of reason
what I am saying
is nevertheless unambiguous

You may think I'm mad
actually walking
cause and effect
only in this way
which we cannot get to the root of
then we no longer exist

You have to know
when the child has been made
The hysteria of history
There is no greater catastrophe
a child

the greatest crime of all
this crime
made mindlessly
~~After the introduction of such a law~~
without using one's head
~~not a progressive one~~
such a state is not up-to-date

Anyone who makes a child
even if he makes only one child
whether mindlessly or not
the life that has been made for him
No one wants to have his life
if he once has his life
Life is not worth a single day

keep your eyes open
so much misery
I ask myself
This limitless capacity for suffering
Uncomprehending and helpless
You know yourself
The world would slowly die out
be the most beautiful
But that doesn't alter the fact
~~Karrer was of the same opinion~~
with your eyes open

for twenty years
the most irreproachable
suddenly grown old

sudden physical decrepitude ~~on the one hand~~
process of disintegrating
~~this mind of Karrer's was capable of~~

Doubtless
There is a moment
~~We shall probably never see Karrer again~~
There is every sign
~~so violent~~
~~to visit Karrer~~
~~if not forever~~
~~you visit Karrer~~

Quite apart from the fact
a lunatic asylum requires the greatest effort
when we are in Steinhof
If we are qualified to compare
in Steinhof today
~~Karrer~~
to finish the unfinished statement
~~no one has yet succeeded~~
what we are doing
The art of thinking ~~about things consists in the art~~
this fatal moment
~~But no one knows~~ when the fatal moment is
We may never think
the most complete immobility
we are walking

The others
do not see it

thought, not seen
to receive visitors
locked up in
in Rustenschacher's store
~~I would have acted like Karrer~~
not carried it on at all
in Rustenschacher's store

here is a *tragedy*
I must say
we have to admit
are guilty
in a very short space of time
in the immediate proximity
One should, in every case, go back over *everything*
the most nonsensical thing
would now be impossible
~~Karrer also made this same observation~~
we make things too simple
there is an existence outside ourselves
(in thought)
mental agility
in Steinhof now
the thought is nonsensical

~~suicide had a catastrophic effect on Karrer~~

the most extraordinary minds
I
the name Hollensteiner
a completely extraordinary man's name

blotted out in this country
mind is extraordinary
had so many offers
A scientist
in Vienna

As far as Hollensteiner is concerned
for his own research
Let's not fool ourselves
we know what it means
for we are constantly going to cemeteries
we go to cemeteries

the baseness of the state
everything at his disposal
~~at any price, Karrer said~~
at his disposal

it would be senseless
out of force of habit
admittedly the most difficult
We must leave no stone unturned
All other contacts are worthless
It is a shame
People like Hollensteiner
in Döblingen cemetery itself
a very simple funeral
in Döblingen cemetery ~~itself~~

it's a question of misfortune
~~though~~ we call it thought
a man like Hollensteiner

the ~~two~~ most unusual people I have known
in character
the Institute of Chemistry
as if there were one! cries Oehler
but today, a few weeks later
plight of the whole domestic scientific community
And then someone else commits suicide
is extinguished
in every field
in such a really shabby way
with complete clarity

about Hollensteiner
about you

~~final madness of the hated object~~
~~Hollensteiner's part~~
~~she threw him out~~
The fact is
a continuous, thinking, scientific mind
one single, clear intellect
basically science
as we know
with Hollensteiner
We are mathematicians
a case of philosophy
because it is extraordinary
but we shall not get any further with this thought

~~in every statement that they make~~
For strictly speaking

Existence is misconception
we can exist
we must not do that
~~do you understand~~

Karrer's nature
be caused externally
Karrer's words

and typical of Hollensteiner
what is frightful
according to Scherrer
in Rustenschacher's store
it would have been much more important
was not of the slightest interest to Scherrer
Scherrer did not go into it

certainly revealing but not decisive
such a question
received unimportant answers from me
~~Hollensteiner's name~~

We observe time and again
Scherrer
The enormous arrogance you sense
an unparalleled human monstrosity
in Steinhof or not
is repugnant

ignorance repeatedly finds expression
we hear nothing but ignorance ~~from him~~
when we are with them

over the centuries
Some exceptions notwithstanding
and so forth
As a result of incapacity

Scherrer
the actual definition of madness

what took place in Rustenschacher's store
happened in Rustenschacher's store

they make inquiries
is not insignificant
together at school
intentions and so on
in Rustenschacher's store

leave nothing out
I said to Scherrer
several times

up to the light, I say
I told Scherrer
several times

locked up like an animal
I came *away from* Steinhof

Pavilion VII is not permitted
I tell Scherrer

up to the light
I tell Scherrer
on his own

If you know Karrer's nature, I tell Scherrer
everybody was repugnant to Karrer, I tell Scherrer
ready to be hurt, I tell Scherrer
the most difficult thing, I tell Scherrer
according to the theory, I tell Scherrer
in Rustenschacher's store

for an hour or two I thought
by going to Scherrer
quite inadmissibly
getting up and leaving
~~a useful function for Karrer~~

Scherrer immediately makes a note
that Scherrer is noting down

I am not surprised
merely proof of his incompetence

pains in his leg, I told Scherrer
about Wittgenstein, I tell Scherrer
the name Wittgenstein
Rustenschacher's store, I tell Scherrer
something else, I tell Scherrer
all the possibilities of a human character
layered in clarity
readiness to recognize this

in Scherrer
in general

~~He, Karrer, had never said~~
Karrer's words
Karrer said

an unbroken series of thought processes
it was a question
in such a case
only playfulness
playfulness is also a possibility
The thought is quite right
we immediately ask ourselves
completely consciously
What will Karrer miss if he does not go into Obenaus again?
a question that cannot be answered
(and indeed never again)
~~the people who are sitting there~~
If, nevertheless, we do ask
Look
there shall suddenly be nothing more

I came back from America
~~not in this city any longer~~
I hadn't reckoned on that
~~nothing left for me in this city~~
leaving America forever
in Vienna

For it was clear to me I must commit suicide
again and again

I asked myself
it doesn't matter what the question is
I went into the mountains
stood here with Karrer beneath the Obenaus
~~name any more~~
our states of exhaustion
each other

to carry on the practice
connected with Wittgenstein
the same presence of mind
~~our thinking lets up~~
to be able to think
deep in an intensive thought

thinking, and so on
based on trust
I ask myself
(~~ideas~~)
everything is something quite different from what it is for us
To that extent all designations are wrong

I am walking
I said earlier
what we have anticipated
in Klosterneuburgerstrasse
lost in thoughts like this

tip our head out like a garbage can
everything onto one heap
Unless we find a different method
and ~~they~~ empty them where they like

thinking as a form of walking
Because we say it
has nothing to do with speed
it is nonsense, and so on
But we can, of course
~~We can also~~ say, over and over again
as underneath everything
It is absolutely unusual

bird food now
bird food

We say something
I, also intended
I can still hear myself saying
a place I hate
Rustenschacher's store
a terrible misfortune
into Rustenschacher's store

as was his custom
runs
at an unimaginable speed
to pull himself together
to the counter
Karrer
Oehler
~~Karrer~~

before the visit to Rustenschacher's store
~~shouting and collapsing, said Karrer~~

statements and scraps of statements ~~had~~ continually repeated
themselves

but nothing changed (because he changed nothing)

the day before he went into Rustenschacher's store

Note: Everything Oehler says Oehler has said already in T.B.'s novella *Walking*. The method has consisted in drawing the exact words from just before the words "says Oehler" wherever in the novella they appear, in the order they appear. This coupled with rudimentary shaping: line breaks and strikethroughs clearly visible on the page. I have refrained from adding the words "says Oehler" following every utterance though you may choose to hear these as you read.

Vignettes from Sikkim

At the newsagents the T of Ts a day behind
would he happen to have a travelogue I ask *Return to Tibet*
I'd seen the woman reading in the lobby of our hotel
he hands me *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*
I leaf through it seems heavy I say
absolutely light he says hefting it

The route from Gantok to Pelling passes through Melli
a border town already one senses a change in the people
they would profit by your presence

The valley falls first to the left then to the right of the
rising vehicle

On dry days beer will be served you in porcelain
white tea cups poured from silver tea pots

Khechapoori Lake: the Buddhists believe
fills a footprint of the goddess Tara
a transcendental place: leaf and debris
free the green water ringed by a crown
of densely wooded hills the mosquitoes
assail me mercilessly for having relieved myself
along the way

leeches latch on moss and lichen
fern and grass cling to rock and bark
big roots bed down in soft earth
all things grip to the hill on the wooded
walkway to *Dubdi Monastery*

Tell the story of the last Chogyal of Sikkim
Palden Thondup Namgyal
identified early as spiritual head of the monasteries
at Rumtek and Phodong introduced
into the monastic order
and of his brother Prince Paljor Namgyal heir
to the throne, athlete, hunter, RAF pilot
killed in combat circa 1941
of a boy born to be
a bodddhisatva destined
to be a king

tell of his marriage to beautiful Sangey Deki
their three children together

tell of her death by miscarriage and the death of his son
Tenzing killed in a car crash

tell of his marriage to Hope and of their subsequent
divorce

tell of the People's Uprising and the cession
of his state to the Republic of India

tell it as captions to a photo exhibition

an aging man accumulating sorrows

Epilogue, *First Morning in Italy*

“from within the sheathe of sleep
the non-acquisitive
touch, the reach

and so you say my time there was as a dream and as
the dream you would recount in the morning your
words accompany the dreaming and cannot grasp it

