Liminal Phantasmagoria Iosif M. Gershteyn

The Cape

Now that you are gone— More weight I give to feeling than to thought I seek out the romantic, searing reason into naught My rationality has served no purpose close to you Your will capricious as a woman with a clue Yet resolute like ancient rulers—darkened eyes You have passed judgment hoping to disguise That which I loved about you—beast inside Ferocious like a thousand hungry wolves—arose Growling, barking, howling—so disclose Your one true nature; that of skin and sin Of deep desire, lust—hunger within Devouring my body with your lips Salt coated from the sweat under eclipse Words whispered hurriedly within angelic bed Furnished with verdant grasses, wine light red Surrounded by the crisp late summer air Out near the beach, in public, where we dared To ride together through the night Our bodies cherishing moonlight That shone upon your bare and perfect breasts The night that left us both a holy mess And in the daylight hours we got dressed To come back home to our future nest Where it dissolved into a wisp Of July's fancy Blown astray



Maybe

Maybe I got broken in too many places Maybe all that's left are scars in place of faces Maybe my heart got trampled and left for dead Maybe now a rock resides where blood is red

Maybe I forgot how it felt to love you Maybe I recall only sounds of sad tunes Maybe there's nothing left and we are but strangers Maybe I forgot how to be scared of danger Maybe the next car passing will be the last Maybe forever is fleeting and long since passed Maybe your name is etched and bound within me Or maybe it's been released and floats up singly

Ohm Ω

I am your history's repository breathing A thousand shattered memories reside In loving threads warmed via my blood's sheathing The signals pulsing regularly glide

Percussive bass of chemicals releasing Along the flow electric to the cleft Replaying final remnants concerto To one great hippocampal intellect

The swell of sounds, of images so fleeting Their vibrancy eclipsed just by the sun That barely skin at tips of fingers reading Can hold on to their fire one by one

Our final evidence—neuronal
Will last with me until my final breath
And then transmuted into clouds of quanta
—will seed passions from my last, my only bed of rest.

Drive

Like an addiction, or early conviction I cannot escape the incredible me
The ego, the self, the persistent illusion
Drags me and drops me into vast sea

From mountains in Poland— Where I heard my last thoughts To oceans in Bali— Among all the black sharks

The twisting, and turning of unquiet mind The beating, and yearning of jaded design There is no forever of quiet repose Not for the joker behind this big nose

I'll last in this journey, this feverish quest For as long as I can, whilst keeping my zest And falling from sky, acceleration accreting I'll open my arms to hug earth's heart beating.

Ships Pass

Your eyes used to shine so brightly—seeking mine Gentle hands maneuver lightly to entwine Our luminescent touch in full moon's glow Joins blood, joins heart, joins hunger to and fro Voiding the ever present distance in its flow Keeping us as one until the throw Of unrelenting fates hard heavy blow The blow that shattered us apart Before a hope could bloom Of a new start Before the tide could turn and grant us a reprieve We fell below the pressure—could not breathe Our love asphyxiating as a child Wrapped round its neck the navel cord run wild Into a thousand pieces cut apart Never to cleave together that new start You sail far and further from my shores I'm left alone and broken Wanting more

The End

You will know it once it's gone—

When days drift endlessly towards night and night itself is no respite
When meadows green do not ignite a moment's hope or joy held tight
When books seem barren of the truth laid strings of words struck from dead tooth
When films don't dazzle or demand the very time under command
When bedsheets seem too cold
Or hot, or just an empty parking lot

Yes, then you'll know, and then you'll bend returning back into the end of how you held of how you lost—

O how the pain of fire is —ultimately—better, than the pain of frost.

The Share

As this world turns
We know nothing of it
Save dapper tracks—
Ink left on ticker tape
The firm conclusion
Of a thousand minds
From tides of history distilled
A line for every man, for every firm
Reflecting future's starry dreams
and horrifying fantasies—
Beware the stocks move of the day
For tides run deep and rule the way

Lost & Found

Is there something lost that can never be found? Something tragic and dear as a world without bound? Is it a past love that meant more than the clouds? Is it childhood friendship adolescence unwound? Is it mother, or grandma, or old hometown? Whilst growing were more than a human endowed With capacities—never stop to astound of care and of love —that had wonderful, warm, condition-less sound Now swept ashore on adult battleground With its victories, burdens, and losses abound All those memories far, so seem not around Yet one hopes to dip back into that melody too One day again soon, or eve after the tomb But wherever I find them, wherever they are Those feelings and loves are not quite as far As to be lost to my heart, my thoughts, and my soul They return to an eternal home in the role; as human, as animal, as soul of the true And I wish, very soon, they come back to you too

Seconds

I don't want to die
But if I know that I must
I'd like to live a bit more,
A bit more than I have been
A bit more than I am

I'd like to spend some more moments In moment immersed Overwhelmed by the second— That can't be rehearsed

One such second in Barça
One such second out West
One such second in Cambridge
Another—a test

Second by second—
It seems not enough
Though each one of those seconds
Fulfills life—overstuffed

Yet life keeps on going and thirst with it still By beat of the heart so sounding its trill

I'd like to see Paris
In its glory revived
Or a new city
that will take its stride
I'd like to be *in* there
A part of it too
Not just observing
While others go to
I'd want to be *in* it
To live here and now
Less meditation—
More drink, and more sound

I want to live fully By G-d not alone Surrounded by passion and a path towards a throne

I wish to be happy
Not sad,
nonetheless
I'll take being there—
In a beautiful mess
Over sterile a life
Living slow, constant time
with calendar's march
—the only ragtime

Do come and join me When insight does strike and we will make merry Most any a night