

THE ORIGIN OF LETTERS

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A

As the first born to the Semitic family A was originally a picture of an alef or ox, the Agricultural energy that was rotated twice until Alpha loomed up in the Greek psychoscape even before Adam became the chosen father of all Europeans close to Athens, where Apollo had acupunctured wisdom and knowledge into Aristotle, the intellectual ancestor of modern man, who inspired Alexander to make the first effort of globalization, which did not reach East Asia, the land of Ah Q's, the largest hotel for All travelers until centuries later, but it is Atomic bombs that will blow up all our pasts and send us through America to a higher civilization, where the drop of an Apple is to enable us to fly to the other side of the universe Along the cosmic string as Africa, the heart of human darkness Awaits for Buddha, Jesus, Allah or An other unknown author to come and rotate for the third time A scarlet letter of А

B

boy, boy! britain begins beating brazil badly behind belrus' back, because bipedal britons believe brazilians behave better before boys become barbaric; beyond blue borders, bill's big bully boss blatantly breaks bounds by betraying blood-bound brotherhood, but bill's best biographer belies books braving bellicose breeds between balanced buoyancies.

beach birds besides boulders beget babies below beautiful bushes...

С

a Phoenician throw-stick held high in his right hand the Egyptian basket lying far beyond his reach what was, what is the Chinese peasant trying to do in his story?

D

it is neither a door nor a delta it is nothing, anything but a hand trying desperately to open the door to the delta when every reed bows down deeply

Е

born to be a double reed that can be bent into a long vowel the most frequently used letter in english, echoing endlessly in silences

if pulled down, it offers two doors one leading to Soul via will, the other to Him via wisdom; if turned up right it forms a mountain with three peaks like three holy swords, pointing high one against the sun one against the moon one against the sky

Facing always towards the east, it embraces existence, equality, eternity, emancipation...

F

as in fragrant flowers that keep flirting with sunlight on a French afternoon

forwarded to the future will be a foiled fairytale about France, as it tries to catch a deformed viper with an ancient hook

G

Gives us all the glories of God, Godot, the gorilla Amidst the gamers, constantly Reminding us of George Germany, the G-spot, GPA, or GDP

H

inspired by a fence in hell you were invented long ago to connect every human for a tall ladder of hope that we can stand high against the blue horizon like the Babel Tower growing to reach Him where I can find a home in the fame hall where I can settle my soul in heaven

I

To begin with The hieroglyphical origin of My identity was simply no body But a common reed Bowing its head to the rising sun On the barren bank of the Nile Slim, tall, hollow-hearted Standing against tropical heat Until one day 'I' was used As a human symbol, an open vowel Referring to the speaker And since then I have become One of the most frequently spelt letters In the linguistic order of the day Always capitalized To embody my dignity Though I am nothing But a common reed That could have been made into a flute

J

a small cobra coiled in a big pyramid's shape always read to bite

just like Japan just like Justice

K

an other basket you hold anything having a shape but sand or water * * for all your knighthood you keep quiet before knowledge but never the king

L

with an open angle you embraces all legends about light and lions

M

despite your body as imposing as a massive mountain you have a mindset hidden deeply in the wisdom of a little owl in the plasticities of a drop of water

Ν

No, nobody knows this But you are really no more Or no less than the old Egyptian metonymy of A stream, river, lake, sea or Even an entire ocean, where There is always water, where There are always fish Rather than a synecdochic Z Pushed straight upright On the bank of the Euphrates

0

a rope loop propped up with hope to lasso words running amuck a mouth reshaped, repositioned to pronounce the roundest vowel

P

not really a stoop but a flag fluttering there followed by pi rates

Q

a chord, made of sunlight instead of grass will lead each climber to the peak though few can find it on the hillside beside the question

R

residing near their summer resort through her entire year after their marriage, (for better or for worse) russian author catherine tries narrating her bearish story from their wintery perspective where her major concerns are perhaps wrapping gershwin's rhapsody around hieroglyphic spring sprouts

S

with a double hook the sexist, the most charming shape looking more like a naked woman in postmodern art than folded cloth used to cover her body in an Egyptian tale

always ready to seduce

Т

the Egyptian loaf far off the Phoenician mark is still edible now

U

u is surely a part of you, while you sound no more than a single letter u, which is nothing but a copy of a chick you used to be on the bank of the Nile, where u can be changed into v within an european word as in yvan; it's said you have the makings of a victor, a us or un representative who begins the uniform, university, universe.

V

with the shape of victory you are a viper in essence: each victory is a poisonous snake

W

pecking around a lion only the little chick knows the word's worth as it writes the worlds' story with its feet printed on the ground rather than on a papyrus

Х

only when two straight roads meet at an intersection, or

only when you cross the road crossing the border can you understand why Christ's body is nailed on the cross, but his soul rises high above the land

Y

You are haunted by 'Y', not because it's the First letter in your family name, but because It's like a horn, which the water buffalo in your Native village uses to fight against injustice Or, because it's like a twig, where a crow Can come down to perch, a cicada can sing Towards the setting sun as loud as it wants to More important, in Egyptian hieroglyphics It stands for a real reed, something you can Bend into a whistle or flute; in pronouncing it You can get all the answers you need, besides You can make it into a heart-felt catapult And shoot at a snakehead or sparrow, as long As it is within the range of your boyhood

Z

sharp-angled in opposite directions: you are not so much like a weird weapon, a manacle, or a bolt for fastening the flood of the Nile in ancient logography as like a postmodern zebra zigzagging with zeal like a zealot trying to pass through an inflated zero YUAN CHANGMING, eight-time Pushcart nominee and author of five chapbooks (including *Kingship*, 2015, is the world's most widely published poetry author who speaks Mandarin but writes English. Growing up in a remote Chinese village, Yuan began to learn the English alphabet in Shanghai at 19 and published several monographs on translation before moving to Canada. With a Ph.D in English, Yuan currently co-edits *Poetry Pacific* with Allen Qing Yuan in Vancouver and, since mid-2005, has had poetry appearing in 1,029 literary publications across 35 countries, including *Asia Literary Review, Best Canadian Poetry* (2009,12,14), *BestNewPoemsOnline, London Magazine* and *Threepenny Review*.

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