

A New Territory Sought



Jay Besemer

A
NEW
TERRITORY
SOUGHT

poems by
Jay Besemer

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About the Source Text

A New Territory Sought was composed using a variant on the erasure method of generating text by the excision of words from other texts. The source text was *Ants* by Julian Huxley, published in 1930 by Dennis Dobson Ltd., London.

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Introductory

I.

Formidable conquest of the land : of man : Utopia of the State : mammal transition : the lowest grade : social life : the caste system : a caste system between systematists : over-estimated biological difference : kept strong :

II.

we have seen societies of man change structure : power enables behavior : new levels of behavior : structure of body : of different appearance : instincts in time : change of habit : material labor : human-determined result of learning :

III.

man-body : his tools growing, often of wholly new type :
impulse to action and conceptual thought : tradition : rapid
plasticity to exploit land : varied modes of life : of exploiting
by quite other means : the less real : the new mode of life :

IV.

exploit the world as biological unit : detailed adaptation
behavior : progressive new level : man is only ladder

That Long-Ago Ratio

I.

The tree of life and strength : encourage and build the young society : the great animals : members of an already independent tropic :

II.

trapped in that long-ago ratio : profoundly restricted :
predetermined by the greater part of society : by habit : by
learned behavior : they can adapt themselves by means of
alterations : a new habit as a group of biological units

The Jungle Is the Grass

I.

Enormous in size : monstrous largest relatives : the same colony, normal men, community dwellings : series of chambers : passages : the young are carried : rushed : disturbed : intimate contact with favored intelligence : [the jungle is the grass] :

II.

it is necessary to secrete distance : seek it and many substances : irregular and subterranean : [large and built of twigs and pine-needles, boughs and rotten holes] : structure of long controversy : the accidental, mutual cavities : certain trees, and cavities :

III.

so, normal human : adapt the actions of the workers :
the building

Free Air

I.

Any country will be filled for miles with some common kind of free air : strange to say, weeks or months confront : shedding of some specific internal condition :

II.

merit : not fully pigmented : looks like a shirt but is based
on experimentation : revolution : a multiplicity of
communications

The Intermediate

Sometimes, differing from that which gave birth may be accepted : the same end : the individual : he : she : to be of two : the adjusted process of one kind into a multitude : the difference between female and male or the lack of it : partake of the intermediate

Uniting with the Pseudogynes

I.

Males and females winged : many males and many females : sexual forms : these chambers still, sultry : stimulate the males : fly out : discharge : short-lived : her little bag in the muscle of her genital : little chamber in the soil : stone or bark : in her the moment of flight : they break down : they take charge :

II.

this licking clean from greed : the full-grown guise : the
unchanging adult : so far from independence : different
tasks : individual workers imprisoned : imprisoned for
three months : this division of beautiful methods : ten
years recorded : the hostile and new settlements : a band
of workers found a new one : colonies of separate workers
: a solitary queen :

III.

smell is national tradition : patriotism, blood and force :
slave-making caste : caste control of the tight body : to
open muscle : density-determining once more : winged
forms exist : combinations of male part with queen part :
gynandromorphs uniting with the pseudogynes : to be in
the middle

Ferocity and Solicitude

I.

A medium possible by direct barter : alien to methods of subordination : communication opening into a complicated process : food-interrelations solid as a number :

II.

the ferocity and the solicitude : egoistic anxiety and
relations of mutual exchange : cementing the common
bargain

Stability Is Taste

I.

Civilized by economic bonds : cultivators of labor : one product : population can only be valuable in the shape of money :

II.

the colony, their tongues and stroking : the fortunate : a
drop from the crop : spines and rough jaws : the workers
eager to suck : patriotism is smell, stability is taste :
coveted substances : clear-cut features : vibrations of the
signal : simple movement : to obtain this charge, emit
shrill sounds :

III.

a system of services : a worker thanks another : gathered
workers are always left : home-staying when hungry

In the Fungus Garden

I.

Compound diverging facets : light from darkness : smells
without form : smells of small size : a composite of color :
touch of the same : touch of the way back : well-marked
matters :

II.

what of workers and their power : return a band of other
workers : employ their way : objects in the shape of
smells : footprints :

III.

workers follow a clue left to guide the questing hours :
distance, being kept prisoner for a while, stops its travel :
depend on muscular sense : precise machinery :

IV.

so learn to build : perform acts : after a large tram, cross
the rails : a road of earth : a band of tar : the obstacle in
similar predicament : the tree and drop : means to ends :
machines for growing up : busy with the instruction : build
the right kind : no way in : no way in :

V.

in the fungus garden : when one takes over : relax :
surrender : awaken : indicate mental development : play
mock fight : play tag : dispose of corpses : the usual
cemetery : separate places of disposal

Permanent Machines

I.

Terrestrial life : bear witness to a group : sexual forms :
enormous soldiers crush up hard and disappear : special
nectar on stalk of leaf : collect the seeds : store them :
sow seeds : grow fungi, for there are persistent thieves,
and queens, and their slaves : earth's little peoples :

II.

in woods of green leaf large workers clip leaves : leaf-
pieces a white network : careful : too-wet grass : crisp and
white : the pocket : the parasol : a hearty meal : a small
underground room : new gardening and intel :

III.

for many years stored grain : drought in life is almost
welcome : new and different : head and body like two
sums of money : the overworked variation advantageous :
the usual weapons : the great and tiny : o the body :

IV.

who is perfect among certain mistresses : their leaves,
or stance : the common daisy-plants others keep in
sheds or barns : shrubs or trees : o their bodies : o
stroking : o their secretion : white light and sap : the
sap they pump up sweet : the stroking : o mamma :
man's extreme banishment of solitude : a heavy toll :

V.

arid method : the climax of never : this invention of simple
instinct : work, work : feed and feed : call a capable john :
stimulate by stroking : interest others : the possession
thrust upon them :

VI.

predatory habit : dreaded creatures : the invading : the
driver : the iron : uncanny : o great attack : permanent
machines

In a Building of Sugar

I.

Go to war or mate : strictly the wish to steal : the general
of slave-making and workers to exploit : successful forms
and the march of violent fatigue : half-hearted : advance
close up, close to the objective : attack : defend : carrying
danger, attack : violently excited : harass enemy release
and speed : defeat : attack : defend : the slave-maker :
the harvester : the chief : with us, another war : old
previous peace : the parasitism of exploiting the other :

II.

more or less a thousand times her marriage : she takes a
number : her moment of indiscriminate spite :

III.

male conveyances useful : this ship passes on the
instinctual level : form of a dark-colored curious ball :
usually epiphytic : accident, the life of the people : the
nest in the center : between, between : continue the
alliance : making selves, bodies : the same boat :

IV.

an example : by themselves they take nothing : the red
clue : the colony of the robber-queen : later, the periodic
forays on back stores : leaps up on the local order of
patriotism : a spy : real feelings : the local time : slowly
sawing : smell converted : adapted to pugnacious acts :
raiding methods : highly organized : leave the hostile army
and all the food : shut up young and actually die :

V.

in a building of sugar : know the step : workers become
reasons : know the body : brother and sister, seek new
interest

The Scotland of Wolves

I.

Animals of other sorts : physical, like rat or house : pets like lap-goldfish : captivity of difference : the Scotland of wolves : of our own children, whom we liked : the giant cats :

II.

equally, men's houses and these aliens : this baby for the
body of a foreign porcupine : a golden opening to suck off
the pseudogynes : the right pseudogynes :

III.

reach a nest and soon, red extinction : on the road,
abundant local host of danger : extraordinary oak of
existence : full-fed : spin, turn and take up pseudogynes :
befriend them : exploit the greed of the blue caterpillar :
the luxurious time : [other guests steal the fish when they
smell] :

IV.

sisters and a sudden mouth : a delicate pose : smooth stiff
flanks : reach up : act like an animal : bite like a cat : or
smallish monkey :

V.

occupy : occupy the other : feed their own : their passable
host : stroke fact secretion : tolerate positions of
conjecture : soft strokings of other workers : number of
known vultures : and the exploited

Daylight Pushing Higher

I.

The name of their colony is Reflection : their marvels of origin : daylight, pushing higher : in reach of Boston : Australia : Europe :

II.

the male solitary : queen of both sexes : the various instincts of a few individuals : worker-like, both male and female : capable of facing the light : organs of size or quantity : of queens and kings : characters accounted for in the colony :

III.

cast-iron elsewhere : subterranean, much enlarged : tip of
the snout : dissolve hard primrose or loosestrife and
soldiers : genetic machinery : underlying forms :
strangeness unaided : chemically chop a few days :
circulation of blood and bodies and fundamental respect-
stream : obeisance, the royal juice : lickable structures :
swelled and lickable : be licked : be the licked :

IV.

thieves, prepare : intolerant light under solid armor-plate :
an expedient run : the need of speed : a give-and-take of
tunnellings and stumps : in the giant grasslands : in the
great heat, the midday sun of sausages and entrances :

V.

tentacles in every direction : inside the shell, paper and
printer's ink : a flourishing construct : renewing : hastening
circulation in an independent heart

The Cosmic Accident

I.

Our brief end : fallacies made in machines : miniature magical instinct between minds and works : ignorant : unaware in ourselves : we are dogs : cameras : reacting to bodily shape : animals and plants : fowls : a new sort of wheat : trusting the occupation : the structure of society : the body and the cosmic accident : the tool-box of conscious methods : walls of trumpets :

II.

settle for things to taste, make new works of art : make
incapable of all biological meaning : differences between
caste : the bodily shape of castes : modes of thought
become fixed : enslaving the body : discover new changes :
new truth : create destiny

About the Author

Hybrid artist Jay Besemer is the author of several poetry books and chapbooks, including (as Jen Besemer) *Telephone*, *Object with Man's Face*, *Quiet Vertical Movements*, *Ten Word Problems*, and *What Is Born*. A new chapbook, *Aster to Daylily*, is forthcoming in 2014 from Damask Press. Jay's recombinant poetry projects are anthologized in *Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*, and can be found in *Monsters & Dust*, *Aufgabe*, *Drunken Boat*, *BlazeVOX*, *e-ratio*, *Sentence* and other delicious publications. Jay also curates the occasional poetry event, writes feature essays and reviews, and teaches art and poetry workshops in and beyond Chicago. To find out more, visit www.jenbesemer.com.

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Jay Besemer's *A New Territory Sought* (2013)

The e-books/books can be found at
<http://www.moriapoetry.com>.

Praise for *A New Territory Sought*

Jay Besemer's *A New Territory Sought* blends the discourse of human labor with descriptions of organic processes so that the new territory sought becomes a deterritorialized composite space, "irregular and subterranean." These poems work like organic machines of masculine queens, at once lovely and strange, broken and efficient, and ultimately they perform a "miniature magic between minds."

—Nathan Hoks

Jay's *ANTS* forges a subtle miracle by generating a clap-of-a-narrative, a ricochet "not fully pigmented." By actively keeping source from ever being lazy he has managed to keep this book full of beblubbered bounce. To treat a text like a tuberous tomahawk, to wield and shield biology ("mammal transition" / "smells without form"), experimentation ("communication opening into a complicated process") and queerness ("he : she : to be of two" / "members of an already independent tropic") all at once, is "gardening and intel." Who do you want watering your hybrid flowers, entangling their hands in your root vegetables while they are still underground? Choose Jay! He is a gifted "man-body" with "tentacles in every direction," "hastening circulation in an independent heart." He could only ever gift your surroundings. When the roots are being gently but gingerly pulled above ground, when words are cut like the hair of history, a grand opening begins to take place. What to do in response to that opening? "Suck off the pseudogenes;" willingly crack into protein code. By way of his lyrical green thumb, history has a bright blue Mohawk now. Hey patriarchs—what do you think about that! Ehem ehem; Hey patriarchs—that was rhetorical. Right now, right here, in this garden glow, it is not your place to speak.

—j/ hastain

