

THE FINAL ORBICULAR WORDS

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Empire's afflatus a suffusion of arrogance and shame
hung over all like a falling Prague night
devoid of any other intention but profit salvation
and *aufhebung's* culture of stultification
and rosemary arbors of a violently modified civility
Nawab bought 12 members of parliament
House committee reported early ills of monopoly
turning to aggressive territorial expansion
Nawab from which the English corruption *nabob*
islanders who managed the Company
who survived climate and multiple diseases
then returned to Motherland
richer than Nebudchanezar
Nabob in a later now independent colony a company
whose jam went over toast
of fathers and mothers on their way out into the grim
bisecting universes of intervening labor markets
Nawab remitted millions of pounds sterling owned
the committees of the House
nobbled a number of those in the Lords
 Capitalism began about this time
after Plessy and Clive
prodigies of wealth gelded the commons
Walpole acknowledges
to such monopolies were imputed
the late famine in Bengal and the loss
of three millions of the inhabitants
a tithe of these crimes was sufficient to inspire horror
 Three millions perished

A later colonial officer would not release the tented hoardings
of rice and grains at Fort St George
where I would recall your mother within and
against this ever present threatening
contingency of mass starvation
officer allowing only half the rations
half the calories bad Dasein Germans provided at Belsen
while tens of thousands
indeed hundreds of thousands
starved in the southern principalities of the
Presidency at the edge of empire different
but simultaneously similar or the same
in all theaters of settler colonialism
with or without the adhesiveness of the
mercantile plunderers and their cohort of explorers
and concentrationenlager administrators
prisoners disappear into death
pared or paired with scientific
Guantanamo logicals
Despite shame empire writes its own
on the terrestrial body
What was guilt and embarrassment
to the broader populations at home
indignity at imperial-never-sated-hunger
shifted from the victors to the victims
they must be educated or eradicated
systems of profiting never endangered
Tea laced with sugar
commodities whisper in a children's garden of verse
have no visible paternity
but in the provinces
in the furthest reaches Death loses count
or blancmange of Motherland
re-scripts re-scriptures native base as he observed
about this province colonized
about the time of in another remove
the Great Rebellion of 1857
native people were in the way
their land was coveted and the settlers took it
eventually there were
approximately 1,500 small reserves slightly

more than a third of one percent of the land
Kafka hooks different bondages different apparatuses
different entanglements
different modes of mass demise
And cultural mono-cropping arcs control dominion
traced from cinnamon to cedar from jasmine to dogwood

Bloody bed averts torture's
 prim aesthetic
 blooded amputated
 no resignation
 but sings
 era's tonsured etymon
Word wolf favours sonnet
Dinky protuberant milleflor
 gestational cimcumflex
 regularizes this
 pointed at your deft
 resistance
 to beanstalk up
 Spittle smeared
 hooded gangsta sex
 kitten thug
 shirts and skins
 threaten equilibrium's
 mad jazzer
Commentary curls stories
 complete
 Marble me he says
 but touch chest fire
 old hymns rose red
 recover ground-aires
of our meadow mountain mind
 stories' nilotic apotheosis
 No one equal
quadrant of all known totally
 Then letters excruciating
 escaping love
 circumcised
 small chest
 thin-boned
 over-thought

fingers penning
even in sleep

Overhead the all-seeing pharaoh eye of the sun the all
knowing patriarchal aperture
concurrent with voice over
neo-pragmatic tarnished Platonism
a depth of silence and wind rustling
two men speak two worlds intermingle in an event
a third awaits death

In several photos the apparatus
nears its own demise transformed to aliveness
throws itself into self-disintegration

Two men speak

one with the prominence of narration
pleads begs asserts

his time over his role superseded

A sum of metal and small bits of felt and cotton wool
with pedagogical intent a covert autonomy

spells the Father-name of authority
perfect paradigmatic irrational blind

without process language or appeal

And flesh becomes punished word
a moment an eternity awaiting its Foucault

but masterfully Kafka arrives

demotic drama ahead of his time

Prisoner vomiting who usually ate fish fed candies

interrupts execution soiling machine

thus not only lazy dog but agent of pollution

Plus the two nakedness'

one at the end of a bayonet

and the voluntary nakedness of the officer

who has lost the argument faces financial

and bureaucratic ruination

slippage down ladder of the colonies'

nomenklatura

The transfer of the sites of spectacle

from the space of public

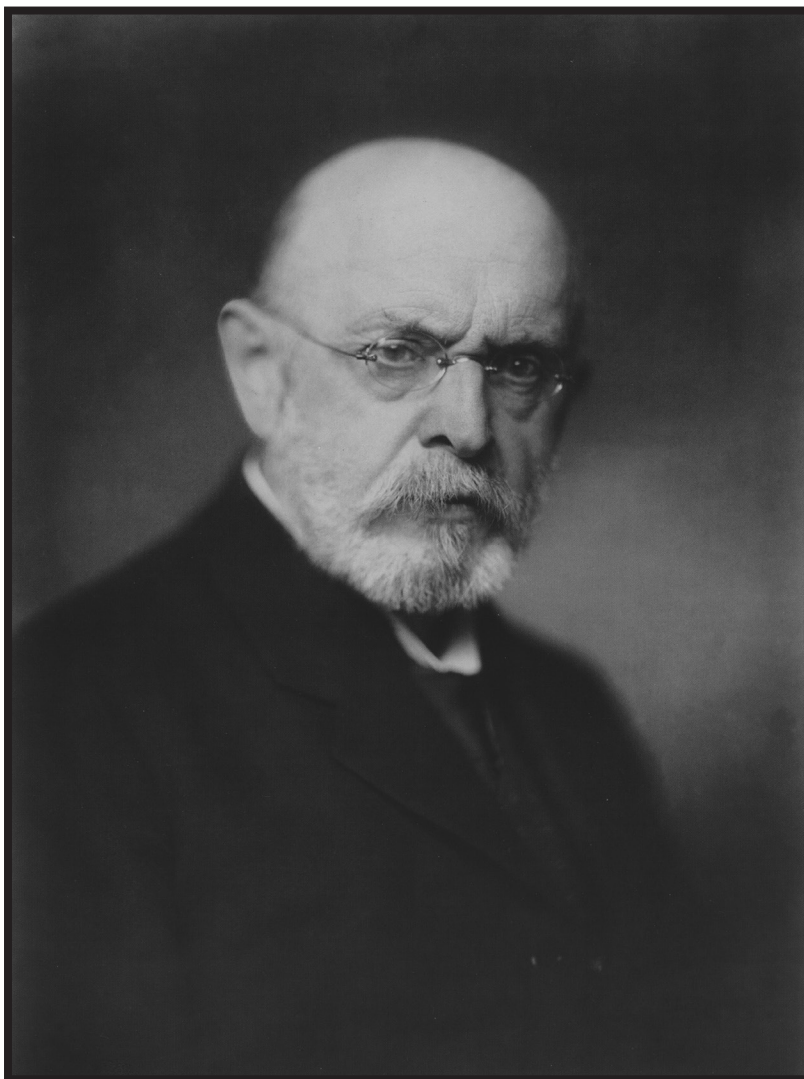
execution

where now there is no one to watch

to the hall of official reportage the

Meeting where he knows his end is nigh

and his beloved justice-enlightenment
machine will be erased demoted removed from
enforcing colony's routines of law and order
Dialogue pseudo-empirical
officer as the declining
mode of punishment
seeks to make his case in the language of diplomacy
 the French of official culture
a parody of discourse and discipleship
 tracing the gap between regimes
And the radiance of enlightenment
official state-sanctioned savagery
a fictional annex set aside from
but close to the merriment of
horror the displacement of the comic
but a slight veneer of modernity's trajectory
towards rule and punish
within the cellular within the mass at the edge and in the
 heartland
Laughter finally at the prisoner bare-backed and
bare-bummed in a monological institution
human sacrifice consummation of the Law
thence the move to the next radiant illumination
Hiroshima.
Auschwitz.
Iraq.
Multiples of mass extrapolations
the continuum of incarceration injustice and insurgency
not to be tamed by clay or art
form militant silver soldiery
Here terra cotta fractured sestina
rendered transparency of subversion too
much melts to this *the despised* concrete
cuts the air of prophecy utters utterly
cashiered no eyes to the burning city
the scarcity the scarcity of means
and adjusted miserly ends
prohibiting larger structures the institutional dream
of its *ever forever* over which naked he gymnast
kouros bleeding tubercular K in the Prague window exercises
the endless procrastination of the final orbicular words



Alois Jirasek, 1920; Novelist and dramatist. With Permission of Langhans Portrait Gallery