ÆROTOMANIA:
THE BOOK OF LUMENATIONS

Lavender Ink
New Orleans
Ærotomania: The Book of Lumenations
Adeena Karasick

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Urgent and forbidding, brutal and internal, I thank too, each and every letter and the spaces between them from which these words emerge, where I forever hide you. And as these sentences of secret language rejoice around me growing in number—through the anguish and tumult, desolation and thirst, I have been comforted as they moisten my mouth, wet my tongue and forever keep me safe.

*Against the decay and order, against life and against death, against accident, constant threats from the radio, the newspaper headlines all spreading the plague, against perfidy seeping down from upstairs or up from downstairs, against a slow devouring inside and being swallowed by the outside... and with unprecedented endurance... i sit, i wait, i smoke.*

—Ingeborg Bachmann
ÆEROTOMANIA

“The Airplane is an extension of the entire body” (Marshall McLuhan, Extensions of Man)
Fasten your strap & prepare for takeoff
in the partition of skin wrapped like paper like prayer through the echoes of hushed walls\(\dagger\) welling through chambers of night\(\ddagger\) between leisure\(\ddagger\) labor\(\ddagger\) utility and pleasure\(\ddagger\) the airplane as an erotic theater\(\ddagger\) a social text of secret motives\(\ddagger\) functions like a language --

\[\text{a hyperculture of forces and relations\(\ddagger\) chains of connections\(\ddagger\) affections insurrections\(\ddagger\) systems cycles\(\ddagger\) patterns and dispersions in an aerotic ecology of sovereignty and sacrifice}\]
We are the letters travelling through space. Seated letters speaking ourselves against the sky inverted through flying circuits coded ciphers secrets’ shaded silence of shuttered truance

We are the letters, the interletters between rows of text awake / in the flux of discomfiture

The spoken sentence between destinations of dissemblance liaised in the labor of hours aisles eros sorrows aeros

parataxiing down the runway

in the heft of day --
The airplane is structured like a language

And we are the letters reassembling
in a shifting ensemble;
illicit and clandestine sequestered in the curved body
of arced crevices, potence, platforms, portals,
promise

we are the floating signifiers
flying through a body of conventions
volatile and unspooled, looping

According to the Digital Equipment Corporation'
in many aircraft, the rightmost seats have letter
designations HJK, skipping the letter I
Inscribing itself as a site of radical intersubjectivity through an ærosdynamics of radiant space

the very body of the airplane highlights subjectivity as a spectrum of differential r/elations
and we are flying

through intersectional veils, chariots, heavens and throne rooms plays, plaise, palaces, seals and ascents through the waters of high walls and the halls of the unseen

highlighting how like in Heidegger’s formulation, the same is an endlessly repeatable identity

AA BB ABAB

held together in radical dissimilarity, irreducibly bonded in their (dis)union —

further extended in McLuhan’s 1948 antidialectical tetradic axiology of metaphor and analogy

A is to B so C is to D

AB:CD
As attested in the Sefer Yetzirah (Book of Formation), in accordance with midrashic and talmudic exegesis,

Each substitution and transposition of the letters condenses light into a life force, made by forming, weighing, combining and transforming the letters resulting in 231 combinations reconfigured into groups of 3 and 4 letters
Each lettered combination is understood as a gate and through these “gates” creative power goes out into the universe. The 231 gates are created by pairing each of the letters of the alphabet with one another until all 231 letters combination are formed.

How to combine, weigh, and exchange them?
A with all and all with A; B with all and all with B;
G with all and all with G; and all of them turned around
going forth through two hundred and thirty one gates,
And the whole creation and all meaning proceed

From letter combination

gates of connection
annexion, synnexion

gates of entry
gates of desire
Q Gate, R Gate, S Gate
T Gate, U Gate

wie gehts?

“gates of the imagination,
gates as the imagination”
FOR JEWS CELEBRATING THE DAYS OF AWE
GATES REFER TO ONE’S FUTURE
BEING SEALED IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

closing of the gates, yet opening into new
passages, sentences, scrolls, arcs, lines of flight

constellated in the abecedaries
of the abyss
& says fly me by night to the river [de]river over the rainbow fly me faster than angels so fly as the sky flying without wings as sparks fly enfleurage i was born to fly so fly with me through the flux of form through refueled folly volleyed veils voiles volé réveillé all luminous voluminous flee flyten’ fly flug me by the seat of your pense fly me like a butterfly fly as flamingos flyin the coupe fly free and fly blind buttressed from the inside like a flying f*ck on the fly to the moon over the dateline as the sky flies awake
We are the letters traveling through space through planes of Boeing in time, whose costume, custom, décor decorum of patterned mazes, fathoms, pixels, flickering through tumult

masked and breathing reclining or upright

we are the letters unraveling though space
According to Merkabah mysticism, exotic angelic beings with awesome strength and powerful flying wings served as heavenly tour guides carrying creative energy through the celestial spheres. As it is said, the chariot flew Elijah from earthly dimensions to heavenly ones in a great burst of light and speed.

Opening to higher and higher levels
so high in the night sky

the airplane appears as a spark of light

A flash in the darkness
and from this most infinitesimal point
of concentration, contains
all the future within it