Paul Celan

Microliths They Are, Little Stones

Posthumous Prose

Translated with a preface
by Pierre Joris

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MICROLITHS THEY ARE, LITTLE STONES

0 Aphorisms, Counterlights, and Aphoristic Fragments
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«Любовная лодка разбилась о быт» (Mayakovskiy)
The love-boat has to shipwreck against existence
II. 3. 62

“You human brethren, who live after us”. Always (only?) after us...
2. 6. 62.

An old maximalist: he demanded a minimum of the obvious, the natural.
2. 18

“Workshop discussions” with the literary eminence: in the bel étage — on the upholstered lathe, with dialogical understate­ment-ho-humming, timely radio-lather. In the basement: the little spark’s final resting place.
3. 10. 62

Spirit of anarchy: actualized in the greatest, lonesome, for all. Royal “Communism of the spirits.” La Cité des Citoyens.
3.10.62

CHECKMATE TO POETRY!

It was a simultaneous display. All variations were played — White was set upon everywhere, the boards consisted of only black fields.

But White could not know this — White trusted in what’s as­sumed in such games, namely also in the whiteness of the fields.
On the language-borders: Danzig, Switzerland, Austria

Overcompensation: those things that should be talked about are passed over in silence, and what should be passed over in silence is being talked about. And thus we speak and remain silent passed each other.

Adorno: he also ascribed Jewishness to his unjewish half, and even the most high-minded of it all. That, reality-distant as it may be, was most likely the only hint of his Jewishness.

Il n'y a pas de littérature désespérée [there is no desperate literature]: in no other poetry as strongly as in the German — even the ever so fragile semi-tough and one-and-a-half-times tough I count among it —

Language-borders — Danzig and Bern

like the Contergan-children
the spirit against the genes

Teratology / soul-flurry — particle-flurry
Не сравнить / the communism of the spirits
Love

The unshakeable-moveable spirit against the mutations of the stagnating gene: the monad man
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