

**FOURTEEN
COMPLEX
VIBRATIONS
OF THE
BASILAR
MEMBRANE**

**MICHAEL
IVES**

Michael Ives

**Fourteen Complex
Vibrations
of the
Basilar Membrane**

**Metambesen
Annandale-on-Hudson
2014**

Fourteen Complex Vibrations of the Basilar Membrane
is the eleventh in a series of texts and chapbooks
published by Metambesen.
The reader is free to download and print it
without charge or permission.
Copyright © 2014 by Michael Ives

for Ann Lauterbach

The primary plane of vibration
at right angles to the Great Mother
warps in trenchant pulses along the wend
in her celestial corkscrew
these spiral aberrations of stars
sons and daughters having absorbed
the concussion of primordial want
rack with sudden recoil light years wide
the solar beam torturing through prismatic waters
quick with impermanences
now the ant peters through the grommet
now the air/o/plane through the building
appearances that flash in momentary shuttle
make an everlasting flesh of suddenness

And never to reverse such course
as back to an origin forsaken
appetite without knowledge
from an apparent beginning driven heedlessly awake
only as animals awaken
but deeper into their inherited momentum
a turbulence never in abatement
the abatement too fired by side-long hungers
and they again hedged round by others
come never to subside into satisfaction
but many-fold and automatic
and tenacious appetites
set in motion ages before
the age of motion itself

Whose eastern exposure
 makes a strap-work holding together
 the face of a sultan
gazes through the hidden season
 has outlasted those empires
 arise spontaneously from decaying matter
the suffering root of whose sensitive snows
long a secret held in suspension
 should it roam the Mamluk chambers
 searching for the mountain of its birth
 it be momentarily disinherited
 and throws away its soundless voice
 that mountain and Jew and Muslim
 might interfuse
and synchronize
their mutual devotions

If shock fronts of emotion
 should fleet across its face
 sign of a chemical Jerusalem
 shadowing its serenity
wants to flood with meaning
intrinsic emptiness
fades away into a messiah “who could arrive”
 flip film in reverse
 guide biblical deluge
 back into its colicky alloy
of storm cloud and tantrum
 dense mesh of sensors at contact point- μ
 ropy with purpose tremors
 automates its essence

And the Lord's heart unspooled
makes an eel
whose discharge field
begat the shudder of conscience
stipulating that honor be to a god's electrical potential
shock-suckers on the underside of the sacred
squirts ions across cloak of eternal life
congruent with charge-zone, must re-interrogate
thanks to additional voltage
another East India Co. holiday reference to
"negro kingdoms"
showboating under the equator
perform while attached to battery cables
global economic valve dance

Of the light reflected
on the corpse of St. Paul
can its spectrum light the inward river
intended for some manner of
docking one's spirit
at Shining Brow: coordinate delta bravo
but never to irrigate that voluptuary: earth
rebutts charge of a death without remission
all the lit/er/a/tures and per/plex/i/ties
for those brought low by moral suasion
their wine presses and barns slated to stand open
with respect to
heavily capitalized, mortgage-backed
heaven in a snow-globe

My liege's brainstem
a corridor of wild goat and sheep
worked with sharp-edged chisels
into the gorge of his logarithmic Mind King
whose angle of arc
fermented in windows
save that to deter such as thieves and scholars
had our Lord Hadleigh put forward
were he compelled
under all apparent forward momentum
illicit gorgon combs in serried ranks
shuttling backwards through a medium of echoes
to furrow an abstract rage
quieter than the soil

Redirected into a single timbered vault
all rivers being Celtic hollows
in a fluid conversion phase
glaze their vows with supple discipline
future a category of river
vow a river into a future

but shall no one witness
of this rock its granulation?
how to enclose the ages
in a single breath
hangs on your abandonment of prudence
opening into death
until the opening into itself
dies

Passes beyond gods and plateaus
who destroys the consecrated vessel
chalice-essence building its elsewhere while we thirst
but marvelous errors carry the fire
that shall transmute them
whose tongues of flame be a Morpho's wing
for renewals need transmit no analysis
arc seconds along the unspooling whorl
such gentle moments of pressure
we call a year
of which animal bodies are composed
inconceivably soft
nor hindered by nodes and realms
wherein hides the unnaturalness of pieties

A generative function of loss
building round the interior soldier
day by day its crystal palace
of helpless fascination
prismatic, inter-involved through the organs and airs
celestial song but the echo of a sky
among halogens of descriptive psychology
at its base one vegetable mouth
it feeds it sleeps
in cultured whispers along the portico
its evening holds at bay a sewage
more noxious than the fouled corpse in the road
these, our peculiar innovations
the bone china, the abattoirs
the lucid window

The deflection of inner feeling
among those smaller planets
 bounded by the widow's current
 shall make a shaft furnace
 the fires of which
billowing through the bone
 and was heat loss the primal father?
 emulsion of self in traumatic suspension
 gathering round a single thread
with such toothed and fateful tenacity
 alluvial valley stretches into distant past
 its otoliths each grain of sand
 along the one hundred and one Ganges
nether side of one's face exposed to the elements
 grinding those harsh esteems into mirrors
 a self watches itself: interiorized hour of the Rat

Cross-grain in the water
 being hardly discernable
 to any but amoebic bodies
 as to the transitory lion who swims in the air
 a precise quantity of Eden bulbs its eye
 with fiery comets gazing at it as they pass
 our graves are commas
 an effect of wise quiescence feeding on animal life
for the curvature of which
as they interpenetrate
calm into calm
 of liquid porcelain its tension threshold
 that this pinpoint and this one
 bulbed with enjoyment
 be a total actualization
 of all times

Into what clear orb
has the debt of the world retracted
 round a hidden column at some center
meat of emanations, stillness in flight
 the complex simplicities
 winding themselves in helicoidal flow
 whereas from the center's vantage
worlds unspool toward
 ever more precise simul- / spon- / -taneous rhythms
rapidly de-realizing all such "debts" of such "worlds"
 retract round a hidden ever more precise vantage
 whereas the inter-volement of worlds
 simplifying themselves round a flowing stillness
 flows into itself