

SISYPHUS AND THE ROCKETTES

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Sisyphus was sentenced by the gods to roll that rock up the hill for all eternity only to see it roll back down. So, was he condemned to a life in vain because no effort on his part could ever get that rock over the top? I think he eventually replaced that impossible goal with a different one: the sport (or the art?) of playfully testing the limits of a prison he knew he could never escape. By redefining his task, he made his condemnation work for him: he suffused it with form and meaning.

Unlike Sisyphus, I have voluntarily placed myself in an inescapable "prison" - a palindromic one. Why? My childhood did not prepare me for living with much freedom; I lived within extremely rigid boundaries and rules. Over time I learned how to make rigidity work for me. It became challenging and fun to use my imagination to find freedom within these boundaries. I redefined the oppressive meaning of the prison I perceived myself to be in. Now I am so used to trying to escape that part of me has come to depend upon the existence of restrictions. Without prisons I have nothing to escape.

Palindromes are a type of prison. Anything you write must be written again in reverse, greatly limiting your freedom. Writing a palindrome is an art (or a sport?) in which these limits are playfully tested. In writing palindromes I find new ways of looking at the world; I put words together that outside of a palindrome I might not think to put together, and I take what I have discovered inside a palindrome and see whether it has meaning outside the palindrome.

My palindromic me was born one day in January 1995. Little did my "mother" Erin Frey know what her passing comments about palindromes that afternoon would give birth to!

I am still quite young, but I have big dreams. I've Vegas in my eyes. I see myself on stage at Caesar's Palace reciting palindromes amidst the Rockettes. I see guys who look like Brad Pitt sleeping overnight outside the box office to ensure front-row seats.

Are there other palindromists out there who would like to join me? Be prepared for the drug-filled nights between shows, and be ready for the groupies. We'll need bodyguards to protect the hems of our garments. (Oh, the glamour of a palindromist's life!)

Before I depart for Vegas I'll share a few palindromes with you. Are they ready for the Big Time, or should I get breast implants to improve my chances?

(e.g.) Never One Vigil

I've no DNA
 one cadet i re-made
 if in Utne
 to pin model's satyr
 i adore his mussel Miami
 am i smut?
 pesto of nose, no bet!
 I knit a leg's barge
 he grabs gelatin kite bones
 on foot septums
 i maim aimless ums
 i hero?
 dairy-tassled?
 omnipotent?
 unified?
 a merited ace?
 NO!!!
 ...and on evil
 i give NO!!! revenge

Trap Art

meet
 seek a fibred royal piano
 it i loves
 or people do yen
 i play no benign
 i'm muse mantra!
 i are pop art
 i elk
 cubism rodeo
 boogi Op
 metronome gem on
 or tempo i go
 oboe dorms i buckle
 i trap opera
 i art!
 names umming in ebony
 alpine yodel
 Poe prose volition
 "A" i play order
 "B" i fake esteem
 trap art

Emordnilap Apogee

mote-tonal
 i am die - met a rut
 a sot raffles a seine dollop -
 - a sun of lesser a daisy
 no idle gems tell a poet
 a gas agate opal lets me gel
 Dionysia dares self on us
 Apollo denies a self
 far to saturate me id
 mail a note to me ego, Pa Palindrome

Siesta (a nap)

see
 tare, billionaire, bidet
 sudden rut stops
 80-six an awed limb mower
 a - b - s - t - r - a - c - t
 carts bare womb mildew -
 - an axis 80 spots turned
 dusted Iberian oil
 liberate Espana at seis

P.M.

also get a garret -
 - a wise kidnap
 massage morose sorrel
 go to grasp...
 ...and no bag
 a Vegas sage
 vagabond naps
 argot ogler
 roses or omegas?
 sampan dikes!
 i water rag at ego's lamp

Names

a base man names
 a baseman names
 a base man
 names abase man

 Same Neon Wash

 Table Tom's
 motel bath
 saw no enemas

Top's Atlas

Mo's peep organ
 tepee decaf
 sonar pose
 sopranos face deep Etna
 grope Epsom salt
 a spot

must feel
 b r o w s e
 wet lips
 puce cup spilt
 ewe's worble
 eft's um