

HET ETEN (THE EATING)

HUGO BRANDT CORSTIUS
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The following text, in which the last two letters of each word are repeated in the first two of the next, appeared in De Volkskrant of December 4, 1998

Enige generaties esthete en enkele lelijke keeshonden enerveerden Engelsman. Angstige gedachten en enthousiaste telefonades escaleerden enorme mensenmassa's. Asbest stoorde de democrat Attlee.

Eet: Etruskische heilbot, Ottomaanse selderij, rijke ketelsoep, epicuristisch chocola, lawaaiige geitenkaas, Assyrische hetebliksem, Emmenthaler ersatzkoffie.

Iedereen enerveerde de dekaan. Anna nam amper ersatzkoffie. Iedereen encanailleerde decentraal, alles escaleerde.

De deemoedige geneesheer erkende desniettemin de depressie. Ietwat attenter ervoer ergerlijke kerel ellende. De dekaan anticipeerde de democrat. Attische heer ergerde de dekaan. Anna naderde de debutante teneinde decolleté te tekenen.

Enfin, in intense selectieve verontwaardigdheid identificeerde de democrat Attlee een Engelsman. Andermaal alarmeerde de democrat Attlee eerst; stootte teen, enkel, elleboog, ogengat.

At atheïst stroop op? Opa paaide de demon. Onze zedige geestelijke keest stevig iguaan andermaal, alzo.

Zo zoet eten enige gelukkige, gezellige gezinnetjes. Esthetisch charmante, té televisiegenieke kelerelijer ervoer er ernstige gebreken. En enorme mensenmassa saboteerde de dekaan; antipathieke kerel, ellendige gek, eksterachtige gedegenereerde, deze.

Ze zegende de deken en enerveerde de dekaan, Anna. Na navelbreuk, ukje jeremiëerde: "De deur urmde, de deur urineerde!"

De democraat at. Attlee eerde de democraten en Endemol oliet etmaal alle levenloze zeden, en enge gemene neerslachtige gendarme, met etherreclame.

Men entamere reusachtige gebeurtenissen en energieke kernreacties. Essentiele levensvoorwaarde demotiveerde de dekaan andermaal. Alles esthetisch chic.

The next page contains a more-or-less literal translation of the Dutch original, supplied by Corstius. As he comments, "It's not the translation which is insane—it's the original!"

Some generations of esthetes and a few ugly dogs enervated an Englishman. Fearful thoughts and enthusiastic telephone calls stirred up enormous masses of people. Asbestos troubled the democrat Attlee.

Eat Etruscan fish, Ottoman vegetables, rich kettle-soup, epicurean chocolate, noisy goat cheese, hot lightning, and fake coffee!

Everybody enervates the deacon. Anna barely took the fake coffee. Everybody sobbed diffusely; everything escalated.

Nevertheless, the humble doctor recognized the depression. Somewhat attentive, the annoying man experienced misery. The dean anticipated the democrat. The Attic gentleman irritated the dean. Anna approached the debutante to autograph her décolletage.

Finally, in intense selective rage the democrat Atlee identified an Englishman. Once again the democrat Attlee, first alarmed, hit his toe, ankle, elbow, and eye-socket.

Did the atheist eat all the syrup? Grandpa appeased the devil. Our chaste priest vigorously performed sex on the iguana, once more in this manner.

Happy sociable families eat such sweet food. An esthetically charming, overly-telegenic Lothario encountered serious mistakes there. An enormous mass of humanity sabotaged the dean—this one an antipathetic guy, an awful fool, a magpie-like degenerate.

She blessed the deacon and made the dean nervous, Anna. After a ruptured navel, the little one complained “The door is stuck—the door urinated!”

The democrat ate. Attlee honored the democrats, and Endemol [a TV company] unctuously depicted for a whole day all lifeless mannerisms, and also a dejected cop, with television ads.

One should start tremendous happenings and energetic nuclear reactions. Essential conditions of life once more demotivated the dean. Everything’s esthetically chic!