The Matrix Poems: 1960-1970 N. H. Pritchard



THE MATRIX

POEMS

1960-1970

BY

N. H. PRITCHARD

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY 1970

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Born in New York City on 22nd October, 1939, N.H. Pritchard prepared at The Cathedral Choir School of St. John the Divine and St. Peter's School (Jacob's Hill) before receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Art History from Washington Square College, New York University. While attending college, he was a contributor to the literary magazine and President of the Fine Arts Society. Mr. Pritchard pursued graduate studies in Art History at The Institute of Fine Arts and Columbia University. His poems have appeared in numerous periodicals, among them; Poetry Northwest, Liberator, Eye Magazine, Umbra, The East Village Other, as well as in several anthologies. He has given readings of his poems at many institutions, including International House, Sarah Lawrence College, The Poetry Society of America, Lafayette College and Barnard College. He has read his poems on the record albums Destinations: Four Contemporary American Poets, and New Jazz *Poets*. Mr. Pritchard is currently teaching a poetry workshop at The New School for Social Research and is Poet in-Residence at Friends Seminary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of these poems have had the privilege of previous publication in Athanor, The East Village Other, Eye Magazine, Liberator, Negro Digest, Poetry Northwest, The New Black Poetry, and Umbra. The poet wishes to extend grateful acknowledgements.

The poet should like also to express his profound appreciation to the Selection Committee and the Trustees of the Abraham Woursell Foundation (Vienna) for their abiding generosity.

FOR MUFF AND DAD WITH LOVE, HONOUR AND DEVOTION

er in zen choold threaded in suprem insper based intersector intersection from Commen inspector the Francesco of deviation State and Formation and Vignam reaction their statistics

Words are ancillary to content.

N.H.P.

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SIGNS 1965–1967

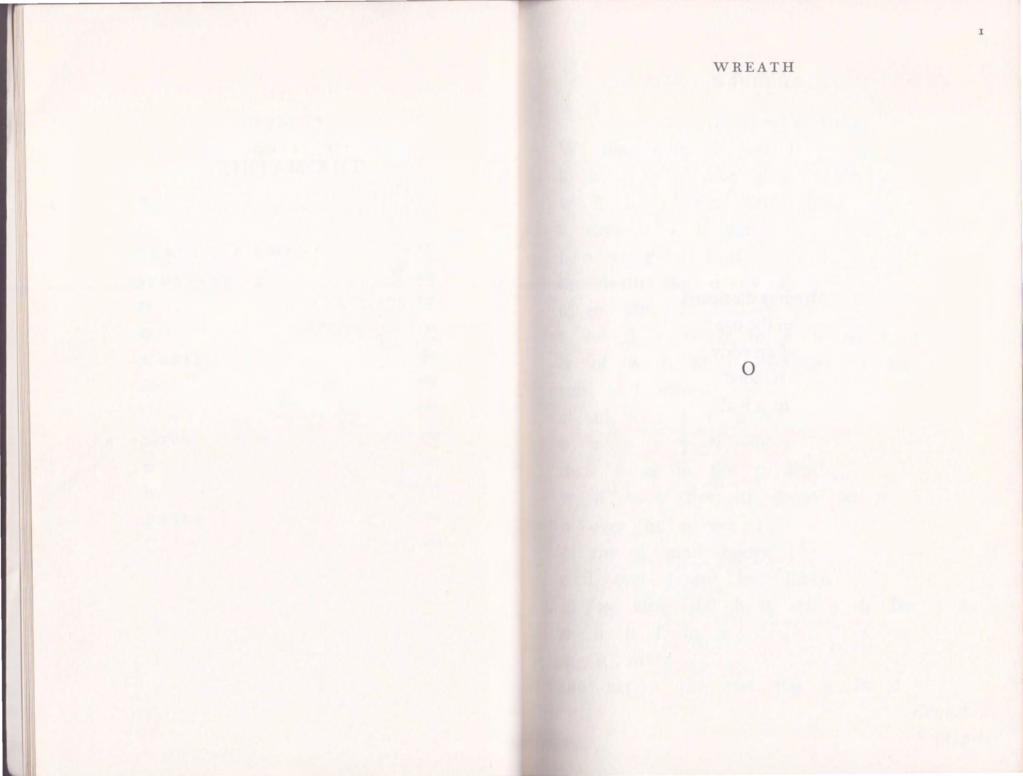
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THE MATRIX



HARBOUR

for Nancy & Arthur

W here quiet ly on ly go e s k now in g the s h or e it h its sun dried hues W ever a 1 b oats S a n g u i d 1 be neath the d us k ee king h a i l s S he d a w n to c h oo s e t & of w h at c ease less t ide pro c l aimed till s i l e n t S empty& wet deck e d to the c alm with grow in g m oo n h over in g eve r & the s mall buoys l ever f eat her limbs C m as king the h i dd e n fro s t it h f in s W as k in g the net s pro test the w in d

> Edgartown September

Much is disclosed to the eye of an eddy blinded by a leaf

VISTA

Seemingly a gale came hidden as it slipped tripping about the dim

> or a mountain in a flame or a mountain in a flame

or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain

What does the cracker when in a barrel bare with dark and alone and beside it self with fear of being uneaten

VOLITIVE

a s: see e to d s gather i nes r t Only brawn brawn Borne All Though Though by silence aurrounding Though most of them chose another road towing shadows Windows and curtains laces of old wind haughty through the pine boxes of candy

FOUISBURG SQUARE

b low C oo p e r Sq u are the fun era r y late n e s s lies c old in or ways men a l coved in agon i e s s p raw 1 t heir lives in war d l y up on an out war d w or 1 d as if bo tt l e d in a d r e am p refer e d oft e n dream s how ever q u art ere d r un able to p ass thru d oo r way s like the c old of f un era r y l at e n e s s & the an no in t e d agon i e s of m e n

VCON

6

SUBSCAN

Reflections bound about the train halts forward cars beginning ride 7 an old hat 6 shoes hair squeaking signs couples part though apart moving doors met

In burr side out sights hearing discs blinking face blindly passing car' slights of sound stinging lies beside in the glass something never seen again a face among the wheels in olden water where sounds taste like rumour's gale a ring on a pole as ice breaths

CASSANDRA AND FRIEND

Pausing at the edge of the wood they turned to see a huge entering from beneath a stone it wasn't one of their own for it had never grown Unlikely as it seemed their stares were not demeaning Because it was a fact it never left a track Alone
the dusk
drew
might
brightly
waning
slightly
less
meager
growing
only
knowing

EVENING

ASWELAY

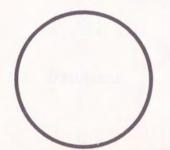
Weary was when coming on a stream in hidden midst the amber adornment of fall's birth here near edge a rippling soundless leaves and eddy eyes with trickling forest thighs in widening youthful nippling scenic creakless

In this boundless vastly hours wait in gateless isn't fleshly smelling muchly as a golden

On the crustish underbrush of where no one walked were

unwindish rustlings musting thoughts of ill timed harvests And as we lay as we lay and as we lay we lay as we lay and aswelay Above a bird watching we knew not what cause his course of course we lay we lay in the rippling

soundless boundless vastly of a firthing duty leaving welay wanting noughtless And then it seemed as from the air he left the bird who watched what would be called a dream



MATRIX

Through a street

deserted glimpses

laughing

conjured

jeered

of an only

probing

could see innards

squeeze a beef's leaf

would the meek vent

P 0 Ι N Т A N ESSENT A L S U C Η A S I S Ņ Т

SWAMPSCOTT AUTUMN

Or

water dripping bottled brown in stem's rust the tideless expanse the dusk chilled murk the dead wet newly leaves strewn cool wind pewter

llocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocks a r b ore s n ear the s h ore heir l e ave s s wir l i n g e n t t crossafar a a k e lay s pre ad o u t the 1 bout the le v el s t retch of dirt h a 8 ab lue jay w as put u po n by a h are & a w or m in stead of a nu egg et t here

OUTING

VISAGE VISAGE VISAGE

BLACK CLOUDBANK BLACK CLOUDBANK BLACK CLOUDBANK

FORMING FORMING FORMING

ELSEWHEREELSEWHEREELSEWHERE

IN THE SKY IN THE SKY IN THE SKY

SUN SUN SUN

GIST

gracious chance which wrought its share the nearing tears at the bare mist the caring flares unlike the gist which staying deaf to flame regains its bliss

> 1 1 1

> > SILHOUETTES SILHOUETTES SILHOUETTES

Tightly clasped granules beneath graying pavements know well the designs of falling soles

GATHERING

s l owl y won 't while u wa it 80 last l y g r ee n c ame w ear in g t or n over all s & t o y s s mall boys & a l a g oo n had n't t here be e n much f or a ll l eave s & caps ducks a t s C m at t ere d t hat om e s at with logs e n v eloped thers 0 out e d the f all or t wigs c lose s t the n e s t

PREPOSITION

THE WAY

In the court yard the trees are all

Bestirred though they were there was little that could be done 1 could continue to run but

the sun cannot be caught by running and

the 1 cannot be sought by shunning

Often This Passion Seeking ate SOL And I Silent TU DE

Lifts mist above the barren stalkless wearing fertile once now on a withered porch a woman sits weeping scarecrow morning

THE VOICE

talk s t oo in t rude S up on t his d une till ness b rush e s the sea S alm t oo s oo n g r e w C alm ab out the s and C few gu ll s drew in t heir w in g s a h us h a s ide t hem be he r us h t in g e r in g 1 om the v o ice fr of a dr op f all in g

apples shared ravens and lakes ends of bells melted shells and bees trees whisps of craggy heights a rodent and a pike tan kites or a fox harried sand within a box

CAMP

LA ALBA

for d.m.k.

The dawning cloak of heat enlists its remembrance of light Shadows stalks across the brook aaaaaaaaaacccccccccrrrrrrrrrrrooooooosssssss in the dusk vvvvvvvaaaaaaaaaaaaasssttt away from the loud 3 places of grace bound about the glen ttttttttttrrrrrrrraaaaaaaccccceeeeesssss they of smarting eyes were crowning the host never drowning absence in a glass seen loasting past tasks again forgotten lastly the pledge redeems its asking Madrid

Madrid August 1961

3

34

TOTEMIC

There where the bare edges edges mellowed snears bedecked the forests's call and the noon was wrecked and the moon was heckled and an end foretold a nation's fall

Looming

there

where

drums beat upon the plain

and fumes of arrows amid the glooming waned doom spoke silently proclaiming without song the omen given by the gabled quirk of wrong a montage a collage of bucolic silences august falling

leaves grounded thoughts over-exposed

AUTUMNAL

Possibly and perhaps set out to watch the clouding willows droop though a storm returned the borrowed sky tomorrow did not reply

Once was not enough though once be all there is yet will is a stratum SO fit that what may finish isn't end

DIA

for Vasileios

Change as circumstance may be of curious courses as though as if were in dubitably un certain ones are n't

Only shadows only touched the wood's fringe dividing an ever from an edge METAGNOMY

A mid the non com mit t e d com pound s of t he m in d an i m age less gleam in g we at hers h aunts as yet un k no w n & t a u n t s thru a c he mist r y of ought t h at c hang e s c ours e s s ee m in g l y as if a bird in f light a w or d f or got ten in t he w in d 's w on t

W h at aim co un s e l s such a gain un to t he sylvan d own of w om b s w h at n ever ever s t and c a uses such man if est s t a s is to r ide on ly up on t h at move men t t he ear t h pro vide s Of ten the set t in g m in d like d us k a j our n s as thou g h the k now in g as thou g h the g low in g

To see k to f in d a l a n c e to pier c e the p o s s i b l e

Oft e n a w is h de fin e d like l us t re turn s as tho up on an alt e r b l oo d is b r o k e n as m eat is rite & a cc u ring p aga n c r u c i fix ion

Enchantments abound about the abysses of a mind oftenblinded by the cat a racts of curt concern while aims its daunt less ly on a pedestal be ing pecked up on by the wind's wont

II

SIGNS 1965–1967

THE SIGNS

in

a

cove

where

waves

and and and

and

and

and and

and and and and bowed

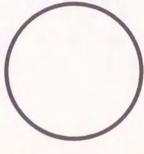
about

the

sea

the lone mast lost its sail the sky's root fell upon the land a nigh replaced the sky with time a lie disgraced the why with brine

they took advantage of the signs they took advantage of the signs



GYRE'S GALAX

Sound variegated through beneath lit Sound variegated through beneath lit through sound beneath variegated lit sound variegated through beneath lit

Variegated sound through beneath lit dark Variegated sound through beneath lit dark sound variegated through beneath lit variegated sound through beneath lit dark

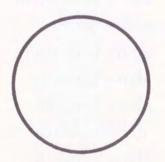
Through variegated beneath sound lit through beneath lit through beneath lit through beneath lit through beneath lit Thru beneath Thru beneath

Thru beneath through beneath lit Thru beneath through beneath lit Thru beneath through beneath lit Thru beneath Thru beneath through beneath lit Thru beneath Thru beneath through beneath lit Thru beneath Through beneath lit

Twainly ample of amongst In lit black viewly viewly viewly in viewly viewly viewly in viewly viewly in viewly viewly in viewly viewly viewly viewly in viewly viewly In lit black viewly in dark to stark lit

In above beneath In above beneath In above beneath above beneath lit above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath lit above beneath above beneath lit above beneath above beneath lit above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath lit above beneath above beneath above beneath lit above beneath lit

SEASON



So sooner though blasted the lone ilk fades in shimmering soft outlasted nary lead yet they to whom a purple had no power withstood the wormy past of dust now bowered musk and stale nodes that reached their crest and those who wanted all and then again some quite so small brief and then a when to choose its leaf Amid the darkness

where utterances coast about few trace their mirrors on a fuel

> Cambridge November 1966

the own

the re is an own of m any col ours prefer ring the w in d in the d is t ant s till dim mer than t he Ra in giver of the w ill t here is an om en we some a s a wave a as h in g the s and W ever d i vide d n eve r c on f iding w it h in the c enter the s un vents its w eat her ente r in g each dec ide d l y speech less

silently s p in s the own of m any col ours h over in g ami d the v as t gro up s of o the r s l a sting f or a while p a s s i n g be gu ili n g c alm tho of m an y nature s the air gives its f air we a ring but mere ly s ever e l y f ear less

t here d well s with in the vast with in a l way s a w are th us de light ed light en in g gu ides t he wise a l one be knight ed

hu shed by the s till the tree s t a k e on t heir l eaves grieving no t when f all pro claims the si lent dis appearance s om e c all it ga in

a ga in and a ga in t he w in d resumes its cl aim the m in d ab ides t he aim pro vides its crysta lli nepane plain ly ga in ed re ma in in g an d a t he l as t t he f irst is n ear sharing on e w it h all above w it h in s mall er th an less t he quest tests t he w in d re ga in in g n eve r dims

b not shaken by the pat h t h at s t r e t c h e s forth to m e e t the l amp b certain of the p at h b certain of the l am p

	PASSAGE	
	PASSAGE	
	PASSAGE	57
	PASSAGE	
SILHOUETTE		
	PASSAGE	
Such watch that nought condemns	PASSAGE	
or might the eager age amend	PASSAGE	
	PASSAGE	
with meager and beleaguered shame	PASSAGE	
its flagrant hate its crude disdain	PASSAGE	the second second second second
its hagrant hate its crude disualli	PASSAGE	In silence there regard the dim
And the rotten core of avid frowns	PASSAGE	
And the follen core of avid frowns	PASSAGE	he who with shoeless strode
that host the visages	PASSAGE	
	PASSAGE	the dust of waisted jeers
down pillaged paths of silken filth	PASSAGE	
still the ilk reveals its hilt	PASSAGE	see you him too
	PASSAGE	
And amid they crept among the severed raw	PASSAGE	and there another just as near
	PASSAGE	and more another just as near
the augment of chores	PASSAGE	and some taunted them with treacherous eyes
held fast to each shore		and some taunted them with treacherous eyes
	PASSAGE	though bowed they to hoom passed
and dwindling fades with rage	PASSAGE	though bowed they to hoom passed
and ranting confides the scowl	PASSAGE	
	PASSAGE	
with ravaged clot to ask for nor	PASSAGE	
with scavaged blot to mask the or	PASSAGE	
	DACCACE	

METEMPSYCHOSIS Invisible bodies amid the air stares of ghosts hosts hovering others alone

stares of ghosts hosts hovering others alone with earthen groans owning a space a space rent with the wrench of nails embedded in a board once two trees once two trees stood in a where there echoing a prayer chant chanted hammer in words from an unknown tongue lifted the silence moans

Down from beneath above above beneath beneath two two flounder the blood holy waters the soil naked with clutching life claws the eyes of some affixed as sleep becomes

Bolder than most the key in a word key word in a gift given in an unheard hint the two who unknown striven striven by a game played

Suddenly dawned the night carried afar amid the mazed stretches eyes searched the stone sky as clouds parted sun sun sun sun broke the day in three

Down above by the turn about a bend a sail weaving its wont while we cupped the dusk and an oak and a hull and a kernel and a shell and a castle and a o 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 hidden about the sky willful as a nail sapped by its hammer

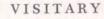
SAIL

SOLILOQUY

& each has its way some dusk ridden others in long gowns the shore with red sand the others basking noon the steeple's aurburn crisp weather and old boxes birds of leather muskrat & peelings haven't many little didn't

EACH

Hewn and though no rude cusp brought its cleave to gap and when again some awesome gone amends its dawn the shore long watered hills lay grouped in stone's might shifty task soil brittle not of worms but breached at the sip of that odd cornered cup which ran in deep and steeper still than than quill or will and chancing what such that acts about the hearts of scorned stars and far adonned the stand to be there as it were near gifts of raiments tuned in looming knew not gotten whence askance and banding planned by season's hence



Who crouches there among the rushes touched by such fierce wind blushed by the pierced whim crizzling grooves grow dim

Where winged wings walk Where winged wings walked Where winged wings walk Where winged wings walked Winged wings Winged wings Where winged wings walk

Filling the lush air dreams from snoozes whose is that one over there staring with the big beak peeking about like a sneaky Where winged wings walk Where winged wings walk Where winged wings Where winged wings walk Where winged wings Where winged wings Dewinged wings Dewinged wings Wings dewinged Dewinged wings wings dewinged wings dewinged dewinged wings wings dewinged dewinged wings dewinged wings

Springing to their feet the things with their... all over the place spinning haste like a flying ocean Dewinged wings dewinged wings Dewinged wings dewinged wings Wings dewinged wings Dewinged wings Wings dewinged dewinged wings wings dewinged Dewinged wings wings dewinged dewinged wings wings dewinged wings Wings dewinged wings Wings dewinged wings dewinged dewinged wings wings dewinged Where winged wings walk

Floats the tugish host so awesome lurking dust from the ancient wings stinging brings its thing winging lingering Where winged wings walked Where winged wings walk Where winged wings walked Where winged wings walk Where winged wings walked Where winged wings walk Where winged wings Where winged wings Dewinged wings Wings dewinged Dewinged wings Wings dewinged Wings dewinged Dewinged wings Wings dewinged Dewinged wings Dewinged wings Wings dewinged Where winged wings walk

Now all is still will they return in something other than an urn

THE HARKENING

69

W hA t c la im o fw i ll d id d efe nd i ts pe rch sear chin g th rough d plai ns of m ist rem ain ing q uie tl y r eg a in in g m ig h t t hee be if wha t wa s sai d shoul d spr ead o f l i g h t lif ting g rim 2 h eig hts of b right b r ought b ack a g ain da dirt h o fsh all sha ll we c o m e k in d pi lgr im put u pon b yso m e o dd s tar

a nd fart he r the n s t rove of t tosi n g t h eque sto flig h t t hetru t h t obr i n g

PAYSAGESQUE

In stained barn drenched tall shafts of heat lay glad where hidden others met by the lake some danced on fields of setting dark moods bent the green with wind leaving bare their tearing such that didn't care to swim the bending gain

What have u dusk what has dusk is asked dusk is apart be coming coming coming coming coming coming coming soming coming coming coming the have no leaves the choice may not be would

DUSK

Fox Point December 1966

THE CLOAK

Afar though near the silence waxes surely waning purely gaining untamed and brief endless at least though regal dim were the honoured alms and the lost clocks watched their shriveled gains and by the cloak the will is maimed Trust thrust first tinder kindling grown the maple gave rust air its bark and ample and plain fair orange orb sworn to that sea line stretching bare courteous and neat still gleaming meekly weaned by some awesome twilight rise beyond be gone the nameless coloured yarn

THE NARROW PATH

Very due that being each one dwells through errant woods of stone and roaming unknown streams where few prints mark the air contested only by that dare and the narrow path bending but to where

EPILOGUE

O LL O WING THE C ALM F HARKEN IN G CRYSTALS SP READ T HEIR LIGHT G ONE W AS S WEPT A WAY THE O T HER S WAND ERE D ON HERE WE RE T RACES OF SO UND T NO W AND A GAIN A GAIN A GA IN WOUND AB OUT THE rA IN N EVER CAME A GAIN THE LANES LAY A GAIN C A Т Т ERE D S R E A T Η E R A E S G V B RAVE C HILLS S IN K THE WI L L

- A GAIN
- A GAIN
- S TILL
- A GAIN
- L ON G SINCE H AS THE STORM G ONE

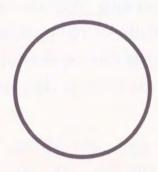
ASI DUO S L L Y EARS UN FOLD THEIR R I N G S BE NEAT H T HE B ARK EDGES DARK EN

SUCH T HA T IS IS SUCH THAT ON E W IT Η OUT ON E SIMPLY S Η Η НННН H H H UN THE R E S Т ESTER IN G THE L EAVES P B EST TO HAVE R E S T E D B ELIE V I N G IN A S EE D

> Bryn Mawy February 1967

the top has already gotten its cover and it is usually shared by many others and though the rain be shut up in a cloud seldom is there more to the stake than a row

N OCTUR N



@ fi rst th e whi sper of c at s a l arm s nigh t s eeks ou t in lig ht s f used e yes a mbe rl y beco ming s him mere d ai r g rope s w her e c ar's b right s prea d fo gho vers b odies spra wling in gu tt er's d ank mis tset s

a rag gedw it hh alf a neye inf ootb are win terha ze ta ps c ars gla ss dim e encro ache d di stance str etches o ftim e u nre ada ble f ort hem isten velop es wh ere b eeps b eat dark emer gence ofg host lyfi gure inhe avy c oat edol d k n ow in g not hing

a cro ss th est reet f ate w alk s inpoi sedpa use is l and c ente r s tree t e mpt y ca r s p ass in g a mong whis peri ngh isses b lack lit star kly win dowsc lose d lig ht's sti ll c all ofnig ht 'sg list eni n g tri pp edt hro ugh ah ole in theai r whi ch is to b lac k

as is to w h it e f lake s mal lin gto theg round asan one e nli sts its its w it hh eat f rom a shat tere d c arcass of ac as que o nc e d run k r idde nof spun k wal kin g th ewh ite on ces lush f umeb rushed exha us tsm ingle ine yesh alf ope n

82

the ski n b urn s wi thice f ora scar f

a sthe b urnb rains it spath muff ledbyc oug h s gru ffly kne ss p atche s t hieve s g ree d p ants f roma t hro at s cor ched w ord s dro oling f romli p s b leedi n g eye s w ater e d ro uge fo radim e

f rail c loa k s s praw ling t atte r s b r each e d m atte r s wis hing d evo ure d g low ering p owe rles s c owe ring inco oped di mhau n t s th eedge r idge dd a r kgro pes it skin dstri pp e d b r okenli m b s th egras po fash e nwhi m s gath ere d pre sse d o pp re sse d ben eath th eti ght ene dgri p a k ind bou ndst alks t hei rdea thsdr ift th wre nch o flees th eirscr eechi ssh rill

hea rdab out th ewhi stle djee r s k ept th ede pt h c lung the ir fli ghtspl its the m s mitte n wan derso fa lu s t 1 ost ma ime d mai medgai n s th efloun deringai m abl ighto fscat teredhil l s illedi nana shfac e c as hedlat e atemu ll s t heni ght' sgripe w heel s wit hstai nsth era gg edpa ss id th eth icks hift s tin t ofmo ans am ami dtheco ff eredfu meso falo n e th edu skesc apes

th eco were drape

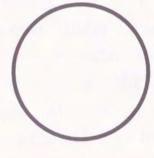
th etru staba t e s

d eepfro w n s

th edi medi mm azeo fshu tt e red w ills the irmo rnto rndu eso fja gg edpas t s t heab sence of ash at tere dcasqu e ab ugles sile nceat t helas t be gin sits ho vell edgro p e

gro pedo t e s
th ecle anfre ebe ndofi nwa rden d s
t hedi mecl asp edfis t
theb lissmiss edhide s
it sran tingpa in s
th ega mena m e d
n am edgam e
gu t s
g utsst rut
th epil grim smet dby th emo on
tu r n s
u nse e n

t h ele tere dbe ll ygro anes cape s w hered ream sand w is hesme etthe irga t e



AURORA

There

are

only



NOW

NO W

softs of ts of t

E

В

Ν

Е

A

Т

Η

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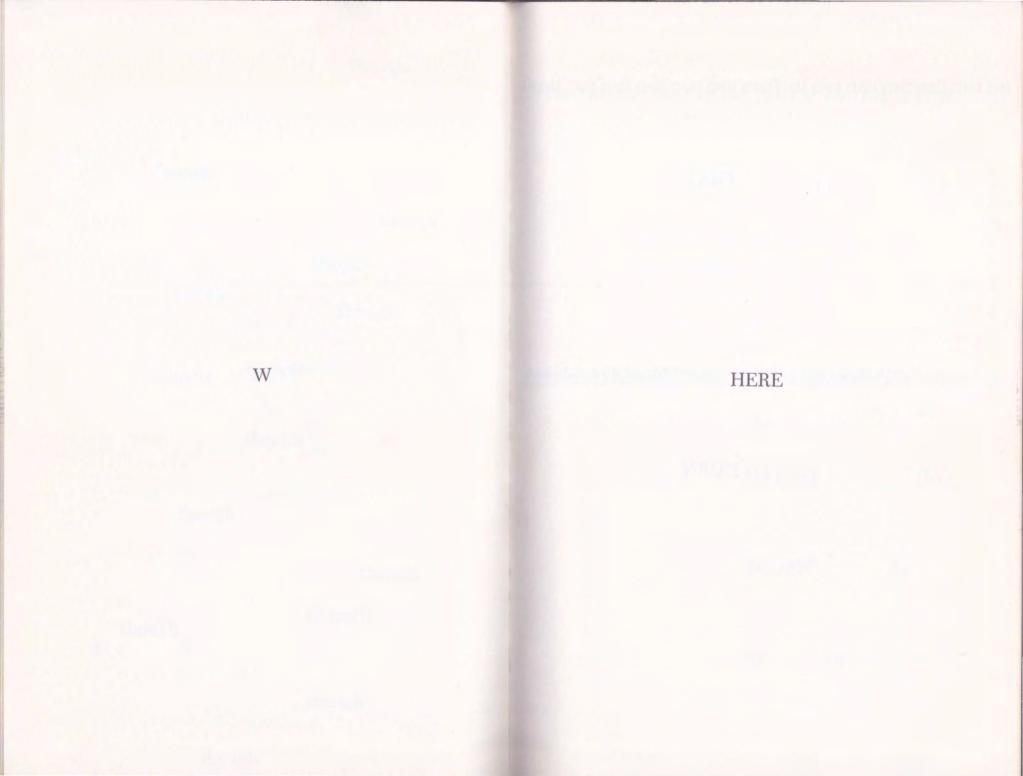
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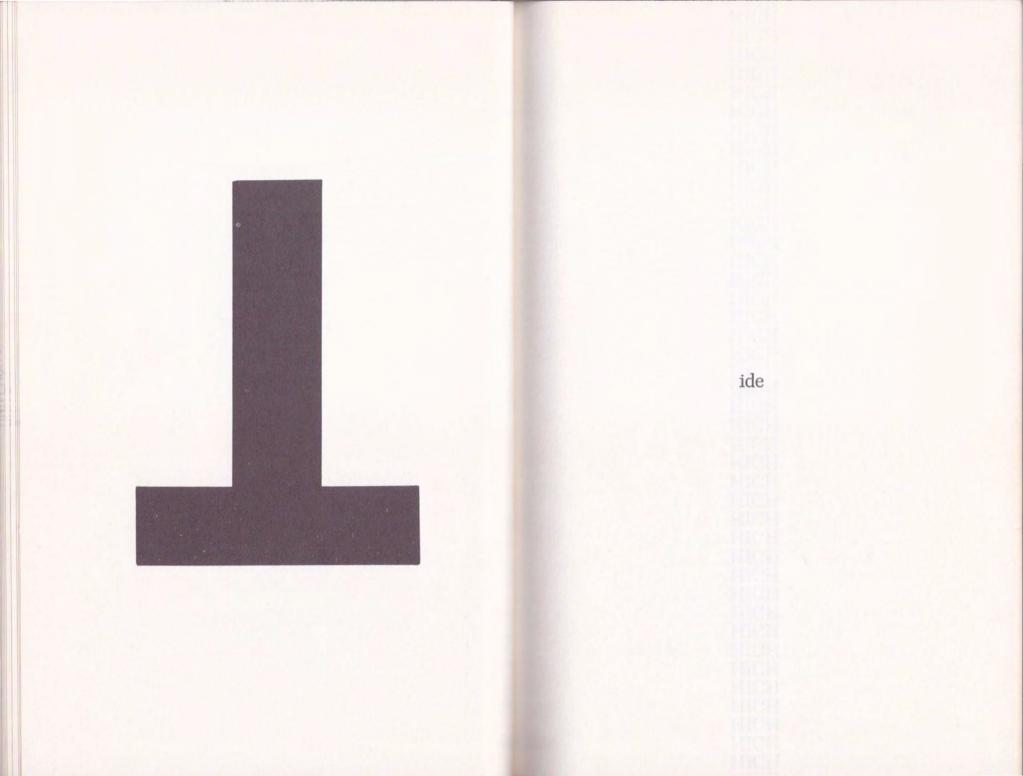
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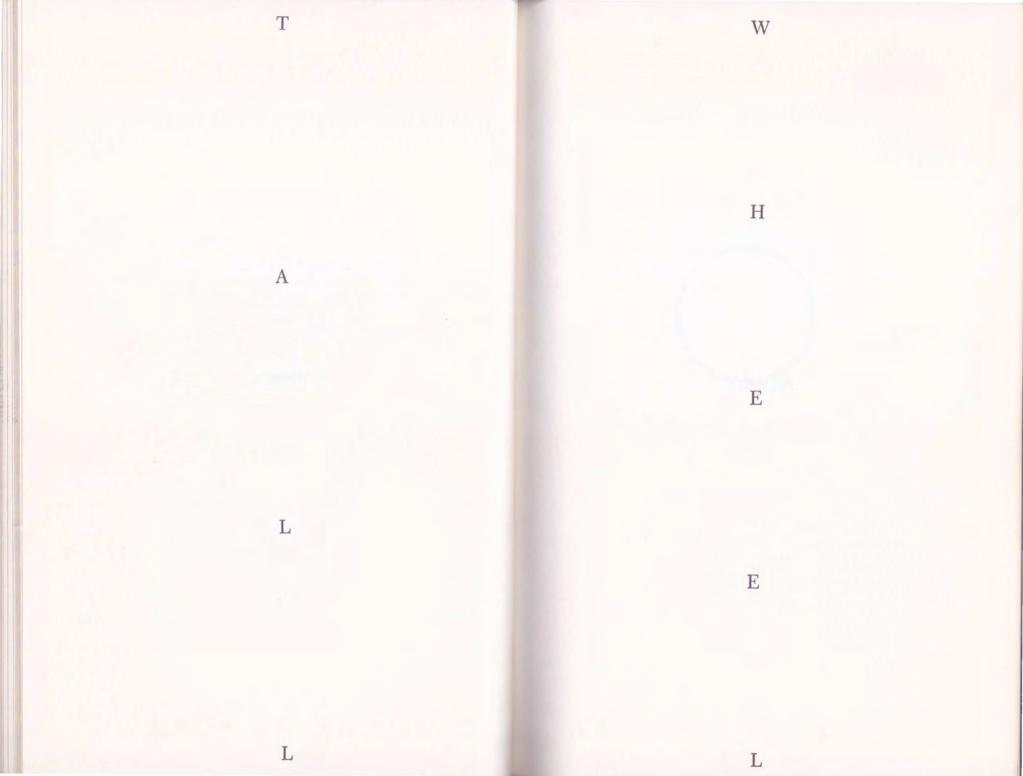
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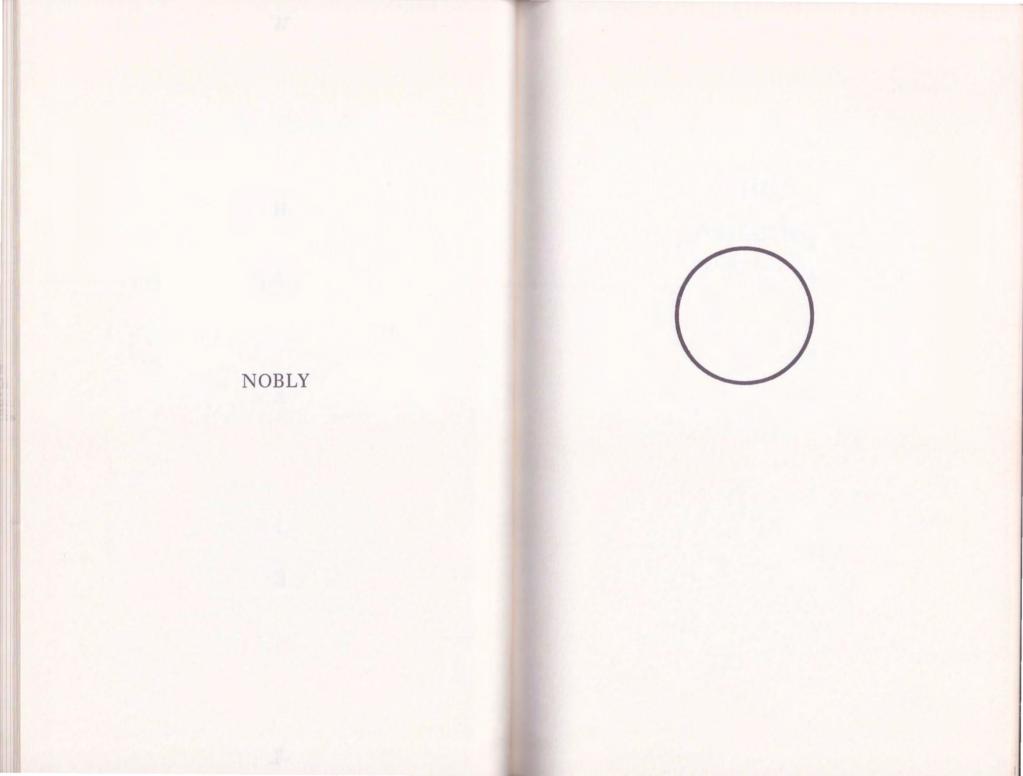
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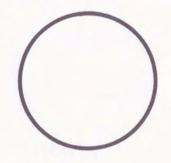
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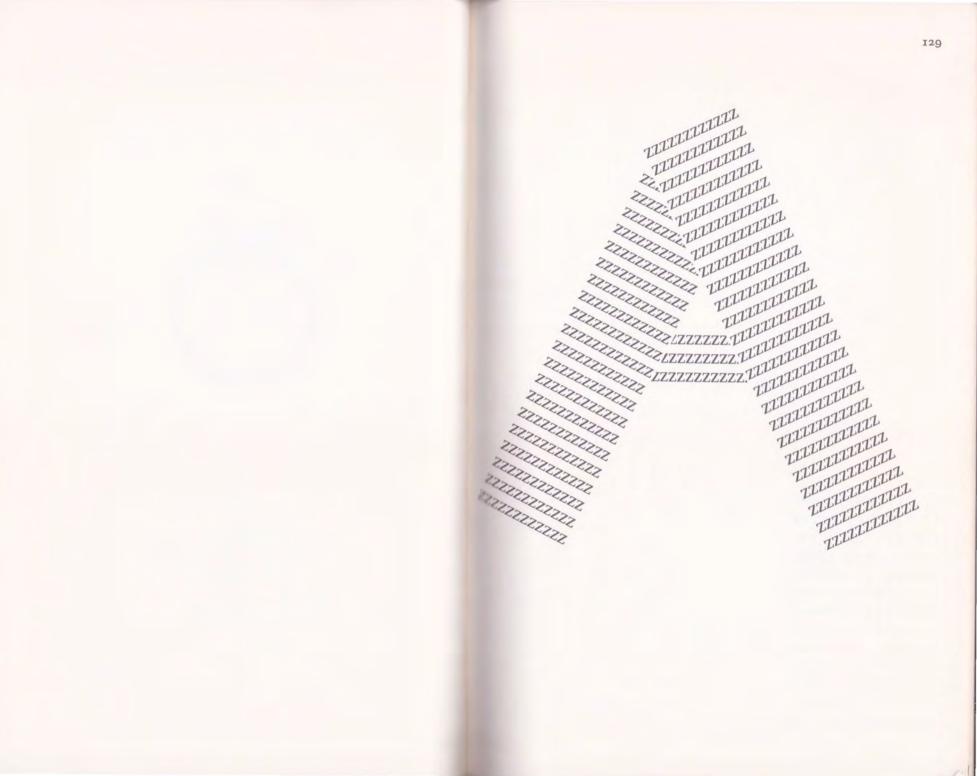
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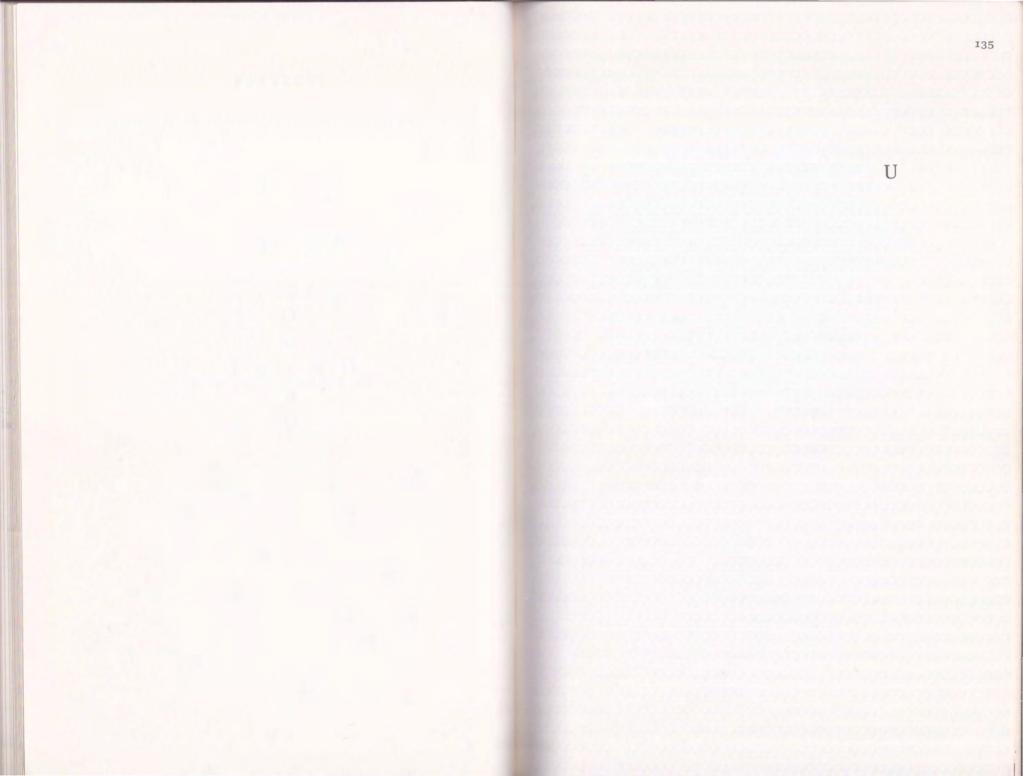
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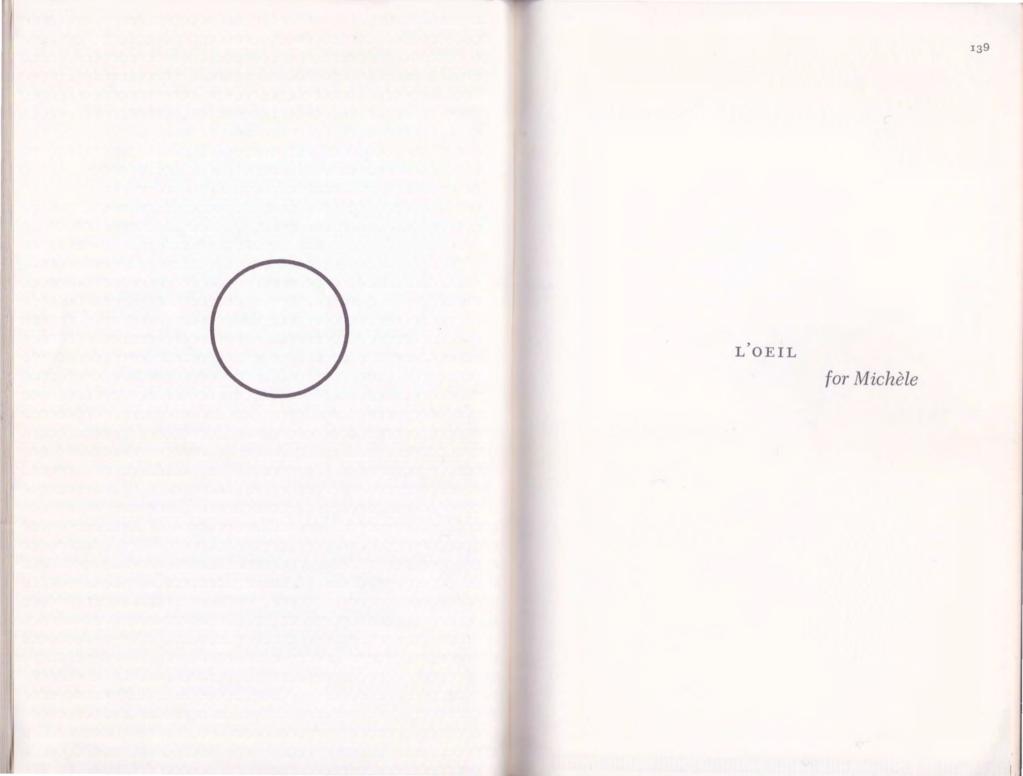
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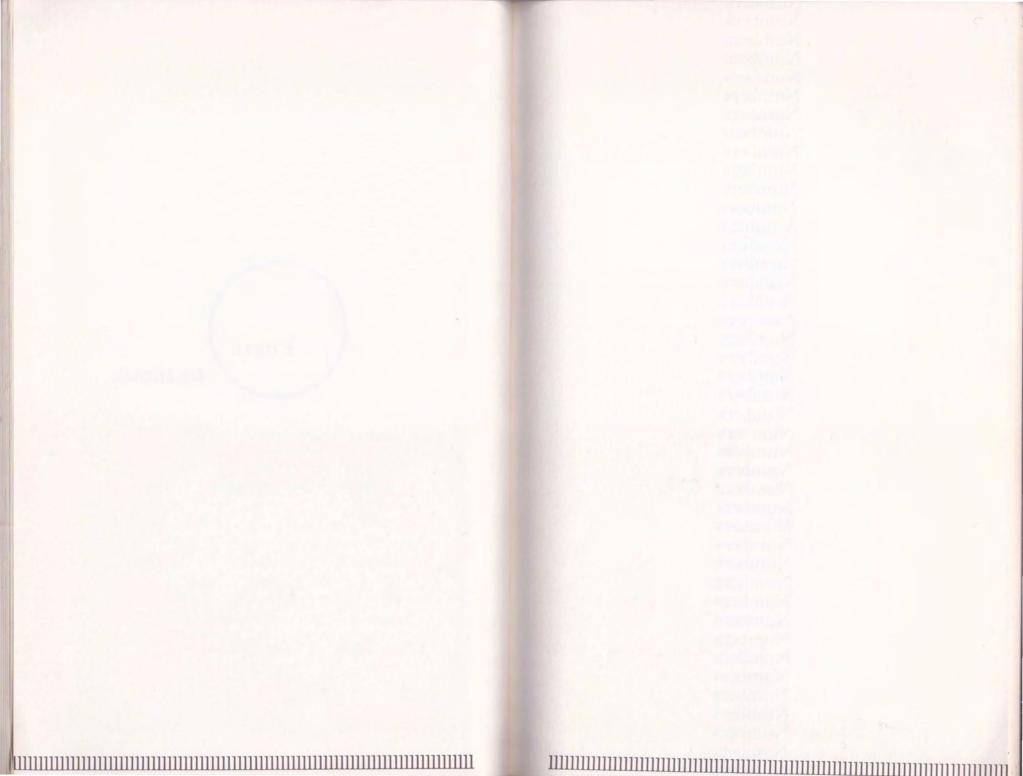
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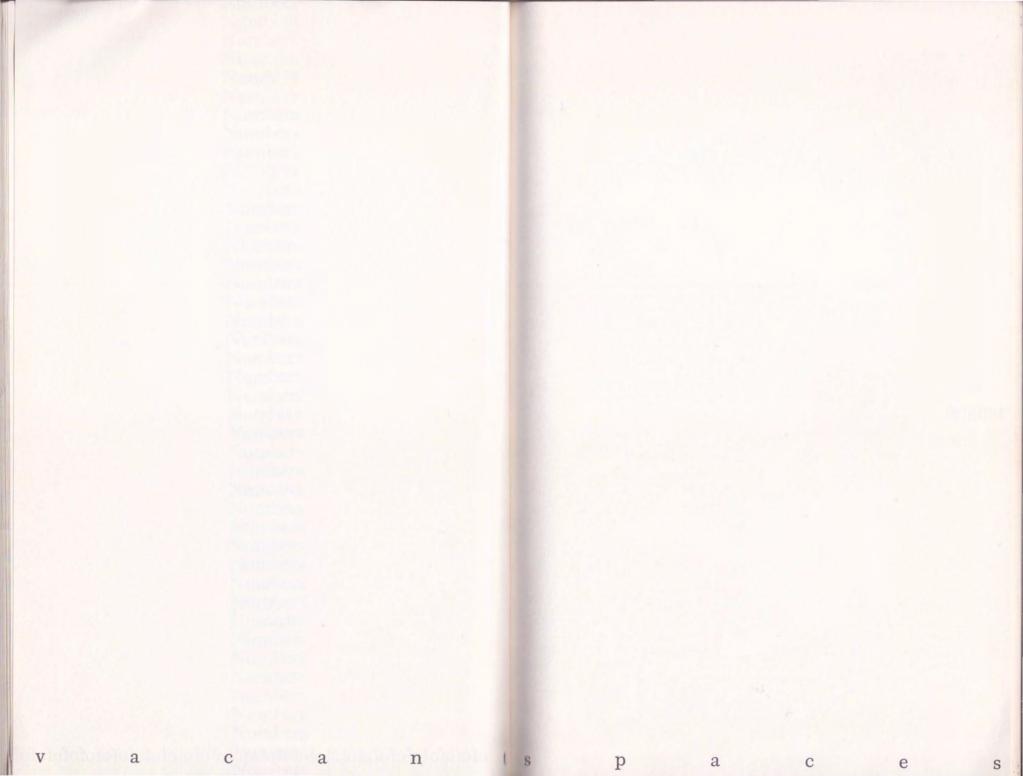
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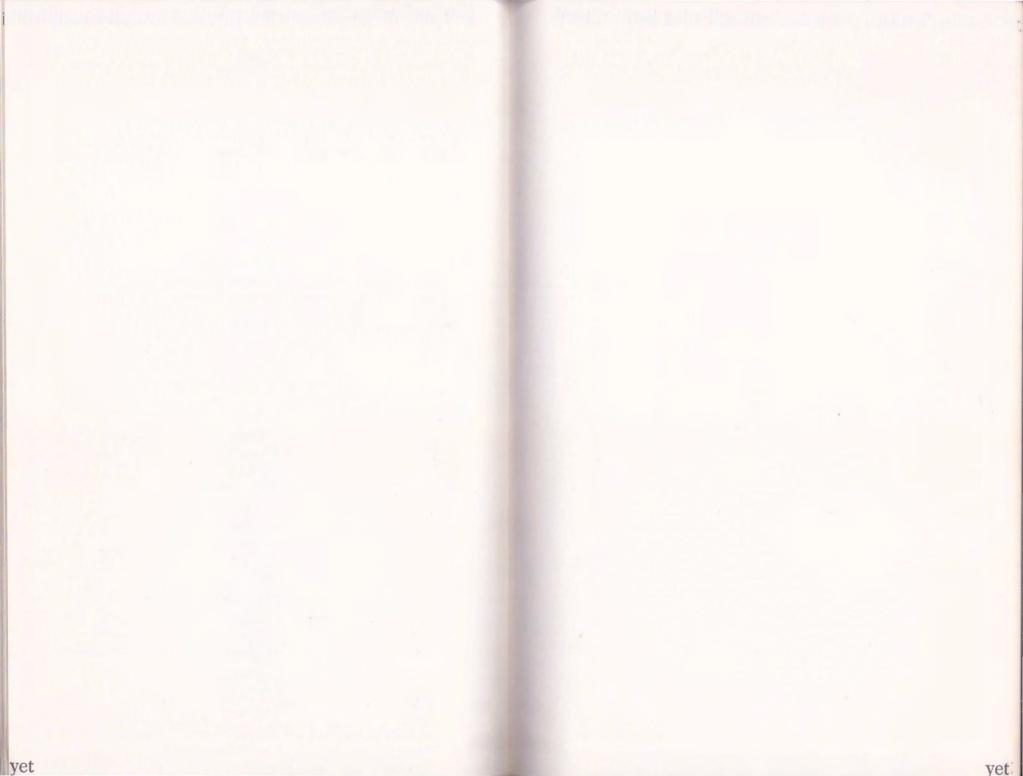
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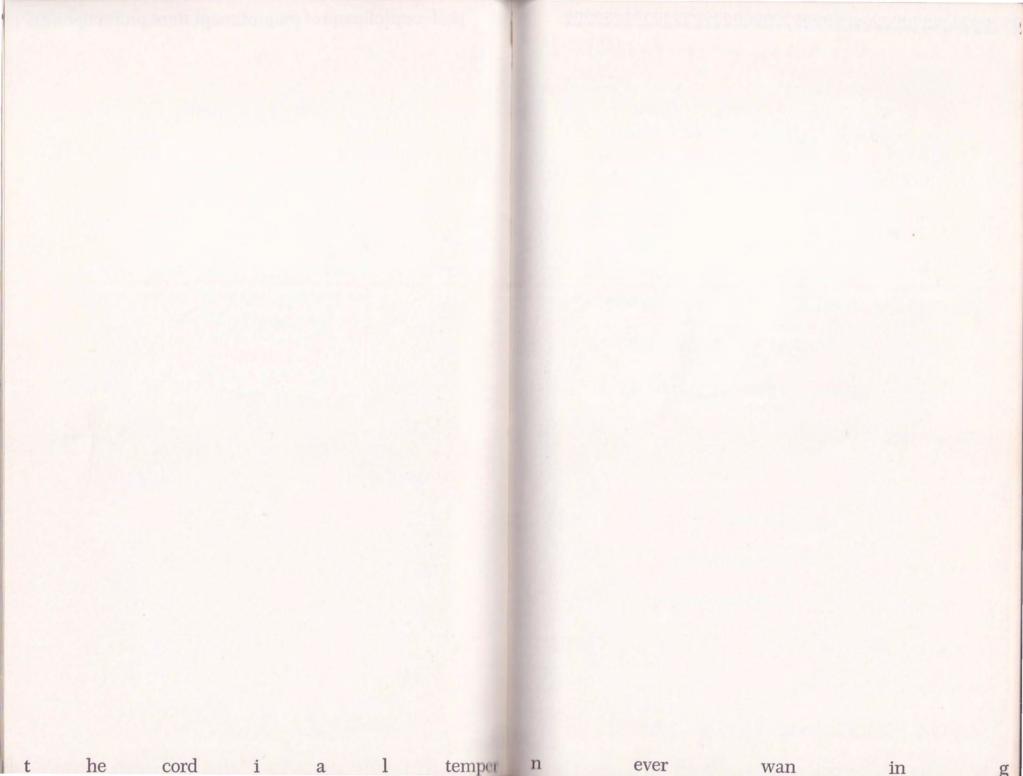
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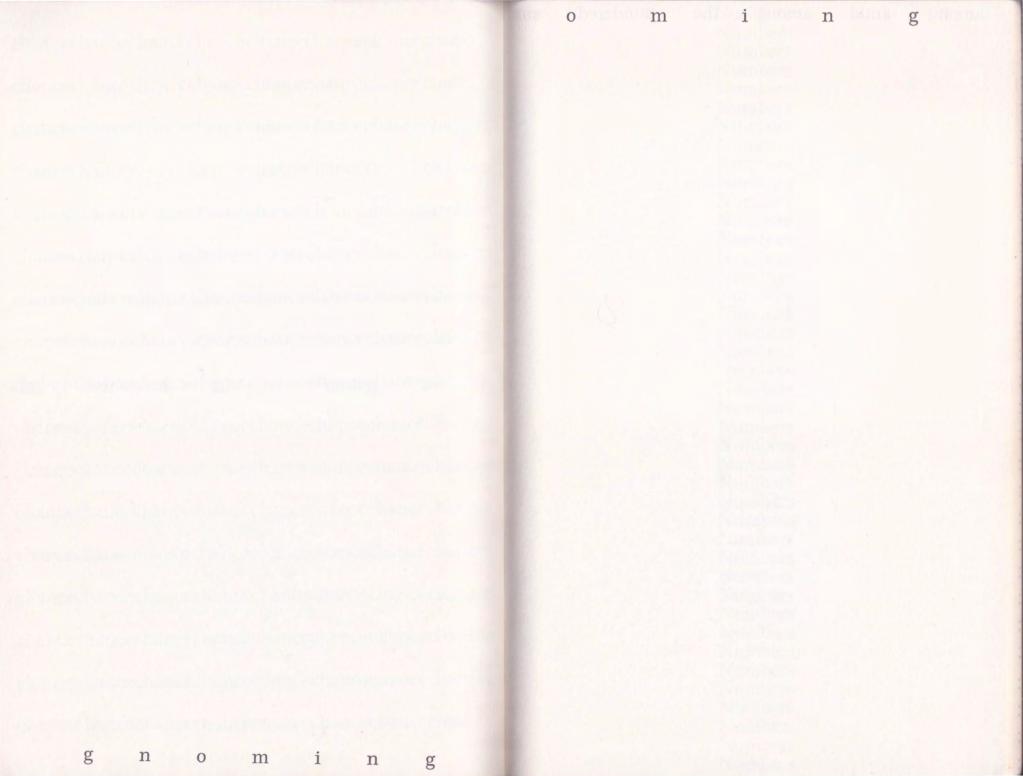
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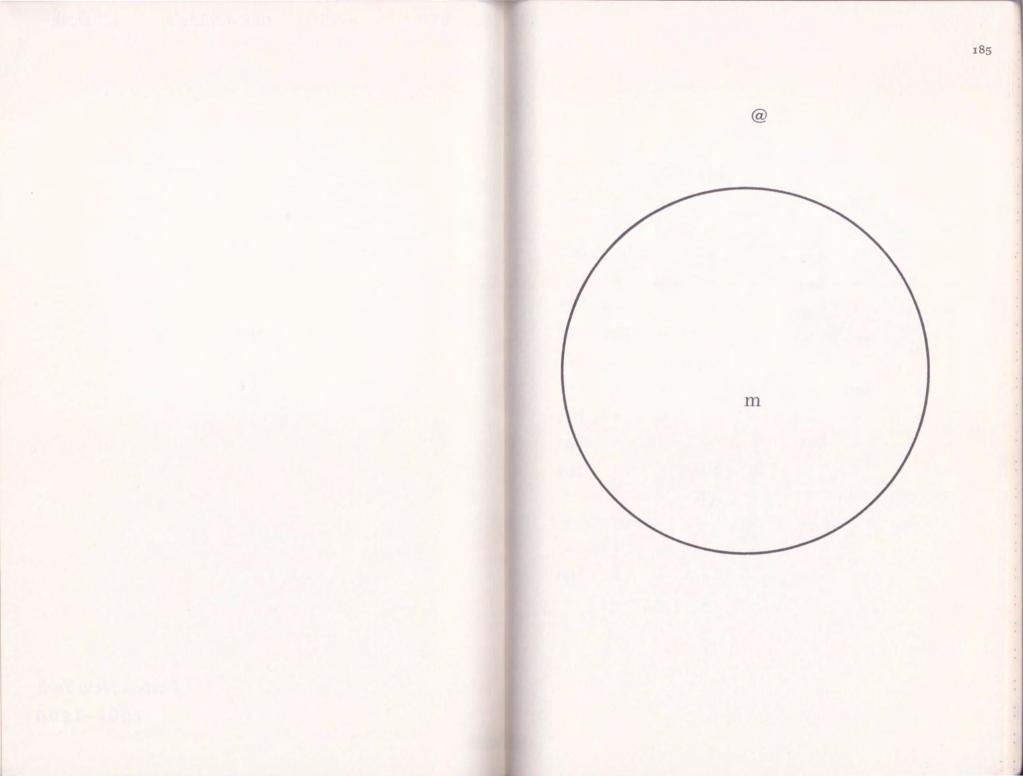
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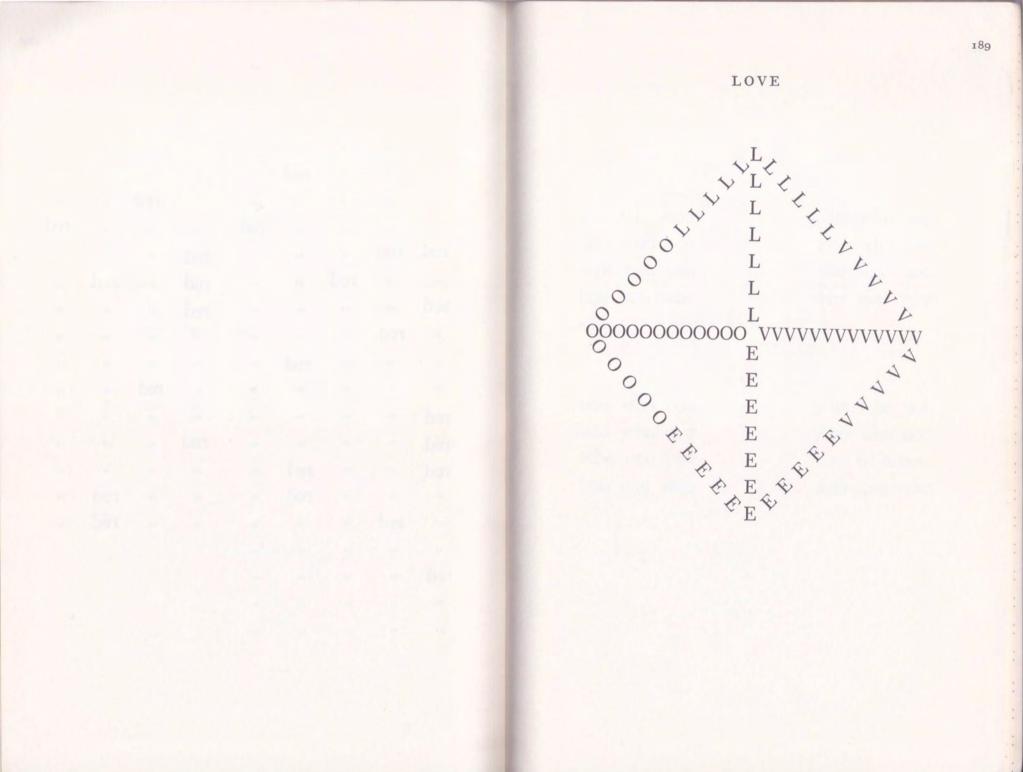
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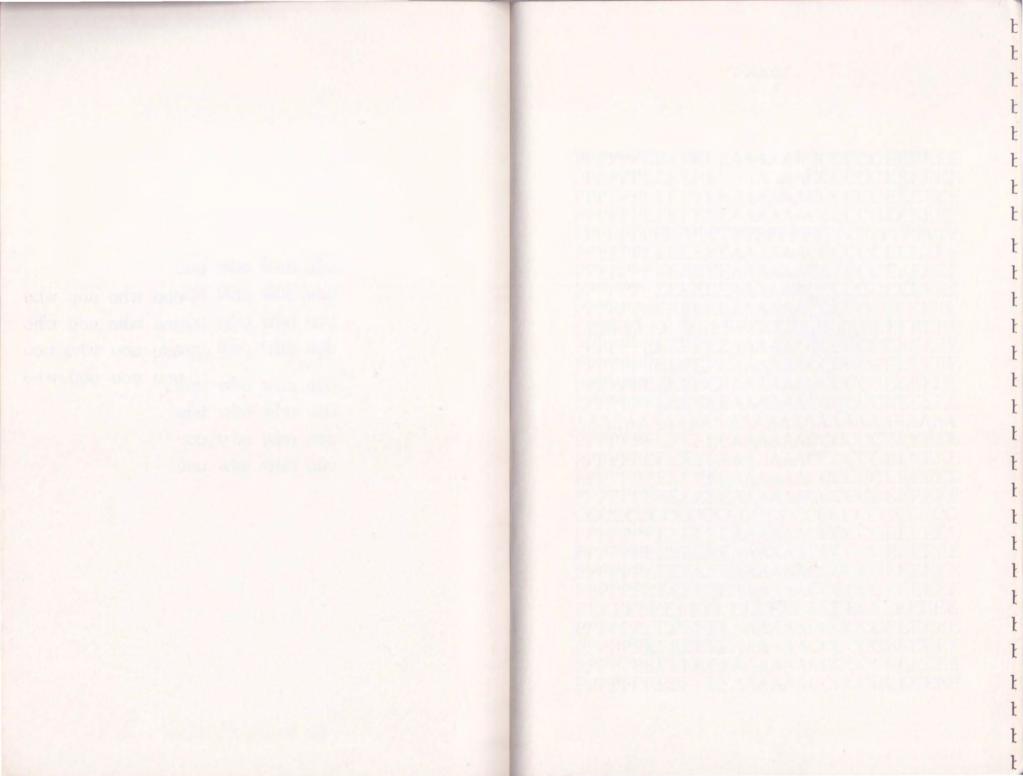
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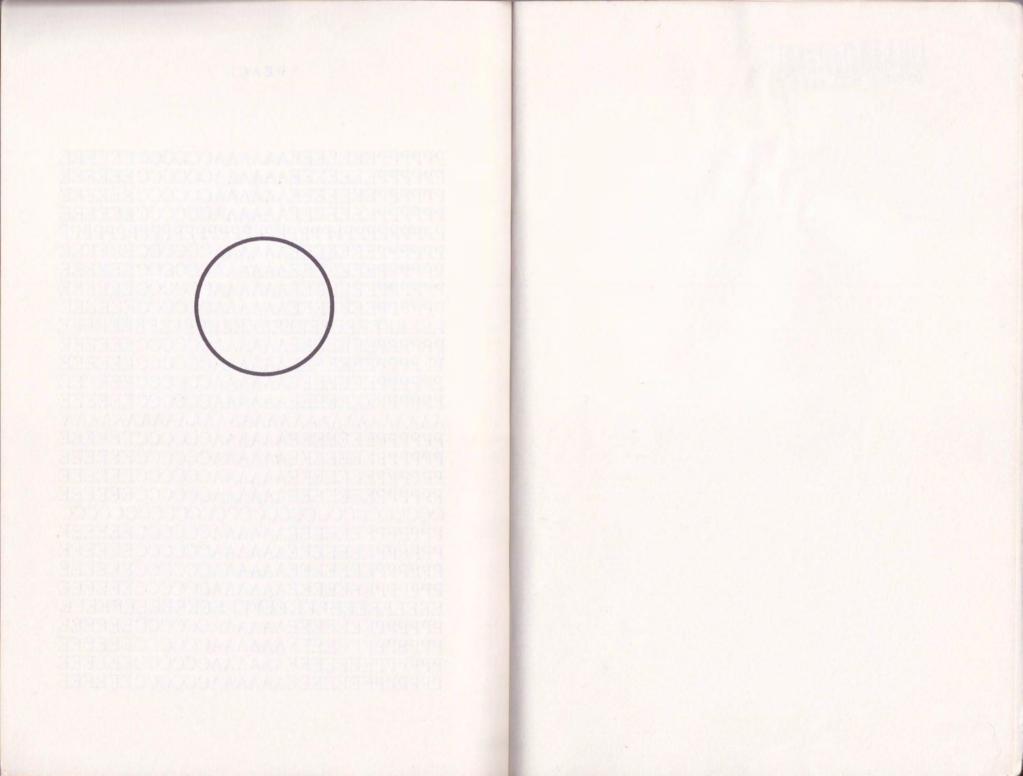
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PEACE





POETRY

Some Comments on N.H. Pritchard's Work

N.H. Pritchard has poetic genius. In his poems, *Being* is set adrift. These poems stimulate the reader through sight and sound and in spite of ourselves we are given to partake of a kaleidoscopic vision that is beyond dimension. The future inevitably holds a great deal in store for his pristine sensibility. *W.F. Lucas*

These poems are 'of our time'...FREE souled...elements of Gertrude Stein...universal preoccupations foursquarely said. Allen Ginsberg

Pritchard is an extremely talented poet. His poetry is absolutely original, for I've read nothing quite like it and nothing half as good in the entire area of contemporary poetry. He is involved with a type of supra-verbal communication that appeals to me immensely. From a conceptual standpoint, Pritchard's poems are very advanced and can be compared to the best abstract painting, for they are profoundly haunting in their evocations of sight, sound and emotion. These poems are in the "classicist' tradition of Joyce and Beckett. *Maxwell Geismar*

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