

THE MATRIX

THE MATRIX POEMS

1960-1970

B Y
N. H. PRITCHARD

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Words are ancillary to content.
N.H.P.

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```
            for Nancy & Arthur
W here quiet ly on ly go e s
k now in g}\mathrm{ the s h or e
w it h}\mathrm{ its sun dried hues
s ever a l b oats
l a n g u i d
be neath the d us k
s ee king h a i l s
t he d a w n to c h oo s e
& of w h at c ease less t ide
pro c l aimed
s till s i l e n t
e m p t y & we t
deck e d to the c alm
w it h g row in g m oo n
h}\mathrm{ over in g}\mathrm{ eve r
& the s mall buoys
c l ever f eat her limbs
m}\mathrm{ as king the h i dd e n fro s t
w it h f in s
as }\textrm{k}\mathrm{ in }\textrm{g
the net s pro test the w in d
```

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

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 mountain in a flame or a mountain in a flame or a mountain in a flame or a mountain in a flame
or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain or a fountain in the rain

| a |  |  |  | $s:$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| see |  |  | e | to |
| d |  | $s$ |  | gather |
|  | i |  |  | nes |
| r |  |  |  | $t$ |

Only
those old lamps and fathomless cares
Drawn across the absence
Borne
by silence
All surrounding
Though
most of them chose another road towing shadows

Криеэ јо sәхоч

pu!̣м plo jo səэe[
suṭeq.ins pue smopu!̣M

```
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 l t heir lives
in war d l y
up on an out war d
w or l 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
```

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

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
```

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

flocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocksflocks 0000000000000000fffffffffffff
geeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeessssssssssssssssseeeeeeeeee
s $\mathrm{e} n \mathrm{t}$ t heir l e ave s s wir l i n g a c r o s s a f a r
the $l a k$ a lay $s$ pre ad $o u d$
a bout the le $v$ el $s t$ retch of dirt $h$ \& ab lue jay $w$ as put $u$ po $n$ by $a$
$h$ are \& $\mathrm{a} w$ or $m$ in stead of $a$ nu egg et $t$ here

BLACK CLOUDBANK BLACK CLOUDBANK BLACK CLOUDBANK
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

FORMING
FORMING
FORMING

IN THE SKY
IN THE SKY
IN THE SKY

SUN
SUN
SUN

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

```
s l owl y won ' t while u wa it
&
last l y g r ee n c ame w ear in g
t or }n\mathrm{ over all s & t o y s
s ma ll boys & a l a g oo n
had n , t t here be e n much f or a ll
l eave s & caps
d u c k s
c a t s
m}\mathrm{ at t ere d t hat
s om e s at with logs e n v eloped
o t h e r s
t out e d the f all
f or t wigs c lose s t the n e s t
```

PREPOSITION

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

|  |  | Lifts <br> mist |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | above |
| Often | This | the |
| Passion | Seeking | barren |
| ate | SOL | stalkless |
| And | I | wearing |
| Silent |  | fertile |
|  | TU | once |
|  | DE | now |
|  |  | on |
|  |  | a |
|  |  | withered |
|  |  | porch |
|  |  | a |
|  |  | woman |
|  |  | sits |
|  |  | weeping |
|  |  | scarecrow |
|  |  | morning |

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

Shadows stalks across the brook in the dusk away from the loud

## 3

bound about the glen
they
were
never
seen
again

The dawning cloak of heat enlists its remembrance of light
aaaaaaaaaccccccccccrrrrrrrrrrooooooossssssss
vvvvvvvvvaaaaaaaaaaaasssttt
«ssssssppppppppppaaaaaaaaaaacccccccccceeeeeeesssssss
places of grace
tttttttttrrrrrrrrraaaaaaaccccceeeeesssss
of smarting eyes
crowning the host
drowning absence in a glass
loasting past tasks
forgotten
lastly
the pledge redeems its asking

There
where
the
bare
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

|  | august falling <br> leaves <br> grounded thoughts <br> a montage <br> over-exposed |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\quad$ of |  |$\quad$| bucolic silences |
| :--- |

```
ONCE
```

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
```

```
ASALTERIS
                                    for Vasileios
        as
circumstance
may be
of curious
    courses
        as
    though
    as if
        were
        in
dubitably un
certain ones
    are
    n't
```

Change

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 $w n$
\& $\mathrm{t} \quad \mathrm{a} \quad \mathrm{u} \quad \mathrm{n}$ t
thru $a \quad c$ 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 $d$, $s$ on $t$

W $h$ at aim co un $s$ e $l$ such a gain un to $t$ he sylvan $d$ own of $w$ om $b s$ $\mathrm{w} h$ at n ever ever s t and c a uses such man if est $s$ $t$ is to $r$ ide on ly $u p$ 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 $g \mathrm{~h}$ the k now in g as thou $g \mathrm{~h}$ the g low in g

To $s$ ee $k$
to $f$ in $d$
a lance

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

E $n$ chant $m$ e $n t s$
abo und ab out
the abysses of $a \mathrm{~m}$ in d
oft $e n d \quad$ in $d \quad e \quad d$
by the cat a r acts of curt concern while
aim $s$ it $s$ daunt less $l y$
on a p e d e s t a l
be in $g$ peck $e d$ up on
by $t$ he $w$ in $d$, $s$ on $t$

SIGNS
1965-1967

## THE SIGNS

in
a
cove
where

## idhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

 uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu
uuuuuuuuugggggggggggggggggggggggggggggggggg geeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
waves
bowed
about the sea
and
and and
and
and
and and and and and and and and and
and
they took advantage of the signs they took advantage of the signs

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 variegated beneath sound lit through variegated beneath sound lit through variegated beneath sound lit Through variegated beneath sound lit 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 Thru beneath
Thru beneath
Thru beneath
Thru beneath
Thru beneath
Thru beneath
Through beneath lit
Twainly ample of amongst
twainly ample of amongst
Twainly ample of amongst twainly ample of amongst

In above beneath In above beneath In above beneath
Twainly ample of amongst 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
In dark to stark
In dark to stark
in dark to stark
In dark to stark
in dark to stark
In dark to stark 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 above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath above beneath lit


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
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
a we some a $s$ a wave
$w$ as $h$ in $g$ the $s$ and
n ever d i vide d
eve $r$ 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 $s \quad p$ in $s$ the own of $m$ any col ours $h$ over in $g$ ami $d$ the $v$ as $t$
gro $u p s$ 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 1 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 $d \quad a b$ 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 $e \mathrm{w}$ 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 $s t r e d r d e s$ forth
to $m$ e e the l amp
$b$ certain of the $p$ at $h$
b certain of the l am p

PASSAGE
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PASSAGE

In silence there regard the dim
he who with shoeless strode
the dust of waisted jeers
see you him too
and there another just as near
and some taunted them with treacherous eyes though bowed they to hoom passed

Down
from
beneath
above
above
beneath
beneath
two
two
flounder
the
blood
holy
$0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000 z e$
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 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
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
hidden about the sky
willful as a nail
sapped by its hammer
\& 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

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
Where winged wings
Where winged wings
Where winged wings
Where winged wings
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

```
W hA t c la im o fw i ll
d id d efe nd i ts pe rch
sear chin g}\mathrm{ th rough d plai ns of m}\mathrm{ 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
pu t 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}\mathrm{ eque sto flig h t
t hetru t h t obr i n g
```


## DUSK

What have u dusk what has dusk is asked dusk is apart be coming coming coming coming coming coming coming
must is answers asked some of them have no leaves the choice may not be would

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

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

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

```
F O LL O WING THE C ALM
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
T HERE WE RE T RACES OF SO UND
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
```

$\begin{array}{lllllllll}\mathrm{S} & \mathrm{C} & \mathrm{A} & \mathrm{T} & \mathrm{T} & \mathrm{E} & \mathrm{R} & \mathrm{E} & \mathrm{D}\end{array}$
A R E
T H E
G R A V E S
B RAVE C HILLS S IN K THE
W I 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 H OUT ON E
SIMPLY S H H H
THE R E S T
P ESTER IN G THE L EAVES
B EST TO HAVE R E S T E D
B E L I E V I N G
IN A S EE D
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## 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

