

THAT CROSSING IS NOT AUTOMATIC

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JEANNE MOREL

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For my father, Delos Morel (1914 - 2008)

Airport

portals
men
uniforms
passports

sorties
/ stories
merit
further
in-
spec-
tion

sort
of

Appear

At your hearing
you will be given the opportunity
to admit or deny
any or all of the allegations
in the *Notice to Appear*

(see wonder)

A ranyaprathet 1987

Princes walk out of brothels
Kim Kim's Ice Cream

white UNHCR trucks—red with mud
distant governments balk

aid workers loll
watch odd green scrub brush

line the border road
/ red edge

(see dust, novel)

Bangkok Stop

It's morning and I'm in the taxi to the airport
—at Din Daeng we get on the expressway—
billboards go by, the green crosses of hospitals,
then the elephant building
complete with tusks.

Battambang

Literal translation—Disappear the stick.

Body Parts

Sense your breathing. Feel the contact that the backside of yourself is making with the floor. Bring your attention to different body parts, spaces inside yourself, volumes.

(see knowledge / space)

Catastrophic Collage

And so one rushed out to transform the country thoroughly and at once—the women were just leaning against the writing desk in the next room. Communist cadres ordered everyone out of the cities and towns. They had not allowed themselves much of a rest and were already coming. The explorer, on the other hand, felt greatly

troubled; the dominance of the countryside over the cities and the privileged position of the poor. He really did not know what to rescue first. Everything I am about to argue here could be taken as local and personal. The decision to evacuate was made and four times changed direction. Yet I have no difficulty in stating the central premise of my argument. The machine was obviously going to pieces; its silent working was a delusion rooted in one country and one poetic inheritance. *Please accept, Excellency, my dear friend, my faithful and friendly sentiments.* One can never find out exactly what is happening, or only a long time afterwards. The revolutionary period was characterized by regional and temporal variations. Cadences and metaphors are particular and peculiar. Take the jar from me. Return it to its cupboard at arm's length and move into an imaginative world. *You leave, and it is my wish that you and your country will find happiness under the sky.* I'm sure you have nothing against my dancing. Thank you very sincerely for your letter and for your offer to transport me toward freedom. We have a saying here, perhaps you've heard it: Official decisions are as shy as young girls. Still, this baby must not know. We will remember meeting the past. Black with red fire.

(italics from Prince Sirik Matak, in a letter to American Ambassador John Gunther Dean, April 1975)

Deportation

1. Oklahoma where the wind blows over the Federal Building where the wind blows away our sins—green cards / resident aliens / green people from Mars. Back—reverse the wind. Over 1,400 Cambodian Americans. Back where they came from—2, 3, 4 years olds in their mother’s arms. Send them packing. Give me your tired your poor your hungry masses of yesterday, and send them back. The wind done gone bad. Back back. We’re not in Kansas anymore.

2. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRAIRA) severely restricts the availability of suspension of deportation—the remedy traditionally available to deportable aliens who have resided in the U.S. for considerable periods of time.

Difference

The difference between feeling your whole self rolled to one side or as if there’s a twist through the middle somehow.

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