A NEW TERRITORY SOUGHT

poems by

Jay Besemer

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About the Source Text

A New Territory Sought was composed using a variant on the erasure method of generating text by the excision of words from other texts. The source text was Ants by Julian Huxley, published in 1930 by Dennis Dobson Ltd., London.
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Introductory

I.

Formidable conquest of the land: of man: Utopia of the State: mammal transition: the lowest grade: social life: the caste system: a caste system between systematists: over-estimated biological difference: kept strong:
II.

we have seen societies of man change structure: power enables behavior: new levels of behavior: structure of body: of different appearance: instincts in time: change of habit: material labor: human-determined result of learning:
III.

man-body : his tools growing, often of wholly new type : impulse to action and conceptual thought : tradition : rapid plasticity to exploit land : varied modes of life : of exploiting by quite other means : the less real : the new mode of life :
IV.

exploit the world as biological unit : detailed adaptation
behavior : progressive new level : man is only ladder
That Long-Ago Ratio

I.

The tree of life and strength: encourage and build the young society: the great animals: members of an already independent tropic:
II.

trapped in that long-ago ratio: profoundly restricted: predetermined by the greater part of society: by habit: by learned behavior: they can adapt themselves by means of alterations: a new habit as a group of biological units
The Jungle Is the Grass

I.

Enormous in size: monstrous largest relatives: the same colony, normal men, community dwellings: series of chambers: passages: the young are carried: rushed: disturbed: intimate contact with favored intelligence: [the jungle is the grass]: 
II.

it is necessary to secrete distance: seek it and many substances: irregular and subterranean: [large and built of twigs and pine-needles, boughs and rotten holes]: structure of long controversy: the accidental, mutual cavities: certain trees, and cavities:
III.

so, normal human : adapt the actions of the workers : the building
Free Air

I.

Any country will be filled for miles with some common kind of free air: strange to say, weeks or months confront: shedding of some specific internal condition:
II.

merit : not fully pigmented : looks like a shirt but is based on experimentation : revolution : a multiplicity of communications
The Intermediate

Sometimes, differing from that which gave birth may be accepted: the same end: the individual: he: she: to be of two: the adjusted process of one kind into a multitude: the difference between female and male or the lack of it: partake of the intermediate
Uniting with the Pseudogynes

I.

Males and females winged: many males and many females: sexual forms: these chambers still, sultry: stimulate the males: fly out: discharge: short-lived: her little bag in the muscle of her genital: little chamber in the soil: stone or bark: in her the moment of flight: they break down: they take charge:
II.

this licking clean from greed: the full-grown guise: the unchanging adult: so far from independence: different tasks: individual workers imprisoned: imprisoned for three months: this division of beautiful methods: ten years recorded: the hostile and new settlements: a band of workers found a new one: colonies of separate workers: a solitary queen:
III.

smell is national tradition: patriotism, blood and force: slave-making caste: caste control of the tight body: to open muscle: density-determining once more: winged forms exist: combinations of male part with queen part: gynandromorphs uniting with the pseudogynes: to be in the middle
Ferocity and Solicitude

I.

A medium possible by direct barter: alien to methods of subordination: communication opening into a complicated process: food-interrelations solid as a number:
II.

the ferocity and the solicitude : egoistic anxiety and relations of mutual exchange : cementing the common bargain
Stability Is Taste

I.

Civilized by economic bonds: cultivators of labor: one product: population can only be valuable in the shape of money:
II.

the colony, their tongues and stroking : the fortunate : a drop from the crop : spines and rough jaws : the workers eager to suck : patriotism is smell, stability is taste : coveted substances : clear-cut features : vibrations of the signal : simple movement : to obtain this charge, emit shrill sounds :
III.

a system of services : a worker thanks another : gathered workers are always left : home-staying when hungry
In the Fungus Garden

I.

Compound diverging facets: light from darkness: smells without form: smells of small size: a composite of color: touch of the same: touch of the way back: well-marked matters:
II.

what of workers and their power: return a band of other workers: employ their way: objects in the shape of smells: footprints:
III.

workers follow a clue left to guide the questing hours: distance, being kept prisoner for a while, stops its travel: depend on muscular sense: precise machinery:
IV.

so learn to build : perform acts : after a large tram, cross the rails : a road of earth : a band of tar : the obstacle in similar predicament : the tree and drop : means to ends : machines for growing up : busy with the instruction : build the right kind : no way in : no way in : 

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V.

in the fungus garden: when one takes over: relax: surrender: awaken: indicate mental development: play mock fight: play tag: dispose of corpses: the usual cemetery: separate places of disposal
Permanent Machines

I.

Terrestrial life: bear witness to a group: sexual forms: enormous soldiers crush up hard and disappear: special nectar on stalk of leaf: collect the seeds: store them: sow seeds: grow fungi, for there are persistent thieves, and queens, and their slaves: earth's little peoples:
II.
in woods of green leaf large workers clip leaves : leaf-pieces a white network : careful : too-wet grass : crisp and white : the pocket : the parasol : a hearty meal : a small underground room : new gardening and intel :
III.

for many years stored grain : drought in life is almost welcome : new and different : head and body like two sums of money : the overworked variation advantageous : the usual weapons : the great and tiny : o the body : 
IV.

who is perfect among certain mistresses: their leaves, or stance: the common daisy-plants others keep in sheds or barns: shrubs or trees: o their bodies: o stroking: o their secretion: white light and sap: the sap they pump up sweet: the stroking: o mamma: man's extreme banishment of solitude: a heavy toll:
V.

arid method : the climax of never : this invention of simple instinct : work, work : feed and feed : call a capable john : stimulate by stroking : interest others : the possession thrust upon them :
VI.
predatory habit : dreaded creatures : the invading : the driver : the iron : uncanny : o great attack : permanent machines
In a Building of Sugar

I.

Go to war or mate: strictly the wish to steal: the general of slave-making and workers to exploit: successful forms and the march of violent fatigue: half-hearted: advance close up, close to the objective: attack: defend: carrying danger, attack: violently excited: harass enemy release and speed: defeat: attack: defend: the slave-maker: the harvester: the chief: with us, another war: old previous peace: the parasitism of exploiting the other:
II.

more or less a thousand times her marriage: she takes a number: her moment of indiscriminate spite:
male conveyances useful: this ship passes on the instinctual level: form of a dark-colored curious ball: usually epiphytic: accident, the life of the people: the nest in the center: between, between: continue the alliance: making selves, bodies: the same boat:
IV.

an example : by themselves they take nothing : the red clue : the colony of the robber-queen : later, the periodic forays on back stores : leaps up on the local order of patriotism : a spy : real feelings : the local time : slowly sawing : smell converted : adapted to pugnacious acts : raiding methods : highly organized : leave the hostile army and all the food : shut up young and actually die :
V.

in a building of sugar: know the step: workers become reasons: know the body: brother and sister, seek new interest
The Scotland of Wolves

I.

Animals of other sorts: physical, like rat or house: pets like lap-goldfish: captivity of difference: the Scotland of wolves: of our own children, whom we liked: the giant cats:
II.

equally, men's houses and these aliens : this baby for the body of a foreign porcupine : a golden opening to suck off the pseudogynes : the right pseudogynes :
III.
reach a nest and soon, red extinction : on the road, abundant local host of danger : extraordinary oak of existence : full-fed : spin, turn and take up pseudogynes : befriend them : exploit the greed of the blue caterpillar : the luxurious time : [other guests steal the fish when they smell] :
IV.

sisters and a sudden mouth : a delicate pose : smooth stiff flanks : reach up : act like an animal : bite like a cat : or smallish monkey :
V.

occupy : occupy the other : feed their own : their passable host : stroke fact secretion : tolerate positions of conjecture : soft strokings of other workers : number of known vultures : and the exploited
Daylight Pushing Higher

I.

The name of their colony is Reflection: their marvels of origin: daylight, pushing higher: in reach of Boston: Australia: Europe:
II.

the male solitary: queen of both sexes: the various instincts of a few individuals: worker-like, both male and female: capable of facing the light: organs of size or quantity: of queens and kings: characters accounted for in the colony:
III.

cast-iron elsewhere : subterranean, much enlarged : tip of the snout : dissolve hard primrose or loosestrife and soldiers : genetic machinery : underlying forms : strangeness unaided : chemically chop a few days : circulation of blood and bodies and fundamental respect-stream : obeisance, the royal juice : lickable structures : swelled and lickable : be licked : be the licked :
IV.

thieves, prepare: intolerant light under solid armor-plate: an expedient run: the need of speed: a give-and-take of tunnellings and stumps: in the giant grasslands: in the great heat, the midday sun of sausages and entrances:
V.

tentacles in every direction: inside the shell, paper and printer's ink: a flourishing construct: renewing: hastening circulation in an independent heart
The Cosmic Accident

I.

II.

settle for things to taste, make new works of art: make incapable of all biological meaning: differences between caste: the bodily shape of castes: modes of thought become fixed: enslaving the body: discover new changes: new truth: create destiny
About the Author

Hybrid artist Jay Besemer is the author of several poetry books and chapbooks, including (as Jen Besemer) Telephone, Object with Man’s Face, Quiet Vertical Movements, Ten Word Problems, and What Is Born. A new chapbook, Aster to Daylily, is forthcoming in 2014 from Damask Press. Jay’s recombinant poetry projects are anthologized in Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics, and can be found in Monsters & Dust, Aufgabe, Drunken Boat, BlazeVOX, e-ratio, Sentence and other delicious publications. Jay also curates the occasional poetry event, writes feature essays and reviews, and teaches art and poetry workshops in and beyond Chicago. To find out more, visit www.jenbesemer.com.
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Praise for A New Territory Sought

Jay Besemer’s A New Territory Sought blends the discourse of human labor with descriptions of organic processes so that the new territory sought becomes a de-territorialized composite space, “irregular and subterranean.” These poems work like organic machines of masculine queens, at once lovely and strange, broken and efficient, and ultimately they perform a “miniature magic between minds.”

--Nathan Hoks

Jay’s ANTS forges a subtle miracle by generating a clap-of-a-narrative, a ricochet “not fully pigmented.” By actively keeping source from ever being lazy he has managed to keep this book full of beblubbered bounce. To treat a text like a tuberous tomahawk, to wield and shield biology (“mammal transition”/“smells without form”), experimentation (“communication opening into a complicated process”) and queerness (“he/she/to be of two”/“members of an already independent tropic”) all at once, is “gardening and intel.” Who do you want watering your hybrid flowers, entangling their hands in your root vegetables while they are still underground? Choose Jay! He is a gifted “man-body” with “tentacles in every direction.” “hastening circulation in an independent heart.” He could only ever gift your surroundings. When the roots are being gently but gingly pulled above ground, when words are cut like the hair of history, a grand opening begins to take place. What to do in response to that opening? “Suck off the pseudogenes;” willingly crack into protein code. By way of his lyrical green thumb, history has a bright blue Mohawk now. Hey patriarchs—what do you think about that! Ehem ehem: Hey patriarchs—that was rhetorical. Right now, right here, in this garden glow, it is not your place to speak.

--j/j hastain