

“The Magic Lantern, a virtual museum”

Libretto by Damien Gossett
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Big Bang Boom

Big bang boom a noise
Enjoy fusion fission
Atomic contusion
Pop pop pop
We drop
A stone in this place
Waves and raves
Chemically untraced to source
A pin head appointed anointed to start
Whole to the bottom
Inverse hill on it be we
No wait to be ripples expanding
Small space big place
One face hidden plain view
To purview no clue we pursue
One new
Big bang boom a noise
Gluon
Wax off left hand right hand spin
Inside outside
Top down charm
Tetracyde Afganicyde formaldehyde
Stellar forensic
Lack of intelligence intrinsic
Demand it can't see it believe it
Big bang boom a noise
Charlie Mingus cartoon
They swerving they sliding
They riding they hiding
Little to the right
Lean to left
Spherical asymmetric perfect rhythm
Bend it break it snake it
No time we understand
Why big is big
Say small is small
Onion skinned exposed
Transposed bunion
Ox to be gored
Big bang boom a noise
Applause
A pause
Big bang boom

Theater of the Cynic

Without word, language there is not
Without not there is no division
Without division there is not

Four elements
Four first fundamentals
Fire, air, earth water

From fire, there is hot and cold, high and low, light and dark
Opposites reside
Fire is of light and dark
One separation, one division
Before and after
One not the other
Not but many reside and reveal
Light heat life and destruction
Searching as has been and has still we are

Atomos,
What cannot be divided
Is
What cannot be cut in two
Is
Divided combined and rearranged
Add subtract factor multiply
We can go on forever
We go on to what end

Song of Sheba

I am from the desert
I have heard your song
As you have heard mine
In praise of the knowledge
Built this temple of cedars
Housed an ark that is promise
Incense, silver, jewels
I am here at your command
It is said you are wise
But I am you equal
What is it that is worth
Do you understand
What it is you truly desire

What is your illusion
Tell me your conclusion
End my confusion
No time for collusion

I place my crown on my wisdom
I am not humbled to ask
Each bird each bug
As time does not stray
They all speak to me
They know who I am
I am masterful and wise
It is you
Who does not understand
As I place it on the window
For all to observe
I will not touch or hold
But I choose the real one

How good is my game
How measured my fame
I will drown in my desire
You cannot put out this fire

Take nothing from me
Or submit to my will
Under the sun I will parch you
Under the moon I will have you
I withhold all from you
As it is you I desire

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A fire that was arched
Brought to me from the desert
This moth to my flame
Trickery and wisdom
Are times one and the same
Then I will do it
What is there to be understood

Have me if you must
But I have given myself to you
This sweetest of fruits
Will be your bitter pill
Thirst will be its memory
Sleepless forever
Hundreds at your call
None will satisfy
Your dreams will be ashes
A final test that was lost
You will never forget
You will follow the sand
I am your mirage

I am with you all your nights
But I am hidden amongst the waters
At the end of that rainbow
Where smoke meets the thunder
With what you truly wished
As the moon is my mother
She is no longer waxed
I am full of dates and honey
The sweetness of your song
When I am waning
I will send you one last gift
I will give him my understanding
You will give him your wisdom

Magic Lantern

It's magic this light
We can use it this light
To praise him this light
To scare you this light
You will praise us this light

I did not invent this magic lantern
I write of its power
History will give me credit
If you can record it
It becomes yours
It properly belongs to us
As he is our light
He has given these tools
To save their wretched souls
They who are condemned to darkness
In heaven we will be equals
But here we must be first
We must use it in good service
It is good magic not bad
We can fool these simple folk
They will believe what we choose
A show of ghosts and devils
We will tell them we have knowledge
Of things they cannot understand
We are wise beyond their imagination
We bring them a reward
Patience is their virtue
We will collect ours from him
He will show us we know
We can profit too
Its is only fair
There is no him or them without us

It's magic this light
We can use it this light
To praise him this light
To scare you this light
You will praise us this light

Puzzle

Sun rains down
Four two and three
Morning noon and night
Four hundred twenty three
Four times two times three
A simple riddle
Tent gives us shelter
The moon is waxing
The moon is full
The moon is waning
Two halves same coin
Place them together
A puzzle to be born
A simpleton's scorn
If one cannot solve
Four two and three

Intermittent Happens

Intermittent happens
Rain happens
Possession happens
Happens happens
In an instance rhetorical
In this instance relished
Not by fact not by promise not by desire
Desire
Desire examined by reason
Reason tempted by passion
Passion illuminated by uncertainty
Before division
Not word not opposite not meaning
Spiral
Journey
Relentless
Void
Entropy

The Kalahari

This lantern we carry
The burden is heavy unto you
The missionary road is our relief
But glory is God's
Shoulder to shoulder
We carry his load
Come join us together
We bring you the truth
Your vision our image
We proclaim
As illusion it leads us
Press on we will

Confusion we sow
From Suez to Shongwe
We show you our way
You are lost little sheep
It's your land at present
We will take what we will
We are traders and pirates
We will trick and steal
Send you off blind
You will lose your children
You have sold them for beads
They will disown you for greed

Soldiers we are
Christians we're not
Our mission is marching
Destruction we bring
Machines at our backs
You at our feet
Your diamonds and gold
We aim to attack
Your souls are precious
Childlike as they are
We will save them or slay you
Money has no retreat

Solomon led us in this desert
His trickery unmasked
We thirst for the her waters
We have lost our way
We do not know it

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It leads us until end of our day
We will have all and nothing
The bitter taste of defeat
We cannot see
Our sons and daughters
They are lost to us now
Their magic unrevealed

Solomon's Lament

Times I missing you mostly
When sun sets lonely
Music swings lately
Kissing on the patio
Ferry docks fading sweetly
A nod to duke's train
Sunning fat turtles
Pigeons strut tartly
Rolling on the water
Remembering what you said
Don't cry
It's a river to you
An ocean to me
Missing you mostly
Thinking of you closely
As my days wind down slowly

Progress

Progress

Catapult, Dionysius the elder; 399 BC

Gunpowder; Chinese; 1000's

Caravel, Portuguese, 1400's

Globe, Martin Behaim (1459-1537) "Nürnberg Terrestrial Globe". 1490-1492;

Magic lantern; 1420; Johannes de Fontana

Moveable type; Johannes Guttenburg; 1450

Telescope, Hans Lippershey in 1608;

Pianoforte; Bartolomeo Cristofori; 1720

Mayonnaise; anonymous chef for Duke de Richelieu; 1756

Sandwich; John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich; 1762,

Rotary Motion Steam Engine; James Watt; 1781

Spinning Jenny; James Hargreaves; 1770

Cotton Gin; Eli Whitney; 1794

Interchangeable parts; Honoré Blanc; 1790; Eli Whitney; 1798

Guillotine; Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin; 1792

Battery, Methane gas; Count Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio; 1800. Volta also discovered (and isolated) methane gas, CH₄ (in 1778) somehow useful in the evolution of the magic lantern that we are talking about here

Electric arc, forerunner of the electric light; Humphry Davy; 1800

Kindergarten: Friedrich Wilhelm August Froebel ; 1837

Telegraph, Samuel Morse, 1837

Saxophone, Adolph Sax; 1846

Potato Chip, George Crum; 1853 native American

Dynamite, Alfred Nobel, 1867

Telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, 1876

Cash Register; James Ritty; 1879

Cabinet Bed (so called murphy bed; Sarah Goode; 1885, african american female

Revolving Door; Theophilus Van Kannel; 1888

Automatic dishwasher; Mrs. Josephine Garis (W. A.) Cochran, 1889

Basketball; James Naismith; 1891

Bakelite; Leo Hendrik Baekeland; 1907

Peanut and sweet potato; George Washington Carver; well he didn't invent but he could have given all the stuff he made; how would you like to be his kids, peanuts for breakfast, sweet potatoes for lunch, every damn day, we digress

Lincoln Logs; John Lloyd Wright; 1920

Television; James Logie Baird; 1924

Machine Gun; Hiram Maxim; 1881

Gas Mask; Garrett Morgan; 1914 an African american

Tanks; Winston Churchill; 1915

Hydrogen Bomb; Edward Teller; Harry Truman; 1952

(repeat last four for emphasis)

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Progress?

Chorus of the Dead

bling bling
kaching
have to have
every little thing

bummer bummer
i wants me a hummer
needs to have it
downpayment by the summer

boil boil
need a foil
shazam shazam have to have
your bloody old oil

bling bling
kaching
bling bling
kaching

Illuminati

Dien bien phu, how easily it rolls from the lips, water monsoon and mud
Khe sahn, Falluja, a liltngly, swirling in your glass, a good merlot, a hint of berries
A nose for blood
An order

Staring at the rubble, the oddest thing was the calm
As if a conspiracy to silence
To control what has never happened
Which though what was it?
Before or after the storm?
And which storm?

There are many
There will be more
A port on a mountain of storm
Kilimanjaro

Am I everyman, any man, your god, your king, a Leopold?
Am I you?

I am king
I am theft
I am who you thought you wished to be
If I am you can never be

We type letters that no one will read
We write for people who can no longer hear
We steal for those you can no longer see

We are here to illuminate
We are here to confiscate
We are here to obliterate
We are here

Boneyard

our children will be the first casualties of this new war
they will come to curse us and the old men who easily spoke of it
they will grow to hate the walls that we will build to protect them and what is left of their freedom
walls with no windows only blankness overhead
but they already know as other children have learned
skies that offer flights of fancy and cotton candy dreams can bring death
they will wail for choices we could have made and did not
for stadiums filled with those no longer heard
for musicians fingers broken who can no longer pull even the trigger
for singers whose throats ripped out lie exposed to cold blue skies
for artists who have blinded themselves unable to witness this terrible vision
one hundred years ago he who was honored offered us a war to end all wars
a promise that could not be kept as we chose retreat and retribution
today he who holds the same honor offers us the first war of the new century
implicit is the promise of others
if we choose this bargain it will be kept by our children

Exit

In the beginning was the word
And the word was
Unformed uninformed unimagined
It is called from entropy
Ordered by higher and lower
The world is known

In the beginning was the word
And the word was
Division
Light and dark whole and half
Uniformity certainty desire passion
The world will be cleansed

In the beginning was the word
And the word was
Enlightenment
Of age to reason to challenge
Tradition superstition ignorance
The world will be controlled

In the beginning was the word
And the word was
Progress
Of will to power to subjugate
Nature the others the future
The world is penetrated

In the beginning was the word
And the word was
Confusion
Of smoke to serpent and thunder
If there is no hope where will there be hope
The world is undone

In the beginning was the word
And the word was
Shongwe
Of ...
When ...
If ...
The world will be