

Once Upon A Train Station (A Museum)

-----I.

when in  
Turino (a sign)

## *Museum of the Shroud of Turin*

(take) (a) (disastrous) (object)  
why not, I  
a narrative

always mistaking the subject  
for the subject

some Palestine in which / I / stood  
Shabra, Chatilla  
distant

scrim  
the heat the  
shapes  
shadow,  
the heaviest cast

lightly  
stencil what was laid

grave

great-great-great-great-great  
remains

culture

the ruins, this a relic

history

some fundamentalism

devastates (acts

(action) some way

**p-p-p-p p-p-p-p ppppppp—**

something sharp whizzes

(as is)

**p-**

past

----- II.

positive

(perfectly) negative

SECONDO PIA ALMOST DROPPED

someone's looking out—

someone

(look out)

**p-p-p p-p-p**

PLATE

a large photographic

this is an art

say the conservators

restoring (self) (portrait) see

the artist (they)

look (watch)

every apparently

the portrait looks

back

over here!

across

the room

centuries

a cross in question

some millennial

symbol how curious

uncomfortable

the body embarrassing

the (subject)

Secondo went to the bar

lawyer by trade

in 1892 the guy who

### **AN EXPLOSION**

flash goes the

exposition

(imposed)

the exhibitions  
of state

dimensions I could never quite

(this is imagination)

14' x 3'7" wide  
woven 3-to-1

(a trilogy)

Syrian herringbone, a kind of twill

(rhymes with)

did a fish just—

here's the frontal, there's the dorsal  
there the odd  
topography of this clothe

everyone hangs at popular Rae's corner,  
lingers comfortably at Frie's patch

see the sign

(the hidden) of a  
marked

puncture between

what looks like  
capped, not crown

hands (must, of course, be) crossed  
over the human

and the thumbs—

this is the stuff of war

(I've always felt)

language innocent

image indelible

fatal  
so say some

of (what) (what) used

(no words) (feelings)

the enlightenment

of belief

----- III.

small colonies of hyphomycetes  
rhomboid crystals of ara-  
gonite

found only in limestone

these are cut

they say the living

rock

cools inside

the threshold of

where the Dead

Sea

waves (a gesture)

something afloat

thought it

floats

57 pollens

16 singular to

Palestine

called Palestine

consistent

the flax, a trace loomed

a deep vowel

doom

of cotton no European

this is really no paint

no mercury sulfide, no iron oxide

absolutely no susceptibility to solvents

**p-p-p-p**

make the damn thing go away

no doubt about orthogonal projection

apparent traces of the

*sarcopoterium spinosum*

hear the spine? something cracks

opens,

spin, floats, looms again

small amounts of strontium and iron  
in the microscopic  
earth,  
always a very human heel

a total absence of ammoniacal gas  
that means it was  
quick, very quick

and so passed the VP-8 analyzer  
microdensitometer tests  
evident hematological immuno-  
fluorescence x-ray  
fluorescence porphyrin fluorescence  
indicative microspectrophotometric transmission  
positive hemochromogen,  
cyanomethemoglobin  
even bile detection

(Arian, at long last, retrieves his head)

and human corpuscles, human albumin

the image on the surface  
a microfibril  
(or two

the shadow  
seeps through  
the linen  
as life

the story

one life, and another, and

quite rationally

a superficial image  
(warned) us

feared  
heard only

human, what we say

among selves, repeating the story

-----IV.

Fourteenth-century flummery

remarked my learned  
father-in-law

confident, rigorous, skeptical  
an admirable intellectual who

history

my-my  
hysterical

I will not be

literal

more a question of

inquiry is healthy

how to even approach—

and the distinguished Hungarian Oboist  
wandered to the look-out  
where I, a cloud of birds,  
their wings sharpening the air  
(they're called *spatz* in German)  
saying explanations  
only satisfy  
those who

usually painting

later

the coma theory  
the da Vinci theory

(dumb, he was born way after)

underestimates

so overstating

though Pierre Barbet  
experimented extensively

to crucify

begin cadaver

Sebastiano Rodante  
and a collection of casts, the crumbling plaster

Hermann Moedder  
actually suspended medical school volunteers  
by their wrists  
some scientists

their wives' faces

please, please, that's enough—

an odd head  
try marble, wood, clay

take a linen cloth and immerse it in

are the herbs fresh? what mixture of oil—  
soils, heat, darkness & light, sweat  
factor in humidity

once upon a

## **EXPLOSION!**

has to be some

anatomically correct  
perfect in every forensic detail

really it's not a

more of an impress, almost a kind of scorch  
printed upon a hair

the invisible ones  
on the back  
a young child's hand  
that thin

left-over from evolution  
an indication of things to come

what do you say

some guy wrapped in an image

what we know

**p-p-p-p—pppppppp**

photographic

the admission

negative

just made of cloth

-----v.

for want of proof  
for this reason  
the disputation  
of proof  
for this is The Scientific Method  
for want  
of wealth  
for reliable  
this wealth  
for the public  
risky even in 1350  
filmed  
for TV 1973

(snicker) (we will snicker)

fooling seems funny

permission to clip some threads

hung by its popular corners

(shshshsh, the relic is sleeping in an ornate drum)

will it ooze? sometimes they ooze

wash your hands first, wear gloves

over your mouth, disinfect your—

for there was significant sterility  
in the family of Virgins

the metaphors collide, no collaborate, no-no,  
corroborate

and the Torino Firemen

(...that crazy guy again with a knife)

the Torino Policemen

## FLASH!

x-rayed, measured, weighed

patched by Poor Claire nuns, their fingers trembling

stigmata pouring, our heroes

*heiros*

for this is a kind of passion

in Chambery, real flames

thrice saved

(trilogy again)

put it out

lock it in

folded, unfolded, folded

in the lineage, over the line, run a finger

photo / perhaps / or poem or map

Edessa, Constantinople

Greece, France

various counsels, permissions, denials

for the decision-makers

at the top are

are not

convinced

by the decision

made

every decision

a question of (this is private)

access

the obligatory Princess, a personal snip

another, her

(snicker)

beneath the microscope  
upon the screen  
for every icon  
consistent peculiarities  
a kind of template  
bone, hair, eyes  
the model of the model which  
those features that image  
prohibitions, publications  
on a door in Great Britain  
a rare codex in Budapest

(often reliable, the Oboist said)

a pilgrim badge fished from the Seine

dying crusaders, their testimony

*memento mori*

on this actual day  
that face

in every church

every, every

for every

and you, too

for image

certainly was

saved

(then) when the poets  
of crusades  
thought verse  
cognitive,  
a kind of  
virtual  
repository  
and thus  
repose  
his grave  
*The Book of Chivalry*  
did Geoffrey de Charny (b. circa 1359)  
wear shroud too?

first verified owner

(this) (a) (poet) author of

lost  
his, or your, or my  
we use the word life  
in saving  
King Jean

various accounts  
(lots of savings)

what was (not) lost

this war  
that

Charny? that a charnel—  
carnal, or is it cardinal

confused with a Templar (at the stake)  
flames

a literal referent

*porte-oriflamme*

the same name?

another war

medieval, always or,  
ancient

(Agamemnon again)

how is it  
hormonal

sticks, stone, rock

but words never

I feel (a thought)

they do

La Roche

took the shroud to safety in 1418

and the poet's tiny granddaughter  
Margaret

*s'il vous plait*

her responsibility huge

*rendez-moi mon suaire*

please give me my shroud back  
or buy it

I'll offer you two castles, a chunk of property  
in Burgundy, a hoard of serfs

the narrative of exchange clarifies

as a thumbprint smears  
the parchment

contrary to modern thought  
very difficult to write upon

you have to *wound* it

then Chambery  
Piedmont, and the

(what?)

Holy See!

## RORSCHACHS ALL

(this is a test)

is that the wild tamarisk of Palestine? of the Anatolian Steppe?

among the cedar, a trace of pine, of pistachio  
what variety of hazelnut tucked in the folds?

is that an eagle impressed on the coin of the eye?

(who, after all, sees an eagle)

what ties the hair at the back of the head?

are those really marks of a  
that a shoulder bruised and  
*tibepoiy kaizaroz*

hmmmm, such a strong, wide chest

where the trace of myrrh, aloe,

could be miso

(another continent)

not to be overly reverent  
difficult to detach

the associations smoother the words

dare I risk frankincense?

what do you see in this

the shepherd's crook

can you even see it?

(change the negative to a

difficult to disentangle  
from stain  
tear and patch

a bizarre image  
in any case

don't talk about it they don't want to

vertical and horizontal  
blood flows,  
most everyone agrees

whatever that is

the earth is flat

evidence of final  
orthostatic collapse

----- VII.

and lo—  
in the sky

**EXPLOSION**

fragments sent to the Anglos  
equipment sent to Italy

how can they  
how (arranged)

(rearranged) who

Los Alamos National Scientific Laboratory

(an interrogative pronoun may require subject inversion)

right

something's not quite

nuclear physicists  
thermal chemists  
optical physicists  
crystallographers

*sudarium? chi è esso?*

biophysicists  
spectroscopocists  
forensic pathologists  
industrial radiographologists

(an interrogative personality may require inversion)

not TOEFL, more moral  
thought foreign  
a language  
as a global  
meaning  
industrial  
the service  
will follow  
the opening  
ceremony  
as the sample  
assessed  
carefully  
protecting

the double  
blind study  
results in  
bound  
incoming

(an inflected person may not follow orders)

THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY  
IS ON THE OFFENSIVE

the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Air Force Weapons Laboratory  
Sandia Scientific Laboratories, Hercules Aerospace Division  
Cambridge, Yale, Harvard, MIT  
the Spatial Data Analysis Laboratory of Virginia Tech

**p-p-p-p p-p-p-p**

and there was mystery  
in the carbon-dating protocol

(an infected shroud may imitate a shroud)

it is a thorny issue

again the blood

a stain perhaps  
this use of force

natural, what we say is

fundamental

the strong, the weak

the electromagnetic  
gravitational

embodied in the brain

a sensitivity to light

some kind of flash

flesh

war after war after

the explosion

cinders, ash

the clouds shrouded

made

fission

the image

of explosion

explain

again

and again

my how you struggle

make it go away

trans

substantiated

against

fusion

the facts

that word again

translated

meaning

just a piece of expensive linen

a kind of tablecloth

backed by holy

Canons

what is meant by matter

bombarded by  
neutrons  
isolating the isotopes  
proposing a kind of  
neutron capture  
moderately strong x-rays  
absorb sodium, silicon  
phosphorus &c  
admitting the secondary  
(these are stronger)  
something about  
wavelength  
overcoming the pions  
dematerialization  
associated spontaneous  
decay  
subatomically  
the omission of  
in the structure  
of structure  
a kind of  
coronal  
photo  
particles  
free  
electrons  
ionized  
high energy  
bright  
very bright  
(neutrons again)  
the emission  
imperceptibly  
rapid  
the image  
superficial and  
highly resolved  
this is really  
great chemically

physically  
but in theory

biologically  
the behavior  
of the body  
no reason  
radiates  
this way